



August 2022

WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 256 Indianola, IA 50125

Phone-515-961-8085

(Highway 92 West, 1300 West 2nd, turn north into fair grounds, then turn east)

E-mail- contact@warrencountyhistory.org

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WCHS Annual Garage Sale

Sat. August 20th
9:00 am to 3:00

Log Cabin Festival

Sat. Sept. 24th
Parade 10:00
Lunch 11:00-1:00
Silent Auction
Quilt Raffle Games
Make a Scarecrow
Quilt Show

1st Amazon will donate .5% of your total purchase to Warren County Historical Society

amazon smile

if you sign in at Amazon Smile. All you need to do is sign in at amazon smile rather than amazon. Choose Warren County Historical Society, then select Iowa as your charity to support.

Please continue to collect Indianola HYVEE receipts and bring them in to the museum. We have a large glass container near the kitchen where you can place them. We can use gas, pharmacy, grocery or any other HYVEE receipt. It is an easy way to raise funds for WCHS.

When Hy Vee asks if you want to have your receipt, say YES!



GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

9:00 am-3:00 pm

Warren County Historical Society

Notice: there will be no Garage sale at the September 24 LCF.

If you have items to donate for the sale, bring them to the museum anytime before Friday, August 19th. Building will be open for donations from 9 to 4 August 15th-19th.

Want to help with the sale? Call Linda Beatty at 515-961-3088

Time to Purchase Your 2022 LCF QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS

This year's quilt,
"RUNNING FREE" was
designed by 14 year old
Quinton Spain!

It may be our 1st quilt
done by a young man.

Tickets are available at
the museum and
Stitching Place
1 for \$2, 6 for \$10



PRESIDENT'S CORNER August 2022

Hello everyone!



Summer is slowly slipping away! We do have time for one more big event! Come to our annual yard sale! **AUGUST 20TH: Save the Date! There is always a treasure to be found!** If you have worked hard to clean out or have a yard sale and have left overs or are wondering where to take your things, please consider us. We are non- profit and survive on donations. Drop off times are Thursdays 9-4 and Saturdays 9-12. If you need a special drop off time- please try to call and maybe we can assist. We do prefer to have no clothes.

As we transition into fall, join in celebrating **Log Cabin Festival – Sept. 24th**, with us. The Pioneer Village has undergone some repairs. Preserving our past for our future! There will be games, photo ops, food, a silent auction, scarecrows, and lots of fun to be had by all. We will celebrate, Faith in Warren County!

A New Roof has been put on all of our buildings. The foundation has been raised under the Log Cabin. The shaker roof on the cabin will be put on in September. Next we will search for someone to do the chinking. Do you know anyone? We will also be debuting a new coaster which will be part of a series. You may choose to collect them all. Along with outside, many of our booths in the museum have been updated.

Come see the Country Church! It has been renovated and is ready for you to reserve for your special day. Also available are the kitchen and meeting room for your gathering. You must be a member or have a family member reserve and be responsible for your booking. The gazebo would also be a great setting for photos.

Our continued success depends on the contributions from we receive from you- the Members and Public!

Thank you so much!!!

Deb Larrison

New Event at 2022 Log Cabin Festival



We will be having a Silent Auction to raise funds during the Saturday, September 24th LCF. If you have baked goods—cake, pie, jam, rolls or something else yummy to donate to this Silent Auction, have it to the museum by 10:00 am on Saturday. We are also looking for non-food auction items that you would like to donate. You might create a theme basket, have a hand crafted item or gift certificate place in the auction.

Each item will have a paper bid sheet with a minimum bid. You place your bid by writing a bid amount, your name and contact information on the bid sheet. You may bid as often as you like. The highest bid wins each item at the close of bidding.

1st LOG CABIN RENOVATION PHASE COMPLETED IN JULY

Thanks to the generous grant from the Warren County Philanthropic Partnership of \$14,715.00 and donations from Warren County Historical Society members we have completed the 1st Phase of our Log Cabin Renovation. Iowa Foundation Repair used 14 helical piers driven under the footings of the cabin and fireplace. This process leveled and raised the cabin and will prevent further settling of the structure.

Two men leveled and raised our log cabin.

Now we can open our cabin door again.



