



# WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

August 2011

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Page 2 USS Indianola
- Page 5 Making butter Iowa State Fair

**WCHS MEETING**  
 Tuesday, August 23  
 7:00 pm

*Thanks to all who donated, attended, or helped at the June Spaghetti Dinner. It was fun, delicious, and successful.*  
 Beverly Dickerson

## LOG CABIN MEETING

5:30 pm Tuesday, August 23, September 13

## LOG CABIN FESTIVAL CLEANING DAY

Monday, September 12th  
8:30

Please come and help us get our buildings tidied and ready for Log Cabin Festival

**WCHS PROGRAM**  
 October 25, 2011  
 7:00 pm

**IOWA COAL MINING**  
Doug Wilson, Knoxville

## HOOSIER ROW ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Congratulations to the committee at Hoosier Row School in White Oak Township for getting Hoosier Row added to the National Register of Historic Places. Judy McClymond and Gerald Schimmelfennig headed the committee, wrote the application, attended meetings and appeared before the Iowa State Board. Following a long hard process, the new designation was posted on the National Park Service web site on June 24th. A plaque will be presented in the spring of 2012.

The Hoosier Row community is still collecting information and stories about Hoosier Row School. If you have something to contribute, contact Judy McClymond at 961-5624.

## WCHS August Program, Iowa Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad in Iowa by Douglas W. Jones will be our WCHS Program on Tuesday, August 23 at 7:00 p. m. The Iowa Freedom Trail Project documents Underground Railroad activities throughout Iowa by identifying individuals and groups involved and the places where they occurred in Iowa before and during the Civil War.

For eleven years Mr. Jones has been a staff archaeologist at the State Historic Preservation Office of the State Historical Society of Iowa, part of the Department of Cultural Affairs. Originally from Jones County, Iowa, he has a Master of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of Iowa and has worked as an archaeologist throughout the Midwest and in South Carolina.

## The Fiery Trial, Iowa and the Civil War Mobile Civil War Display At the Indianola Public Library Parking Lot



Sponsored by Indianola Public Library, Simpson College and WCHS



Friday September 9	10:00 to 5:00
Saturday September 10	10:00 to 5:00
Sunday September 11	1:00 to 4:00
Monday September 12	10:00 to 8:00
Tuesday September 13	10:00 to 4:00

Friday, Sept. 9 Reception and program Craven Room, Simpson College  
Tuesday, Sept. 13, 10:00 Book Discussion of Manhunt, The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer

If you would like to volunteer to staff the mobile exhibit, contact Linda Beatty at 961-3088.



## Ironclad Civil War Gunboat Named for Indianola

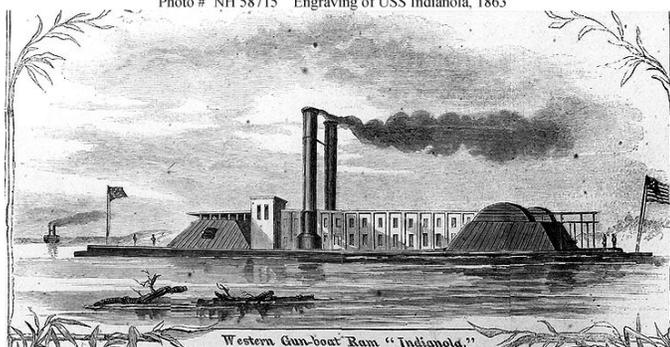


Mike Lesnet, Indianola graduate now living in Illinois, visited our museum while he was at his high school reunion. He alerted us to the fact that the USS *Indianola* was named for Indianola, Iowa. Thanks to Mike's generous donation we have [Damn The Torpedoes! Naval Incidents of the Civil War](#) by A. A. Hoehling and [The Day Dixie Died, Southern Occupation 1865-1866](#) by Thomas and Debra Goodrich. The WCHS Library has a lot of Iowa Civil War books if you are interested in reading about the war.

### CIVIL WAR U.S.S. INDIANOLA, IRONCLAD GUNBOAT

*Indianola*, an ironclad gunboat propelled by both side wheels and screw propellers, was built at Cincinnati by Joseph Brown. The danger that Confederate Gen. Kirby Smith, whose troops had reached Covington, Ky., just across the Ohio River, would capture Cincinnati, prompted Brig. Gen. Lew Wallace to take *Indianola*, from the contractor before completion 2 September 1862 and have her launched 2 days later. Acting Master Edward Shaw was placed in command of the ship 18 September, and she was reported in commission 9 days later.

Photo # NH 58715 Engraving of USS *Indianola*, 1863



*Indianola* was "armed and ready to defend Cincinnati" 23 October "but was not completed. When ready for general service several weeks later, the water level in the Ohio had fallen too much for her to get over the falls at Louisville. She finally arrived at Cairo, IL and joined the Mississippi Squadron 23 January 1863. She served briefly in the Mississippi and the Yazoo Rivers before running past the Confederate batteries at Vicksburg to join *Queen of*

*the West* in an effort to stop the Confederate flow of supplies from the Red River.

