



August 2019

## WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 256 Indianola, IA 50125

Phone-515-961-8085

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

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

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### WCHS ANNUAL MEETING

**Tues. Aug. 27th**  
**Elodie Opstad**  
**Revisiting Bob**  
**Davey's WW II**  
**Struggles**

### WCHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Sat. at 9:30**  
**Sept. 14**

### LCF COMMITTEE

**Sat. at 10:30**  
**Sept. 14**

### NO

### WCHS MEETING September

### LOG CABIN FESTIVAL

**Sat. Sept. 28th and**  
**Sun. Sept. 29th**

### NEW! LCF Meals

**Sat. Sept. 28**  
**11:00-1:00**

### Burgers & Brats

**Sun. Sept. 29**  
**11:00-1:00**

**Ham Dinner**

### WCHS TUESDAY, AUGUST 27th MEETING

On Tuesday, August 27th at 7:00 pm, Elodie Opstad will present, Revisiting Bob Davey's WW II Struggles. Recently, Elodie and Sandy traveled in Europe and explored and retraced areas that Bob had experienced, after bailing out from his crippled bomber in the mountains of Yugoslavia.

This will be a program you will not want to miss!

There will not be a September program because all our efforts will be used to make September 28-29 Log Cabin Festival a success. Want to volunteer, make a cake, donate garage sale items call us at 961-8085.



Bob Davey  
Tail Gunner, B-17

### PLEASE SAVE HYVEE RECEIPTS

WCHS continues to collect Indianola HyVee receipts. Please save your grocery, pharmacy and gas receipts from the Indianola HyVee and drop them off at the museum. When we get \$100,000 in receipts, we will receive \$350.00 from HyVee.



July Warren County Fair Blue Ribbon entry from Parker K. reflects on his 5th Grade May Pioneer School Days.



### LOG CABIN FESTIVAL GARAGE SALE

Bring items to museum before Sept. 26th.

Sept. 26th-27th bring to 4H Building  
**THANK YOU!**



Join the fun of Log Cabin Festival on September 28th and 29th by volunteering to help staff a Heritage Village Building, make baked goods for cake auction, enter a car in our car show, make calls, help at garage sale or a myriad of other tasks. To help call WCHS at 961-8085, or E-mail [contact@warrencountyhistory.org](mailto:contact@warrencountyhistory.org), or just drop by and lend a hand.



## LOG CABIN FESTIVAL WARREN COUNTY, HER STORY 2019

Don't forget to purchase your quilt raffle tickets, 1 for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00. You won't want to miss a chance to win this beautiful quilt celebrating women. Stop by the museum to purchase tickets or get extras to sell to your friends.

What is new at LCF this year:

1. **NO BREAKFAST!** We will serve a Brat and Burger Lunch at the museum 11:00-1:00.
2. Saturday Tractor Show after the morning parade will be located south of the Morton Building.
4. A children's pet and doll parade will take place at 1:00 pm. Come dressed as your favorite historical figure. Children's Parade will line-up in front of the 4H Building at 12:45. Parade will begin at 1:00 and travel around the campgrounds. Words from a suffragette will be at Mt. Hope School at 2:00pm Saturday.
5. Sunday there will be a Ham Dinner served at the museum from 11:00-1:00. Followed by the Cake and Pie Auction with the quilt raffle to follow.

Jerry Beatty is still working on the new book, **WARREN WOMEN, HER STORY**, which will be printed in 2020. He is looking for stories and photos of Warren County women. If you have information to share, bring it into the museum or E-mail to [contact@warrencountyhistory.org](mailto:contact@warrencountyhistory.org)

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From the President, Deb Taylor

Dear Members.

