



September 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)

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## Log Cabin Festival

**Sat. Sept. 24th**

**Parade 10:00**

**Lunch 11:00-1:00**

**\*Silent Auction**

**Quilt Raffle & Games**

**Make a Scarecrow**

**Quilt Show**

**Church Displays**

**Cow Chip Toss**

**Corn Hole**

**Face Painting**

**amazon smile**

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



## 2022 LOG CABIN FESTIVAL CELEBRATING WARREN COUNTY FAITH Past & Present

**Farmer's Market 9:00 to Noon**

**Parade 10:00 (Line-up Administration Building)**

**Cow Chip Toss, Corn Hole and games 10:00 to 3:00**

**Face Painting and Rope Making 10:00 to 3:00**

**\$5.00 Scare Crow Making 10:00 until supplies run out**

**Vendors 10:00 to 4:00**

**Lunch 11:00 to 1:00 Brat or Beef burger, chips, cookie**

**Silent Auction 10:00 to 3:00**

**Live Auction 2:15**

**Model Railroader's Display 10:00 to 4:00**

**Church Displays and booths 10:00 to 4:00**

**Quilt Show 10:00 to 4:00**

**Museum and Heritage Village Tour 10:00 to 4:00**

**See roofing projects, school window shades, refurbished pioneer church, 1st phase of Log Cabin restoration, and new museum exhibits.**

## 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:**

It is September and fall is in the air. I am so excited! It’s time for Warren County Historical Society’s Log Cabin Festival. It is time to celebrate our history.

We hope you will come and visit us on Saturday, September 24th. We have scheduled lots of family activities: scarecrow making, wooden games, cow chip toss, corn hole, vendors and church booths, quilt show, photo ops, lunch, model railroaders, rope making, Farmer’s Market, and tours of our museum and Heritage Village.

Come and see all the renovations that are taking place. Have some fun with family and friends. Remember that this is the annual fundraiser that maintains and keeps WCHS going. Don’t forget to join or renew WCHS. Membership is \$20.00.

A new activity is our Silent Auction which you can view and place bids from 10:00 to 3:00 in the museum dining-room. Local merchants have been very gracious in providing donations.

Come and join us after the 10:00 am parade. We can’t wait to see you!

Deb Larrison  
Warren County Historical Society President



**WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Annual Membership**

- Individual \$20.00
- Family \$25.00
- Gift \$20.00

**HAVE YOU JOINED or RENEWED your membership?**

**Could you provide a money or memorial gift? Your membership or gift is important to WCHS for maintaining our buildings and continuing our programs.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer Possibilities. Mark any volunteer opportunities you might consider.**

- Adopt an Exhibit (Set-up, clean or inventory)
- Short term project here or at home
- Building and Grounds Maintenance
- Museum Hosting
- May Pioneer School
- September Log Cabin Festival

# 2022 LOG CABIN FESTIVAL LIVE AUCTION

**When: Saturday, September 24th**

**Where: Warren County Historical Society**

**Time: 2:15**



**LIVE AUCTION**



**1930s  
Pinwheel Quilt,  
84 x 77**



**Redwing  
15 Gallon  
Crock**

**Cookies, Cake, Fudge, Pie!**





# WCHS LCF SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, September 24th

10:00 to 3:00

WCHS Dining-room

**Come in and bid from 10 to 3. If someone outbids you, you have time to raise your bid. At 3:00 each auction's highest bidder becomes winner of auction. You pay for auction item and then claim your prize.**



**Pittsburg Pottery  
10 Gallon Crock**



**1930s Quilt  
65 x 73**



**Antique Trunk**

Beginning to put together donations from local businesses and members for the Silent Auction. You won't want to miss some of these surprising items.



# CREATION OF A COUNTY SEAT IN WARREN COUNTY, IOWA

On January 13, 1846, the Iowa Legislature defined boundaries and created Warren County, named in honor of Brigadier General Joseph Warren, a physician and patriot killed during the



**2nd Victorian Courthouse built in 1865.** approved unanimously.

County leaders next moved to find a suitable location for a city square on which to build a county courthouse. On September 20, 1849, 80 acres were purchased for the town site from H. Nelson from Putnam County, Indiana for \$100. This square shaped 80 acres was bordered on the north by Clinton, south by 2nd Avenue, east by Jefferson Way and west by C Street. Surveyors John M. Lavery and son, James, filed their plats for Indianola on November 17, 1849. On December 10, 100 lots were offered for sale at prices ranging from \$5 to \$25.

Several years passed before Indianola elected to incorporate under the laws of Iowa. On October 5, 1863, during the Civil War, Indianola applied for articles of incorporation. About 80 citizens filed against Indianola becoming incorporated.



