



WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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(Highway 92 West, 1400 West 2nd, turn north into fair grounds)

E-mail- contact@warrencountyhistory.org

May 2015

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WCHS GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday, May 26 Burger King
Sack Supper**

**Bring your Burger King
Take-out or sack supper
we will provide dessert**

Dinner & Dessert at 6:30

Program 7:00

Program: Judy McClymond

**“Collecting Miniatures and
Doll Houses”**

WCHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sat. June 13, 9:30 am

WCHS LCF PLANNING

Sat. June 13, 10:30

WCHS GENERAL MEETING

Tues. June 23, 7:00 pm

Simon Stanfield

**“Warren County Musical
Heritage”**

WCHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sat. July 11, 9:30 am

WCHS LCF PLANNING

Sat. July 11, 10:30

**NO WCHS GENERAL
MEETING in JULY**

WCHS Meeting

May 26, 7:00 pm

Mrs. James Ward Thorne

American, 1882-1966

[A18: Shaker Living Room, c.](#)

[1800](#), c. 1940 Art Institute



One Hundred Years of Dollhouses

Judy McClymond will discuss Collecting Doll Houses and Miniatures. Join Judy to learn about a hobby you can stop and continue whenever you like, or just treat yourself to a small lamp or chair.

The earliest doll's houses were found in Egyptian tombs, created nearly 5,000 years ago. Wooden models of servants, furnishings, boats, & animals, placed in the Pyramids, were probably made for religious purposes. We can learn about the historical past from miniature models that depict the way diverse cultures lived. In the 1700s dollhouses were made to be displayed in the front room or parlor as a sign of wealth. Then dollhouses were used to instruct girls in the ways of running a household. In modern time dollhouses also became children's toys.

WCHS Meeting—June 23, 7:00 p.m.

Warren County Musical Heritage

Simon Stanfield

Simon Stanfield is planning to present information on the WCHS project to collect and digitize some of the vast body of music performed and still being performed in Warren County. This will include everything from the Des Moines Metro Opera to Con Brio and the late Ray Pehrson, Chuck Spain and many others. Come prepared to listen to some of the music being collected.

No July Meeting

WCHS BURGER KING 4th Tuesday

Support WCHS by purchasing your supper from 5:00—8:00 at the Indianola Burger King –take out or eat in. Leave your paper receipt in the WCHS container or hand to drive-thru clerk. We earn about \$200 each time. WCHS gets 20% of the meal value.

May 26
June 23

July 28
August 25



MAKE THE SUN SHINE ON OUR ROOF

John Parker has his mural on the eastside of the museum. He is working on the adjacent lettering "Warren County Historical Museum and Research Library".

Thanks to John, a grant from the Warren County Philanthropic Partnership, and gifts from WCHS members for making this possible. If you have not driven by the museum to view



the mural, it is worth the trip.



WCHS has received from Vogel Paint an award of 10 gallons of exterior paint to help paint the north and east sides of the museum. It will take approximately 24 gallons to paint and \$3,375 for labor.

We are in the process of getting bids to repair the leaking museum roof. It is expected that it will cost over \$12,000. Additional costs are roof preparation of the rusty area around the bolts and repairing or replacing roof wind turbines. We have set aside \$9,000 of this cost but need to raise the rest. Our goal is get this done before the fair.

You can see these improvements (roof and painting) are quite costly. President John F. Kennedy said, "The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining." You can make a difference in helping protect our museum from the elements. Would you consider a gift of \$25, \$50 or \$150? With your help we can make the sun shine on our roof.

WCHS MEMBERS'

"LET THE SUN SHINE ON OUR ROOF" fund



Donation: \$25___, \$50___, \$150___, Other ___

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email _____

Donations are tax deductible. Paypal accepted.

Thank you!



