



March 2020

# 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

## Inside This Issue

Page 3 WCHS Rental Policy  
Page 4 Peter & Becky Sanders  
Page 7 James R. Wasson

**WCHS MEETING  
Tues., March 24th  
CANCELLED**

**WCHS EXECUTIVE  
BOARD**

**Sat. at 9:30  
May 9th**

**LCF COMMITTEE**

**Sat. at 10:30  
May 9th**

**WCHS MEETING**

**Tues. 7:00  
May 26th**

**WCHS EXECUTIVE  
BOARD**

**Sat. at 9:30  
June 13th**

**LCD COMMITTEE**

**Sat. at 10:30  
June 13th**

**As of March  
20th WCHS is  
closed to the  
PUBLIC and all  
regularly  
scheduled  
meetings in  
April are  
cancelled. We  
will let everyone  
know when this  
changes.**

## **WCHS MARCH ANNUAL MEETING CANCELLED**

### **PROPOSED 2020 WCHS OFFICERS' SLATE**

President— Deb Taylor

1st Vice President—Deb Larrison

2nd Vice President—Linda Beatty

Secretary—Juanita Ott

Treasurer—Judy McClymond

Building Trustees—David Grissom, Dwight McCormick, Dan Porter, Don Sandy, and Kathi Stanfield.

Mark these dates on your 2020 Calendar!

### **2020 LOG CABIN FESTIVAL**

**Saturday & Sunday September 26-27**

**Theme: "Remarkable Women of Warren Coun**

**MAY PIONEER SCHOOL is cancelled for 2020.**

### **New Aquisitions**

Display Case from Dorothy J. Hall

School desk & chair, bassinet from Brian & Cindy Freeman

Vance family photos from Gretchen Pope

Garden Flower Quilt by Bertha Hansell from Spring Hill

Nine Berry prints from Elodie Opstad

Painting by Grace Laird's mother & 3 cake pans from Genevieve A. Smith

Kalbe's Imperial Accordion 1888-1889 from Judy McClymond

Indianola Year Books, Maude Olive Barger's wedding dress, 1920s photos from Pricilla Shipley Glenn

Settee & Rocker from Elizabeth Varner Igo, late 1880s from Larry Dorrell

Clothes, books & journal from Alan King

Family histories-Shafer, Nonnemacher & Seymour from Michelle Peterson

Oliver Typewriter Model 9 from Laura Oliver

Medford Ladies Aide Signature Quilt & Hartford plate from Dixie Schumacher

Frank Woods & Nellie Lester wedding book, Doris & Walter Lawson wedding book, wood plaster smoother, & surveyor tripod from Blair Lawson

Please continue to collect Indianola HYVEE 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 HYVEE receipt. It is an easy way to raise funds for WCHS. When Hy Vee asks if you want to have your receipt, say **YES** and bring it to us.



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



## REFLECTIONS FROM DEB



A new year is well underway for all of us. I do hope the winter months have not been too challenging for you. The weather seemed a bit more cooperative, and the museum remained open for most of its regular hours. So now, here we are embracing spring with its own set of issues. I'm thinking, of course, of the virus, COVID-19, that has dominated the media for over a month now. Rather than living in fear and panic, I hope you have chosen to live more wisely. The WCHS has decided to **CANCEL** our annual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. We do ask that if you have traveled or cruised out of the country in the last 30 days, been in contact with an infected person, or shown symptoms of the virus, to please not visit the museum. This is for the safety of those who may have compromised immune systems. We value each and every one of our members and hope you will be understanding of this request. At this time we are **CLOSED** to the public until further notice.

The winter months have taken their toll on some of the historical complex buildings. The main museum is in need of painting on two sides as well as handrails and some trim. The dock style, north door of the museum has been letting in moisture and outside air creating extreme humidity and temperature changes. This was brought to our attention when a meter was applied to the area showing the door to be uninsulated, aged and a potential cause for the damaging humidity and temperature issues. An application for grant money has been submitted to Warren County Philanthropic Partnership to solve this problem. An application for grant money has also been submitted to Prairie Meadows Community Betterment program for funding to install a large dehumidifier, furnace, and duct work. This would also address the humidity issues the museum now suffers.

The log cabin definitely needs attention. It needs to be re-shingled and physically raised as it is sinking into the ground. The John Parmalee Questers are considering raising funds for this project and we are very excited about the prospect. Your financial assistance with this project would also be greatly appreciated. The Mt. Hope School house has plywood on two of its windows. This is because those windows are being professionally refurbished. As the year progresses, the rest of the windows will also get attention. This is in thanks to the efforts, grants and personal donations of General Joseph Warren Questers and WCHS members.

