



March 2014

# 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 GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday, March 25**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Soup Supper**  
**6:00 pm**

**Marjorie (Davis) Sudbrock**

**“Sharing Your Story for Future Generations”**

### WCHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Sat. April 12**  
**9:30 am**

### WCHS LCF Planning

**Sat. April 12**  
**10:30 am**

### WCHS GENERAL MEETING

**Tues. April 22**  
**7:00 pm**

**John Parker, Sr.**

Before the 1980s storefronts, murals, banners, barn signs, billboards, and street signs were all hand-lettered with brush and paint. Like many skilled trades, the sign industry has changed. John will talk about our mural and his restoration sign painting.

**Spring Cleaning Day**  
**Monday April 28**  
**9:00 am till done**

## PROPOSED WCHS SLATE of OFFICERS

On Tuesday March 25 at the WCHS Annual Meeting we will elect new officers. The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate:

President—Juanita Ott

1st Vice President—Kathi Stanfield

2nd Vice President—Darlene Lawyer

Secretary—Ruth Hall

Treasurer—Beverly Dickerson

Building Trustees—Don Sandy, Dwight McCormick

## 2014 LOG CABIN FESTIVAL

The theme for our WCHS 2014 Log Cabin Festival will be Agriculture in Warren County, Iowa. We are collecting information, photos and stories of the history of Warren County’s agriculture to be included in our library collection and perhaps in a book we are publishing. If you have a historic barn, photos showing early ag practices, or a family story to share drop by or give us a call at 961-8085.

Kristi and Dan Porter will again chair this event. Log Cabin Festival meetings are held monthly. We welcome anyone to come join us and help with the planning.

We are deeply saddened by the untimely loss of Kevin Putney in January. Kevin did many things for us: pie auctions, clearing snow, moving dirt, rescuing historic auction items and bringing them to the museum. His son Mark has offered to carry on in his father’s tradition at our 2014 LCF pie auction. Thanks, Mark.



## 1948 MARCH MADDNESS

Milo 1947-48 basketball squad is from L to R- Beverly Higbee Dickerson, Joy Mosher Reynolds, Irene ReynoldsHowe, Mary Reeves Van Syoc, Virginia Ripperger Biddle, Madalyn Clarke VanderLinden, Darlene Dykstra Streeter, Marilyn Dollison Trotter, Donna Jean DeLong, Ruth Laffoon Truman, Virginia Willets, Shirley Willets



## WCHS MARCH MEETIG

Tuesday March 25  
6:00 pm Soup Supper

6:30 Annual Meeting  
Election of Officers

7:00 Marjorie Sudbrock  
“Sharing Your Story for Future Generations”

Marjorie has been a storyteller at Living History Farms & does workshops on Sharing Your Story

Indianola 5th Graders Pioneer School, May 1,2, 5,6,8,and 9

Can you help? Contact Linda Beatty 961-3088 or lindabeatty13@gmail.com

## WCHS NEWS DURING the WINTER HIATIS



### **Mural and Sign for East Facade of Warren County Historical Society Museum and Research Library Building**

The Warren County Historical Society has contracted with painter, John Parker, Sr. to paint a mural that will be representative of Warren County on the east facade of our main building. John has suggested that we paint abstract rolling green hills behind the mural. He will also put a sign adjacent to the mural that will identify the building as the site of the museum and society. The mural and sign will announce to those traveling south on J Street and west on Highway 92 that there is a Warren County Historical Society. The final photo to be used in the mural has not yet been chosen but the final project will look similar to this photo. We plan to move the windmill and landscape the area.

### **Bits & Pieces**

Dwight McCormick has installed a programmable thermostat in the museum dining room. Hopefully, we will see a savings on our heating/cooling bill.

We are in the process of reviewing and updating the WCHS By-Laws. We tried three years ago but got bogged down and never finished. The committee members are: Juanita Ott Chair, Beverly Dickerson, Ruth Hall, Kathi Stanfield, and Linda Beatty.

Phil Langstraat has agreed to chair the WCHS Endowment Committee. The reorganized committee, consisting of Phil, Eileen Thompson, Everett Brown, Juanita Ott, Dan Porter and Beverly Dickerson, upon review, is advising the WCHS By-Laws Committee of Endowment By-Law changes. They have also reviewed our investments and are making reinvestment decisions for the Endowment Fund.

WCHS has a separate WCHS Endowment Fund where non-designated memorials or legacy gifts are invested. Annually, the Society is allowed to use 90% of the annual interest from this fund in our General Fund. However, for many years all the interest has remained in the endowment fund earning interest.

