



WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.warrencountyhistory.org Box 256, Indianola, IA 50125 (515)961-8085

August 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.



Cody Frazer, 2010 graduate of Norwalk High School volunteered for 3 weeks through Simpson's Upward Bound Program. He is painting part of the Beech Bell.



WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:

BASEBALL/HISTORY FANS!!!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24th

1400 W. 2nd in Indianola

See Collection 3:00 to 7:00 pm followed by program at 7:30



(Enter main entrance to Fair and turn right at first road)

- Check out Iowa's oldest known baseball card (1866) and an autographed photo of Iowa's first professional baseball player Cal MeVey (1872)
- See a Babe Ruth rookie card, autographed baseball and 1927 Des Moines "Barnstorming" program featuring Ruth and Lou Gehrig
- Take a look at Iowa's oldest known baseball program (1901-02)
- View an extensive collection of 19th Century Iowa baseball cards
- Over 212 Iowans have made the major leagues—come see part of the largest known collection of cards and photos of Iowa's major leaguers, from our seven "Hall of Famers" to the obscurest of players

"How Baseball came to Iowa—the History, the Myths, the Players" presented by John Liepa.

Tuesday, August 24th at the WCHS

MUSEUM & LIBRARY NEWS

WHY RENEW OR BECOME A WCHS MEMBER?

Cyd Dyer donated a large wooden book shelf/counter from the Simpson College Library. It makes a wonderful addition as a room divider separating Ruth Hall's desk and a computer printer area.

We have had a sewer leak in the basement for some time. A year ago during the Warren County Fair John Averill did a temporary fix. Vanderpools' came out and fixed it a few weeks ago. They found that the sewer pipe was totally disconnected outside.

The handicap ramp and railing to the south entrance is finished. By mistake the electric connection to our outer buildings was severed when the ramp was dug. Thanks to Dwight McCormick and Dennis Allen who put in a new box and reconnected our system.

We are going to receive on long term loan from the USGS3 copper plates that were used to print a Warren County map. Madison County has had these on loan since 2000 and decided they wanted WCHS to have them since they were maps of Warren County and Indianola.

The Beech Christian Church bell is up and can be seen next to the Pioneer Church. Thanks to Dwight McCormick and Dennis Allen. Donors were the family of Don Porter.

Simpson College sent us an Upward Bound pre-college student to work for three weeks this summer. Cody Frazer, a recent graduate from Norwalk High School, did a variety of tasks such as painting, scanning pictures into the computer, working on booths, and helping clean up water in the basement.

Angela Sarvis and her group of Girl Scouts have been very busy researching the ownership and history of the buildings around the Indianola Square. They received a grant to do this. Some of the Warren County Courthouse records are gone and it is difficult to find the real date that various buildings were built. If you have information or photos about these buildings contact Angela at (515) 868-1167 or angelasarvis@yahoo.com.

BASIC INTERNET GENEALOGY CLASS

Dennis Allen is offering a free Basic Internet Genealogy Class. It is on Saturday, October 23rd, from 12:00-3:00. You can bring your laptop with you to follow along. Paper handouts will be provided. To register through email contact either lily4evr@yahoo.com or dmfd305@mchsi.com. If you have any questions call 961-8085 or contact@warrencountyhistory.org.

1. Memberships keep this a free admission museum!
2. Provides a discount on facility rental!
3. Members receive newsletters by mail!
4. Financial support covers necessary costs!
5. You are preserving Warren County artifacts & history!
6. Voting rights at the Annual Meeting!
7. Share historical experiences and learn at workshops!
8. Become an active volunteer. The museum is a good place to meet and hang out with others.
9. Volunteer for Log Cabin Festival and share a pioneer experience with visitors.

