



May 2016

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

Inside This Issue

- Page 2 Pony Express
- Page 4 Elmer Harold Felton
- Page 5 Early WC River Names

WCHS MEETINGS General Meeting

7:00 pm, Tues., May 31

Early PA Systems

**Bill Overland
Bring your Burger
King Supper at 6:15**

**Silk & High Tea
Wedding Style Show
June 5, 2:00 pm
Tickets \$10**

WCHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

June 11, Sat. at 9:30

**LCF COMMITTEE
Sat. at 10:30**

General Meeting

June 24, Tues., 7:00

**Elodie Opstad
Allerton, Warren
County's Famous Race
Horse**

**Bring your Burger
King Supper at 6:15**

WCHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

July , 9, Sat. at 9:30

**LCF COMMITTEE
Sat. at 10:30**

NO JULY GENERAL MEETING

**Due to Warren County
Fair**

WCHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Aug. 13, Sat. at 9:30
LCF COMMITTEE**

WCHS MAY MEETING (Note: Date Change to **MAY 31**)

Bill Overland's grandfather was William "Bill" Hartzler. He worked with early public address systems (PA system) electronic sound amplification and distribution system (microphone, amplifier and loudspeakers) in the midwest. Bill will share his grandfather's stories of this interesting and unusual occupation.

We have changed our general meeting date to Tuesday, May 31 because we are having the museum dining room floors stripped and waxed on our regular 4th Tuesday meeting date. Our Burger King date has also been changed to May 31, so you can bring your Burger King out to the museum on May 31.

If you would like to help move the furniture from the dining-room in preparation for the floor renovation, we will meet at 9:00 am Monday, May 23rd to clear the room. Any help would be appreciated.



GRANT TO DIGITIZE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

Thursday, May 13th the Warren County Philanthropic Partnership awarded a grant for \$3,755 to the Warren County Historical Society for the purpose of digitizing old Warren County newspapers, prior to 1924. These newspapers will be searchable and can be accessed from our website. The money for the grant comes from Prairie Meadows and is distributed by the Warren County Philanthropic Partnership.

THANK YOU to Ruth Hall for her grant writing skills and pursuit of an Iowa company who would do the digitizing for us. The photo shows members of the WCPP giving a giant check to Kathi Stanfield our WCHS President.

We would also like to thank the following sponsors who provided matching funding for the Warren County Philanthropic Partnership Grant: Casey's General Store, Community Bank, Hy Vee, Norwalk Ready Mix, Overton Funeral Home, Peoples Bank, Phillips Floors, Annette Rath, St. Charles Bank, Warren County Genealogical Society, and Weinman Insurance. Please thank these donors and let them know how much we appreciate their gifts.



WCHS BURGER KING FUNDRAISER

The following dates we will be having our Burger King Fundraising Event:
Tuesday, May 31; Tuesday, June 24;
Tuesday July 26; and Tuesday, August

23. We ask that you eat supper from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Burger King or bring your Burger King take-out with you to eat before our WCHS General Meetings. Please leave your receipt at BK.



FUNDRAISER

PLEASE LEAVE YOUR RECEIPT

THANK YOU!



From Tenney Richards Brinkman: In 2013 the Richards family of Hartford dedicated a memorial to William Minor Richards (1837-1927) celebrating his time with the Pony Express.

The first Pony Express riders left St. Joseph, MO., April 3, 1860 and the transcontinental telegraph and "iron horse" trains replaced the riders October 24, 1861. All Pony Express documents were destroyed and the Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph, MO. has had to gather names from newspapers, books, and individuals. The Richards family submitted a letter written by William Minor Richards, in September 1923 to the Pony Express Celebration committee in which he named the general manager, financial backers, riders of his route, including his brother-in-law, Jack Keetley. Minor worked for the Pony Express, 1860-1861 as a station keeper and occasional rider assigned in 1859 to Cottonwood Springs, NE, the 18th station on the St. Joseph, MO. to Fort Laramie, WY. route of 641 miles.

