

WALCOTT

Community Organization Guide

The logo is a circular emblem. It features a white center with the text 'WALCOTT' in blue and 'ONE' in dark blue. The 'O' in 'ONE' is also blue. There are five small grey stars around the text. The circle is surrounded by a ring of small grey dots, and the background is a dark blue field with a pattern of white and blue dots of varying sizes.

WALCOTT
ONE

2022

Table of contents

Welcome Message	3
Walcott Clover Kids	4
Blue Grass Sunshine Workers 4-H Club.....	4
Walcott American Legion Post #548	5
Walcott American Legion Auxiliary.....	6
Sons of the American Legion	7
American Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society.....	8
Calvary United Methodist Church	9
Girl Scouts	10
Lambda Phi Sorority	11
Lions Club.....	12
Nu Zeta Sorority	13
Walcott Athletics	14
Walcott Community Club	15
Walcott Day	16
Walcott Hearts and Hands.....	17
Walcott Historical Society.....	18
Walcott School PTA	19
Walcott Volunteer Fire Department.....	20
Walcott Volunteer Firefighter Association	20
Walcott Women.....	22
Walcott History	23





Welcome

We are blessed to live in a community enriched by the contributions of volunteers. We see it most obviously on Walcott Day, where dozens upon dozens of volunteers raise their hands to ensure the event is memorable. We see it when our volunteer fire department drops their current activities and rapidly responds to a fire siren. We see it in a park improvement project, and on most summer nights, in the many individuals who schedule, maintain, staff, and serve for ball games. And many more!

Volunteers are all around us and exemplify the best qualities of our community.

This guide was assembled for Walcott One, a unique, collaborative event between more than 20 organizations to bring the community's volunteer organizations together under one roof. The goal - to showcase each organization, recognize their volunteers, highlight their contributions, and

encourage residents to become involved in an organization of their choosing. Beyond the event, we hope the information in the following pages will be a source of engagement for interested individuals for years to come.

Pull aside any of the volunteers you see in our community and ask them about their experiences. You will likely hear some common themes – pride in their community, an opportunity to meet new people, a desire to enhance the community, and the sheer enjoyment that comes with working side by side with others. I encourage you to join them.

Onwards!
Brent Puck
*President,
Walcott Hearts and Hands Foundation*

Walcott Clover Kids

Meets:..... First Sunday of each month during the school year, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

Location:Walcott Library

Contact Information:

Jenny Kolwey
Jennrn2@gmail.com
(563) 579-7837

Clover Kids is a 4-H program for Kindergarten-3rd grade. We have fun learning about all sorts of things: STEM, art, animals, etc. Then we prepare a project for the fair about the things we learn.

We like to do community service projects, typically for Courtyard Estates or the Walcott Library.



Blue Grass Sunshine Workers 4-H Club

Meets:..... Third Sunday of each month

Location:Walcott American Legion

Contact Information:

Angie Ehlers & Amy Paustian
abeblers@msn.com
(563) 529-0325

4-H members are boys and girls who are in 4th-12th grades. Our 4-H club was organized over 100 years ago. Back then, clubs were divided into townships. We are the Blue Grass Sunshine Workers because we are in Blue Grass township, and we have kept the Sunshine Workers in our name as part of our club's history.

We hold monthly meetings and participate in community service activities. 4-H teaches basic Parliamentary Procedure (how to run a business meeting), how to give a talk/demonstration in front of peers, and teaches new skills through workshops. A 4th - 6th grade member is called a "Junior"; 7th - 8th grader is an "Intermediate"; and high school member is called a "Senior."

We have two clubs: a Jr./Int. club and a Sr. club. Historically, only girls have been in our club and boys have been members in the Blue Grass Jr. Farmers which has its own meeting times in Blue Grass.