**We encourage you to consider the Warren County Historical Society Endowment Fund to create an ongoing Warren County legacy as you wish to honor others through a memorial gift or planned giving.**

### ***Acquisitions***

Bound Indianola Record Herald Newspapers 1940s and 50s plus miscellaneous Herald Newspapers from the Joe Walt Estate.

Walnut desk Freda Caviness used at Hawthorne School

4 Pow Wows, floss holder, tooth extractor, sewing basket, chloroform bottle, Indianola letters, Navajo pottery, darning egg, and Civil War training tactics from Dr. Milburn Parker

Inventions of bubble blowing device and multi-purpose grill from Robert Ross Rees Jr.

1934 and 1933 50th class reunion photos from Sue Ann Ahlstrand

4 cloth dolls, tin head doll, lacy hat and beaded purse from Judy McClymond

Navy uniforms from Suzanne, Mark and Rob Miller

Wooden log cabin doll house Clyde Neal made

1860s documents from Benjamin Beeson Starbuck and Cynthia Sawh Starbuck

2 Warren County History Books, photos, and cemetery book from Laura Plambeck

**Round Top School, a Collection of Memories and Reflections from Former Students and Teachers**, by Kenneth Patch

Autoharp and old records from Toni Rath

Shovel used on Steam engine, Railroad books and records, and metal tool box Jasper took to work each day from Larry Champlain

Seven Hawkeye Heritage Magazines from Mary Miller

Sheriff family history and photos from Diane Brown

Royal Neighbor items from Hazel Higans Garrison

Photos of Goode and Higbee families of Milo from Beverly Dickerson

**History of Norwalk High School, 1901-2001**, from Junior Lane

**Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends, 150th Anniversary History** by Marie Moffitt



# Randleman Reunion 1898



*John Hix*

*James Zouave*



***Martin and Elizabeth***

In April 1861 he helped organize Co. B , Tenth Iowa Infantry as a First Lieutenant. August 10, 1861 Randleman was elected Captain. August 17, 1861 Company B marched from Carlisle to the site of Dudley and crossed the Des Moines River. They continued this march to Camp Fremont, Iowa City, the nearest railroad. They went to Davenport by rail and there steamed down the Mississippi to St. Louis. September 6, 1861 eighty nine men were mustered into the army and officers were confirmed.

The first battle was at Bloomfield, MO. Martin’s brother John had also enrolled in Company B. While walking with Martin in Bloomfield , John stopped to watch as some men from Captain McCall’s Company A, worked to knock the hoops off of whiskey barrels that were being destroyed. A few pieces of the plank used o knock the hoops off flew out of the workman’s hands and struck John in the pit of the stomach. This disabled him so that soon he was discharged, according to File #WC485-112, National Archives. John moved to Edgar County, Illinois.

From Bloomfield , MO. Company B went to Charleston, MO; Island # 10; New Madrid, MO, and Bird’s Point. In January and February M.C. Randleman was granted a leave of absence while at Birds Point, MO. He was suffering from fatigue and exposure and hoped that a few weeks at home would restore his health. During the 30 day leave, he had pneumonia and possibly diphtheria. He went back to Company B and continued to Tiptonville, KY; and Farmington, and the siege at Corinth. He resigned October 2, 1862 due to health disability. After he received his resignation papers, at the battle of Luka, MS, he took an active part in the second day’s fight October 3 & 4th.

Upon his return to Iowa he organized a militia company and equipped it; was appointed by the Governor to organize the militia of Warren County; organized two infantry regiments; and was elected Lieutenant Colonel of the Second Infantry of Warren County.

After the war he settled on his 320 acre farm. He primarily raised and shipped stock from Carlisle. He died June 6, 1903 and is buried in Carlisle.

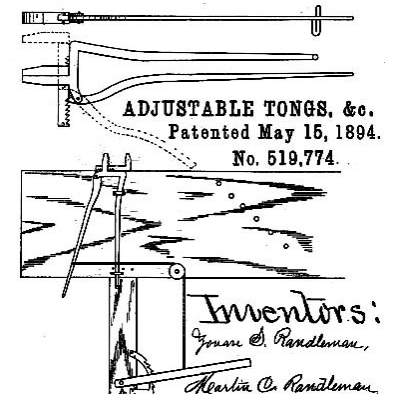
Martin had several U.S. patents. Some were with his son Zouave. The following is a list of patents:

- |                  |                                      |                                   |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| #519774          | Improved adjustable blacksmith tongs | May 18, 1891                      |
| #391858 & 523996 | Hog pen                              | October 30, 1888 & August 7, 1894 |
| #384281          | Hay fodder fork                      | June 12, 1888                     |
| #674470          | Washing machine                      | May 21, 1901                      |

