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World War I Facts

- WWI forever changed how wars were fought, the cavalry being replaced with tanks, airplanes, and modern artillery.
- WWI helped bring about the emancipation of women and African Americans, laborers were needed and women and African Americans proved their work was as good as any white man.
- Medical advances were made in wound care and bone setting. Skin grafting was started by Dr. Harold Gillies of England.
- The map of the European continent took on significant changes. Russia became the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR), the Ottoman Empire fell, and Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland became countries in their own right.

COMING EVENTS

NEWSLETTER

Website Rejuvenated!

You can now see all the updates on our website for yourself. More info, new pages, more pictures, new links and more are now available at cedarcountyhistoricalsociety.com

WHAT AM I?



Old Settlers Cane

Thank You

It doesn't seem possible that 2018 has come to an end. I'm sure I am not the only person who has thought that as we slip into 2019. We at CCHS would like to take a moment to say thank you to everyone who has made the Cedar County Historical Society and Museum what it is today. Our volunteers deserve a special thank you because they help keep things going in the museum and prairie village, without them our progress would be slow indeed.

Also, a special thank you to our donors. Whether the donations are monetary or artifacts, both are essential in helping CCHS tell the stories of our history, we are truly grateful and honored by your generosity. To our membership we would like to extend a huge thank you, as your membership is what keeps us going and provides us purpose to do what we do. Each and every individual who contributes to the mission of CCHS to collect, preserve, and share the history of Cedar County is a blessing to us.

Thank you! Everyone for everything.

THE TIPTON CONSERVATIVE.

VICTORY AND PEACE

I am sharing with you some of the stories that appeared on the Tipton Conservative front page in the first issue after the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. This will conclude the series on the life in Cedar county during WWI. I have reproduced the articles as they have appeared including typos, spelling, grammar, etc.

Absolute and Complete Surrender

Germany without reservation or evasion, has submitted to all terms imposed by the allies, and the Kaiser and his immediate retinue, including sons and other members of the family, have fled to Holland to escape the wrath in store for them. What will eventually be meted out to the guilty ones, is yet to be determined, although the sentiment everywhere expressed furnishes assurances that so far as possible, the punishment will be made to fit the crimes committed.

In according praise and honor for the glorious victory America and her splendid fighting men, as well as the managers and directors of the war, are being given unstinted credit and praise. Second to none but Marshal Foch, and well up in the rank of the other great commanders our own Gen. Pershing, who has won imperishable renown in this great war for humanity.

Although no definite plans for demobilization have yet been announced, orders have been issued for the suspension of the contemplated drafts, and the soldiers at the cantonments will probably be mustered out and sent home as rapidly as possible, those longest in service to be released first.

But in any event the fighting is done, and it will not be long until the boys come home to receive the joyous welcome their splendid service to their county and the world entitle them. (*Tipton Conservative November 13, 1918*)

How Victory was Celebrated in Tipton and Other Towns

Monday, November 11th, was a great day in Tipton, as well as many of the other towns in Cedar county, where the ringing of bells and firing of guns began early and lasted till late in the evening, in honor of the great Allied victory and

German surrender. The people turned out in vast numbers with everything that would make a noise, and carrying flags, fell into line and went marching through the streets in all kinds of formations. The band led, playing patriotic tunes, the automobiles, with cutouts and horns wide open, added to the general din as the procession moved along. Then the fire siren gave an occasional series of blasts that made the people for miles around "sit up and take notice". School children, large and small, with their teachers, joined in the parade by hundreds and employed every possible means of expression to give vent to their enthusiasm and joy. No such impromptu demonstration was ever put on in Tipton before, and after completely exhausting their repertoire of extravagant stunts, a large part of the crowd took passage in flag covered automobiles for Stanwood, where they added materially to the enthusiasm and lit out for Clarence, where considerable excitement had been aroused by making pro-German contribute to the Red Cross, and found a large number of men ready to accompany the expedition to Lowden on a patriotic proselyting tour.

Arrived at the latter place they found things at a "white heat" and ready for anything that would tend to the clearing up of the pro-German atmosphere known to prevail there. Believing that Pastor Reichardt's case needed looking into probably more than any other, a committee proceeded to his house to invite him down town where a coffin for the Kaiser had been provided and he was wanted to take part in the obsequies. The gentleman was rather reluctant to accept the invitation, but finally consented to accompany his callers and was given a very enthusiastic reception by the assembled congregations. As a preliminary preparation for what was to follow the pastor was invited to kiss the flag and afterward wave it in appropriate time to the "Star Spangled Banner," which he did while standing upon the rough box doing duty as the Kaiser's casket, which was inscribed with something like the following: "Kaiser Bill, on his way to Hell."