Pioneer School 2015



On May 14, 15, 18 and 19 fifth graders from the Indianola Public Schools visited us to learn about how the early settlers of Iowa lived. Over the four days, approximately 270 students quilted, made cornhusk dolls, made candles, sawed logs, made rope, shelled corn and toured our museum and heritage village.

We could not have provided this experience for the students without the help of many, many volunteers, most of whom were dressed in pioneer clothing. Many of them were here all four days in the rain and the cold and the sunshine. Many others supplied materials for the demonstrations, for instance, Carl Hayes supplied the corn for shelling. These donations of time and knowledge are deeply appreciated.

THANKS!

Exciting plans are being made for our 2015 Log Cabin Festival.



The Southwest Southern Iowa Civil War Re-enactors will be in our parade and at the fair grounds on Saturday, September 26th.



2015 quilt to be raffled on September 27th. Raffle tickets will soon be ready for members to sell.

Baled Straw Needed

Do you plan to make small rectangle bales of straw this summer? Pat Sternquist needs some for scare crow making at Log Cabin Festival. If you can help call Pat at 575-480-8655



Dan Porter announced that all the garden plots are in use. If you want one next year, call Dan early.

Volunteer Profile

MEET REKHA GUPTA

Rekha is one of our new WCHS volunteers who have signed on since the first of the year. You will see her most often on Thursday mornings when she works on a project



to remove pictures from old displays and organize them for better availability. She was born in India and has lived in Warren County over fifteen years. Her husband, Navin, has a Podiatry practice in Indianola and South Des Moines where Rekha sometimes works in the office. They have three grown children: two sons, Drs. Nitin and Arun who live in Detroit and a daughter, Priya, who is attending Des Moines University. Rekha is a graduate of a college in India. She enjoys decorating, machine embroidery, quilting, gardening and volunteer work. Welcome Rekha!



Creative decorating of the Museum meeting room so it does not look like a museum
(A May 7th Cheers graduation)

Have you ever thought about renting our room and kitchen? It is one of the most reasonable rents you will find in Indianola.



To rent: call us at 961-8085 and get on the calendar



INDIANOLA:

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1865.

THE NEWS.

President Lincoln was assassinated at half past ten o'clock, on the 14th inst., at Ford's Theatre, and died at half past seven o'clock, on the following morning. Irrefragable testimony points to J. Wilkes Booth, the actor, as the assassin.

The same night an attempt was made on Secretary Seward's life. His wounds are serious, but his recovery is considered possible. Fred. Seward had his skull fractured in two places. His recovery is considered doubtful. One of the attendants on Mr. Seward has died from wounds received in defence of his master.

There are reports, not well authenticated, however, that Booth, the murderer has been captured.

The news have just arrived of the fall of Mobile, and the capture of a great number of prisoners and ordnance stores.

Johnson has surrendered with his whole army, which virtually brings the war to a close.

Vice President Johnson was sworn into office as President of the United States, on the 15th inst. at 11 o'clock, A. M.

News has just arrived, that Surratt, who attempted the assassination of Secretary Seward, has been captured. One of the conspirators has been arrested in Baltimore, and made a full confession, which is withheld from the public on grounds of policy.—It is believed now that Secretary Seward and Fred. Seward will both recover.

"We are not sufficiently recovered from the bewildering and stupefying influence of the late awful news to speak or write rationally on the subject" wrote M. Henry Money, editor of the Indianola Weekly Banner, in an article appearing below the announcement of the assassination.

The telegraphed announcement would have been "old" news by the time it was seen in the newspaper on Thursday, April 20th, 1865. The news of the shooting of Lincoln on the evening of Good Friday, April 14th and his death the morning of the 15th would have been known from the east coast to Denver and to the west coast almost immediately. In Warren County word would have spread like wild fire as persons in the towns traveled to their homes in the rural areas. Only five days before the assassination people had cheered the announcement of the surrender of Lee to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse.