GRANDPA RICHARDS PONY EXPRESS RIDER, By Louise Richards Pilmer, p 2-3, WCGS, Jan. 1988

William Minor Richards, born December 19, 1838 in Washington Township, Coshocton County, Ohio, was the first child of Samuel J. Richards and Sarah Winn Richards. They were a pioneer couple driven with the desire to press westward for better farm land. However, Sarah died June 26, 1842 when Grandpa was three years old. He and a younger brother were taken into his maternal grandmother Carhort's home in Roscoe, Ohio. After about two years, his father married Margaret McGraw on March 17, 1844 and took his young sons back to live in the new home. While there was love for the boys, their lives had to adjust to another change.

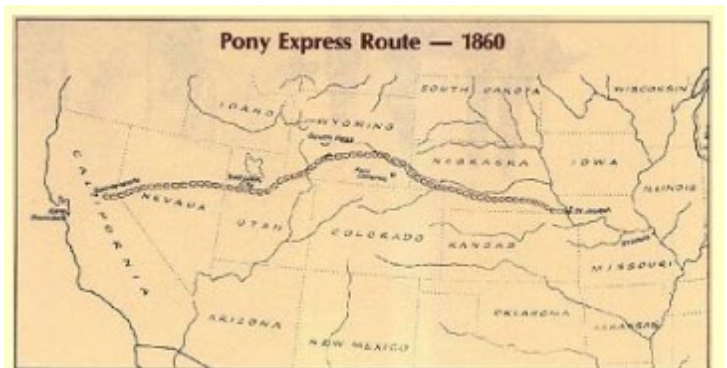
About 1848 the Samuel Richards family, which included a half brother, a half sister, Grandpa and his younger brother, moved to Wabash County, Indiana. The soil was rich and black and did not drain well. Roads were impassable during muddy times and they attempted to make plank roads. A plague developed among some of the road workers and neighbors. Margaret died in 1854 and Samuel died August 15, 1855. At 17 Grandpa was an orphan. He went to live with an Uncle, William Richards, who had a son Joshua about Minor's age.

In 1856 several Richards families left Indiana and settled near Pleasantville, Marion County, Iowa. Grandpa went to Iowa also. At age 21 he went to St. Joseph and accepted a job with the Pony Express.

The Pony Express Route passed through miles and miles of Indian country. Some Indians were friendly but others were hostile. Grandpa Minor always contended that an Indian's attitude depended a great deal upon previous treatment and trading experiences they had received from the white man.

Once, while on a Pony Express ride, Minor's horses became lame and could not go on at any pace. He realized he was in "bad" Indian Country, but he had no choice but to dismount. Very soon, as if from no where three Indian men appeared. Minor could speak a few Indian words. His few words and gestures, and the sight of the horse's sore foot convinced the Indians of his emergency. As the Indians worked with the horse's feet and then began easing his horse away from the trail, Minor was uneasy as to his plight. Not too far away, they reached the Indians' camp. They motioned for Minor to sit down and eat from the stew pot. The meat in the stew was fine-grained. He felt a little nauseated, when he learned he was eating snake meat. Minor spent the night at their camp. The next morning his horse seemed better and he got back to the trail where another Pony Express rider overtook him and rushed Minor's mail bag on to the next station. Minor stayed with his horse and finally much later they got to the station where the horse could rest and Minor could get a fresh horse. On other occasions he was halted and held captive for brief periods by Indians. Luckily, he was never really harmed by them during the months he rode for the Pony Express.

Minor crossed the plains three more times by wagon in the next year or two. He worked for a wagon freight company and transported goods westward from St. Joseph. Once a storm came suddenly upon him in the Platte River Valley. He needed to cross the river to get tethering poles to tie to his horses. He thought the river was too deep to wade so he carried his axe in his teeth and swam across. When nearly to the opposite side, his knees struck bottom to his surprise. He waded the rest of the way, cut the tethering poles and again, much to his surprise he waded all the way back.



NEW FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

This month during a museum insurance inspection, the inspector noticed that our fire extinguishers were out of date. Kathi contacted the Indianola Fire Department and they said we could recharge five of them but three needed to be replaced. She contacted The Extinguisher Company, 1202 South G, Indianola. They provided us with new fire extinguishers and charged the ones in need. Who knew we had this business in town? The owner is Bill Collins. Thanks to The Extinguisher Company for donating new and charged fire extinguishers. Kathi will be sure we keep them updated and ready to go.

