



May 2017

# 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](mailto:contact@warrencountyhistory.org)

## Inside This Issue

Page 5 Katie Miller

Page 5+8 Goldrush

Page 6 Cocke Family

### WCHS MEETING

**7:00 pm**

**May 23**

**Steve Rose**

**The Frontier School Teacher**

### WCHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Sat. at 9:30**

**June 10th**

### LCF COMMITTEE-

**Sat. at 10:30**

**June 10th**

### GENERAL MEETING

**Tues. at 7:00**

**June 27th**

**David Kragoskow**

### WCHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Sat. at 9:30**

**July 8th**

### LCF COMMITTEE

**Sat. at 10:30**

**July 8th**

**NO July General Meeting Due to Warren County Fair**



Steve Rose

### WCHS GENERAL MEETING MAY 23

The program for the Tuesday, May 23, meeting of the Warren County Historical Society will be presented by Dr. Steve Rose, Professor Emeritus, Simpson College. It is officially titled *The Frontier School Teacher: What went on behind the Demure Dress*. To quote his synopsis: *The Iowa school marm of the mid 19th century was hardly a shy and demure scholar, if she was to be successful. She was often driven by missionary zeal into rough quarters where fending off snakes, fund raising and rooming around were expected; and was to avoid matrimony at the cost of her career. Come hear about these amazing women who shaped the people of our state as much as any politician.*

The society will have our collection of information on county rural schools on display and Mt. Hope school in our Heritage Village will be open to tour. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm at the museum meeting room.

### DEADLINE for WW II INFORMATION

May 31 will mark the end of the collection of World War Two information by Jerry Beatty for his book. If you haven't already shared your information contact him at 515-961-3088, email him at [jerrykbeatty42@gmail.com](mailto:jerrykbeatty42@gmail.com) or visit him at the Historical Society Thursdays from 9-4 or Saturdays from 9-12.

### WATCH FOR NEW LANDSCAPING

Keep your eyes on the area around our flagpole that is on the southeast corner of our building. We have received a \$500 grant from the Master Gardeners, Warren County Extension and \$1,700 from the Indianola Garden Club to landscape around the flag. Dave Grissom will build a retaining wall and Susan Graeser with advice from the Warren County Master Gardeners will create plantings of red and blue.

### JUNE 27th WCHS GENERAL MEETING

#### GEORGE HLADKY- "Someone cares. Pass it along"

David Kragoskow has been cataloging, watching and listening to former Indianola Mayor and Reminder owner George Hladky's cable TV shows. This should be an interesting trip down the memory lane of the 1980s and 90s as David shares what he has gleaned from his many hours of listening. I know David has footage of former Auditor Beverly Dickerson that he may share. Who knows what other surprises David has in store.

George Hladky was Mayor of Indianola for many years and served as Warren County Supervisor. He and his wife Cathy started the Reminder Shopper as an amalgam of classified ads, jokes (George had a collection of 10,000) and whatever happened to be on George's mind (often politics or hot button issues). "He loved Indianola and was kind of a happy ambassador roaming the Square from coffee shop to various businesses and always wearing his plastic name tag. When I first ran for public office, he said I must have a plastic name tag like his and should always wear it. It just happened that he could have one made for me. He was a great salesman never missing a chance to make a sale."  
—Linda Beatty

**George Hladky's motto was "Someone cares. Pass it along." He believed in open government and encouraged all to participate and voice their concerns.**





Hopper Horse Farm was located where the Warren County Fair and WCHS are now.

## HARRY E. HOPPER

### Entrepreneur & Benefactor

Harry was born in 1863 in Illinois. His father, J. W. Hopper, died when he was 8. At twelve he began to help support his mother, Caroline Elliot Hopper by working for neighboring farmers.

He urged his mother to go into debt by moving to Iowa where land was cheap. He pledged to stay by her and make the land pay for itself. For eight years he worked hard sowing, reaping and making the Keokuk County farm yield a profit.

In 1888 he harvested the crops and told his mother he would be back in the spring to help plant and headed to Indianola for an education at Simpson College. He broke horses, “swapped” horses, did odd jobs and turned his hand to anything that would help pay expenses. He graduated from Simpson in 1893 and opened a real estate office in Indianola.

While at Simpson, he met Edith M. Carpenter and they married in 1894. Her father, G.C. Carpenter was a natural science and chemistry professor who had been kind to him. At Simpson’s Commencement in 1910 Harry made a gift of \$25,000 to endow the Carpenter Chair of Latin in honor of Professor Carpenter. Carpenter had been teaching Latin and Plato to seniors. According to Simpson Historian Joseph Walt, “At this moment Harry E. Hopper was considered Indianola’s most successful citizen.”

