



August 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](mailto:contact@warrencountyhistory.org)

### Inside This Issue

Page 3 2020 LCF  
Page 5 Cruise Wedding  
Page 7 Margaret Vance Mason

### **WCHS Museum Open By Appointment**

**Call 961-8085  
for appointment  
Thursdays 9 to 4  
or Saturdays 9  
to noon**

Amazon will  
donate .5% of your  
total purchase to  
Warren County  
Historical Society if  
you sign in at Amazon



Smile. All you need to  
do is sign in at amazon  
smile rather than ama-  
zon. Choose Warren  
County Historical  
Society, then select  
Iowa as your charity to  
support.

 Please continue to  
collect Indianola  
HYVEE receipts  
and bring them in  
to the museum.

We have a large glass con-  
tainer 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.

### **We Continue to be Open by Appointment Only!**

1. Please make a reservation for your visit on either a Thursday or Saturday morning. No more than 6 people to a group. A short series of questions may be asked to assure you do not have COVID-19 symptoms.
2. Please wear a mask while on the premises and sanitize your hands upon entrance and exiting. Social distancing from other groups or volunteers of at least 6 feet is necessary.
3. Please do not touch any of the exhibits, artifacts, or reference material without prior approval.
4. Please call ahead should you wish to donate or contribute to the museum collection.



### **2020 WCHS LCF**

## **CELEBRATING WARREN COUNTY WOMEN**

**Saturday, September 26th**

**From 10:00 to 4:00**

**WCHS Heritage Village**

**We are planning a limited one day Log Cabin Festival**

**Face Masks are required**

**PARADE- 10:00 (Line up 9:00 at Administration Building)**

**Garage Sale-Meeting Room, Carver & Overflow (Camp Shelter) 10-4**

**Tractor and Equipment Display- All Day**

**Heritage Village Open House-All Day Come see new displays**

**Sweet Liberty Quilt Auction-Tickets 1 Ticket for \$2**

**6 Tickets for \$10**

**Model Railroaders Display-10-4**

**Quester Bake Sale, Mt. Hope School to raise money for repair**

**2020 Book, Warren County Women, "Her Story"**

***A Few Surprises!***

Presidents Corner

Hello everyone,

Here we are nearly 6 months into this COVID – 19 pandemic , we have had protests leading to discussions about racial inequality, and concerns for pupils, teachers and parents with August school opening. If this wasn't enough, Iowa has been devastated by hurricane type winds causing billions of dollars' worth of damage. I imagine we are all asking ourselves when, or if, life will ever be back to normal! To preserve a very small piece of that normalcy, the WCHS board has been hard at work planning for the annual Log Cabin Days. With the CDC restrictions in mind and the health and safety of all our volunteers top priority; we have decided a one day event will work best. This approach means we can't have all the attractions of normal LCF, such as scarecrow making, quilt show, car show, a vendor building, pie auction, or serve meals. Although this is disappointing, we are focusing on the positive -of the things we can do.

We will have the annual Parade! The request and parade route have officially been approved by the city. I appreciate Darlene Lawyer for her dedication to organizing all parade activities. If you have questions or want to participate, please contact her.

The Museum Complex will be open for tours! There have been significant changes in displays during the summer. I'm sure you will see things unnoticed before, plus many new items. Come take a look! The Model Railroaders have also been working on developing their layouts. We do ask that everyone wear a mask, practice social distancing and good hand hygiene.

The annual garage sale will be on Saturday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> during the museum complex open house. We are taking donations for this event. If you have items to donate, please bring them on a Thursday between 9 and 4 pm. or on a Saturday morning. The garage sale will only be one day this year so be sure to stop by early. (Please wear your mask.) There will be many vintage and collectibles along with the general items.

The Quilt Raffle is a go! Deb Simpson has designed and quilted a beautiful quilt called "Sweet Liberty". Tickets are on sale now. The drawing for the winner will take place at 4 pm. on Saturday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. That is one less day of ticket sales, so be sure to get yours purchased early. They can be purchased at the museum or through the mail for your convenience.

I hope to see you at the Log Cabin Day event this year. This is an event meant to build and strengthen our community, join old and young in discovering our history, and raise funds to pay the bills and keep the museum doors open. This year our goal is to do all that while practicing CDC safety suggestions.

