



October 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 Resin Wilkins
- Page 6 Drape & John Parker
- 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 amazon. 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 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.

A Big THANK YOU!

Warren County Historical Society thanks you for making our 2020 Log Cabin Festival a success. We appreciate garage sale helpers and donors, parade participants, and volunteers who staffed our buildings. We also thank year round volunteers, staff, railroaders and WCHS members. There **will not** be a Volunteer Dinner in November. Sorry.



Parade Chair,
Darlene Lawyer
Social Distancing



Parade Marshall,
Rhonda Crouse
with husband,
John

Parade Winners:
Best of Theme-
Methodist Church
Best Historical-
Overton's Funeral Home
Merchant's Choice-
Indianola Library



President's Corner – October 2020

President Deb Taylor

What a beautiful day for our Log Cabin Day 2020. The parade was a huge up-lifting event. It was fun to hear the bagpipes lead the parade on its route, to see families waving and children filling sacks with candy.



The award for Best of Theme went to the Methodist Church. The award for Best Historical went to Overton Funeral Home with the horse drawn hearse, and Merchants Choice Award went to the Indianola Library. One of my favorites was the Cousin's wagon pulled by a beautifully restored Farmall. The restored wooden wagon was filled with cousins laughing, waving flags and tossing candy. Such a neat family day for everyone. We look forward to what 2021 will have instore for the annual event. Be assured that plans have already started and hopes are high for



the best ever Log Cabin Days 2021.

A very big "Thank You" to the volunteers who helped with greeting and assisting during the open house. If you didn't have a chance to tour the museum, you will be pleasantly surprised at the updates in displays. An attempt was made to freshen and rotate displays to add to everyone's enjoyment. Several displays have been made interactive for our younger guests. You might also have noticed the east side of the museum has been repainted behind the mural. This was necessary due to the peeling paint on that side. A big "Thank You" also goes to the Model Railroad guys who have expanded their hours to match the museums. This allows for more consistency and attracts many visitors to the complex.

If you haven't had a chance to get a copy of the new book, Warren County Women "Her Story", by Linda and Jerry Beatty, you are missing a real treat. They have spent several months of work compiling the biographical stories of over 600 women, complete with over 900 pictures, and wrapped it into a 387 page spiral bound book. This will be your book of choice to curl up and read as the colder weather of winter settles over Iowa. The books are available at the Museum for only \$45 each. What a great Christmas gift!

In 2019 there were 51 accessions and 33 so far in 2020. Many accessions have multiple items listed. Juanita Ott has been entering items into WCHS Past Perfect software since it was purchased about nine years ago. Items recorded are divided into four categories. She has recorded 2,288 accessions, including paper records from earlier years. This is how many items have been cataloged in each category: **Objects**, 4,158; **Photos**, 4,169; **Archive** (journals, letters, scrapbooks, etc.), 2,643; and **Library** (published and copyrighted books), 1,908

As you can see, we are making good progress in getting everything in our collections cataloged, and we frequently find things that we didn't know we had or have no information about their source. Our goal is to be sure all new donations are carefully cataloged as well as continued effort to record other items as we find them so that we can continue to preserve the history of Warren County. Thank you, Juanita, for the many hours spent photographing and entering accessions into Past Perfect.



We will not hold our Annual November Volunteer Dinner this year due to the COVID 19 Virus, but I want to thank all of our wonderful members and volunteers that keep our society moving forward whatever befalls us. We appreciate each one of you.

The WCHS Board wants to wish each of you a safe and fulfilling Holiday Season. We look forward to the end of this pandemic and a bright prosperous New Year.

Toni Rath's grandsons, the Garner twins



Jan Sandy 2020 LCF quilt raffle winner. Thanks to Deb Simpson for creating this beautiful quilt.

WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Membership

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

Name _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

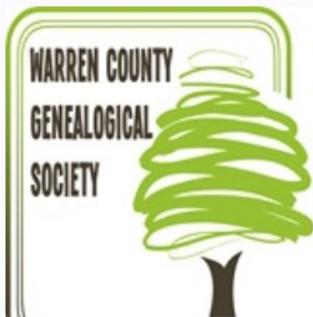
E-mail _____

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

HAVE YOU JOINED or RENEWED your membership?