Come and visit all the improvements that are being made.



**LOOKING
FOR A WEDDING VENUE?**
Consider WCHS' Pioneer Church
New roof, lighting and interior.

Event Day Church Rental Only \$200

**Event Day Rent Church, Gazebo, Kitchen & Meeting
Room \$350**

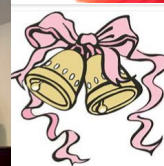
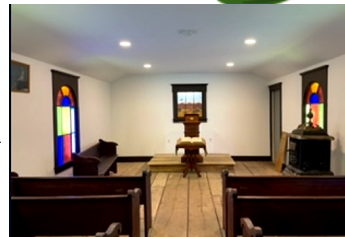
Requirements: Church capacity 30

Meeting Room capacity 100

**Contracting person must be a
member of Warren County Historical Society and
be responsible for the buildings and clean up**

No alcohol

Contact WCHS at 515-961-8085



We even have a bell you can
ring to celebrate the occa-
sion.



SOUTH RIVER MEETING HOUSE

The Society of Friends was meeting as early as 1847 in the Ackworth area of Warren County and was known as South River. Worship was held under direction of the Spring Creek Quarterly Meeting. By 1860 a monthly meeting was formed at South River and the Three Rivers Meeting was formed on June 5, 1852. The Three Rivers Meeting consisted of South River, Middle River, Indianola, Goshen (between Middle and South River), Rose Mount (White Breast Township), Green Plain (Liberty Township) Waveland (Northwest Belmont Township), and Smyrna (Clarke County).

South River Friends Meeting House is typical of Conservative Friends Meeting Houses. It is one room and has no ornamentation. There are eight painted benches made from Warren County walnut. Women sat on the right and men on the left. One bench in front of each side was raised to a level higher than the floor and faced the benches. It was used for elders, ministers and clerks of the meeting.

At the monthly meeting, the group considered all business to be taken up in prayerful silence. No motions were made or votes taken. It was the business of the clerk to determine "the sense" of the meeting and present it so all would approve. If one person objected to a proposal, the matter was dropped. Often the monthly meeting lasted all day and no dinner was served. Children could get very hungry so lunches were packed to eat on the buggy ride home.

Meetings for worship were not programmed. If the spirit moved anyone to speak, the member was expected to bring a message. Many meetings were completely silent. There was no music. When a member knelt in prayer, the congregation arose and turned, facing their seat backs, removing their hats and bonnets. "Be still and know that I am God," Psalm 45 was faithfully adhered to in many meetings. Around 1880 a rift developed between the Progressive Quakers and Conservative Quakers of the Three Rivers Meeting. The Progressives wanted to have a more defined worship, including worship leaders. The Conservatives wanted no change. The Progressive Quakers retained the original Ackworth Meeting House and Academy, and the Conservative Friends, including William Moffitt, Ben Henshaw, Nathan Craven, Levi Barnett, and John White, built South River Meeting House.

In 1933 William Clarkson Moffitt had the South River Meeting House moved to this farm west of Ackworth, just off Highway 92. Don and Deloris Van Ryswyk purchased the land from the Moffitt family where the Meeting House was located and donated the building to the Warren County Historical Society. Mike Vanderpool along with other interested persons, loaded the building on his semi and moved it to the WCHS Heritage Village in March, 1996.

This small South River Meeting House represents the original Quaker faith which hinges largely on self-searching of the soul and conscience. This quiet, thoughtful, method of worship exemplifies the deep spiritual heritage and integrity of the original faith.

William Clarkson Moffitt was born in Ramseur, Randolph, North Carolina on August 17, 1862 to Mary and William A. Moffitt. He came to Iowa with his parents at the age of 4.

He grew up near Ackworth and became a farmer. He married Jane White who died in 1896 at the age of 28. In 1898 he married Mary Rockwell at the Paulina Meeting of Friends. Mary was born in New York state in 1873 and moved to Paulina, Iowa with her parents.

Photo shows Mary and William Clarkson Moffitt celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary at their Ackworth farm with friends and family. Their children were, Emma Lillian Mott, Olive Bertha Idso, Ellen Lydia Tjosem, Ruth Anna Emmons, Florence Alta, and Margaret Allen. Sons William E. and Abel are children of William's previous marriage to Jane White.