Sources,: **History of Des Moines River Valley**, Richard Eggers  
**Martin Christopher Randleman, His Kin & Heirs, 1754-1964**, Billie Snead Webb  
Randleman, Martin C., GAR File  
**History of Warren County, Iowa Des Moines: Union Historical Company, 1879**  
Iowa Inventors Data Base, State Library of Iowa

**Martin Cecil Randleman** was born December 9, 1830 in Stokes County, North Carolina to John Randleman and Martha Reed. At age 10 months the family moved to Owen County, Indiana. During the War with Mexico, he enlisted in Co. D, 4th Indiana Infantry at age 16. He mustered out July 16,1848 in Madison, Indiana “having rendezvoused at Ft. Clark on the Ohio River... started to New Orleans...ship boiler exploded ... and engaged in closing battles.” He married Nancy Hicks November 9, 1849.

In 1854 he moved to Johnson County, Missouri, and in 1856 located in Allen Township, IA. On April 17, 1857 Nancy died leaving three sons. Martin married Elizabeth Moredeck on January 17, 1858.



## OPERA HOUSES



**The Warren County State Bank**  
1870-1930 (Photo from **History of Warren County Iowa**, page 79, Martin 1908)



1907 photo looking west on Salem

In November 1870 a partnership of Thomas Thompson, brothers Wesley and John Cheshire, J.B. McMurray, George W. Heiney, A.H. Swan, J.H. Whitney and James McGee formed The Warren County Bank. John Cheshire was chosen president and J.B. McMurray was cashier. January 31, 1884 it was incorporated with capital of \$60,000. February 7, 1893 William Buxton became president and William Buxton Jr. cashier.

In 1904 it re-chartered as The Warren County State Bank. It closed during the depression in the 1930s. The building was located on the Indianola Square at the southwest corner of Howard and West Salem. Notice the buildings three stories in photos.

### Indianola Opera House

In 1875 The Indianola Opera House was built by Henry Spray and J.W. Campbell. The entrance was by a stairway opening on the west side of South Howard (you can see the door in the first photo) in the rear of The Warren County State Bank and in the middle of the building housing it. The bank entrance faced Salem. The stairway crossed transversely across the

bank building and led to the auditorium on the second floor over two storerooms west of the bank. The auditorium was 42 x 80 feet and the ceiling was nineteen feet from the floor. In the center of the ceiling was a dome twelve feet in width and six feet high. A large chandelier with twelve oil lamps hung in the center. The stage was 42 x 20 feet with dressing rooms on each side. The main hall and gallery seated about 550. It closed in the 1920s with the popularity of movies. (Now the 3rd story is gone and parts of the auditorium were made into apartments.)

Between 1870 & 1920 Iowa had about 1,500 opera houses. Towns could not really call themselves “civilized” without one. Popular traveling troupes in Iowa in the 1800s were the G.D. Sweet Famous Players, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and The Trousdale Family Players. Indianola favorites were Spooner Comedy Co. and Andrews Opera Company. Opera houses were also used for a variety of social activities from parties, temperance meetings, weddings, speech contests and magic shows. Even sports such as roller skating, basketball and wrestling took place on the opera house stage.

### Milo Opera House

Milo’s first opera house was finished about 1880 and was thought to have been above Squire’s Hall at the east end of Main Street. The 2nd opera house was built in 1899 on the north side of Main between 2nd and 3rd Streets. It was above two stores and contained a stage, tiered seats and two dressing rooms.

The 1900 *Motor* stated: “Last Wednesday evening the young people gave a dance at the opera house which was said to be well attended and the best of order prevailed. No drinking or rowdyism was indulged in...”

Jacobs, Starr and Crabb were managers of the opera house in 1919 and both plays and movies took place. In the spring of 1922 a flash fire burst out in an enclosed booth which housed flammable celluloid picture film, and Clarence Emmons movie projectionist was badly burned. Movies continued to be shown into the 1930s. In September, 1938 the opera house with the two stores below were completely destroyed by a fire.



Milo 2nd Opera House 3rd from right

### Carlisle Opera House

In 1913 Gene Keeney built the Opera House on 1st Street in Carlisle. Opening day was July 3, 1913. Mr. Keeney had movies there until 1921 when he sold the building.

Keeney had the theater and the player piano was operated by Dorothy Owens and Orpha Keeney. Arlen Keeney sold tickets and Gene Keeney ran the projector. It seated 300 people on the main floor and 200 in the balcony. Opera House entertainment included class plays, home talent shows and commencements.