With a view to making it a little easier for the preacher, Mayor Hartwig com-

manded "order," but a bystander took a poke at him, and like the fellow who hurried up on the floor the "subsequent proceedings interested him no more," and the procession started, with the officiating minister marching at the head and carrying a flag. After giving him a part of what was coming to him, Mr. Reichardt was escorted home and released with the warning to make his stay in Lowden just as short as possible. Later several of the citizens of the community were compelled to contribute from \$50 to \$200 to the Red Cross, and a part of the Tipton delegation drove south to Bennett, where there had also been something doing, resulting in the resignation of Mayor John Bannick and some unfulfilled threats of shooting, started by a refusal of Mr. B. to contribute his full quota to the war funds. Later, however, he reconsidered his previous refusal, it is said, and put up \$50, which at least temporarily put a stop to what might have resulted in something serious.

As an aftermath of the "doings" at Lowden, Preacher Reichardt telephoned to Sheriff Bunker for protection and the latter went over and brought him to Tipton. The next day he asked for a hearing before the defense board, but they declined to do anything in his behalf, and finding that he could not obtain protection from that source, he consented to leave the county, and the impression seems to be that for once he will keep his word. (*Tipton Conservative November 13, 1918*)

Jobs for Soldiers When They Come Home.

Washington, Nov 12, - Demobilization of men in the military and naval service of the United States after the return from France will be carried out largely on a basis of the ability of trades and occupations to absorb them, labor, war and navy departments and the war industries board. It was said today that the plan will be submitted to President Wilson in a few days.

The war industries board has sent questionnaires to employers in all industries asking the needs of each for men and the answers will show where, when and how rapidly jobs will be ready for discharged soldiers and sailors and what trades are most in need of them. (*Tipton Conservative November 13, 1918*)

What's New at the Museum

We have recently received the donation of a beautiful 4' tall and 9' wide painting of the smoky mountains. The donors of this Cedar County treasure are Dick and Phyllis Davis of Vinton, Iowa. Dick's father Ivan commissioned the painting in 1941 to hang in his implement dealership (started in 1934) in Vinton. Dick later took on the role of running the dealership when his father no longer could. In 1958, a new building was built, and Dick was worried about the painting and its future. It is at this time that the painting was moved to the basement family room of his and Phyllis' Vinton home, where it has hung ever since. Now the Davis' have decided to downsize a little and move to a townhouse in Vinton where they no longer need worry about all of the upkeep inside and out that goes with home ownership. But Dick started to worry about the future of the painting again. That is when he found the number for the Tipton Library who referred him to the Cedar County Historical Society. I visited with him for a short while and felt after we could verify a couple of facts, he had told me about the artist that this piece would make a great addition to our collection.

Dick and Phyllis Davis with
"The Smokey Mountains"



Why, you may be asking, are we so interested in a painting that has hung in Vinton, Benton County, Iowa for almost 78 years? It all comes down to the artist. Dick revealed that the artist was a traveling sign painter from Tipton and sent me an article from a 1951 Cedar Rapids Gazette that had been written about the artist. After reading the article I knew that we had a wonderful "hidden" story that needed to be shared with the public.

The artist is Alberto Johnson Warner. Born Alberto Johnson in 1884 in Elkader, Clayton County, Iowa (side note – this is



The Alberto & Warner Show

where I really got interested as I am from Clayton County as well). He grew up and started in the barber profession. In his free time, he practiced gymnastics and learned he was a good contortionist. In 1902 he was able to perform at the county fairs in Elkader, Strawberry Point, and Waukon and at the age of 19 (1903) he came to Tipton to join the Canada Franks Railroad Show of Tipton – yes, Tipton Cedar County. Al traveled with Frank Myers' show which lasted 4 years before Myers closed the show for good in Conrad, Iowa, and returned to Tipton to open an electric theater.

