



May 2021

## WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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### Inside This Issue

Page 4 Allens & Johnsons  
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Our Civil War book, *Warren County and the Civil War*, sold out soon after it was published. Several have wanted to purchase it. It will be reprinted and available for purchase late summer.



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.



B.

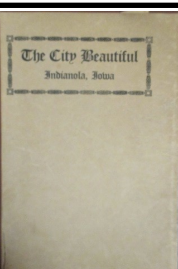


C.

**MAY WHAT IS IT?**

**These are three objects in our museum that are unidentified. Can you name and tell us the purpose for each? If you can answer, send us an explanation or drop by to tell us.**

**They can be viewed in the museum on Thursdays or Saturday.**



Kathi Stanfield has been collecting information and photos of Indianola's older houses. She is compiling a booklet about them. Around 1912, the Simpson Glee Club put together a fundraising booklet about Indianola houses (see photo left). We do not have a copy of this booklet and would be very appreciative if someone would donate a copy to WCHS. Would you look to see if you have a copy? We are also looking for photos and info about houses if you would like to share.

## Presidents Corner – May 2021

Hello. My name is Debbie Larrison your 2021-2022 WCHS President. I'd like to introduce myself to you.



I was born in Des Moines and raised in the Quad Cities. Every summer we came back to my grandmother's farm which has a Carlisle address but is in Richland Township. We helped her with mowing, walking the bean field for weeds, and taking the bales off the hay baler. I also helped with indoor chores but outside was more fun. A few years ago my husband I moved to my Grandmother Elinor Bruce's Century Farm in Warren County. I am a 5th generation owner, returning after the passing of my mother.

I have always worked in the food service industry. For over 37 years I worked at Illini Hospital which became Genesis Health Systems. I am a "Foodie" and love working on my family genealogy. My husband, Rick and I enjoy living on our farm with my two wonderful Corgi "Fur Babies". Our daughter, son-in-law and grand-daughter enjoy visiting us here. We also have a stepson.

I come from a family that collected things and cut clippings from papers, cards, postcards, etc. I guess I found the perfect thing for me. working in the library at WCHS. Our library is in transition as we reorganize and await the arrival of new shelving. Don't be shocked by our chaos, because it will be wonderful when we are done.

I love working at the Warren County Historical Society! There is so much to discover, and I can't get enough. We have a wonderful group of people who care very much about collecting and preserving Warren County's past. We have lots of history and genealogy to share with you. I invite you to visit and become a part of this group. Whatever your interest might be, I'm sure we have something that would peak that interest.



### ANSWER TO MARCH "WHAT IS IT?"

Information from Beverly Dickerson and shared by Darlene Lawyer. This is a Posting Machine. It was used in the late 1940s and was still in use in the 1960s when Beverly quit working at Peoples Trust and Savings Bank. It was used to post deposits and checks to each of the business and personal checking accounts for the bank. The machine was electric but manually a bookkeeper posted the amount of a check using the number keys and touched check, then enter key, or if it was a deposit the bookkeeper posted the amount of the deposit using the number keys and touched deposit, then the enter key. Each bookkeeper was responsible for a certain share of the accounts. Two bookkeepers would post after the closed in the afternoon and the others would post the next morning.

Peoples had one proof machine, which was electric but was operated manually. The bank tellers would take the deposits which the customers brought in each day or the checks which were cashed for cash and place them in a drawer and a bookkeeper would pick them up periodically and brought back to the proof machine for the proof operator to key into the machine.

When running the proof machine, you would key each check in which was automatically added to be sure the total amount of the checks plus the cash (if there had been cash, which was kept with the teller) was the same as the customer had written on the deposit slip.

When running the proof machine, each check was sorted according to the key you touched sending the check out of town, to Warren County Bank (which was the only other bank in Indianola at this time), or to another compartment for Peoples Trust and Savings Bank for the bookkeeper to sort and post to the customer's ledger sheet using the posting machine. These ledger sheets had a magnetic strip on one side which retained the information posted to the account.

At the end of the day, the proof machine was closed out and a total of all Peoples checks, Warren County Bank, out of town banks, etc. were printed. Therefore after the days postings were completed to the various accounts, they were added and must balance to the amount compiled by the proof machine. If you were off a penny, everyone checked the checks and deposits to find the error, then made the correction.

The checks which were run for Warren County Bank were taken to their bank, and they wrote Peoples a check for the total amount of that days checks. At the end of the month each of the accounts were run and mailed to the customers for them to reconcile their check books. In 2021 these bank procedures are quite different.

