

Warren County Genealogical Society

Indianola, Iowa

Volume 25, Number 4

July/August 1998

From the President:

"Hi! Ho! Come to the Fair!"

I suspect we are all at least deep in thought about our fair projects. My dining room table will not be the same until after July 25th.

Eleven people were able to attend our night of research at IGS.

Kudos to Thelma! She has sold a number of our printer materials which she has on display at the Museum. Several of our newly printed Cemetery Books have been sold.

Call for fair duty! I will be looking for volunteers to man the display, two per shift to allow for breaks, and a crew to give the display cases a good cleaning on the morning of the judging. See you all at the judging at 1:00 p.m. on July 25.

Our late summer trip to the Historical Library will be on Friday, August 14 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Sign up sheets will be available at both the potluck and the county fair.

See you at the fair!

Ev

WCGS announces that reprints are now available of our 1980 *Cemetery and Death Records of Warren County, Iowa* book that has been "sold out" for several years. We have photocopied the original galley pages and arranged them in a 3-ring binder. Price is \$35.00 plus tax (and shipping). After months of research and debate, this was determined to be the most economical and practical solution. You may order a copy from Jane Godwin, Treasurer, 808 West Detroit, Indianola, Iowa 50125.

Calendar:

- July 20 5:30 ANNUAL POTLUCK. WCHS museum. Bring 1 dish and table service.
- July 24-30 WARREN COUNTY FAIR.
- July 25 GENEALOGY ENTRIES in place no later than noon, judging at 1:00 p.m.
- July 30 ENTRIES TO BE PICKED UP from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
- August 14 IOWA HISTORICAL BUILDING trip 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- September 21 REGULAR MEETING, 7:00 p.m.
- Oct 2 - 3IGS ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Marshalltown

WCGS regular meetings are held at the Indianola Public Library on the third Monday of the month (September through May, except no meeting in December). Special meetings may be planned for the summer.

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Editor's note:

This issue of the newsletter has been particularly enjoyable to produce. The articles and other information that we have found regarding the Warren County Fair have been particularly interesting to read. Mom and I tried to include some items about the fair that you probably haven't heard about and we tried to include lots of names. I encourage you to search for names of people you know. For example, without benefit of the Index, try to find Jimmie Weinman! (Jim is one of our local members and, since I have known him to be an adult all my life, this reference to his childhood name caught me off guard.)

While researching at IGS in June, I particularly noted that the Maryland Genealogical Newsletters that I was looking through have been indexed for many years. I would not have been willing to do anything more than casually look at these newsletters if they hadn't been indexed. ???Do we have any out-of-town members who would be willing to help me index some of our previous newsletters, if I could get you a complete set of newsletters??? I consider this project to be a "must" "sometime." I'm not sure what good our previous newsletters are going to do people if they cannot be easily referenced.

Enjoy!

Marieta

Postal Service Tidbit:

Did you know? We take our wonderful U. S. Postal Service mail delivery almost for granted. But prior to 1846, the postage was paid by the receiver when he came to fetch the letter sent to him. And if he didn't think to ever come and check, those letters went undelivered. That's why you'll find lists of "undeliverable letters" from old-time post offices published in genealogical and historical society publications. Postage on letters, prior to 1845, was set in increments based upon distance. To mail a letter 30 miles, the cost was 6 1/4 cents. To mail one over 500 miles was 25 cents.

Query:

SUMMERS, YOST

I would like to correspond with anyone in your organization who has done research or has an interest in the family names of SUMMERS or YOST in southern Iowa. -*Duane Summers, 1621 Park Avenue, Laramie, WY 82070, 307-745-7561.*

Land Records

Using land records in family history research:

1. Know the COUNTY where your relative lived, when it was formed
2. Find the Township Name or Number, if possible.
3. Record this data on your family group sheets and charts, as well as the state and town, if applicable.

You may find these items on your family land records, (and may not):

Wife's given name
Approximate date of birth
Correct full name
Children's names
Former spouse
Date of settlement
Residence of family members
Clues to marriage dates
Occupation
Moves, when and where
Status, applications for Homestead, etc.
Ages, number in family
Post Office address
Whether a citizen
Property value
Clues: children birthplace
Previous owners or Church

HOMESTEAD CLAIMS may give where children were born. MEXICAN WAR RECORDS show the last lands issued for war service. PUBLIC DOMAIN rights often issued a year after application date. TAX LISTS always one year behind. PENNSYLVANIA LAND RECORDS may give the history of a piece of land, also a family history, perhaps revealing disputes and illegitimacies. Look for land records at Court Houses. -*from Monroe County (IA) Genealogical Society News Jan-March 1998.*

Officers 1998:

President	Ev Brightman
Vice President	Marieta Grissom
Secretary	Virginia Nelson
Treasurer	Jane Godwin
Corresponding Secretary	Thelma Pehrson
Registrar	JoAnn Harvey
Librarian	Elaine Bumgarner
Historian	Kate Kauzlarich
Newsletter Editor	Marieta Grissom
Past President	Donna Crow
IGS Representative (Area 4)	Sheryl Gwinn

Active Committees:

Cemetery	Newspaper Abstracting
County Fair Divisions	Obituaries
Courthouse Abstracting	Research Requests
Library Acquisitions	

Newsletter published six times per year. Membership dues \$6.00 per individual or \$9.00 per family.

