



August 2013

# WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 256 Indianola, IA 50125 Phone-515-961-8085

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

E-mail- contact@warrencountyhistory.org

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## WCHS MEETINGS

**Sun. Aug. 25**  
**7:00-8:00 am Carol**  
**Mahr KCCI Interview**

**Tues. Aug. 27 at**  
**7:00 pm**

**Enfys McMurry**  
**Centerville**

*A Mid-American Saga*

**Sat. Sept. 14 at 9:30**

**Executive Meeting**

**Log Cabin Festival 10:30**

## WARREN COUNTY'S

### RURAL SCHOOLS

### LOG CABIN FESTIVAL

**Sat. Sept. 28**

**& Sunday Sept. 29**

**Sept. no General**

**Meeting**

**Due to LCF**

## Thanks to the Piece Makers—The QUILT IS FINISHED

The beautiful Rural School Quilt for our Log Cabin Festival has been completed. You can see the finished quilt at the Warren County Historical Society. You won't want to miss this raffle. Purchase your tickets at the museum, online or from WCHS members—\$1 a single ticket or \$5 for six tickets—soon. The lucky winner will be drawn Sunday, September 29th.



## Visit RAGBRAI EXHIBIT

Clarence Pickard bicycle and pith helmet are on loan to Iowa Historical Society as part of the new RAGBRAI Exhibit. See vintage bicycles, colorful cycling clothing and small town charm on display in a new exhibition about cycling and the annual Iowa bike ride across the state at the State Historical Museum of Iowa in Des Moines.

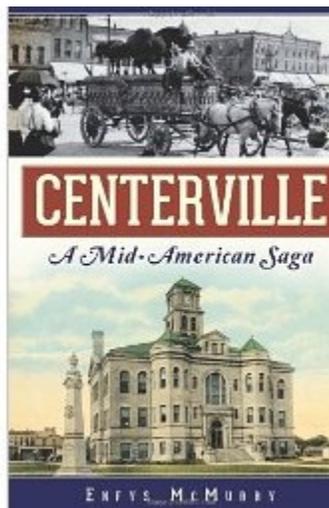
## Warren County Fair

Over 275 visited WCHS  
 Museum and Heritage

Village during this year's Fair.

Thanks to all who helped  
 Fair week!

## August 27 WCHS Program



Author Enfys McMurry shares Centerville, Iowa's history from the moment that the surveyor set down his tools in 1846 to the instant that the Flying Farmers crossed the sky at the centennial celebration. Though the population never exceeded 8,600, immigrants from more than forty different countries created a community that was both melting pot and crucible--just like the nation at large. The town forged an identity through the Underground Railroad, the Civil War, race relations, education debates and World Wars I and II while its people survived the dark history of Prohibition, crime, the Ku Klux Klan, the Mafia and the Depression. Come to hear Enfys on Tuesday, August 27 at 7:00 pm at our WCHS General Meeting.



## Martha (Mattie) Jane Ball Cromwell, Survivor Oregon-California Trails Asso-

Martha was born October 18, 1858 in Warren County, Iowa to John Washington Ball and Elizabeth A. Willis. She died in California April 21, 1938.

When almost four years of age, she traveled west with her parents and two uncles, Samuel Henry and William Thomas (Tom) in what was known as the “Smith Train, “Warren County, Iowa Train” or the “Jonathan P. Smith Wagon Train.” Around May 12th, 1862 they left Indianola traveling west to Madison County, passing through Winterset, Lewis, Greenfield, and 12 days later, camping on the Missouri River at Council Bluffs.

This information is from Mark Smith, Oakley California, whose relative by marriage, Hiram Baker wrote a leather bound journal kept during trip. It was thought the original journal was at the Bancroft Archives at the University of California, Berkeley. However, Berkeley does not have it. Several family members have copies of this journal that were handed down to them.

The wagon train traveled the Oregon trail until they got to the cut-off to the California trail. There they proceeded toward California.

