



January 2025

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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Page 4 & 5 More Covered Bridges

Page 6 Des Moines, Osceola & Southern Railroad

Indianola Celebrates George Washington Carver

Sat. Feb. 1, 10 to Noon
Indianola Square

WCHS Board

Thurs. Feb. 12 9:30

WCHS LCF

Thurs. Feb. 12, 11:00

WCHS Board

Thurs. March 12 9:30

WCHS LCF

Thurs. March 12, 11:00

WCHS General Meeting

Tues. March 25th, 6:00pm
Soup Supper, Officers Election and Strategic Planning



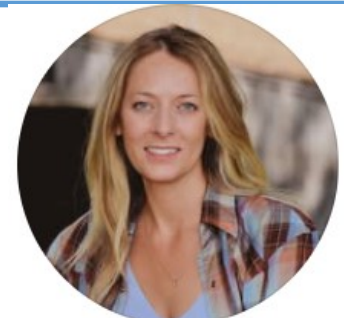
SOUPS ON!

What: WCHS SOUP SUPPER & GENERAL MEETING—Officer Election and Strategic Planning Event with Jenna Thompson

When: March 26th 6:00pm

Where: WCHS

STRATEGIC PLANNING BEGINS



Jenna Thompson

On January 6th Jenna Thompson, Clarion Dynamic Solutions, began to lead WCHS through the first phase of Facilitated Strategic Planning to assess and envision how we can develop and manage our facilities, resources and property to best address our mission to collect and preserve the artifacts and memories of Warren County residents. See our mission statement below.

On March 25th at 6:00pm we invite you to a free will offering soup supper, brief General Meeting and planning with Jenna, where you share your ideas and suggestions for developing our current facilities, resources and property management.

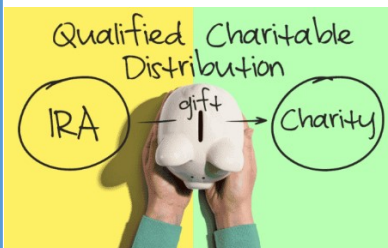
WCHS Mission: To collect, preserve and create interest in the cultural, political, and economic heritage of Warren County, Iowa

WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY JUNE GARAGE SALE

We will be holding our annual garage sale on Friday and Saturday, June 20 & 21. We are reaching out to friends and supporters to start thinking as you spring house clean what you might be able to donate to our sale. Over the Christmas holidays our visiting daughter went on a binge of pointing out what in our cluttered house, Jerry and I do not use, need and what our children and grandchildren do not want.

I did spend one afternoon with daughter and only grand-daughter going through some of my jewelry collection. It was fun sharing my sentimental reasons for having these items in four big jewelry boxes. Both took a substantial bag home and told me to take my very big bag to the June sale. Not sure if I am ready to part with all items in my big bag, but certainly will donate the majority. **Linda Beatty**

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 HyVee asks if you want to have your receipt, say **YES!**



Here is a tax-smart way for traditional IRA owners, age 70 1/2 or older to give to WCHS. Make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) and pay no tax on the gift. For 2024 you can transfer your QCD gift directly to Warren County Historical Society.

Thoughts from the President

Hello, Everyone!

A new year has begun and we are up and running.

We have begun working with a strategic planner, Jenna Thompson from Carlisle. She has come on board to lead us through a planning process that will help us determine WCHS direction for the future.

February is Black History Month and on February 1st we will be at McCoy's True Value with a George Washington display, seed planting and coloring packet and crayons. Thank you to Walmart for donating the crayons for kids.

March will be our annual meeting with a soup supper followed by a group planning meeting where we are interested in you sharing your thoughts,

This spring WCHS and Warren County Extension will have a Jam & Jelly Making Workshop. Stay tuned for more information.

The end of the school year will be here before you know it! The Indianola 5th graders will be coming for their end of the year field trip in May.

June will be our long awaited "Garage Sale". We will accept you things for donation after Pioneer School in May.

September will be the annual, Log Cabin Festival celebration. This year it will be about sharing childhood games, toys and pastimes with other generations.

And as always during the year, we are busy fixing and working on the museum, grounds and outbuildings. Stop in on Thursdays and Saturday mornings to visit with us.



Deb Larrison

Deb Larrison



it's time to
**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

Thank you for your support in the past.

It's time to renew your WCHS membership for 2025.

Please fill out this form and return it to us.

Your annual membership dues or annual lifetime member donation helps us keep our doors open and continue to collect and preserve Warren County's history.



