



August 2016

WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 256 Indianola, IA 50125

Phone-515-961-8085

(Highway 92 West, 1400 West 2nd, turn north into fair grounds, then turn east)

E-mail- contact@warrencountyhistory.org

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WCHS MEETING

7:00 pm
August 23

**Bring your Burger
King Supper at 6:15**

**There will be
desserts**

WCHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sat. at 9:30
Sept. 10th

LCF COMMITTEE-

Sat. at 10:30
Sept. 10th

**NO Sept. General
Meeting Due to
LCF**

Burger King Tues.
Sept. 27

WCHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sat. at 9:30
Oct. 8th

LCF COMMITTEE

Sat. at 10:30
Oct. 8th

GENERAL MEET- ING

Tues. at 7:00
Oct. 25

THE SECRET WORLD of WCHS REVEALED

The mission of the WCHS is to collect, preserve, and create interest in the cultural, political and economic heritage of our county. (It is so stated on our website www.warrencountyhistory.org) Our Tuesday, August 23rd, program will explain how we do this. Juanita Ott will speak about our searchable Past Perfect software program and how we use it to record all donations we receive; Mary McCormick will explain how objects in the museum are displayed; and Deborah Taylor will do a quick tutorial on using our 1857 to 1923 newspaper search. Before and after the program people are invited to tour the museum and the library. The program begins at 7:00 but the doors will open at 6:15.

The searchable newspapers are the latest addition to our website. Go to www.warrencountyhistory.org and click research page and then click "Newspapers" tab. To search effectively you need high-speed internet, which we have at WCHS for those who don't have it at home. This opportunity to look at the past via newspapers has been made available through a grant from the Warren County Philanthropic Partnership and donations from Peoples Bank, Community Bank, Hy-Vee, the WC Board of Supervisors, St. Charles Bank, Phillips Floors, Norwalk Ready-Mix, the Warren County Genealogical Society, Weinman Insurance, Overton Funeral Home, Casey's, and Annette Rath.

Our meeting night is also Burger King night. You can help us financially by purchasing your evening meal at Burger King between 5 and 8 pm. A percentage of the sales comes to us. At 6:15 bring your Burger King Supper and eat and visit with WCHS friends.

Need Yearbooks, City Directories and Warren County Phonebooks

We have had several visitors looking for information in old Warren County Phone Directories, Simpson Zeniths and High School Yearbooks. If you have yearbooks after 1966 or city phonebooks that you would be able to donate to the WCHS, we would be delighted to have them. It is surprising how much information is available in these reference books.



LOG CABIN FESTIVAL CLEANING DAY
Come one, come all Thursday, September 15th at 9:00
am. We will sweep, dust, eliminate cobwebs and
spruce up before Log Cabin Festival.

In June Elodie Opstad spoke to us about the historical fiction book she has written about Allerton, the harness-racing horse that spent his last days on Henry Hopper's horse farm (now the Warren County Fair Grounds). C.W. Williams bred and trained Axtell and Allerton. Allerton still has the 2.10 record. Williams said, "Speed is born with the foal". Allerton was buried on the fairgrounds.



Don't Miss the 2016 LOG CABIN FESTIVAL! Sept. 24-25



Brenda Morgan has crafted this year's quilt for the Log Cabin Festival Quilt Raffle from quilt block strips that had been given to WCHS a number of years ago. Most of these fabrics date from the 1920s and 1930s with a few from the Civil War era. The strips of nine-patch blocks were discovered in one of the museum's closets. Taking two months to assemble, Brenda added off-white strips to create a double bed sized quilt-78 x 84.

Thank you, Brenda!

The quilt raffle will take place on Sunday afternoon, September 25th.

You can purchase raffle tickets from WCHS Members, at the museum on Thursdays and Saturdays, or call 961-8085 for tickets. Tickets are six for \$5 or one for \$1.

Drop by the museum to view this lovely quilt.

Join us at Log Cabin Festival on September 24th and 25th. The theme is "Warren County Youth Making History". Youth age 5-19 can enter contests as individuals or as the entire group to showcase their organization and its contributions to our community. For more information check the web site, check us out on Facebook or call the society at 515-961-8085.

