



March 2021

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

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WCHS Museum Open

Small Group Rental by Appointment



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.

No WCHS General Meetings until further notice. Please wear a mask when you visit.

PROPOSED WCHS OFFICERS FOR 2021

President- Deb Larrison
1st Vice President- Toni Rath
2nd Vice President- Linda Beatty
Secretary- Juanita Ott
Treasurer- Judy McClymond
Trustee- Susan Graeser

There will not be a WCHS Annual Meeting in March due to the COVID Virus. We are asking that you mail or drop off your 2021 WCHS Officer Ballot by April 5th.

SAVE GARAGE SALE ITEMS TO DONATE IN JUNE



8:00 am to 3:00 pm - WEAR MASKS - SOCIAL DISTANCE

Enter Northwest Door — Exit Southwest Door

Drop-off sale donations:

Thursdays 9 to 4 & Saturdays 9 to Noon

June 10th & 11th 9 to 4



WCHS BALLOT FOR 2021 OFFICER

Please vote for one per office, clip and return to WCHS, Box 256, Indianola, IA 50125

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. President | <input type="radio"/> Deb Larrison | <input type="radio"/> _____ |
| 2. 1st Vice Pres. | <input type="radio"/> Toni Rath | <input type="radio"/> _____ |
| 3. 2nd Vice Pre | <input type="radio"/> Linda Beatty | <input type="radio"/> _____ |
| 4. Secretary | <input type="radio"/> Juanita Ott | <input type="radio"/> _____ |
| 5. Treasurer | <input type="radio"/> Judy McClymond | <input type="radio"/> _____ |
| 6. Trustee | <input type="radio"/> Susan Graeser | <input type="radio"/> _____ |

If you wish to choose a different candidate, write in their name and mark the correct circle.

Presidents Corner – October 2020

Can you believe it is already March. After a year of being tormented with COVID worries and illness, cold and sometimes violent weather, cancelled holidays, etc., we are finally seeing light at the end of the tunnel. The days are getting longer, the sun shining, and folks are getting scheduled for their vaccinations. Spring is definitely around the corner. Most usually, spring would bring WCHS's annual meeting. Until we all feel safe, the board has decided to skip the face to face meeting for everyone's health concerns. The most important point of business from the meeting would be the appointment of 2021 Board Officers. The current board would like to propose the following appointments:

2021 President- Deb Larrison (Deb has been a volunteer at the museum for many years. She is very energetic, faithful, trustworthy, talented, and just a real nice person to call friend. Many of you have seen her serving meals at the 2019 Log Cabin Days and Appreciation dinner, reorganizing booths and the library.)

1st Vice President – Annette Rath (Tony has been a faithful volunteer for several years. She is responsible for entering all the obituaries into our system and our go to for copier issues. She also is a very trustworthy, responsible, hardworking person to call friend.)

2nd Vice President – Linda Beatty (Our newsletter editor, librarian, author, and historian. Most of you know Linda and we are thrilled to have her serve on the board again this term.)

Treasurer – Judy McClymond (Having served in this position for several years we are thankful to have her willing to continue in the position. She not only serves this position but has redone several of the museum booths and faithfully helps out where ever needed.)

Secretary – Juanita Ott (Juanita carries a heavy load for the museum, making sure donations are entered into the “Past Perfect” system, keeping up with correspondence, writing for the Indianola Magazine, tackling computer issues, and a host of other tasks. We appreciate that she is willing to serve in this position again.)

Board of Trustees- Dwight McCormick, Dan Porter, Dave Grissom, Don Sandy and new this year is Susan Graeser. (For years Susan loyally works to make the flower beds and landscaping top notch and weed free. She also has organized several of the museum booths and is an expert researcher on museum artifacts.)

Past President- Well, that's me. My plate has filled with responsibilities, but I do love the museum and will remain active in assisting the new board, researching, grant writing, and helping out whenever and however needed.

This is an awesome group of people to have leading the WCHS. I look forward to what the future brings. Of course, the future will be greatly determined by you, as members. Volunteers are always needed for anything from dusting to researching. Financial donations allow for maintenance and repairs. Just sharing with friends and neighbors about how nice the museum is, and how beneficial to the community, helps tremendously.

