



WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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May 2010

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SHARE USED PRINTER INK CARTRIDGES

We collect empty computer printer ink cartridges at the museum. We can turn these in and get credit to purchase ink, paper, etc. We would appreciate it you would bring your empty cartridges to the museum to help us.

WCHS LIBRARY NEEDS INFO & PHOTOS

ABOUT: Northwest Warren County - Norwalk, Churchville, Orilla, Cumming, Prole.

We are still looking for Warren County One Room School information.

WCHS Executive Committee will meet Tuesday, June 15 at 1:30 pm at the Warren County Historical Society Museum

WCHS Meeting
Tuesday, May 25
at 7:00 pm

SUPERVISOR KEVIN MIDDLESWART TO BE WCHS GUEST SPEAKER IN MAY

Warren County Supervisor Board President Kevin Middleswart will present the program, Land of Three Rivers, a Historic View of Warren County's Geology and Bridges, Tuesday, May 25 at 7:00 pm at the WCHS Museum.



May 5th, 2010 Kevin authored the Guest Commentary on the Record Herald's Opinion Page. He discussed the challenge we have in creating, maintaining, and repairing Warren County's transportation infrastructure. At our meeting he will give an overview of the Warren County geology which created our many rivers and creeks.



Making Rope

PIONEER SCHOOL

Making Quilt Blocks



2010 Pioneer School Spelling Bee Winners

On Monday, May 17th the third Pioneer School Spelling Bee was held. First Place was Marcus Jobes from Ms. Dittmer's class at Emerson, 2nd Place was Shelby Andersen from Ms. Dittmer's class at Emerson and 3rd Place was Julia Comer from Mrs. Homan's class at Irving. The winning word correctly spelled by Marcus was perimeter.



Thanks to Bill Larson and Carolyn Fellows for volunteering to do our Spelling Bee.

Left to right: Shelby, Marcus and Julia.

"REBECCA CHENOWETH LISTON, A PIONEER IN INDIANOLA, IOWA", Written by Venice Liston, California

Rebecca was a pioneer in Iowa with her husband Jesse Liston. The *History of Warren County, Iowa*, 1879 on page 478 says, "Jesse Liston built the first house on the spot where Indianola now stands, before it was laid out as a town. He took a claim of the land, but soon found that it had been entered by someone else. He therefore removed his house in order to retain it, near the place where Eli Posegate now lives, on west Main street. This was early in 1850."

Rebecca and her husband Jesse had a grocery. They with a few others started the First Methodist Episcopal Church in the Liston's home. It started with seven people in December 1848. By 1900 the Methodist Church had grown to nearly one thousand members.

In 1846 Clarinda Liston was born to Rebecca and Jesse. William Arthur Liston was also born. Clarinda Liston married Thomas T. Anderson who owned *The Indianola Herald Newspaper*. William Arthur Liston was one of the first graduates from Simpson College when it was called Simpson Centenary College in 1872. He then owned and ran a book store on the north side of the square called Liston's Book Store. He sold books to many including many college students who went to Simpson College. William married Sophia E. St. John and together they ran the book store.

When Rebecca's husband Jesse passed on, she was still very much involved with family and church. She moved into her son-in-law Thomas T. Anderson's home. Clarinda Listen Anderson died of heart failure at the age of 48. What a heart-break that must have been for Rebecca. Rebecca stayed with the Thomas T. Anderson family and helped raise her two grandchildren. Her grandchildren were Edgar L. Anderson, an editor for the Atlantic, Iowa newspaper and Eva Rebecca Anderson who married Edward T. Hatfield. Both children were very young when their mother Clarinda died, so Rebecca stepped into help. Rebecca continued to be a part of the Methodist Church. She made frequent visits to her son William A. Liston and wife Sophia. Rebecca died January 23, 1900 quietly in her sleep. She left behind a great legacy in William and Clarinda. Clarinda's great grandson John T. Hatfield is a retired professor in San Diego and the author of a book on religion.

William's great grandson Robert V. Liston, who is now 87 years young, is in good health and is living in California. His three sons are Bill, Jim, and Tom. These three and their wives and grandchildren all live in California. All are self-employed. Bill Liston is working in the entertainment industry. He is doing arranging and orchestrating music for major movies. The last movie was Disney's "The Frog and the Princess". Tom has his own steel drum band and has a CD out called Steel Tropics. Jim Liston owns his own construction company and his wife Venice spends her time researching this marvelous family.