CAMP WESLEY WOODS 60th YEAR



On Lake Ahquabi, 344 acres, horses, camping and retreats



**Camp Director,
Deke Rider**

Iowa Des Moines Methodist Conference Opens Camp

The Jefferson Bee, June 10, 1958

During the past winter and spring an average of over 50 people each week have been using Wesley Woods.

Work on this site has been moving along all winter with many work groups from many of the churches coming in to help with the building project. Eight cabins, the worship area, and other facilities are completed.

Work is now moving forward on the main lodge, water system, sanitary facilities and more cabins. Work parties are invited in to help at any time. Twelve row boats were purchased last summer and the necessary boating facilities were installed these will get a good workout during the coming summer.

Over 6,500 evergreen trees have been planted by the youth of the church during the past two springs and more trees will be planted each spring

The new campsite being developed will be filled with campers even though it is still in the building stage.

We have extended the date youth can enter our LCF contest to September 15th. Please encourage your children, grand children or neighbor children to enter this contest. For more information contact Kristi Porter 961-6149



2015



1917 Mohave Desert

Jerry Beatty's Grandfather Dana Stearns purchased a new 1916 Buick D-45 Touring Car in Mount Vernon, IA and traveled with his wife and Jerry's Mother to California and back in 1917. Dana was also a photographer and took detailed photos on that 1917 California trip.

This car is unrestored, continuously owned by the same family, and 100 years old. Jerry's brother Larry (car owner) from Shellsburg, will have this car and photos on display Sunday, September 25th during Log Cabin Festival.

Leo Landis from the State Historical Society of Iowa returns Clarence Pickard's bike and pith helmet. They had borrowed it for their RAGBRAI exhibit.



3rd WCHS LOG CABIN FESTIVAL "SWAN" CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday, September 24, 2016

Judging Begins at 4:00 pm

Warren County Fair Ground's
Campground Shelter (inclement
weather Museum dining-room)

\$10 Entry Fee

Competition types:

- 1 Vegetarian
- 2 Meat
- 3 Specialty

Judged on color, aroma, taste
consistency, & aftertaste

Mail form to

WCHS
Box 256
Indianola, IA 50125

Or drop off at Museum any Thursday from 9:00 am—4:00 pm or Saturday from 9:00 am—12:00 noon



A. H. Swan

You provide 1 gallon or more of
hot chili at 3:30 pm

You may bring prepared chili
from home or make at shelter
using your own equipment

Provide recipe to display

If secret, (just list basic ingredients)

Denote on scale 1-5 hotness

1 mild – 5 hottest

Questions: E-mail
lindabeatty13@gmail.com

WCHS LCF BARGAINHUNTER'S GARAGE SALE

Time to search your
attics and basements
and clean your closets
to find items for us to
sell. You may bring
your items to the
Warren County Fair 4H
Building Thursday and
Friday, September
22nd & 23rd. If you
need to bring them at
an earlier date, drop
them off at the WCHS
Museum.



SALE

Saturday, September
24th 9:00 to 5:00 &
Sunday, September
25th 10:00 to
Closing

Youth & Youth
Group Contest
Registration
Deadline is extended
to September 15th.
You can register &
bring your project
September 15th.

WCHS LCF "Swan" Chili Cook-off Entry Form.

CONTACT-
NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE: _____ E-Mail _____

Family or Group Name (If not entering as an individual but as family or group) _____

CHILI CATEGORY: 1. Vegetarian _____ 2. Meat _____ 3. Specialty _____

\$10 Entrance Fee Enclosed (Make checks to Warren County Historical Society) _____

LCF Kid's Games

From 2-to 3:30 on Saturday & Sunday September 24th & 25th we will have games with your favorite history teacher— Kent Halstead and friends. Is anyone up for Giant Root Beer Pong, Lawn Twister, Bocce Ball, Tug of War or a Snap Chat Scavenger Hunt? Prizes awarded and free root beer floats for all participants. Join us for afternoon fun.