WCHS 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

Mail check: Warren County Historical Society, Box 256, Indianola, IA 50125

or PayPal at our website: www.warrencountvhistory.org

**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!**

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 WCHS.

WCHS Library

As most of you already know, Warren County Historical Society has an extensive collection of books, documents and family histories in their library at the museum. We are so thankful for the continued donations to this library. Both local and out of state researchers, genealogists, historians, and fact seekers use this information regularly. The collection has grown over the last few years and we encourage everyone to stop in and see the many additions.

In 2008 Dwight McCormick created a program to digitize our Warren County obituaries and in 2009 Janice Dittmer began updating notebooks with hardcopies of obituaries by year and also entered them into our computer. When Janice retired several years ago, Toni Rath has taken over this task. Thanks to Dwight (his program and help digitizing when needed), Janice and Toni over 51, 000 Warren County obituaries have been entered and are available for your use.

The continued growth of our library leaves us with a small issue – space. Enlarging the library is cost prohibitive at this point, but a better storage configuration and shelving space will help immensely. The shelving unit needed will cost about \$1,400 and allow for easier access to records and some expansion. A memorial has already been pledged toward the project, but additional funds are still needed. Would you please consider a donation toward this project? A check or cash gift can be sent to: WCHS at PO Box 256; Indianola IA 50125 We want to thank you in advance for your support and encouragement in making the library a top notch resource for all to use.



What is it?

Can you tell us about these machines used in banking? Name of machine, when used, purpose, or did you use one and can show us how it works? Call or drop by.



W. Allen Heiny and Newton Reed , Union Twp., Lived in Log Cabins in Early Days

By Marva T. Mosler



Beech pioneers, W. Allen Heiny and Newton Reed lived in log cabins during the early part of their childhood. Asher Wesley Freel, pioneer, lived over the edge of Union Township in Richland Township.

Mr. Heiny was born July 27, 1855. His father, George W. Heiny, moved to a farm 3/4 mile north of Sandyville in 1857 and there lived in a prairie log cabin with his five sons and two daughters. The stage coaches passed through on their trips from Indianola to Knoxville. Squire Burgess lived on the farm now owned by Bert Spurgin, a 1/4 mile east of Sandyville, where the old stage coach drivers put up for the night, fed and rested their horses before starting the next lap of their journey.

One of the first houses built in Sandyville was the old frame building recently moved by Ned E. Spurgin farther back from highway 92, and which he remodeled into a hay , grain and stock barn. This old house was built by Jeremiah Sandy, Sr., who deeded the land for the town of Sandyville and for whom the town was named. He was the grandfather of Mrs. W.A. Heiny, who was Emma E. Sandy, daughter of Jeremiah Sandy, known as Jerry Sandy. Mrs. Heiny was born in this house her grandfather built. She died in Beech April 10, 1919.

Mr. Heiny recalls some of the early events that happened when he was a small boy. He went with his father to a “speaking” at the schoolhouse in Sandyville. ‘Twas at night in the summertime and he fell asleep. After the meeting was over the father went home thinking Allen was with the other boys and never missed him until the mother inquired about him. A quick check up told them Allen was not with the boys.

The father immediately started back to town. As he neared the cemetery he saw the lad coming. Allen had awakened and with much difficulty had opened a window, let himself out and started for home. He well remembers how he dreaded the trip past the cemetery and was as happy as as only a small boy could be when he saw his father coming , knowing full well, cemetery ghosts would be much easier faced with a father along.

Mr. Heiny remembers that always when the ministers of those days made an announcement for an evening meeting it was like this: “Church will begin at early candle lighting time”. Never a specified time given. The first teacher he remembers is Mr. Bodkin.

Neighbors to the George Heiny family were William Sandy and Joseph Sandy, brothers of Jeremiah Sandy, Sr. Another brother, Ephraim, volunteered and went to the war and died.