## 2021 SHORTENED 5th GRADE PIONEER SCHOOL



Because of COVID 19 we did not have Pioneer School in 2020 and did not expect to have it in 2021. Thanks to Juanita Ott's quick thinking and organizing about 3 weeks ago, we once again had 5th Grade voices and energy at WCHS in May. She had heard the elementary schools were able to have a trip. This was short notice to the schools and us. So we held school from 10:00 to 1:00 (in the past it was 8:30 to 2:30). As you can see the children wore masks. 2020 and 2021 are years to remember.





## SUSAN GRAESER SHARES WARREN COUNTY PIONEER STORY

**Will you share your Warren  
County Pioneer Family Story?**

Whitley Allen (March 3, 1803-Aug. 22, 1877) was the son of William B. Allen and Sally Burns and in 1847 moved to Warren County. William, a gunsmith and locksmith, made mill stones, and erected mills.

Whitley married Dec. 1, 1824 Judy Persinger and Sarah Little Dec. 1, 1859 in Madison County, IA. Whitley lived in a Warren County cabin, near where he started Linn Grove Cemetery and Linn Grove Methodist Episcopal church. He was known as a shouting Methodist and a licensed EXHORTER! Later he moved to Elm Grove in Madison County.

Eliza Allen (1850-1940) was the daughter of Jonathan and MaryAnn Hutchins Allen.



Henry Johnson (1847-1914) was the first white child born 1/2 mile from Lothrop in Jefferson Township, 3 years before township was created. His parents were Lewis and Anna Vance Johnson. Anna died in 1855 and is buried in Webb Cemetery. Henry married Eliza Allen Dec. 28, 1879. He farmed and had a bar.

Lewis Johnson (born 1813) received a land grant for being in the Missouri Mounted Volunteers. He moved to Jefferson Twp. Warren County, IA in 1847 to claim his 160 acres of land in Sect. 13. He also purchased 80 acres in Sect. 12. Part of this land became Lothrop. He married Anna Vance and had son Henry Johnson. When Ann died he married Nancy Hook. Lewis has 4th great grandchildren still living in Warren County in 2021

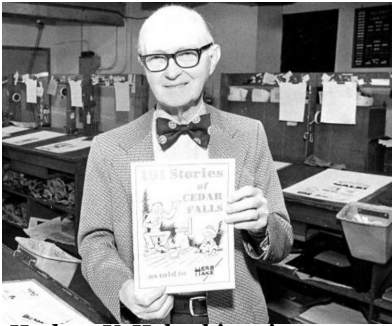


Jonathan Allen (1838-1909) was son of Whitley and Sarah Little Allen. He married Mary Ann Hutchins in Warren County in 1855. She was the girl next door and had come to Sect. 34, Linn Twp., Warren County with her parents in 1850. His family had moved to Warren County in the fall of 1847. He farmed in Sec. 34, Linn Twp. near Lothrop. They had 7 children.



Melvin Hugh Johnson (1895-1987) was the son of Henry Johnson and Eliza Allen. He married Iva Kathryn Thomas (1898-1879) June 20, 1917 and farmed in Greenfield Twp. and the Century Farm in Linn Twp. Section 34. They had 6 children.



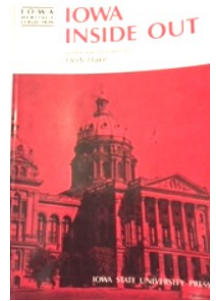


**Herbert V. Hake, historian, cartoonist, UNI Prof, local TV and radio star, is holding a history of Cedar Falls that he wrote and illustrated. His radio and TV shows were *Story Hour*, *Ask the Scientist*, *Landmarks in Iowa History*, and *History with Herb Hake*. He also wrote books. Photo courtesy of the Waterloo Courier**

## SNIPPETS FROM IOWA INSIDE OUT

### Iowa History Book by HERBERT V. HAKE

Picking up *Iowa Inside Out* made me think of childhood and college days at UNI. I loved Herbert Hake's 1950s history shows as a child and was lucky to meet him during college. Perhaps, he is the one to make me love history. Here are some of his thoughts on early Iowa for Iowa's 175th birthday.



**IOWAY or IOWA** In 1834 three companies of dragoons were sent to Iowa under Lt. Col. Stephen E. Kearney. In June 1835 he was asked to explore the Des Moines River to the Raccoon Fork. He then sent Lt. Albert Lea north on the Des Moines River to find if it was navigable. The trip took 3 months and 1100 miles and the waterways were found to be shallow. Then Kearney established the 1st Fort Des Moines.