TO JOIN OR RENEW FILL OUT

THE FOLLOWING FORM

<p>WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP Become a member today!</p>
<p>Name: _____</p>
<p>Address: _____</p>
<p>Phone: _____</p>
<p>E-mail: _____</p>
<p>Annual Membership, \$15 Send to: WCHS Box 256 Indianola, IA 50125</p>
<p>Thank you for your support.</p>

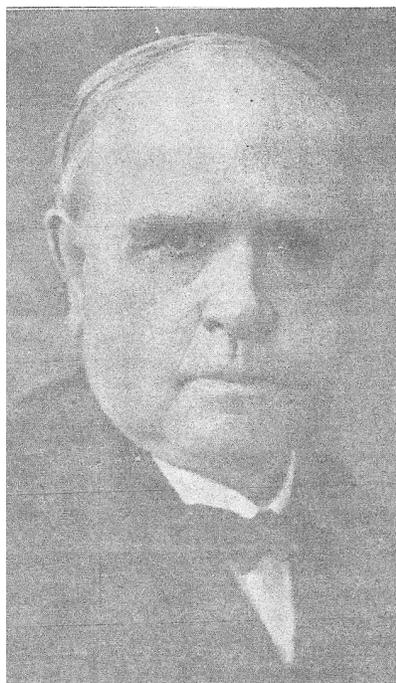
Log Cabin Days September 24 and 25

Honoring Our Traditions

Simpson College will be honored this year on its 150th Anniversary

Friday evening activities will include numerous demonstrations and Bingo

Saturday the parade will begin at 10 and the Pie and Cake Auction will be at 3. There will again be many activities and demonstrations for all ages



George Frederick Parker

1847-1928

Historian, Politician,
Diplomat, Writer,
Newspaper Publisher

Cook Book coming soon!

**FAVORITES FROM
WARREN COUNTY
KITCHENS**

**Warren County, Iowa
anecdotes, stories and
cooking traditions**

**GEORGE F. PARKER**

George Frederick Parker was born in Lafayette, Indiana on December 30, 1847 to Thomas W. and Eliza Ann (Kirk) Parker. He came with his father to Warren County in November, 1854. His early education was in the local school where he was never able to obtain a full three months instruction in any single year because he was working on the farm.

He was a graduate of the State University of Iowa and resident of Carlisle. George Parker established the Warren County Tribune on October 2, 1873. His obituary states: "In spite of the fact that he had had no experience in newspaper work, the success attained was due largely to a comprehensive knowledge of American history and politics, an enormous power for work and an energy which was indomitable."

Parker is thought to be the compiler of the History of Warren County, 1879 for the Union Historical Company of Des Moines. In August 1876 he sold the Tribune to W.E. Andrew and Parker became editor of the Daily State Leader in Des Moines till January 1, 1878.

George was editor of papers in Iowa, Indiana, Washington D.C., New Hampshire, the Philadelphia Ledger, 1885-87, and managing editor of the New York Press, 1896-1905.

He supported Grover Cleveland and was his official biographer.. He wrote several books about him, including *Recollection of Grover Cleveland*. Parker is credited with having become the "father of press-agentry" in the U.S (furnishing to the press publicity, interesting and factual articles or comments reflecting favorably on men, organizations or measures seeking public favor or support). He felt this was useful to the public good, but grew to see it abused for selfish ends.

Under Cleveland he was appointed Deputy Postmaster of Philadelphia, from 1885 -1887. The President sent Parker to Birmingham, England to become U.S. Consul from 1893-1898. When J.P. Morgan died Parker delivered the memorial address.

In 1905 when Cleveland was called from his retirement at Princeton to become chairman of the committee to reorganize the Equitable Life Insurance Society of New York, George F. Parker was chosen to be secretary of the committee.

Parker returned to visit Warren County in 1922 to be present at the dedication of the Carlisle City park, which was a part of the farm on which he was reared on the north edge of Carlisle.

George F. Parker wrote the *Iowa Pioneer Foundation Vol 1 and II*. These contain more than 1,000 pages and are very comprehensive works on the Midwestern pioneer.

Parker died May 31, 1928, at his home in New York City and is buried in Shelbyville, ID, near his birthplace.

Information from *Who's Who, History of Warren County* compiled by Gerard Schultz and Don L. Berry, and Parker's obituary in the Indianola Tribune.

Among the Recent Acquisitions

In the museum we have received a large number of appliances and articles from the collection of Alden and Lois Godwin. On display in our meeting room is a Whirlpool dishwasher from 1915 along with two brochures of description and instruction. A partial list of the interesting things housed in the museum includes a Victor Talking Machine with two records, an Edison Record Player, several kinds of lanterns, 12 clocks, tools for tapping and opening kegs, an old washing machine, a glass fire extinguisher ball, many household items, tools, and containers. Come in and take a look-be the first in your neighborhood to see a two-at-a-time cherry pitter.

