



# WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.warrencountyhistory.org    Box 256, Indianola, IA 50125    (515)961-8085

MARCH 2011

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Temperance in Carlisle
- 4 Wadle Coal Mine
- 5 Ilo Browne Wallace

## SHARE USED PRINTER INK CARTRIDGES

We collect empty computer printer ink cartridges at the museum. We can turn these in and get credit to purchase ink, paper, etc. We would appreciate it you would bring your empty cartridges to the museum to help us.

## WCHS in OUR IOWA MAGAZINE

In the **99 Things—You Gotta Do in Iowa This Year** of the February/ March issue of *OUR IOWA* page 7, the WCHS is the only Warren County place to visit listed.

## SPRING CLEANING

We will do our annual museum and Heritage Village spring cleaning on Monday, April 18 at 8:30 am. Please come to help whenever you can Monday morning.

## 1st Meeting for 2011

We will have a soup supper Tuesday, March 22, at 6:00 pm. Adam Naughten, Indianola, will discuss his thesis, **BIBLES & BAL-**

**LOTS: THE FORMATION OF CONSCIENCE & POPULAR EXPRESSION OF ANTI-SLAVERY SENTIMENT IN WARREN COUNTY, IOWA.**



## ELGIN NATIONAL POCKET WATCH

*We received this Elgin National, Philadelphia Watch Co. pocket watch from a very thoughtful antique dealer in Corydon. The antique dealer contacted us to see if we would like to add it to the museum collection. We were de-*

*lighted to receive this gift.*

*The watch originally was purchased from Indianola jeweler, C. W. Conneran. It is engraved with Clara E. Russell, 1908. If anyone has information about Clara, we would be interested learning who she was.*

*Other accession items received are Dorothy Johnson photos of teachers and pupils, from Annette Rath; Vol. 3 Warren County Cemeteries from William Schooler; Midnight Assassin from Richard Sissel; Indianola business matchbooks from Dennis Ackley; Commemorative Methodist Church silver spoon from Gordon Speer; Medora United Methodist Church Centennial Book from Vee Ann Steponovich; Indianola fire photos from Mark Sheets; white slip from Susan Gaezer; DVD of Ethel & Howard Hughes WWII interview; and 10 Metro Opera programs.*



Emily Sarvis displays plaques that tell the history of each building on the Indianola Square.



## HISTORICAL PLAQUES PLACED ON SQUARE

Indianola Girl Scout Troop #225 has been researching our buildings around the Indianola Square. This has been quite a project which required many hours of research for each building. They are preparing a plaque that tells when the building was built and describes the various businesses. The completed plaques have been hung on the north and east sides of the Square. The other plaques will be hung as they are completed. We have had the pleasure of having these girls spend time in our library.

Congratulations on job well done!

## INDIANOLA 5TH GRADE PIONEER SCHOOL

May 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11 will be our annual Pioneer School. Mark your calendar and help us share Warren County History with these 5th graders.

## QUICK WORK AT CARLISLE

### From Indianola Tribune December 20, 1877

#### **A Night Long to be Remembered—A Temperance Meeting and Its Results—The Saloon-Keeper signs the Pledge After which the Citizens buy Him out and spill the Beer.**

Word was given out that there would be a temperance lecture at the Baptist Church by the Hon. Lewis Todhunter, of Indianola, and Dr. Drew, of Illinois. The citizens of the town turned out enmasse, men, women, and children. It will be remembered that there has been a beer saloon in this place for some weeks past, and not unfrequently has the "nights" here in our once quiet little city been made hideous by the Bachinalian (drunken revelry) shouts of the inebriate. But thanks to the All-wise Giver, He stirred up the hearts of the people and they concluded that something must be done to rid the place of a nuisance that was being carried on in their midst, and for that

purpose was this meeting at the church, last night, the success of which we will now try to describe. The speakers were men well calculated for the work before them. One of them went in person to the saloon keeper and invited him up to the church and by hard coaxing succeeded in bringing him hither, whereupon he signed the pledge, after which, the citizens, by subscription, raised in the space of ten minutes money enough to pay the ex-saloon keeper for his investment in the saloon, he delivering up the key and all the beer on hand. Then came the march from the church to the saloon, Mr. Todhunter taking the lead and calling upon all to fall in. They marched to the saloon, carried all the beer into the street and poured it out.— Then it was three cheers, long loud and deafening went up from the assembled throng for the cause of temperance and the happy thought of having removed from their midst one of the worst of evils that could be imposed on any community. Today everything is quiet and everyone seems happy. The saloon keeper is happy if one may judge from the smile he wears and the way in which he expresses himself. He said he is heartily sick of saloon keeping, will never engage in the business again, etc. As the people marched from the church to the saloon, they sang "Hold the Fort for I Am Coming," but the demons fort had already surrendered and the inmates in the shape of black bottles, beer kegs and the like fallen easy prey to the advancing throng.—The kegs were preserved but the bottles were demolished. The crowd then dispersed, going to their homes and were soon in the arms of Morpheus (mythology god of dreams), happy in the thought that their noble work was completed. Thus endeth the life of the Carlisle beer saloon. It is now a thing of the past. From Gray Beard