Could you provide a money or memorial gift? During this Covid-19 period, our ability to raise funds is limited, so it is important for everyone to renew your membership!



INDIVIDUAL UPDATED WARREN COUNTY CEMETERY BOOKS AVAILABLE

The Warren County Genealogical Society has been updating their 1980 Warren County Cemeteries Book. This project has taken more than ten years and should be completed by the end of 2020. Rather than create one large book, WCGS decided to publish each cemetery or group of small cemeteries as a separate smaller book. Each book will contain all the burials listed by rows to make it easier to find the gravestone, if you want to visit. The publication will include an alphabetical index of burials. Whenever possible, it includes inscriptions on the gravestones and additional information about parents and children as found on Findagrave.com.

The various cemetery books have varying prices due to the size and cost for printing. For more information check the WCGS website, www.warrencountygenes.org or send a message to wcs@warrencountygenes.org.

No 2020 November Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Due to COVID 19 Virus

Did You Know that Warren County Historical Society has an Endowment Fund! It was established many years ago for the purpose of providing members and friends the opportunity to make a wide variety of gifts to the Museum with the knowledge that these gifts will be used as designated by the donor in harmony with the current goals of the Society. The Fund is administered by the Endowment Fund Committee, an independent committee appointed by the WCHS Board of Directors.

The EFC is authorized to acquire and retain every kind of property and every kind of investment which persons could choose to donate. This is an excellent tool for larger cash, stock/share, and real estate donations.



Money from an individual retirement account can be donated to charity. What's more, if you've reached the age where you need to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) from your traditional IRAs, you can avoid paying taxes on them by donating that money to a non profit like Warren County Historical Society.

Should you or a family member wish to donate to the WCHS Endowment Fund or have questions, please contact Deb Taylor, WCHS President.



From **The Life of Resin Wilkins**, Des Moines, IA, Jan. 7, 1896

Resin Wilkins, the son of Robert and Eliza (Holmes) Wilkins, was born April 8, 1824 in Belmont County, Ohio. He and friend Mordecai Disney had worked their way to New Orleans on Jan. 7, 1846. They took in the city for 5 days and then boarded a steamer for the mouth of the Red River. They took a skiff and went to the Louisiana side and got a job chopping wood. They heard about the new purchase in the Iowa Territory. In March it got warm and they took a steamer to Cairo, IL. Changed for St. Louis and from there to Muscatine, Iowa. There they stowed away the baggage and struck out on foot for Ft. Des Moines on the Raccoon Forks.

We came by way of Iowa City, Mt. Pleasant, Fairfield, Oskaloosa, then to Middle River where Capt. Allen was commencing to build a saw and grist mill. We got there on the eve of the 10th of April 1846. We found quite a lot of hands, they were eating supper and said they could not keep us that night for want of a place to sleep. We had ate a lunch that afternoon at Uncle Thomas Mitchell's so were not hungry. (In 1844, Thomas Mitchell obtained early access to the Iowa Territory from Captain Allen, commander of Ft. Des Moines. In exchange Mitchell built a bridge over Camp Creek, which was often impassible to wagons traveling from Keokuk and Iowa City to Fort Des Moines. He also built the Apple Grove Inn). We went about 1 1/2 miles west to Simpson Hargis' place. They took us in. (Simpson Hargis bought the land on Scotch Ridge Road for \$1.25 an acre in the 1840s and built a log cabin. He sold that land to William Buxton in 1854 and the Hargis family moved away.)

The next day Hargis showed us vacant land adjoining his claim. We staked off all we wanted for 3 claims for there was 3 of us together then. For when we got to St. Louis we accidentally ran across Ed Hedley, a boy we knew in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. He was an orphan and had wandered off to St. Louis. We persuaded him to go with us as he had no work and no money and hardly clothing.

