

May 2012

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WCHS CALENDAR

WCHS GENERAL MEETING

Tues. May 22 7:00 pm

Harlan Hirsch Memoir 1st Quarter

WCHS EXECUTIVE MEETING

Sat. 9:00 am, June 9

LOG CABIN FESTIVAL MEETING

Sat. June 9, 10:00 am

ROOTS MAGIC WORKSHOP

June 9 10:00 am

WCHS GENERAL MEETING

Tues. June 26 7:00 pm

Tour of Randleman House in Carlisle

If you want to carpool meet at WCHS at 6:30 pm

Due to Warren County Fair in July

There will be no July WCHS General Meeting

Sunday May 6, FUN FASHION with TEA

was held in our dining room. As chair of this event, I would like to thank all who attended and made it a great success.

I would like to thank the fashion models who did a wonderful job:

- DARLENE LAWYER
JAMES LEE
RUTH ENGLEBART
POLLY GLASCOCK
SHELLY WAKEMAN
KELLY NUNEZ
TRACI VANDERLINDEN
JULIE PARKER
KIM SHEETS
CINDY RODGERS
CRIS NAGAL
DEE ANN LANTZ
BRIAN ARNOLD
MARILYN BROMMEL
CRISTY HAMBLIN
OLIVIA KIRKENDALL
DENNIS ALLEN
MARY MC CORMICK

I would like to thank the following persons:

Table Decorating

- LINDA BEATTY
KAREN DAUGHERTY
SARA HANSON
LILA KONRAD
DARLENE LAWYER
BETTY MARTIN
KRISTI PORTER
LOLA STERNQUIST
PAT TURNER
SHELLY WAKEMAN

Thanks to STEVE MATHEWS who did a wonderful job, as always, serving as MC. A big thanks to ROB KIRKENDALL who was responsible for the appropriate songs for the performers.

Thanks to HyVee for contributing a beautiful door prize floral arrangement. Thanks to The Leader for flyer inclusion.



RETIRING Sheriff

Food

- KRISTI PORTER
KATHI STANFIELD
LINDA BEATTY

BALLGOWN Ping-pong That is



The CAN-CAN



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Beverly Dickerson Event Chair

## JONATHON MILLER



Jonathan Miller was not a native of Warren County, but after serving in the Civil War, he brought his family to Iowa in 1867 and eventually settled in Palmyra. Also in 1868 he cast his first presidential ballot for General Ulysses Grant.



Jonathan H. (John) Miller, born in Princeville, Illinois, Peoria County, Dec. 3, 1841. Died July 16, 1912, Carlisle, Iowa.

In 1861, at age nineteen, Jonathan enlisted in Company D, Eleventh Illinois Volunteer Cavalry and was sent south with his regiment. In the cavalry, he became a professional blacksmith and iron-wright--an expert at making horseshoes. He participated in the battles of Shiloh, Iuka, Corinth, two engagements at Jackson, Tennessee, and one at Jackson, Mississippi. He was in the siege and surrender of Vicksburg and later in the battles at Black River Ridge and Yazoo City. He was in the war from 1861 to 1865. Family lore says that Jonathan spent some time in Andersonville Prison. He was honorably discharged at Springfield, Illinois on October 8, 1865.

Returning to Illinois, he married Ellen McGregor on November 8, 1865. They moved to Palmyra, Warren County, Iowa in the spring of 1867. John rented a farm for one year and later purchased it. Children born were boys, Ora, Frank, Lewis, and Archibald, and a daughter, Alice.

From **THE MILLER FAMILY AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO Palmyra Church, Palmyra, Iowa, Warren County.**

Written by Isa Mae Miller in 1976, with comments and illustrations by Lloyd D. (Eric) Miller. Lloyd Eric Miller was the great grandson of Jonathan Miller and he grew up in Palmyra and graduated from Hartford High School.

Family line: Jonathan Miller, Frank A. Miller, Elliott Asa Miller, Lloyd D. (Eric) Miller.



## WANT TO RIDE A WAGON AROUND DAVIS COUNTY

The Davis County Civil War Guerilla Raid Society is sponsoring a wagon ride. This Davis County wagon ride will replicate the guerilla raid into Iowa by Missouri Confederate raiders. Davis County is the only place in Iowa where a Civil War skirmish happened during the war. Wagon seats must be reserved by May 21st. For more information call 641-799-7463

## MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS—DENNIS ALLEN



Dennis was born in Granite City, Illinois. For the last two years of high school he lived in San Jose, CA. Upon high school graduation, Dennis entered the Navy. He served as a Navy mechanic for nine years, spending 27 months in Italy and 3 years in Scotland.

After serving in the Navy, Dennis went back to Granite City and became a firefighter. He moved to Des Moines and is a firefighter at Fire Station #3, Easton & Hubble.

Dennis has two adult daughters, a son, and a granddaughter. He and Cris have a pet cat, Juliet. His hobbies are restoring British sports cars, genealogy and computers. He started searching his genealogy at age 20.