We are so pleased to see the progress and improvements this year has brought. Along the north fence line next to the machine shed, the weeds have been killed and rubber type gravel put down to prevent the weed issue in the future. The farm equipment is being replaced on this surface complete with signage to label the implements. Thank you to Susan Graeser, Don Sandy and Dwight McCormick for all your hard work and donations toward this project. Kathi Stanfield and Butch McClintic have replaced some bad siding on the meeting house. Dave Grissom has replaced a few of the bad lights in the main museum area. Carpet square donations from Phillips Flooring have been placed on the floor of a couple of the booths. Thanks to the combined efforts and grant money from the Warren County Questers, the Sandyville Stage Screen is in the process of being restored by John Parker Sr. The cleaning and touch up make a remarkable difference. The first half of the museum basement lighting has been completed and the second half scheduled for completion in late August. This is being accomplished in full from a Prairie Meadow Community Grant awarded to the WCHS for this purpose. We are very thankful for this generous donation and anticipate Log Cabin visitors will appreciate this improvement.

The General Warren Questers have adopted Mt. Hope School in our Heritage Village for restoration. They have been busy glazing the windows, scraping, repairing walls and painting. Be sure to thank them for their efforts as they seek to raise funds by selling cookies to further their work at LCF.

There have been so many small projects too numerous to mention that have consumed volunteer labor and funds. Thank you all so much for pulling together to make the WCHS the best it can be. I also want to thank the numerous donors for adding to the collection with family heirlooms and noteworthy historical items. Your generosity will be appreciated for several generations.

LCF promises to be wonderful this year. Several new items have been added as you will see in the flyer. As usual we will need volunteers to make this a successful event. Please give us a call if you have a few free hours to donate. I also encourage you to read our newsletter for LCF information. Linda Beatty puts a lot of effort into preparing it for us.





Jennie Riggs Cosson,  
DM Register, Jan. 20,  
1917

## JENNIE RIGGS COSSON, EDUCATOR, WRITER & SUFFREGIST

Jennifer "Jennie" Riggs was born in rural Decatur County, IA in February of 1874 to Noah Hill and Catherine "Katie" Elliott Riggs. She had eight siblings. In 1891, the family moved to Indianola so that the children might enjoy the educational opportunities offered by the proximity of Simpson College.

During the summer of 1893, she worked in Centerville as book keeper for Bidle & Riggs. Jennie attended Simpson College and graduated with a BA in 1899. Jennie was a leader in college activities, especially in anything requiring originality. She wrote a number of plays and skits, as well as English compositions. She taught high school English and became principal at Mt. Ayer. She moved to Audubon where she taught English and became high school principal.

It was at Audubon where she met her future husband George Cosson, a young lawyer. They were married December 28, 1904 in Indianola at the home of her parents.



Simpson College  
graduation, 1899



Jennie Riggs Cosson, wife of Iowa Attorney General George Cosson, and their children Clarence, Mary and Jennie, Des Moines Register Oct. 6, 1912

In 1905 George became Audubon County Attorney. He then served as a Republican senator in the 33rd Iowa General Assembly. Here he challenged lax enforcement of liquor and vice laws. These laws were known as the Cosson Laws, including a recall against local officials who failed to uphold the law and a red light injunction law for segregated prostitution districts in Davenport and Des Moines. These Cosson Laws helped pave the way to his three term tenure as Iowa Attorney General, 1911-1916. He ran unsuccessfully for several other state wide offices. Jennie wrote many of his speeches.

George opened a law office in Des Moines and taught at Drake Law School. In 1912, he broke with the Republican Party and supported Theodore Roosevelt's Bull Moose Progressive Party bid for President of the United States. He was one of the early state-wide leaders to support women's right of vote.

The Cossons moved to Des Moines when George became Attorney General. Here Jennie was active in many clubs and groups. She was President of Des Moines Women's Club in 1930 and served on the Des Moines Parks Board, the Simpson College Board, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) committee, P.E.O., and the Ladies Legislative League. In 1925, Cosson was inducted into Epsilon Sigma Sorority as an alumna and faculty member of Simpson College. Jennie and her husband supported the right for women to vote and world peace with understanding. Some of her writings from 1910-1919 can be found in the digital Iowa Women's Archive at the State University of Iowa where her papers were donated.