#### **NEW MODULAR OFFICE CUBICLES**

Thanks to Shelley Wakeman, we have new Herman Miller office workspaces and exhibit cubicles (estimated gift value \$10,000). Her workplace in Des Moines was eliminating these materials and she offered them to us if we would move them to the museum. After many "PICKING" trips to Des Moines in Dwight's McCormick's truck, Dennis Allen, Jerry Beatty, Don Sandy, Cris Nagla, Mary McCormick and Dwight installed them in our computer areas and basement. You will discover that they make our work areas more attractive. Mary McCormick has designed in the north end of the basement a square "U" shaped walled exhibit area and we are refurbishing some of the exhibits. It is surprising what wonderful items we are discovering. We could use help on Thursdays or Saturdays getting these exhibits ready for our spring reopening. Just drop by and we will use your talents.

#### **WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY LOG CABIN FESTIVAL 2011**

This year's Log Cabin Festival Co-chairs will be Beverly Dickerson and Kerry McKasson. The honored town will be St. Marys in Jackson Township.

Want to help plan the event? Join the Log Cabin Committee at their April meeting on Tuesday, April 12 at 5:30 at the Warren County Historical Society. They will meet the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 through August.

## Historical Records Are Everywhere!

Historical records are not just dusty papers in an attic or dark archival repository; historical records are alive and everywhere! How many of the following items do you have in your home?

- Social security card
- School report card
- Immunization record
- Speeding ticket
- Record of births, marriages & deaths (sometimes recorded in the front of a family Bible)
- Birth certificate
- Diary or journal
- Letters that you've received or copies of letters that you've sent
- Marriage certificate
- A newspaper clipping about your child's basketball team or an obituary
- Bills, check stubs, mortgage papers
- Letter of acceptance to a college
- Photographs

A scrapbook holding any of the above

These are all examples of historical records, and you can probably add many more possibilities to the list. Here are more ways that historical records are part of our daily lives:

- Churches keep records about the baptisms, marriages, and deaths of its parishioners
- Doctors and hospitals keep records on the patients they treat
- Businesses keep records that document a new invention or product
- Civic organizations (Kiwanis, Lions Club, Rotary International) keep a constitution, meeting minutes, and lists of members

Courthouses have criminal, divorce, and civil case records

*The lists go on and on! Modern lives are extensively documented. WCHS is a repository that has historical records containing some of the keys to understanding lives from the past. Visit us to discover, share and learn from the past.*

## SERVER UP & RUNNING

Last fall we received a \$2,000 SOS Grant from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs to purchase a computer server. Dwight has it up and networked to our four computers. The server allows us to protect our information and network to our computers. Due to Dwight's thriftiness we also were able to purchase a laser printer. The newsletter you are reading was printed in house on this printer.

Juanita Ott, Accessions Coordinator announced that we now have 1,193 accessions with 2,900 objects, 695 photos, 1,300 documents and 1,227 published items placed in our data bank. This represents a great many volunteer hours by Juanita and others. Juanita also keeps our rental calendar updated. Look at [www.warrencountyhistory.org](http://www.warrencountyhistory.org) for the calendar to see the dates that are free for rental.

## Historical Tidbits

In June 1855 a daughter was born to Abraham and Nancy Felton. She was the first white child born in Virginia Township. W.C. Sayre, son of David Sayre was the first white child born in the town of New Virginia.

*THE LEADER*, Sept. 18, 1873 The following were the representatives of the Mexican War and attended the reunion in Des Moines last week: Phelps Reed, Carlisle, private; S. R. Wasson, Hartford, private; Justus McCarroll, Indianola, private; Daniel Kooser, Carlisle, private; Owen Atkins, Carlisle, private; M. C. Randleman, Carlisle, private; Wm. Major, Carlisle, private; H. W. Groom, Hartford, private; and Andrew Park, Indianola, Sergeant.