Bits and pieces about ... The Warren County Fair

Pioneer Resident Remembers First County Fair Here

1930

There's a little old lady living at 605 West Third Ave., who is "right spry" for all of her ninety years.

And she's one of the very, very few now living who attended the first county fair seventy-five long years ago, when it was held in Davis' grove, later known as Yoder's grove. Her name is Mary E. Ferguson.

"I was just a girl of fifteen then," she reminisces, "—just beginning to think about going with the boys," she added with a smile.

"It was like a prairie then, with no buildings on the grounds, which my father owned. There weren't shade trees, and it was hot. My father bought four bolts of brown muslin and sewed them together. They made shade by stretching the muslin across crosspieces and forks.

"There wasn't any fruit then, and only a few vegetables," she continued. Men and women rode horses, furnishing the main entertainment for the scattered group of pioneers.

"The next year there were buildings put up, and it was more like a fair, but at the time of the first fair there were only two houses within three miles west of Indianola," she added. She lived in one of them, a log cabin, with her father, James (Judge) Green, coming here at the age of ten in a covered wagon from Indiana.

There was no church here then, nor any amusements. "We worked for amusement," she replied when asked how early residents played, so apparently work was the main occupation those days. Seven of her fifteen children are living now, and she expects to attend the diamond jubilee fair with them this year—or at least, she's going to "study" about it and make a decision later.

Agricultural Society (1879 History of Warren County)

This society was organized in the spring of 1855 by Samuel Haworth, George E. Griffith, John Bramhall and P.P. Henderson. The following officers were elected: President, H. Fisk; Secretary, P.P. Henderson; Treasurer, Samuel Haworth; Directors, H. Hastie, Dr. W. G. Ball, J.T. Moorman, A Gruder, J. Bramhall.

The first fair was held at Indianola, October 1 and 2, 1855.

Received on membership	\$204.00
Received from State	200.00
Amount donated	<u>22.00</u>
	\$426.00
Amount paid in premiums	\$426.00

Next year the officers elect were: President, B. S. Noble; Secretary, P. P. Henderson; Treasurer, James Green. The society this year (1856) bought twenty acres of ground, one-half mile west of Indianola, for fair ground purposes, for which they paid \$320. The society enclosed a portion with a temporary fence.

The fair this year was held on the 2d and 3d of October, 1856, and was very interesting.

Received for membership	\$240.00
Amount donated for grounds	320.00
Amount donated on premiums	<u>281.00</u>
	\$841.00
Amount paid on premiums	\$385.00
Amount paid on grounds	<u>320.00</u>
	\$705.00
Amount in treasurer's hands, donated for furnishing of fair grounds	\$146.00
Amount due from the State, which was not drawn	<u>200.00</u>
Amount due the society	346.00

This year (1857) the officers were: President, G. E. Griffith; Secretary, P.P. Henderson; Treasurer, E. G. Crosthwait. This year the fair was held on the 24th and 25th of September, 1857. The society this year also fenced the grounds with good permanent fence; value, \$700.

Received for membership	\$250.00
Amount in treasurer's hands last year	146.00
Amount due from State	<u>400.00</u>
	\$796.00
Cost of fence	\$700.00
Amount awarded in premiums	347.00
	<u>\$1,047.00</u>
Amount society is in debt	\$251.00

Col. Henderson, in his report for 1857, says: "A large portion of the premiums will be donated, and soon as we draw from the State, our society will be out of debt. This fair was well attended, and passed off with good feeling to all concerned. There was more interest manifested than usual. For so new a county as this, the effect produced was good. Our grounds are now fitted up nice, and will accommodate all that will attend. It has been with some difficulty that we have kept it up, but we have it now on a fine basis. ..."

The society has since added to its grounds until they are large and well appointed.

It has held fairs each year, and is in a reasonably flourishing condition. The present officers of the society are:

Warren County Fair, continued

Bits and pieces about ... The Warren County Fair, *continued*

President, M.H. Hewitt; Vice-President, James Laverty; Secretary, Mel. W. Park; Treasurer, Joel Jacoby. Directors: D. H. VanPelt, Wesley Cheshire, Hugh Shepherd, Geo. W. Heiney, W. F. Brown, Geo. Pilmer, M. Shook, J.A. Henry, Wm. Hastie, Weir Cassady, Eli Townsend, J.B. Read, Geo. W. Pearson, Wm. Bilbo, J. Lough, J.T. Bussell, D. Nutting. Superintendent of grounds, J.A. Henry; of hall, Wm. Graham.