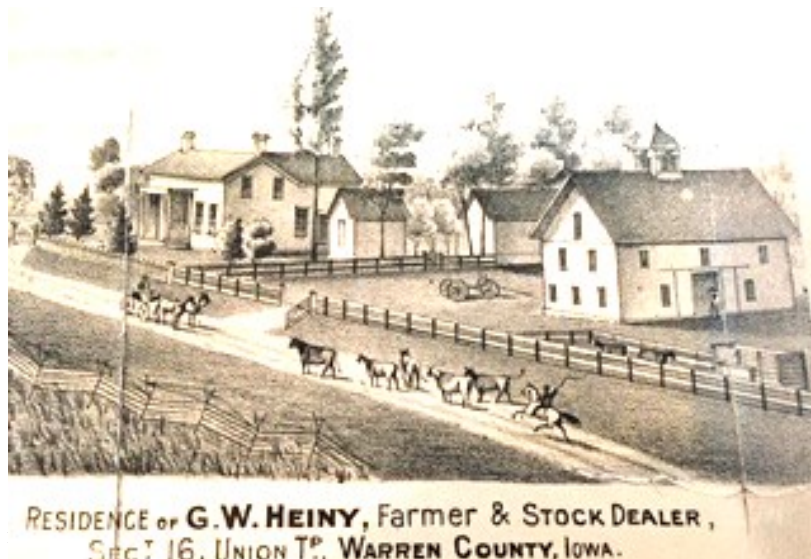
There was a saw and grist mill 2 1/2 miles north of Sandyville on South River, operated by brothers Normus and Charlie Carpenter. Normus was father of Jerome Carpenter and grandfather of George Carpenter of Beech and Arthur Carpenter of Sandyville.

In those days buggies were a luxury. At the 4th of July celebration in Palmyra Mr. Heiny recalls there were only two buggies, one, the first ever seen in this community, owned by John Bare and it was quite a fine one; the other an old one owned by Mr. Heiny’s father.

Before elections, political rallies with their speakers of the day were held. There was great celebrating, fist fights and drinking were not uncommon. A flag would be hoisted 100 feet in the air.

Newton Reed was born in Ohio in 1850 and came to Union Twp., Warren County, Iowa in 1855. He remembers the trip and good times kids had exercising. The exercising consisted of running along the wagon drawn by old Bill and Baldy with the dog, Ring, a member of the outfit.

His father, Zadok Reed, entered 160 acres of land at \$2.25 per acre. Here a one room log cabin with a lean-to was built, and the Reed family of 3 girls and 2 boys lived with their parents. The bark was peeled



RESIDENCE of G.W. HEINY, Farmer & STOCK DEALER ,
SEC: 16, UNION T^c. WARREN COUNTY, IOWA.

from linden trees and used to cover the ceiling of the log cabin. The beds were made by boring a hole on the side of the wall and inserting a pole at the head and the foot which rested on a post. On this a floor was made and a mattress of straw and shucks was placed.

Grain was cut with a cradle and raked and bound by hand. There were few oats and only small acreages of wheat. Prairie grass was cut for hay and all the work was done by hand.

Mr. Reed probably holds a record that no one else in the county can claim, that of getting the most whippings in the shortest time. After a tip from the granddaughter, Mrs. Eva Sinnard Rodda, with whom he makes his home, this reporter asked Mr. Reed if this was true that he got 11 whippings in ten days, when a little shaver in school.

With a twinkle in his eye and a low chuckle, Newton replied he really did receive that many whippings in that length of time, but if they had been a little harder, they would have been more effective. There were many boys and girls in school in those days. Attendance reached the 50 mark easily. A Mr. McNeice was his first teacher.

Neighbors to the Reeds were Tom Sinnard, father to Taylor Sinnard and grandfather to Jerry and Alva Sinnard, now residents of Beech; Levi Spurgin, father of Commodore Spurgin and Ned and Bert Spurgin of Beech, Daniel Davidson, father of Mrs. Julia Young of Beech; Washington Freeman and Elbert Kuhn, captain in the Civil War. Mr. Kuhn owned the farm now in possession of Mrs. Sarah Shuler east of Beech. At one time Mr. Kuhn was sheriff of Warren County. A minister by the name of Bacon who lived on the farm now owned by George Shoemaker, would hold services at the schoolhouse and at the homes of neighbors.

