



November 2022

## WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 256 Indianola, IA 50125

Phone-515-961-8085

(Highway 92 West, 1300 West 2nd, turn north into fair grounds, then turn east)

E-mail- [contact@warrencountyhistory.org](mailto:contact@warrencountyhistory.org)

### Inside This Issue

Page 4 Hartford & Richland  
Page 5 WCHS Timeline  
Page 6 City selling lot  
adjacent to WCHS

**THANK YOU**  
**Donors & Volunteers**  
**for a successful**  
**2022**  
**Log Cabin Festival**  
**amazon smile**

1stAmazon 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!**

Want to add your name to our  
2023 Commemorative  
Signature Quilt  
See page 8

**Thank you 2022**  
**WCHS Volunteers!**  
**Give yourselves a pat**  
**on the back for all the**  
**things you made**  
**happen!**



Linda Beatty BODY KANVAS TATTOO INDIANOLA BURGER KING  
BUSY BEE GARDEN CENTER CORNER SUNDRY  
CHUMBLEY'S AUTO CARE, Taylor Caron CRAIN CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC  
CROUSE CAFÉ  
Margie Davis  
DOWNEY TIRE  
PROS  
FIESTA JALA-  
PENOS  
Carmen Hampton  
Karl Haynes Family  
D & J SEWING  
CENTER  
FAREWAY  
Susan Graeser  
ROUTE 65 HARLEY  
- DAVIDSON  
HOUSTON'S ON  
MAIN, Milo  
INDIANOLA A & W INDIANOLA DAIRY QUEEN INDIANOLA HY VEE  
INDIANOLA INDEPENDENT ADVOCATE SUBWAY KELLER'S GARAGE  
Deb Larrison Mary McCormick NAPA AUTO PARTS Juanita Ott  
PAGETURNER'S BOOKSTORE Kristi & Dan Porter Toni Rath Don Sandy  
SHADY OAKS GOLF COURSE Sally Speer SPORTS PAGE Kathi Stanfield  
Kaye Stewart TACO BELL TACO JOHN'S TAMMY'S TAILWAGGERS  
Deb Taylor THEISEN'S FARM & HOME TREASURE'S FINE JEWELRY  
Delores & Don Van Ryswyk VAN WALL POWER SPORTS WALMART



Please visit these businesses and thank them for donating to our 2022  
Log Cabin Festival! When you see these members that donated, thank them.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER NOVEMBER 2022

### Hello, Everyone!

I'd like to thank you for participating in our 49<sup>th</sup> annual Log Cabin Festival! Whether you volunteered or whether you came to help celebrate, it is all of you that truly make our event a success!!!

We are now approaching the time of year where we clean, repair, change out displays, and work on adding material donated by you; the ones who want to help preserve and share our history.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with this endeavor. Winter is the perfect time to find an extra project. Those long months of Jan, Feb, and March could be filled with an experience you never imagined. Come and learn about the rich history that Warren County, and the families that endure here have to share.

At the very least, come visit and see what we have to offer. It is a great experience for the whole family: and who doesn't like to see the model trains? Maybe the experience will ignite a passion for something you didn't expect or even knew existed!

We are open Thurs. 9-4 and Saturdays 9-noon.

As the Holiday Season approaches, we all wish you health and happiness throughout the year.

Deb Larrison  
WCHS President



### TIME TO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR WCHS DUES



## WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

[Membership Form](#)   [New or Renewal](#)

### Your Information

First Name

Last Name

Cell Phone  Work Phone

Email

Membership Fee   **Single** ☐ \$25      **Family** ☐ \$30

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## LCF QUILT WINNER, EVA WILLIAMS