1908 Warren County History:

...The old records of the secretary have been lost, but it seems probable that a fair has been held every year since the organization in 1855, except in 1858, many of which have been successes, and some of which have been failures. The failures are always attributable to the weather. With good weather, the people of Warren County will make the fair a success. The property of the association has changed hands a number of times, and new associations have been formed. In some instances the property has passed into the hands of private parties, but was subsequently redeemed by the association. In 1886, the property was sold by sheriff for taxes, but in 1887, Warren County Park and Fair Ground Association purchased it. On the 12th of March, 1904, the present association obtained possession of the property, and has held fairs up to the present time, and has paid all premiums in full each year. The cash receipts of the fair have averaged for the last four years, \$4,750, and the expenditures have been more than that amount each year, except the year 1907. The present association is composed of twelve men: President, Lee Talbott; vice president, Robert Pilmer; secretary, Joe McCoy; treasurer, William Buxton, Jr.; directors, L.E. Hiatt, C. C. Reynolds, J.E. Houghtaling, F. C. Sigler, E. B. Dowell, R. B. Wadsworth, D. W. Husted, Harry E. Hopper. On March 31, 1908, the association contracted the grounds to Mr. Harry E. Hopper, and agreed to give possession March 1, 1912. In the contract Mr. Hopper has agreed to put up a fine speed barn and good show barn, and to fence the ground with a good woven wire fence. The present association will run the fair for the next four years just as they have done in the past, and at the end of the four years, the grounds will pass into the hands of Harry E. Hopper for \$9,000, unless other arrangements are made. No doubt, the fairs will be continued because Warren County cannot afford to give up her Agricultural Association. The county has donated the taxes on the grounds for several years past, and the state of Iowa has appropriated \$200 each year, on condition that the authorities shall not allow any space on the grounds for gambling in any manner whatever. It is the policy of the directors to meet these conditions in the future as they

have done in the past. Another requirement the state makes is, that the association shall pay all premiums awarded in full, and this has been done, and no doubt will be in the future.

Lightning Leaves Death in its Trail 1905
Sweeps Down Upon Poultry Tent at the Fair Grounds and Kills Four Persons and Injures Nine—Worst Disaster in History—Whole City in Mourning.

The Most Horrible Disaster Ever Witnessed in an Electrical Storm Falls Upon Indianola—Fair Association Calls Off Meeting at a Great Financial Loss—All Business Houses Close on Saturday by Order of Mayor.

Indianola was visited by an electrical storm Thursday morning, September 14th, which was the most disastrous it has been our unpleasant duty to record in the history of our newspaper experience. The whole community was shocked, and business practically suspended in nearly every avenue of trade. The following is a list of the killed and injured.

THE DEAD:

CARL PETERSON, Indianola, aged 14; son of John Peterson, tailor
RAY ANDERSON, Indianola, aged 20; son of Austin L. Anderson, grocer
BLAINE WRIGHT, Pleasantville, aged 25; leaves wife and child
THEODORE YOUNG, Indianola, aged 59; leaves wife and grown son.

INJURED:

J. F. Lough, Indianola
J. H. McGranahan, Indianola
J. Flack, Swan
Joseph Hickman, Indianola
Dr. L. D. Carpenter, Indianola
B. F. Freel, Pleasantville
Guy Berger, Wick
Mart Art, Hartford
James Lundy, Indianola
Perry Simmerman, Indianola

The Golden Jubilee of the Warren County Fair came to a sad ending at 9:30 o'clock last Thursday morning, Sept. 14th, and left the city in the deepest mourning ever known in the history of the county.

Warren County Fair, continued

Bits and pieces about ... The Warren County Fair, *continued*

The day which was being looked forward to as the greatest in the history of the Fair opened bright and clear and at an early hour crowds began gathering in the city and on the fair grounds. The day previous having been spoiled by showers the masses of people had begun to prepare for a gala day on Thursday and streams of them were coming in from the country, while the towns people were parading the streets ready for an all day of pleasure upon the fair grounds.

About 9 o'clock clouds began gathering in the west and within half an hour heavy black clouds covered the city rendering it almost impossible to conduct business in the stores, and shops, yet no one realized that a calamity was destined to fall upon us. The season of electric storms being considered over, and the morning being rather too cool to expect much of a storm, people in the city were watching the clouds with the hope that they would pass over and allow the fair program to proceed, while those on the fair grounds were seeking shelter from the rain which seemed fast approaching.

The first indication of the seriousness of the storm came a little after 9:30, when a flash of lightning, the like of which was never witnessed here, seemed to cover the entire city. The bolt struck the livery barn of Carl McNeil, and the fire alarm immediately following brought the department to the scene, where the barn was on fire. The rain was by this time falling in sheets and this assisted the fire boys in their effort to quench the flames. In the barn were several persons seeking shelter from the storm, but only one (Perry Simmerman) was injured and he only slightly. One horse was knocked down, but recovered after being dragged to a place of safety.

Almost at the same time came the report from the fair grounds, to the effect that four people were killed and several injured by a bolt of lightning which struck the center poles of the poultry tent adjacent to the poultry house, which had been put up to shelter the over-flow of the exhibit.

Excitement ran high and soon every vehicle was in use carrying curious people, physicians, relatives and friends of the unfortunate men to the scene of the disaster. The

victims were picked up as soon as possible and carried into the floral hall, where they were cared for by friends. Two of the victims, Ray Anderson and Theodore Young, were killed instantly, while Carl Peterson and Blaine Wright showed some signs of life when carried from the tent. They were both dead, however, when physicians arrived on the scene.

Among the most seriously injured were J. F. Lough, J. H. McGranahan, and J. Flack. Of these Mr. Lough was the only one who was in the danger line, he being seated near Ray Anderson on a coop of chickens. It is a miracle that he escaped with his life, but he claims he was restored by those who rescued him and says that after he became conscious, he thought the end would soon come. Two or three times he gave way under the fierce pains and gave up hope of recovery. His body bears several scars and one in particular down his back about a foot long, the shape of a streak of lightning. He proved the most seriously injured of any who escaped as he is yet confined to his bed.