Albert Lea decided to write a 53 page book, *Notes on the Wisconsin Territory: Particularly with Reference to the Iowa District*, about his travels. This is the 1st time the word Iowa had appeared in print. He wrote, "...from the extent and beauty of the

Iowa river, which runs centrally through the District and gives character to most of it, the name of that stream, being both euphonious and appropriate has been given to the district itself." He didn't explain how the stream got its name but it is thought the river was called Iowa because the Ioway Native Americans had lived on its banks in early times

A few years after the book had been published, Lea said it should have been spelled Ioway because that is how he heard it pronounced. His second thoughts were too late, Iowa had become part of the English language.

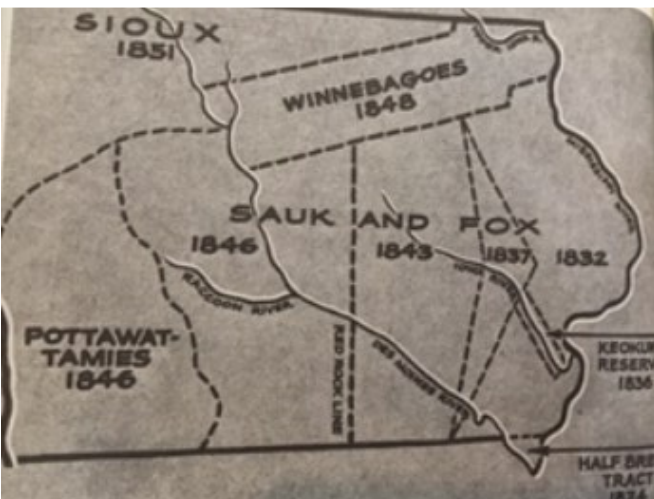
**RED ROCK LINE** There are red rock bluffs on the Des Moines River about 7 miles north of Knoxville. These were chosen as a boundary because the Sauk and Fox knew the area well. The Sauk and Fox agreed that they would move west of this north/south line these bluffs by May 1843. Then they were to be out of the rest of the Iowa Territory by Oct. 11, 1845.

Settlers crowded into the vacated area so rapidly Dragoons had to patrol the Red Rock Line before the specified date. People slipped across our county border to study the land and picked sites for homesteads. They believed the old pioneer maxim, "Git a plenty while yer gittin' and git the best!" So if your relatives staked their claim before October 11th they crossed early.

On Oct. 11, 1845 men in covered wagons, buggies and on horseback found positions along the line and waited for midnight when guns were fired signaling the race for new land. An early Marion County History describes this eye witness. As it neared midnight, settler after settler took his place on the border with his sharpened stakes and a lantern or blazing torch. Precisely at midnight, there were loud reports of firearms which announced that the empire of the red man had ended forever. Answering reports rang for miles around, and all understood that civilization had commenced in central Iowa..."

**HOW MANY COUNTIES** In 1846 Iowa had 44 counties, 1st General Assembly made 51 counties, the 1851 3rd General Assembly made 101 counties and a later General Assembly combined Risley and Yell counties into one Webster County and made Bancroft and Kossuth into one county, Kossuth. We finally have our 99 counties.

### Native American Iowa Locations



### IOWA BECOMES A STATE ( Not Easily)

1840-Two years after territory established, 42,000 pop.  
1st vote for statehood **937 YES** to 2907 NO

1st Monday in August 1842 Vote for Constitutional Convention **4,129 YES** to 6,825 NO

October 1844-72 men meet in Iowa City to write Iowa Constitution

August 5, 1846- 9,492 YES to **9,036 NO** This thin margin vote occurred after the western boundary compromise

**Iowa statehood granted December 28, 1946**

**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.

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.



**Greenbush** was located in the southeast corner of Sect. 31 and northeast quarter of the northwest quarter, NE 1/4 NW 14, of Sect. 31 Greenfield Township range 24, Warren County, Iowa. It was one of the larger communities during the settlement of early Warren County. Early, it served as a military encampment.



Between 1846 and 1849, Daniel R. Perkins homesteaded 280 acres in this area. On September 4, 1851 Greenbush was surveyed by S.L. Burlingame. John Jones Perkins platted the Greenbush community. It consisted of four streets running east and west named North, State, Main and Camp. All streets with the exception of Main Street were 66 feet wide. Main was 88 1/2 feet wide. Washington, Jefferson and Clay streets ran north and south.

C.B. Jones was postmaster. The Greenbush post office was from 1850 to 1854, and then from 1854 to May 13, 1872 the post office was known as Fort Plain. Then, it was moved to Spring Hill, which was the new town established on the railroad.