WALCOTT AMERICAN
LEGION POST #548

Meets:.....Fourth Wednesday
of the month - Dinner 6 p.m.,
Meeting 7 p.m. (Nov. & Dec. may vary)

Location:..... Walcott American Legion -

Contact Information:
Brian Mengler, Commander
ampost_548@yahoo.com
(563) 284-6133

Website:..... walcottamericanlegion.org/
Website:...Walcott American Legion Post #548

Events:..Memorial Day Ceremony, Community
Dinners, Celebrations of Life

Events Sponsored:
5th Grade Flag Essay Contest
Boys State College Scholarships for HS Seniors
Honor Guards Flag Details
Flag Retirement Ceremonies, and Veteran’s
Memorial Park.

Rentals: Large Hall \$200 (280-person capacity),
Small Hall \$60 (50-person capacity) Free for
local, non-profit groups (4-H, Boys & Girls
Scouts, etc.) All funerals/Celebration of Life
events are free of charge.

Available for Checkout: Handicap Equipment
available for use, free of charge.

Our mission is to enhance the well-being of
America’s veterans, their families, our military,
and our communities by our devotion to mutual
helpfulness. We are committed to mentoring youth
and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our
communities, advocating patriotism and honor,
promoting strong national security, and continued
devotion to our fellow servicemembers and
veterans. Our post was chartered January 18, 1921.
The building was built in 1875 and purchased by
Post #548 in 1942.



We donate our profits to our community and local
organizations every year. 100% of our bar tips are
donated to local veteran’s outreach organizations.

We host numerous events throughout the year,
please check the website and FB for updates.

**Our community dinners are the fourth
Friday of the month:**
January meal is Roast Beef
February meal is Ham
March meal is Catfish Filet
August meal is Smoked Pork Chops
October meal is Pork Medallions

Every Memorial Day we march to the cemetery for
a ceremony honoring military members who have
died serving in the Armed Forces, followed by a
potluck luncheon at the legion.

Our major fundraiser is Avenue of Flags. Volunteers
install flags in front of homes and businesses seven
times a year for a \$42 donation: Memorial Day,
Flag Day, 4th of July, Walcott Day, Labor Day,
Patriot’s Day (Sept 11), and Veteran’s Day.

WALCOTT AMERICAN
LEGION AUXILIARY
UNIT #548

Meets:.....Fourth Wednesday
of the month - dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.

Location:Walcott American Legion

Contact Information:
Mary Golinghorst, President
marygolinghorst@gmail.com
(563) 284-6556

Events:National Poppy Day, Fall Mum Sale,
Dessert sales and raffle at Legion dinners,
Taco night in April

Events Sponsored: Walcott School Teacher Appreciation, National Education Week, Walcott School Student of the Month, Holiday Door Décor at Courtyard Estates, Blankets for the Iowa VA Hospital, and Girls State

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

The auxiliary also helps the Walcott American Legion with Avenue of Flags, maintenance at the Veteran’s Memorial Park, and support with funeral luncheons.



The Friday before Memorial Day, we distribute poppies in exchange for a donation that goes directly to assist disabled and hospitalized veterans. We wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support those who have served our country. The auxiliary supports grieving families (upon request) during funeral luncheons by setting up, serving, and clean-up of the food.

We donate regularly to our community including the Perry Street Outreach, Quad Cities Veteran Outreach, Midwest Animal Therapy (service dogs for Veterans), QCA Honor Flights, Bridging the Gap (homeless Veteran Outreach), Helmets of Hope, and Getting Heroes Home.

We generate revenue by annual membership dues (\$25), selling desserts, and holding a raffle at legion dinners, a taco night in April, and a fall mum sale.



Sons of the American Legion

Meets: 4th Wednesday
of each month at 6 p.m.

Location: Walcott American Legion

Contact Name:
Randy Moeller
rdmoeller611@gmail.com
(563) 340-4391

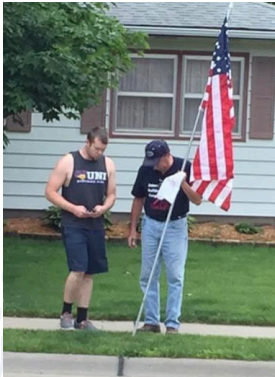
Events: Assist Walcott American Legion
with events



Founded in 1932, the Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires.