Deb Taylor

**QUESTERS RENOVATE Mt. HOPE, WCHS Thanks you!**

General Joseph Warren Questers have been working hard on WCHS' Mt. Hope School. Susan Gilbert Laws has written and received 3 grants to be used for restoration of the windows: \$800 from Preservation Iowa, \$5,000 from THE QUESTERS and \$5,000 recently from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. While cleaning windows (1), they determined several windows needed to be replaced and others professionally preserved. Thus the need for these 3 grants. (2) Susan Laws, Esther Kaufeld-Hoffa, Linda Beener, Donna Hallstrom and Kay Middleswart (3) General Joseph Warren Questers meeting at Mt. Hope and making renovation plans (4) Kevin Beener on ladder repairing plaster damaged from moisture. He is husband of Linda Beener, Quester Chapter President.



# LOG CABIN DAY OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 10:00AM - 4:00PM

FOR SIX HOURS ONE DAY ONLY,  
JOIN US FOR THE PARADE, HERITAGE VILLAGE OPEN HOUSE  
QUILT RAFFLE AND SO MUCH MORE!  
CELEBRATING WARREN COUNTY WOMEN.

Subject to Covid restrictions. Physical distancing, social and state guidelines observed.

**PARADE**  
Starts at 10:AM  
Line up at 9:AM  
Admin. Bldg.

Enter your  
historic car or  
tractor, publicize  
an organization,  
make an old  
fashioned float,  
or show a talent.  
Call for  
more info.

**HERITAGE  
VILLAGE  
OPEN HOUSE**  
10AM - 4PM  
(Face Masks  
Required)  
Volunteers  
Call  
515-491-3833

**BAKE SALE  
by  
QUESTERS  
for  
MT. HOPE  
SCHOOL  
restoration.**



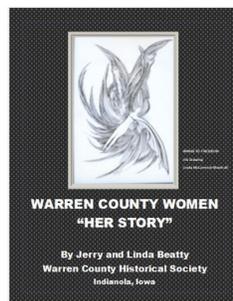
**“SWEET LIBERTY”**  
75” X 99” Quilt by Deb Simpson  
Raffle tickets - 1 for \$2 - 6 for \$10  
Drawing Saturday, September 26

**GARAGE  
SALE  
UNDER THE  
CAMPGROUND  
SHELTER**  
10AM to 4PM

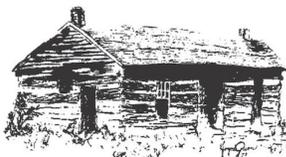
**MODEL  
RAILROADERS  
TRAIN  
DISPLAY  
DOWNSTAIRS**  
10AM to 4PM

**TRACTOR  
AND  
FARM  
EQUIPMENT  
DISPLAY**

**OTHER  
ACTIVITIES**



New Book for 2020  
**WARREN  
COUNTY  
WOMEN  
“HER STORY”**  
By Jerry and Linda  
Beatty



Warren County Historical Society



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

**WARRENCOUNTYHISTORY.ORG**

**WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Annual Membership**

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

**HAVE YOU JOINED or RENEWED?**

**Could you provide a money or memorial gift? During this Covid -19 period, our ability to raise funds is limited!**

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



**GARAGE SALE**

**WCHS LCF GARAGE SALE- Saturday, September 26th  
10:00 to 4:00  
Due to Covid -19 Expect Changes**

**Face Masks, Social Distancing and Limited Capacity Enforced**

**HighEnd, Antiques & Collectibles-Carver Museum, enter main door, exit N**

**Garage Sale-WCHS Meeting Room, enter north museum door, exit south door**

**Overflow-Camping Shelter-house**

**Please drop off sale donations Thursdays, Saturdays or from 9 to 4 Sept.24 and 25**

## 52 Day CRUISE TURNS INTO SURPRISE WEDDING



**Dan and Kristi Porter**

Christine "Kristi" Hollinger was born April 21, 1953, one of seven children, to Kenneth and Antonia Mardula (Smolucha) Hollinger. Her father and mother (WAVE) served in the U.S. Navy during WW II. They were married in 1948 and moved to Indianola in 1952. Ken worked in construction and in 1956 took a job with the Civil Aeronautics Administration as an air traffic controller. Her mother was an excellent typist and returned to the job market at Veterans Administration in Des Moines, following a divorce.