**Polk steals Warren's top tier of townships. Making us smaller than Madison and Marion Counties.**

In the 1850s Greenbush was a thriving town and Jesse Liston had a good business as a merchant. A good brick schoolhouse, hotel and other businesses were built. Benjamin Perkins opened the general store and coal business in Greenbush. There was a Methodist Episcopal church at Greenbush.

The top four Warren County Townships, Linn, Greenfield, Allen, and Richland, were known as "The Strip." Political infighting by Polk County Senator Hull, who resided in Polk County right above Warren's Allen Township, caused the Iowa Legislature to give "The Strip" to Polk County Jan. 17, 1846. During this time, Greenbush was part of Polk County.

"The Strip" was returned in 1853, missing 5 miles around the Des Moines River in the northeast corner. Senator Hull added an amendment to steal this area.

On March 14, 1860 a meeting was held at Greenbush to establish a corporation to create the Greenbush Public Burying Grounds and cemetery association was formed. The officers of the Greenbush Cemetery Association were Wm H. Anderson, President, Leftwich Bedwell, Vice President, Benjamin O. Perkins, Secretary, This cemetery is now known as the Webb Cemetery. These early records were destroyed in a fire in the early 1850s.

In 1872 Spring Hill was laid out by Dr. Bevington and William Ashworth. When the railroad came through Spring Hill, the Greenbush families, businesses and the Methodist Church felt the pull toward Spring Hill. This migration to Spring Hill was the end for the town of Greenbush.

Resources: Greenbush and Webb Cemetery information from Edith Conn and Rosemary Hoover; *The History Behind Norwalk's Final Resting Spots*, Melissa Walker, iowalivingmagazines.com /2013/10/09/cemetery-stories-7/

## WARREN COUNTY, IOWA NATURALIZATION PAPERS

March 1862 to September 1906

<u>Applicant Name</u>	<u>County of Origin</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
John Huss	Denmark	May 31, 1865
George Huss	Denmark	July 3, 1865
Charles Harvey	England	August 12, 1865
Thomas Wood	Great Britain	October 9, 1865
John Caddy	Ireland of Great Britain	October 9, 1866
Peter Schooler	Scotland of Great Britain	July 8, 1868
W.P. Walker	England	March 2, 1868
Robert Dickson	Scotland	June 1, 1868
Christian Sherman	Germany	December 14, 1868
Bartholemew Steel	Germany	May 6, 1869
John Hossock	Scotland of Great Britain	March 23, 1869
Alexander Burns	Ireland	July 18, 1869
Daniel Muhrn	Germany	August 17, 1869
Auton Wadle	Bavaria (Saut)	August 28, 1869
William Crawford	Great Britain	August 12, 1870
John Edwards	England	October 27, 1870
J. Denis McCoy	Ireland of Great Britain	November 14, 1870
Benjamin Cooper	Great Britain	May 2, 1871
John Watson	Great Britain	May 25, 1871
Peter Stephens	Denmark	August 16, 1871
Henry Liekhuis	Prussia	February 8, 1872
William Gregg	Ireland	April 29, 1872
Jacob Christian Rapp	Germany	September 21, 1872
Patrick McDonald	Ireland	September 30, 1873
Ole O. Dall	Norway	December 8, 1873
Fredrick Kading	Prussia	May 25, 1874
Jacob Groth	Germany	September 25, 1874
John Pislmer	Germany	September 28, 1874
Barnard Brommel	Germany	December 15, 1874
William Martin	Scotland	February 22, 1875
Charles Kading	Prussia	May 20, 1875



### LOG CABIN RENOVATION?



A COVID 19 masked Bob Davies at last year's LCF.

WCHS' Log Cabin was donated by Wallace McKee in the 1970s and rebuilt by our members as a one story cabin.

It needs a new roof, some log replacement and lots of re-thinking. Its major problem is that it is sinking, sinking into the ground. When it was rebuilt here, rocks were placed on the dirt as the foundation and they have broken up and continue to sink deeper. Previously, we removed the door threshold to get inside. This year we can barely drag the door open.

On Saturday, June 26th at 10:00 am **Our Save WCHS Log Cabin Committee** will meet to begin planning how to renovate our cabin. Mark this date on your calendar and please join us and become a part of this important project. WCHS has set aside some seed money for this committee.

## Warren County Women Reviewed by History Journals

Last fall, to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, the WCHS published a 382-page book, with over 900 pictures, entitled: **Warren County Women "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 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 knew who make significant contributions to their families and communities.

