



March 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](mailto:contact@warrencountyhistory.org)

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### MEETINGS

WCHS Board 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month  
9:30am

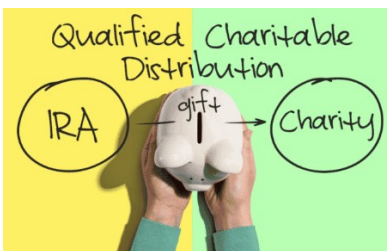
LCF Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 11:00am

**Soup Supper & Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, March 25 at 6:00 pm  
Officer Election and Planning with  
Jenna Thompson**

**April 26th Jelly Making 9:00 to  
1:00. Fee \$25.00. All items will be  
furnished. Preregister with War-  
ren County Extension, Cathy Drost  
641-673-5841 or online**

**Indianola 5<sup>th</sup> Graders Pioneer  
School May 5,6,8,9**

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 2025 you can transfer your QCD gift directly to WCHS.

## SOUPS ON!



**What: WCHS SOUP SUPPER & ANNUAL MEETING—**

**Officer Election & Strategic Planning Event  
with Jenna Thompson**

**When: Tuesday March 25th, 6:00pm**

### WCHS OFFICER NOMINEES for MARCH GENERAL MEETING Tuesday, March 25th

President –Debbie Larrison

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President -Jerry Beatty

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President -Judy McClymond

Treasurer -Carla Anders



### INDIANOLA 5th Grade Pioneer School

Monday May 5, Tuesday May 6, Thursday May 8 & Friday May 9th

We work on quilt blocks, corn husk dolls, candle making, one room school session, Heritage Village Tour, corn shelling, wood sawing and museum scavenger hunt.

Want to volunteer to help? Contact Jerry Beatty at 515-961-3088 or

WCHS 515-961-8085

### WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY JUNE GARAGE SALE

**Friday June 20 3:00-7:00pm and  
Saturday June 21 9:00 to 2:00.**

**Put these dates on your calendar, start collecting items you want to donate and think about volunteering to help the week of June 16th to sort, price, fluff or staff the sale on Friday or Saturday.**



## Thoughts from the President

Hello, Everyone!

This year, our fundraising efforts will be put toward handicap access and repair of the Pioneer Church.

A few years ago, we worked on the inside: raising the ceiling, putting in lighting, better lighting in the stained glass windows, painting, and adding new shelving. This year our fundraising efforts will be put towards restoration of the outside of the building. In addition, two new doors and a new exit ramp; making accessibility easier and safer will be created.

If you have a little time to spare, it is time to do a bit of spring cleaning. The museum and Heritage Village buildings can always use a good dusting. We had water damage in the southwest area of the museum basement so have been working on cleaning, painting, replacing some booth structure and restoring water damaged artifacts. So we are busy and have a lot of work to be done before May's Pioneer School. Many hands make light work and make the work more fun. Want to help? Call or stop by. We are open Thursdays 9-4 and Saturdays 9-12. Bring a friend with you.

Thank you so much for the continued support you show the Warren County Historical Society and Museum.

Be sure to come to our March 25th soup supper and long range planning session. We have exciting choices ahead and need your input in making and prioritizing these plans.



Deb Larrison

**Debbie Larrison**



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

Thank you for your support in the past.

Please consider joining, renewing or gifting a relative or friend with a WCHS membership for 2025.

Please fill out this form and return it to us.

Your membership dues or donations help us keep our doors open and continue to provide programming and preservation of Warren County's history.



WARREN  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Join Or Renew Your  
Warren County Historical Society Membership

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

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

Email: [contact@warrencountyhistory.org](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

## ADDITIONAL INDIANOLA INVENTERS



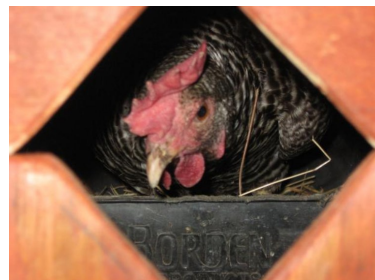
Richards in his perambulating cot

Additional Arthur Wherry Richards' inventions have been discovered. During the Civil War, he injured his back from jumping from a train to chase rebels. This injury caused him to be unable to sit up or stand. Previously noted patented inventions were for a perambulating cot that allowed him to get around while in a reclining position, a corn harvester, well cleaner, and corn husker. Recently discovered inventions are washing machine, newspaper rack, fodder fork, plumber's tongs, windmill and fruit and vegetable washer. Except for George Washington Carver, Richards may have been one

of the most prolific and varied inventors to have lived in Warren County.

Lloyd Surber invented a devise for bleeding valves for hydraulic brakes.

Delno Smith invented a trap nest. What is a trap nest, you ask? According Merriam-Webster it is a nest (for poultry/other animals) equipped with a hinged door designed to trap and confine a hen so that individual egg production may be determined.