Kristi graduated from Indianola High School in 1971 and worked for Mutual of New York and the IRS for a time before embarking on an adventure in 1974 by moving to Hawaii. (A friend had told her Hawaii was a wonderful place to visit.) She found work as a waitress. In January 1975, her boyfriend Dan Porter, a 1969 Indianola graduate, came for a visit. They decided to attend a syndicated TV game show, Diamond Head, hosted by Bob Eubanks. Kristi was chosen as one of several contestants and after a number of elimination rounds, she ended up in a volcano wind tunnel full of flying money. She was told to gather as much money as she could and put the bills in a pouch. After game host Eubanks drew five bills from her pouch (a \$1 bill would end the game for Kristi) amounting to \$750, he offered an exchange-she could trade her pouch for a mystery pouch held by show assistant Jane Nelson. After a wink from Jane, Kristi selected Jane's pouch and won the show's grand prize-a \$12,000, 52 cruise on the Prudential Line's SS Santa Mercedes, a cargo/passenger steamship with a capacity of 100 passengers. (The ship was originally owned by the Grace Lines and later by Delta Lines.) Dan left for home not knowing whether he or Kristi's mother would be Kristi's lucky companion.



Finally, in mid-May Kristi invited Dan to join her, if he could get off work and obtain a passport. He did! (Dan worked at his dad's business, Don Porter Corp, selling Pioneer seed corn and hauling/spreading agricultural lime and rock.) The cruise started in late July 1975, sailed from San Francisco, through the Panama Canal, and down the east coast of South America, stopping at various ports. On August 17, after a bus tour of Curitiba, Brazil, Kristi proposed to Dan that they get married six days later on August 23, as the ship passed through the Straits of Magellan, a boomerang-shaped 350 mile long channel linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, near the Tierra del Fuego Island, the land south of the Straits where fire shot up from the earth.



**Dan & Kristi cutting their wedding cake August 23, 1975**

Captain Earl R. Hill was consulted and agreed to marry them on the night of August 23, with most of the ship's passengers looking on or participating. (Although passengers got on and off the ship as they stopped at different ports, only 23 passengers were on board

for the full ride.) The ship's engineer made two brass rings (others provided music (violin and organ) for the ceremony. Susan Hendry loaned Kristi a dress, another person provided flowers and other took pictures. One group purchased drinks for everyone in honor of the newly weds. What a wedding to remember!



**Kristi Hollinger Porter (right) with Captain Earl R. Hill and Susan Hendry, Cruise Hostess and Maid of Honor. Kristi is wearing Sysan's blue gown; Susan is wearing Kristi's coral evening dress. Afterwards, Kristi kept her borrowed wedding dress and gave Susan her black evening dress.**

The couple returned to Indianola where a wedding reception was held on September 20, 1975. Dan and Kristi have three children: Asia, 1976; Kendon, 1983; and Addison, 1988.



**The 3-level SS Santa Mercedes steamship that took Kristi Hollinger and Dan Porter on their 52 day cruise through the Panama Canal, down the coast of South America and through the Straits of Magellan.**

## WCHS Christmas Wish List

As many of us deep clean our house or farm, there are items that perhaps you might consider donating to the museum. "Oh, but surely you have everything already!" No, we do not. I was reminded of this as we reworked a display featuring chickens. Yes, chickens! From hatching to selling eggs, they played an important part in early farm life. The display is in need of an old crock style waterer and feeder, a wooden nest, and an egg basket. Perhaps a few wooden or artificial eggs would be nice. Many other displays may be missing that special item you want to part with. Please call or stop by to talk with Deb Taylor. The museum is accepting most of these treasured items for all to enjoy.

Our library could use year books from 1950 – 2000 for all districts in the county. They would also like a copy of your family history to share with researchers.

The Log Cabin needs a new roof and some major repair work. I imagine this will need to be contracted out, so financial donations toward the goal would be appreciated.

The church has mold issues on the ceiling. A volunteer willing to remove the bad and install new drywall would be wonderful. Lighting in that building also needs improvement.

The Machine Shed needs to be connected to electricity, and then wired with lighting. Again, a volunteer to do this work is necessary.

The driveway entrance to the main museum has once again eroded. Wouldn't it be nice to pave that area to avoid the problem? (And damage to our cars.)

The main museum is still in need of environmental control measures, such as controlled humidity levels and temperatures. An attempt will again be made to obtain grants next year for this purpose.

A huge need is in folks who simply want to volunteer! With so many areas of interest we are sure to have a spot just for you! From dusting to organizing, typing to researching, identifying pictures to being a Mr. Fix-it, we have a need for all. Please consider volunteering a few hours on a Thursday or Saturday morning.



Thanks to Rick Larrison, Butch McClintic, Dwight McCormick, and Don Sandy the garage door which was located on the north wall in the museum is gone and has been closed and replaced with wall and smaller door. This area had been leaking air and moisture for years.