In the library we have a collection of family memorabilia-some original and some copies-sent to us by Kathy Coe. There is a copy of a handwritten journal and family history by Matthew A. Taylor and a family history and documents of the Strawn and Mitchell families. Photographs include a picture of Walter and Della Taylor Mitchell in their New Virginia home taken in the late 1800s.



Lois Godwin by the 1915 Whirlpool Dishwasher she donated

Visitors to the library and names they are researching:

Owen Sampson of North Dakota is researching his Sandy and Trimble ancestors.
 Peter Danforth (CA)-Brommel, Judkins, Sutton, Hatcher, Flesher, Wood
 Edward Little (Australia)-Fitzgerald, Peck, Dodge
 Jan Sponler-information on Martensdale
 June Fiegenger-Allen, Woodford, Wiley
 Wendell Mott (Michigan)-Was here looking at the Quaker Meeting House he attended as a boy. He is the grandson of William C. Moffitt. His grandfather Mott moved the meeting house.
 Lizbeth Pierce-Sophia M. Close, Jorah M. Close



Dennis Allen setting the Beech Bell in place

Call 961-3088 or 961-7205 to join the WCHS Strategic Planning Committee 1st Meeting will take place Wednesday, October 13 at 2:00 pm

The 1st Warren County Ferry License

In May 1853 the first licenses in Warren County were granted for ferries. One was to John Cook and Co. to keep a ferry upon South River at Hartman and Ackley's Mill.

Silas Gillaspay was also granted a license to keep a ferry on South River where the Albia and Fort Des Moines Road crosses South River. The fees were fixed as follows: two horse team, 25 cents; four horse team, 35 cents; ox team the same rate; one horse and buggy, 20 cents; man and horse, 10 cents; footman, 5 cents; cattle, 3 cents per head.



Jackson Strong, Great Grandson of Don

The Beech Christian Church Bell

Helen Spurgeon Porter's grandfather, Charles Franklin Spurgeon, donated the land on which the Beech Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was built. 'CF' (or Charley, as he was known to most) was very instrumental in its construction - the year (as Helen recalls) was 1916. At that time, Drake University maintained affiliation with the Disciples of Christ (and trained Disciple of Christ ministers). Reverend J. M. Lowe and, later, Reverend William J. Lockhart, would arrive by train from Des Moines each Sunday morning. Reverend Lockhart officiated when Helen married Melvin Porter March 16, 1935.

Reverend Lowe and Reverend Lockhart were probably trained at Drake. Drake sent student ministers to preach occasionally at the church. Reverend Lockhart had a son, Billy, who was also a minister.

The Church was active in the 30s and through the 50s. The late 60s and early 70s were probably when attendance began to wane. Helen and Melvin moved to Indianola in 1958.

In the spring of 1974, Don Porter, Melvin's brother, acquired the bell. (Perhaps from Dutch Spurgeon).

Wilbur Chumbley, owner of the Conoco station, used the smallest wrecker he had to help lower the bell from its tower. Wilbur, Don Porter, his sons, Dan and Dean Porter, and Ted Diehl helped to remove the bell. It went to Don's new residence at 300 E Girard (the old Central Paving Bldg). Don and Dean lived on the upper floor of that building and, soon after, Don's second wife, Judy and her daughter, Michelle. The bell was placed in a stand at the front entrance and, jokingly, used as their doorbell. (Wilbur mentioned that the RHT published a story about this).

In 1988 the bell was moved to Don and Judy Porter's new residence at 208 S. E Street. The bell rang on several occasions at social gatherings. The bell rang for the celebration of these three weddings: Claire Ludwick and Roger Fish, Summer of 1999; Don's granddaughter, Dan and Kristi's daughter: Asia Porter and Troy Strong, September 23, 2000; Claire's brother, Rob Ludwick and Carol Passman; Summer of 2001

In June of this year the Porter house sold and Dan, DeAnna, and Dean donated the bell to the WCHS. Dwight & Mary McCormick, Jerry Beatty and Dan removed the bell from the arbor with Dwight's tractor's loader. Later, Dwight and Dennis Allen put it up by the Pioneer Church. We hope to add lattice and get some climbing vines planted.