She left her anchorage in the Yazoo at 10:15 p.m. 13 February and moved slowly down stream until the first gun was fired at her from the Vicksburg cliffs slightly more than an hour later. She then raced ahead at full speed until out of range of the Confederate cannon which thundered at her from above. She anchored for the night 4 miles below Warrenton, Miss., and early the next morning got underway down river.

Two days later, 16 February, *Indianola* met prize steamer *Era No. 5* manned by the survivors of *Queen of the West* which had run aground while under heavy fire from Confederate shore batteries at Gordon's Landing in the Red River. Late that afternoon lookouts in *Indianola* spotted Confederate steamer *Webb* abreast Ellis Cliffs. She promptly cleared for action and steamed ahead full speed firing at the Southern ship which proved to be barely out of range. *Webb* turned about and dashed down stream and out of sight around a bend in the river. A heavy fog set in compelling *Indianola* to give up the chase and anchor for the night. Early the next afternoon the fog cleared enabling *Indianola* to proceed to the mouth of the Red River where she maintained a strict blockade until February 21st when she began steaming upstream. Her progress was slowed by two coal barges which she towed so that she might furnish fuel to any ships sent to reinforce her from above Vicksburg. On the evening of February 24th, TFe66 and *Queen of the West*, now Confederate-manned, overtook *Indianola* and attacked from each side ramming her seven times before the game ironclad, "in an almost powerless condition" ran her bow on the west bank of the river and surrendered.

The loss of *Indianola* was deeply distressing to the Union. It ended Admiral Porter's efforts to blockade the Red River by detached vessels while keeping the body of his fleet above Vicksburg, and it prompted Farragut's costly run by the South's forts at Port Hudson March 14, 1863. On the brighter side, it set the stage for one of the most successful hoaxes of the war. A dummy monitor was made by building paddle boxes on an old coal barge to simulate a turret which in turn was adorned with logs painted black to resemble guns. Pork-barrel funnels containing burning smudge pots were the final touch added just before the strange craft was cast adrift to float past Vicksburg on the night of *Indianola's* surrender. Word of this "river Monitor" panicked the salvage crew working on *Indianola* causing them to set off the ships magazines to prevent her recapture.

After Vicksburg fell, and following long and difficult struggle, *Indianola* was refloated 5 January 1865 and towed to Mound City January 17th where she was sold.

From the USN Website

### WCHS NEW BOOKS AND ACQUISITIONS

The following is a list of books from the Indianola Public Library that have been donated to the Warren County Historical Society Library:

**Atlas of Southern Trails to the Mississippi** by Carrie Eldridge, **Atlas of Appalachian Trails to the Ohio River**, **Atlas of Northern Trails Westward From New England**, **The History of Nantucket Island: A Bibliography of Source Material with Index** by Obed Macy, three books of the **Warren County Cemetery Records** compiled by the Warren County Bicentennial Commission, **The Lyon Campaign in Missouri** (a history of the 1st Iowa Infantry) by Eugene Fitch Ware, **Marches of the Dragoons in the Mississippi Valley (1833-1850)** by Louise Pelzer, **Adjutant General's Report to the Governor of Iowa Vol. 1 & 2 1867**, **List of Ex-Soldiers Sailors and Marines Living in Iowa in 1886**, **Iowa Colonels and Regiments: Being a History of Iowa Regiments in the War of the Rebellion. Roster and Records of Iowa Soldiers in Miscellaneous Organizations, Vol. 6, Roster and Records of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion, Vol. 3 & 5.**

We received the **Cumming Centennial Book, Damn The Torpedoes! Naval Incidents of the Civil War** by A. A. Hoehling and **The Day Dixie Died, Southern Occupation 1865-1866**, Thomas and Debra Goodrich.

Recent acquisitions include two handmade wood gavels made by Cassius Felton and John Felton II. The Feltons built the first house in New Virginia in 1855.

We received a 1917 Corona Typewriter, 1915 Warren County Fair pennant, 1947 Indianola High School baseball uniform, red Model T toy car, and a Steiff stuffed donkey.

Juanita Ott and Toni Rath continue to enter information into our Past Perfect museum software. 1,460 accessions have been entered with 2,939 museum items; 912 photographs and albums; 1,708 documents, scrapbooks, letters diaries and 1,283 books. These ladies continue to do an unbelievable amount of work. When you see them, give them a big thank you.



**Do you Remember the INDIANOLA EMPRESS THEATER**  
 Located at the southeast corner of Buxton and Ashland?

**Saturday, September 24th  
Biscuit & Gravy Breakfast  
7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Adults \$5  
Children under ten \$3**

Get your tickets early at Kerry's Flowers or WCHS



### **Get 2011 LCF Quilt Tickets**

at WCHS, Kerry's Flowers, or call Bev Dickerson at 961-2600. Tickets are \$1 per chance or \$5 for six chances.

The quilt raffle will take place Sunday, September 25 at 4:00 p.m.