WARREN
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
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Join Or Renew Your
Warren County Historical Society Membership

Box 256, Indianola, IA 50125 Phone 1-515-961-8085

(Highway 92 West, 1300 West 2nd, turn north into Fair
Grounds, then turn east)

Email: contact@warrencountyhistory.org

Fill out your information

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

Cell Phone _____ Landline _____

Email _____

Giving Choices

New Member _____ Renewal _____

\$25 Single _____ \$30 Family _____ Donation \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER DAY CELEBRATION



SIMPSON EVENTS

Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m. | Hon. Mike Espy, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and Member of Congress from Mississippi, to receive medal and speak at Smith Chapel, Simpson College. Free and open to the public.

Friday, Jan. 31, 5 p.m. | Community toast to Carver with Peanut Genius beer, at West Hill Brewery.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Saturday, February 1st | 10 a.m.-Noon

Circle 'Round the Square Scavenger Hunt - Pick-up list of clues @ Business Locations
Dissect & Pollinate Flowers Activity - Hosted by ICSD Elementary Science @ Ouderkirk Law Firm

Carver Museum Display & Seed Planting Activity - Hosted by County Historical Society @ McCoy's Hardware

Artwork Displays - Created by Indianola Students

Self-Guided Carver Tour of Simpson College - Guides Available from Carver Student Helpers on the Square



Follow the QR code to learn more.



Saturday, February 1st INDIANOLA CELEBRATES GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

WCHS volunteers will be at McCoy's Hardware on Saturday, February 1st from 10:00 am to noon sharing information about Carver's life in Indianola and helping children plant seeds.

Stop by to visit us as you circle round the square with a scavenger hunt.

On Thursday January 30 at 7pm Hon. Mike Espy former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and Member of Congress from Mississippi will speak and receive a medal at Smith Chapel on Simpson's campus. This special event is open to the public.



GLIMPSE OF SPRING TO COME

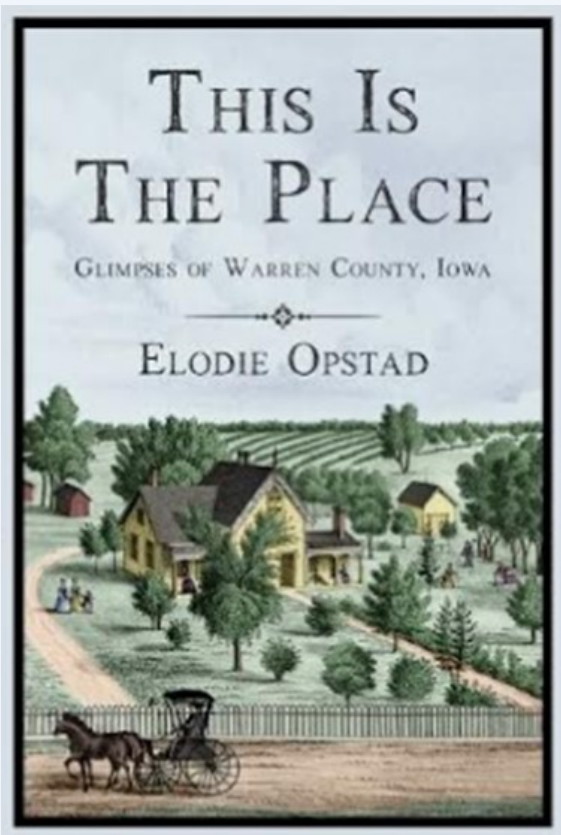
Years ago Geraldine "Jerry" Denly Middleswart (1912-2008) of Indianola and her daughter Irene Case moved a climbing yellow rose plant that grew next to Mt. Hope School in Lincoln Township and transplanted it by the school that had been moved to our Heritage Village. In early May all of us look forward to the fragrant blooms.

Jerry was a former teacher at Mt. Hope and one of her students there was her daughter Irene. Irene followed her mother's footsteps and taught school in Indianola for many years.

In 2020 the new Middleswart lodge at the Warren County Conservation Center was dedicated in memory of Jerry and husband Jim Middleswart.

Susan Graeser, who has beautifully developed and maintained our landscaping and flower beds is in need of help this spring. You can take over a specific flower bed, help occasionally, or help with a short term project. Want to learn more? Contact Susan.





ELODIE OPSTAD, columnist for the **Indianola Independent Advocate** has written a book, **This IS The Place, Glimpses of Warren County, Iowa.**

The history of our county is pretty similar to most areas in the Midwest, but what makes Warren County different is the individual stories of its people. Opstad shares wonderful stories of Warren County Pioneers.



You may purchase Elodie's book at Pageturners Book Store on the Indianola Square or at Amazon for \$14.99. She has generously donated all proceeds from her book to Warren County Historical Society. WCHS is grateful to Elodie for her generous support.