Mr. Reed tells of his brother Jasper and him breaking a team of yearling steers one Sunday while their parents were away from home. They hitched the yearlings to the running gears of a wagon and started driving them. They became frightened and ran away, but by the time the boys finished with them they were broken.

Another incident Mr. Reed recollects was one he and his brother Jasper played on pedestrians using a log to cross Coal Creek. Jasper sawed the foot log almost through from the underside so that the first persons across (who happened to be Jim Davis and James Luther) got a good dunking.

There were no orchards here nor were there nurseries in the state, so Zadak Reed, Henry Lukenbill and David Davidson sent east for young trees and set out the first orchard in this locality.

Newt Reed tells of plowing corn with a single shovel going three times in a row with one horse. He also used an ox team to plow. Several years later the double shovel came into use. The hoe used was wider, heavier and had much longer blade. It had a hickory handle. A forked stick of sumac or other wood was used to pile brush to clear the ground in early days. There were some elk here when the Reeds moved to Iowa. Land abounded with turkey and prairie chickens and in streams there were many fish. Some deer were here too, Wild fruit such as plums, crabapples, blackberries and other berries could be found for picking. Bee trees were cut down for honey and sorghum from cane.

Ascher Freel was born December 31, 1852 in Richland Twp. Mr. Freel was well acquainted with Oliver K. Butler who helped build the first courthouse in Indianola. Later, Mr. Butler had a jewelry store on the east side of the square.

One of Mr. Freel's earliest trips to Indianola was to see a Yankee-Roninson Show and he walked the 8 miles to get there.

The big campaign rally held at the time of Lincoln's election was a memory Mr. Freel liked telling about. A big black bull owned by his uncle James B. Freel, was broken to ride. It was taken to Indianola for the celebration where Jack Barge of Hartford accompanied by Henry Freel, son of James B. Freel, rode the bull around the square with Henry playing his violin all the while. Jack Barge later died in the army. During the interview, we sat on chairs that had seats made of hickory bark he had woven 56 years ago. In May and June this bark was peeled from trees, put in jars of water where it kept indefinitely and used as Mr. Freel could find the time to work at it.

After his marriage, Mr. Freel learned to read from an old testament. during an illness that took 3 years when he was confined to the house with rheumatism and neuralgia. To Miller Wilson he traded two hens for tuition to 10 nights of writing school. This was his start and he kept practicing writing and reading until later in life he became one of the directors of Jenkinsville School (built of buckeye logs). 1st Jenksinsville teacher was Josie Slack. In 1884 the United Brethern Church was built. For years Freel was a road supervisor. Freel, Reed and Heiny all remember the July 4, 1876 storm. The roof was blown off the Freel and Reed log cabins and the Sandyville church was blown down.

Winters were severe when snow fell deep enough to cover the rail fences and all that could be seen were the stakes. It would thaw and freeze so hard that teams, wagons and sleds were driven over the top of these fences. It would be bitter cold. Water was carried from springs. Later was the open well with the windlass, then the old wooden pump came into use.

Map from *Des Moines Tribune*, Jan. 23, 1939. New Route Highway 92 which crosses Iowa from La Moille, IL to North Platte, NE.



Iowa Highway 92 was designated on February 1, 1939, replacing the former Iowa Highway 2 in its entirety. Iowa 92's designation created a continuous Highway 92 from North Platte, Nebraska to La Moille, Illinois.

A 1939 Des Moines Register reported, "It will be the shortest, fastest and safest route between Chicago and Council Bluffs and Omaha. For the present, transcontinental traffic will leave this route 110 miles west of Omaha, where it intersects federal road # 30, the Lincoln Highway, and follows the latter on to Cheyenne, WY. This highway will save considerable time.