In April 1912 Hopper Gym was dedicated at Simpson College. The gymnasium was made of brick and stone and was 126 feet wide and 120 feet long. It had room for 400 men and 350 women, 25 baths and 750 lockers. Harry Hopper donated the \$60,000 that funded the new gym.

In the 20 years between these events Harry had extraordinary business successes which made him a great Canadian timber magnate, holder of large tracts of land in Iowa and the provinces of Saskatchewan and British Columbia, Canada, and owner of one of the greatest horse farms.

Harry’s horse farm was where the Warren County Fair Grounds and Warren County Historical Society are now located. Allerton, the famous, retired racing trotter was sold to Harry by its owner C. W. Williams when he was in financial stress. Hopper paid \$200,000 for Allerton and Williams’ string of horses. He moved them to Indianola and Allerton spent his last few years here.

Jim Maple, Allerton’s former caretaker, appeared in Mr. Hopper’s office one day with the remark: "I see you've bought the old colt. I thought I might get a job taking care of him." Hopper was a good judge of men and took Maple on. After that Maple’s official title was blacksmith at the Hopper farm, but his chief business was to see that the old age of Allerton was made easy.



Sculptor B.D. Cable of Chicago came here to make a bronze statue of Allerton. He came too late to complete the model from life but made a death mask of Allerton’s head. Allerton died July 7, 1910.

Later in life, Harry moved to California. He died in 1944.

Photos: Harry Hopper

Resources: *Des Moines Register*, April 22, 1912 and June 19, 1910; *Nebraska State Journal*, July 24, 1910; [Beneath the Whispering Maples: the History of Simpson College](#), Joseph Walt;; *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, July 10, 1910



## NEW ACQUISITIONS

David Brown—Use of 16 postcard images and image of “Whisker Club” button

J. Richard & Janet Wood— 3 WW II Books, 1948 Football Team Photo, Judkins Navy history, 1937 Hawthorne School Photo

Elodie Opstad—Newspaper research

Myrna K. Barkley—Norwalk Basketball Team Photo, Service Women Christmas Card, news article panorama

Richard Wood—1907 panorama view of Indianola Square, 1880 Des Moines Register, scrapbook, poetry book, WW II Flag flyer

Teresa J. Stacy—2000 cheerleader outfit (April Peterson), 2003 Show Choir outfit (Kristina Peterson), Victrola

Eva Grace Flynn—Paratrooper Jacket and medals

James L. and Janet M. Jones (Fifer)- Baby and doll bed (Mary Boehmler), hand saw used by Lloyd Jones 1950-1970, Spring Hill Area, tennis racket

Helen J. Phillips—Orilla Embroidery Club photos and history 1910-1994

Stan McAninch—Lola Lane color movie poster

Judy McClymond—Carrie Nation hatchet pin and information about her

David M. Hopper and wife from Laguna Beach, CA stopped for a first visit to our museum. David is the Grandson of Harry E. Hopper and Great Grandson of Professor G.C. Carpenter. We chatted and exchanged information. Unfortunately, it was raining when he tried to visit Allerton’s memorial stone outside. They promised to come back soon to meet with Elodie Opstad, who has been researching Allerton and Harry Hooper for several years.



### Iowa State Mine Inspector’s Report

1896 & 1897

TABLE No. 2.

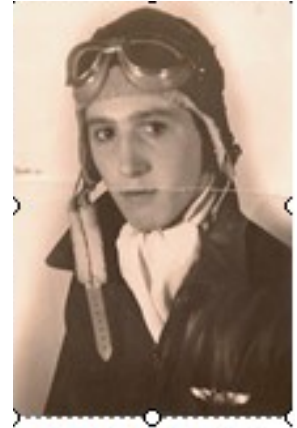
*Showing the number of mines, annual output of lump coal, number of miners and other employes in District No. 1, for the year ended June 30, 1897.*

