Museum Doors Open Saturday May 3

The Cedarville Museum will open May 3 for the six month 2014 season. Hours will be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is free for historical society members and $3 for non-members.

The two rooms on the first floor will feature a dozen exhibits including a new large panel of photos spotlighting the Cedarville Volunteer Fire Department and an expanded Jane Addams display.

More than two dozen experienced historical society volunteers will assist visitors during the season. For the names of these men and women turn to page 8.

ECHOES OF
CEDARVILLE
MAY 2014

Cedarville Area Historical Society

Memorial Day Parade, Picnic May 26

The Cedarville Memorial Day parade will step off at 10 a.m. Monday, May 26, from in front of the telephone switch building on Mill Street, just south of Second Street.

The parade will be led by Cedarville’s American Legion Post 1224 under the command of Steve Myers. Traditionally, the spectators — always numbering more than the parade marchers — become participants in the procession once it has started.

The marchers will stop at the Cedar Creek bridge for a prayer, the casting of a bouquet of flowers into the creek and a rifle salute. The procession will then go to the Cedarville Cemetery on Red Oak Road. There will be a ceremony that traditionally includes the recitation of President Lincoln’s Gettysburg address, a brief talk and the reading of the names of all veterans buried there.

After the cemetery ceremony, the public is invited to go to the grounds of the Cedarville Museum where the Cedarville Area Historical Society will serve its annual Memorial Day picnic starting at 11:30 a.m., rain or shine. The museum will be open for free tours.
Ed Finch Opens History Talks May 13

Dr. Edward Finch, former executive director of the Stephenson County Historical Society and Museum, on May 13 will explore the careers of Cedarville’s John Herney and other county industrialists in the first of this year’s Cedarville Museum history programs.

Tickets for this program and the other three in the series are available by calling Jim Bade at 815-563-4485. Tickets for individual programs are $7; a single ticket for the entire series is $24. All programs are held on a Tuesday evening and start at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the programs.

Besides Henney, Finch is expected to discuss the lives of Daniel Stover and W. T. Rawleigh.

Dr. Finch is well-known in the northern Illinois area as an educator and historian. After teaching more than thirty years at Freeport High School, he retired in 2005. Later he served for six years as head of the county historical society and museum.

He did his undergraduate work at Eureka College in Eureka, Illinois, earned a masters degree in Speech at Bradley University, Pecorin, Illinois, and a doctorate in history education from Illinois State University in Normal.


A native of Taylorville, Illinois, Finch now lives in Freeport with his wife, Catherine, a retired high school principal, and their Pembroke Welsh Corgi named Addie. He is currently working on a novel and travels the state giving lectures on various aspects of military history.

On June 17 Joe Ginger, president of the Stephenson County Genealogy Society, will present a program called “Genealogy for Dummies and More.” Ginger will take the audience from the basics to more advanced topics in the search for family answers.

Steven Cole, Freeport historian and genealogist, on July 15 will enact the role of Frederick Douglass, pre-Civil War abolitionist and journalist, and his relationship to Freeport.

Steven Simpson, earth science instructor at Highland Community College, will close the history series on August 19 with “The Making of Stephenson County: The Land and Life Before Man.”

To conclude the 2014 series of programs, the museum will present Carl Cole on September 9 and 30 and October 14 playing songs of American composers on the museum’s 1906 upright piano.
This photo of the 26th annual Ilgen family reunion held in Cedarville in 2001 was supplied by Harvey Ilgen, Mifflinburg, Pa., an historical society member. He is a descendent of Daniel George Emmanuel Ilgen, generally considered the founder of Cedarville when he platted the first subdivision in the village in the 1840s with the help of Marcus Montelius, Stephenson County’s first surveyor. (It was first known as “Harrison.”)

Harvey wonders why we haven’t had any articles in the newsletter regarding George Ilgen. (The Daniel is usually omitted.) The answer is simple: We know more about his descendants than we do about him. We don’t have enough meaningful information about him to write an article that would be worth reading. His home, by the way, still stands on Mill Street.

Here are the names of the people in the photo. If you recognize any of them and know where they live, please tell the Society and someone will contact them. Perhaps we can put together enough information to write an article.

