



WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

NOVEMBER 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.

TRACTOR MUSEUM

New Antique Tractor Show-place has been constructed in Carlisle. The tractor museum is owned by Don Russell and is located at 55 Main Street.

WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER

There is a job to be done,
could be lots of fun.
Just give us a call,
& we'll have a ball.
You must have a big heart.
It's always a help
To be sorta smart.
The money is rare,
But the rewards are big in compare.

By Pat Boyes

WCHS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

TUESDAY, NOV. 16

6:00 pm

There are two ways of spreading light - to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it. ~Edith Wharton

As a WCHS volunteer you are the source of light for the Warren County Historical Society. We are so grateful for the many hours you share with us.

Please attend the Warren County Historical Society Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Tuesday, November 16th at 6:00 pm. This free dinner will feature recipes from the *Favorites From Warren County Kitchens*, cookbook. There may not be beautiful pies like the ones in the photo below, but we guarantee a generous, tasty dinner.

We ask that you share either grocery items or cash to take to the Helping Hand. In this state of fertile land, generous citizens and the Thanksgiving Holiday it is a good time to share our abundance.



REFRESHMENTS AT MT. HOPE CLUB in 1948

Howard Owens, Gary Woods, Mr. Williams, Philip Mahr, James Hansell, Dan Wood, Kenneth Blake, Laverne Middleswart, Ralph Andrew, Phyllis Mahr, Janet Hansell, and Richard Hansell

TELLING TRADITIONAL FAMILY STORIES TO CHILDREN

Margery Sudbrock will help you prepare for the holidays or any day when you want to pass on family stories to your descendents or to any children. The Class will be at the Warren County Historical Society Building on Saturday, December 4th, from 12:30-2:00.



Margery has been a volunteer storyteller and interpreter at the Living History Farms and has recently been honored as a volunteer at the State Historical Society of Iowa for her storytelling work. This is a great opportunity to develop personal family relationships and hand down your family heritage.

There is no charge but please pre-register, if possible, by calling the society at 961-8085. Members and non-members are *welcome*.

Boyhood of Raleigh by Sir John Everett Millais

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We have received a video recorder from 1978 and video camera from 1982. For some of us these don't seem like historical items but they are something some of our visitors have never seen and make interesting comparisons to present similar equipment. Along the same lines but a little older is a desk telephone of black Bakelite with a crank ringer on the face. Even older is a collection of farming and mining tools.

The copper plates from the U. S. Geological Survey have arrived from the Madison County Historical Society and are on display. They were used to make topographical maps of 1931 Warren County.

We have also received several paper items about Martensdale, a paper and book collection of Warren County records, and an assortment of other pictures and news items.

A collection of memorabilia of the Read family of the southwest part of the county includes a WW I first aid kit, a black parasol and many framed pictures of the Read family along with a list of "New Virginia Boys" who enlisted in Machine Gun Company, 2nd Iowa Infantry.

VISITOR'S LIBRARY RESEARCH

Janet Thomas-Carl Martens Family & Martensdale

Adam Naughton-Attitudes on slavery in Warren County in the 1850s

Mary Siegle-Thomas Cross (husband of Lucretia Botkin)

Ellie Rankin-looking for obituary of Elizabeth Jackson (d. 1890)-mother of Jacob Jackson and Sarah Taylor (Jackson) Flanagan

Frank Hamilton-Hamilton, Parrish, Ruth, Routh, Clark, Wright

Brenda King-King, Marsh, Harken, Clark

Jim Price-James Doud (1806-1893)

Chris Straight-Weston, McGuire, Judkins

In our article last month we included a news item from Prouty's Switch and asked if any of our reader's could tell us its location. Mary Brewbaker promptly called us and said that there was a reference to it in the history of Grove School written by Hazel Bishop (Mrs. P. A.) Wade. This is from her article: "In 1887 the Rock Island Railroad built a 'spur' from Summerset Junction to Winterset with a switch, or siding, straight south of the school house a couple of miles. It was called Prouty's Switch and the farmers loaded their grain and livestock on freight cars there, thus saving many weary hours for man and team." The Warren County Atlas shows land owned by C. C. Prouty in sections 2 and 3 of Lincoln Township. Thanks Mary.