NAME OF COUNTY.	Number of mines.	Number of tons of lump coal produced.	Number of miners employed.	Number of all other employes.	Average price per ton for mining	Total amount paid miners, not including yardage, etc.	Total amount paid all other employes.	Ave. selling price per ton for lump coal at mine.	Expense of tracking, props, etc. at mines.
Adams .....	14	30,500	118	41	\$1.05	\$ 32,025	\$ 10,250	\$2.10	\$ 1,820
Appanoose .....	72	372,402	1,455	348	.85	316,541	126,150	1.25	7,820
Davis .....	4	3,120	23	6	.90	2,808	435	1.50	125
Lucas.....	6	9,055	67	14	1.00	9,055	2,335	1.60	276
Monroe ..	16	389,706	879	371	.72½	282,535	178,125	1.22	6,535
Page .....	4	7,250	44	15	1.10	7,850	3,122	2.00	138
Taylor .....	6	13,200	82	20	1.00	13,200	3,842	1.70	218
Wapello .....	14	152,203	413	207	.70	106,542	57,180	1.10	2,114
Warren.....	11	16,150	62	17	.90	14,535	6,450	1.60	522
Wayne.....	8	32,120	132	28	.85	27,302	10,115	1.22	812
<b>Total.....</b>	154	1,025,706	3,275	1,069	\$ .79	\$812,494	\$396,004	\$1.26	\$20,380

## **Excerpt from Patriotism, Courage, & Sacrifice**

### **Warren County's Response to WW II**

**\*Fetters, S/Sgt. Wendell A.**, Indianola. Veteran WW II and Korea. Army Air Corps, Jan. 12, 1943—Oct. 10, 1946, 11 mos. Overseas: 574th Bombardment Squadron; 391st Bomber Group. Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Ardennes campaigns. Tail gunner, B-26 Marauder, shot down at Belgium Bulge, Dec. 23, 1944, bailed out, pilot killed. Captured by Germans two days later on Dec, 25. After interrogation at Eisenschmitt, Germany, Wendell was sent to a POW camp. Four Bronze Stars and Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters. Received a belated Purple Heart in 1991. Born in Lacona on Oct. 7, 1924 to Harvey “Mike” and Vera (Musselman) Fetters; died July 31, 2015. Graduated from Simpson College and married Jean Neifert on June 2, 1946, 3 children—Wendy Jean, Kim, and Andrew John. Worked for Gland-O-Lac at Omaha, NE, Princeton, NJ, and Kansas City, KS. Enjoyed playing golf. Wendell was active in the 391st Bomber Group and attended many reunions, eventually becoming the commander. He spoke to various groups about his war experiences and was always very patriotic. In 2001, the family took a trip to Germany to retrace Wendell’s WW II experiences. They went to the areas where Wendell’s plane was shot down and met Josef Hyer, a farm boy at the time, who saw the plane crash and collected many pieces of the wreckage. Josef presented Wendell with the green canvas and bright yellow numbers from the tail of the plane; pieces he had kept for over 56 years. Wendell was very touched by the gesture rekindling memories of the crash. It as an emotional, tearful moment for all. The family also visited the town of Eisenschmitt, where the Nazis interrogated Wendell, and found the house where the Germans brought American soldiers. They met a lady, a young girl during the war, who remembered her mother feeding the prisoners black bread and broth. Wendy (Fetters) Lundeen, Wendell’s oldest daughter, recalled the occasion.

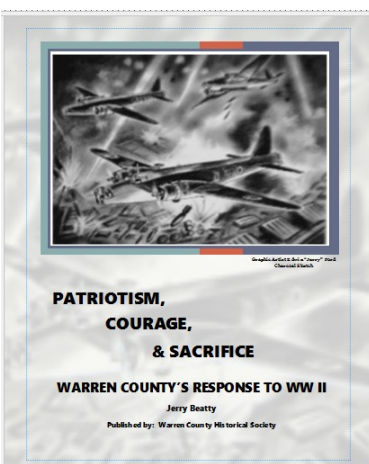


**Wendell Fetters**

**Wendell said he remembered a Christmas tree and pictures on either side of two soldiers. She replied, in German, *Yes, yes! The pictures are still on the wall They are my brothers who were killed in the war. Please come in.* Wendell refused the offer. Amazing those photos remained there for over 56 years! As we walked away, she came running out with a bag of oranges for Wendell. Fruit was considered a luxury during the war and it was a sweet gesture on her part to thank this American Hero!**

Before they left Germany, arrangements were made to meet a German fighter pilot. At first Wendell wanted no part of it. But the meeting was a rewarding experience for all.. After discussing their war experiences, Wendell and the Messerschmitt ACE came away with mutual respect and understanding, sharing hugs and emails.

**[RHT, 6/20/45. Email from Wendy Lundeen to Jerry Beatty, March 16, 2017.]**



We have information about these women who were “War Brides.” If you have additional information, please contact Jerry Beatty. His contact information is on page 1.