You can now purchase copies of some of the books that have been published by WCHS at Pageturners Bookstore on the southeast corner of Indianola's Square.

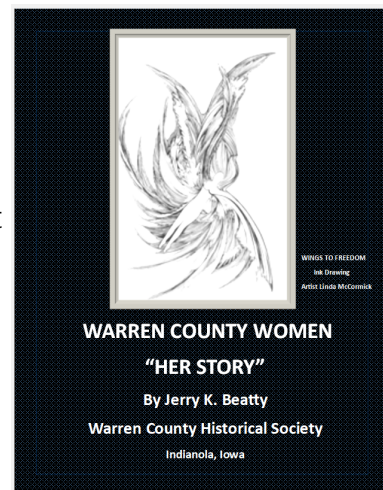
We received several wonderful display cases from the Balloon Museum, when they received new matching display cases. Judy McClymond is busily reorganizing our toys and doll house collection by enclosing them in these cases. She could use some heavy lifters on Thursday afternoons to help move heavy objects in the museum basement.

I want to thank each of you for the volunteerism, moral and financial contributions that keep the complex running. We would love to have more people like you as members and volunteers. Encourage friends to join in the effort!

**WCHS Newspaper  
Hardcopies**

**Since we have digitized the Warren County Newspapers and put them online, people no longer come in to look at our collection of hardcopies. You need to know that the collections are not the same. They did not come and physically digitize our newspapers. We purchased a collection already digitized. So, if you visit us, we have some hard copy newspapers plus those newer than 1924 that you cannot view online.**

**Warren County Women, "Her Story,"**  
our 2020 book by Jerry Beatty will be completed soon. If you had a Warren County woman's story that you want to be included, get it to Jerry by the first week of April. Drop it off at the museum or E-mail to [jerrykbeatty42@gmail.com](mailto:jerrykbeatty42@gmail.com) or [contact@warrencountyhistory.org](mailto:contact@warrencountyhistory.org)



**Only a member of the Warren County Historical Society can rent our meeting room for reunions, family gatherings or meetings for a minimal fee. Here is our new rental policy. New language is highlighted. Call 515-961-8085 to make a reservation.**

WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY RENTAL POLICY AND AGREEMENT

1. **Alcohol** use and **smoking** are prohibited.
2. **Availability:** The WCHS Dining room is available on a first come, first serve basis. We require that a WCHS member be responsible or present during your rental. Call 515-961-8085 for reservations or contact us at [contact@warrencountyhistory.org](mailto:contact@warrencountyhistory.org)
3. **Set Up & Take Down:** You will need to bring your own coffee, plastic silverware, paper plates, napkins and cups. There is metal silverware in drawer you can use and wash. You may use any non-disposable kitchen items (coffee pots, utensils, towels, etc.). If you change the room arrangement or add additional tables and chairs, you must return the room to its original state. Renter is responsible for any loss or damage to the WCHS facilities.
4. **Clean Up:** All trash must be bagged and taken outside to the dumpster at the north end of our building. Do not use Warren County Fairground's dumpsters. Brooms for sweeping and mops are located in the closet north of the entrance. When you leave you must wipe down all surfaces used: tables, chairs, stoves and counters. Empty and clean coffee pots and remove all your food from the refrigerator/freezer.
5. **Fees:** \$1 per person with \$50 minimum for each day or part of day. Other arrangements may be made with Executive Board approval only.
6. **Phone Note:** Emergency phone numbers can be found next to the kitchen phone. Long distance calls are automatically blocked.
7. **Computers & Other Office Equipment:** Renters may NOT use this equipment without prior permission.
8. **Liability:** It is understood and agreed that the renter shall save and hold harmless the Warren County Historical Society from all liability that may arise out of the use of the WCHS Facilities.

**Event Description:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Group:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Start/Close time (include setup and cleanup)** \_\_\_\_\_

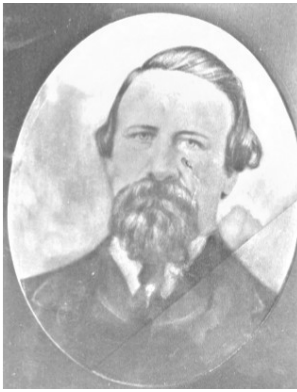
**Contact Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

Rental payment is due following your event. Make your check out to Warren County Historical Society and send to WCHS, Box 256, Indianola, IA 50125 or leave it in the donation jar in the dining room.