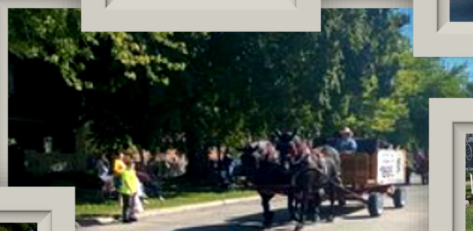


Left to right: Deb Larrison, Eva Williams and Juanita Ott

**THANKS to all who donated, volunteered and attended the 2022 Log Cabin Festival!**



## LCF 2022



Parade Photos from  
Leiloni Royer



## Parade Winners

Historical Best-Indianola  
Library  
Merchant's Choice-City State  
Bank

Best of Theme-Freedom  
Fellowship

## HARTFORD & RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

### December 1880 Indianola Tribune

Warren County's oldest settled township is Richland. Rich in forests and agricultural lands with the Des Moines and South Rivers and located on the Dragoon Trail. It was rich in maple trees providing a large number of maple sugar camps.

Before you reach Harford is the farm of William Myrick, also the quarter section of Eli Coon with a good house and other evidence of good management. Robert McElroy has 120 acres being improved by Reynolds McElroy. H. S. Badgley has 40 acres and A.M. Badgley a small farm. S.R. Cain has a small but good farm with an excellent orchard. Next is the 100 acres of L.P. Creighton with everything ship shape. The house is one of the best in the county and there is a splendid new barn.

Hartford is the oldest town in Warren County. It is few years older than Indianola. It has two general stores that of T.L. Lowe and of J.N. Whetzel selling 10 pounds of sugar for \$1.00 and calico at 5 1/2 cents per yard. Chaney and Seaver have a good business in farm implements and wagons. The members of the firm are both young. L.B. Nunnally has a drug business and notions. The most promising enterprise is perhaps the flour mill operated by C. Shauk with all the modern improvements. Alex Roberts has a good blacksmith shop, and has been in the same place 24 years. With him is G.W. Hurst, a good wagon maker.

The shoemakers are John Savile and Alexander Joyce. The harness maker is M.W. Brasher, a good workman. The town has a pottery owned and operated by W. G. Kurtz. It has a butcher shop in charge of G. W. Pyle, and an excellent dressmaker in the person of Miss Mary Spain. The hotel is kept by an old settler J.C.S. Wasson, who is also the postmaster.

The ills of the town are taken care of by Dr. Dashiell, an old settler and by young Dr. Merritt.

There are four churches: Baptist, Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian and Christian. The Christian is not occupied at this time.

Starting east from Hartford are first the farms of Mrs. Black, a 1/4 section farmed by her son-in-law, George W. Coon, then the 160 acres of Alex Art with good fences and buildings. He raises stock of all kinds but makes a specialty of sheep. We pass on to Squire Guthrie's, who came from, Virginia in 1847. He has 280 acres well improved with a large house and a good barn. The next farm is that of Thomas Pendry, a man of great wealth and his acreage is away up into the hundreds. He is old and suffering from paralysis. A little off the main road circling around through the fields we pass the Robert Pendry farm managed by Asa Putman, then the very fine farm and buildings of County Supervisor, Rawson, who devotes much of his time to buying and shipping stock.

Retracing somewhat we pass the farms of R. Pendry and 300 acre farm of William Brown. We then cross South River to the well cared for farm of M.G. Shook, an old settler. We turn north a little to the Murray settlement where a genial and happy old couple, Edward Murray and wife live and nearby their son Ezra, who farms on a large scale but also buys stock and gets out walnut lumber.

We again visit the small farm of Daniel Viers and recrossing South River across the timber bottom, past Lew Osborne's to the Doc Rawson place farmed by J. I. Rawson. After a brief visit with Mr. Rawson and chat with good-natured John Driscoll, we go on the rented farm occupied by P.G. Hobson. Next the John Bly place and that of

James Woodward, who has an orchard of 1,200 apple trees and sugar camp and on to the 100 acre farm of L.C. Anderson.

After this before reaching Hartford, we get glances of Jacob Smith's 20 acres, 15 acres owned by Dr. Dashiell, A. J. Duncan has about 90 acres and Wesley Spain's 70 acres.

Before the Civil War, Dr. Dashiell was active in the Underground Railroad that moved through Hartford north across the Des Moines River.