In the evening after we got our claims staked off we sat down on a knoll in the prairie and talked matters over and drew cuts to see who should go back to Muscatine for our baggage and I was the lucky one. So about sundown there came down the trail two empty wagons on their way back to Burlington. They had moved a man and family by the name of Spurlock to a claim a few miles south of ours so I made a dicker with them to travel back to Burlington. At Burlington I took a steamer to Muscatine, got our goods and got on another steamer to Burlington and there to catch a team loaded with goods for Ft. Des Moines. I got off before Des Moines and walked over to Hargis' and got an ox team and wagon to haul our baggage to our claim.

When I got home they had just buried Hedley. He was buried on the knoll on ground near Carlisle South and was used for cemetery purposes 50 years later. We built a cabin and a blacksmith shop. Disney being a blacksmith got some second hand tools. I got work at Allen's Mill or Parmelee's Mill. Parmelee was manager but Allen paid the expenses.

I worked there on a dam agood deal till some time in the summer or early fall I took ague, first every other day and then

every day and Sunday too. It makes the chills run over me to think of it. Well, I had to retire from work and take to the cabin and shake over the coals every afternoon. In late fall an old galoot they called Dr. Yates and with great flourish he commenced to go for Mr. Ague. His treatment was quinine and water. Yates got all my money and I still had ague.

I went up to the Fort one day and a person named Crews for 50 cents gave me a cure made of Cayenne pepper, Sulphur, and whiskey. Next day at the right time I fixed it up and went according to directions. It was not so bad till the fever came on. Then came the tug of war. I thought I was being boiled, fried and roasted, but I stuck to it and repeated it the next day and the next but the fever kept decreasing and it entirely ceased and never troubled me any more.

Well, I got a bid to work again and in the spring of 1849 hired to Parmelee to work at a little of everything working on the dam and farm and about the saw mill, but along in the fall of that year I hired to James Dowell to work at carpenter work. He had contracted to build a house on Agency Prairie for William Lowery. I got 50 cents a day and board.

I liked the land on this side of the river best and sold my first claim (Warren County) for \$100 and got a claim over on Agency Prairie for \$50 in Section 7-78-23, only one mile from corporate limits of Des Moines but now in the city. I had to pay 1 1/4 dollar per acre, it being river land. I could not buy land warrants like those on even sections. I hadn't much money to work the land and had to improve as best I could. I had a little broke at a time just as I could pay for it. In 1848 I rented Peter Newcomer's farm on shares, he furnished ground, team, seed and board and gave 1/3. I had a good crop of corn and wheat which paid me better than working by the day or month. I got 40 cents for wheat and about 20 cents for corn.

In the meantime I was courting Martha J. Henderson and on July 5, 1849 we were married and soon after went on our claim. I had no team or money but my wife's father gave her a colt and I worked around and got a mate for it. In the spring my father-in-law went to California and since his boys were small I farmed his land. Henderson returned from California in January 1851 and I went back to my claim.

On Nov. 1, 1861 Wilkins enlisted in the Civil War for three years with Co. B, 15th Infantry Regiment of Iowa. He was promoted to full Sergeant on March 27, 1865. Resigned Co. B and was promoted to Full Lieutenant May 24, 1865.

Martha and Resin had eleven children: Lafayette, Thomas, Robert, William, Eliza, James, Adolphus, Mary, Alice, Emma and Charles.

Resin owned 154 acres of well-improved land in Polk County and also a house and lot on the Eastside of Des Moines, He died November 17, 1905 in Polk County, IA.

Purchase New Book for Holiday Gifts! WARREN COUNTY WOMEN, "HER STORY"



WARREN COUNTY WOMEN "HER STORY"

By Jerry and Linda Beatty
Warren County Historical Society
Indianola, Iowa

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the Warren County Historical Society has published a 383 page book with over 900 photos, entitled, **Women of Warren, "Her Story"**. The book summarizes the march toward women's suffrage and offers a biographical sketch of over 600 women who lived in Warren County, Iowa at some time in their lives. The authors, WCHS volunteers, Jerry and Linda Beatty, collected stories and photos from many sources including: books, articles, obituaries, memoirs, scrapbooks, letters, family histories and personal interviews. For two years the public was invited to submit information about women they have known who have made significant contributions to their families and communities.