SAL members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership. Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion comprise the Legion Family, which has a combined membership of nearly 3 million.

Although SAL has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, SAL is a program of The American Legion. Many Legionnaires hold dual membership in SAL.





The American/ Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society (ASHHS)

The American/Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society (ASHHS) was organized in January 1989 in Durant, Scott County, Iowa USA.

The founders of ASHHS are the descendants of Schleswig-Holstein pioneers. They are dedicated to preserving and promoting the Schleswig-Holstein heritage and language of their forefathers. The society has grown throughout the United States and in many foreign countries including Germany, Canada, Australia, France, and the United Kingdom.

As the only recognized society specializing in genealogical research and the promotion and preservation of the Schleswig-Holstein heritage, ASHHS encourages and supports members in their effort to learn more about their ancestry and the language, culture and history of Schleswig-Holstein.

A society newsletter is published six times a year and includes articles about Schleswig-Holstein's past and present, immigrants to America, society activities, and short stories in English and Plattduitsch.

A query section in the newsletter helps members locate lost relatives.

As a member you'll receive a subscription to the newsletter and have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of programs sponsored by the society throughout the year. Members worldwide have found the ASHHS programs useful in learning more about their heritage and ancestry.

Programs and benefits you'll enjoy with your membership:

Genealogy – ASHHS offers free genealogy research to its members. If the genealogy staff cannot locate the desired information a list of alternative research sources may be provided. Members will be expected to pay for any expenses (such as photocopies, printing, and postage) associated with the search. There is no charge for the time expended by the ASHHS genealogy staff.

Library – Books, publications, mementos, and other materials to assist genealogy researchers. Unique to the library is the collection of family trees, pedigree charts, history books, and research files of ASHHS members.

Low German – (Plattduitsch) Helping members learn the language of their ancestors. The society helps organize and support conferences in Schleswig-Holstein and the USA. The society offers for sale materials, books, and tapes about the Plattduitsch language as well as other items that may be of interest.

Culture – Providing opportunities for members to learn about the culture of their ancestors by sponsoring Sister City programs, hosting visitors from Schleswig-Holstein, and publishing a variety of documents/information in Plattduitsch. The publications include documents concerning the Schleswig-Holstein heritage and cookbooks with many old German recipes. The society also sponsors a chorus that performs songs in Plattduitsch, High German and English.

Contact Information:

Karen Puck
(563) 284-6438

Calvary United Methodist Church



Meets:..... Sunday School 9 a.m.
Worship Service 10 a.m.

Location:100 East James Street

Contact Information:

Pastor Joy Mitchell
pastorjoymitchell@gmail.com
(563) 284-6213
(515) 450-8994

Donna Hinch, Secretary
seccalvary@mchsi.com
(563) 284-6213

Char Knutsen, Director, Calvary Preschool
calvarypreschool@mchsi.com
..... (563) 284-6122

Website:..... www.walcottchurch.org

Facebook: Calvary United Methodist Church

Events:

- Annual Bags Tournament (September)
- Annual Preschool Family Fun Day (October)
- Vacation Bible School (Summer)
- Buffalo Food Pantry
- Ash Wednesday Service
- Maunder Thursday Service
- Good Friday Service
- Easter Service
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Calvary's mission is to reach out, disciple, and nurture people in Christ through worship, education, fellowship, and service. To be not only an inviting church, but to go out where people are to invite them.



Walcott Calvary United Methodist Church of Walcott has been the only church in our town for the past 60 years.

We invite you to come and participate in our worship services and stay for the coffee fellowship that follows. Our Calvary Preschool keeps the church very active during the school year. Vacation Bible School is attended by nearly 50 children. We have two Ladies Circles. Our Church is blessed with a beautiful Bell Choir and Vocal Choir as well as a Praise Team.