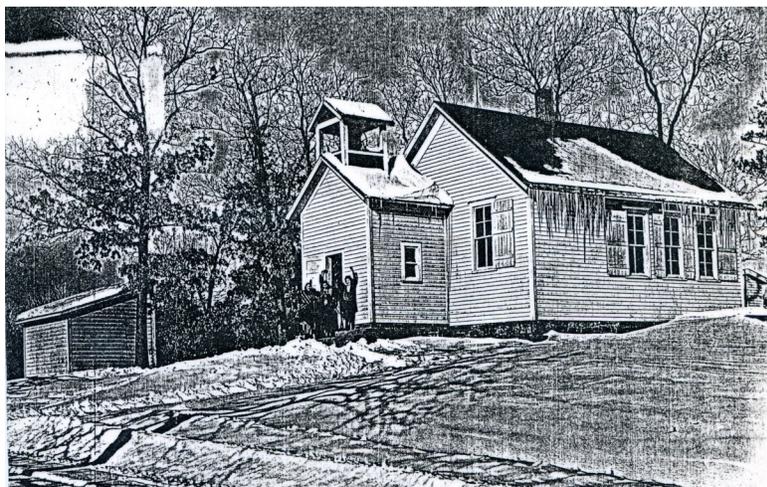
Upon getting the bell in place, Dwight rang it a couple of times. Kristi and Dan live on Kenwood and she immediately called the museum to tell them she heard it toll from her house. The wandering bell may have found its last home.

Photos and information courtesy of Kristi Porter



Removing bell from Beech church in 1974.
Dan & Don Porter and Ted Diehl

Warren County's North Lincoln School a Fixture at Iowa State Fair Rebuilt and Refurbished this Year



North Lincoln rural school house which began its life in Warren County and then was moved to the Iowa State Fair Grounds in 1968 has been rebuilt and is again ready for visitors in the Heritage Village. A review of clippings and reminiscences about the school in the Warren County Historical Society Library produced a wide variety of information.

The school house was reported to have been built in 1896 by George Fridley at a cost of \$450 and was named for a family by the name of Lincoln but was often called the Loper School as it was from Loper's farm that the children carried water. The school was closed in 1955 and several years later the owner, Howard Lester, gave the building to the Iowa State Fair where it is preserved.

An article from the Des Moines Tribune of August 3, 1968 has a picture of Mrs. DeMoss Crabb (Bessie Clary Sills) of Indianola standing by the school on the fair grounds. In the article she talks about attending and then teaching at the school. She recalled that when the school acquired a bell it was first mounted in the back of the building and the rope hung down through a square in the ceiling. She said it "looked funny with the chimney in the front and the bell on the back". Eventually the bell was put in a belfry in front. On the fair grounds the bell has been mounted in the front yard of the school. The bell was purchased from funds raised through box suppers and pie suppers.

The school started out with a small porch with railings. Sometime between 1914 and 1928 the porch was enclosed to become an entryway and the bell was placed in a cupola above it. At the fair grounds the entrance is once again a small porch. From the original porch a wooden sidewalk led to a stile from which children could step into or out of a vehicle.

For years the school was heated by a big stove that sat in the center of the building, but it did not heat the edges of the room on bitter cold days. On those days the students whose desks were on the edges were permitted to sit on the "recitation benches" which were closer to the stove. There were fall, winter and spring terms and during the winter term the students brought sleds and coasted down the hill near the school. Some skated on a nearby "bayou" during lunch break. There were more students in the winter term because the bigger boys were able to attend. In the fall and spring they were needed for farm work.

Minnie Holcomb, later Minnie Wilbur taught the first term at the school. Students at the school in 1898 were from families named Freeborn, Morgan, Loper, Holcombe, Frazier, Clary, Coffin Scott, Coy, Myers and Baysinger. By 1909 the names Devore, Morris, Byers, Fuller and Butler had been added to the original names, most of which were still represented. In 1939 three Byers remained of the early families and the rest were Hawthorn, Spear, Baughman, Ball, Clark, Wilson, Hecker, Weaver and Anderson. In 1957 there were ten students, five of them were either Byers or Ball. The rest were Burk, Conn, King, Nutting and Violet.

The Historical Library has a spiral notebook with 34 pages of Bessie Clary Crabb Sill's memories of North Lincoln School which she wrote at the request of our first librarian Edith Conn.