There have been many outstanding women from Warren County who have performed a variety of tasks such as entertainers, musicians, artists, businesswomen, agriculturists, authors, librarians, gardeners, missionaries, faith leaders, athletes, nurses, doctors, members of military service, volunteers, public officials, attorneys, teachers, community activists, volunteers and homemakers. The third richest woman in the world, Julia Flesher Koch; oldest woman in U.S. in 2004, Verona Johnson (age 114); the first Lady of the Farm, Ruth Buxton Sayre; and Ilo Browne Wallace, wife of Vice President Henry Wallace were Warren County natives. The book also tells women's stories that have been unreported and underappreciated. Each woman has a story to tell and the authors know that many worthy Warren County women have not been included.

The book may be purchased at WCHS for \$45.00 during regular museum hours: 9-4, Thursdays and 9-Noon, Saturday morning. If you would like to have it mailed at an additional cost of \$7.00, call 515-961-8085 or E-mail contact@warrencountyhistory.org. It can also be purchased at Pageturners Bookstore, 101 East Salem, Indianola.

SANDYVILLE SCHOOL ADVERTISING SCREEN RETURNS TO WCHS

In 2018 while at the WCHS, John Parker Sr., sign painting restorer, was asked to look at the large advertising drape hanging behind the stage. The drape was painted in the late 1930s and had been used in the Sandyville School. As he studied it and became more familiar with its condition, many questions and curiosities popped into his mind.

He found it interesting that the beautiful mural in the center of the drape depicted a mountain/lake scene rather than something pertaining to a scene of rural life in central Iowa.

The thirty-one plus advertisements painted in “frames” around the mural were in themselves an extension of how commerce operated at this point in time. Note the wording on ads: Harlan Lumber phone #1, Orr & Son Furniture & Funeral Directors (in the 1800s and early 1900s furniture stores often made wooden coffins and helped with burials), Hyde’s Service Store (grocery precursor to Hy Vee) and many more.

John researched how this drape may have come to be and found that at the time one could contact a scenic painting company in Omaha, NE and they would paint the generic center mural, the blue imitation fabric background and gold frames to hold advertisements. The enterprising individual or group purchasing the drape would have sold the most prestigious spot on the drape to a well established local business. Harford Carlisle Savings Bank is painted on the lake in this case. The remaining ads were sold to surrounding businesses within just a few miles from where the drape would hang. The actual local ad information was hand lettered probably by a local sign painter. We do not know who this might have been.

When Mr. Parker was asked if the drape could be restored to prolong its life, he remembers thinking that this type of project could result in a lot of work. The condition was fragile, the size was large (10 ft. by 16 ft.), very dirty and deteriorating with much of the canvas fabric missing even the base coat of paint. His answer to restoration was yes it could be stabilized and repaired. WCHS asked if he would be willing to work on this and give them a cost estimate. Always up to a new challenge, John said yes. The four Warren County Quester groups raised money and received a matching grant to cover the cost of renovation.

Parker hoped to work on the drape at WCHS. He found this nearly impossible because the canvas hung four inches from the wall and lighting was a problem. Scaffolding only allowed him to work in a small section at a time. With the help of his sons, they removed the drape and installed it onto a temporary easel built in his studio. With conditions much improved he was able to work in stages allowing for drying times on different sections. First he cleaned the drape, always taking great care to preserve any areas possible. The majority of the drape has been overpainted. Carefully applying thinned Japan Colors allowed the original lettering to come through revealing a ghost image for him to follow. Sign lettering is like handwriting, no two alike. He had to get a feel for the way the original painter did the lettering and the little quirks used. John feels the original sign painter may have worked under poor conditions such as lighting, heat or cold, poor eyesight or even poor health. The sign painter most likely wasn't paid a great amount, possibility as little as 25 cents or so per ad. Minimum wage at the time was 30 cents per hour if you could find a job.

On October 8, 2020 the drape was reinstalled on “L” brackets fastened securely to the metal framework of the museum. The restored drape looks like new and is beautiful thanks to John’s many hours of artistic labor. Visit us to view this piece of Warren County history.