Girl Scouts

Meets:.....At least two times a month

Location:Various locations around Walcott

Contact Name:Liz Bruns, Jenny Kolwey

Contact Information:

Liz (563) 210-5702

Jenny (563) 579-7837

Website:..... www.girlscoutstoday.org



Vision: All our programs are designed with a research-backed curriculum that centers around fun and friendship. To create engaging experiences, we focus on four core program areas that sparks girls’ interests - outdoors, entrepreneurship, STEM, and life skills.

Mission: Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.



LAMBDA PHI Sorority

Meets:..... First Wednesday of each month
Location:Various locations around Walcott
Contact Name:Bernice Koberg

Lambda Phi is a chapter of Beta Sigma Phi and is a civic and social organization that works on projects for our community. We were founded in 1980 and for the past 52 years our members have been an active part of the Walcott community.

All our members have volunteered for more than 20 years, working in the park concession stands. For many years, we were a part of the bazaar at Walcott School which we supported by selling our homemade pies. We enjoy the friendships we have formed over all these years.

We have supported a women’s abuse shelter, the local preschool, after prom parties for both Davenport West and Durant, the sale of lighted address lights with the proceeds going to the Walcott Police and Fire Departments, and our most recent school supply drive for items to support the Walcott School.

Our group is about service and the friendships that working for the same goal brings.

BETA SIGMA PHI



LAMBDA PHI



Walcott Lions Club

Meets:.....Second & Fourth Tuesday
of each month at 7 p.m.

Location: Gramma’s Kitchen (Back Room)

Contact Information:

Jacob Puck
jacobpuck@outlook.com
(563) 271-7419

Facebook:Walcott Lions Club

Events: .. Kids Eye Screening, Fish Fry, Pancake
Breakfast, Food Drives, Blood Drives



The Walcott Lions Club was founded February 9, 1973, by a group of local leaders who wanted to help the Walcott community grow. The Walcott Lions Club is 1 of 46,000 clubs worldwide, with a membership of over 1.4 million. The Lions motto is “We Serve.” The focus of Lions Club to reduce the prevalence of diabetes, screen for vision impairments in children, advocate for the vision impaired, and provide support for children battling cancer.

We generate money for donations and projects through fundraising at our annual fish fry in March and pancake breakfasts in the spring and fall. We also help at the Walcott park shacks during the summer. We hold several blood drives throughout the year to help support Impact Life, as well as several food drives to support the Buffalo Food Pantry.

Our main service project is Iowa KidSight, where club members will go to preschools and day cares in our area and screen local children for eye disorders for free. We take a high-resolution picture of the childrens’ eye’s and send it up to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital

where it is checked by a professional. If the child needs glasses, and the family is not able to afford them, the Lions Club will help pay for them.

We regularly donate funds to Walcott Fire, Walcott Day, Durant Ambulance, Walcott Library, and Walcott Historical Society. The Walcott Lions Club donates more than \$10,000 a year; with a total of more than \$500,000 funds donated since the start of the club.

Our officers are elected in the spring and serve a 1-year term from July 1 - June 30. Officers include: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Their duties are to run the club projects and keep the club’s finances in order.

NU ZETA Sorority

Meets:..... The Fourth Thursday of each month August through April. (No meetings during the summer).

Location: Various locations in Walcott

Contact Information:

Joan Martz
jedmartz@gmail.com
(563) 528-1496

Sara Dietz
sdietz116@gmail.com
(563) 370-4877

Events: Walcott City-Wide garage sales, Rock N Roll Bingo and Scratch Cupcake Sales.



The Walcott Nu Zeta Chapter originated February 8, 1990, a chapter of Beta Sigma Phi International.

The International women’s organization of Beta Sigma Phi began in 1932 in the midst of the Great Depression.

Beta Sigma Phi was created for women who couldn’t afford to attend college, but still wanted an avenue for social contact, self-development, and spiritual fulfillment.

The vision of the founding members is to enrich lives thru philanthropy and social works within the community.

The Walcott chapter was started in 1990 with the charter vision to support Walcott area families, business and community efforts, and remain visible in the community with a variety of fundraisers to support the local community.



Walcott Athletics

Meets:..... Walcott Athletics meets as needed throughout the year.