PHOTO FIND



As we sort and rearrange things at the society we find many things that surprise us. Last month Mary McCormick found this tintype. In the note with the picture the family is identified as: Albert Davis, Murray Davis (son of Albert and Rachel Lake Davis), Mattie Lake (Vincent), Rachel Lake Davis; Nettie Lake (Thorn), Minnie Lake (Turner), and Ida Lake (Proctor). The picture was probably taken about 1881.

The note also says that the log cabin was the original home of Rachel's parents the Cumerines (is this correct spelling) and then was the home of Rachel and her first husband William Lake. A new home was being built on the site to replace the log cabin at the time this picture was taken. When the picture was donated (1953) the new house was still standing 1 ½ miles south of Liberty Center. A check of the Warren County Cemetery Book shows that Rachel is buried with her first husband in Christian Neck Cemetery. In the same cemetery are the graves of Samuel and Eliza Crumrine who might be Rachel's parents.

Ida Proctor is buried in Hendrickson Cemetery next to her sister Mattie and Mattie's husband John Vincent. Minnie Turner is also in Hendrickson Cemetery next to William Turner. Nettie is buried in Indian Valley Cemetery along with her husband Stephen Thorn.

There is an Alfred Davis in the Liberty Center Cemetery who might be the man in the picture. Murray does not appear in the index of the Cemetery Book.

If any of our readers have more information about the cabin, the new house, or the people in the picture they can call us at 961-8085 or drop in Thursdays 9-4 or Saturdays 9-12.

Historical Tidbits

Captain Breckenridge, an African American slave brought to Norwalk from the south by Israel Perkins, is buried in the Norwalk Cemetery. For many years, Breckenridge was a faithful janitor at the Methodist Church. He was very religious and well-like.

Lewis Todhunter, 1st Indianola Mayor, once met President Abraham Lincoln and when introduced Mr. Lincoln said: "I was once a *Todd-Hunter*." Meaning of course his wife, Mary Todd.

One of George Washington Carver's favorite closings for a speech: "It isn't the things you possess; It's service that measures success."

| LOG CABIN FESTIVAL RECEIPTS | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|
| Bank Quilt Donations | 500 | 500 | 450 | |
| Sponsors | 760 | 1,050 | 1,400 | |
| Antique Vendors | 540 | 290 | 380 | |
| Craft Vendors | 1,835 | 1,725 | 2,089 | |
| Food Vendors | 601.64 | 420 | 300 | |
| Flea Market | 167 | 115 | 40 | |
| Garage Sale | 20 | | | |
| Farmers Market | 260 | 265 | 125 | |
| Raffle Sales | 1,370.90 | 1,270 | 1,132 | |
| Breakfast | 1,191.60 | 792 | 731 | |
| Pie Auction | 2,214.50 | 1,154.50 | 1,125 | |
| Ice Cream Social | 237 | 206.50 | | |
| Children Games | 1,106.30 | 304.30 | | |
| Bingo | 209.25 | 95.35 | 211.81 | |
| Barnyard Bingo | 18 | | | |
| Quilt Show Donations | 185 | | | |
| Start Up Money | 600 | 1,200 | 500 | |
| Gib McConnell Donation | 680 | | | |
| Record Heraold Ad Refund to Contest | | 64.20 | | Pho- |
| Crocks | | 30 | | Ceramic |
| tions for Gooseman | | 17 | | Dona- |
| 345 | Pickard Hats | 250 | | Vendors |
| Scare Crow | | | 155 | 3 |
| er | | | 503 | Oth- |
| Total | 12,496.19 | 9,748.85 | 9,492.81 | |