NEW ACQUISITIONS

Laura Cocke's Civil War Era Square Grand Piano, Barbara & Jack Wilson
 Dress, skirts, capes, hand bag, stockings and bustle; Dru McLuen
 1866 Bible, 1st Steps in the History of our Country ; Beverly Welshhons
 Betty Conklin scrapbook; Elodie Opstad
 Green Plain Methodist Church pulpit; Brent Spear
 Photos of Ernest Johnson, Cora Johnson and Henry Stephens; Susan Graeser
 Miscellaneous Hartford, Ford and Palmyra information; Tenney Richards Brinkman
 Late 1800 wooden corn planter; Glenn Meacham
 Oil painting by Marg Sams of Green Plain Church; Karen Carter Books; Myra Hewitt
 Rev. A.D. Fields' Bible, 1st Book of Hygiene, 1st Steps in the History of Our Country , White's Grade School Complete Arithmetic ; from Harriet Hansell by Joanne Appenzeller, Bruce Gaffey, and Margaret Weber
 New Fire Extinguishers, Phil Porter

Jerry is hard at work on next years (2017) book, Warren County, Iowa PATRIOTS, WW II (1941-1946



Jerry Beatty would like you to share yours or a family member's personal experiences, photos, and memorabilia concerning World War II. Don't forget the memories of those who were left here on the home front. Did anyone work at the Des Moines Ordnance Plant in Ankeny making .30 and .50 caliber bullets?

Call Jerry at 515-961-3088 or E-mail him at jerrykbeatty42@gmail.com.



FROM WCHS ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:

Planned Legacy and Memorial Gifts ensure that your lifetime support and passion for Warren County History will be sustained into the future.

Needed: Volunteers for LCF September 24th and 25th. Call 961-8085 to volunteer. Deb Taylor wants to remind donors we need pies or cakes for Sunday's, Sept., 25th Pie and Cake Auction.

WARREN COUNTY TIDBITS

William Harbison had a narrow escape Tuesday. He was driving Dr. A.J. Applegate's team and when crossing a bridge, near McPherson's, five miles west of town, the bridge fell and pulled team, buggy and driver in the bottom of the ditch. They all scrambled out, however, with little damage. How he escaped so safely and cheaply is a mystery, unless it was because he was out soliciting funds to paint the U.P. Church building here. From Sept. 14, 1882, **Advocate Tribune**

John Demory had lice in his hen house! But there are none in it now. He has a new hen house: After trying many kinds of lice killers, without effect, John took a bunch of hay into the hennerly and set it on fire, expecting the heat and smoke to do the business. He says, himself, that he must have got too much hay, for the whole thing, lice, hen house and about 30 chickens went up in smoke, and John escaped only after being burned about the face. But he killed the lice. From June 7, 1906, **Indianola Herald**

The plans for Buxton Park furnished by Mr. F.E. Pease, landscape gardener, of Greenwood Park; Des Moines, have been accepted by the Park Commissioners, Messrs. William Buxton Jr., John L. Tilton and Harry E. Hopper. A representative of the Herald viewed the plans in the office of Mr. Hopper last Friday and while we do not claim to be an expert in passing on such things, the plans show very plainly that the park will be one of the most beautiful in Iowa. The work of laying out the park and placing the walks will be begun this fall, but no trees or shrubbery will be placed until next spring. A small lagoon will be placed near the northeast corner, a band stand near the center, the gardener's house to the north side, and the arrangement, the walks, trees and flowers make the park on paper most lovely to behold. We were fortunate in securing services of such a capable artist as Mr. Pease and in the course of a few years it will be the pride of every citizen. 1906, **Advocate Tribune**



1940 DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE for IOWA SECRETARY of STATE

Katie Belle Miller was born in Indianola March 1889 to Peter and Florence Meloina Lewis Miller. She lived with her mother at 805 West Clinton.

Miss Miller was a working woman and had supported herself since she was 17. She graduated from Indianola High School, paid her college expenses at Simpson and Penn College, finished a secretarial course at a Des Moines business school and later a class in accounting and auditing. She taught nine years; was a secretary in a law office; office supervisor, worked in extension services; and was treasurer for Warren County.

In the Iowa Democratic Primary she defeated two males to run against the current Secretary of State, Republican Earl G. Miller. Her primary win was questioned in Polk County because it appeared that Miss Miller could have been credited with some of the votes cast for Republican incumbent Secretary of State, Earl G. Miller because they were both Millers. One wonders if she had not been a woman defeating two men in the primary, would this have been an issue.