**May 2022, 4th Courthouse cost \$41,000,000**

Revolutionary War at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Four days later in an effort to make Des Moines near the center of Polk County and enhance its selection as the county seat, the Legislature transferred Warren County's northern tier of townships (Linn, Greenfield, Allen and Richland) to Polk County. Seven years later, January 14, 1853, most of the area ceded to Polk was returned to Warren.



**1st Warren County Courthouse was a log building in 1851. No Photo or drawing available.**

On December 27, 1848, the Iowa Legislature appointed William Ferguson, Jasper County; William Ware, Polk County; and Alfred D. Jones, Madison County to locate and establish the seat of government for Warren County. On June 4, 1849, Jones and Ware met at Alexander Ginder's home near Ackworth and decided on a location a few miles west of Ackworth would be the county seat. Later, a group consisting of Col. Paris P. Henderson, Sheriff of Warren County; John Lavery, surveyor; A.D. Jones; Daniel Barker; Joel Scott; and commissioners Samuel Hawthorth, David Lair, and Thomas Feagins were selected to survey the site. It was reported that Henderson's lunch was wrapped in a copy of the **New York Sun**, which had an article about Indianola, TX, a port on the Gulf of Mexico. (In 1886 Indianola, TX was abandoned after two destructive hurricanes.) Jones suggested naming Warren County's new seat of justice "Indianola". The motion was



**3rd Courthouse dedicated in 1939 and built for \$80, 000.**

They argued it would increase taxes, take away their freedom and make too many rules to follow. An election was held, incorporation passed and Indianola was officially incorporated on April 1, 1864.

*\*1864 Anecdote: In 1864 there were no saloons or billiard parlors in Indianola, Perhaps the \$3,000 required for a beer license and a city charge of \$300 for each billiard table had something to do with this. The strong anti-saloon prohibition sentiment, reinforced by religious groups, also contributed to Indianola;s "dry" tradition and nickname "the Holy City".*



## INDIANOLA FOOTBALL GAME ICON

Dennis Dop donated a cannon to the Warren County Historical Society that used to be used at Indianola football games. It is not the cannon that hurt Rodney Prickett!

You can drop by the museum to view this new addition and recall the big booms that used to be heard in the fall.



## TILLIE LIMKE, ST. MARYS

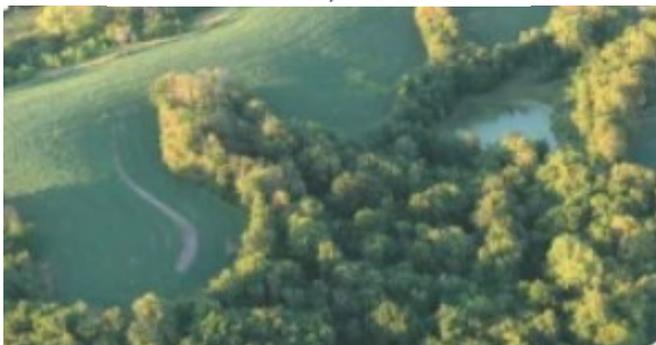
Mary McCormick donated a large picture of Tillie Limpke that used to hang in the Leach family house. Mary's father Phil bought the farm west of St. Marys, where Tillie had spent most of her life. When young, the Leach girls thought that Tillie was the farm ghost, because one time her picture fell off the wall without breaking. Maybe they had heard too many stories about the St. Marys "Ghost Light."

Tillie was born in 1875 to Christopher and Bernadina Wichman Limke. Her father had been born in 1827 in Kaunitz, Kreis Guterslohnm Nordrhein Westfalen, Germany, and her mother was born in 1838.

Tillie's siblings were Herman, 1838-1919; Mary Addie, 1860-1926; Anna Mary, 1864-1941; John, 1865-1929; George 1868; Margaret, 1870; Matilda, 1872; Catherine, 1873; Christina 1877; Alfina or Alphina, known as Fena, 1880; Frank, 1882 and Henry 1885.

Mary Addie married Joseph R. Gehringer, Anna Mary married Sporer, John married Mary Ellen Nuzum and Catherine married Horning.

1479 33rd Ave  
St Charles, IA 50240



George, Tillie, Fena and Frank never married and all lived and worked on the farm. In the early 1900s Tillie boarded and worked as a servant for the Lorentz family on East Walnut in Des Moines.

Tillie died on the farm in May of 1952 and was buried at St. Marys Cemetery. Fena died in 1957 and Frank died in 1964 in Indianola.



## SCOTCH RIDGE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The church was organized by sixteen Scotsmen on August 13, 1853. The original members were William Vance, J. McElroy, Andrew Hastie, William Runciman, Elizabeth Runciman, William Hastie, John Wood, Mary Wood, Mrs. William Vance, Mrs. J. McElroy, William McBride, Mr. Ray, Nancy Ray, Margaret Ray, Josiah Hanby and Elizabeth Hanby.