On the 3rd day’s travel after the cut-off they discovered burned wagons and bodies, which they buried. Early in the morning on August 26th they were attacked by a band of Indians about 40 miles from the split in open, flat farmland . No one was killed but their stock and provisions were taken.

Later in the day, August 26th they were attacked again as they stopped in the evening to eat . Four were killed and five wounded. John W. Ball died in the Shoshone/Bannock Native American double attack , assumed by Chief Bear Hunter, other accounts point to Pocattello as the Indian Leader. His brother, William Thomas Ball also died. Both were shot just over the eye, one the left, the other the right. The third brother, Samuel Henry Ball survived, and several years later, returned to Iowa where he married Margaret Willis April 14, 1864. the wounded also included Mark Smith’s ggrandfather, Buchanan Smith, and his ggrandfather John Adam Smith. Jonathan P. Smith was Buchanan’s brother

Fred Heilman and one unidentified man also died. Mary, Captain Smith’s three year old daughter, died from a wound six days later on the desert. At least 36 people survived the attack. Several men fled from the first attack on horseback, leaving the rest to fend for themselves. Captain Smith and his wife were both wounded, as well as others in the wagon train.

Chief Bear Hunter was a Shoshone chief of the Great Basin who strongly resisted white colonization of the area in the 1860s. He and his war parties attacked pony express riders, stagecoaches, telegraph workers, and wagon trains heading west while federal troops were preoccupied with the Civil War. In 1862, a Californian volunteer infantry led by Patrick Edward Connor established a fort on the Wasatch Range near Salt Lake City. Five months after the Smith attack in January 1863, the infantry attacked Bear Hunter's village in an action known as the Bear River Massacre. Bear Hunter was among those tortured and killed. Over 400 Shoshone were attacked and killed or wounded, more than that of Wounded Knee, South Dakota or Sand Creek, Colorado.

From [EncyclopediaBritannicaKids.eb.com](http://EncyclopediaBritannicaKids.eb.com)

It is believed that after the attacks the Smith train split up. Some were taken west by another train, some were taken to Bear River, and were charged for their rescue, and others were found in the desert by a settler named James May. He took them to Call's Fort, today's Honeyville, for treatment of their wounds. Later, they went to Salt Lake, where they spent the winter before going on to Sonoma County, California.

Mattie (Martha) Ball told of having survived in the desert eating berries and such after the attack. She remembered that the nice people who offered to help, made them pay \$2.00 per person for that help. She and her mother, Elizabeth went to Nevada where her mother remarried. Elizabeth died in 1869 in Silver City, Nevada and Mattie made her way back to rural Warren County to live with her grandparents Dr. William Green Ball and Elizabeth Charlton Ball.

Dr. Ball came to Warren County in 1846, from Missouri and located near Lothrop purchased two sections of as fine a land as Warren County affords, besides entering and giving land to several of his children living in the same neighborhood.

He was a successful physician. He and his wife are buried in the Linn Grove Cemetery.



Map of Oregon/California Trails

From [www.oregon/california-trail-center.org](http://www.oregon/california-trail-center.org)

From Debra Osborne Spindle, July 13, 2007 Find A Grave Memorial #20430302 Martha Jane Ball has no grave marker in CA



William G. Ball & wife Elizabeth





# FROM THE FRONT LINES



Jacob F. Lough was born December 10, 1842 in Rockingham County, Virginia. He first entered U.S. service July 4, 1865 at Webster, West Virginia as sixth duty sergeant in Company C 4<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Calvary.

The time of comrade Lough's service having expired, he was discharged at Wheeling, West Virginia on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 1864.

September 25, 1864 he again re-enlisted in Company D 6<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Calvary. He was never transferred to any other organization.

After Lee's surrender was next and finally discharged at Washington D.C. on May 19, 1865 as private.

This soldier was never engaged in a regular battle but belonged to small scouting parties and did a good deal of scouting service and escorting provision trains from one post to another and guarding railroads and commissary stores.