J. H. McGranahan was not in the tent when the crash came, but was standing in the door way of the poultry shed some feet away beside Dr. L. D. Carpenter and Judge Shellenberger of West Liberty, the poultry judge. All three were knocked down. Dr. Carpenter was the first to recover from the shock and realize the situation. He soon came to the city and spread the news and afterwards returned to the scene where for two hours he worked with his comrades before giving way to the shock. He remained at home Friday, but was able on Saturday to attend the funerals of his friends.

The work of removing and caring for the victims began at once, the soldiers from the 11th U.S. Cavalry, stationed on the grounds performed excellent work, along with the citizens and members of the Fair Association who were on the grounds at the time.

The tent was about 16x24 feet in dimensions, and was located a little to the south of the poultry house. Tipping the two poles which stuck out over the top of the tent were two iron bars, over a foot in length, with blunt ends.

Warren County Fair, continued

Thelma Pehrson is helping me with "Bits and pieces about ..." This will include information about various communities, events, or whatever strikes her fancy. The same subject may be featured more than once, depending upon the information found. Thelma is Librarian for the Warren County Historical Library and is gleaning this information from articles, scrapbooks, books, etc in the WCHS Library. (Much of this information was collected by Edith Conn for the Library.) For more information about the WCHS Library you may contact Thelma at 515-961-4409 (home). The Library is open Thursdays 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Bits and pieces about ... The Warren County Fair, *continued*

the lightning struck these and ran down the poles. One pole was slivered to the ground, the other only damaged near the top. The ones who sat or stood nearest to the poles were the ones who were killed. The lightning seemed to jump from the poles to the men, and the on-lookers report the tent as having the appearance of a huge ball of fire.

The case of Joseph Hickman was a peculiar one. He was at work in the floral hall assisting James W. Lundy in moving a quilt about on a wire to protect it from the rain which was dripping through the roof of the building. Both men were on a ladder, Lundy above Hickman. Mr. Hickman was given a shock which knocked him off the ladder and rendered him unconscious for a time, while Mr. Lundy felt only a slight numbness in one hand and in his knee joints. Mr. Lundy attributes his escape to the fact that the quilt was between his hand and the wire on which the lightning was running.

The dead and injured were removed as quickly as possible to their homes, or homes of friends. Blaine Wright being a resident of Pleasantville, his remains were taken to the undertaking rooms of Proudfoot, Dyke & Smith where they were prepared for burial and shipped to Pleasantville on the evening train.

The fair association held a meeting as soon as possible and within an hour after the fatal stroke of lightning the fair was declared off for the season. It was a most sad and sudden ending of what promised the most successful fair ever held, and was a great financial loss to the members of the association. Members of the association were made so sad over the great catastrophe that their interests were entirely lost sight of in the caring for the dead and injured.

The poultry exhibitors had gone out to the fair early that day as the poultry judging was to come off and had actually been in progress at that early hour when the darkness made it impossible to proceed farther.

Business was practically suspended for the day and all day long people were grouped about on the fair grounds and over the city talking and mourning the loss of their friends and neighbors.

The funerals of the dead all occurred on Saturday. Ray Anderson's funeral was held at the home at 9 o'clock conducted by Rev. F. W. L. Brown who had come home from the Methodist Conference at Osceola for that purpose. The home and surroundings were crowded with people whose sympathies went out to the bereaved ones in that time of terrible sorrow. His remains were taken to the old Greenbush cemetery for interment in the family lot.

The Theodore Young funeral was held at the Friends

church at 2 p.m., the old soldiers attending in a body. The services were conducted by Rev. Sopher, of Os-kaloosa, this arrangement having been made between deceased and his former pastor three years ago.

Carl Peterson's funeral occurred at the home at 4 p.m. and was likewise attended by a large crowd of sympathetic people. The services were in charge of Rev. Porter of the Presbyterian church.

On Friday after the terrible shock Mayor Clayton issued the following proclamation, which was observed by our people.

A PROCLAMATION

To the Citizens of Indianola—A dark catastrophe has fallen upon our city; a heavy cloud overshadows our people; the happy home has been turned into the house of mourning. Some of our best citizens lay dead, while others are prostrated by the late sad disaster that came within our gates.

The dispensation of the providence of God is mysterious, yet we bow in meek submission to Him "that doth all things well."

The dead should have the respect of our city and the afflicted and the bereaved should have the sympathy of her people.

I therefore order that the flags upon all public buildings be placed at half mast at 9 o'clock a.m. and remain so until 4 o'clock p.m. on Saturday, Sept 16, 1905.

It is also respectfully requested that all business houses, offices and shops suspend business and close their doors (except those furnishing meals), and that all labor cease within the city from 12 o'clock to 2 o'clock the same day.

Done under my hand and the seal of the city of Indianola, Ia, this Sept. 15, 1905.

B. F. CLAYTON, Mayor

RAYMOND LESLIE ANDERSON was born in Spring Hill, Warren County, Iowa, July 1st, 1885, and came to Indianola March 17th, 1890. At the time of his death he was 20 years, 2 months and 13 days old. Deceased was modest, unassuming, conscientious and faithful in every undertaking, a good son, brother and friend and one who loved his home more than anything else. As brother Brown said at the funeral, he wore "the white flower of a blameless life". He goes to his untimely death, regretted and beloved by all who knew him.