## A SAD ACCIDENT – THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF PETER SANDERS

**John Sanders (john82754@gmail.com)**

Tuesday, January 17, 1871 was chilly and the Cheat River was up. Peter Sanders and helper, Samuel Shaver loaded and filled the raft with stave blocks. Weeks before, Peter had cut and split white oak to desired dimensions for stave blanks. He usually took a raft load of 1,000 staves to his customers.

There was a backwater inlet, “The Pond”, on his property along the shore at the southeast that was perfect for constructing and loading log rafts away from the river’s current. His land was 415 acres of mostly hardwood forest land on the west shore of Cheat River just upstream of Seven Islands and south of Preston County, West VA.

### **Peter Sanders**

The two had spent the previous day dragging and rolling logs into “The Pond” and lashing them together to make a raft. Next they loaded and stacked stave blanks on the raft. Selling wooden staves had allowed Peter and his wife Rebecca “Becky” (Bolyard) to purchase the Tucker County land for \$2,000 over three years

*Mr. Ingles Evans, Supt. Of the shook-shops at Rowlesburg, and Mr. Peter Sanders, attempted to run a raft to the Rowlesburg Lumber & Iron Co.'s mill, on Cheat river. When night overtook them, Mr. Evans jumped ashore and tied up for the night to a tree which it pulled up, leaving Mr. Sanders on the raft. Evans tried to jump on again, but jumped in the water over his head; he then hallowed to Saunders to lay the raft across the island above the mill, when passing above the dam and pier above the mill he hallowed to the men on shore to bring a skiff. Mr. Findly President of the Co., Mr. Holistine, and others got out and tried to reach him, but the raft struck the pier and it is supposed the jar knocked Peter off and the suction of the water running under the logs drew him under the raft. As yet the body has not been found. Mr. Sanders leaves a pregnant wife with five or six children. From **Preston County Journal**.9 5 Tableland Trails; Vol. 1, No. 4, Summer 1954*

**Bishoff, Sanders, Rebecca Becky (Bolyard).** Born Mary 20, 1827 near Fellowsville in what is now Preston County, WV to Henry and Sarah Jane (Shahan) Bolyard. She was one of 11 children raised on a farm on Upper Little Sandy Creek. Since public schools were not available in WV before statehood, it appears that Becky had no schooling and could not read or write. She married Peter Sanders, a farmer-butcher- logger, but he drowned in the Cheat River taking logs to the Rowlesburg Lumber and Iron Company mill; his body was not found for nearly three months. Becky, 2-months pregnant, was left with six minor children. After Peter’s death in 1871, Becky moved her family back to Preston County. Within months of Peter’s death, their oldest child, Sarah, married; she was not quite 16-years old.

In 1873, Becky married Christian Christopher Bishoff; together they parented one son, Oscar Clayton, born in 1874. At the time, Becky was 47 and Christian was 50 years old.. Chris had 8 children and Becky had 7 children from her previous marriage to Peter Sanders. One of Becky’s sons, Jacob, died in 1881 and her husband, Christopher died in 1886. In 1887 Becky sold 48.5 acres, her share of the farm, and moved, by stagecoach, to Warren County, IA with sons David and Clayton. Her sons Alex and Charles were already there, coming six years after the Civil War. Her daughters Sara and Susan stayed in the east. The town of New Virginia had been founded by Rowlesburg, WV native John Felton. It was not by accident that so many residents of the Rowlesburg area of NV settled in New Virginia, IA; word had got back east that this was a good place to settle in the west.

After arriving in New Virginia, Becky’s son Clayton, 14 years old, took care of her the rest of her life. He joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. Ironically, Clayton Bishoff married pioneer settler John Felton’s grand-daughter, Blanch Felton.

After Becky died on Jan. 3, 1894, her son David Sanders moved back to WV. Her son, Clayton Bishoff, was the first rural mail carrier to serve the New Virginia community; a position he had for 16 years. In 1916, Clayton brought his family to Indianola where he served four years as city night watchman and later worked at the Green Bay Lumber Company. Becky and her New Virginia family members were buried in the New Virginia Cemetery.



**Becky Bolyard Sanders Bishoff**

## Help raise funds for WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Going to AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you.

Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) from your web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile you need to select Warren County Historical Society in Indianola, Iowa as your charitable organization to receive donations from purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible Amazon Smile purchases.



You can see how much you donate in reports like this. What an easy, painless way to make a donation to WCHS.

