

# CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## Spring 2016



The following have passed away since our last newsletter:

Alta "Irish" (Offenheiser) Jacobs	78	Aug. 2015
Bernita Shelden	90	Feb. 2016
Murray V. Quincer	87	Feb. 2016
Betty J. Larson	83	March 2016
Jana Doig	61,	April 2016

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### Franklyn Field

In 1946, Franklyn Lindgren, a former army flying officer during W.W. II, decided to make use of the training he received in the army. He opened Franklyn Field, a state sanctioned, class one airport, a half mile east of Cherry Valley on the old Route 5. The field was located on the old Harry A Johnson farm. Somewhat across from the current Ipsen Industries area, it would have butted borders with the Valley Orchard. He had two partners in his venture, Gordon Bartels and Jarl Ederstrom, both from Rockford.

In addition to air freight and plane storage, rental and maintenance, many student pilots were trained here. Charter service of passengers was also a part of the business at this busy airport.

The Greater Rockford Airport was not in existence at that time, and passenger service was divided between Franklyn Field, and Machesney Airport, which was located north of Loves Park on Route 51.

Franklyn Field consisted of 60 acres, with three brassy runways. The north-south and east-west runways were 2,000 feet long, and the third, which extended northeast and southwest, was 3,360 feet long.

The airport grew to the extent of having 28 airplanes in storage at one time. In addition to the hangars, there was a cement block maintenance shop, and an office building. A third structure was used for parts storage.

The earliest planes owned by the airport were: a two-seater Aeronca Champion; a Fairchild plane of Canadian assembly, purchased from the government as army surplus equipment; and a Vultee Valiant, which in its army days was known as a BT 13-A

During the Korean War, Mr. Lindgren was again called to serve his country. His wife took over operation of Franklyn Field during his two year absence.

The airport was sold in 1957 when Mr. Lindgren became an executive pilot for a Rockford firm. Shortly after he sold the airport, it ceased to function.

### The Cherry Valley Flying Club

The Cherry Valley Flying Club was composed of Vincent Popham, Clarence Offenheiser and Dudley Houdeshell, all of Cherry Valley, and Charles Banks of Irene. The club, which operated out of Franklyn Field, owned an open cockpit Navy Stearman airplane.

The airport was a favorite gathering place for airplane enthusiasts. During a summer evening, many spectators would gather to watch the planes taking off and landing at the field. Mrs. Lindgren operated a sandwich and soft drink stand at the airport.

Each year an air show was held. Many pilots flew in for this event, as well as the local fliers. This provided much excitement for the local residents as well. Youngsters from the valley would climb the trees for a better view of the proceedings.

Today on this farm land, there is no indication that an airport ever existed. But it did, and it provided an important service to our neighboring communities of Belvidere and Rockford as well as Cherry Valley.

Taken from the book "Our Memories are Warm 1835-1976"  
by the Cherry Valley Bicentennial Commission

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### Springtime Comes by Dorothy Sheldon

There is a day when winter ends  
Though no one knows when it will be  
We cannot set the date ahead  
But simply wait and see.

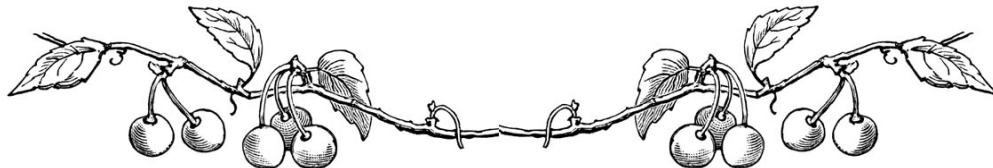
So many do not know it then.  
They say that those who do have guessed  
But I have learned it from the ones  
Who surely ought to know it best.

The bits of earth beneath my feet  
Were softly whispering together  
"Spring is here at last," they said  
Now to look for better weather.

The trees shook out their barren boughs  
With such new hope that I could tell  
That they heard the news and knew  
How soon all would be well.

The wind seemed just yesterday  
Full of the cold, wet breath of snow  
And yet I knew the year had changed  
As soon as it began to blow.

And all the time although i felt  
The snow and water underfoot  
Upon the breast of the glad earth  
I heard the green things taking root.



## OBITUARY

### Herbert B. Alverson

Herbert B. Alverson was born in Gullford, Vermont, on August 18, 1839, where he lived until he was 14 years of age, when he, with his parents, moved to Ogle county Illinois.

He was married to Helen M. Hale at Cherry Valley, Illinois, September 7, 1864. To this union was born Alfred G., who is a physician at Bloomington, Illinois; Albert E., who is at Rockford, Illinois; Edith A., who died in infancy, and Addie G., who is the wife of William Parker and resides at Central Point, Jackson county, Oregon, the latter with her husband and children being the only lineal descendants who could possibly be present at the funeral.

Mr. Alverson enlisted in the 147th Illinois Volunteer Infantry in February, 1865, and was mustered out one year later. He was a charter member of Nevius Post No. 1, of Rockford, Illinois, the first G. A. R. post ever organized in the United States.