Dwight McCormick & Dennis developed a cemetery software program and indexing software. Dennis has served as 2nd VP of the Iowa Genealogy Society and leads our Roots Magic Group.

## WARREN COUNTY TIDBITS

April 26, 1888 *Advocate Tribune*—Summerset is the place to get groceries cheap as we have four groceries, which causes considerable competition.

June 8, 1911, *Herald*—Auto law goes into effect July 4. All owners of automobiles or motor vehicles are required to obtain permit from Iowa Secretary of State to operate their cars. Annual registration fees: Automobile & gasoline power, 20 horse power and under \$8, excess over 20 horse power 40 cents per horse power.; Automobile-electric or steam power \$15; Motor cycle \$3.

May 11, 1911 *Advocate Tribune*—Remember when John Wesley Jackson, Joe Carter and Ben Gaines conducted barber shops in basements and up-stairs round this town? Long time ago-when they all used red hair oil and had a patron or two every day who wanted his mustache or whiskers dyed.

## MAHALA WILLIAMS BATTLES at age 113

(Died in 1937 in Des Moines) Photo from Des Moines Register

Mahala and Colon Battles of Garden Grove were married at the A.M.E. Church in Indianola on July 27, 1857. She moved to Garden Grove and later returned to Indianola to live. She lived at a vine covered cottage on North Buxton where the Lorraine Apartments stand. One of her daughters married Billy Branduss, who was the first African American student to have enrolled at Simpson College. Caver was the second African American student. In 1890 George Washington Caver boarded (took meals) at Aunt Mahala's with other Simpson students. She was a charter member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church which stood on the northeast corner of North Buxton and Euclid, just across the street from the Simpson College campus and one block south of her house. Mahala was a sparkplug for fundraising for this building. This AME church was built and dedicated in 1901 about ten years after Carver left Simpson.



LOG CABIN DAYS *Festival*  
SEPTEMBER 29 & 30, 2012

**Summerset**

mills mines

rails & trails

A Warm Community With a Rich Heritage

WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
[www.warrencountyhistory.org](http://www.warrencountyhistory.org)

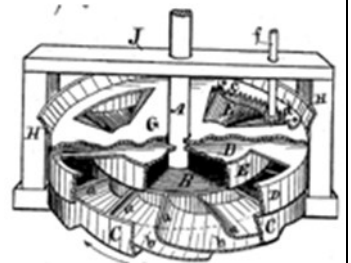
## LOG CABIN FESTIVAL

The theme for this year's Log Cabin Festival is **Summerset: A Warm Community With A Rich Heritage**. It will be held on Saturday, September 29th and Sunday September 30th.

Vendor applications can be downloaded from our website [www.warrencountyhistory.org](http://www.warrencountyhistory.org).

The next Log Cabin Festival Meeting will be Saturday, June 9th at 10:00 am. Please join us.

Abel Edwards from  
Summerset, Lincoln  
Township, Warren  
County, IA  
Patented this water  
wheel on June 13, 1876.  
It is registered as Patent  
#178612.



### NEW MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Wedding dress of May Morton Peasley and photos from John A. Peasley  
Wide variety of miniature houses and furnishings, Indianola advertising items and pressing hat forms, spotting brushes  
Quality Cleaners from Judy McClymond  
Broom Factory and Whitman School photos, WWII uniform and Nazi shirt, Don Berry Burlington Bridge, and Indianola Class of '46 50th reunion from M. D. Heavilin  
DX gas pump and kerosene stove from the Warren County Oil— Joe Bell  
1875 A. T. Andreas Historic Atlas of Iowa from Bob Davey

### PEOPLE RESEARCHING IN OUR LIBRARY

Mitchell and Shupe—Mary Mitchell  
Fruit farm items such as basket making machine—McGriff  
Joseph William Hickman—Richard Hickman

### HARLAN HIRSCH SHARES MEMOIR MAY 22

On Tuesday May 22nd at 7:00 pm Harlan Hirsch will present the program at the WCHS General Meeting.

Harlan Hirsch was born May 18, 1931, and has been a lifelong resident of Warren County. After serving in the Navy during the Korean War, he and his father, Carl, farmed and specialized in raising purebred Poland China Hogs.

Now that Harlan is semi-retired from farming, he enjoys traveling, sports, and playing poker. Harlan is also an author, having written a book, **The First Quarter**, about his early years growing up on a farm during

### JUNE 26 WCHS MEETING

On Tuesday, June 26 we will travel to the historic Randleman House, 245 Pennsylvania in Carlisle. The tour begins at 7:00 pm. If you would like to carpool, meet at the WCHS at 6:30 pm. A freewill offering will be taken to support the Randleman House.