Meet Author, Elodie Opstad

Tues., February 25 Carlisle Library 6:30

Tues. March 25 Norwalk Library at 1:30

SOLVING a LONG TERM FLOODING PROBLEM

For many years WCHS has had a serious water problem between the culvert under Highway 92 and our lower level entrance that takes you into the Warren County Model Railroader's exhibit. The culvert under the highway is too small to remove the water that pools like a pond from a heavy rain of 3 or 4 inches and our slope is only 3 3/4". Every time we have a heavy rain we get water in our basement. All of us know what damage this can do in a museum.

Mike Vanderpool has placed his attention of how this problem might be solved. He has put in a new roof drain, re-routed a sump line, removed old pipe, excavated a flume and brought in gravel. Rob and Mark Ricketts of Cambron & Thatcher have poured cement for a flume to the culvert. See photo below.

We thank Mike, Rob and Mark for taking on this project. Mike will do a little more grading and re-seed the area. He reminded us that this may not totally eliminate the problem but is a great improvement. We are all waiting for the test by a heavy rain.

When you see Mike, Rob or Mark thank them for helping us solve a long term problem.



2025 LOG CABIN FESTIVAL MEMORIES & THANK YOU

Special THANK YOU to these businesses and groups

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Indianola Fareway | Indy 66/Jiffy Xpress | Jimmy John's | Tammy's Tailwaggers |
| KNIA-KRLS Radio | Subway | The Warren County Fairgrounds | Mishmash Eats |
| Hotel Pommier | Taco John's | Indianola Regular Baptist Church | Indianola Farmer's Market |
| Dairy Queen | Walmart | The Stitching Place | Carlisle Ridge Riders 4 H Club |
| Van Wall Equipment | Overton Funeral Home | The Goode Place | Warren Cpunty Model Railroaders |
| Professional Body Works | Bedwell Gardens | Body Kanvas Tattoo | Shady Oaks |
| Food & Foster | Carl Hayes Family | Mc Coy's True Value | Fusco Studio |
| Arby's | Holy Cross Lutheran Church | Bob's Trophy | Concession Stand |
| United Methodist Church Carlisle | Fareway Carlisle | Treasures Fine Jewelry | Texas Roadhouse West DM |
| Fiss' Carlisle | T,R,M Disposal | The Sports Page | Smokey Row |
| Van Wall Powersports | Circle B | Groggy Dog | |
| Pierce Brothers Welding Repair | Indianola Independent Advocate | All Creatures Small | Apologies if we missed you. Let us know. |
| Cracker Barrel, DM | Theisen's | Crimson Anchor Coffee Roasters | |
| Taco Bell | Hy Vee | General Joseph Warren Questers | |
| Kirsten Claerhout | O'Reilly Auto Parts | Milo Locker | |



Weather was beautiful!, Food was excellent, Parade had Overton's horsedrawn hearse and Library railroad float, varied Activities were for all ages and Volunteers and Guests were busy and happy.

Thank you to LCF Chair Cheryl Dee for organizing this wonderful two day event. Special thanks to Linda Beener and Susan Laws for stepping up to help when it was needed.



WCHS wants to thank the many volunteers, donors and visitors for making the event a success. It takes many hours of volunteer time, donor investment and planning to make this annual event happen.



We have begun to plan for LCF 2025. Want to join the 2025 LCF Planning Committee join us at the museum on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 11:00am.



2024 YEAR END ACTIVITY REVIEW

Freeman General Store/Post Office board repair, scraping, painting, sign repair, new ramp rails, major house cleaning and renewal. Many volunteers and Labertew Painting

Reflectors for Mt. Hope School kerosene lights and grant by General Joseph Warren Questers from International Questers. They also created signage panels.

Protective **coating** on school ramp and Carver tree carving.

Flume and excavating for south area by windmill for flood control. Mike Vanderpool and Cambron & Thatcher

New **Security Cameras** from Sally Speer and installed by Dwight McCormick

Two new **refrigerators and used freezer** in kitchen. Wouldn't you know a refrigerator would fizzle out near LCF

Newer model **printer**

Displayed portable **log cabin** at Pickard Park for Indianola Christmas Lights

Labertew Painting painted the outside of the Friends Meeting House.

Repaired Linn Grove Methodist Church sign at northeast entrance to museum.

Dave Grissom finished updating the museum lights from florescent to LED

Dwight put spotlights on the WCHS sign near Allerton's memorial.

Kevin Beener replaced damaged siding on store and meeting house and repaired a basement water leak

Don Sandy designed a horseshoe pitching area

Linda and Kevin Beener finished blending our different probate record collections.

Did child activity at Common Ground in February for Iowa's George Washington Carver Day.

Elodie Opstad arranged and gave special tours of the Carver Building.

Thank you to the many volunteers that spend each spend limitless hours to keep our society and buildings open!