We have been working on adding hands on displays for children. To the left is our new model train exhibit. John Averill points to wall button to start train. At right you can see if your feet can learn to use a treadle sewing machine, hand pump a bucket of water or wind a Victrola. Look for more of these kinds of areas in the museum.





**George Ashworth**

## ASHWORTH SLAYS MRS. WILBUR MASON

*Indianola Times, April 19, 1894*

Margaret E. Vance was born in Indianola, June 11, 1868 to James C. and Eliza Jane (McCormick) Vance. Maggie married Wilbur Wylie Mason November 27, 1889 at Summerset. They had four children: Frank Lester, 1890-1859; Lois Fern, 1891-1941; Ida Fay, 1892-1948; and Ada May, 1892-1924. The family farmed three miles northwest of Summerset.

On March 29th Wilbur left the farm to travel to Indianola. He left instructions for the hired man, George Ashworth to tend the raspberry bushes and then clean up brush. At the noon hour George made improper advances to Mrs. Mason. She resisted and he shot her three times. Margaret said she did not know why he shot her.



**Margaret "Maggie" Vance Mason Age 25**

After receiving the wounds Mrs. Mason seized her baby and ran about a quarter of a mile to a neighbor's farm. Physicians were summoned. George Ashworth was last seen near Linn Grove. A large number of citizens were in pursuit of him, and if caught it was feared he would be lynched.

Several weeks later, April 15, 1894 Margaret died of gunshot wounds at her in-laws farm where she had been recovering. She had suffered agonizing pain for almost three weeks. She leaves four small children and her husband Wilbur.

On Friday afternoon, April 10th a call from Norwalk had been received that George Ashworth had been discovered and would probably be captured. Sheriff Thompson and Clerk Proudfoot left immediately for Ashworth's mother's home.

William Ash, a neighbor, who lives perhaps a half mile east of Mrs. Ashworth, found George in the mow of his barn at noon on Friday. Mr. Ash was throwing hay for his horses when he thought he saw the hay move in another part of the barn, and upon closer investigation he recognized a man's hand under the hay. Hastening out of the barn he told his wife to summon the neighbors and sent his boy to Norwalk for assistance. Mrs. Ashworth was also notified of the discovery of the whereabouts of her son. While arrangements were being made for his capture, Ashworth left the barn; crossed the road into the woods and made for his mother's house. He met his mother, sister and younger brothers in the yard back of the house. After shaking hands with each member of the family, he was asked "Why he shot Mrs. Mason and if he was sorry he did it"?

Bursting into tears, he said, "I'm sorry I did it". He was persuaded to go into the house and give himself up to the authorities but refused to do it. While they were thus engaged in conversation a party of six, headed by his brother John asked him to surrender. Breaking away from his sister who had him by the hand, he drew a thirty-eight caliber revolver from his pocket and said, "No". His pursuers halted, not knowing what he might do with the revolver in his desperation, and he walked about forty feet from his mother, turned his back to her, and putting the revolver to his right temple sent a fatal bullet into his head. His body was lifted and placed upon a board and he died without disclosing any reason for his rash act or giving any information as to where he had been since the shooting. He was clad in the same suit which he wore on the day he shot Mrs. Mason. No one will know where he has been hiding or why this tragedy happened.

**WHAT TO TAKE ON A WAGON TRAIN**, List each person was allowed to take on wagon train migrations of about 1845  
From pages 499-500 Wayne County, Kentucky Marriages and Vital Records, Vol. 2 by Jane Baldwin Bork.

Per Person: 150 lbs. flour or hard bread  
25 lbs. bacon, 10 lbs rice, 25 lbs. tea  
1/2 bushel dried peas, 1/2 bushel dried fruit  
2 lbs. soleratus (baking soda), 10 lbs. salt, pepper  
1/2 bushel corn meal, 1/2 bushel corn  
small keg vinegar

Miscellaneous per family: Rifle, ball, powder  
8 to 10 gallon keg for water, 1 axe, 1 hatcher  
1 spade, 2 or 3 augers, 1 hand saw,  
1 whip or cross-cut saw, at least 2 ropes, 1 plow  
mold mallet for driving picket stakes,  
matches carried in corked bottles

Clothing per person: Men- 2 wool shirts, 2 wool undershirts  
Women-2 wool dresses  
Both- 2 pair drawers, 4 pair wool socks  
4 colored handkerchiefs, 1 pair boots & shoes  
broad brimmed hat, poncho