### WILLIS CEMETERY

The Whitebreast Heritage Society sponsored a clean-up day at the Willis pioneer cemetery which is located about two miles east of Lacona. The Willis Cemetery is an early burial ground with William Winning assumed to be the first person buried in 1848 and the last burial was 1903. The cemetery has been neglected for several years and is currently being restored by Willis family descendants, the Whitebreast Township Trustees and the Whitebreast Heritage Society. Around 20 people worked in March to clean brush and trees from the one acre cemetery. Most of the tombstones have been broken and randomly scattered about the cemetery. In April Darlene Arnold and Mary Ruth Pierschbacher of the Lucas County Genealogical Society generously donated their time to witch for unknown grave locations and discovered many new sites. Future plans include resetting stones and establishing a memorial reflection area.



Special Thanks to the Following Volunteers Who Made 2012 Pioneer School Successful!

Dennis Allen  
Jerry & Linda Beatty  
Larry Burns  
Bob Davey  
Beverly Dickerson  
Carolyn Fellows  
Barbara & Austin Freeman  
Susan Graeser  
Ruth Hall  
Marcella Hayes  
Barbara Houghtaling  
Deb Johnson  
Rena King  
Nancy Kirkendall  
Bill Larson  
Marianne Lester  
Donna Lightfield  
Dwight & Mary McCormick  
Dru McLuen  
Carol Mahr

Max Morrison  
Clara Navratil  
Marilyn Newell  
Sue Olson  
Juanita Ott  
Toni Rath  
Jo Richey  
Gerard Schimelfenig  
Kathi Stanfield  
Pat Sternquist  
Cynthia Tracy  
Nancy Vlieger  
Darlene Weybright  
Elsie Weaver  
Sharon Wilson

THANK  
YOU!

Without you, 5 Days  
of 5th Grade Pioneer  
School would not  
have been possible





Bob, John, and Lou Newton rest on chunks of coal in late September 1910. Carbide lamps fit onto the front of their caps for underground work. This photo by John Garbison may have been taken at the Old Newton Yards in Warren County. From: *The Palimpsest Fall 1993* front cover.

Does anyone know of these young men or the Old Newton Yards in Warren County?

## COAL MINING IN SUMMERSET

Historically, Summerset's most important resource was coal. Coal was found along rivers, creeks, ravines, and deep cuts. As early as 1870, mining flourished throughout the area. Among the large and small coal enterprises that operated in the Summerset area were: Omaha Coal Company, David N. Simons Coal Bank, Banner Coal Company, D. K. Jones/John B. Webster, L. Bemis Drift, Caldwell & Cassidy, Conant, G. W. Dunn/William Peck, Frisbee Mine, George Langstaff/C. C. Cole, Oak Hill, Robert Linsley, B. C. Berry, and Summerset Coal. Two miles east of Summerset and a little south excellent beds of mineral paint or ochre were mined to create various colors or shades for clay. Geologists believe Summerset stands on what was once a lake. In November 1879, 27 loads of coal were shipped from Summerset; 18 loads originated from the Lumsden Bros. Coal Mine. Up to 20 trains a day arrived and departed carrying coal, livestock, tile, lumber, sand, grain, potatoes, lime and machinery. Summerset became a crossroads for coal and agricultural commodities.

The biennial **Iowa State Mine Inspector Reports** show the number of mines, employees, production, accidents and compliance records (safety, ventilation, etc.) In 1883, the Report indicated the Lumsden mine was producing "considerable coal" and had moved its shaft 200 yards down Middle River. In the late 1880s, 27 shaft coal mines were inspected in Warren County; nearly all were supplying coal for local trade only. There were 22 miners working at the Lumsden mine; 7-10 miners at the D. K. Jones mine, two and one half miles east of Summerset on the Middle River; and three miners at the George Longstaff Shaft, three miles southeast of Summerset. Ten miners worked in the winter months at Lord & Overton's Shaft and William Bennum mines, two and a half miles east of Summerset. The Summerset Coal Company located on the C.,R.I. & P.R.R. suspended operations in 1887. [Pay records for the Summerset Coal Company, December 1884-March 1887, show that foreman John Baxendale received \$60 a month, working six days a week, and Ed Conant, the only other full-time employee, earned \$35-\$40; miners earned about \$2 a day.] Many mines were small-scale enterprises too small to come under the jurisdiction of the state mine inspector. In 1903, the Summerset coal companies cited in the mine inspector's report were: Shackley & B. B. Bennum, J. E. Welch, Somerset Coal, and Casady & William Turnipseed. Sometimes the life of a mine was short lived. In 1923 the Middle River Coal Company opened a shipping mine near Summerset only to abandon it a year later. In 1929, 202,073 tons of coal were produced by 375 miners in Warren County. In 1930-1931, 18 coal mines were operating in Warren County but none in Summerset. In the early 1932, the Banner/Evansville Strip Mine at Summerset opened only to close by the end of the decade. The Banner coal operation was said to be the largest strip mine in Iowa. Since the coal was 40 feet below earth and shale, open pit was the only economical means of mining the coal. One of the largest electric drag lines in the country, attracting many spectators, was used to dig a huge holes over 100 feet wide at the top. In Warren County, only seven coal mines were running in 1942, three in 1943. By 1953, Iowa's coal production sunk from over nine million tons (1917) to 1.4 million.