<b>Warren County Historical Society</b> <a href="#">Change</a> Location: Indianola, IA Support your favorite charity at no extra cost when you shop at <a href="https://smile.amazon.com">smile.amazon.com</a> . <a href="#">About AmazonSmile</a>	Generated by you <b>\$5.36</b> as of March 07, 2020  All charities have received <b>\$169,850,767.10</b> as of February 2020
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### WARREN COUNTY TIDBITS

**Advocate Tribune**, September 28th 1918 - The work of the S.A.T.C. unit at Simpson College is being continued without interruption, in spite of the quarantine declared on account of the new outbreak of Spanish influenza. The young soldiers are attending classes by themselves and every member of the unit is wearing a mask covering the nose and mouth. These masks, turned out on short order by the Red Cross, are being worn in barracks, at classes and when on the campus and not at drill. Every possible effort is being made by the medical officer, Dr. George H. Campbell and the commanding officer, Lt. G.E. Frey, to prevent influenza from getting a foothold in the unit.

Indianola again is under quarantine. It is reported that there are something near one hundred cases of influenza in Indianola, and while there have not been many deaths it is a serious matter with many families who have one or more sick in the home. Sunday evening at six o'clock the town was put under quarantine and no matter what you may think about it personally the better way is to cheerfully comply with the edict of the local board.

**Indianola Herald**, April 21, 1904— Mordecai Disney, a blacksmith from Indiana, came about the same time (1848) to the Carlisle neighborhood, and was perhaps the first blacksmith in Warren County.

Warren County was divided into two precincts upon its organization, Union precinct comprised all the county east of Indianola and Highland precinct, all west of Indianola.



The first births in the Ackworth neighborhood were a daughter to Wm. Ginder and wife, Sept. 15, 1848; a son to P.P. Henderson and wife, the day following, and a daughter to John Dillon and wife, the day following that, making a busy week for Mrs. David Lair, who was acting in the capacity of midwife in the absence of a physician.

**Broadhorn Church,  
north of New Virginia  
1930s**



**ELTON FREEMAN**, Prole and daughter Beth Freeman of Cedar Rapids start the trip back to Iowa City in their motorcar in left photo. The motorcars traveled as far as the Government Bridge so the operators could see the Mississippi River, then the cars were lifted by hand to turn them around for the return trip. Collectors from all over the Midwest rode these cars that used to be used to inspect tracks. The 1st Iowa Div. of the North American Rail Car Operators Association sponsored the

trip. Right photo—the 33 motorcars line up on the tracks near 5th St. and Western Avenue in Davenport to start their trip back to Iowa City. **Quad-City Times**, Davenport, IA, August 29, 1994.

Feb. 14, 1916, **St. Louis Globe-Democrat**, St. Louis, MO. **Sheriff Leads Minister to Marry Girl At Altar**

Denver, CO, Feb. 13—Rev. William Clyde Rhea formerly pastor of the Methodist Church at Merino, CO was led to the altar by a deputy sheriff. Rhea was arrested in Burlington, IA, several days ago on charges preferred by Miss Greta Ballard, daughter of P.A. Ballard, banker and merchant of Merino. The ceremony was performed in Fort Morgan, where Rhea was taken into custody by a deputy sheriff.

On complaint of Ballard, who accused Rhea of having improper relations with his daughter under promise of marriage, he was brought back to Colorado and locked up in the county jail in Sterling in default of \$500 bail.

Rhea said that if Ballard believed him guilty he would marry his daughter, providing the criminal charge against him was dropped. Ballard and his daughter agreed to this proposition.

Rhea was an active clergyman in his district, and shortly before his departure was offered a better position in Sterling. He declined, saying he wished to continue his studies.

Greta Ballard Rhea Clevenger was born Feb. 10, 1896 in Colorado. Upon marrying Rhea, they moved to Iowa. Rhea left Greta before her son, Clyde, was born May 28, 1916 and provided them no support. She moved to Indianola with Clyde and became a nurse for Dr. Alden at Bethel Hospital. Greta divorced Rhea in 1922. Greta and Herbert Clevenger, a local farmer, were married February 22, 1922 in Princeton, MO. They lived in the Indianola area until the 1940s when they moved to Oregon. She died in Lincoln City, Oregon in 1985. Clyde took the Clevenger name but did not change it legally until 1942.

**CUMMING CHICAGO WESTERN RAILROAD WRECK**

**Aug. 10, 1944. Ammunition lost, two carloads of ammunition were destroyed in fire and explosion which followed derailment of 25 cars of a 60 car Great Western freight train near Cumming. It occurred 10 miles south of DM.**

**Des Moines Register Photo**





**James R. Wasson as cadet at West Point**

**Photo courtesy of U.S. Military Academy Library**

## **GREAT POTENTIAL—RUN AMUCK**

James Robert Wasson was born to John Cochran and Julia Ann (Spry) Wasson in Ohio, January 1847. The family moved to Hartford, Richland Township, IA in 1854. James had no schooling after age 16. John and Julia had a hotel and were abolitionists active in Warren County's "underground railroad".