Location: Wescott Park, Victory Park

Contact Information:

Lynnette Tarchinski
WalcottAthleticBoard@gmail.com
(563) 340-7419

Facebook: Walcott Ball

Events: Baseball and softball games for all ages, from t-ball to teenagers and beyond.



Mission Statement

The mission of Walcott Athletics is to provide our community with programming that allows us to develop our youth and community members to their full potential, socially, physically, and mentally as well as to provide a safe and secure environment to execute that programming in. We use sports as a tool to teach and inspire leadership, prepare our youth to succeed in life, give back to our community and teach our youth to do the same, and promote the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle.

We want to provide an optimal opportunity for our children to develop character, respect for others, respect for the game, learn life lessons, learn the game of softball and baseball, and to enjoy themselves in the process.

Vision Statement

The vision of Walcott Athletics is to provide this experience through a board solely committed to the Mission. We do this by working with other groups in Walcott to develop the finest, safest, most enjoyable facilities possible. We strive to find the best volunteers who will help instill a love of baseball and softball for our players.





Meets:.....First Thursday of each month
Location: Walcott American Legion, Walcott Coliseum, LampLiter
Contact Information:
Joe Tarchinski
CommunityClub@gmail.com
(563) 271-7419
Events: Monthly feeds, Golf Outing, Christmas Dance

The Walcott Community Club, organized in 1932 and chartered in 1948, is a paternal organization formed to promote good will and improvements of the community for citizens of Walcott and other surrounding areas.

We donate to a wide variety of community projects including scholarships for children of members who are freshmen in college, high school after prom parties, Walcott Day Fund, Walcott Women, and many more community functions and organizations.

At each December meeting, officers and serving board members are elected. Officers include a President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Their duties include coordinating the monthly events, scheduling sponsorships, and maintaining the organization’s finances. The serving board is responsible for set-up and serving for the monthly



meals, helping in the design and construction of the annual Walcott Day float, working the park shacks for tournaments and games, and helping promote the organization.

Throughout the year, numerous events are planned. Events are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., with some exceptions. Most events are designed as networking and socializing for the men in the community. There are two couples’ meals in April and July where spouses of members and widows of deceased former members are invited to attend. Other activities include a golf outing in August and a family Christmas dance in December.

We generate revenues by annual membership dues and monthly donations from local businesses. The current annual membership fee is \$65. New members are welcome to join at any event throughout the year.

Walcott Day

Meets:..... Third Thursday of each month

Location: Walcott City Hall Fire Room at 7 p.m.

Contact Information:

Reed or Lisa Hagen
copenhagen4@mchsi.com
(563) 505-1165

Website:..... cityofwalcott.com/our-community/organizations-clubs/walcott-day

Facebook: Walcott Day

Events: Walcott Day, and the Friday night events before Walcott Day.



The first Walcott Day was held in 1975 has been held the third Saturday in July ever since. The celebration now includes events on the Friday evening before Walcott Day, too. Friday night events include a Kids Fun Run and our fireworks show. Saturday events include a 5K race, parade, flag raising, pie auction, several afternoon activities, dinner, awards ceremony and Walcott Day Queen and Princess contest. The celebration ends with a band and dance.

The Walcott Day committee meets most months to plan this event and determine how to distribute the funds raised. All the funds raised on Walcott Day stay in the Walcott community. We have donated to numerous different projects and organizations. We always need volunteers! We would love to have your help throughout the year as the celebration is planned, just for the day itself, or anyway you would like. We would love to volunteer with you.





Walcott Hearts & Hands Foundation

Meets:..... Third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Location: Walcott City Hall – Fire Room

Contact Information:

Brent Puck
Info@walcottheartsandhands.org
(563) 940-3568

Facebook: Walcott Hearts and Hands Foundation

Events: Movie in the Park, various community projects

The Walcott Hearts & Hands Foundation is comprised of passionate volunteers dedicated to the enhancement, development, and beautification of the city of Walcott. The organization’s name derives from our city slogan, “Hearts and Hands Working Together.” The Foundation is made up of individuals who share a passion for Walcott and look to improve the quality of life for its citizens by promoting projects that will further enhance, develop, and beautify our community.