Comrade Lough was never wounded nor confined in hospital. He came near being captured at New Creek, West Virginia. All of the Regiment was taken out (about 150 men) by Mosby.

The most intimate friends of this ex-soldier were G.F. McDaniel, Jesse Cole, Noah Sipe, James K. Level, and William Murdock.

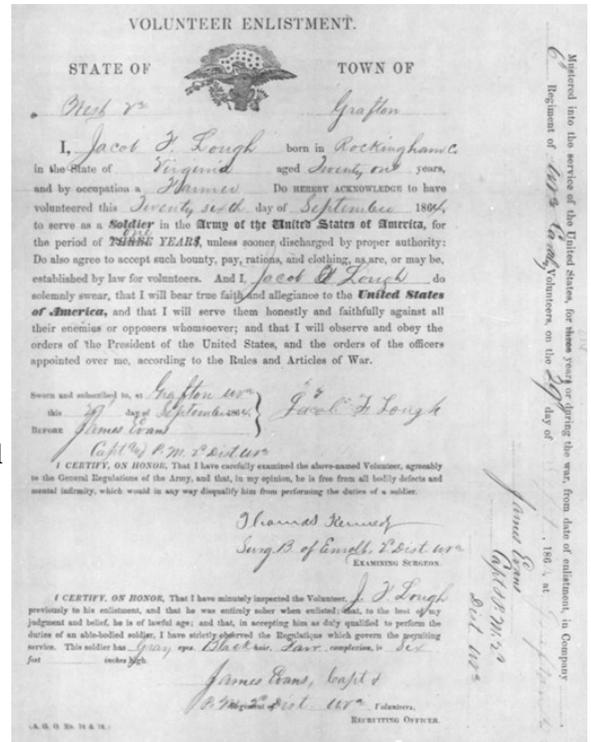
Comrade Lough deems the saddest event of his army life the killing by accident of his bunk mate James C. Coles while on camp duty.

When President Lincoln was shot, the Regiment was at Hagerstown, Maryland and was sent to Washington D.C. to do patrol duty and remained in Washington until it was mustered out of service.

Comrade Lough was taken sick with white swelling in the right leg and was sent home for treatment and being absent for orders from his Regiment and Company, and being unfit for duty, one of the Company Corporals was made Sergeant in his place. This deduction as the rank of private from the 6<sup>th</sup> Sergeant was not owing to any fault of his but was made necessary by the "good of the service."

## ***From the Indianola Civil War Veteran's hand written GAR Memory Book located in the WCHS Library***

Shortly after Jacob returned home to West Virginia, he made his way to Warren County, Iowa. Here he married Sarah E. Thomas Sarchett. Sarah's first husband John Miller Sarchett was killed in the Civil War. John M. Sarchett, enlisted in Company G of the 10th Iowa infantry during the Civil War, and was killed by bushwhackers while on picket duty at Charleston, Missouri, in 1862. John Sarchett was buried in the National Cemetery, Mound City, Illinois.



John M. Sarchett was killed in action Jan 8, 1862 buried National Cemetery, Mound City, Il sect C grave 2902

Jacob F. Lough Born 1842 and died 1923. Buried Indianola IOOF Cemetery



## PHOTOGRAPHER JOHN A. LEACH

From Pioneer Photographers from the Mississippi to the Continental Divide: A Biographical Dictionary, 1839-1865  
By Peter E. Palmquist, Thomas R. Kailbourn

John A. Leach was born in Pennsylvania around 1834. It is not certain if he was the Leach who was a partner in the Leach and Cross daguerreian gallery in Indianola, Iowa in the spring of 1856. Leach obtained an occupational tax license in Warren County (probably in Indianola) for a fee of \$10 in September 1862. He renewed his license in Indianola for eight months in May 1863 for \$6.67. By August he probably was a partner in the Leach and Barnett Gallery with a photographer known only as Barnett (probably Lewis M.G. Barnett) in Indianola. Leach paid occupational taxes in his own name in Indianola in May 1864 and May 1865, paying \$15 on each occasion. In 1867 Leach advertised as a watchmaker, jeweler and dealer in photograph albums on the east side of the square. By January 1869 he had moved his shop to the west side of the square. In the late 1860s Frank Leach (born in Pennsylvania in 1841) operated a photographic gallery, evidently in conjunction with John Leach's jewelry shop. The nature of their relationship is unknown. In December 1871 John Leach announced that he had just received the largest stock of stereoscopes & views ever in this place, consisting in part of Scotch and Alpine scenery, big trees of California, ruins of Raalbek, Niagara Falls, comic and parlor groups, etc."