From Louise Pilmer—William Minor Richards (born July 25, 1877) played clarinet with the Hartford band. He also led a mandolin club. In early 1900s he bought one of 1st Edison phonographs. It used small 2 1/2" x 5" cylindrical records and had a large morning glory horn. Sometimes he placed the machine near the telephone and gave a "general ring" on the party line. All neighbors on the telephone party-line took down receivers, huddled near their telephones and listened together to hear Will's phonograph. There were neighborly remarks tossed in from time to time to comment on the music or provide requests for certain records.

**GIDEON W. MERRILL, Civil War Veteran****From History of Poweshiek County: a record of Settlement Vol. 2. Pages 226-227**

Gideon W. Merrill was born in Plainfield, New Hampshire on April 8, 1847, a son of Philo G. C. and Sophia W. Woodward Merrill, both of whom were born in Vermont. The father was reared as a farmer and in 1851 took up residence in Wilton, New York where he remained for a year and a half, coming west to Warren County Iowa in 1853. He conducted a store and gristmill at his new home in this state and attained a goodly measure of property at the outbreak of the Civil War. To him belongs the honor of being the first man from Warren County to enlist in the Union Army. His name was enrolled as First lieutenant of Company G Third Iowa Regiment. At the battle of Shiloh he was wounded and captured. He was confined for 6 months in a Confederate Prison in Savannah, Georgia, later at Tuskegee and Mobile, Alabama. He was finally exchanged and returned to his company, with which he served till 1863, when on account of ill health occasioned by the hardship through which he had passed he was discharged from the army and returned home. The estimation in which he was held by the people of Warren County is indicated by the fact that he was elected to the state senate from 1863-1864. In the spring of 1864 he moved to Poweshiek County and farmed. He died in 1896.

**WADLE COAL MINE, by Dixie Neer from the Lacona History Book, page 108**

Henry Wadle started a coal mine north of his house around 1933. His sons, Marvin and Glen, wanted to dig a mine on their land to make money. Several people worked in the mines such as Ed Schurman, Herman Schurman, Ferman Wadle, Bert Konrad, Gerald Konrad, Allen Konrad, Ed Seufferer, Glen Ripperger and Frank Daugherty. Alfred Wadle, another son, would take wagonloads to town and sell. The coal would have to be scooped off or carried by buckets to wherever the customer wanted. He would only be able to deliver one or two loads a day.

To start the mine, they would hook up a scraper to a horse and scrape the top layer of dirt off the coal deposit. This would open up the coal. The Wadle mine had about a 36 inch deep vein of coal. This vein went back into the hill quite a ways. They would use picks to cut down on each side of the vein. Then they would lie on their sides and undermine the coal. After the three sides were open, they would use wedges and sledges to break the coal from the top. When they would get to the corner of the room, they would have to work on their knees. They would then load the coal into a coal car and haul it to the shed where it would be weighed.

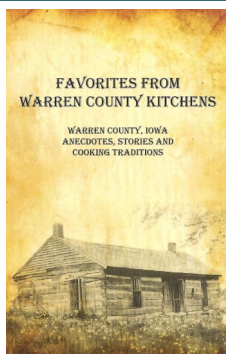
After the mine was opened, each miner would dig out his own room to work. These rooms would be about four or five feet tall and extremely dark. Each miner had a carbide light on his head. There was carbide in the holder with water on top. The water would drip on the carbide causing a gas. This made the light, which was very dim. Even with these lights, it was very dark in the mines. Don and Giles Wadle were too young to work in the mines, so they would run errands. Something they liked to do was to throw rocks into the mines. The miners couldn't tell where they were coming from and would think the mine was caving in until they realized it was just their brothers.

Each room would have to be blocked with tall pilings. They would also use oak to roof the mine. After they worked the mine so far, they would have to open more rooms. To do this they would undermine it, then drill in the top and put dynamite in the drilled holes. They would have to wait until the gas would go out before they could work the new mine.

To make tracks for the coal car, they laid two old oak trees across the ditch. They then laid native boards across the trees. The wheels of the coal car would fit on the outside of the tracks. A horse would pull the coal car up the hill by cable. Once the coal reached the shed, it would be weighed on a platform scales. They had constructed a wooden box to put the coal in to be weighed. They would be paid 60 or 70 cents a ton. Coal was sold for about \$1.50 a ton. Eventually, they bought a Model T from Otto Wadle's widow. They put an old shed on the frame of the car. They would load coal in the shed, then start the car up and drive it to the scales.