On April 18th, an unnamed correspondent in Norwalk wrote to Banner's editor that, "On Saturday last we received the news of the assassination of President Lincoln..... Upon the recommendation of Mayor Cleveland, business was almost wholly suspended in Des Moines and every flag was hung at half mast. Many houses were draped in black and white, and many men evinced their sadness by wearing crepe on their left arm. Believing that I had the latest news, on Sunday many came to see and hear it—some came miles to learn the dreadful particulars. It is useless for me to attempt to depict the expression of the countenances of my listeners, and it would sound almost blasphemous to commit to paper their terrible anathemas."

The same issue of the paper carried a report of the Indianola response. At the call of the mayor, citizens met at the "Brick Church" for the purpose of paying respect to Lincoln. Col. P. P. Henderson was elected President of the meeting and J. Chapelle Clarke was named secretary. A committee was appointed on resolutions which reported a resolution which was adopted by the group and which contained five parts: 1) "...wedeeply deplore and mourn over this wicked and sad catastrophe"; 2) "That nothing less than the execution on the scaffold of all the horde of rebel leaders, will ever atone for this wicked act, or satisfy the loyal people of the government."; 3) "That we deeply sympathize with the bereaved family....."; 4) "That we call upon the government to erect an appropriate monument to the memory of Abraham Lincoln, to be located at his residence in Springfield, Illinois."; and 5) "That we are in

favor of the removal of the National Capital to some locality in the Western States, which the blighting curse of Slavery and treason has never polluted."

On April 26th General Order No. 3 was issued to the officers and men of the 2nd Regiment Warren County Militia that they "...wear crepe upon their left arm, as a token of mourning for the loss of our worthy Chief Magistrate, until the 15th of May...." By C. W. Davis, Colonel Commanding.

In the newspapers of the 1800s there were no reporters and very little correspondence or comments from the readers. There was also little local news beyond advertisements and legal notices. No banner headline went across the top of the front page. The front page news consisted of long articles, often of instruction, which had no connection to Warren County events. The notice of Lincoln's death and the articles about it appeared on the second page as shown in the illustration. We are lucky to have this copy of the paper on microfilm at the Indianola Public Library along with a few other issues of the years of the Civil War.

The issues available contain no "feature stories" of what was going on in the homes of the men who fought. In our book about Warren County and the Civil War we want to report those County stories that haven't been reported before. If you have scrapbooks, letters, or pictures from those four years please contact us so we can copy the material for our archives and share it in the book. Contact Jerry Beatty at 961-3088 or visit us at the Warren County Historical Society.

John Francis Kellar Union Light Guard

John Francis Kellar was born August 10, 1842 in Noble County, Ohio to Harrison and Catherine Kellar. (We have the Bible of Harrison & Catherine in the WCHS Library.) The Kellars eventually settled in Warren County and land they owned became Prole. He married Louise P. Kraps May 23, 1867 in Noble County. He married Matilda Jane Sayre April 4, 1878 in Warren County, Iowa. John Francis died April 25, 1925 in Hot Springs, Fall River County, South Dakota.

In 1863 he enlisted in the 7th Independent Co. of Ohio Volunteer Cavalry also know as the "Union Light Guard." The 108 member company was organized by Ohio Governor David Todd, during the months of November and December 1863, for special service. The nature of the service, was not disclosed to the members until some time after it was mustered into service at Columbus, Ohio on December 17, 1863. They were assigned to the Secretary of War and were assigned to barracks a few blocks southwest of the War Department. There they learned they were to serve as bodyguard or mounted escort for President Lincoln. During the summer months President Lincoln spent his nights at the Soldiers' Home near Washington and the company escorted him back and forth from the White House to the Home.

Many in the select company were bitterly disappointed to learn they were condemned to "inglorious inactivity." They wanted to "bear the scars of battle and experience the thrill of victory." But on further reflection, and the admonition of the Secretary of War; most of them realized it was an honor to protect the Commander-in-Chief. There were many southern sympathizers in Washington and Lincoln's life was always in jeopardy. Kellar was on duty the night of the assassination and personally carried the message from the Adjutant General to the army, which was encamped at Alexandria. Among his prized possessions was a photograph of Lincoln given to him and other members of his company, by the martyred President.