John was a 1st Lieutenant in Company B, 34th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. In January 1864 son, James enlisted at 17 in Company C. James mustered out in Houston in August 1865. He entered West Point and graduated in 1871, ranked first in his class. He was one of 4 cadet captains commanding companies. For mistreating 2 "plebes" (freshmen) the seniors lost privileges and were confined to campus until Secretary of War William W. Belknap released them one week before graduation in June. He said to them, "It is to be hoped that these cadets who... are soon to graduate and become officers of the army, will never again place themselves in any situation which may be discreditable to them or require the voice of authority to remind them of their duty as officers and gentlemen."

At West Point James became a good friend of Frederick D. Grant, Ulysses S. Grant's son, and he spent time with Grant's family. President Grant suggested to Horace Capron, his commissioner of agriculture that he take Wasson as assistant with him to Japan with his team of experts to introduce modern agricultural and industrial practices in Hokkaido. Capron refused but Grant sent James to Japan in 1872 where he taught math, surveying and English. Hokkaido was the last undeveloped island. Wasson got himself appointed as the Japanese Army's chief engineer. He was paid \$6,000 a year plus an expense allowance. Emperor Meiji thanked Wasson for his contributions to the Formosa expedition and awarded him the Order of the Rising Sun. He was first non-Japanese to receive this award.

After Japan, James went to work as a paymaster assigned to the Department of Texas for five years. He married Marie Bingham (daughter of John Bingham, who was U.S. Minister to Japan for 12 years) and had a son Robert Bingham Wasson in San Antonio in 1877. James amassed large debt in Texas due to his high living standard and gambling. In 1883 he claimed he had been robbed of a valise containing \$24,000 on a train near Sweetwater. Later he confessed he had stolen it. He was charged with embezzlement and conduct unbecoming an officer. He was dismissed from army with a \$52,000 fine that he could not pay. He was jailed at the Kansas State Penitentiary at Lansing in 1883. In prison he surveyed coal grounds and superintended the prison waterworks. Just before he was scheduled to be released President Arthur pardoned James and he returned to Des Moines. Here he sold insurance, was manager at Iowa Feed and did water heater work. He was elected captain of the Iowa Company A (Governor's Guard) 3rd Regiment, Iowa National Guard.

Marie and son Robert lived in Japan with her father. Later she moved to New Jersey living with her son and his wife. It appears James and Marie never divorced but remained apart the rest of their lives.

He was a sergeant in Company M of the 46th. In the Philippines he was court marshalled for neglect of duty and mustered out in 1901. Again he got back in military. Out in 1908 and taking various jobs—mining silver in Mexico, Lennox Furnace Company in Marshalltown, got approved for a disability, and in 1912-1920 served as engineer for National Soldiers Homes. He applied for WWI at age of 70 but was refused.

He died February 13, 1923 at Marshalltown's Iowa Veterans' Home and was buried at Hartford, Iowa.

He donated his Rising Sun medal and other items to Iowa State Historical Society, and these seem to have been lost.

Resources: "Recreant to His Trust, The Disappointing Career of Major James R. Wasson, Roger D. Cunningham from **Army History** Winter/Spring 2004, Wikipedia



**WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Annual Membership**

- Individual \$20.00
- Family \$25.00
- Gift \$20.00

**HAVE  
YOU  
RENEWED  
YOUR  
2020 DUES?**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer Possibilities. Mark any volunteer opportunities you might consider.**

- Adopt an Exhibit (Set-up, clean or inventory}
- Short term project here or at home
- Building and Grounds Maintenance
- Museum Hosting
- May Pioneer School
- September Log Cabin Festival

**TRAIN RAMS ROAD GRADER**

**The Evening Independent**, Massillon, OH,  
Nov. 17, 1961

71 persons were injured late Thursday when the Rock Island Twin Star Rocket train, with about 120 passengers aboard, slammed into a road grader and sent nine of the trains 11 cars sprawling along the right-of-way.

Four persons were injured seriously. They included Lyle Wellons of Hartford, operator of the road grader.

The train, northbound from Houston, TX, to Minneapolis, hit the road machine at a gravel road crossing six miles south of Hartford, which is 15 miles from Des Moines.

Engineer Harry Patton, 57 of Kansas City, MO, said the train was traveling at the usual speed, about 73 mph and he was less than 1/4 mile away when he saw the road grader nearing the crossing on which there are no warning devices.