Miller has always been a very popular ballot name and in November one of these Millers would be elected.

In November Katie was defeated by the incumbent Secretary of State. No one questioned whether she had lost due to an error in crediting votes to the right Miller.

She died in 1966 and is buried in the IOOF Cemetery.

Katie Miller

Photo from **Des Moines Register**

Resources: Nov. 6th
Des Moines Register, June 5th
Des Moines Register and May
Record Herald

YELLOW FEVER HITS KLONDIKE

In August 1896 Skookum Jim Mason, Dawson Charlie and George Washington Carmack discovered gold in a tributary of the Klondike River in Canada's Yukon Territory. Beginning in 1897, an army of hopeful gold seekers, unaware that most of the good Klondike claims were already staked, boarded ships in Seattle and other Pacific ports and headed to search for gold. The following is an article from Chad Stanley that appeared in the **Advocate Tribune** in 1896.

On The Briney Deep, March 22, 1898. We are within four hours of Juneau, Alaska, plowing along the channel at a merry skip. Our steamer is one of the swiftest on the route, and we occasionally pass some other craft. Yesterday afternoon we had about two hours of what seemed to us, rough sea. Many on board, and a few of our party, were slightly sea-sick. We are all right today. Are sailing by the inner channel and are protected by mountainous islands from the treacherous open sea. As usual, for vessels bound for Alaska ports, our boat is heavily loaded. Our accommodations are rather poor. At mealtime we are lined up like a lot of cattle, and our meals are served in a princely (?) manner by a gang of slouchy waiters. Our fare consists of bread, butter, beef, pork, coffee and "pudding." This is repeated three times a day. We eat from tin pans, drink from tin cups, have sugar, plenty of it, and a beautiful dark brown color, but no cream-not even milk.

But to return to Seattle. At that place we viewed the situation from every conceivable point, and after deliberate discussion all of the party decided to try the Chilkoot Pass. From what we could learn, no other route seemed as favorable. We will leave the steamer at Dyea, thence over the Chilkoot Pass. Every one in the party has an outfit up to the standard.

N.O. Tate is the biggest boy in the crowd. He spends much of his spare time chasing about the boat watching the "sights." The rest of the party-Haworth, Douglas, Todhunter, Morris, Gearhart, Jared and myself-follow his examples. All are confident that we are about to grasp a fortune, but that the journey means many hardships and privations. We are ready bear whatever may come to us.

Tuesday March 8th, at about 11 o'clock we stopped at Victoria, British Columbia, and made a stay of about 4 hours. We landed and "took in" our first British town. Victoria is quite an attractive place, but the streets were dusty and the wind blowing so hard as to make it disagreeable. Our attention was particularly attracted by the many beautiful lawns filled with flowers and beautiful shrubbery. We found the people polite and obliging, and we all voted Victoria a beautiful and industrious town. Large numbers of Chinese live here. We took a look through their part of town.

We made another short stop at St. Mary's Island, where the U.S. custom house is located. The custom house is the only building to be seen on the island. On Thursday evening our vessel stopped, lowered a boat and set 3 men off at a little Indian village called Kitchitan. Friday evening we sailed through some narrow passes-so very narrow that we could have thrown a stone to either shore from the ship.



In 2012 the Iowa Division Sons of Confederate Soldiers honored A.R. Cocke at his grave as the only identified Confederate Soldier in Warren County.



Albert Richard Cocke
History of Warren County Iowa, 1879



Catherine Hagan came to Indianola with A.R. Cocke. His father had died when he was only six months old in Tennessee. Catherine had cared for his family as a slave and moved here with him as a free woman. Catherine is buried in the Indianola Cemetery next to the Cocke family members.

A.R. Cocke was born in Knox County, TN, January 27, 1840, to James R. and Margaret E. Cocke. When he was twenty, he came to Indianola where he was engaged in the dry goods business and also studied medicine with Dr. C.W. Davis. In 1861 he returned to Tennessee and after the battle of Fort Donelson enlisted in Co. D, 2nd Tennessee Cavalry, Confederate States Army. He served till the close of the war. After the war he went to Tennessee, Atlanta, Georgia, Indianola and then Texas. He returned to Indianola in December 1868. January 27, 1869 he married Sarah Jane Grantham. Sarah came to Indianola in 1853 with her family. A.R. and Sarah had the following children: James Richard, Margaret Francis, Catherine Alice, Laura Caroline and Pleasant Sterling.