TIME TO RENT WCHS GARDEN PLOTS

Dan Porter says that it is time to contact WCHS about renting a garden space for 2025. The garden spots are off J Street and to the east of our museum. To rent you need to be a member of WCHS (Single Membership \$25.00 a year) and \$2.00 per linear foot. The membership is tax deductible. Call 1-515-961-8085 or email contact@warrencountyhistory.org





Indianola People You Know



ROY L. IGO

Roy Lewis Igo caricature from April 18, 1918 Advocate Tribune. Roy Lewis Igo was born in Palmyra to Lewis Igo III (Indianola Mayor) and Elizabeth M. (Varner) Igo. He died in California July 12, 1950. Roy had garages in Indianola, Osceola and Earlham. For judging stock at the Iowa State Fair he won a scholarship for two years to Iowa State. He was an engineer and machinist. Roy was also a contractor that straightened the Chariton River in Macon County, Mo and straightened Grand River near Pattonsburg, MS.

1906 Indianola Concert Band from Simpson Professor John Benoit's collection of band photos. Benoit has this Band website



iowastownbands.com/b1-groupportrai1.html#IndianolaConcertBd

Several years ago, it was noticed that there were a number of African Americans living in rural Otter Township in the early 1900s. After years of wondering why they lived in a rural township instead of town, the answer was found in Don Berry's writings. He was an Indianola newspaper publisher and photographer.

According to Berry, the Henry Hall family lived a short distance east of Hammondsburg (one of Warren County's abandoned communities) in Otter Township. The large family would travel to the Warren County Fair in a lumber wagon. The family was well liked. One son married a Caucasian woman and moved to Canada.

Later the family moved to Indianola and lived on South Jefferson (State Street then). Ed McKee remembered that Mrs. Hall had a standing invitation to neighborhood boys to visit for sugar cookies.

Harry Weinman had a photo of the Indianola Brass Band of about 1908 in which Ed and Harrison Hall played. Both later traveled with Ringling Brother Barnum & Bailey Circus. Ed played in one sideshow band, but Harrison played baritone or bass in the main circus band. Weinman talked to them one time when the circus was in Des Moines and Harrison said he had been with the band over 20 years. Later Berry heard that Harrison had lost his job when the band joined a union, since the union would not admit African Americans as members.



Rev. A.D. Field, George Washington Carver's Friend

Alvaro Dickenson Field was born in Bristol, Ontario County, NY, October 22, 1827. His parents were John and Charity (Damon) Field. His wife was Margaret Jane Nunamaker, daughter of John Nicholas and Catherine Ann (Roberts) Nunamaker.

In 1835 the John Field family moved to Chicago, IL and then to Kane County, IL. In 1942 A.D. Field was converted at meetings in Elgin held by the Methodists for young people. He joined the Clark Street Methodist Church and helped with Sabbath School. In 1846 he decided to prepare for the ministry and attended Mount Morris Methodist Seminary. In 1948 he began to preach in the Rock River Methodist Conference. He then served as a circuit rider and in many churches.

In 1871 Field and wife Maggie moved to a small farm near Indianola north of Simpson College and in the Mount Hope School area. Field had to retire from the ministry and public speaking because of health issues related to his throat. Here he operated a nursery and orchard.

March 28, 1874 A.D. Field organized Sunday School at the Spring Hill Methodist Church. In July Greenbush and Mount Hope schoolhouse united with the Spring Hill Church. The first organist was A.D. Field, who had a portable organ which he brought to services in a buckboard sort of spring wagon. Without songbooks at first, singing was a big part of the Sunday School. Field was superintendent of the Spring Hill Sunday School for 7 years and then taught Sunday School at the Indianola First Methodist Church.

In 1876 he published a volume, **Memorials of Methodism** and then one called, **Worthies & Workers of the Rock River Conference**.

On his orchard he raised grapes, raspberries and other fruit plants to sell. One ad in the **Indianola Herald** said that Field had 100 ten foot ornamental trees for sale in his nursery.

A.D. Field also was very involved at Simpson College. In his will he left some land to Simpson. Carver and Field shared their interests in raising and studying plants, music, Simpson College and religion. It is no wonder that they became friends while Carver was in Indianola.

The January 11, 1896 **Indianola Herald** stated that the teachers and officers of the 1st Methodist Church Sunday School had a surprise Christmas event honoring A.D. and his wife Maggie. W.H. Berry made the presentation of a new rocking chair to A.D. Field and presented to Maggie a painting of A.D. that had been painted by Sofia Liston, wife of William A. Liston. Sofia was an art student with G.W. Carver and a close friend. The Listons operated a bookstore on the Indianola Square.

A.D. Field died December 15, 1908 and is buried in the Indianola Odd Fellows Cemetery.

EARLY SCHOOL BUS

Wrecked school bus and car outside Cecil Hart's garage at Beech.

