



October 2018

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

**From the
Homefront, WWI
Dan Hoffa
7:00 pm
October 23**

WCHS Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

6:00 pm

Nov. 3

WCHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

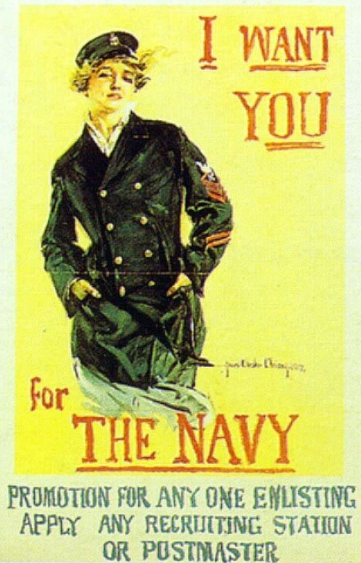
**Sat. at 9:30
November 10**

LCD COMMITTEE

**Sat. at 10:30
November 10**

No
General Meetings
till March 2019

If you have free time this fall or winter, consider volunteering at the museum on Thursdays or Saturdays. We have many types of tasks that need to be done. One would be just perfect for you.



October 23rd, 7:00 pm GENERAL MEETING

FROM THE HOME-FRONT, World War I

Dan Hoffa of Indianola will share some of his WWI memorabilia with us on Tuesday, October 23 at 7:00 pm. The program focus will be on home-front activities during the war. Dan has been an avid collector of all things related to World War I for many years.

This will be our last general meeting until March 2019

Please continue to collect Indianola HY-VEE receipts and bring them in to the museum. We have a large glass container near the kitchen where you can place them. We can use gas, pharmacy, grocery or any other HY-VEE receipt. It is an easy way to raise funds for WCHS.



Also we still collect used printer cartridges to return to Office Max and receive credit to purchase office supplies.

Thank you for remembering us with your Hy-Vee receipts and empty printer cartridges.



THANK YOU for everything that you have done to make 2018 a success! You are our greatest resource.

On Saturday, November 3rd all WCHS Volunteers are invited to the APPRECIATION DINNER at 6:00 pm. John Parker Senior will discuss proposed restoration plans for the Sandyville School advertising screen.

Please RSVP to:

contact@warrencountyhistory.org or 515-961-8085 if can join us.



Parade Honorees, the William Dickerson Family



Thank you to the Cooks



2018 Log Cabin Days

Although cold and wet, many brave and hardy volunteers participated this year. Thank You! Attendance was down, but the meals delicious and fundraisers somewhat successful. We did fall short of financial goals, so 2019 may be a bit of a challenge. We will keep you posted if need arises.



Connie Hufty, winner of 2018 Quilt



Putney Auction Cinnamon Roll Winner, Congressman David Young



Scarecrow Making with Pat Sternquist





Palmyra Methodist Church's foundation has been stabilized and it is being painted. Drive by to see the renovation being done. Monetary donations to help finance renovations would be appreciated. Contact Marilyn Haldeman.



WCHS has been given the LCD beautifully embroidered, Agricultural Quilt from three years go. Brenda Morgan had won this quilt and had it appraised at over \$9,000. Her family recently donated it back to WCHS.



Windows on Warren County's Past



We apologize, if you were unable to purchase the reprint of the book, **Windows on Warren County's Past**, at Log Cabin Days in September. You can purchase it at the museum for \$25.00. If you would like to have it mailed to you, send an additional \$5.00 to cover mailing. This book would make a great Christmas gift for Warren County History buffs or family relatives.

Kathi Stanfield has done an inventory of our Indianola Pow Wows (high school yearbooks). We are missing 1934, 1943, 1952, 1955, 1965 and any after 1977. If you have one of these missing years and would like to donate it to WCHS, we would be delighted. Yearbooks are a wonderful resource of photos but they also provide a business reference through the advertising that had been sold.



We have a good selection of older Simpson Zeniths but need late 1960s and after.

We need year books from other Warren County towns.



October 13th and 14th Elodie Opstad hosted a Cemetery Tour of the oldest section of the Indianola's Odd Fellows Cemetery. She told brief histories of early settlers and pointed out old stones that are cracked and falling over. Donations she received will go to a fund to help in repairing some of these. Look for another walk in 2019.



Jerry Beatty is writing
2019 Book



Bring your photos &
stories to WCHS

WCHS WANTS YOUR STORIES of WARREN COUNTY WOMEN

Blanche Annette Smith was born in Monroe, Jasper County on August 26, 1887. to Otis Ezra and Annie (Slusser) Smith. She attended schools in Des Moines, Shenandoah and Indianola.