The Cocke family resided at 302 East Salem. This property belonged to Sarah's father and A.R. either tore a house down and rebuilt or remodeled around the original house. Someone from the Cocke family lived here until Margaret Frances (Fannie) Bingaman moved to the nursing home. She died in July 1958.

A.R. became a druggist in Indianola after the Civil War. From 1870 he clerked for A.J. Little and then entered a co-partnership with W.M. Parks. About a year later he purchased Parks' interest in the business and became sole owner of A.R. Cocke's Drugstore south side East Main (now Salem) Street.

Cocke died March 28, 1886 in Indianola.



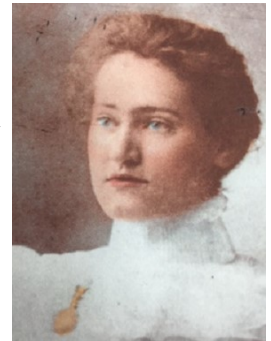
Mahogany, square grand piano made by Lighte, Newton & Bradburns, New York was given to Laura Caroline Cocke Duke for her 18th birthday in 1896. A card taped in the piano says, "To my baby girl on her 18th birthday." Barbara & John "Jack" Wilson have donated the piano to the WCHS.

Laura Caroline Cocke was born in Indianola in 1878.

The August 20, 1903, **Advocate Tribune** said that Laura was in a piano contest being conducted by the **Des Moines Daily News**. "Miss Laura Cocke, one of our most estimable young ladies, is one of the contestants who has been favored with a number of votes. She deserves and will appreciate the support of Warren County subscribers of the News." We feel Laura must have been practicing on this grand piano.

On September 4, 1903 Laura and her sister Fannie opened the Indianola Coal Company in Indianola. Fannie had previously worked at a coal business in Des Moines. Laura managed this business for around 10 years.

In 1902 the **Indianola Herald** said that Laura would do sewing and take orders for cut flowers.



Laura Caroline Cocke, daughter of A.R. and Sarah Cocke. This photo was taken near the time she was given the square grand piano.

Laura married William Duke in 1913. They had three sons Charles, James and Clarence. She died in 1935.

Laura's Grand Daughter, Barbara Duke Wilson, said that Laura had attended college in Iowa City and had been a businesswoman all her life. Her last job was in Des Moines at a financial investment business.





Photos from our
June Wedding
Style Show.

If you didn't at-
tend, you missed
great food, fash-
ion and fun.



Thanks to Deb
Taylor, Kathi
Stanfield, Es-
ther Hoffa, Pol-
ly Glascock, ta-
ble designers,
and our beauti-
ful models.



How We Help

We are the eighth grade of Irving School
Patriots are we, brave and true,
If we can't go 'way, at home we'll stay
To help the good old U.S.A.
We are helping the soldiers "Somewhere in France"
By buying bonds and liberty stamps,
Members of the Red Cross are we,
With 100 per cent efficiency.

Wristlets, sweaters, scarfs, and socks
We are sending to the Red Cross box.
A convalescent robe we've helped to knit
To send in the Red Cross comfort kit.
Our Boy Scouts are gathering all the old shoes
To make leather vests for the soldiers to use,
We're saving food with all our might
To help our soldiers win the fight.
We are saying "Good-bye" to sugar and wheat
To fats, to beans, and some kinds of meat,
We have done all this and we'll do much more
For our savings are to win the war.
Now Uncle Sam, 'if there's more we can do
Just give us the tip-we'll see you through.

Jan. 24, 1918, **Advocate Tribune**



Scoutmaster Smith of
Indianola is at the
Ledges with the scouts.
He is well known in
scout work, being ac-
tively engaged to the
work in his home town.