Mary Moffitt wore the same tan, wool-worsted, floor-length gown she wore at her wedding fifty years ago. Record Herald and Tribune photo.

Information from Author Marie Moffitt's **Ackworth History, 1847-2011**

FIRST WARREN COUNTY MURDER CASE

The first Warren County, Iowa case of murder was that of Patrick Cassidy by Linn Township neighbor James Neeley on August 1, 1864. Trouble between them arose from the depredations of Neeley's stock in Cassidy's fields. Cassidy had set his dogs on Neeley's cows. Neeley told Cassidy that he would shoot Cassidy's dogs. Neeley went down to Cassidy's field where the dogs were going after Neeley's hogs again. About the same time Cassidy started out for the same place. Both were armed, Neeley with a large smooth-bore musket and Cassidy with a small squirrel rifle. Both fired about the same time, and Neeley's shot hit Cassidy about the eleventh rib and passed entirely through his body, killing him instantly, while Neeley was only slightly wounded in the left hand.

Neeley gave himself up, and at his preliminary examination by a Justice of the Peace was bound over to the next term of the District Court.

On September 22, 1864, Neeley was arraigned before the court, having been indicted for murder on the second degree, and was admitted to bail in the sum of \$5,000, with Thomas Neeley, Lewis Johnson, William C. Simmons, Daniel R. Perkins and William N. James.

At the March term of 1865, he applied for a change of venue, which was granted, and his case was sent to Polk County for trial, and was again admitted to bail in the same sum with Thomas Neeley, William N. James and Casper Weil as his surties. On the third day of the same term, Casper Weil surrendered Neeley to the sheriff and was released from his bond.

The application for a change of venue alleged that, "by reason of excitement and prejudice against him in said Warren County, your petitioner, James Neeley, cannot have a fair and impartial trial on said indictment; and this defendant, therefore, prays for a change of venue in said cause from said county of Warren to some other county in this judicial district."

B.F. Murray was the prosecutor at the time of his indictment, but before the case came on for trial his term had expired and H.W. Maxwell had become his successor, and J.S. Polk, of Des Moines assisted the prosecutor in the trial of the case. Judge Byron Rice of Des Moines was attorney for Neeley in all the trials.

All attempts of combined effort to clear Neeley from the clutches of the law, were rendered futile and abortive by the unceasing vigilance, untiring energy and thorough legal ability of our District Attorney H.W. Maxwell, assisted by J.S. Polk.

Thirty eight jurors were passed upon before a panel was chosen; this occupied one day. The hearing of the testimony was not completed till seven days later.

James Neeley's statement said that he had fired the shot which killed Cassidy, but that it was done in self-defense. His remarks were quite lengthy and intelligent. He betrayed very little nervousness, although his organization is of highly nervous character. He was, from his appearance, about forty years of age. His height was about five feet nine or ten inches. His face was pale almost to bloodless, and his frame was thin..

The jury retired to their room for a short while and when they returned the word guilty was written more plainly on their faces than it was on the paper, which the foreman held in his hand. When the guilty verdict was read, the prisoner seemed to sink for a moment under the impression it made, but soon gained his self-possession and resumed the same air of firmness which had characterized him during the trial.

On Saturday afternoon Judge Gray pronounced sentence on Neeley with fifteen years hard labor at the State Penitentiary.

The trial was long and tedious and the jury visited the ground on which the tragedy occurred, and finally brought in a verdict of guilty of manslaughter. Judge J.H. Gray, who presided in the trial, then sentenced Neeley to fifteen years at hard labor in the penitentiary, where he remained until about 1878, when he was pardoned out by Governor Kirkwood.

Neeley had conducted himself well while in the penitentiary and won the confidence of all connected with its management. He moved to Redfield, Dallas County and worked at the trade of a cooper, which he learned while confined to prison. He also owns a farm and orchard and did well financially. He joined the Methodist Church after being converted in prison. He has shown sorrow for an act committed in the heat of anger and is trying to correct the wrong he had done.

Cassidy had been a promising young man and well respected in the neighborhood. The affair was not generally considered a premeditated one and many people were never able to believe that Neeley's punishment was just.