But Al was enthralled with performing so he continued his contortionist acts and other performances in other circus' and side shows, including the Great Parker Carnival Company, Beach and Bowers Minstrel show which led him to sign on with Barnum and Bailey. Then he played the big houses in New York – think Broadway, New Orleans, Kansas City, Memphis, Chicago, Canada and even the Majestic in Cedar Rapids. At the time he was considered one of the greatest contortionists in the world and was a star in the traveling entertainment industry. It was while he was in show business that he met the love of his life, Marie Treca Warner and together they were "Alberto & Warner."

After their marriage, sometime in the early 1920's, they continued their show as a couple. This is how Alberto Johnson became Al Warner. As people became familiar with his and his wife's show they just started to refer to them as Alberto Warner and eventually Alberto was shortened to Al. For the rest of his life he was known as Al Warner, Johnson being long forgotten. Interestingly Warner was not Marie's maiden name – she had been married once before and had a son Bernard from that union.

Retiring in 1934 Al and Marie returned to Tipton. Al became a professional sign painter, traveling from town to town looking for jobs, which is how he ended up in Vinton in 1941 and was commissioned by Ivan Davis for the painting. Sadly, his beloved Marie passed in March 1951, at the age of 72, and was interned

at St. Mary's cemetery. Al was not quite the same without Marie, he was a very lonely man and in January 1957, at the age of 72, he passed as well. Al joined his cherished Marie in St. Mary's cemetery, Tipton.

We will be hanging Al's painting in the museum above the doorway to the Witmer Addition, hopefully sometime this spring. It will help us tell

another unexpected story of Cedar County – one of show business and bright lights, love and passion, and one of the utmost level of modesty of a very talented man.



Al Warner with his traveling studio and home.

New Members

Peter Endris

Larry Hodgden

Brad Goets

Carla Kishinami

Eric Storjohann

Memorials

James A Sewell

Marjorie Lehrman

Villages and Neighborhoods of Sugar Creek Township by Jeffrey Kaufmann from the 1981 Cedar County Historical Review

In this segment we are continuing to look at the communities of Cedar County. I have tried to reproduce this as it appeared including spelling, punctuation and grammar.

When Cedar county first became populated, log cabins began dotting the woodlands and prairies. As the years went by, the increasing population formed neighborhoods and villages. Sugar Creek township consisted of a number of these villages, towns and neighborhoods. The first town in Sugar Creek, and perhaps in the whole county, was Centreville. This small village consisted of several houses and a store, but because of lack of water and population, this hamlet disappeared. Centreville in its short span of existence seemed to be the crossroads of southern Cedar county. Three roads crossed here, a road to Moscow, a road to Rockingham, and a road north. The first surveyed road in the county also followed a route through the village. It was stated that one of the murderers of Col. Davenport, founder of Davenport, Iowa, took refuge at Centreville. The name is sometimes spelled Centerville. To date the only remaining evidences of this town are the gravestones of Jonathan and Sydney Morgan. They stand alone in the middle of a plowed field that once was the village of Centreville.

The largest town in the township was Lime City. This was once one of the largest quarrying operations in the state. The town flourished between 1882 and 1904 with its quarrying and lime business. It is said that a Lime City quarry provided stone in the building of the State Capital at Des Moines. In addition to its railroad line, the town was once on a mail hack route between Wilton and Tipton which touched Sugar Creek Mills, Rochester and other intermediate points. A post office was located at Lime City from 1883 to 1905. Today all that remains of the town, which, it is said by former residents, once had had a population of several hundred people, are a few houses and the fond memories of people who lived, worked and visited there. It has been written concerning Lime City that Iowa has a "ghost town" as romantic as any of the abandoned mining communities of the West. Extended mention is made of Lime City in the "1970 CCHR."

In southern Sugar Creek township a community formed around a grist mill. This community was generally called Sugar Creek Mills after the post office that was established here. Extended mention is made of this hamlet in the "1963 CCHR."

Often a post office was established which consisted of little more than a family's home. The Pleasant Hill post office in Sugar Creek was one such place. The post office is known to have been located in four different places in its span of years. The Pleasant Hill neighborhood is centered around the Pleasant Hill school which was located in Section 4.