Warren County Fair, continued

CARL JOHAN PETERSON, the only son and youngest of the family of Mr. and Mrs. John Peterson, was born in Indianola Aug., 30th, 1891, and was 14 years and 16 days old. He was a boy of excellent habits, a member of the Presbyterian church, and the very sunshine and flower of the home. He was a great favorite among his associates and school mates as was demonstrated by the large number of boys and girls at the funeral. He leaves, besides his parents, two sisters, Mable and Bessie and his aged grandparents to mourn his untimely death.

THEODORE YOUNG, the oldest of the victims, was born in Owen County, Indiana, Sept 29, 1846 and was nearly 59 years of age. He came west in 1856 and settled with his parents in Lucas County, where he remained until April 17th, 1892, when he came to Indianola. He went from Lucas County to the war, and afterwards followed the pursuit of farming. By arrangement three years ago Rev Sopher (who was previous to that time pastor of the Friends church) was summoned to preach the funeral. Mr. Young had picked the words from the 14th chapter of John, and not knowing this the bereaved wife requested that this chapter be read upon the occasion. It was the same as was read at the funeral of Mr. Young's mother in March 1904. Besides the wife, one (adopted son, Orville Young, is left, and he having recently moved from Reading, California, could not be reached.

BLAINE WRIGHT, another of the victims, was a resident of Pleasantville, and a farmer. He was the son of Ed Wright, formerly cashier of the Citizens Bank of Pleasantville, who recently purchased an alfalfa farm three miles east of Ft. Collins, Colo. His wife and baby had gone on the Denver excursion for the purpose of making a visit at the Wright home and deceased was to have soon joined them. The father of the unfortunate young man was in Texas buying cattle to stock his ranch and could not be reached in time for the funeral. The remains were shipped to Pleasantville and were buried from the home of his father-in-law, Joshua Richards. He was twenty-five years of age and was an industrious and prosperous young man. His funeral was held on Sunday, and his wife arrived from her western trip for the funeral.

The injured are all out of danger and most of them are attending their usual duties. The most seriously injured proved to be Jacob Lough, but he is now doing fine and although still confined at home is rapidly recovering. J. H. McGranahan was out Sunday for the first time. J. Flack was able to go home on Saturday, and Dr. Carpenter and Mr. Freel were out on Saturday also. All will hope that these men may fully recover and enjoy their usual health in the future.

George Draper, 70, Wins Contest for Fiddlers at Fair

1927

George Draper, 70, of Pleasantville, won the \$25 prize offered by the Hartzler Tire and Battery shop to the champion "old fiddler" at the contest held at the county fair. Lon Fetters, 60, of Milo won the second prize of \$15 and John Chumbley, 47, of New Virginia took the third prize of \$10.

Perhaps the most popular entertainment of the fair was the contest which was held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons. The first afternoon was given over to men under 50. J. H. Chumbley and R. W. Crawford of Indianola took the prizes for that division. The contest for men over 50 was held on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons with Mr. Draper and Mr. Fetters taking high places.

At all times the tent which Mr. Hartzler had provided for the contest was filled. After the fiddling many impromptu concerts and entertainments were given consisting of Charleston contests, square dances, free movies, and clogging.

Willis Cackler, 71, of New Virginia gave a very excellent clog dance.

George Hagan Wins Free-For-All Horse Shoe Tournament

1927

George Hagan won the free-for-all horseshoe pitching contest held at the fair last Thursday. Following Mr. Hagan very closely was George Morrison and W. R. New for second and third place.

Other men who pitched in the contest were Albert Decker, Jack Reed, Rex Bales and Ralph Heggen.

In the Wednesday contest for the men's county contest W. R. New was high man with George Hagan and Jack Reed as runners up. Other men entered in the contest for championship were George Morrison, Albert Decker and J. M. Mitchell.

The boys' tournament which was also held on Wednesday gave the younger players' championship to Robert Giles. Verle Wilson and Guy Chumbley were second and third. Vincent Giles, Russell Weeks and Bert Burris also pitched for the championship.

Warren County Fair, continued

Plane Forced To Make Landing at Fair. No Injuries

1927

The forced landing of the airplane which was carrying passengers at the fair on Friday afternoon, started a mild sensation, but no one was hurt and after a few minutes the plane was again in the air and did a thriving business.

Broken magneto points, so the pilot said, killed the engine and caused him to seek a landing hurriedly from a low altitude. He landed in a pasture a quarter of a mile north of the fair grounds in a hollow. The momentum of the plane was such that he coasted up the hill on the farther side of the hollow, and having attained that was unable to stop until the plane had coasted to the bottom and started up the next hill.

Guy Chumbley and John Hollen were passengers in the plane when the landing was made. Both are high school students in Indianola. John Hollen said he did not know he was in any danger. When the engine stopped and the plane began settling to the ground he thought the pilot was trying to give them a scare, and he decided not to be scared. Not until they struck the ground and began bounding over the pasture up and down the hill did he realize that he had actually been in an airplane when something happened. The landing was safely made with no further damage than a blown tire on one of the landing wheels.

4,500 People Guests at Co. Fair Wedding

1931

Miss Helen Utsler of Indianola Is Bride And Verne Foust of Spring Hill The Groom

In the presence of the largest number of guests that ever attend a wedding in Warren county, Miss Helen Utsler of Indianola, and Verne Foust of Spring Hill, were united in marriage last Friday night at the county fair.