July 27, 1919, **Des
Moines Register**

MARKET BEEF CLUB FORMED

Plans are being made for a new 4-H project
known as commercial beef calf club. A com-
mittee of three cattlemen will visit the 50 boys
and girls in the club. Blaine Core, J.E.
Hatcher, and J.P. Cozad are members of this
committee, with Clarence Moffitt, extension
director, as clerk.

They will estimate the weight and appraise the
value of each calf entered.

The calves will be exhibited at the Warren
County Fair and the same committee will again
appraise and weigh them. Calves will be scored
on these factors: (1) increases in weight during
the feeding period and (2) increase in value per
hundredweight.

June 2, 1948, **Des Moines Register**

Examples of past Youth Group Activities.
Do you have examples, photos or exhibits
that show your present youth group
activities. If so, enter our LCF Contest by
Sept. 15th.

THE REST OF THE STORY, KLONDIKERS RETURN

From Advocate Tribune, June 16, 1898

*Prior to the breaking out of the war with Spain, Klondike was all the rage. Newspapers filled their columns with gossip about it. Preachers made frequent references to it in sermons. The street corner loafer could talk of nothing else. Capitalists were eager to invest in Klondike enterprises. Promoters were busy with Klondike schemes. It was the chief topic of conversation at every social gathering. Millionaires and bankrupts dreamed of it. In short Klondike monopolized both public and private attention. Not to be behind the rest of the world in the wild scramble for gold Indianola organized a Klondike company and sent forth some advance agents under bonds to spend at least eighteen months harvesting, threshing and marketing the yellow metal.. They left in February for the new icebound Eldorado, in spite of the oft repeated warnings of the **Advocate-Tribune** to "keep away from Klondike."*

The war came and the fickle public lost all interest in the glittering glaciers. Only the friends of the departed advance agents and the anxious capitalists who had put up the funds continued to feel a lively interest in the gold-laden regions of the far northwest. The papers, preachers, street corner loafers, the capitalists, the promoters, the millionaires and bankrupts, had all ceased to give it any thought.

But on last Thursday this slumbering memory was rudely aroused into a vivid activity. N.O. Tate and Harry Douglass, the Indianola contingent of the little band of advance agents, with scarcely more than a premonitory whisper, suddenly appeared upon our street-dropped right down from Klondike. Oh what a commotion it made! For a time people forgot the war. All were on the tip-toe of excitement. Everybody was ready to present some kind of a claim for a portion of the yellow metal. Express wagons line up for orders to haul it. Bank vaults were hastily prepared for its reception. Extra police were ready to be sworn in to prevent any daring band of outlaws from suddenly swooping down and capturing the gathered treasure. The members of the company, who had furnished the solid cash that had enabled the advance agents to capture and bring home all this wealth, eagerly besought them to give some intimation of the immensity of the dividends to be declared, but they were held at bay till the advance agents would rest a little.

Meantime it was learned that Chad Stanley was at Des Moines, on his way home; that Todhunter and Morris had returned as far as Cosmopolis, WA, and that Geerhart had stopped at Spokane. Haworth alone had gone on through to find gold or bust. The others had found all the bust they wanted

The advance agents appeared before the assembled stockholders Friday evening to render account of their stewardship. It was brief: The whole thing was a swindling scheme gotten up by transportation companies to inaugurate a rush of travel over their lines. It was bait for suckers and they had swallowed the hook. They had tried to recoup by side speculations, but funds were growing scarce. Among these side issues was a sawmill they purchased and like certain corn that we have heard of the sawmill was left. Incidentally, Mr. Tate remarked that he had no conception of the difficulties and dangers of the trip; that every man carried his life in his hand and was in danger of losing it at any moment, and the revolver and dagger were in constant demand; that the dangers of the way were simply unspeakable; that after they got into the vicinity of the passes they were simply surrounded with the dead and dying; that they were constantly meeting streams of disappointed, discouraged, sick and starving men returning from the fabled gold fields that to have proceeded would have been madness; and that he wouldn't make the trip to Klondike for \$25,000.

Of course the company was very much dissatisfied with the flat failure of the enterprise, and the meeting could hardly be called a delightful social gathering...

...Of one thing we can all rejoice: while all the members of the company suffered terribly of the disease known as Klondicitis, none of them died of it, and if they had died, it is morally certain that they would have died cured.