Sources: July 20, 1865 **Weekly Indianola Banner**, **The History of Warren County, Iowa**, Union Historical Co. Des Moines, 1879



Des Moines Register May 31, 1958
Rev. J.M. (Morrie) Steffenson of Indianola shows outdoor hand-washing gadget built by Methodist campers at Camp Wesley Woods at Lake Aquabi. Cans hung on log have small holes punched in bottom from which water drips. Soap hangs in cheese-cloth at one end; cloth towel or roll of paper towels is hung at other end. Camp now has eight cabins and other facilities; lodge is under construction; water system and sanitary facilities will be completed by next fall.

Des Moines Register, January 16, 1993
Camp Wesley Woods has a year-round program and has some 2,400 children and youth in its summer program. It is on the shore of Lake Ahquabi. In the past, both the camp and Lake Ahquabi State Park have had their own water treatment facilities and have taken their water from the lake.

A Planned project to drain the lake this spring for dredging, spillway repairs and other work to enhance its fishing potential meant a potential camping season without water.

The problem was solved by hooking into Warren Water Inc, system for the camp's water supply. The hookup was expensive because the rural system was about two years away from expanding its pipes to the camp area, said camp director David Schar.

Wesley Woods Camp & Retreat Center

At Lake Aquabi where Faith, Fun, and Friends Meet

Des Moines Tribune June 18, 1960

Singing "Song of Peace" (to tune Finlandia) during choir practice at Wesley Woods are, from left, Julie Huff, 13, and Andrea Kisor, 13, both of Norwalk, and Jane Roorda, of Pleasantville, Barbara Trinkle of Bussey directed the choir; her twin sister Betty, played piano. Choir sang at daily morning chapel Soul Set at 8:30 preceding breakfast.



Des Moines Register July 2003

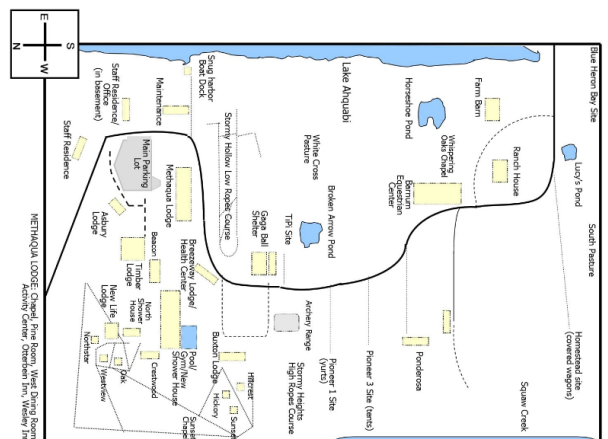
For the first time in Wesley Woods United Methodist Camp and Retreat Center's 50 year history, campers know they'll get to ride horses every day, rain or shine.

A new \$333,000 equestrian center includes a 14,000 square foot riding arena, tack room and stalls. Plenty of room for children to work with their assigned horses and practice their riding skills.



"There have been years when it would just pour the whole camp week and there wasn't much campers could do," said Nan Allen, who with her husband the Rev. Art Allen, are co-directors of the facility. "With the indoor arena, none of the campers will go home disappointed."

The project was financed through private dona-



Wesley Woods Camp Map

Indianola IOOF Cemetery Walk, August 27th & 28th

WHEN HEADSTONES TALK
Hear Cemetery Residents
Talk About Their Lives and Their Demise!



(Encircling a different section of the cemetery)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 • 5:30-8:00 PM
SUNDAY, AUGUST 28 • 2:00-4:30 PM

WEST SIDE OF INDIANOLA I.O.O.F. CEMETERY • 0.6MI SOUTH OF HWY 92 ON JEFFERSON WAY

FREE
DONATIONS • CONTRIBUTIONS ENCOURAGED
TO **REPAIR AND RESURRECT** OLD STONES
• NO RSVP • NO RAIN DATES •

OFFERED BY INDIANOLA PARKS & RECREATION,
WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INDIANOLA I.O.O.F.