Harold Luick bought the building and opened Kajac Recording Studio, 1969-1980. Luick wanted to develop a successful national outlet for quality Iowa/Midwest traditional country, bluegrass, gospel and western swing music. Some of the persons he recorded were: 16 year old Robbie Wittkowski, Carlisle; Don Laughlin, Des Moines; Larry Jensen, Audubon; Shirley Ramus, Sanborn and Polly Haerer, general manager of Tall Corn Music Publishing Co, another part of Kajac.

For two years the **Carlisle Citizen** had offices in front and Kajac in the back.

Resources: **Des Moines Register** July 1, 1972; **Milo Centennial 1880-1980**, pages 224-225; **History of Warren County**, Schultz & Berry, pages 187-189; **The History of Warren County, Iowa, WCGS** 1987; IPT Pathways, Opera Houses





## Frazier Barber Shop of the 1920s and 30s

From Rose Frazier Bowery

I have before me a picture (May 2, 1928) of my father's barber shop which was located on North Howard just north of the northeast corner of the square on the east side of the street. I remember going into that shop although I was only a preschooler. My father Albert Leo Frazier and Harold Clark were in partnership at that time. Each of them was about 25 years old—quite handsome. Joe Middleswart is in Harold's chair and there are 2 other chairs. A daily calendar from Worth's Savings Bank hung on the north wall. The east wall is filled with mirrors which reflect the many Fitch (an Iowa company)

Shampoo bottles lining the ledge. On the ledge is a pair of hand clippers and just below this ledge is a small shelf filled with neck towels and terry towels. Leaning against the wall behind my father's chair is a black board. This board was placed across the arms of the barber chair for children to sit on when getting their haircuts.

I remember the feeling of the electric clippers running up the back of my neck as I got my hair "shingled" up the back. I was really jealous of all the little girls whose fathers were not barbers and who were allowed to have long, pretty curls, but my hair had to be an "advertisement" for my father's expertise in cutting children's hair. Sometimes those clippers pulled the hairs a bit and I would cringe down into the chair attempting to get away from them—which would bring a reprimand to "settle down." I really was attempting to do this and was possibly doing too good a job at—SETTLING DOWN!

My father has written at the bottom of the picture, "Look at the old style Heavy Motor Clipper hanging on a wire between us. This used to shock customers a little." I can remember well, that shock. Plain light bulbs hung from the high ceiling on light cords which I am sure were not the best lighting for this delicate job.

Hours were long, especially on Saturday night when all of the stores would stay open so farmers could come in after their field work. Barber shops stayed open later than other businesses so that shop keepers could get their hair cut to look their Sunday best. Sometimes dad would not get home until 1:00 am. This worried my mother as she would often have to stay up so she could go uptown to pick dad up after work.

In those days the problem of sanitation was important, but facilities for such were not easy to come by. Mother had to bleach the towels and then iron every one of them so that the heat would "sterilize" them. My sister and I learned to iron first by ironing stacks of barber towels and then graduating to ironing "barber jackets" which were starched literally so they could stand alone. Mother explained that dad could get diseases, if the hair was allowed to penetrate the cloth of the barber jackets, so they were starched to make the hair "slide off". His shirts were also starched in this same way. I remember that there would be at least one whole bushel basket full of shirts and barber jackets to iron every week. In hot weather the sweat would pour off my mother's face as she ironed these. She was very much a partner in the business of barbering.

Every once in awhile Dad would come home with tales he had heard or experienced in the barber shop, center of local news. One day in the thirties he came home particularly excited or scared. At the time his barbershop was on the east side of the square and up the stairs to the room with the north set of dormer windows. He was pretty well out of sight of anyone on the street and if Grandpa Thomas Frazier or Uncle Jess Frazier were not at their desk, which was in a room adjoining his shop, he would have no one to help in case of trouble. That particular day while in the shop alone, a man got in dad's barber chair. As he was shaving him, he noticed a long scar on the side of the man's face. It dawned on him that he had one of the "most wanted" gangsters of the day in his chair—JOHN DILLINGER! As he was drawing the long straight edge razor cross the throat of this man, his first impulse was "Should I or Should I Not?" Being the good Quaker that he was he chose "Should Not" and hurriedly got the man finished and out of the chair, not letting on that he knew who he was. The next day the newspaper headlines blazed the fact that Dillinger had indeed come through the area and had once again avoided being caught. Dad kept all these things to himself and "pondered them in his heart!" He was just thankful that Dillinger had not felt the need of any extra cash at the time.

On display in the WCHS Museum barbershop are items from the Frazier barbershop.