**Slack Sorghum Mill**



# WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WHO WE ARE

## Historical Timeline

by Gerald Schimmelpfennig & Linda Beatty

1933, March 1 Indianola Mayor Briggs met with William Buxton III, Ray Sullivan, Bessie Matson Ellis, Lois Hardin, J.S. Hamilton and others to create a historical society

1939, Discouraged group met with well established Madison County Historical Society for help

1942, WCHS acquired fireproof vault of Don Berry to preserve their archives

1963, Organization was reorganized

1964, Aug. 1 Officers elected: Pres. Don Berry, Treas. William Buxton III, Secretary Helen Carpenter

1965, WCHS incorporated with 85 members and met at the Arcade Roomm People's Bank (now Regions)

1967, Purchased Mt. Hope School and moved to Fairview Park. Renovated and furnished it for \$525

1968, Warren County Genealogical Society was established as part of WCHS

1969, 200 members

1970, Given 1873 Sandyville Christian Church. Upon examination the structure was found to be unstable and unmovable

1972, Wallace McKee family gave Wayman's 1850s log cabin and 1st fundraising Log Cabin Days held

1973, Log cabin was moved log by log, reconstructed and furnished. 15 volunteers and 670 hours

1975, 1st Log Cabin Day's Parade and Warren County Fair Board gave WCHS property to construct a museum

1976, Sept. 26 Broke ground for museum, Charles Beam, President; Frank Ford Sr., Museum fundraising Chair; Corwin Hicks, Master of Ceremonies and Carl Hirsch Fair Representative

1980, 60 feet x 120 feet museum built, raised \$200,000 from donations, dinners, memberships, auctions, commemorative plates and quilt raffles.

1981, May 31 Museum dedicated, 600 members

1983, May 1 Sunday grand opening and 100 attend

1984, Pioneer Church built using artifacts from Sandyville Christian Church

1985, July 5th Pioneer Church dedicated

1987, Sept. 27 the Ackworth Post Office and General Store were placed in the donated Warren County Fair Gatekeeper's Cottage that had been moved next to the log cabin. Floyd & Dorothy Freeman were honored as store proprietors

1988, Sept. 25 Machinery Building, 35 feet x 60 feet created to house large equipment

1989, Nov. 29 Carver laundry shack was donated By Godwin Brothers Construction and moved to museum concrete slab at the museum complex

1990, Sept 9 the 35 feet x 30 feet metal George Washington Carver museum was completed. Thanks to Lois & Ed Carty. Ed also wrote a booklet about Carver's time in Indianola

1996, Don & Deloris VanRyswyk give South River Meeting House. It had been moved from Ackworth to William Clarkson Moffitt's farm. In March it moved to WCHS

April 2009, Dwight McCormick got WCHS Website online

2010, March \$800 Tourisn Grant from Indianola Chamber for printing of 1,000 WCHS brochures to be placed around Warren County and Tourism Areas

2010, May Warren County Philanthropic Partnership Grant for \$3,000 and donations from Wayne Dillard and the 3 Barker brothers helped create a ramp and hand rail, making the entrance to the museum and library accessible.

2010, \$2,500 Grant from Iowa Cultural Affairs (SOS) Grant helped provide a computer server

2012, March Juanita Ott with the help of Toni Rath has gotten all accession sheets from past years entered digitally into our system

2013, May Log Cabin arsonist fire set. Lost an original window and several logs were replaced

2013, Aug. Geraldine Barker's great nephews added a ramp to Mt. Hope. Funded by donation from former Mayor Kenneth Smith and wife Florence who had taught at Mt. Hope in Lincoln Township

2013, Indianola purchases Champlin property to WCHS' east

2014, Kathy Shupe King donated outdoor "Privy"

2014, John Parker Sr. paints mural on east museum wall of "Cadence on the Plow" funded by \$2,500 grant from Warren County Philanthropic