Bedding per person: 1 canvas, 1 blanket, 1 pillow, 1 tent per family

Sewing supplies: (Place in buckskin or stout cloth bag), stout linen thread,  
large needles, thread, bit of bee's wax, buckskin for patches  
few buttons , paper of pins

Personal: 1 comb & brush, 2 toothbrushes, 1 lb castile soap, 1 belt knife

Cooking: baking pan, mess pan-wrought iron or tin, 2 churns-1 sweet milk & 1  
does sour, coffee pot, tin cup with handle, tin plate, knives, coffee mill,  
forks & spoons per person, camp kettle, fry pan, & wooden water bucket

## RECENT WCHS ACQUISITIONS

Mike Rolands— Mike's digital collection of Warren County photos on CDs and DVDs

Michelle Fetters Steen— Her grandfather Mike Fetters' band instruments: drums, sax, etc.

His band played many Saturday nights at St. Marys and other spots.

Richard White— Dick White's Indianola Record Herald newspaper columns that his mother Ruby collected into scrapbooks.

Kristi Porter— Helen Porter's scrapbooks

Michael J. Polson—Many model train items

Marieta Grissom—Phonograph records, bride's wedding dress and groom's suit, shoes, dolls, quilts and miscellaneous.

Rachael Bell—Miscellaneous china, dishes, dolls, etc.

Cynthia Turkle and Dan Clark—A Phaeton horse-drawn buggy with harness and shafts

Jim Dustin—A writing desk and washbasin and stand



## WARREN COUNTY TIDBITS

H.B. Allison reports his first stock sale for the fall season on yesterday for John Rothfus, near Avon in Warren County, Iowa. Ten head of two year steers, light, sold for \$25 per head; 3 head yearling steers, medium \$18 per head; 2 yearling heifers in calf, \$20 per head; 2 spring calves, \$15.50 per head; 1 cow, common, \$23; 1, \$28; 1, \$31; 1 two year old horse colt, \$80; 30 head of sheep, near 9 cents per pound. Corn is a great deal better than was expected. Lots of fields will turn out 30 to 40 bushels per acre. If the farmers will cut up their corn they will have plenty of feed to carry them through the winter. **The Des Moines Register**, August 17, 1889

A storm of wind Thursday afternoon demolished a two-story store building at Lacona, Warren County, Iowa burying in the debris and killing farmer Leonard Wilson, while two boys in the building a short time before are missing and two men were slightly hurt. Other buildings were unroofed. **The Inter Ocean**, Chicago, IL, May 4, 1888

Not Common Trees: Mr. A.J. Duncan of Hartford, Warren County, Iowa brought to the fair leaves and branches of some trees and shrubs not usually grown. The fig he grows successfully in boxes kept in the cellar after the leaves drop in autumn. The pawpaw planted eight or ten years ago has spread until he now has quite a patch. The tulip tree (*Liriodendron*) has proven as hardy with him as the basswood and he prizes it very highly. The beech obtained a number of years ago from central Indiana, has proven hardy, and is a special favorite as a lawn shrub of large size. The persimmon kills back in the top, but always comes again from the stem, and has interest as a reminder of days at the old home. **The Iowa State Register**, Des Moines, IA, September 9, 1888

Although most of the men in the family have entered the service of the United States, E.R. Smith of Ackworth is able to run his saw mill because two feminine members of the family are employed. They lift the slabs as they come from the saw and add them to the large piles of wood. The good slabs are sold and the outside slabs are cut into stove lengths and sold or used by the family.

Mrs. Stanley Smith, daughter-in-law of Mr. Smith and his niece Miss Helen Smith, although neither weigh more than 125 pounds, do not find the work hard.

"Here I was worrying about help", Mr. Smith said, "and I found it in my own family, ", he continued.

The girls are good help. They can not lift as much as the boys when working by themselves but together they can lift good sized slabs. They operate the tractor which runs the saw, they handle the small saw which cuts the wood into stove lengths, and can operate Nancy with the greatest of ease, Nancy is the wench which lifts the large logs on to the carrier which carries the logs to the saw."

Carl E. Smith, son of Mr. Smith, entered the service this summer. Another son, Stanley Smith who also was formerly employed there is now employed at the Wood Bros. Mill in Des Moines. Mrs. Stanley Smith has one brother, John Allen in the service and Helen two brothers. **Indianola Tribune**, November 17, 1943