- Peggy Bailey of Summerset (Scotland)
- Veronica Ripley of Churchville (England)
- Mrs. Russell Wycoff of Indianola (Australia)
- Simone Dennewill of Indianola (France)
- Henriette Sager of Indianola (France)
- Anne Gaumer of Indianola (Germany)
- Maude Fox of Hartford (Wales)



Effie Silliman

**THE INDIANOLA BOYS' CHOIR,  
Des Moines Register,  
March 30, 1913**

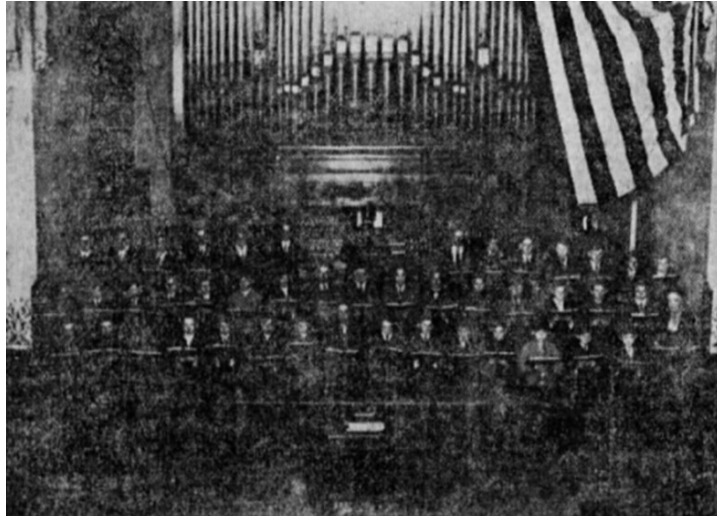
Effie Silliman was director of the Indianola Boys' Choir, which met at the First Methodist Episcopal Church. There were 50 members and you joined by invitation only. The choir was begun in 1910.

Simpson College Professor Everett Olive was the organist.

Effie was supervisor of music for the Indianola schools and head of the Department for Public School Supervisors at the Simpson Conservatory. She had attended Simpson and studied in Chicago.

Harry E. Hopper provided songbooks and paid all expenses incurred by the choir.

Front: Leslie Holiday, Kenneth Carr, Gordon Shaver, Frank Brewer, Raymond Gamble, Leslie Ragen, Elias Meyer, Walter Lee, Roland Moore, Frank Sayre, Robert Bates, Fred Peck, John Brewer, Harold Gibrich, Andrian Eberman; 2nd Row: Hollis Butterfield, Rex Wachter, Richard Scroggs, Harold Seibert, Francis Mossman, Ralph McAntyre, Harold Park, Theodore Holiday, Charley Meyer, Seward Graves, Vinton Slocum, John Iocum, Harold Warner, Arthur Morley, Frank Ford, Waldo Boss; 3rd Row: Clyde Shepherd, Willard Pickard, Byron Hopper, Herbert Hastie, Paul Bates, Howard Smith, Kenneth Holmes, Stuart Shaw, Paul Ginn, Edward Jewett, Rowe Sells, Kenneth Stratton, Edwin Proudfoot. Missing from photo: James Baldwin, Walter Gamble, George Allen, Dwight Summers, George Young, & Harold Marshall



**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 from 10:00 to 5:00, July 26-July 31 during the Warren County Fair. Call 961-8085 for Info.

**WARREN COUNTY TIDBITS**

Sidney Helms, a furniture store owner in Carlisle, Iowa, floated up to the dock of Captain Gene Webb at Alton, Illinois, at 6:30 May 22. He was on a mattress upon which he had left Keokuk, Iowa, last week. He spent the night at a local hotel and departed this morning on his mattress for St. Louis.

Helms is making the trip to demonstrate the properties of Kapoc floss of which the mattress is constructed. Kapoc fiber is said to be impenetrable to moisture, and the mattress, propelled by a small out-board motor, made a comfortable boat.



Accompanying Helms is a launch carrying a Fox film man and a party of friends. Also accompanying him are C. D. King, representing the manufacturer of the mattress and Miss Emma Helms, daughter of the navigator of the floating bed. They are also accompanied by an auto.

From *Evening Telegraph* (Alton, IL), May 23, 1925

# 2017 Indianola 5th Graders Pioneer School

**Thank You!**

To the many volunteers who worked hours in the heat to make this 4 day event a success!