## WCHS 2014 PROPOSED BUDGET

### General Fund Receipts

Donations	\$2,600
Memberships	\$1,200
Rent	\$2,000
Research & Copies	\$800
Warren County Board of Supervisors	\$1,000
Book Sales	\$950
Garden Rent	\$300
<b>Total General Fund Receipts</b>	<b>\$8,850</b>
Log Cabin Festival Receipts	\$15,200
<b>Receipts Grand Total</b>	<b>\$24,050</b>

### General Fund Receipts

Mid American Energy	\$1,800
Century Link	\$1,100
City of Indianola	\$3,700
Postage	\$700
Safety Deposit Box	\$44
PO box rent	\$106
Insurance	\$4,468
Supplies & Repairs	\$4,400
Mowing	\$350
Bank Fees	\$100
<b>Total General Fund Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,768</b>
<b>Log Cabin Festival Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,248</b>
<b>Expenses Grand Total</b>	<b>\$23,016</b>

#### Civil War Warren County AFRICAN AMERICANS

**BUSH, MILTON**, age 19. Residence Warren County, born Ohio. Enlisted Jan 5, 1864, 1st Regiment Colored Infantry, Co. A. Mustered Jan 5, 1864. Mustered out Oct 15, 1865, Devalls Bluff, Ark.

**HOWARD, JACOB**, age 18. Res. Warren County, born Mississippi. Enlisted Jan 16, 1865, 1st Regiment Colored Infantry, Co. B. Mustered Jan 16, 1865. Mustered out Oct 15, 1865, Devalls Bluff, Ark.

**JOHNSON, CORVIN**, age 18. Res. Warren County, born Ohio. Enlisted Jan 16, 1865. Mustered Jan 16, 1865. 60th Regiment, United States Colored Infantry, Co. A, Private. Mustered out Oct 15, 1865, Devalls Bluff, Ark.

**JOHNSON, GEORGE W.**, age 20. Res. Warren County, born Ohio. Enlisted Jan 16, 1865. Mustered Jan 16, 1865. 60th Regiment, United States Colored Infantry, Co. A, Private. Mustered out Oct 15, 1865, Devalls Bluff, Ark.

**MOORE, ROBERT**, age 25, Res. Warren County, born Tennessee. Enlisted Jan 16, 1865, 1st Regiment Colored Infantry, Co. A. Mustered Jan 16, 1864. Discharged for disability June 24, 1865, Little Rock, Ark.

**WALKER, FRANK**, age 19. Res. Warren County, born Virginia. Enlisted Jan 16, 1865, 1st Regiment Colored Infantry, Co. B. Mustered Jan 16, 1865. Mustered out Oct 15, 1865, Devall's Bluff, Ark.

## WCHS 2013 ANNUAL FIANCIAL REPORT

Balance January 1, 2013

\$13,065.86

### General Fund Receipts

Donations	\$2118.76
2nd Mile Donations	245.00
Building & Repair Donations	500.00
Memorial Endowment Donations (Transferred to Endowment Fund Feb. 2014)	50,155.00
Membership	1,240.59
Rent	2,047.00
Copy & Research	716.95
Warren County Board of Supervisors	1,000.00
Cook Book Sales	80.00
G.W. Carver Book Sales	8.50
Garden Rent	310.00
Summerset Book	110.00
Pizza Ranch WCHS Serving Night	226.09
Insurance Payment for Log Cabin Fire	256.50
Indianola Depression Book	20.00
St. Marys Book	40.00

**Total General Fund Receipts** \$59,074.39

**Log Cabin Festival Receipts** 18,833.19

**Grand Total of Receipts** \$77,907.58

### General Fund Expenses

Mid American Energy	1,877.78
Century Link	1,089.91
City of Indianola	3,659.04
Postage	758.89
Bank Safety Deposit Box Rent	44.10
Post Office Box Rent	106.00
Insurance	4,389.00
Supplies & Repairs	4,442.10
Mowing	357.50
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	886.50
Endowment Fund Transfer to Community Bank	50,000.00
Garden Insurance	68.00
Mt. Hope School Ramp and Steps	4,098.30
Bank Fees (Deposit Slips)	52.13

**Total General Fund Expenses** \$71,829.25

**Log Cabin Festival Expenses** \$7,796.15

**Grand Total of Expenses** \$79,625.40

**Balance as of December 31, 2012** \$11,348.04



- Rent garden spot next to museum?  
Call Dan Porter 961-6149
- Share Warren County agricultural history photos, info, stories for LCF?  
Call Jerry Beatty 961-3088 or  
jerrykbeatty42@gmail.com