2016, May Purchase of searchable digitized Warren County Newspapers funded by Warren County Philanthropic, St. Charles Bank, Phillip's Floors, Norwalk Ready Mix, WCGS, Weinman Ins., Overton Funeral & Anette Rath

2017, Thanks to Susan Graeser, who spends hours planting and landscaping, we have landscaping around the flag on eastside of museum. \$500 grant from Master Gardeners and \$1,700 from Indianola Garden Club

2018, 2 remodeled restrooms, Wheel Chair Lift to basement, archival library shelving, remodel of Carver



### **WCHS TIMELINE Continued**

**Building, and museum roof repair with donation from David Kragaskow. Received gift of shelving and cupboards from old Indianola Carnegie Library from Des Moines Metro Opera.**

**2019, Don Sandy & Butch McClintic rebuilt wooden fence by General Store**

**2019 Warren County gives Courthouse Gazebo to WCHS, to make room for new Courthouse Building**

**2020, John Parker Sr, restored the Sandyville School advertising screen, funded by Warren County Questers with a grant of \$2,718**

**2020, General Joseph Warren Questers have replaced windows, done plaster repair, painted and cleaned Mt. Hope School. Grants came from Preservation Iowa, \$800; The Questers, \$5,000; and Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, \$5,000**

**2021, Elodie Opstad got grant to allow access to additional digitized Warren County Newspapers**

**2021, Dickerson Memorial Bench in front of Mt. Hope, honoring Beverly and William Dickerson**

**2022, Warren County Philanthropic grant of \$14,715 for foundation pillars project to level Log Cabin**

**2022, Dave Grissom is changing the museum and library lights to LED**

**2022, General Joseph Warren Questers purchased authentic window shades for Mt. Hope**

**2022, Inside of Pioneer Church was remodeled with new lighting, wallboard and paint.**

**2022, Wind/hail damage to General Store, Mt. Hope and Pioneer Church got new roofs**



Drawing of Carlisle High School 1918-1993. Donated

### **INDIANOLA CITY LAND, ADJACENT to WCHS' EAST PROPERTY BORDER, FOR SALE**

For many years WCHS has hoped to expand our crowded property that contains eight buildings: Mt. Hope School, General Store, Log Cabin, Pioneer Church, Museum and Historical and Genealogical Research Library, South River Meeting House, George Washington Carver Museum, and Machine Shed.

Our property is landlocked to the west and north by the Warren County Fair and to the south by Highway 92. This leaves one direction for expansion, the east.

For over twenty years the city of Indianola has been seeking a diagonal connection of North J Street and K Street South with a light at Highway 92. In 2012 the city purchased the Champlin property that borders our property to the east and continued to explore making this road, which would come very close to our museum. WCHS has hoped to acquire some of the unused land after the road had been developed.

On October 17, 2022, WCHS was notified by Indianola City Manager Ben Reeves that the city had received an offer from an out of state retailer to purchase the property. We were not aware that the city had abandoned the plan to connect K and J Streets until Mr. Reeves explained that the council had decided this four years ago.

After receiving this news, the WCHS Executive Committee met and elected to make a competitive counter offer for the property in question. Deb Larrison and Deb Taylor showed new comer City Manager Ben Reeves around our property and buildings, when he visited last week.

Thus begins the process of how and who will gain access to ownership of these parcels of land. Warren County Historical Society believes this property is essential to having our own access road/entrance, sufficient parking (currently 3 spots and 1 spot for disabled persons), improve out visibility to the community and the ability to dream of expansion.

This property decision will be made by the Indianola City Council. A public hearing will be held at 7:00 pm, Monday, November 21 at the Indianola City Hall. We will keep you updated as we have new information and events unfold.

## DR. BLAKE, PALMYRA

James David Blake was born in Noble County, Ohio, on November 25, 1838 to Israel David and Elvira Clark Blake. His boyhood was spent on the family farm. He taught school to earn money to attend a four year medical college. He graduated from Marietta College in 1869. On April 9, 1863 he married Hannah E. Kelly in Zanesville, Ohio. The couple had three children—Lula May, Eugene L. and Byron S.