Free Friday Night Outdoor Movies
June and July—Cedarville Museum

June 6: “Everythings Ducky” with Mickey Rooney and Buddy Hacket

June 13: “Francis the Talking Mule” with Donald O’Conner

June 20: “Sitting Pretty” with Clifton Webb

June 27: “The Reluctant Debutante” with Rex Harrison and Sandra Dee

July 4: No movie tonight

July 11: “The Family Honeymoon” with Fred McMurray

July 18: “North to Alaska” with John Wayne

July 25: Sam Whiskey” with Burt Reynolds

Selected shorts preceding main attraction that starts at dusk.

Sponsored by Cedarville Area Historical Society

William W. “Bib” Wolfe Dies in Texas

William Wesley “Bill” Wolfe, Cedarville native and a member of the historical society, died March 14 at the age of 88 in Georgetown, Tx.

He was born in Cedarville, Il., on May 8, 1925, to the late Harry L. and Nettie M. (Fulton) Wolfe.

He was married to Frances (Westendorf) Wolfe for 69 years. She and other close family members affectionately called him “Bib.”

He was graduated from Freeport High School during World War II and immediately enlisted in the army.

He became a flight officer and flight instructor as a captain in the U.S. air force. He was a member of the air force reserve and a civilian flight instructor for the air force.

Following the Korean Conflict, he continued to fly as a corporate pilot based in Rockford, Il., and Morrisstown, N.J.

He enjoyed a successful second career as a sales professional for Federal Paperboard Company. He lived in Morrisstown for ten years and Batavia, Il., for 30 years. He was an active member of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Batavia.

In retirement, he spent winters at Park Place in Harlingen, Tx. He relocated to Georgetown in 2003. He was a member of Santa Rosa de Lima Catholic Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Robert, and sisters, Verla and June. He is survived by Frances E. Wolfe of Georgetown, five children, ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

His children are Candace Levy, Houston, Tx.; Susan Harman, Conyers, Ga.; William, Marble Falls; Brad, Pecos, Tx. and Lisa Kendle, Delaware, Oh.

Interment was at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, Tx.

Cedarville’s Jane Addams Wowed Them in Kansas

The editor just received the following newspaper clipping from Bob and Shirley Alley, Cedarville Area Historical Society members in Wichita, Ks.

“The state convention of the Kansas Equal Suffrage Association was held in Wichita on May 16, 1911. Fourteen hundred people crowded into the Crawford Theater to hear Jane Addams speak. At two street meetings, she spoke while standing on the rear seat of an automobile.”

That’s our Jane!
Society Volunteers to Staff Museum

More than two dozen members of the Cedarville Area Historical Society have volunteered to assist visitors to the Cedarville Museum when it opens for the 2014 season on Saturday, May 3.

These are veterans in the hosting scene, each one having served in the same capacity for many years. They know about the exhibits and the season's special events.

The museum is open from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays during the season. Admission is free to historical society members and $3 for non-members over 12.

The volunteers are:

Paul Fry, Carol Meyers, Charlotte Kaiser, Hulone and Delbert Scheider, Rose Binns, Tait Weigel, Lorraine Stabenow and Ramona Kryder.

Also: Frank Rutter, Dottie Emo, Judy and Harlan Corrie, Janice and Art Leverington, Jim and Sharon Barmore, Jean Joyce and Ladona Wardlow.

Also: Jim and Bonnie Bade, Galen and Carole Bertram, Bobbie and Dan Edler, Ingrid and Don Heilman, Bill Angle and Neal Scheider.

Also: Ruth Smith, Bob and Miriam Schlueter, Kelly and Dale Priewe, Moira Knowlton, Sue and Steve Myers and Mary Reed.

Also: Narcissa Engle, Kathleen Glaze and Don and Vicki Franz.

Narcissa Engle, vice president of the historical society, for many years has been responsible for enlisting the services of the hosts.

Cedarville Area Historical Society
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Also on Facebook

Jim Bade, President
Narcissa Engle, Vice President
Galen Bertram, Treasurer
Sharon Barmore, Secretary
Steve Myers, Director
Dale Priewe, Director
Carol Meyers, Director
Don Franz, Director

The society is recognized as a non-profit organization by Illinois and the U.S. government and has been designated as eligible for tax deductible gifts under IRS tax code regulation 501 (c) (3).