**Honored Town, St. Marys  
"Small Town with a Big Spirit"**

### **2011 LOG CABIN FESTIVAL**

**Chairs: Kerry McKasson 961-2100, Beverly Dickerson 961-2600**

**Antique Car Show: Charlie Stills**

**Craft Show & Sales: Kerry McKasson 961-2100**

**Demonstrations: Mary McCormick 961-4697**

**Entertainment: Alice Brito 961-3058**

**Flea Market Show: Erin Lundgren 515-771-6548**

**Food Vendors: Monty Dorman 961-0600**

**Scare Crow: Pat Sternquest 961-3008 and Diane Brockman**

**Window Displays: Betty Martin**

**Quilt Show: Charlotte Gardner 989-0096**



Thanks to Kevin Putney 2 new parking spots with recycled asphalt on the right side of the museum entrance ramp have been created. The two cement posts are from the Pickard farm. We plan to hang a sign between the two posts.

### **WARREN COUNTY TIDBITS**

July 13, 1961. Bob Hunget, 11 years old, found a large petrified tooth of some prehistoric animal while walking in South River northeast of Ackworth. He is the son of James Hunget.

August 31, 1911. Wick Field Meet big success. Fully 5,000 people gathered at the annual Wick Field Meet held at the Rock Island Crossing last Thursday. It is a picnic, field meet, and exposition all in one. There was music by the Truro Band. Miss Rowan of the State Extension Department addressed the crowd on Domestic Science in our Schools. Domestic Science is recognized as one of the essentials in the schools and not as a fad. Miss Rowan urged adoption of courses in all schools. "Strange as it may seem the men of our country are interested in Domestic Science more than the women. It may be that they see the need of good cooks more."  
"Many farmers", said Miss Rowan, "treat their animals better than their families. We ought to look into the sanitary conditions of our schools and homes."

October 5, 1911. A deal was made this week where by the McCoy Hardware & Harness Company has changed personnel, Harry and Free McCoy retiring from the firm and their interests being take over by J.F. Pemble and Willard McCoy. The firm name has been changed to that of the Indianola Hardware and Harness Company. Ray McCoy, who was a member of the old firm, is a senior member of the new firm.



Cris and Dennis recreated this butter making display at Pioneer Hall at the 2011 Iowa State Fair. It won 1st Place.



### CHURNING BUTTER

Regina Pirtle asked the WCHS to demonstrate butter making during the Iowa State Fair in honor of Iowa's famous "Butter Cow". Harriet Herold is shaking butter in a jar and sharing a taste of fresh made butter with fair goers.

Thanks to Cris and Dennis for organizing this successful event.



### George Shane, Des Moines Sunday Register, August 4, 1929, UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

A house in Indianola, once one of the most important links in the underground railroad system, was torn down last week in order that the world may have another filling station. Where bright and shiny red gasoline pumps soon will be erected for the benefit of tourists who drive along this elm shaded bit of the Jefferson highway, Mahlon Hayworth, a Quaker and advocate of liberty, built the dwelling seventy-one years ago.

**Facts Are Few** There are obscure legends in Indianola about the house; but facts are not numerous. It is established, however, that fugitive slaves were hidden there when pursuit from the south grew warm. This Quaker residence was a vital point in the southern branch of the underground railroad. Mahlon Hayworth was an avowed abolitionist; he was willing to speak freely on the impositions of slavery, but his activities in abating the system he believed evil were affairs he declined to mention in conversation. Were his acts known, he could have been sent to prison for six months and fined \$1,000 under the federal fugitive slave law.

**Trap Door Hidden** The house was constructed to aid him in carrying out his beliefs. The basement was divided into two compartments—one of them a secret chamber. Runaway Negroes, bound for Canada, found shelter in the underground room. Entrance was made through a trap door. The opening was hidden by rugs on the floor above. No pursuing federal officer would have suspected the hiding place of slaves—in fact, from the outside, the rear part of the dwelling that covered the room seemed to have no basement.

**Negroes Easily Pleased** At night a wagon would arrive from Winterset and a few dark figures would enter the house. Hayworth would lead his fugitive guests to the kitchen, open the trap door, and help them down a ladder to the room below. There the escaping slaves found a neat chamber with plastered walls, chairs and beds. The place was no more than 16 or 18 feet long and a dozen feet wide. But cramped quarters did not trouble the Negroes. They were in one of the most carefully designed underground railroad stations on the route from the south to Canada and detection was a negligible danger. This much is known of Hayworth's abolitionist activities, a far greater amount of slave running history has died with him and his brother Quakers. The stations southwest of Indianola on this line were Winterset, Lewis, Tabor and Percival.

WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LOG CABIN FESTIVAL

2011 PARADE APPLICATION

When: Saturday, September 25, 2011 at 11:00 AM\*

Theme: "Small Town With A Big Spirit"

Honored town: St. Marys, Iowa

Where: Line up in 300 Block of North Buxton and west on Clinton at 10:00 AM\*  
(Warren County Administration Building)

**Registration Deadline: Friday September 17, 2011 at 4:00 PM**

**(Pre-registration guarantees that your group's information will be announced during the parade)**

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Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Group/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Parade Entry (car, float, horses, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Applications available at Indianola Chamber Office, 515 North Jefferson or

[www.warrencountyhistory.org](http://www.warrencountyhistory.org)

Questions: Call Beverly Dickerson 515-961-2600

\*Note a change in time from last year

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