The Sharon neighborhood grew up around the crossroads near the section lines of 23 and 24. There was no post office here, but one was established one quarter mile east at a place called Lactin. Lactin was a stagecoach stop in the 1850's and the land that once held Lactin is now owned by Mrs. James Walton. There was a school called Sharon in the northwest corner at the crossroads and there is also a Sharon cemetery, where so many of Cedar's earliest pioneers are buried. Sharon's name is held by past literary societies and social groups. Sharon was once the headquarters of a cornet band. The following article was taken from the Wilton Review, March 7, 1878:

"The session of the Sharon Literary Society last evening was interesting. The subject for discussion was 'should women vote.' Though this is an old question much interest was manifested on both sides. The cornet band enlivened the program with several pieces of music. The band is in full blast with Mr. Nicholas Kirby as leader, D.N. Harston, secretary and Jos. Jennings, Treasurer."



First home in Lime City, built for Superintendent Burrows and his family.

Many celebrations with parades, races, and speeches were held in the area also. There used to be a road running west on the section line, beginning about one eighth mile south of the schoolhouse, and that too, along with many houses that were along the road, has disappeared. It was near this road that Jonathon Casebeer once lived. His home was called "fort Sumter" because it was a stop along the Underground Railroad. A north to south road crossed the Casebeer road on a section line one mile west. This, too, has been discontinued for many years. The Walton, Kaufmann and Frymoyer names are about the only old pioneer names found in Sharon today, but the Sharon neighborhood will always be remembered and many a night has been spent reminiscing about the days of old in Sharon.

The White Pigeon neighborhood was centered around the White Pigeon school house which stood in Section 1. The old school is not in existence, but one may still detect the remains of the old well. Sugar Creek Church stands to the northeast, and now it may be termed the center of the

neighborhood. A Zion Methodist Church once stood in Section 12 across the road from the White Pigeon school. A road was located here and ran diagonally southeast. The church was discontinued many years ago and also the road. There were a literary society and several social clubs at White Pigeon. A White Pigeon Grange was once in existence, and the White Pigeon Mutual Fire Insurance Company was formed here in 1872. This company is still in business in Wilton. The origin of the name White Pigeon is unknown. The families of Whitmers, and Kisers located in the area and they were some of the members of the White Pigeon neighborhood.

The last neighborhood in old Sugar Creek was Bethel. This was so named after the South Bethel Church, the oldest church in the county. This neighborhood covers parts of Rochester and Center townships and also includes the old site of Centreville and a wide portion of Sugar Creek. In 1836 Washington A. Rigby of Red Oak plowed a furrow from Red Oak Grove to Muscatine, then called Bloomington. The furrow passed through the Bethel neighborhood. Henry Hardman, one of the pioneers of 1836, settled near Crooked Creek in Rochester township, and it was in his home that South Bethel Church was formed. The church was the center of many a social activity. An interesting story concerns the Grubbs' family. Captain Lewis, an old sea captain, lived just south of Bethel in a fine home. He brought with him from his travels a servant woman by the name of Nancy Grubbs, who had a son Sydney and a daughter. These people were the only colored residents of the township. Sydney Grubbs became fairly prominent and was Sunday School Superintendent at South Bethel and a school director of Pleasant Hill School. He took part in many public discussions and was widely known especially in Sunday School circles. The story moves across the line into Center township and is taken up in the story of the "Dogtown Neighborhood" in this Review.

Anthony Fulwider, a Civil War veteran and a settler of 1839, lived about two miles south of South Bethel Church. His family lived in a log cabin while he fought for the Union, but on his return he built a fine home. In Mr. Fulwider's family of six girls and one son, all but one daughter at one time lived in what could be considered the South Bethel neighborhood. Two of the girls married brothers and are mentioned in the story of Dogtown.

The neighborhoods and villages of Sugar Creek are varied and interesting and take a major part in the history of this county of Cedar.

OCTOBER PLOWING DEMONSTRATION

Photos courtesy of Richard Davidson, son of Bob Davidson. Thank you!



On a cold and windy Sunday in October, the 21st actually, board member Bob Davidson hosted a traditional plowing demonstration on the back four(ty). Several people and a number of horses braved the elements to use various plows on the fields out back and enjoy a pot luck in the South Bethel Church.



Reserved for Membership Card

Extra Extra Extra

Do you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter? Please send your contributions to:

Tanya@
cedarcounthyhistoricalsociety.com

Please put "CCHS Newsletter" in the subject line.

All suggestions and feedback are welcome. Because of available space all contributions may not be immediately utilized.

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We can also take Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express at the museum and CCHS events. *(Card must be presented and able to scan.)*