- The group has been quite active since it was organized in 2015, and has spearheaded several projects which enhance our community:
- Stone entrance signs on North Main Street
 - Electronic community organization sign near Casey’s
 - Wescott Park field and fencing improvements
 - Wescott Park concession stand renovations
 - Tree plantings at the city compost facility

Additionally, the Hearts and Hands Foundation has hosted Corn Boils and Movie in the Park nights during the summer months. We have also collaborated with the Walcott Public Works Department as part of the Iowa Living Roadways Community Visioning Program.

Though our projects have often sought outside funding via grants, the Hearts and Hands Foundation relies on the generosity of individuals, businesses, and organizations within the community to cover the costs of these projects.

As an example, a generous group of individuals have made financial commitments to our mission by becoming members of the 100 Club, pledging an annual tax-deductible donation of \$100. Please contact any of our group members if you’d like to become a sustaining member of the 100 Club.

The Hearts and Hands Foundation is always looking for enthusiastic, energetic individuals with a passion for Walcott. Please consider being part of our Hearts and Hands Working Together! #LiveTheMotto



Walcott Historical Society

Location: 102 E Vernon St., Walcott, IA

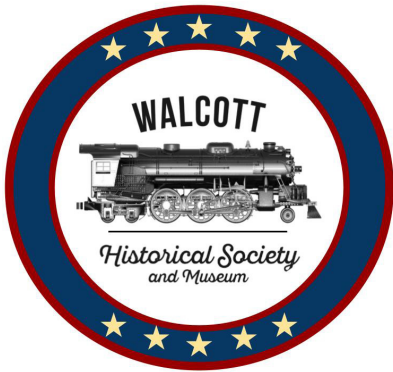
Contact Information:

Karen Puck
(563) 284-6438

Brenda Warner
(563) 284-6111

Sherry Roberts
(563) 284-6863

Facebook: Walcott Historical Society



The Walcott Historical Society was chartered in 2015 as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation by a small group of people who shared an interest in the history of our local areas and a desire to educate our young people about their heritage. Our mission is to collect, document, and preserve information and resources related to Walcott and the surrounding communities with a goal to display that history in an interesting, helpful, and educational manner for people of all ages.

The Walcott Historical Society is governed by a Board of Directors that includes a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and three board members. Our annual membership fee is \$10 and we currently have over 20 active members.

We have published and sold over 500 copies of our first pictorial history book, "Walcott, The Early Years, 1854-1954" and are currently working on our next pictorial history, "Country Schools, Remembered". The museum's exhibits are changed several times throughout the year and donated historical artifacts to our collections are always welcome. We are open on Walcott Day and by appointment.

As a non-profit organization, we rely on donations to support our mission of preserving the heritage of our ancestors for present and future generations. Your tax-deductible gift whether large or small is greatly appreciated!

If you are interested in the history of Walcott and the western Scott County area, we'd like to invite you to join us.



Walcott K-8 School PTA

Meets:..... First Thursday of each Month
Location: Walcott School
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Child Watch is available.

Contact Information:
WalcottPanthersPTA@gmail.com
Walcott School (563) 445-5200

Facebook: Walcott Panthers PTA Group

Events:..... Fun Run, Field Day, Fun Night
(School Carnival), Teacher Appreciation Week,
Playground Equipment repairs and
replacements, teacher requests



Rebecca Bein and Kathryn Hale – Co-Presidents
Bonnie Mueller – Vice President
Kari Arivett - Treasurer
Kelly Johnson - Secretary



Walcott Volunteer
Fire Department

Walcott Volunteer
Firefighter Association

Meets:..... Mondays at 7 p.m.