LOG CABIN DISBURSEMENTS

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| Signs | 240.78 | 20 | 305.92 | |
| Gambling License | 90 | 55 | 55 | |
| Vendor Refund | 135 | | | |
| Paper | 25.44 | | | |
| Quilt Tickets | 127.20 | 238.50 | 450.50 | |
| Trophies | 108.50 | 85.50 | 83.50 | |
| Sound System | 112 | 105 | | |
| Breakfast | 690.95 | 451.45 | 227.48 | |
| Start Up Money | 600 | 1,200 | 500 | |
| Carved Item | 105 | | | |
| Children Games | 760.19 | 30 | | |
| Restroom Cleaning | 50 | 50 | (50 ?) | |
| Mc Coy Dumpsters | 75 | 75 | McCoy's Donated | |
| Quilt Racks | 128.31 | | 52.41 | |
| Sales Tax | 93.04 | | 77.29 | |
| Insurance | 100 | | 100 | |
| Fair Rental | 500 | 700 | 500 | |
| Gooseman | | 600 | | |
| King & Queen Crowns | | 7.61 | | |
| Postage | | 100 | 44 | |
| Ads | | 211.80 | 360 | |
| Scare Crow Straw | | | 24 | Safe- |
| ty Pins | | | 42.50 | Train |
| Man | | | 200 | Re- |
| turned Checks and Bank Charges | | | 171.20 | |
| Total Disbursements | 3,941.41 | 3,929.86 | 3,193.80 | |
| Profit | 8,554.78 | 5,818.99 | 6,299.04 | |

THANKS TO

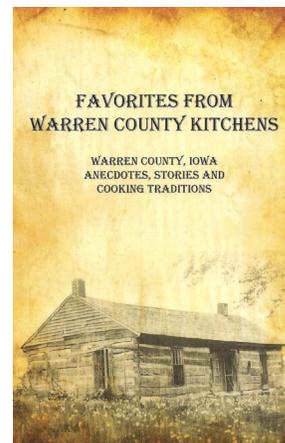
Dwight McCormick, Jerry Beatty, Doug Mc Cormick, Jack Barker, & Don Sandy for laying cement for our new handicapped parking spot.

Dwight McCormick, Jack Barker, Rob Holland, Jerry Beatty, & Dennis Allen for building parking retaining walls.

Rob Holland of Green Acres Garden Center has offered to help landscape this area.

HOLLIDAY GIFT GIVING

Looking for that one of kind Christmas gift? Give the Warren County Historical Society's new cookbook **FAVORITES FROM WARREN COUNTY KITCHENS**. Available at the Warren County Historical Society for \$20.



Call 961-3088 or 961-7205 to join the WCHS

Strategic Planning Committee

2nd Meeting will take place on Thursday,

November 18 at 2:00 pm

Please help us plan for our future.

INDIANOLA BROOM FACTORY

The Hughes Broom Factory was located on North Jefferson and Euclid from the 1930s into the 1950s. The broom factory had 18 employees and made about 80 brooms a day. The long fibrous panicle of the broomcorn plant was used for making brooms. A ton of broomcorn brush makes 80 to 100 dozen brooms. High-quality broomcorn brush is pea-green in color and free from discolorations. The fibers should be straight, smooth, pliable, and approximately 20 inches long. Brush that is overripe, reddened, bleached, crooked, coarse or flat is considered poor quality.

The broomcorn came in large bales. To bleach it they put the broomcorn in a tank full of green annulene. They put the bleached broomcorn on shelves on both sides of the room. They smoked it with sulfur, which dried it and took the red part off the straw. The corn was sorted by color. The stock was removed with a cutter. The stems were removed by running through a row of large nails very close together. A machine helped make the broom and it was wired to the wooden broom handle. A leather belt with buckle was placed around the broomcorn to make it lay down. You held the broom on a cylinder that removed the seeds. A motorized machine clamped the broom into shape. The loose string was cut with a knife. A label was placed on a handle just above the broom part.

In 1933 the factory payroll dropped from \$200 to \$0 and Ralph Hughes sought relief through petition from the National Recovery Administration.. He had 12 employees but to comply with the Reemployment Agreement he would agree to increase employment to 17. By 1938 Hughes built a \$1,300 addition , installed a new stitching machine and employed 18.