In 1872 Leach features a new camera that took 8x10 inch photographs and a "fine solar camera." Leach announced that he had "gone to Yankton, Dakota (now South Dakota) " in May 1874. By August he was "taking a series of superb stereoscopic views of Indianola and vicinity," including "Mr. Johnson's church, the public school building and a wide expanse of country reaching to and beyond South River." Leach's gallery was on the west side of the square, one door north of Coffman's Hat Store, by August 1876

He and a partner identified only as Mr. Tannar (or Tanner) opened a new gallery in Jacoby's Block on the north side of the square in Indianola in late December 1876. Leach sold his gallery to D.P. Morgan of Des Moines and Miles Morgan of Indianola in January 1878. The 1880 census for Knoxville, Marion County, Iowa (25 miles from Indianola) identified John A. Leach as a photographer. Residing with him were his son, Edward, age nineteen, born in Iowa; and a daughter, Agnace, 21, also born in Iowa. Their mother, who was not enumerated at the residence, was born in Indiana. ( Edward A. Leach was the partner of Ed R. Olive in Leach and Olive, the "West Side Photographers," in Indianola in early 1882.

### FIRE DAMAGE TO LOG CABIN



In late May an arsonist set our log cabin on fire. The window, wooden shutters and several logs were damaged.

Luckily campers and a group celebrating a



graduation at the museum called the Indianola Fire Department, who put out the fire.

We are in the process of finding replacement logs.

If you know of any old oak logs that would replace our burned ones let us know.



### NEW MT. HOPE ENTRANCE

Geraldine Barker's great nephews Matt & Tim Ridgway from Van Meter built this new entrance to our school.



Ray Heisner supervised the construction & Jack Barker coordinated the project.



Thanks to the Kenneth & Florence Weir Smith Memorial Gift we were able to make Mt. Hope handicapped accessible.

Florence taught at Mt. Hope and Kenneth was a long time City Clerk and Indianola Mayor.

# LOG CABIN DAYS FESTIVAL 2013

## RURAL SCHOOLS OF WARREN COUNTY

### SEPTEMBER 28 & 29, 2013

### *Saturday*

**BISCUITS & GRAVY**  
**7:00-10:00AM**  
 WCHS Museum Dining Room  
 The Cooper Family 515-961-3058

**FARMER'S MARKET**  
**8:00 AM - 4:00 PM**  
 Dennis Schrader 515-961-7031

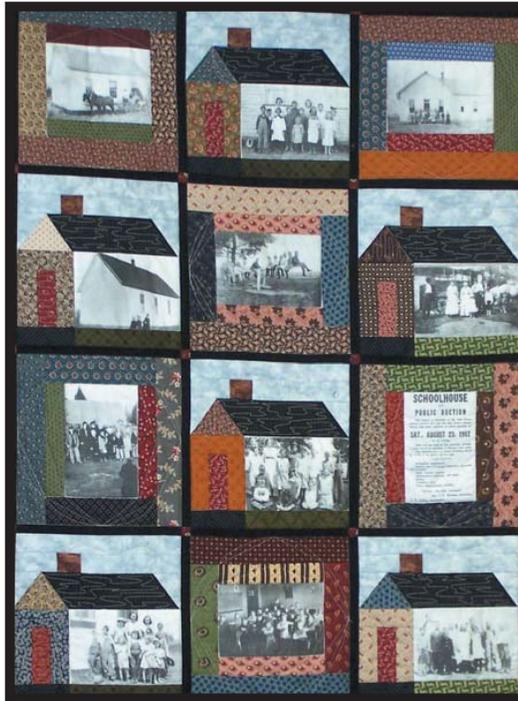
**PARADE 10:00AM**  
 Begins at County Admin. Bldg., 301  
 N. Buxton Ave. & proceeds west on  
 Salem to the fairgrounds.  
 Darlene Lawyer 515-556-7413