Location: Fire Station (128 W. Lincoln St)

Contact Name:

Chief Korry Kraft

fire@cityofwalcott.com

(563) 284-6571

Website... cityofwalcott.com/city-departments/
fire-department

Facebook:Walcott Firemen

Events:Averaging 400 emergency calls
a year, as wells as Hometown Heros at the
Library, WFD Steak fry fundraiser, Santa visit,
Kids water fights



The Walcott Volunteer Fire Department began in 1897. It wasn’t until 1934 when the first fire pumper was purchased. Currently the fire department has two rescue trucks, two fire engines, a tanker, and a brush truck. These trucks carry equipment used to respond to a wide variety of calls. The Walcott Volunteer Fire Department averages around 400 calls a year, from medical emergencies, fires, vehicle accidents, and everything in between. There are currently 18 members and 2 trainees.

We meet at the Walcott fire station on Mondays at 7 p.m. for training, general work at the station on trucks and equipment, safety checks, and business meetings.

The fire department does more than just fight fires; we offer a variety of volunteer opportunities. There is clerical work such as book keeping and record tracking that must be completed, general housekeeping, working radios and other controls, scene management, and safety during large calls.

We are also very active in the community. We participate in parades, Hometown Heroes at the library, assist Santa when he comes to town to see all the kids (first Saturday of December), and our annual steak fry fundraiser. There are many jobs incorporated in the steak fry and volunteers are always needed to assist in selling raffle tickets, serving food, and preparing desserts.



Walcott Women

Meets:.....Second Wednesday of each month

Location:City Hall Fire Room at 6 p.m.

Contact Name:

Lisa Hagen
Kelly Quick
Jennifer Carstens
Liz Bruns

Contact Email: Walcott.Women.IA@gmail.com

Contact Phone: (563) 505-1543

Facebook: Walcott Women



Walcott Women was first known as Walcott Jaycettes, chartered in 1974 and later changed the name to Walcott Women in 1985. We are a group of women who love volunteering in our community and helping when and where we can. We take pride in the Walcott community and the Walcott school.

We organize and host events for families to enjoy, such as the Halloween Parade with a Hot Dog supper, Breakfast with Santa, Daddy Daughter Dance, Easter Egg Hunt, and Summer Block Party.

We are always looking for other ways to give back to Walcott so families can enjoy our community together. We are proud to support many of the other Walcott volunteer groups and their events.

Walcott Women funds come from our participation in the park shacks, a quarter auction, and by donations received. There is also an annual membership fee of \$15.

The board consists of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and chairman of the board. These positions are held for two years.





Walcott History

ORIGINS

Early in 1854 the site of Walcott was open prairie. Knowing that the railroad would pass through, the two promoters, William Walcott and Ebenezer Cook, bought a large tract of land surrounding the proposed station for \$1.25 per acre. William Walcott, who was a director of Chicago and Rock Island Railroad, donated \$500 in 1855 for the construction of a school building, with the stipulation that the fledgling town along the railroad tracks near Davenport be named after him.

The town was laid out, and the plat was officially registered April 8, 1854, in the Scott County Courthouse. By May 1854 a few buildings were constructed, including an eating establishment called the Walcott House, which had been built to accommodate the railroad workers in December 1853. On August 24, 1855, the Davenport Gazette carried an announcement by Cook and Sargent, a financial firm, of a public auction of fifty lots in the new town. Now was the time for the real beginning.

On August 25, 1855, a Saturday morning, almost 500 excited people climbed aboard railcars for the first passenger train ride west of the Mississippi River. This was a festive day and many people were anxious to be a part of the celebration arranged by Cook and Sargent to open the new town of Walcott.

The train ride was not only free, but it was also an exciting event. Two locomotives, the "Antoine LeClaire" pulling and the "Iowa" pushing, puffed and hissed while the band played and the passengers cheered. There were two passenger coaches providing plush comfort for almost seventy-five women, who dressed in their finest gowns. The men were seated on the five flat cars rigged with temporary railings and wooden benches.

The trip was twelve miles long and ended at the first railroad station west of the Mississippi. The first event of the day was a free lunch with roasting ears of corn as a featured delicacy. Then came the

business of the day, the auction of lots for both businesses and homes. The auctioneer was quoted as saying, "Where is the man that ever purchased lands in Iowa who did not find them enhanced in value."