From Henry Ford

WCHS is looking for a photo of the Hughes Broom Factory. If you have one we could copy, call 961-8085.



BROOMCORN

WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP
Become a member today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Annual Membership is \$15

Send to: WCHS
Box 256
Indianola, IA 50125

Thank you for your support.

THE POLITICAL RISE & FALL OF WILLIAM BERRY

William H. Berry was born in Cass County, Illinois in 1849 and moved with his family to a farm near Indianola in 1867. He graduated from Simpson College in 1872 and was admitted to the Iowa bar in 1873, having studied law with attorney J. H. Henderson. He immediately became a partner in the Henderson & Berry law firm in Indianola

In 1895 W. H. Berry was nominated by the Republican Party for state senate and won election with over 70 percent of the vote. The senate district included Warren and Clarke Counties. It was the custom for the Republican Parties in the two counties to take turns and share the senate seat with each incumbent serving only one four-year term. The incumbent senator, J. H. Jamison, chairman of the convention and head of the Clarke County delegation, presented Berry's name and moved the vote by acclamation.

In 1898, as Warren County's favorite son, Berry was nominated for U. S. Congress against three-term Republican incumbent Capt. J. A. T. Hull of Polk County. Hull easily defeated Berry and Dallas County nominee, Judge Edmund Nichols.

As the 1899 senatorial election approached, Berry decided to break precedent and run for re-election. He knew this would anger Clarke County Republicans but he enjoyed his prestige and successful legislative service and thought re-election would assure his position as chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee. The Republican district convention was held in New Virginia on July 17, 1899. Berry was nominated by his law partner, J. H. Henderson, who told delegates that in political life two terms are normal. The irritated Clarke County delegation nominated former state senator J. H. Jamison. Both counties voted as a bloc; since Warren had more delegates, Berry won.

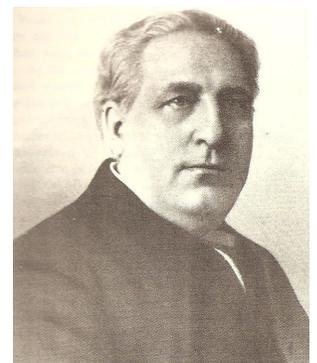
Before the convention adjourned, some Clarke County Republicans predicted that Berry would lose the election to the Democratic nominee, as Clarke County Republicans would not support Senator Berry who refused to voluntarily relinquish his position as dictated by tradition. The **Osceola Sentinel** bitterly assailed the Warren County Republican delegation charging that it had used the arbitrary power of greater numbers to override the principle of fair play and precedent.

A Democrat W. B. Tallman from Osceola was elected. The election results were a surprise; not because of Berry's loss but why. Berry actually won Clarke County by 126; only 200 votes less than the regular Republican vote in the county. However, in Warren County, where voters knew him best, Berry lost by 338; 600 votes less than the normal Republican vote. Overwhelmingly popular in Indianola four years earlier, Berry lost the city by 10 votes. Local voters had turned against Berry; partly because he did not respect the precedent of alternating the office between the two counties. But Simpson College historian Francis Moats thought that Berry's support of A. B. Cummins for U. S. Senate was also an important factor in his defeat. Cummins was charged with being in league with big business and hence an enemy of the common man; his rival Governor John Gear favored government regulation of railroads and big business.

Years later, a close associate of Senator Berry interpreted Berry's rise and fall in the political arena. "Senator Berry fell victim to party malice in his own home. Berry had made good in Des Moines; had become the biggest man in his bailiwick. It was time to put a crimp in this flourishing career. His own county beat him with many stripes." How often it happens, when politicians think they are too important, a jealous, defiant constituency puts them down. Politicians cannot take their home town voters for granted.

Taken from Francis L. Moats' article: **William H. Berry –1849-1923**

ANNALS OF IOWA, October 1953



William H. Berry