The book highlights the accomplishments of many outstanding Warren County women who performed a variety of tasks as educators, entertainers, musicians, artists, authors, librarians, businesswomen, agriculturalists and gardeners, missionaries and faith leaders, athletes, nurses and military service members, attorneys, physicians, public officials and employees, volunteers, community activists, homemakers, and leaders of various groups and organizations. The third richest woman in the world, Julia Flesher Koch, the oldest woman in America in 2004, Verona Johnston, age 114, the first Lady of the Farm, Ruth Buxton Sayre, and the Second Lady of the United States, Ilo Browne Wallace, wife of Vice President Henry A. Wallace were Warren County natives. The book also shares the stories of many remarkable women that have often gone unreported and underappreciated.

The book was reviewed in the May 2021 issue of the **Iowa History Journal** by William Sherman, who served 35 years as public relations specialist for the Iowa State education Association and currently serves on the Preservation Iowa Executive Board, instrumental in organizing statewide country school preservation conferences. Sherman cited five examples from the book including Sondra Waltz, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher who built a 14-foot square inflatable plastic bubble in the 1970s for her students to study animals and nature; Jan Tinder, an Indianola science teacher, who encouraged talented and gifted students to identify a business (day care center for sick children ) needed in the community, Morgan Halgren, who hosted two popular programs on Iowa Public Television—"Living in Iowa" and "Take One" for 27 years (1978-2005); Anna Siegel, champion whistler, who performed across the country on the Chautauqua circuit; and Belle Babb Mansfield, who taught briefly at Simpson College before becoming the nation's first female lawyer in 1869 and chairing Iowa's first Woman Suffrage Convention at Mount Pleasant, Iowa in 1870. Sherman concluded: "This book is an important contribution to Iowa history. It serves as a model for what could be done by other historical societies."

In the Spring 2021 issue of **The Annals of Iowa**, reviewer Pam Stek, Ph.D., writes: "By focusing on women's lived experiences, this volume takes some positive steps toward filling in the gender gaps left by previous county histories. **Warren County Women "Her Story"** will appeal to local historians and others who wish to gain a better understanding of the many and varied contributions that Iowa women have made to their local communities and the state."

If you haven't already purchased your book, we hope you will stop by the WCHS or Pageturners Bookstore, 101 E. Salem Ave., Indianola and take a look at our book on Warren County women. We are sure you will recognize many of the women featured in the book and perhaps be surprised at the numerous accomplishments of others who you may not know. The book sells for \$45 with all proceeds accruing to the WCHS. Renovation of the old log cabin is one of our projects this year.

## FREE MAIL DELIVERY IN INDIANOLA, February 1, 1909

The free mail delivery system was put in Feb. 1, 1909 under the postmaster, Dr. L.H. Surber. There were 3 carrier districts. When the system was inaugurated, C. S. Steele carried the mail to the southeast section of town, J.A. Clore the west section and E. E. Brasher the north portion. Mr. Steele resigned after one month and H.D. Perry, who had been appointed as substitute carrier, became the regular carrier.

J.A. Clore worked for Uncle Sam five months and then resigned to enter business. He was succeeded by C.C. Richardson. E.E. Brasher carried the mail to the north end till March 1, 1930, taking at that time a job as clerk in the post office.

When the free delivery system was started, Dr. L.H. Surber was postmaster, Edd R. Guthrie, assistant, P.P. Warthen and Miss Maude Fenner, clerk. Clint L. Price succeeded Dr. Surber and John R. Barker succeeded Clint L. Price.

**From: January 29, 1929; Indianola Herald**

## FREE RURAL MAIL DELIVERY

It wasn't until 1896, when Postmaster U.S. Postmaster General William L. Wilson agreed that it was time to test the idea of Rural Free Delivery. Senator John H. Gear recommended that Morning Sun in Louisa County be chosen as the first experimental town in Iowa because Morning Sun, Iowa had an established post office since 1851. Two horseback riders were hired at \$22 to cover three 35 mile routes. They quickly decided to hire a 3rd rider and mapped out 24 mile routes. From the start Nov. 10, 1896 to July 1, 1897, they delivered 46,043 pieces of mail at a cost of \$624.96. By 1903 most states had free rural mail delivery. Warren County Rural Routes were, Ackworth, Jan. 1, 1903; Carlisle, Oct. 1, 1902; Indianola, Nov. 11, 1900, Milo, May 1, 1902; New Virginia, July 1, 1902; and Norwalk, April 1, 1902.