The long heralded marriage of the unknown bride and groom took place on a platform, appropriately decorated for the occasion, in front of the grandstand crowded to capacity with people from all over the county in holiday mood, but at the same time possessed with a full sense of the propriety of such a ceremony.

4,500 See Ceremony

Secretary E. J. Anderson stated that 4,500 people were seated in the two amphitheatres, spilled over into the race track, occupied seats on improvised bleachers, and crowded the open spaces directly in front. Guests began arriving in the grandstand as early as 4 o'clock in the

afternoon, ate their lunch where they sat, and remained until the ceremony was over, a little past 9 o'clock.

The wedding took place immediately following the evening's program consisting of a band concert, vaudeville acts and a dance recital.

A Colorful Setting

The stands, jammed with curious people, the lights and shadows playing across the platform, the glare of a hundred electric lamps, and the bridesmaids each wearing a dress of a different shade, provided an interesting and colorful setting for an unusual occasion.

At 9 o'clock, Prof. Lester Spring, co-head of the vocal department of the Simpson conservatory of music, walked to the platform, and with Mrs. Spring at the piano sang a wedding song, "Beloved It Is Morn."

Bridesmaids Enter

As Professor Spring finished the singing of his song, the Argonne Post Military band began Lohengrin's Wedding March.

Next came the minister, the Rev. Dr. Arthur Attack, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church of Indianola.

Dr. Attack was followed by the bridesmaids, who emerged from a tent across the track, ten popular girls residing in as many towns of Warren county. Miss Harriet Leone Harlan of Indianola, Miss Eurolyn Perkins of Martensdale, Miss Ilo Erb of Liberty Center, Miss Evelyn Demory of Milo, Miss Virginia Parsons of Hartford, Miss Ruth McCrea of St. Marys, Miss Helen Spurgin of Beech, Miss Ethel Hagen of Norwalk, Miss Barbara Heggen of Carlisle and Miss Newella Brooks of New Virginia.

Bride Appears

Then came Mr. Foust, the bridegroom and his groomsman, and the ring bearer, Jimmie Weinman, followed by the maid of honor, Miss Ruby McClintic, and the flower girl, Patty Piffer.

The bride, wearing a white georgette gown and white veil, and carrying a large bridal bouquet of roses, came last, marching down a lane of white ribbons held by Lewis and Grant Kimer, Richard Hartzler, Neil Jorgenson, Worth Van Clark and Paul Morgan, Indianola Boy Scouts, and which had been the pathway of the entire wedding party.

When the band ceased playing the wedding march, Dr. Attack standing in front of the microphone, requested that

Warren County Fair, continued

Bits and pieces about ... The Warren County Fair, *continued*

the grandstands become silent, he began the ceremony. The ring service was used. There was a prayer by Dr. Attack, the bridegroom kissed the bride, and as he did so the crowd cheered.

Felter Presents Gold

Representative Victor Felter, president of the Warren County Fair Association, stepped to the platform, and speaking through the microphone, presented the couple with \$25 in gold, a gift of the fair management, and on behalf of the association, wished Mr. and Mrs. Foust luck and happiness.

The band struck up "Oh You Great Big Beautiful Doll," "You Never Can Tell About a Woman," and "He Follows the Girls Around."

A girl representing each merchant who had promised a gift to the county fair couple, stepped to the platform and handed the bride an envelope containing a ticket good for the merchandise.

The wedding details were in the hands of Mrs. J. K. Browne, assisted by Mrs. E. C. Harlan, Mrs. H. H. McNeil, Mrs. J. H. Watson, and Mrs. Harry L. Browne.

Warren County Fair Gets Under Way; Cavalry Arrives *Wednesday, August 16, 1939*

Officials Scan Skies For Signs of Rain But Weather Man Says It Will Be Cooler Today

Fair officials were scanning the skies for indications of rain Tuesday as the 83rd renewal of the Warren County fair got under way, but the weather man accommodatingly promised it would be cooler today with prospects of bright weather.

There was a hum of preparation at the fairgrounds in the morning when exhibitors were installing their exhibits in the art hall, the livestock barns, which are running over with stock, and the agricultural hall. The new steel grandstand was being completed and most of the concessions, including the rides and games were up.

Troopers Tour Square

A troop of 100 cavalymen of Ft. Des Moines, under the command of Captain Yeomans, arrived in Indianola Tuesday morning. With their own band playing the accompaniments, they marched through town to Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever" and on out to the fairgrounds. The troop will appear in daring and thrilling drills every

afternoon and evening of the fair. There will be a different program at each appearance. The cavalry band will play for all of their programs. The troopers are camped at the southwest corner of the grounds and their quarters are open to inspection by the public.

Sunbonnet, Whisker Parade

A big feature of Wednesday will be the appearance of the Whisker and Sunbonnet clubs. The county fair management is offering prizes of \$3, \$2 and \$1 for the best beards in several classes and the awards will be made in front of the grandstand at 3 o'clock. Prizes are also offered to Sunbonnet club members for the best costumes in several classes. There will be a session of the kangaroo court Wednesday night. Several thrilling acts will be presented each afternoon and evening throughout the fair. The public wedding was scheduled to be held Tuesday night.

Wednesday will be "pioneer day" and all persons 70 years of age, will be admitted free. No tickets are being issued but pioneers are asked to present themselves at the ticket office and they will be admitted without charge.