WCHS ACQUISITIONS

Phyllis Core—Memorabilia, letters, reunion information from Indianola High School Class of 1939 & 1942

Nancy R. Andresen—Railroad map of Iowa

SueAnn Ahlstrand— Bob Haldeman items—Simpson sign, doll cabinet, dishes, memorabilia, Ida Smith Bible, Laura Hiatt Smith cookbook, 1919 and a Brownie camera, medals and pins, WW II postcards, photos, coin purse, 1907 Zenith, doll clothes, 1870 **Indianola Journal**, WC 1953 History, *Walk Around the Square* by Bob Haldeman, 43rd Iowa Cavalry Information.

Kathleen Lippold—Jean Hadsall items—Pioneer sun hat, self help pamphlets, 2 woolen sweaters from St. Marys Woolens and loomed by Kathy Mountain

Michelle Spear—Scanned copy of Green Plain United Methodist Church records

Bev Dickerson—Photo copies of 1st Iowa auto death, 1917 train wreck, 1938 wheat prices, combine drawn by 33 mules

Loren Crumb—Map of Greenwood Raceway, Program September 21-22, 1963 Division 1 Champion Rod Race

May 2016 Indianola 5th Grade Pioneer School

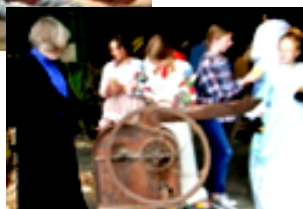
A BIG THANK YOU to the Many Volunteers



Quilt Blocks



Dipping candles



School

PEELING, PREACHING & HARVESTING



Peeling, preaching and harvesting their way through school three Simpson College women are diploma-bound.

A gold potato will be given to Garnet Holman of Mt. Ayr, Iowa with her diploma when she steps out of college in June, to remind her that she pared her way thru 1,500 bushels of tubers in dormitory kitchens to get an education.

The pulpit will be abandoned for the schoolroom by Marie Cassell of Fairmount, Indiana, who has preached two sermons a Sunday in the Friends Church of Indianola, to earn her way to junior standing.

Shocking wheat, plowing and picking potatoes have yielded revenue for an education to Carol Sandy of Indianola, who each vacation treks to the North Dakota prairies to win money enough in the harvest field to carry her thru another year at Simpson.

The gold potato will be given to Miss Holman by the school.

“If I had it all to do over again”, she avows, “I’d rather peel potatoes than earn my way in any other fashion.”

She must mean it for the school offered her a “white collar job” and she turned it down. She is the daughter of a retired farmer.

“The dreams I’ve had while the parings fell, and the questions I’ve settled about life while conducting an excursion through a pan of potatoes, are worth about as much as the education I’ve received,” she says. “It’s foolish to say that a student who earns his way doesn’t enjoy his college years.” From the *Oregon Statesman*, Salem, Oregon, January 30, 1927



Garnet Holman
English Major



Elmer Harold Felton
born
November 11, 1890-
December 7, 1946

ELMER HAROLD FELTON

Elmer Harold Felton, known to Warren County as Harold, was born in New Virginia Nov. 11, 1890, and died of a heart attack in Des Moines Dec. 7, 1946 and is buried in Indianola. He was the son of Zachariah Taylor and Sara Felton and the grandson of John Felton, pioneer of Virginia township, Warren County. He was educated in New Virginia grade and high school. He began early helping his father in the grain, feed and coal business in New Virginia. After leaving high school he worked full time in the family business.