Dennis Nicholson Presents, *Indianola: Ballooning Capital of Iowa*

On Tuesday June 22nd at 7:00 pm at the WCHS Dennis Nicholson will present a program on the new book, *Indianola: Ballooning Capital of Iowa*.

Indianola is home of the National Balloon Museum, begun in 1972; the National Balloon Classic, an annual nine-day balloon rally; and the Balloon Federation of America's national office. This book focuses on the history of ballooning in Indianola, which hosted the U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championships from 1970 to 1988, and the National Balloon Classic from 1989 to the present. This is the story of how Indianola became the ballooning capital of Iowa.

The authors are Becky S. Wigeland, curator, and Dennis D. Nicholson, assistant to the curator at the National Balloon Museum, two of its many volunteers. Becky is a ballooning enthusiast and a retired school teacher. Dennis does much of the graphic artwork for the museum and is a member of the museum board of directors and a retired pastor. of the National Balloon Museum, the authors.

Log Cabin Festival Meeting

Tuesday, June 8th

5:30 pm

Join us if you want to help.

From the Historical Society Library

16,500+! That's the number of Warren County Probate Records that will soon be added to the index list on the WCHS web site. Tab to "Genealogy" and then "Check Indexes". They will join obituaries from 1920-2009 and an assortment of older funeral home records and some other records. You can come to the library to see the originals or write or e-mail to have the material copied and sent to you. This is the work of Cris Nagla, indexer extraordinaire, and her "box of records carrier" Dennis Allen.

Newly catalogued into the library by PastPerfect coordinator Juanita Ott are: copies of photos of the Curl and Kiphart families and the Curl Livery Stable in Lacona donated by Melissa O'Brian; a photo of the McCoy Tire Shop donated by Ruth Hall; "Indianola: Balloon Capital of Iowa" by Dennis Nicholson and Becky Wigeland donated by Linda Beatty; and many previous acquisitions just now being cataloged.

Some of the researchers in the library in the last two months and the subjects of their research are:

Lizbeth Pierce-Sophia and Jonah Close

Moe Wadle-Wadle, Heller, Bauer, and Wachter

Doug Wilson-pictures of coal mines

Melissa O'Brian-John T. and Jennie S. Curl, Wm. H. and Maud Kiphart, Frank Gaudy, O.W. "Jack" Johnson

Jeri Lytton-Scott Felton and Ricky Campbell.

If you have information that connects to their research please let us know. We especially are interested in finding:

An obituary for Ricky Campbell who died in 1957

Information about rural schools in Linn Township and N. E. Warren County and Hoosier Row School

PIONEER SCHOOL HELD IN MAY

A big THANK YOU to more than 60 volunteers who helped staff and prepare for the Indianola 5th Grade and Milo 3rd Grade May Pioneer Schools. The Indianola 5th graders were here May 11—May 14th and the Milo 3rd graders visited May 7th. This event is greeted with enthusiasm by children, parents and volunteers. A few new things were added this year. Instead of crocheting the students learned to finger crochet with yarn. It was so popular that both boys and girls continued to do it the next day at their elementary school. Dwight McCormick taught them to make rope and one person in each section got to keep the newly made rope. At the George Washington Carver Building we printed stationery and bookmarks with carved sweet potatoes. This was not the best year for outside fun since it was cold and rainy all but one day.

From the Indianola Record Herald page two, July 6, 1981

Gladys Black, *Wings Over Iowa*

If you catch a glimpse of a tiny 4-inch-long bird with blue-gray upper parts, white underneath, white outer feathers on the long twitchy tail and buzzy insect-like song, then you have seen a Blue-gray Gnat Catcher. In the south it is often called the 'Little Mockingbird'.

SIX CHILDREN DIED IN SIXTEEN DAYS

A Pioneer Tragedy on Hoosier Row

Six little gravestones in Hewitt Cemetery in White Oak Township in the Hoosier Row Neighborhood tell the story of a tragedy of the days of the Civil War. Not many living in Hoosier Row today remember the W. A. Eberman family, although they were well known to the older residents. Mr. Eberman died in 1904 and Mrs. Eberman in 1888.

The story of the Eberman children was told to the writer by Dr. W. M. Park several years ago. Dr. Park was a boy in the neighborhood in 1863 and remembered well that diphtheria came to the Eberman family and took six children from September 9 to October 8, 1863.