Baby Beef Sale

Judging in all classes will start on Wednesday and will continue through Thursday. There will be a public sale of 4-H baby beeves Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock, with Sheriff Lewis Johnson as auctioneer.

The girls' 4-H program will get under way Wednesday at noon. The health champion, demonstration teams and individual winners will be announced Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Steel Grandstand Well Under Way 1939

Steel for the new grandstand at the county fairgrounds is expected to arrive this week. Clarence Schrier, president of the association, stated Monday. The foundation is being put in under the direction of Frank Laverty. The cost will be about \$2,500. Cement blocks for the foundation are being installed.

The structure will be 80 by 28 feet and will have seating capacity of 800 people. Spectators can sit in the grandstand and get a good view of the quarter stretch and the baseball diamond where Bob Feller will pitch three innings if Sheriff Lewis Johnson is able to secure him for a game sometime in September.

Warren County Fair, continued

County Fair Association Will Meet

No date given

Who owns the Warren County Fair grounds?

A casual perusal of the stock certificate books indicates that a majority of the stockholders in the corporation, at least 175 of them, have departed this life without making disposition of their stock.

Altogether 286 certificates of stock have been issued, including new certificates issued to persons to whom original stockholders have assigned their stock.

A meeting of the stockholders has been called at Browne, Risinger & Weinman office for Friday evening of this week at 8 o'clock. Plainly a majority of the stockholders will not be on hand.

Chuck Laverty, president, and John Parsons, secretary of the corporation, urgently ask all living stockholders to be on hand. Persons who know themselves to be direct heirs of deceased stockholders are also asked to come and take part in any discussion that may take place.

"It is time," says President Laverty, "that this organization be tightened up and brought down to date. It has run along from year to year with only a few of us meeting each time, electing officers and making decisions. I hope there will be a good turnout Friday evening.

"I believe some way can be found by which the stock of deceased stockholders can be transferred to their heirs, and I hope they will become interested in the organization."

Does Not Hold Fairs

To those who are not acquainted with the system of conducting fairs in Warren county, it should be stated that the Warren County Fair Association owns the grounds; but does not conduct the fairs. The fairs are managed by a separate organization, which receives financial assistance from both the state and the county for the payment of premiums.

4-H Tour Notes

(Editor's note: The following was so interesting I decided to also include it. Unfortunately, the clipping I have only includes part of the story and no date is given, so we are really at kind of a loss for details.)

... Donald Courtney exhibited a pair of purebred Chester white gilts which show excellent breed type and gave evidence of considerable grooming.

The remainder of the tour was spent with the members of the club north of Indianola, known as Ted's Highway Boosters. The first member visited of this group was Paul Holmquist who exhibited a purebred Hampshire sow and her litter. The next visit was with Kennard Baer at the Hampshire farm of Bare & Hale, where club members were permitted to see some of the excellent breeding stock which forms the foundation herd of this well known farm. Kennard exhibited a Hampshire sow with a litter of excellent pigs from which he will be able to select some very good type show pigs.

The Holstein farm of Charles Laverty was next on the schedule and Charles Jr. exhibited two yearlings and one dairy calf. These cattle are of Holstein breeding and while all showed excellent type, Charles has one outstanding yearling heifer which was exhibited as a calf last year, and will be exhibited at the county show and Waterloo this year as a yearling. Robert Piffer, another first year club member, exhibited a Duroc sow and litter.

The Langfitt family, which was next on the tour, boasted more club members than any other family in this section of the county, Earl and Merrill, Howard and Warren, all being members of the 4-H club with definite projects. Howard has a purebred Hampshire sow and litter, while the other members have a herd of Guernsey cattle of various ages. The older boys have been successful in growing an excellent type of Guernseys and exhibiting them at the various shows. The Langfitt boys expect to exhibit at the county show, state fair, and Waterloo.

The last visit on this tour was at the Pemble orchard, north of town, and at the Pemble home in town. Vincent and Lorange Pemble have a strawberry project and are checking on the value of definite varieties, the cost of production and will be able to give figures on net profits.

William Pemble, youngest member of the group and who is in club work for his first year, surprised the visitors by showing an excellent garden, all of his own planting and tending.

Visitors on the last tour of the season, which was conducted on Tuesday of this week, were permitted to see all types of club work being done in Warren county. Not only were they permitted to see all types but were permitted to see excellent projects in each type of club work. Baby beef projects were seen at the Read home, where Katherine, Edith, Ruth and Josephine Read are feeding a number of baby beeves, two of which are particularly outstanding. Critics among the tour visitors consider one Angus and one Shorthorn to be among the best seen on any of the tours ...

Warren County Fair, continued

Winning Demonstration Teams Picked at Fair

August 6, 1962

The Lucky Lassies 4-H Club had the first place senior and junior clothing demonstration teams at the Warren County Fair last week.

The winning senior demonstration, "Dressing Up Your Dress," by Beverly Smart and Edena Butler will be presented at the Iowa State Fair.

The winning junior demonstration, "One-Two-Three-Zip," was presented by Nancy Kail and Lois Jean Smart.

The second place senior clothing demonstration was "About Face" presented by Marieta Pehrson and Deanna Kline of the Liberty Belles 4-H Club. They will present their demonstration at the National Dairy Cattle Congress at Waterloo.

The first alternate senior clothing demonstration was "Meet the Pressing Aids" by Esther Davidson and Margaret DenHerder of the Jackson Hilltopperettes, and the second alternate demonstration was "Altering for Pattern Fitness" by Kay Smith and Judy Walker of the Smooth Sailors.