Usually everyone would quit at suppertime. Glen would work late by himself. Don would go back and check on him. One night the timbers of his room caved in on him. No one came to check because he always worked so late. He had to use a short pick to work himself out from under the timbers. He then pulled himself up to the shed and warmed up. He had to walk back to the house in the freezing cold. Usually the mines were only worked in the winter because of farming.

Henry needed liability insurance for the mine to cover the workers. He purchased it from John L. Lewis of Lucas. He was only allowed so many employees to be covered under the policy.



**GIFT GIVING**  
 Looking for that one of kind gift? Give the Warren County Historical Society's new cookbook **FAVORITES FROM WARREN COUNTY KITCHENS**. Available at the Warren County Historical Society for \$20.

**INDIANOLA HOMETOWN PRINTS AVAILABLE**

A print of caricatures of Indianola businesses, attractions, history and a few people has been done by an artist in Clear Lake. We helped provide photos to the artist. The prints can be seen at the museum and purchased for \$15.



**ILO BROWNE WALLACE**

Ilo Browne Wallace was the wife of Henry A. Wallace, the 33rd U.S Vice President and later Secretary of Commerce. She was the Second Lady of the United States from 1941 until 1945. She was the sponsor of the USS Iowa . Born in Indianola, she was the daughter of James Lytle Browne and his wife, the former Harriet Lindsay. In 1892 James L. Browne had started a loan and real estate business in Indianola. Eventually, it became Browne & Schrier Insurance.

Ilo attended Simpson College and Iowa State and married Henry Agard Wallace in Des Moines on May 20, 1914. They had three children: Henry Browne Wallace, Jean Browne Wallace , and Robert Browne Wallace .

Her husband later became the editor-in-chief of Wallace's Farmer, an influential Mid-western farming magazine that had been founded by his father, Henry Cantwell Wallace, a future U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. A small inheritance she received from her parents enabled the Wallaces and their business partners to establish, in 1926, Hi-Bred Corn

Company, which developed and distributed hybrid maize and eventually transformed agriculture. At the time, most corn farmers saved part of the seed from the harvest and used this to plant a crop the following year. Wallace had been experimenting with hybridization of corn and became convinced that hybrid seed corn would become important. His vision proved accurate; by 1940 more than 90% of the corn raised in North America was raised from hybrid seed. The company became Pioneer Hi-Bred International and is now a part of DuPont.

Ilo died at the Wallace estate, Farvue Farm, in South Salem, New York



Ilo christening the U. S. ship Patrick Henry.

**WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**  
 Renew or become a member today!

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Thank you for your support.



## PUBLISHER ISSUES CHALLENGE

**The Record-Herald and Indianola Tribune, June 26, 1956**

By Don Berry

Seventy-five years ago, a little later in the summer, the name of Kate Shelley was on every lip in Iowa. She was the 15-year-old Moingona girl who crossed a 500 foot trestle and bridge over the raging Des Moines River in the night to warn the approaching eastbound passenger train that a bridge on Honey Creek had gone out, also to summon aid for the surviving crew members of the engine which had gone through the bridge.

**KATE SHELLEY** She knew that some of them were holding to trees.

In the year 1956 a good many Iowa people have never heard of Kate Shelley and her courageous exploit, which in its time was heralded from one end of the country to the other.

Still, few people know that in the year following her heroic act Kate Shelley was a student at Simpson College for part of the term on a scholarship provided by many admirers who contributed to give the heroine an education. She did not remain in school a great while as she felt she was needed at home, her parents not being able to live on her fame.

The publisher of The Record-Herald and Indianola Tribune has been told many times by his mother that Kate Shelley was often employed during her residence here to baby-sit with the yearling future editor. He, however, admits he can remember nothing of it. He now challenges the world to produce any other person who has been "baby-sat" by Kate Shelley. July 1-7 has been proclaimed as Kate Shelley week by Governor Hoegh, July 6, the 75th anniversary, and a monument to Kate Shelley will be dedicated.

## WARREN COUNTY RURAL SCHOOLS

Susan Graezer has been working to create an accurate list of Warren County's Rural Schools. This is not an easy task. Schools changed names, had nicknames, multiple names and sometimes were named for the family that owned the land where the school was located. She is currently redoing the bulletin boards in Mt. Hope School and is looking for photos to copy of actual schools, children's activities or teachers. If you have any photos or rural school history to share, contact us at 961-8085 or drop-in. Once we get this list finalized we will share it in a newsletter so you can help correct any errors. Eventually, we would like to place a marker at each school's location.

**JOIN US FOR A SOUP SUPPER, TUESDAY, MARCH 22 AT 6:00 PM**