Jennie died in San Francisco while visiting her son Capt. Clarence Cosson on February 3, 1943. She is buried in Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines.

Excerpt from her writing, <http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/cdm/ref/collection/suffrage/id/1786>

## THE AMERICAN GIRL OF TODAY

Public opinion is governed by the law of extremes like the pendulum, the further it has been turned from the normal perpendicular, the greater the arc it will describe in its rebound, where it is influenced by the gravitation of common sense.

This momentum has to be again overcome, and as its vacillations constitute the peculiar characteristics of the different epochs of the annals of the race. Whenever we find an ...idea either unusual by permanent or intensely unpopular, we may expect with a reasonable degree of certainty to find the conditions in the next era exactly reversed, so...fickle is the goddess popularity.

So perhaps it is only in the course of poetic justice that woman with her prerogatives should enjoy a certain degree of popularity in the last half of the nineteenth century, in return for the obscurity in which she has made her transition stage of existence. A distinctive characteristic of the present age is the advancement of woman's influence along all lines of activity and the awakening interest which is being universally manifested in obtaining for her those conditions which not only shall be conducive to her independent development, but shall exercise the most beneficent influence on the world at large.

(continues for 2 1/2 pages)



George Cosson

## Retired-Does Apple Tricks

By Herb Owens, Des Moines Tribune, August 25, 1954

Victor Felter was born in Tama County and was ten when his family moved to Washia in Cherokee County where for three years his father operated a general store.

Victor's horticultural education started at 13 when he worked with his father on a farm, orchard nursery and "market" garden near Washia.

After marrying Edith Green, a school teacher, Victor farmed next door to his father.

Regretting his lack of formal education, he attended the first 12 short courses in agronomy and animal husbandry at Iowa State College.

Having been a factor in organizing agricultural extension work in eight counties, Felter became county agent of East Pottawattamie County at Oakland in 1918 and served eight years.

"While county agent, I kept eyes open for a farm near a college town which also would provide a market for fruit", he said. "I visited many college towns and finally in 1925 bought the 120 acre farm north of Indianola. I wanted the educational advantages for my children."

Feltner planted a 12 1/2 acre orchard in 1925, letting a tenant farm between the rows of apple trees. The next year he moved his family to the farm, where twice adding 8 acre groves, he developed the widely known Felter Fruit Orchard. In 1950 he sold all but six acres to Dr. and Mrs. John Woods of Des Moines, who built a new improved home next door.

Later he sold three acres to a mechanic who converted the Feltner brick barn into a garage.

For years Felter's farm has been the only landscaped farmland between Des Moines and Indianola. There he has shrubs, flowers, and vegetables growing beside his fruit and flowering trees.

As a horticulture judge, he is widely known.

For years he judged fairs in Oklahoma. He has judged shows and fairs all over Iowa. He judged Iowa State Fair exhibits before he took over the fair staff 28 years ago as Horticulture Superintendent.

Felter is the only Iowan who has been awarded both a certificate of merit and an honor degree from the State Horticultural Society, of which he has been president. He also has been president of the Iowa Fruit Growers Association.

The Felters have two daughters, Mrs. Pauline Hopkins of Hays, KS, and Mrs. Marjorie Cone of Moscow, ID, and two sons, Victor Jr., accountant at Eugene, OR and Donald, a farmer near Madrid.

Victor likes to hunt and fish. He has shot moose, deer, elk and-the most difficult-mountain goat. Now, he like to do color photography.

Photo of 100 bushels of golden corn in horn of plenty, honoring the Iowa State Fair's 100th year. The red dent corn was hand picked by Glenn Wilson, a neighbor of Feltner from a farm near Indianola and cost \$2.50 a bushel. It was picked in 1953 and sealed in 60 new metal garbage cans until this year's fair.



Victor Felter, age 77, prepares moss padded arch for Iowa State Fair flower



### CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS!!!

We would like volunteers to help for an hour or more with museum cleanup, dusting, etc. in preparation for Log Cabin Festival on Thursday, September 19, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and finishing when everything is done.