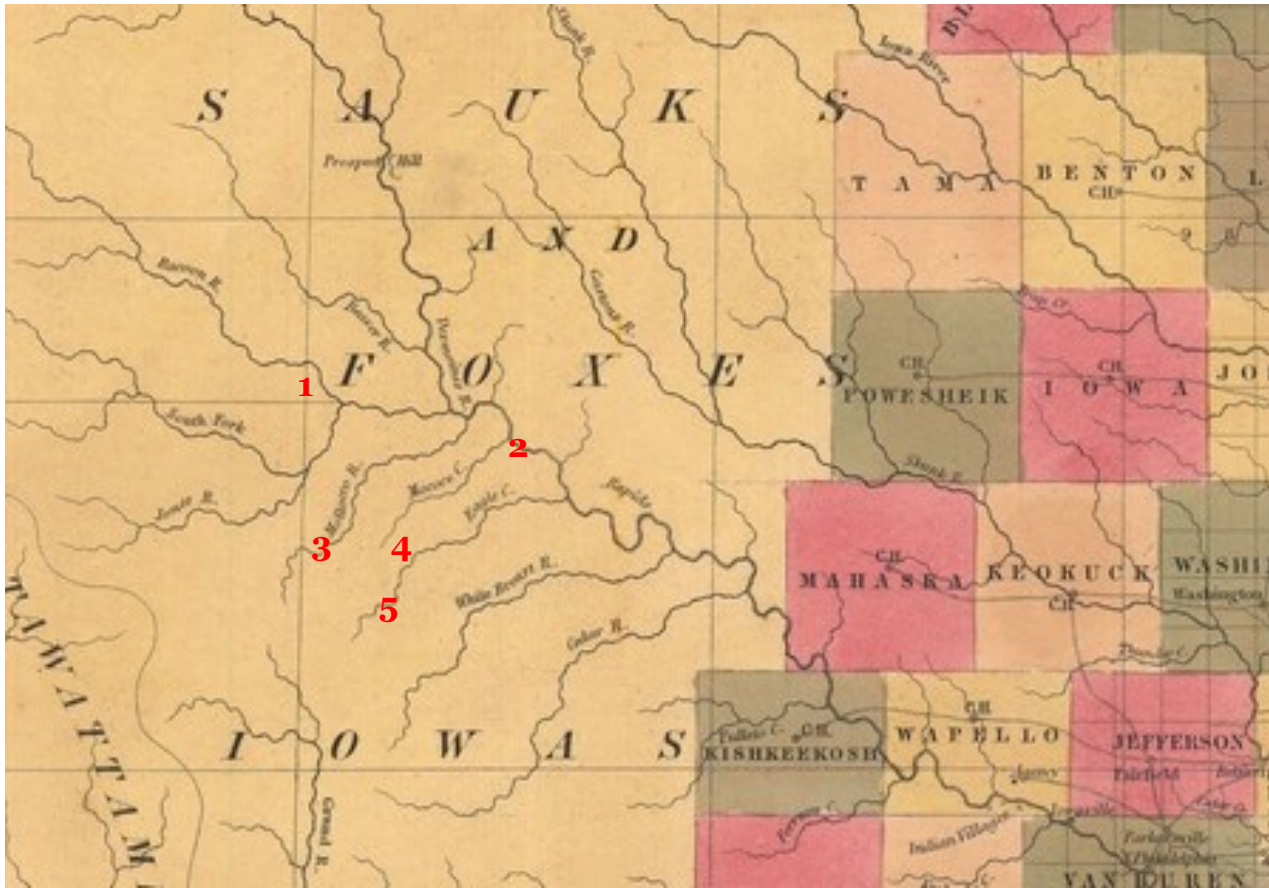
He married Velda Frederick March 24, 1913. Mrs. Felton was born in New Virginia Sept. 27, 1893, the daughter of L. E. and Alphretta (Hudson) Frederick. The following children were born: Glendal, June 24, 1915; Jack, Jan. 26, 1919; Max (deceased), June 11, 1920; Helen (Hildenbiddle), Sept. 7, 1922; Gordon, Nov. 20, 1924.

Along with the grain and feed business Mr. Felton established a general store in New Virginia in which he was highly successful until he moved to Indianola in 1932, where he purchased the site of an elevator that had burned, built a new structure and established E. H. Felton & Co., which developed a grain business and a wide trade, both wholesale and retail, in the manufacture and sale of stock foods under the trade name of "Blue Belt Feeds." The elevator burned May 10, 1946, but a new and better one was in operation the following Sept. 27.

Mr. Felton was chairman of the Warren County Republican Central Committee 1920-30. He was elected state committeeman from the fifth congressional district. In 1931 Gov. Turner appointed him to the State Board of Control of State Penal and Mental Institutions, on which he served eight years. Elected representative from Warren County in the Iowa House in 1940-1946, the only representative elected four times by Warren County to this date. He was Speaker of the Iowa House in the session of 1945.

Death came to him in the Hotel Fort Des Moines while he was there to attend a preliminary caucus of legislators.

He was a member of the Methodist Church, trustee of Simpson College, and Director of the Peoples Trust and Savings



IOWA 1846 MAP

S. Augustus
Mitchel,
Philadelphia

1. Raccoon River
2. Des Moines River
3. Mollocco River (North)
4. Mococe Creek (Middle)
5. Eagle Creek (South)
6. White Breast River

DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE MOLLOCCO RIVER WAS LOCATED?