Blanche graduated from Simpson College in 1908. While at Simpson she played basketball and was a member of Delta Delta Delta. Miss Smith taught at Indianola High School and was a teacher- librarian at Loveland, CO from 1914 to 1917.



She became an Assistant at the Fort Des Moines Library from 1914-1918. Worked from 1918-1920 at the Omaha Public Library in Nebraska. Blanche was an assistant at the Des Moines Public Library, head of the Extension Division in a Washington D.C. Library, Assistant Librarian at Cleveland College, and Assistant Professor at Wisconsin Library School.

She was appointed Executive Secretary of the Iowa Library Commission in 1938 and became the Iowa State Librarian in 1939 and served till 1956.

Miss Smith was nationally known for her contribution for awakening interest in libraries. In the June 4, 1943, **Waterloo Courier** Blanche said, "Libraries are on trial and they must do all possible to justify their existence by providing what the public needs and wants."



Blanche A. Smith died in December 1979 in Des Moines.

Anna Elizabeth "Eliza" (Cleny) Flummer an African American, was born on April 15, 1854 in Richmond, Ray County, Missouri. She and her mother moved to Indianola when she was twelve. Eliza joined the Methodist Episcopal Church at age 12 and was a member the rest of her life.

She married Alexander Flummer in 1870. They lived in Indianola at what is today the 800 block of W. Boston. They had eight children. Their second child, Martha "Mattie", was born in Indianola and graduated from high school here. She attended college at Oberlin. In 1902 she married Sam White. She was active in the Iowa State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. She served as state president in 1918.

The Flummer's were friends of Aunt Mahala "Haley" Williams and attended her wedding in Indianola to Colon Battles in 1898.

In Chapter 4, Mr. Brown and Mr. White, pages 83-84, of the book, Circle 'Round The Square, Pictures from an Iowa Childhood, by Dorothy Daniel, Dorothy discusses Eliza Flummer. Making her own soap, Eliza did the laundry for Dorothy's grandparents, the Browns (who lived on West Ashland). Mrs. Flummer lived on the northwest edge of Indianola where she raised chickens and had large gardens. She had one special small herbal garden

"Mrs. Flummer's house had a little picket fence around it and a swinging gate. It had a porch where Pa Flummer sat, but inside of the house was the wondrous thing. There was a green wire rack across the front window filled to the brim with plants and vines and shoots of things planted in tomato cans which glistened bright and silvery in the sun. Mrs. Flummer had rose geranium and begonia and fennel and verbena and umbrella plants and what-all. Grandmother Brown was always exchanging shoots of things for indoors.....Mrs. Flummer was a wizened, whitehaired, thin little gnome of a woman with no teeth at all.She smoked a pipe.....In the woods she gathered leaves, ivy, witch hazel and milkweed, and all sorts of mysterious plants from which she made tea and tonics to cure hiccups, trots, summer complaint, backache, or night sweats."

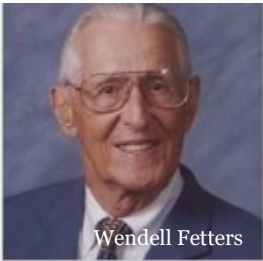
One wonders if Eliza was a friend of George Washington Carver and discussed plant usage when he was in Indianola. Eliza died August 27, 1917.

Remembering Veterans Day

Acts of Kindness Toward Warren County Servicemen, WW II

WW II ended August 14, 1945, 73 years ago. The war was the costliest conflict in world history killing over 50 million service members and civilians, including 102 servicemen from Warren County, Iowa. Over 3,200 Warren County men and women served in the military during WW II. Despite war's death and destruction, Jerry Beatty describes incidents of kindness and compassion in his book on WW II. The following are excerpts from his book.

Elmer "Curly" Richardson was seriously wounded during the Battle of the Bulge; a bullet had mangled his bowels, nicked his liver and caused other internal damage. He was taken to a POW hospital but not expected to live. Fortunately, Curley was mended by a caring and compassionate German physician, Dr. Ludwig Gruber, who followed the dictates of his profession rather than the directive of Hitler's officers to provide minimal health services to enemy combatants. A lasting friendship between the American soldier and the German physician evolved as they communicated with each other after the war.



In 2001, when aviator Wendell Fetters returned with his family to the location in Germany where his plane was shot down, he found a farmer, who as a child collected and kept for 56 years remnants of Wendell's plane which he presented to him. They also located the home where the POWs were fed awaiting interrogation. They visited with a woman who remembered her mother feeding American soldiers, pictures of her mother's two brothers, killed in the war, were still hanging on the wall. A box of oranges was offered to the Fetters as they departed. Wendell also met his counterpart in the German Air Force during WW II and came away from the meeting with a renewed appreciation for humanity; they too became friends, exchanging addresses, hugs, and emails.