While serving in the Union Army John kept a diary and saved many of the letters written to him from home. In 1955, his grandson Paul Chandler Smith of Rock Rapids, Iowa and his wife, Leah, transcribed Kellar's notes and prepared a paper known as The Diary. A few excerpts follow: "Friday, April 14 Great excitement in the city at 10 o'clock. Assassination of President Lincoln in Ford's Theatre by a man supposed to be J. C. Booth. Also the assassination of Secretary Seward and two sons. None of them are expected to live. Went to Major General Haelleck with a dispatch for one of the boys who did not know the way. 425 rebel prisoners brought here and sent to Fort Warner. General Sewel, General Hunter listed and several other general officers. Grand torch light procession in the city."

"Saturday, April 15 But little to do. Offices, stores and shops closed. Great excitement. President Lincoln died this morning half past seven o'clock. The Swards still living. ...The city draped in mourning. Light Guard escorted the remains of the President to the White House. Thus in no less than 24 hours has a great nation been turned from rejoicing to deep mourning for the loss of the first man in our nation. The like of which has no comparison in the annals of history."

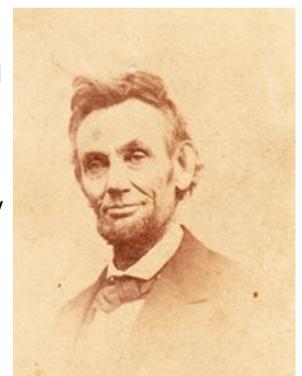


Last week a descendent of John Francis Kellar's brother, Henderson, was researching the family Bible and other sources in our library. She left us more information on the family. Most of the ancestors are buried in Linn Grove Cemetery but some are in Indianola IOOF and Norwalk.

Henderson was born in 1855 and so was too young to serve in the Civil War. He moved to Warren County in the 1870s and died here in 1836.



John Francis Kellar, bodyguard to President Lincoln, 1864-65. Photo provided by Paula Barrett of Maind, a descendent. Paula's Father donated the diary to the Ohio Historial Society.



Cabinet photo of Lincoln given to Kellar. Courtesy of Paula Barrett



Liberty Center Band

Clark Ferguson played the drum. Can you date or identify anyone in the photo? If you can let us know.

Preserve Iowa Summit 2015 - June 25, 26 and 27

Iowa Underground Rail Road – June 27

The three-day Preserve Iowa Summit includes a Saturday filled with information on the Iowa Underground Rail Road and Jim Lane Trail.

The entire three-day event fee has a registration fee of **\$125** (through May 15, then \$155). Thursday and Friday, June 25th and 26th are sessions geared toward professionals and volunteers involved in historic preservation. Saturday, June 27th is filled with tours in Winterset, around Madison County, to Greenfield, and a full day of sessions and a tour on the topic of the Underground Railroad.

If you would like to just attend the Saturday sessions on the UGRR and the Jim Lane Trail, you can register just for that day for only **\$25**. Three sessions in the morning on the UGRR work nationally, as well as in Madison County, will be followed by an optional bus trip to Lewis to visit the Hitchcock House, an important site on both trails. A sack lunch is included for those of you who choose to tour either by riding the provided school bus or by taking your own car. These same trails go through Warren County and Marie Moffitt, WCHS member who is researching the trails here, is also working with the Madison County group. If you would like a ride to the Saturday meetings call Ruth Hall, 961-3201.

To register for the entire Summit or just the Saturday UGRR event, you must register at <http://madisoncountyhistory.net/> Registrations will be accepted until June 19. For more information contact Brenda Hollingsworth at madisoncountypreservation@gmail.com or call 515-468-8129