**ROYALTY & AWARD  
 CEREMONY**  
**11:30AM**  
 Museum Dining Hall

**GIANT PUMPKIN &  
 SUNFLOWER  
 CONTEST 12:00PM**  
 Bring goods at 11; judging at 12  
 Show Pavillion Jerry Beatty 515-961-3088

**PIONEER  
 DEMONSTRATIONS**  
 Campground Shelter & 4H Building  
 Dutch Oven Cookers - Rope Making  
 Rug Hooking - Wool Spinning

### FEATURING HISTORIC RURAL SCHOOL PHOTO QUILT RAFFLE!



THANKS TO THE  
 WARREN COUNTY PIECE MAKERS  
 105 in.L x 96 in.W · 90 Rural School Photos

### *Sunday*

**CHURCH 10:00AM**  
 Museum Dining Hall or  
 Quaker Meeting House  
 Pastor Joel Andrus

**CLASSIC CAR SHOW**  
**10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**  
 Charlie Stills 515-238-2350

**CHICKEN & NOODLES**  
**11:30AM - 1:30PM**  
 WCHS Museum Dining Room  
 The Cooper Family 515-961-3058

**PIE & CAKE AUCTION**  
**2:00 PM**  
 WCHS Museum Dining Room  
 If you'd like to donate: please call  
 Kathi Stanfield 515-961-4257

**RURAL SCHOOL QUILT  
 RAFFLE DRAWING 3:00PM**  
 WCHS Museum Dining Room  
 Tickets available for purchase online,  
 at the museum, & locations on the square.

**KARAOKE CONTEST**  
**3:00PM - 5:00PM**  
 Amphitheater  
 Rex Young 515-961-9327

### *Saturday and Sunday*

**KID'S CORNER**  
 Inflatibles and Spin Art  
 Monty Dorman 515-491-8199

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
 Amphitheater  
 Music, Song, and Dance  
 Rex Young 515-961-9327

**SCARECROW MAKING**  
 Outside OR 4H Building  
 Dawn Nelson  
 515-961-3058

**ANTIQUES &  
 GARAGE SALE**  
 4H Building  
 Linda Beatty 515-961-3088

**HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
 & VILLAGE**  
**SAT. 9-5 & SUN. 10-4**  
 Lynne Davey 515-961-5076  
 AND WC Modular Railroaders

**RURAL SCHOOLS IN WARREN COUNTY, IOWA  
 1847 - 1959**  
 Historical Research compiled by Jerry Beatty  
 Available for sale in the museum.

**QUILTS & CRAFTS**  
**SAT. 9-5 & SUN. 10-4**  
 Quilts: Hort. Bldg (after parade)  
 Kathi Stanfield 515-961-4257  
 Crafts: Morton & Lester Bldgs.  
 Dan Porter 515-961-6149

TICKET & FLYER PRINTING COURTESY OF TERI COOPER AND INFOMAX OFFICE SYSTEMS



### Warren County Historical Society

1400 West 2nd Avenue · Warren County Fairgrounds · Indianola, IA 50125 515-961-8085

WARRENCOUNTYHISTORY.ORG



Start saving & collecting your garage sale items for our 2nd WCHS Garage Sale in the 4H Building during Log Cabin Festival. You can bring your items on Thursday and Friday, September 26 & 27 from 9:00 am to 4:30.