The disease was so dreaded then the neighbors were afraid to go to the help of the stricken family. The father and mother suffered alone, nursing and burying six little ones in sixteen days. The advance in medical science is clearly illustrated, comparing the scourge of 1863 to the present when a shot of diphtheria antitoxin nips and epidemic in the bud and few deaths occur from diphtheria. The family stone gives the names, dates of birth and death of the six children as follows: Mary B., born April 11, 1856, died October 1, 1863; Jane A., born December 30, 1851, died September 29, 1863; Kate, born June 13, 1859, died October 1, 1863; Orion, born May 10, 1862, died October 2, 1863; George E., born November 16, 1850, died October 5, 1863; William J., born September 13, 1857, died October 8, 1863.



Warren County Philanthropic Partnership Grant Recipient

The Warren County Historical Society has received a \$3,000 grant from Warren County Philanthropic Partnership. These funds will be used to make a handicapped accessible south entrance into the WCHS library and meeting room.

The Warren County Philanthropic Partnership was organized to promote and enhance community based philanthropy in Warren County. The Warren County Philanthropic Partnership recently received a state award to facilitate endowment building and grant-making.

The contribution to the foundation was made possible by the Iowa General Assembly. In 2004 the Iowa legislature passed several bills to encourage foundation building and community based philanthropy. Among these measures was H. F. 2032 which provided that non-gambling counties, initiating a county-wide community foundation would be eligible to receive one half of one percent of the state's gross gambling tax receipts.

Twenty six grant applications were received and twenty two organizations across Warren County shared in the funding allocations. We are very thankful to be one of the groups chosen.

1934 Center Chapel Ball Team

Members: Left to right back row 1) John Houghtaling (Manager), 2) Harold (Ole) Olson, 3) Mervin Westerville, 4) Clark Hill, 5) George Burns, 6) Bert Burrus, 7) Maurice Rombach, 8) Chick Hill, 9) Tom Cherry, 10) Wayne Burns, 11) Gage Kent (Sponsor); left to right front row 12) Earl Butler, 13) Raymond Gamble, 14) Ralph (Red) Archer, 15) Jimmy Houghtaling (Bat Boy), 16) Clark Burns, 17) Donald Houghtaling, 18) Fred (Fritz) Reinhaldt



This Photo was submitted by Mrs.

Arthur Keeney along with this note by her, "This picture was among mementos of my brother, Bert Burrus. He was a member of this 1934 Center Chapel ball team, sponsored by Gage Kent who originated Kent feed and ran the elevator. It is where the HY-Vee [Goodwill] store is now located. That elevator burned in 1936 and was later rebuilt by the Feltons."

Call 961-3088 or 961-7205 to join the

WCHS Strategic Planning Committee

1st Meeting will take place in June

JOIN THE WCHS STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

At our April WCHS Meeting Alex Boothe, a local consultant, offered to lead a group of Warren County Historical Society Members through a Strategic Planning process to help us begin to write long-range plans for our museum collection. It is felt that we need to plan where we are going and to prioritize and plan for what we want to happen in the future. This committee would begin meeting in June. The following is a list of proposed meeting topics.

1. Introductory Meeting
2. Define Parts of Plan
3. Take field trips to similar sized museums
4. Make a Draft of the Strategic Plan for the Collection
5. Finalize the Strategic Plan

If you would like to serve on this Strategic Planning Committee, please call Linda Beatty 961-3088 or Alex Boothe 961-7205 to become a member. If we have previously prepared a strategic plan, it would have been many years ago and would need to be updated. Here is your opportunity to voice your thoughts and opinions about our future.

What's New at WCHS:



1. Trees have been removed
2. Schoolhouse, South River Meeting House and the General Store are being painted
3. The buildings of the Heritage Village have descriptive signs on posts
4. Dwight & Mary McCormick with the help of Dan Porter have moved to the WCHS the Beech Christain Church bell that was located at Judy and Don Porter's home
5. The Good Samaritan Camping Group has repaired and painted the white trellis and benches located between the Log Cabin and the Pioneer Church
6. Lois Godwin has donated the 1960 Iowa Standard (autographed by John F. Kennedy) from the National Democratic Convention held in Los Angeles. A well documented scrapbook of this convention where Alden was a delegate has also been donated. She is donating many items such as a 1915 dishwasher.
7. Thanks to Steve Hall and Beverly Dickerson the WCHS got our IRS 990-N form filed before the deadline



Lake Aquabi was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. Aquabi means "resting place" in the Sauk and Fox language. The Lake was dedicated in 1936.

CCC workers getting rock for Aquabi's buildings