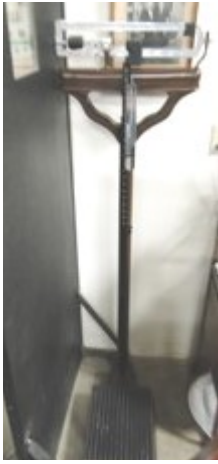
Sgt. Russell Overton, Indianola, and his squad got separated from his unit and found shelter in a German home on a cold, stormy night. A German lady invited the soldiers to come into her home, fed them, and even washed their clothes. She risked life and property caring for the "enemy". Partisans in Yugoslavia and Albania helped Warren County airmen Bob Davey and Harold Hayes and their crews find shelter and food and get through Nazi-infested areas to safety. Warren County soldiers were also met with kindness in the South Pacific, China, and other areas where natives helped them in jungle survival and mountain feats.

American POWs were very grateful for whatever packages or mail they received. They looked forward to Red Cross boxes which arrived on a regular, infrequent, or sporadic basis, depending on logistics and prison policies. Many would not have made it without supplemental food from home. Unfortunately, some POWs never received a box from home or the International Red Cross; this was especially true for POWs in the Pacific Theater where nearly 40 percent died in prison. S/Sgt. Earl Miller, Churchville, was very appreciative of a carton of cigarettes he received from the Wick Ladies Aid Society. As a railroad worker, he attended some of their lunches and became acquainted with the ladies from Wick. Floyd Conn, a POW in a Japanese camp, was most grateful for the comforter he received from Warren County Ladies. Lyle Hess and Robert Killam wrote letters thanking the 5th graders at Hawthorne Elementary School for the cookies they sent. At home, there was almost universal support for American service members as evidenced by war bond sales, salvage drives, and the tremendous production of food and war materials.

[These and other stories of kindness and conflict are found in **Patriotism, Courage and Sacrifice: Warren County's Response for WW II** by Jerry Beatty. The 400-page book was published last year by the Warren County Historical Society. Copies are still available.]



NEW MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS



Continental Beam Scale from Dr. Trueblood's Office—Ruth Hall

1930s St. Marys Graduation Booklet— Jeanie Coleen Rousch

Graduation dress from Spring Hill—Linda Looker

1920s painted green/red stool with folding steps—Susan Graeser

Three wheel wooden wheel chair— Paul T. Barkley

Berle "Red" Scobee 5 string banjo record, Old Dudley Band record, 2 oil painting by Guy Adkins, Carlisle and family photos—Marilyn & Duane Halterman

Historical plow, baby carriage, and baby rocking chair—Louise Thompson

Indianola map and miscellaneous items—Indianola Library



Gripp Family Book and sheet music—Claudia Meek

Three books on the Cole Family—Tammy Moulriere

Three wicker mannequins and one upper body form—Marieta & Dave Grissom

1960s apron from Anna Marie Ruble, toy piano and accordion, and sheet music —Judy McClymond

1926 Instructor Plan Books, Vol. L, II, and III—Pat & Dwight Hicks



Wedding veil, postcards, Excel Redskin Toy movie projector, Griffin Shoe products box, stamp collection, and many miscellaneous items—Janet Smith



BERRYS WOODS

One of Warren County's Best Kept Secrets

In 1961 Don L. Berry, former Indianola newspaper publisher and conservationist, deeded this 42 acre woodland to The Nature Conservancy in Iowa. Berrys Woods was the first gift to the Iowa Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. It was dedicated as a biological State Preserve in 1980. It also serves as an outdoor classroom and lab for Simpson students.

Berrys Woods is a high quality, mature white oak, red oak, basswood, and shagbark hickory woodland area. It is located in the southern Iowa Drift Plain landform region and is on the bluffs along the south side of the Middle River. In the spring and fall wildflowers and fungi are on display. This fall grab your camera and go for an autumn walk.



www.nature.org



This woods was owned by Berry's grandfather and then his father. It has been protected as a woods for over a 120 years.

Appreciation Dinner

Thank you so much for your generous help of time and financial support this year. The Society could not function without folks like you that are willing to go the extra to present and preserve Warren County history for the next generation. Please save the date and plan to attend this dinner in honor of you!

Date: November 3, 2018

Where: Warren County Historical Museum

At: 6 p.m.