Questionable weather? • Call Indianola Parks & Recreation
6312-0611-01201 • Press 1 for Cancellation

WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY GARAGE SALE

Saturday, August 20th, 9:00 to 3:00

Bring your donations to museum from 9 to 4 Aug. 15-19

WARREN COUNTY TIDBITS



February 28, 1967, **The Alliance Times-Herald**, Alliance, Nebraska

In a **World-Herald** art contest, Steven McCoy entered a switch on a famous World War I recruiting poster in which Uncle Sam pointed a finger at the viewer above the caption "I Want You." In his World-Herald contest entry the Omaha art student used President LBJ to replace Uncle Sam in his art poster. McCoy placed second in the contest.

Steve was born in Indianola and his interest in art was the result of watching, as a small boy, his mother paint figurines using very small and delicate brushes. His father was an auto mechanic and welder. He could do amazingly creative things with a blowtorch and a piece of iron.

He is essentially self taught. Steve spent 33 years as an illustrator/designer in the Omaha area. When he retired he and his wife moved back to Indianola.

April 8, 1893, **The New Era**, Topeka, Kansas - Four killed by a boiler explosion in Lacona, Iowa. In a saw mill near Lacona there was an explosion of boiler owned by Henry McKinness. He and his three sons were instantly killed.

Nov. 3, 1900, **The Daily Times**, Davenport, Iowa— Articles of incorporation were filed with the Iowa Secretary of State yesterday by the Farmer's Co-operative Creamery Company at Carlisle Iowa. The capital is \$4,900. The incorporators are a large number of citizens of Carlisle.

Dec. 14, 1878, **The Clay Center Dispatch**, Clay Center, Kansas—Farmer Gilman fixed a gun in his melon patch, in Summerset, Iowa, in such a way that the person who stirred a certain large, ripe melon would receive a charge of beans. He meant to remove the gun in the morning, if no thief was caught in the night; but, before daylight, his mother-in-law went out to get a melon and got the beans. She was seriously wounded, and refuses to believe that Gilman did not set the trap for her.

August 9, 1873, **The Des Moines Register**, Des Moines, Iowa—Camp Meeting! The Des Moines and Indianola Districts will hold a Camp Meeting one and a half miles south of Norwalk, at the junction of North River with the main wagon road leading from Des Moines to Winterset, commencing on the 20th of August, and continuing over the following Sabbath. The grounds will be dedicated on the 7th of August, at 10:30 am. Lots will be let and privileges granted under the regulations of the Committee on that day. The grounds are beautifully located and easy access.

October 2, 1900, **The Times**, Streator, Illinois— Ottumwa, Iowa. One of the worst wrecks on the Burlington in years was experienced on the Chariton-Indianola Branch, just south of Lacona, about 10 o'clock am. A passenger train was precipitated into the ditch while running at a high rate of speed, resulting in the death of one man and injury of several other passengers. The dead: B.R. Welcher of Milo, Iowa. The injured: Miss Maggie A. Kidd Richland, IA; seriously injured about the head. Roy M. Culbertson of Danvers, IL; slight injury to head. C.M. Buchanan, Fairfield, IA. James Kersey, Amo, IN; head injured. Miss Spurgeon, Orient, IA; right knee and leg bruised. R.M. Mead, Milo, IA; left wrist, back and head injured. George Bruce, Corydon, IA; back injured. Brakeman Vance, slight injuries.

The train was known as No. 126 and consisted of the engine, one baggage car and one passenger coach. It was in charge of Conductor G. R. Bryon of Agency and Engineer Murphy of Chariton. It had just left Lacona when, without warning, it left the track and plunged down an embankment. The cause is said to have been a loose rail which turned over.

Feb. 22, 1900, **The Muscatine Journal**, Muscatine, Iowa— New Virginia gets new school! At a special school election the following proposition carried by a vote of 190 to 20, about thirty of the votes being cast by ladies of the town: "Shall a tax of \$6,000 be voted by the voters of the independent district of New Virginia for the purpose of building a new school house?"

January 27m 1876, **The Crete Democrat**, Crete, Nebraska—A patent was allowed January 6, 1878 to Abel Edwards of Sommerset, Iowa for a turbine water wheel. The chief novelty consists in a series of combined buckets and chutes which cause a parallel flow and increases the maximum of power and diminishes the minimum of water required to operate it.