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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cedar Lake Historical Association

Steam Through History partnership recreates resort-era experience

(Cedar Lake, IN) The Cedar Lake Historical Association (CLHA) is proud to partner with the Hesston Steam Museum of LaPorte County (HSM), for Steam Through History, a one-week collaborative event in Cedar Lake, Indiana, from July 26-30, 2021. HSM will bring their vintage 1910 steamboat to CLHA's museum, housed in the historic Lassen's Resort Hotel on the shoreline of Cedar Lake. Tours aboard the 20-passenger vessel will focus on local history, as well as the science behind steam power, while providing a way for guests to get on the water.

"Steam Through History is supported by an Indiana Humanities Collaboration Grant, Legacy Foundation Transform Lake County Grant, Indiana Historical Society Heritage Support Project Grant made possible by Lilly Endowment, Inc., and Town of Cedar Lake tourism funds," explained Julie Zasada, CLHA Executive Director. "This is the first collaboration and most elaborate program, by far, that we have ever attempted. While the steamboat is a highlight, we are also excited to show the community how we are more fully presenting the relevance of Cedar Lake history with the supplemental humanities programs and our new exhibits."

In addition to the steamboat rides, programming during Steam Through History will include recreating the sites of Lassen's Dewey Line signature voyage using augmented reality technology. The guest experience will also feature tours of CLHA's completely re-imagined exhibit rooms, guest speakers, STEM workshops, and many other children's activities.

Cedar Lake became a recreational destination with the 1881 arrival of the Monon railroad, which would regularly transport hundreds of tourists to the community. Lassen's Resort was founded in 1896 with a single steamboat that ferried passengers from the Monon depot to all points around the lake.

The HSM boat, Alabama No. 4, nearly identical to Lassen's Dewey Line launches, was originally a lifeboat on the SS Alabama, which steamed the Great Lakes. Built by Manitowoc Dry Dock Co. of Manitowoc, WI, the SS Alabama entered service on June 29, 1910, on the Chicago, Grand Haven, and Muskegon route. She was 275 ft in length, had a 46 ft, 6 in beam, and drew 17 ft 1 in. She was licensed to carry 2,000 passengers with overnight accommodations for 300 persons and rated to carry 2,500 tons of cargo. Being powered by a 2,500 ihp triple expansion steam engine and 3 coal-fired scotch boilers gave her a service speed of 15 mph. The Alabama No. 4 lifeboat was acquired and restored by James Kinkaide, of Elkhart, Indiana, and fitted with a single cylinder steam engine, which develops 20-horsepower, and a vertical boiler, which supplies the steam for the engine.

"Steam power isn't without it's trials and tribulations. It's not like turning on your pontoon boat or car," cautions HSM General Manager, Ted Rita. "This boat is historic. She takes a bit more work than a modern piece of machinery." While both organizations are working diligently on this program, the steamboat excursions aren't guaranteed yet. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must grant approval for operation of the unique vessel. When approved, it will be the only steam boat in passenger service in the state. Rita elaborated that they "are working with the DNR to complete safety inspections for passenger service. It's taking some time because this is a unique situation. The DNR doesn't inspect steamboats at all, according to what we have been told. We



believe the boat to be safe and worthy of service. Now we just need to ensure that the DNR is comfortable with the operation."

The Steam Through History experience will take place at the CLHA Museum, 7408 Constitution Avenue, Cedar Lake, IN. The steamboat cruises on Cedar Lake will launch from the CLHA museum grounds from July 26-30, 2021. For more information, and to keep up with our Steam Team's progress follow our Facebook page @CedarLakeHistoricalAssociation.

About the Cedar Lake Historical Association:

CLHA operates a Museum within the historic Lassen's Resort Hotel featuring exhibits explaining the history and significance of Cedar Lake. An entirely new experience will be launched this spring and guests are welcomed to attend the ribbon cutting on May 7, 2021-- on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Lassen's Resort Hotel. www.cedarlakehistory.org

About the Hesston Steam Museum:

HSM is a living history museum in LaPorte, Indiana, featuring steam-powered equipment including trains that take people on a steam powered journey. [www. Hesston.org](http://www.Hesston.org) or Facebook @ Big.Steam. Machines.

The logo for the Cedar Lake Historical Association, featuring the text "Cedar Lake Historical Association" in white on a black rectangular background.

Cedar Lake
Historical Association

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