LOG CABIN DAYS FESTIVAL 2019  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPT. 28 & 29

Warren County  
*Herstory*

Honoring Women's Struggle for the Right to Vote

*Saturday*

farmer's mkt 8-4  
north of morton bldg

parade 10am  
line up 9am  
at admin bldg

tractor show  
south of morton bldg

lunch 11-1  
burgers and brats  
dining hall \$7

children's parade  
"favorite historical  
character" 1pm 4H bldg

pumpkin & sunflower  
contest in the pavillion  
check in 11-noon

words from a suffragette  
2pm in the school house

steam 4 youth TBA



*Sunday*

church TBA

car show  
matt mitchell  
515-962-7185

lunch 11-1  
ham dinner \$10  
\$7 for kids 5 & under

pie auction  
Putney Auction  
after lunch  
dining hall

quilt raffle  
after auction  
dining hall

SUFFERAGE  
QUILT  
for RAFFLE

DESIGNED AND  
QUILTED BY  
MARCIA BROCKER  
OLSON  
83 in x 96 in  
Tickets \$1 - 6 for \$5

*Saturday and Sunday*

Heritage  
Village  
Open

Scarecrow  
Making  
near 4H Bldg.  
while supplies last

Crafts and  
Commerce  
Lester Bldg.

Garage Sale  
4-H Bldg.

Quilt Display  
Hort Bldg.

Mod Railroaders  
museum  
lower level



Warren County Historical Society

1400 West 2nd Avenue • Warren County Fairgrounds • Indianola, IA 50125 515-961-8085

WARRENCOUNTYHISTORY.ORG

# The 9th Annual Warren County Historical Society Festival Log Cabin Days Car Show



**SUNDAY SEPT. 29, 2019**

1400 W 2nd Ave., Indianola, IA. Hwy 92 The Warren County Fairgrounds

All Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, Foreign and Domestic are Welcome!

Registration 9AM - Noon

Judging Noon - 1:30

Awards at 3PM

Log Cabin Festival Activities

50/50 Drawing

Lunch on the Grounds

**Open to all Makes & Models, Foreign & Domestic**

**BEST OF SHOW**

**BEST INTERIOR**

**BEST LOWRIDER**

**CLASSIC MUSCLE CAR**

**TOP 20 AWARDS**

**BEST PAINT**

**BEST CAR**

**BEST RAT ROD**

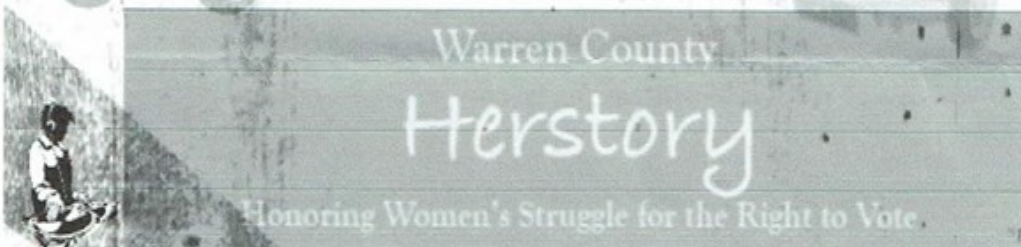
**LOG CABIN SPECIAL PICK**

**BEST MOTORCYCLE**

**BEST ENGINE**

**BEST TRUCK**

**MODERN MUSCLE CAR**



MUSIC AND EMCEE BY AM MUSIC SERVICES

PLEASE NO PLAYING OF OTHER MUSIC SO THE DJ CAN BE HEARD

The WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION 501(c)(3)

Entry Fee: \$15 in advance (received by September 1, 2019) \$20 day of show

Make checks payable to: Warren County Historical Society

Mail pre-registrations to:

Matt Mitchell 2010 W 4th Ave. Apt. 106 Indianola, IA. 50125

MitchellMatthewM@gmail.com

515-442-9561

**NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS OR THEFT**

Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle: Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_



With the coverage of the recent tornado that hit Lacona on August 20, we are sharing a cyclone experience from 1876.