On an 1844 Map by Potter and on this 1846 Iowa Map our three Warren County Rivers were called Mollocco (North River), Mococe Creek (Middle River), and Eagle Creek (South River).

In October 1845 the Native Americans lease on the central Iowa land ended and opened the region to settlement. A few of John Parmelee's employees were allowed to stake claims early but could not cultivate the land. In April one of these William Mason staked his claim east of what is now Carlisle. By summer settlers, including Jerimiah Church were assembling at Fort Des Moines and along the Red Rock Line in anticipation of the opening territory. Army troops were stationed at the Red Rock Line to insure settlers only explored the region without wagon or axe.

Either there were not enough troops or they did not care if the laws were bent. Settlers and speculators made agreements on intended claims or others illegally staked out their claims early. October 11, 1845 was the last day before the region was open to claim. Prospective settlers and speculators were gathered along the Red Rock Line and in Fort Des Moines. Some had confederates stationed illegally on their choice claims to begin staking out the claims as soon as the signal was given. Soldiers were stationed on isolated hilltops throughout the region with instructions to fire a musket at midnight to signal the opening of the territory. At midnight Agent Beach ordered a musket fired at the Indian Agency in Fort Des Moines. Soldiers on distant hills fired when they heard the musket shots.

Settlers and/or speculators with axes and bundles of sharpened stakes on foot and on horseback, immediately began a race into the area to claim the land of their choice. A moon sinking in the west provided some light and the settlers carried torches and lanterns. The American occupancy of the central Iowa Des Moines River Valley had begun.

From **History of the Des Moines River Valley**, by Richard Eggers (We have a copy in the WCHS Library and if you



SILK & HIGH TEA

WEDDING DRESS STYLE SHOW



Sunday, June 5, 2:00 pm

Tickets \$10



INDIANOLA HOOKERS



The Indianola Hookers meet to hook rugs the first Thursday of each month from 9:00 am to noon in the museum. If you hook rugs or would like to learn call

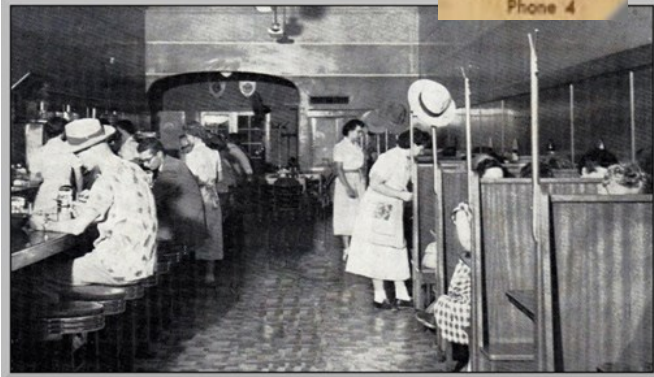
LCF 3rd Swan Chili Cook-off

Sign up to compete in our Saturday, September 24 Chili Cook-off.



Remembering Shannon Cafe

Pat Shannon



Born in Chicago, Illinois, Pat Shannon had been an Indianola resident since 1965. He owned and operated Shannon Café for ten years (1965-1976) east side of In-

Clip and mail to WCHS, Box 256, Indianola, IA 50125 or use PayPal at www.warren countyhistory.org

3rd WCHS LOG CABIN FESTIVAL "SWAN" CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday, September 24, 2016

Judging Begins at 4:00 pm

Warren County Fair Ground's Campground Shelter (inlement weather Museum dining-room)

\$10 Entry Fee

Competition types:

- 1 Vegetarian
- 2 Meat
- 3 Specialty

Judged on color, aroma, taste consistency, & aftertaste

Mail form to
WCHS
Box 256
Indianola, IA 50125
Or drop off at: Museum any Thursday from 9:00 am—4:00 pm or Saturday from 9:00 am—12:00 noon

WCHS LCF "Swan" Chili Cook-off Entry Form.