Before they built a church members met in log cabin homes north of Summerset. The first church building was built in 1857 for \$1,000. The present 1885 church was built in the Gothic Revival style for \$4,000. It was listed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1976. Sometimes it called the “halfway church” because it is mid distance from the Iowa State Capitol and Indianola Courthouse.

The land on which the current church and cemetery sits was originally bought from the government by D.D. Cummings. Mr. Cummings later sold portions to B.F. Wadsworth and Thomas Thompson in 1856 and to Pete Schooler in 1863. Peter Schooler and wife sold two acres for \$30 on January 3, 1865, for a new Presbyterian Churchyard.



On April 28th of the same year William Hastie and his wife sold one acre of adjacent land for \$25 to be used as a cemetery.

In the early church years no musical instrument was allowed. Psalms were the only thing that were sung. They were “lined off” by one of the elders, the congregation singing each line after it had been read aloud. The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was attended by a three day service. When receiving communion, the communicants took their places at a long linen-covered table across the front of the church, where they were served bread and wine from a common cup. The communal cup has been replaced and

now an organ, piano or any musical instrument can accompany congregational singing and choirs.



**WW II Vets & Jehovah’s Witnesses Tangle in Lacona, Des Moines Register, Sept. 9, 1946**

Jehovah’s Witnesses from Des Moines tried to hold meeting in Lacona park. WW II Veteran and city councilman Robert Bowers said, “We don’t want them here. I don’t see why they should insist on coming when there are no Jehovah’s Witnesses in Lacona. We don’t object to their religion but we object to the fact that they’re too damn yellow to fight and then expect the rights that we fought for,” he said.

The Des Moines visitors said that it was their free speech right to hold a meeting in Lacona.

## NOT ALL FAITH ENCOUNTERS IN WARREN COUNTY WERE PEACEFUL



**Peace officers, Lacona representatives and Jehovah’s Witnesses confer. Left to right: Lacona Town Marshall Carl McFarland, Sheriff Lewis Johnson, Herman Aalders, Charles Sellers, Mayor Lo Goode**



Large stained glass window was ruined.



**Firefighters watched as Rosemount Catholic Church burned from an arson fire December 9, 2004.** Photo: Bill Neibergall, Des Moines Register, December 10, 2004

Janice Dittmer, Dalton Weeks, 4, Morgan Weeks, 8, Andy Weeks, Janie Weeks and John Dittmer visit the church their family had attended for 7 generations. Janie Weeks is the Dittmer's daughter and was married in St. Mary's of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, which everyone called the Rosemount Church. It was built in 1916 replacing a wooden structure from 1872. The night the church burned, Janice Dittmer urged firefighters to save the church symbols and history collection and they did. By Andrea Melendez, Des Moines Register, December 19, 2004



**The threat of fire has always been a concern of rural churches. Who could anticipate an arsonist from out of town would destroy this beautiful country church on December 9, 2004?**



1872 Church

In the 1860s a group of Friends settled at Rosemount, an unplatted and informal spot. There was post office at Solomon Hodson's General Store, and he was postmaster.. The post office was from 1864 to 1880.

At some point in the 1870's the Quakers began to depart for Milo, Ackworth, and other more established sites with railroad access. German Catholic immigrants began to purchase land in the Rosemount area.

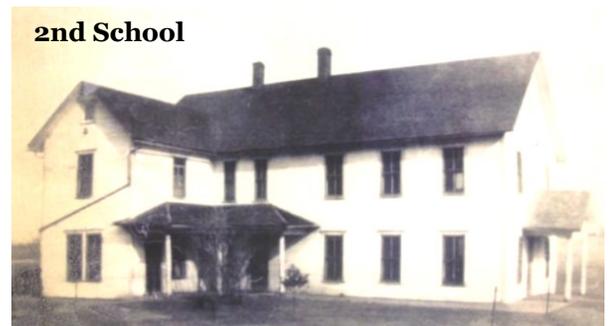
On the 4th of July 1871 in the German Catholic farm settlement at Rosemount, Warren County, Iowa, several families decided the community needed a church closer than the Bauer.

In 1872 it was built for \$2,500 on the brow of Rosemount across from the post office. It was consecrated and became St. Mary's of Perpetual Help, Rosemount. The parish had a one room parochial school in 1901. In 1910 a two-story schoolhouse was completed where Sisters taught kindergarten through the 8th grade until 1956, when it closed.

By 1916 a bigger church was needed and funds were raised to build a brick church on the same spot.

The arsonist severely damaged the Rosemount Catholic Church on December 9th, 2004.. A few items were salvageable but it was decided not to rebuild. In 2005 the building was demolished.

Today, the cemetery, which was deeded from the Quakers in 1871 is a reminder of the community that worshiped, celebrated, picnicked, and attended school together.



2nd School