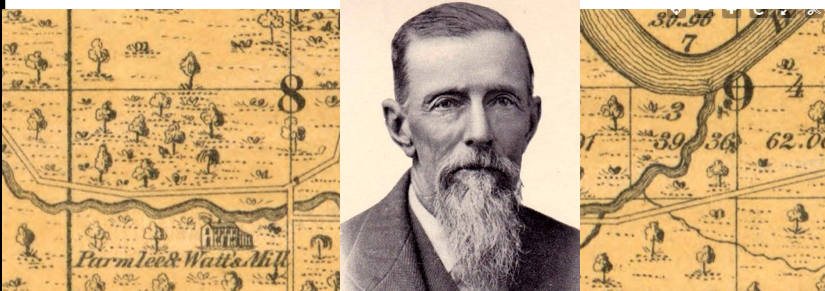
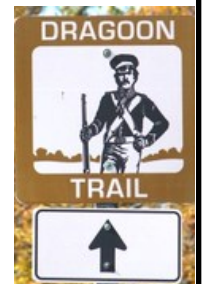


1718 Guillaume Delisle map, show locations of the Ioway (Aiaouez au Pauotez), the Omaha (Maha), the Otoe (Octotata), the Kaw (Cansez) and the main voyager trail (Chemin des voyageurs). From Library of Congress

WHO LIVED IN WARREN COUNTY, IOWA IN 1846?

Native Americans, soldiers, people who followed the Dragoons and settled near Ft. Des Moines like John Parmelee and people who arrived early to scout a claim.

Do you have stories or information about these early settlers that you would share with us? Send them to: contact@warrencountyhistory.org and we will print them in our newsletter.



1843 John Denison Parmelee built Parmelee & Watts Mill located on Middle River. It provided lumber for Fort Des Moines.

Lightly armed cavalry soldiers known as Dragoons were early Caucasians that scouted Iowa after the Black Hawk Purchase of 1832 put the area under U.S. control. In the summer of 1835, the Dragoons balzed a trail along the Des Moines River and established outposts from present day Des Moines to Ft. Dodge.

CREATING HISTORY IN WARREN COUNTY, 2021 LCF Theme

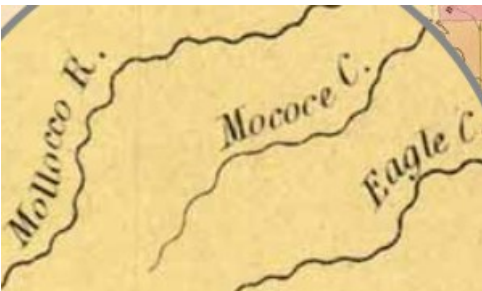


On December 28, 1846, Iowa became the 29th state in the Union when President James K. Polk signed Iowa's admission bill into law. In 2021 Iowa will mark a major milestone: 175 years of statehood. 2021 Log Cabin Festival will honor 175 years (Dodransbicentennial. Dodrans is a Latin contraction of de-quadrans which means "a whole unit less a quarter") of Iowa statehood with the theme, *Creating History in Warren County*.

LCF will be held Saturday, September 25th. Once again we will have a one day event with a morning parade and activities at the museum and our heritage village.

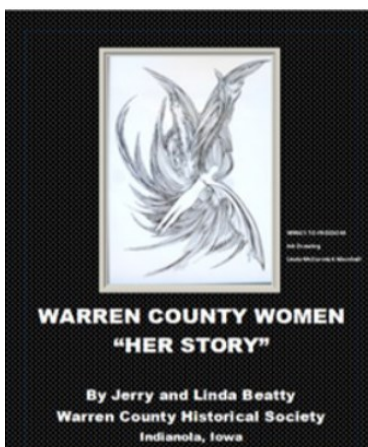
WCHS's emphasis will be on our log cabin, which was built by J. Wayman and donated by Wallace McKee in the 1970s. It was located in section 23, Greenfield Township, southwest of Mt. Olive School (north of 120th and Dakota Streets). Mr. McKee purchased the cabin in early 1960s from Harry Browne and Ilo Browne Wallace (2nd Lady of U.S. and wife to Vice President Henry A. Wallace). WCHS members took the two story log cabin apart, moved it to its new home, and built our current one story cabin.

We are forming a committee to evaluate and make plans to restore our log cabin, which is deteriorating and slowly sinking into the ground. We have some memorial money and Indianola Questers are interested in helping. If you would like to serve on this, **HELP SAVE OUR LOG CABIN**, committee contact us.