CONTACT-
NAME: _____


ADDRESS _____

PHONE: _____ E-Mail _____

Family or Group Name (if not entering as an individual but as family or group) _____

CHILI CATEGORY: 1. Vegetarian _____ 2. Meat _____ 3. Specialty _____

\$10 Entrance Fee Enclosed (Make checks to Warren County Historical Society) _____



You provide 1 gallon or more of hot chili at 3:30 pm

You may bring prepared chili from home or make at shelter using your own equipment


Provide recipe to display

If secret, (just list basic ingredients)

Denote on scale 1-5 hotness

1 mild – 5 hottest

Questions: E-mail lindabeatty13@gmail.com



A. H. Swan

2016 WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DUES

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Annual Dues: \$15.00 _____

Life Member Annual Gift: _____

Other _____

Contact Lynn Downey to register for the Sunday, September 25th Log Cabin Festival 6th Annual Car Show. Each year it gets bigger and better. If you send in your registration by September 1, your fee in \$15. Day of show registration will cost \$20.

2016 SIXTH ANNUAL Log Cabin Car Show Sunday, SEPTEMBER 25

Warren County Fairgrounds, 1400 W. 2nd Ave. Hwy. 92, Indianola, Iowa

All Vehicles, Trucks, Motorcycles, Car Clubs Welcome!

Registration: 9:00 AM - Noon
Judging: Noon - 1:30 PM
Awards: 3:00 PM

Log Cabin Festival Activities
50/50 Drawing
Lunch on grounds



TOP 20 AWARDS
+
BEST MOTORCYCLE AWARD
+
BEST OF SHOW
+
BEST PAINT
+
BEST INTERIOR
+
BEST ENGINE
+
LOG CABIN SPECIAL PICK



Entry fee: \$15 sent by Sept. 1 \$20 day of show

Mail pre-registration to:
Lynn Downey, 805 South O Street, Indianola, IA 50125
Downeylynn@hotmail.com
515-491-3357

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS OR THEFT.

Registration Form

Name: _____ Address: _____

Vehicle: Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____

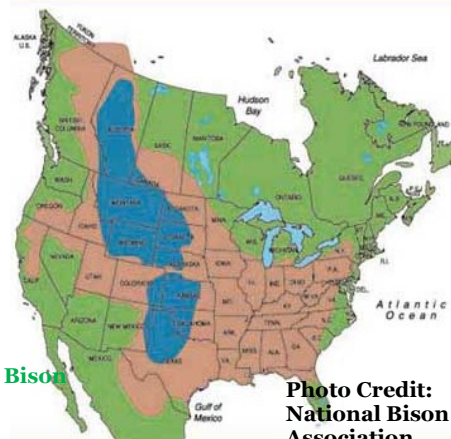
Checks to Warren Cty Historical Society

BUFFALO HEAD FOUND

The Indianola Record, August 4, 1910

Hartford—Mr. Pinegar at Ford found an extra large Buffalo head on an island in the Des Moines River that was petrified even to the horns, that were solid rock.

Some think that there never were American Bison (Buffalo) in Iowa. You can see on the map that Bison were at one time in all the brown and blue areas of the United States. In the 1500s there were 30 to 60 million bison in North America. In 1802 they were gone from Ohio. In 1840 there were no bison west of the Rockies. 1871 began the end of the southern herd.



Key: Green No Bison
Brown 1500
Blue 1870

Photo Credit:
National Bison
Association

AN INVITATION TO ALL WARREN COUNTY YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

TELL US THE "WHO-WHAT-WHY-WHERE-WHEN" OF YOUR GROUP'S HISTORY WITH A

**Youth
5 to 19!**



DIORAMA



**DISPLAY
BOARD**



PHOTO



ESSAY



**DIGITAL
COMPOSITION**

**MAKE STUFF. MAKE HISTORY. WIN CASH.
BE HONORED DURING LOG CABIN DAYS.**

ENTRIES CAN BE CREATED BY AN INDIVIDUAL OR BY A GROUP

DUE BY SEPTEMBER 3, 2016 CALL 961-6149 OR 961-8085 FOR DETAILS

LOG CABIN FESTIVAL 2016

Please share this flyer with any Warren County youth groups and/or leaders. We would like to have them enter our contest by entering a photo, essay, digital composition, or display showing information about their group's history, activities, or membership. We also hope they will be part of our parade on Saturday, September 24th.

Let's share our PRIDE in our Warren County Youth, which are the key to our future.

If you have questions, contact Kristi Porter.