Warren County Historical
Society

Phone: 515-961-8085
E-mail:
contact@warrencountyhistory.org

Reflections From Deb

This has been an awesome and busy year for the Historical Society. I want to give each of you a big THANK YOU for you generous help and financial contributions. To re-cap 2018 the following has happened: a bathroom remodel for handicap accessibility; a wheelchair lift installed on stairs; Pioneer Days; painting in part of the entry and on various display booths; reconfiguration of the stage; new archival shelving on the west wall of the library; sealant and coating on the main museum roof; stained and damaged ceiling tiles replaced; sealant and coating on the Carver museum roof; floor repair, storage closet, and 2 bookcases added in the Carver Museum; regrading of the south basement entrance; a Carver Museum Grand Re-Opening; and a wealth of additions to the collection including an IHS Football Team display, player piano, Springhill memorabilia, a Hartford display, books, a quilt, farm implements, pictures and so much more. Unknown to many are the museum volunteer hours it takes to keep the museum open on Thursdays and Saturday mornings, dust, clean, weed, repair, polish, organize, catalog acquisitions, research, etc. Every moment of volunteerism is truly a gift. Thank You again and please be in consideration of how you might help in 2019 to make it as great a year as 2018 has been.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR THE YEAR 2019. PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN IT WITH YOUR \$20 ANNUAL DUES.

(PLEASE USE THIS FORM FOR ADDRESS, PHONE, OR E-MAIL CHANGES ALSO.)

Warren County
Historical Society
Membership
PLEASE **Join or Renew**

Name _____

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Email _____

Please Check

- \$20 Annual Membership
 \$_____ Log Cabin Repair Fund
 \$_____ Gift

Newsletter via E-mail

OR

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Box 256
Indianola, IA 50125

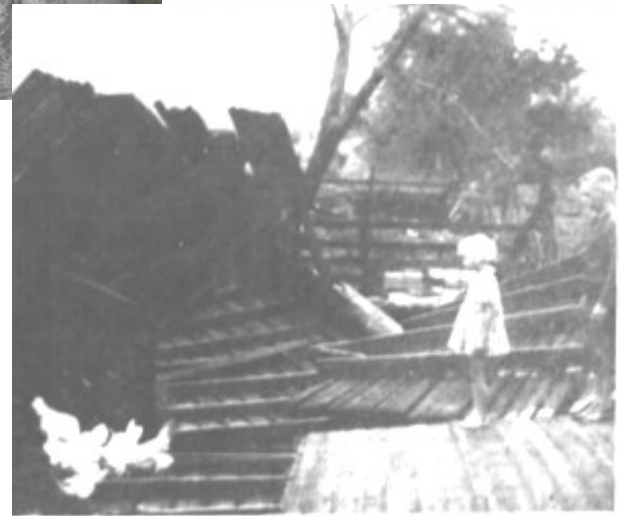


Des Moines Register, January 20, 1934
 Liberty Center beats Hartford 34 to 32 in overtime. The score was deadlocked at 30. Hervey scored 16 points for Liberty Center and C. Isley counted nine for the losers.

LIBERTY CENTER

Liberty Center Store, 1952
 Owner Essler Foust, Vern Foust, Gail Hoover and ?

Des Moines Tribune, April 1940 Ramona Heemstra, age 7 and brother, Harold on Heemstra farm one mile south of Liberty Center looking at tornado damage. Crops were flattened, fences and out buildings were downed and trees and utility poles blown over. Note dead chickens.



Des Moines Register, January 21, 1989 Ruth Lehman, left and Thelma Westerly join viewers at Cozy Café to watch George Bush give inaugural speech.

Ames Daily Tribune, May 21, 1959 Flood waters from a usually lazy creek, trapped a car near Liberty Center today and two of the three car occupants drowned.

The third person, Oliver Stryker, Eagle Grove, was rescued from the nearly submerged top of the automobile. Carrie Stryker and Grace Bancroft died.

The car stalled in the flood waters at a bridge over Otter Creek. They were traveling on a gravel road used for a Highway 65 detour.

The driver tried to cross the bridge over the creek even though it had flooded. The current had swollen from 3 to 5 inch rains and swept the car some 20 to 30 feet off the road.

A maintenance worker spotted the car with the man on top. Sheriff C.J. Richards and Loren Loomis, a nearby farmer, rescued the man in Loomis' boat.

The water was several hundred feet wide and flooded acres of farm bottom land.

Des Moines Register, April, 1940, Annabelle Kimzey, 13, of Liberty Center, IA was crowned Iowa's 1940 Spelling Champion. Miss Kimzey was Warren County Champion and spelled down Ruth Wilson 13, Madison County Champion from Peru, IA, who had won the written contest in the morning.

Ruth spelled "chilblain" with a double "L" to lose to Annabelle, when the contest had narrowed down to the two girls. Annabelle then spelled "raccoon" correctly to clinch the title.

Second Place in the written division went to Charles Vanderbur, 13, Mapleton, IA, Monona County Champion, and third honors to John McGinn 13, Council Bluffs, IA.

The Liberty Center eighth grader and her teacher will receive a trip to the national contest, scheduled for May 28 in Washington DC. The runner-up will receive \$50.