## **THE CYCLONE OF 1876**

On July 4th 1876 a cyclone hit the area of the George Banks farm in Warren County. It inflicted severe damage to his property. It blew the house down and took the roof off the corn crib, leaving it leaning against a fence post.

When the storm hit, it blew the front door of the house open. George and Sylvina tried to push it shut, but the wind took them out. Sylvina caught in a small cherry tree in the yard, and George was carried up on the top of a hill, which they called sand hill. He grabbed a comforter that was flying by. It was raining very hard and the lightning was very severe. He caught on a tree and wrapped the wet comforter around him and made his way back to the house to look for the family. The horses and cows were bawling and running around.

He called to Sylvina. She had found Mary (twelve) and Isabelle (two) and put them under the roof of the corn crib out of the heavy rain and wind. George went to look for the boys, who had been in bed upstairs. He called to them and they answered, so he tried to make his way through the rubble to reach them. He could see only with the flashes of lightening and the house was all caved in. He found George Jr. (fourteen) first and took him to the shelter under the corn crib roof. He then went back and got Will (seven) taking him to the others. Then, he started to search for Tom (nine), who was caught under some boards. As the lightening flashed, he would try to locate him. He saw what he thought was a lathe and that it was holding Tom down, so he pulled on it, not realizing that it was the bone of his leg. He finally got him loosened and carried him to the corn crib roof with the others.

He told Sylvina to stay with the children, and he would go to look for help. It was terrible, raining and water everywhere. He found his way to the neighbors, the Millers.

Some of the windows of the Miller farmhouse had been blown out, but the roof of their house was still intact. They told George to go back and bring his family to their home. He had to carry Tom and Sylvina carried Isabelle. All were crying and very frightened. They arrived and all were covered with plaster and debris and wet to the skin. Mary told her family in later years, that she could never forget the care and warm clothes that Mrs. Miller gave to them.

They could not get a doctor for Tom until the second day in the afternoon after the storm. The doctor had to travel on horseback from Springhill, and he had been very busy taking care of the many people who had been injured.

Tom had trouble with his broken leg, during the rest of his life, as it did not heal properly. Bernice Seymour, his niece remembers seeing splinters coming through his flesh all through the years.

As written by Bernice Seymour, daughter of Mary Banks Seymour.

## **GOOD INDIAN DAYS**

Do you remember 'Good Indian Days' sponsored by the Indianola Chamber in the 1950s? It probably was a precursor to Ridiculous Days.

In 1951 Luther P. Williams was made an honorary chief and Suzanne Bowles an honorary princess of the Fox and Sac Native American Tribe on the a big stage on the southwest corner of the square. Jimmy Murphy was master of ceremonies, Leo & Josephine Gasca did a wire act, Matt Tuck had a barrel/juggling act and the Rose Lorenze Dancers performed.

Williams was presented a war bonnet of eagle feathers by Chief Hohoth (Edward Davenport) and Miss Bowles received a beaded necklace and head band with an eagle feather.

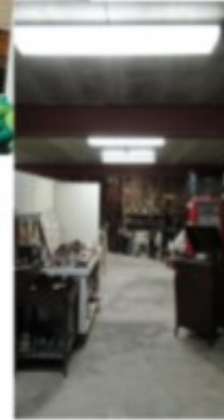
The Native Americans from Tama camped on the northwest corner of the square and shared their culture with Indianola.

11,000 pancake were served to 500 people Friday. The pancakes were served through the courtesy of Pillsbury's Best Flour company. Friday night all the county bands, including Simpson entertained with a concert

## CANDID CAMERA SHOTS



New lighting added to the museum basement. The soon to be completed second half will be funded by a Prairie Meadows



Don Sandy working to create additional parking spaces.

1st June Garage Sale  
We made over \$800 thanks to all of you  
for your help and donations.



Larche family  
sharing stories  
at Elodie Opstad's  
Cemetery Walk



New fence for style. The old fence was rotting and been damaged by a car.