Trap Nest



Delno Edgar Smith was born November 2, 1886 in Viola, Linn County, Iowa and died in Indianola in August of 1976. Delno

Smith moved to Ackworth in 1901 when his father and the family moved here from Audubon. He graduated from Indianola High School and attended college for two years. He managed the Ackworth Lumberyard for seven years.

He married Laura Hiatt, on November 26, 1906. His wife Laura was Quaker and had attended Ackworth Academy and then taught school. They moved to Indianola where Smith managed a hatchery that specialized in innovative chicken egg production. He developed with Gage Kent a specialized chicken feeding program that increased egg quality and production. He also opened Smith Produce Company in Indianola.

He ran in the Republican primary for Warren County Recorder in 1935. Laura became active in the Methodist Church after they moved to Indianola.

**With today's inflated egg price Delno Smith's article from The Record Herald seems timely.**

### **When They Were Bringing Fourteen Cents Per Dozen Here, Delno Smith Got 48 Cents in Boston**

If Warren County farmers and produce dealers knew how to grade eggs, they would receive a much higher price for them, according to Delano Smith who, together with Gage Kent (Kent Feeds) is putting a patent nest on the market.

When eggs were selling at 14 cents a dozen, in Indianola, Delno was shipping eggs to Boston, MA where they were paying 42 cents to 48 cents a dozen.

"Warren County egg producers are losing more on their eggs than their profit should be," Mr. Smith said. "Not one producer in 50 knows how to care for eggs. The average farmer gathers his eggs once a day. Generally at night, and often he leaves them in the nest a day or two at a time. If they would gather the eggs three or four times a day and take them immediately to the basement to cool and follow a few other simple rules, chances are they would receive twice as much for that produce. Quality must be maintained in egg production as in any other product." .....



# 2025 WARREN COUNTY 55th Log Cabin Festival CHILDREN'S GAMES, TOYS & MEMORIES

Saturday, September 27th



## SHARE YOUR CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

When you think back to your childhood, what was your favorite memory of a game, toy or activity? Please consider writing a story, poem or essay; share a photo or piece of art; or other visual form of communication that would reveal your favorite childhood playtime memory. Share it with us by August 15th. Then, we will display your memories at Log Cabin Festival and if we receive enough memories we will put them into some type of publication.



### COURTING DULCIMER

Chuck Hornbeck donated two dulcimers to WCHS. The larger one in the photo is called an Appalachian Courting Dulcimer. According to the **Encyclopedia of Appalachia**, in some regions, especially Eastern Kentucky, a young couple could visit without parental supervision if they played the "courting dulcimer". This instrument had double fret boards. As long as nearby parents heard both sets of strings being strummed they could leave the couple unobserved, knowing the young man and woman were properly occupied. They could hold the dulcimer on their laps and sit knee to knee across from each other.

Upon seeing this photo, a friend from Florida, who leads a hammered dulcimer group, said that the two frets should be the reverse of each other. Then you could sit across from each other and play. On this one the frets face one direction.



# Shape the future of WCHS

## WE NEED YOUR INSIGHTS!

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### Dear WCHS members:

Your membership and support have allowed WCHS to enrich our community for many years. As we look to the future, we recognize the need to adjust how we engage with our various audiences. Earlier this year, WCHS announced a new strategic planning process and we are currently gathering feedback from the community and you, our valued members.

### How will members have input?

Complete the **Strategic Planning Member Survey** (see reverse) by April 1st.

- How to submit the survey:

Mail: P.O. Box 256 Indianola, IA 50125

Drop off @ the Museum: Thursdays 9am-4pm, Saturdays 9am-12pm, or during the upcoming Member Meeting (details below)

Email or Text: Send a photo of the completed survey to Jenna (contact info below)

Online: Fill out the digital version (check your email inbox for a link)

Join us for a **Visioning Session** after the **Annual Member Meeting** at 6pm on Tuesday, March 25th

- This session will allow members to dream big and share unfiltered ideas and concerns.

### How will we use your input?

We summarize the survey results, community feedback, and insights from the visioning session for the planning committee. This summary will help us evaluate improvement opportunities and create a draft strategic plan. We'll seek additional member input before finalizing the plan.

Your feedback is important for shaping the future of WCHS. If you want to provide input but find it difficult to attend the visioning session or complete the survey, please reach out to me at your convenience.


Thank you for your participation!

Best regards,

*Jenna S. Thompson*

Jenna Thompson

Strategic Planning Consultant

 515-238-7647

 hello@jennasthompson.com

# Strategic Planning

## MEMBER SURVEY NO. 1

1. How long have you been a member of WCHS?

- Less than a year     6 - 10 years  
 1 - 5 years         More than 10 years  
 I'm not a member

2. How often did you visit WCHS in the past year?

- 0 visits                     4 - 5 visits  
 1 visit                       6+ visits  
 2 - 3 visits

3. What features and resources do you access during your visits? (Select all that apply)

- Museum Exhibits     Research Library     Model Railroaders Exhibit  
 Heritage Village     Event Space         Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. What programs and events would you like to see offered in the future?