He moved to Oregon in 1901, and soon after bought his home on West Bridge street, where he continued to reside until his death. As a soldier and citizen he has always given a full measure of devotion and loyalty to his country, having always been faithful to every trust and true to every friend. He has been a member of the G. A. R., in which he has been signally honored by being several times elected post commander and twice elected district commander. He has been a consistent, loyal and enthusiastic member of the Patrons of Husbandry, being first identified with the Dimmick grange and later with the Fruitdale grange, being its overseer for the last five years or more and remaining such to the day of

his death. He has also been chaplain of the Pomona grange ever since its organization, and the insignia of these offices, mute testimonials to his faithfulness, efficiency, and loyalty, now rest upon his casket.

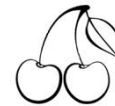
His home life was the most beautiful and perfect ideal for the American home. He, with his beloved wife, traveled together, always together, down life's shady path, each giving to each such a complete measure of love and devotion as spread its radiance over all with whom they came in contact. The undemonstrative, confiding companionship, and the devotion to their friends, made them the most lovable and beloved by all who knew them. "Where e'er you found Herbert, you always found Helen," was a common remark among their friends.

For 18 months Mr. Alverson has been in failing health, with an incurable malady, and as his earthly house was wasting away he has been watched over by loving wife and faithful friends, until on Thursday, September 28, he gave his last glance of recognition upon his faithful wife, his tired hands laid down their burden, and he passed from earth to the great beyond.

His funeral was held in the Baptist church at Grants Pass, Oregon, on Saturday, September 30, at 2:30 o'clock, attended by a vast concourse of friends, besides the G. A. R. post, the Ladies' Relief corps, the Fruitdale grange, and the Pomona grange, all of which orders attended in a body.



While this obituary is from a 1916 Oregon newspaper, Herbert Alverson moved to Rockford at the age of 14. His wife, Helen M. Hale, was from Cherry Valley. An article saved for 100 years, and shared with the Historical Society by the Kanak family. It's still touching to read of a life well lived, their shared love and devotion, and his service to his country.



### Hood's Sarsaparilla

The small advertisement was also from the Kanak family. While the date and origin are undetermined, Mrs. Meeker of Cherry Valley was sought out for a product endorsement. Whether Sarsaparilla cured anyone's hearing may be debatable, but the ad is definitely worth a smile!

## Hearing Affected

**Ringling and Snapping in the Head Cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla.**

"For many years I have been troubled with catarrh, which caused me much pain and affected my hearing. I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla and it helped me wonderfully and cured the snapping and ringing in my head." **MRS. C. A. MEEKER,** Cherry Valley, Illinois. Remember

**Hood's Sarsaparilla**

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Editor.... Pam Jeske ([golfnew@aol.com](mailto:golfnew@aol.com))

Please feel free to drop a line, add some content, share some stories either to my e-mail, the Historical Society's e-mail ([cv.historical86@frontier.com](mailto:cv.historical86@frontier.com))

Cherry Valley Historical Society, Box 266, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Or stop by, leave a note ...have a chat with a member!


# Cherry Valley Area Men's Club

## What has Cherry Valley Men's Association done for the Cherry Valley community?

1. Petitioned and got the speed limit reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph at Mill and Harrison
2. Established the Robert Larson Foundation, to help CV area students with college or technical education
3. Donated uniforms and equipment for the 4th and 5th grade, boys and girls basketball teams at Cherry Valley School.
4. Donated cheerleading uniforms for the 4th & 5th CV grade spirit squad
5. CVAMA members assist with a yearly clothing, food and paper shredding drive at city hall.
6. Donated and helped raise funds for 65 uniforms for the Goldie B. Floberg special athletes. Travel bags, jackets jerseys & shorts.
7. CVAMA worked the the Winn. County Forrest Preserve to design, produce and install rules of the river signs at [6] Winn. forrest preserves
8. CVAMA made 20 "Love your River" signs and are along the Kishwaukee River.
9. Donated to the CV Merchants youth baseball team uniforms.
10. Donated to Christmas lights and installed lights [Dave Doig in 2011 & 2012]
11. Donated 600 frisbees to the 2012, 2013 & 2014 4th of July parade
12. Coordinated and got the Oscar Meyer Wienermobile to come to the 2012 4th of July parade
13. Sponsored numerous CV 4th& 5th grade school basketball players to coaches clinics held for youth basketball
14. Designed, produced and printed [1,000] 2015 Cherry Valley Calendars.
15. CVAMA annually sponsors Family Night Ice Skating at the Carlson Ice Arena.
16. CVAMA is having their first golf outing September 14th at Newburg Hills.
17. CVAMA hosted & mediated a political debate at the Methodist church, open to the public to meet the candidates.

**To Join or to get more information  
visit our web site [cherryvalleyama.com](http://cherryvalleyama.com)**

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at Salamone's at 7 p.m.



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1619 Meridian Rd.  
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**Mulford Chapel**  
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(815) 226-2273

Thank you to the Cherry Valley Village Hall for their wonderful support and assistance.  
And to CV Methodist Women group for their sponsorship.  
Please let our sponsors know you saw their advertisement in the newsletter, we appreciate them!