John Parker



WARREN COUNTY TIDBITS

Jan. 4, 1913, **DM Register**-Indianola, IA, Jan. 3 Special: The Simpson College basketball team christened the new Hopper gymnasium here tonight by trouncing the State University of Iowa quintette by the decisive score of 25 to 14. The Hawkeyes were completely outclassed, although the game would have been closer had the visitors shown a better eye for the basket.

The same weakness of failing to negotiate field goals, which made the proteges of Coach Thomas easy prey for Highland Park College, Ottumwa and Des Moines YMCA teams, was responsible for their defeat in the final game of their holiday trip.

Both fives played a fast game with Graves of Simpson and Captain Berry of Iowa playing the stellar roles. The veteran forward worked the "seven" combination with deadly effect against the visitors, tallying seven goals from the floor and popping in seven more from the foul line. Berry threw four free throws and two field goals in addition to holding his opponent scoreless. Malden played hard, but was unable to keep Graves from piling up the points.

Coach Hal Iddings made but one substitution while Coach Thomas sent a trio of Hawkeye substitutes to the rescue to no avail, although Lee and Trexel each managed to connect once with the basket.

Captain Sauer, Simpson's reliable center was in poor physical condition tonight, but stuck courageously throughout the contest against his heavier opponents. Slocum excelled for Simpson on defense.

Sept. 11, 1938, **DM Register**-Did you ever see a Cow Swimming? Indianola Woman Did-From Balky Boat to Hawaiian Harbor. She went to the Hawaiian Islands on a combination cattle and passenger boat-and when she got there, the boat couldn't dock in the harbor.

Hence, Miss Ruth Lautenbach of Indianola had the fun of watching herds of cattle swimming ashore. However, the passengers were more gently treated. Little boats with native boatmen flocked around the ship and took the anxious travelers to land.

Miss Lautenbach visited for a few days in Honolulu and then went to Pepeekeo on the Isle of Hawaii where she spent the remainder of the summer as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Stewart. Mrs. Stewart is the former Bernadine Downey, a Simpson college classmate of Miss Lautenbach.

While Mr. Stewart was busy managing five sugar plantations, his wife and Miss Lautenbach entered into the social life of the town with zest-and wished for a volcano eruption. It seems that all the residents of Pepeekeo which is safely distant from the lava flows really enjoy the eruptions because they bring a lot of people to the city-and new blood means parties.

Dr. and Mrs. C.N. Burrows of Indianola parked their car on the street in New York City and the former went on an errand.

Mrs. Burrows tired of motoring, got out of the car to stretch and look at the tall building. Suddenly a young man came up to her, glanced at the car license plate and said, "How long does it take to get to Iowa from New York?"

Mrs. Burrows said that she and her husband had not come directly to the nation's biggest metropolis, but hazarded a guess as to how long such a trip would take.

The young man said, "Well, I just wondered because I'm going to a school in Iowa this winter."

"Where are you going?" asked Mrs. Burrows.

"To Simpson College in Indianola." was the answer.

The boy, when he arrives, already has two fast friends among the faculty, for Dr. Burrows is dean of men at Simpson.

Aug. 31, 1924, **DM Register**. Descending upon 17 residences in Spring Hill, IA, shortly before noon yesterday, a raiding party made up of federal, state and county officers, after confiscating over 1,300 quart bottles of beer, 12 huge barrels of beer mash, hundreds of gallons of moonshine whisky and demolishing a still, took 12 alleged violators of the prohibition laws into custody.

The squadron of the law enforcers arrived in Spring Hill in a body after having traveled the twenty miles overland in a fleet of automobiles.

As the officers started the return journey to Des Moines with their dozen prisoners, R.A. Adams, federal prohibition agent, spied Silvio Colombi, alleged bootlegger king of Warren County and whom officers asserted has run a dive in Spring Hill for the last six months which is known to its habitués as "Toad's Hell Hole."

Colombi, according to Adams, recognized him soon after he had alighted from his machine, and immediately stepped back in to his car and started to try a get away.

Adams called him to halt but Colombi ignored the command. Getting alongside him, Adams nearly forced Colombi into the ditch. Drawing his revolver, the prohibition agent captured him. When Colombi was searched, more than \$700 was found in his wallet.



Nile Graves, Jan. 19, 1913 Des Moines Register. Later he played semi-professional basketball