Include both new ideas and favorite programs and events that you would like to see continued or brought back.

5. To attract and inspire visitors, how might WCHS improve its exhibits?

This could include converting to a mix of permanent and rotating exhibits, interactive elements, and supplemental online content like video or audio guides.

6. To attract visitors and improve their experience, how could WCHS improve its site and facilities?

Tip: Consider experiences such as parking, accessibility, air quality, exhibit flow, and spaces used for research, gatherings, and workshops.

7. What benefits would you like for your membership?

8. Is there anything else you would like to share?



### SIGN UP FOR APRIL JELLY MAKING

Have you been wanting to learn how to make jams and jellies from fruit you gather? On Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> Warren County Extension will have a jelly making workshop for beginners from 9:00 to 1:-00 at the Warren County Historical Museum. All supplies will be provided for a fee of \$25.00. You must preregister online at Warren County Extension or call Cathy Drost at **1-641-673-5841**.

### REFRESH MIND AND BODY WITH MENTAL FLOSS?

Want to learn something new, keep your brain engaged, detox from social media and internet, keep those fingers busy and engage with others?

WCHS has garden spots and a horseshoe pitching area on our J Street property. Model trains running in our basement. Want to keep those fingers busy learning to knit, crochet, needle point, embroider, open sewing/quilting time, hand coloring photos, cooking class (we will be making pasta noodles for LCF), corn husk doll making or any other activities. We have space, tables and chairs where you could put together puzzles away from pets, cut fabric or do most anything.

Let us know if there is something you are passionate about learning, sharing or finding a place to host the activity. WCHS would be interested in discussing the possibility of hosting such activities.

### INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT PAID 2025 WCHS DUES BY MARCH 26th

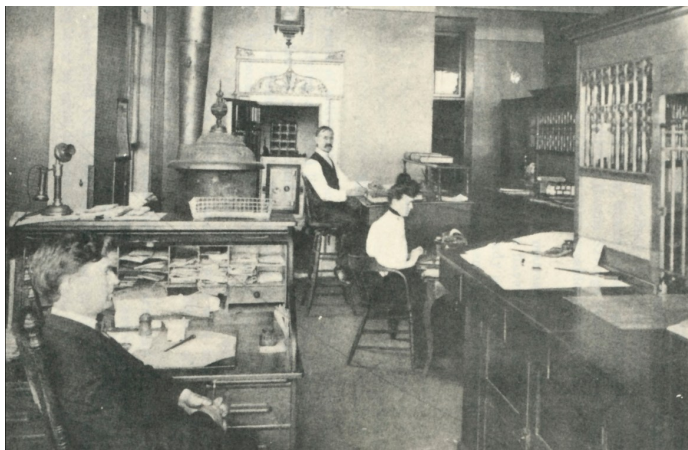
Only Lifetime Members (no longer a membership option for new people to purchase) and those with current up to date Membership Dues are invited to vote at the Annual Meeting. In our planning process we will be examining our membership policies and member benefits.

## 1905-1906 IOWA STATE GAZETTEER AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY

### NORWALK

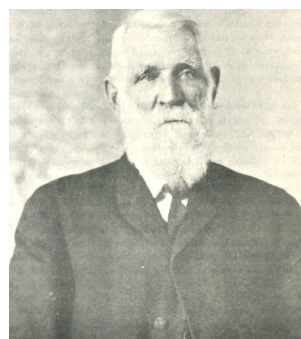
Population 350. An incorporated village on the C. B. & Q. Railroad in Lynn Township, Warren County, 14 miles northwest of Indianola, the county seat, and 11 miles from Des Moines. Has Christian and Methodist Episcopal churches, a weekly newspaper, The Free Press, and a bank. Telegraph and Telephone facilities. Western Union Express. Adams Express.