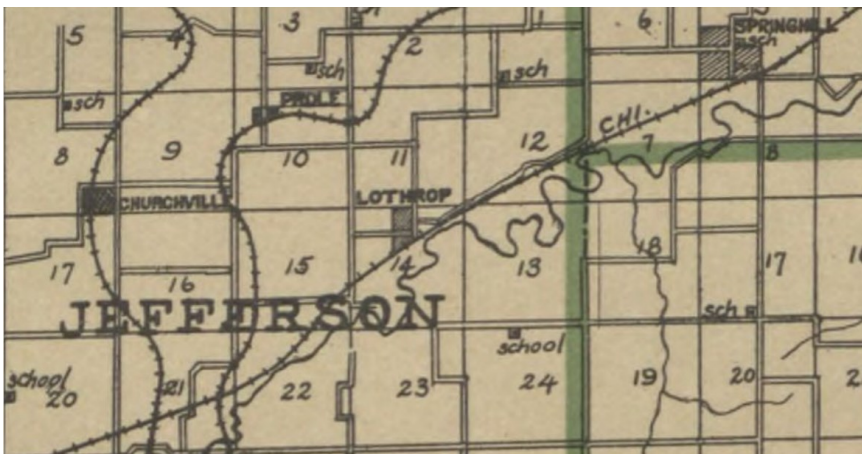


MARCH QUESTION: What are the modern names for these 3 rivers: Mollocco, Mococe Creek and Eagle Creek?

Answer posted at Warren County Historical Society



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.



LOTHROP'S NAMESAKE

Lothrop; located in section 14, Jefferson Township, Warren County, Iowa; was a small railroad station. It was laid out in 1872. The Winterset branch of the Chicago Rock Island & Pacific Railroad (CRB & PRR) was built that year from Summerset Junction through Jefferson Township. The town was named in honor of Colonel Caleb Bailey Lothrop.

Caleb was born in Milton, Vermont on July 10th, 1815. He married Jane Hatch in 1842. They moved to Rock

Island, IL until 1856, when they moved to Fort Des Moines IA. In 1862 they made their final move to Winterset.

In 1859, Col. Lothrop secured his first mail contract from Des Moines to Fort Dodge. In 1862 he took the longer route from Oskaloosa to Council Bluffs. Later he ran a tri-weekly stage from Indianola to Lewis until the route was extended from Pella to Lewis, when this mail line was replaced by the railroad.

In 1866, he pushed west into the Great American Desert, taking the contract from Council Bluffs to Fort Kearney for five months. At the close of this contract he ran stages from De Soto to Winterset in connection with the Rock Island Railroad. When the railroad between Des Moines and Winterset was completed, Col. Lothrop turned his stage line into an omnibus line, and he continued it for thirty years, retiring at the age of eighty-seven. He died September 4, 1905.

The depot stood on the northside of the tracks. The stockyards were west of the depot. The railroad station closed in 1908 and was used as a flag station for a few more years. John Leggett tore down the depot and post office. Some buildings were moved to the new town of Martensdale. The tracks were removed in 1958-59. Fred Reinhardt purchased the town.

The Lothrop Post Office was established December 24, 1872. Lothrop postmaster's were Wesley Banks, Dec. 24, 1872-1873; John L. Leggett, Sept. 30 - 1874; John T. McNaught, Sept. 14, 1893; John L. Leggett, Nov. 30, 1874; and Bert L. Leggett, June 19, 1905. The post office was discontinued on April 2, 1906.

John Leggett had a dry goods store, R. Fred Mack was a grain dealer and first station agent and weigh manager for the railroad, Samuel McClain ran the blacksmith shop and Mr. Kirk ran the saloon.

Pictured: Oswego old stagecoach/post office in Jefferson Township located on the old stagecoach route from Des Moines to Winterset. It was known as the "Seven Mile House" and was in the south section line of section 36 in Jefferson Township, about midway. Granville C. Davison was the postmaster.



Spring Cleaning?

Share your leftovers with WCHS for June 12th & 13th

Garage Sale

Drop off at WCHS on Thursdays 9-4 or Saturdays 9-Noon