**Dwight McCormick donated and installed a new sink in the WCHS Men's Restroom .**

**Thanks to the Indianola Chamber of Commerce, Connecting to What Matters Tourism Grant Program for the \$200 Grant that WCHS received to help fund our book, *Rural Schools in Warren County, Iowa—1847-1959***

#### NEW ACQUISITIONS

Wooden mallet used for hammering wooden wheel spokes, monkey wrench, Greenwood Racetrack poster and stock certificate and former Buxton Park sundial-Bob Guilford

Pentecostal Hymns- Mary Jane Blake Brandt

Indianola Garden Club plaque & scrapbook

Manual of Phonography, Palmer Method of Business Writing & Modern Business Penmanship- Becky Weigland

Family history records, 5 family photos, and CD of family history & photos written by Ira E. Robinson, pen & ink drawing by Forrest Allen-Mary Allen Grabow

Hornaday Peoples Trust Bank Book-Larae Schraeder

Early letter from Warren County-Winchester Frederick County Historical Society, Winchester, Virginia

Ration Books, list of Springhill graduates, two Maplegrove Report Cards and photo, and photo of 1947 graduation night car accident-Alice Brito

Deaths, Probates & Obituaries of Indianola, IA Newspapers 1857-1876 published by WCGS 1992-Kathy Stanfield

**Molly Cooney, KCCI TV, video-taped Carol Mahr in her quilt studio for a Saturday morning show on local artists. Carol will be explaining the creation of the Warren County rural school quilt. Tune in this Sunday ( Aug. 25) between 7-8:00 AM to catch the interview with Carol Mahr in "The Artists Studio". Carol said Mollie is a 'lovely person' and all went well. Also in September Kristy Porter & Jerry Beatty will be interviewed on KCCI Noon News.**

#### WARREN COUNTY TIDBITS

##### Death At Warren County Fair

Four Killed and Many Hurt When Lightning Strikes Tent  
Indianola, Iowa, Sept. 14.—Four men were killed, six seriously injured and a dozen more stunned by a bolt of lightning which wrecked a crowded poultry exhibition tent at a country fair here today. The tent was crowded at the time by people who had gone into it to escape the rain. Lightning bolts struck the tent pole and split it, lightning radiating over the tent and tearing it into shreds. Four occupants were instantly killed, a half dozen burned perhaps fatally and a dozen men, women and children were stunned. Thousands of chickens in coops were killed.

The dead:

Ray Anderson, Indianola

Carl Peterson, Indianola

Theodore Young, Indianola

Blain Wright, Pleasantville

[Dallas Morning News, Published September 15, 1905

##### Grave Robbing In Iowa

Excitement at Carlisle—Body of a Young Woman Found in a Medical College at Des Moines

Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 26.—The little town of Carlisle, a few miles south of this city, has been greatly excited over a flagrant case of grave-robbing.

Miss Maude Hull, aged about 17, daughter of the late Dr. Hull, died quite suddenly and was buried on the 20th instantly in the Carlisle cemetery. A day or two afterward discovery was made that the grave had been desecrated and the body stolen. The town was aroused, and diligent efforts were made to find the remains.

A brother of the deceased, who is a physician, came to this city and made inquiry at the medical college, but without avail. Private detectives were then employed, and last night they discovered a fresh subject on the table of the dissecting room at the Iowa College of Physicians and Surgeons. It was the body of a young girl, and the face and scalp had been removed. The family at Carlisle were notified and today they established the identity beyond a doubt and carried the remains home.

Dr. Schooler, of the College, afforded every facility to the friends, and claims that the body was procured of parties who represented that it was honestly obtained. The case has caused considerable excitement and it is likely that a judicial investigation will result.

[Daily Inter Ocean, Chicago, Illinois, Published December 28, 1886

**RAILROADS IN WARREN COUNTY** A railroad has been constructed from Des Moines in Polk, to Indianola, Warren County by the corporation known as the Des Moines, Indianola, and Missouri Railway Company, and another, by the Des Moines, Winterset and Southwestern Railway Company, from Summerset, in Warren County, on the line of the last mentioned railway to Winterset in Madison County. These roads are also operated by the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company. From *The Inter Ocean, Chicago, IL July 2, 1874*