- E. M. Beery, postmaster
- Beery, E. M., stationery
- Beery, R. E., painter and paperhanger
- Bidwell, G. F., meats
- Brown, D. K., apiarist
- Brown, D. M., baker
- Clark, Rev. B. D. (Christian)
- Corbitt, Mrs. P., proprietor, Norwalk House
- Crow, C. F., general store
- Crow, H. H., mayor and notary public
- Dempster, W. H., physician
- Easter & Smith, general store
- Guthrie, E. E., livery
- Harris, Rev. Fred (Methodist)
- Huston, John H., barber
- Johnson, W. A., railroad express and telegraph agent
- Munsell, F. E., feed mill
- Newquist, D. C., blacksmith
- Norwalk Bank, Simon Casady, president, J. N. Casady, cashier
- Norwalk House, Mrs. P. Corbett, proprietor
- Rice, Thomas, drugs
- Snyder Brothers, lumber
- Snyder, C. F., carpenter
- Snyder, Josephine, milliner
- Snyder, Madison, carpenter
- Steffler, G. H., livestock
- Trusler, A. S., harness
- Watkins, Bessie, dressmaker
- Welty, Ephraim, physician
- White, George, plasterer
- Wright, George B., carpenter

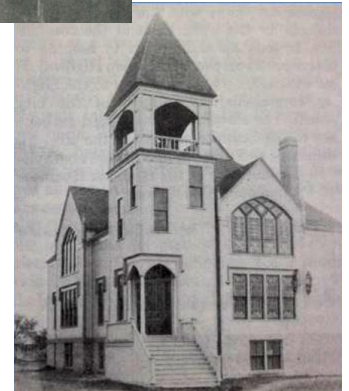


1908 Norwalk Bank

Norwalk Methodist Church



Adam Stiffler, Norwalk Mayor after its incorporation in 1900





## FUNERAL BOOTH AT WCHS

When the newly built WCHS Museum was built, businesses and families were asked to adopt a booth space and donate artifacts for it. In May 1988 Everett, Grace and John Overton created our funeral booth.

The Overton horse drawn hearse, stored in the WCHS Machine Shed, was purchased in 1973 by John Overton and was originally owned by Whylie Funeral Home in What Cheer. It is similar to one that Lewis Overton and Brother Clyde had used in 1913-1918 at Overton Brothers in Centerville.

The booth casket is a wooden container that is wide at the top and more narrow at the bottom. It was given to Overtons by Des Moines Casket Company, when they went out of business in 1910. There is also a wooden, fold up cooling board that could be taken to the client's home where the death had occurred. In the early 1900s we did not have funeral homes and the body was embalmed and displayed in the deceased person's home.



Oil painting by Cynthia Barns that hung in Overton Funeral Home

Early furniture stores also made wooden coffins because the owner was a skilled wood worker. Sometimes they were asked to build a casket rather hurriedly. Most women were seamstresses and were able to line the casket with fabric. In Indianola Orrs and Proudfoot/Overton Furniture Stores did this.

In 1926 Overtons bought the home at D Street and Ashland to be their residence and a funeral home. It was one of the earlier funeral homes in southern Iowa.

The oil painting to your left hung in the Overton Funeral Home until it was moved to the WCHS funeral booth. It was painted by Cynthia Adelia Bundy Barns (1844-1935), Indianola artist.

Mrs. Barns' pioneering spirit began when she came to Iowa with her parents from Quincy, IL. and traveled in a covered wagon, first settling at Oskaloosa, and then moving to Warren County in 1856. Her father, John Wolford Bundy, purchased for \$4,000 the sawmill, which was located southwest of Indianola on South River. It became known as Bundy Mill, and he added the process of flour mill-

ing. Cynthia attended Blue Bird Academy and became a teacher. She married John Wesley Barns in 1867 and raised six children. They built the brick house at 401 South 1st Street in Indianola.

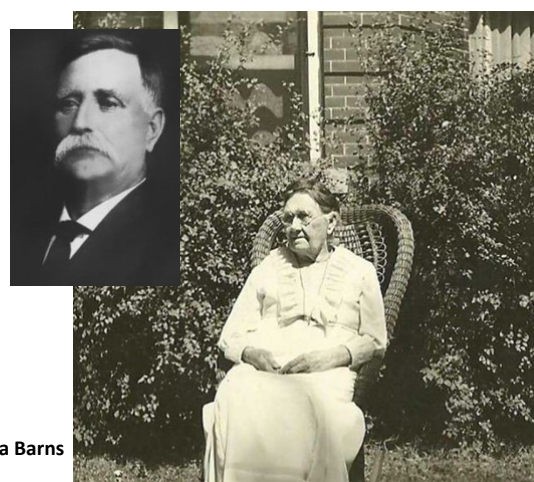
At age 55 a lifetime ambition was realized when she began painting. As a girl she wanted to study art and paint, but she received only one lesson, at the age of 16. Great Grand-daughter Claudia Cole Meeks (watercolor artist) has several examples of Cynthia's art. Claudia's mother was LuJean Flesher Cole. LuJean's mother was Alice Adelia (Barns) Flesher, which made Claudia and Dick Cole great grandchildren of Cynthia. Cynthia died in 1935.

John Barns came to Warren County in 1857 where he made his life-long home as an agriculturalist on his 300 acre farm and held various township offices before he was elected as sheriff in 1877 for two terms. He died August 20, 1908.



Brick House at 401 South 1st

John Wesley Barns



Cynthia Barns