Dr. Blake came to Palmyra in 1870 to begin his physician's practice. There were two physicians here when he came. Blake soon had a good practice that extended many miles into the county. His practice lasted more than 44 years and is one of the longest serving doctors in Warren County.

To Many families Dr. Blake has not only been a physician but family counselor, advisor and friend; he has often written the last will and testament, when all had been done which can be done for a person. He was the prime mover in starting a public library; helped to organize and carry on literary and debating societies for entertainment and instruction of the young people. He was a friend to the public school; for many years he served as secretary of the Palmyra School Board. He abstains from all tobacco products and intoxicating liquors and eliminates the use of intoxicants from his practice as much as possible. He preaches prohibition. His political views usually are in harmony with the Republican Party. He is a member of the Hartford Presbyterian Church and lives the life of one with a strict moral code. He is a member of the Palmyra Lodge 16 I.O.O.F.

In 1899 the family moved into a spacious new house on eight acres in eastern Palmyra. Dr. Blake died on December 27, 1919.



Henry Shaver was born in 1813 in Albany County, New York to Johannes J. and Ann Monfort Shaver and died December 16, 1879. He married Elizabeth Wilson who was born in New Jersey. A son Benjamin was born in Ohio in 1846.

Henry Shaver was an early settler in Liberty Township, Warren County, Iowa, arriving in 1853. At one time, a family was passing through the area in a covered wagon on their way west. Their little girl died near the Shaver farm. The travelers begged permission to bury their daughter on a corner of the farm. Henry and Elizabeth Shaver donated one acre of ground for what became Shaver Cemetery located in the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 6 of Liberty Township

and 2 3/4 miles north of Liberty Center. Both Henry and Elizabeth are buried here.

Henry Shaver enlisted as Sergeant 4th Class on June 13, 1861 at the age of 43. Then he enlisted in Company D, 1st Calvary Regiment Iowa on July 31, 1861 during the Civil War. He was promoted to Full Sergeant 2nd Class on February 14, 1863. He received a disability discharge from Company D on September 21, 1861 in St. Louis, MO. Back home in Warren County, Iowa he helped organize a company of home guards. He was the captain.

The photo above is believed to be Henry Shaver and was donated with Henry's sword that was used by him in battle. Notice the leather belt rigging that was used to carry the sword. In the museum we have commemorative swords but this may be the first that was actually used in fighting. Scott Denning donated these objects and a coin that Henry had carved with an openwork design.



## SIGNATURE QUILT COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS LOG CABIN



Warren County Historical Society in 2023 is going to celebrate the 50th year of the first Log Cabin Days and the Wayman family 1850s Log Cabin gift from Wallace McKee. We are going to make a commemorative "Signature Quilt" as one of our special activities.

Signature quilts became a popular tradition in the mid 1800s. These quilts were especially well kept treasures by their owners. Many signature quilts were gifted to individuals who moved across country as a special remembrance of communities they left. These quilts were also often made by groups to fundraise for a cause.

Our proposed quilt will do both of the above; serve as a remembrance and raise funds. We are asking you to donate \$10.00 to place your name on the quilt. The \$10 will defray costs of creating the quilt and raise funds for WCHS. This quilt will not be sold but be added to our museum quilt collection.

We need you to return the form below by March 1, 2023. For clarity we ask that you print your name as you would like it to appear on the quilt. Each block will contain a single name. Hope you will add your name to our Signature Quilt to be displayed at the 2023 Log Cabin Festival Quilt Show.



### 2023 COMMEMORATIVE LOG CABIN SIGNATURE QUILT

**If you want to have your name embroidered on this quilt, print your name as you would like your name to appear on the quilt and return this form with your donation.**

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

Please print your name as you would like it to appear on quilt

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

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

**Cost \$10.00 purchase price per single signature block**

**March 1, 2023 is last date to get your name on a quilt block for this commemorative quilt.**

**Mail to Warren County Historical Society**

**Box 256**

**Indianola, Iowa 50125**