Related Activities

Among the senior related activities demonstrations, Nancy Wilgenbush of the Jackson Hilltopperettes was first with "Mow, Not Maim," and Vivian Rodgers and Nancy Young of the Belmont Peppers were second with "First Aid First." Both teams will represent Warren County at the Iowa State Fair.

The alternate team was LaVonne Martin and Waneta Hailey of the Lucky Lassies who presented "Reign of Beauty."

Reflections of a County Fair

August 9, 1976

A county fair means different things to different people. This year's Warren County Bicentennial Fair lasted five days from August 1 through 5:

Winners in the 4-H Dress Review, announced Thursday morning were Joellyn Gavin, 17, St Marys, alternate to the Iowa State Fair; and Bev Walker 17, Indianola, who will advance to the state fair.

Members of the White Oak Climbers 4-H Club, Rob Beckett, Donna Putney, Brian Dotts, Vicki Putney, and Neil Putney, decorated their barn at the county fair with red, white and blue crepe paper to demonstrate their bicentennial spirit.

A 1925 Rumley Oil Pull tractor and separator, owned by Tom Borrall, Rt. 1, Indianola, were used in daily threshing demonstrations as a part of bicentennial activities conducted during the Warren County Fair last week. Wayne Martens, 19, of Martensdale fed bundles of oats into the separator during one of the threshing demonstrations.

Darl Reynolds and Ted Diehl barbecued rib steaks for the Warren County Cattleman's Association Chuck Wagon on Monday night. The association served 550 steaks to hungry fairgoers.

Clarence Pickard, 86, Indianola's famous bicyclist, pedaled his way along the Bicentennial Parade route en route to the fairgrounds, wearing his silver pith helmet that has become his trademark.

Walter Lawson won blue ribbons with his large yellow and orange marigolds in the Flower Department.

Warren County Fair still thriving at 140

1996

... While there have been many alterations in the fair since it began in 1856, most of them have been for the better. Fair secretary, Max Bishop points to three main changes as proof of this: popularity, commercial involvement and the actual fairgrounds.

Bishop feels the reason the fair has grown in popularity since its birth is that it is geared toward the family. "I think it's a big tradition thing. There are so many families involved," said Bishop.

Over the past 140 years the fairgrounds has undergone several changes. In the fair's earlier years the grounds were used for pasturing cattle. The cattle were only moved during the week of the fair. Now the grounds are much better taken care of and have a lot more to offer due to several new buildings.

"The fair has come a long way because of the new buildings," said Bishop. Among these new buildings are new cattle and horse barns, plus a new grandstand. This year's addition to the fair is new overhead lights for the grandstand.

"We took care of our chips for this year until we can make some more money," said Bishop. The next project will probably be a horse barn.

The fairgrounds remain busy even in the off-season. An estimated 65 to 70 events are held from april through September. There are no heating or cooling systems in the buildings, so they are rented out for storage space during the winter months.

Publications about Warren County

	Price	Shipping	Tax (IA residents)
Available from WCGS			
Jane Godwin, 808 West Detroit, Indianola, IA 50125 (515-961-3363):			
◆ <i>Birth Records of Warren County through 1920</i> , including delayed births, hardbound, 295 pages, indexed.	\$15.00	\$3.00	5% (IA residents)
◆ <i>Atlas of Warren County for the years 1847, 1872, 1887, 1897, 1902-1903, 1915, 1919-1924</i> , softbound, 162 pages	\$35.00	\$4.00	5% (IA residents)
◆ <i>Cemetery and Death Records of Warren County, IA</i> , 1980 (reprint)	\$35.00		

Available from Warren County Historical Society
Thelma Pehrson, 306 West Salem, Indianola, IA 50125 (515-961-4409):

◆ <i>Railroads of Warren County</i>	\$ 8.95	call to verify shipping costs
◆ <i>1879 History of Warren County</i> (reprint)	\$25.00	
◆ <i>Abandoned Towns of Warren County</i>	\$10.00	

Available from
Milo Public Library, 123 Main Street, Milo, IA 50166:

◆ <i>Milo 1880-1980, including Belmont & Otter Townships</i> , hardbound, 364 pages, indexed.	\$25.00	\$3.00	5% (IA residents)
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Available from
Iowa Genealogical Society, PO Box 7735, Des Moines, IA 50322 (515-276-0287):

<i>Warren County Marriages</i>			
◆ #0473 1849-1879, 72 pages	\$ 9.40	call to verify price and shipping costs	
◆ #0474 1880-1899, 96 pages	\$12.50		
<i>Warren County Newspapers-Deaths, Probates & Obituaries</i>			
◆ #1947 1857-1876, 55 pages	\$ 7.20	call to verify price and shipping costs	
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MILO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 123 Main Street, Milo, 515-942-6557, Mon, Wed, Thurs 2:00 - 5:30, Tues 6:00 - 8:00, Fri
9:00 - 11:00 & 2:00 - 5:30; Sat 9:00 - 12:00. Paula Griggs, Librarian. The Milo Library has an extensive collection of
obituaries for cemeteries in Otter and Belmont Townships, and some obits for people who have lived in the area and are
buried elsewhere.

IOWA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, 6000 Douglas Ave., Des Moines, 515-276-0287.
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