The choice lots went for \$200 to \$250 each, but the majority sold for \$100 to \$150, and some of the out-lots brought only \$50 to \$75. The happy crowd, tired and satisfied, returned to Davenport, thus completing the first round-trip passenger excursion in the state, and west of the Mississippi River.

Much of the land around Walcott, and many of the town lots, were purchased by land speculators who held them for some time. In the financial panic of 1857, many speculators were glad to sell their land for almost any price. Much of the land was sold for as low as \$0.75 per acre. This made it possible for numerous German and Scotch-Irish immigrants, with limited finances, to buy land and settle in the new country. Most of the German settlers were from the Schleswig-Holstein area of northern Germany.

INCORPORATION OF WALCOTT

The incorporation of the town of Walcott grew out of a community dispute over the proposed site for a new school building. The school board and many of the residents favored the erection of the new building on the public square which was centrally located, well adapted for the purpose, and would save the additional cost of buying more property. However, others believed that the town should keep its square for a public meeting and rallying ground and instituted an injunction suit to halt the action of the school board.

With no legal right as a village to proceed against the injunction, and as the deed to the property was not clear, it was decided to incorporate. This

would give the town officers the legal right to select the property deemed best for the purpose. A petition for incorporation was signed by the necessary twenty-five voters, approved, and a special election was ordered. At that time, the total population was 354 people, 204 adults and 150 minors.

The election was held on July 7, 1894, and of the eighty-one votes cast, fifty-four were in favor of the incorporation. A parade, led by the brass band, celebrated the victory, and there were speeches by leading citizens. The result of the election was approved and filed by the District Court on July 14, 1894.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Richest Town in America

In 1911 Walcott was declared the richest town in the United States, determined by bank deposits for its population of 300, according to Dunn & Co. in the Bankers' Journal of New York.

Walcott Community Newspaper

A community newspaper was once published in Walcott. Published as the "Walcott Community News" from 1933 till 1937, it ceased operations when the publisher left for military service. Electronic copies of many issues are available for viewing from the Walcott Historical Society.

Churches in Walcott

The first church in the Walcott area, a Presbyterian church, was built near the current cemetery in 1860. However, this was outside the incorporated city limits of Walcott. How long the church served the community is unknown, but in 1881 the building was sold, moved into town, remodeled, and converted to a comfortable home that remains to this day. Although many short-term pastors held

services over the years, Walcott was known as a community without a church for much of its early history. In 1947, a group of members organized what would become the first church within the town. The initial worship service was held in their new building in 1953. The church is now recognized as Calvary United Methodist Church.

The Coliseum

The Coliseum was built in 1915. With an unusually high ceiling and full basement beneath, the dance hall and stage were considered by performers at that time as the finest stage between Chicago and Denver. The Coliseum has historically been a social hub for Walcott, and community dances drew people and musicians from many miles away, especially during the big band era. Entire families came to the Coliseum for dances, and with beds available upstairs for children, their parents were allowed to dance and socialize late into the night.

The Castle

It is interesting to note the Castle, which for many years has dominated the landscape with its turrets and ramparts, was originally built in 1904 by Dr. Henry Schumacher as a meeting place for the Knights of Pythias, a fraternal organization. Dr. Schumacher operated an apothecary and provided medical services out of the Castle until his death in 1934. The structure was modeled after the famous Balmoral Castle of Scotland and is said to have had a dungeon with plaster of paris skeletons.

Bredenbek, Walcott's Sister City

In 1997, Walcott joined in a sister city partnership with Bredenbek, Germany. Bredenbek is located in northern Germany, in the area where many Walcott residents have ancestors. Since then, some residents from Walcott have traveled to Bredenbek and some residents of Bredenbek have visited us in Walcott.

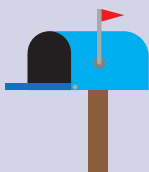
Iowa 80 Truckstop

Known as the World's Largest Truckstop, Iowa 80 was established in 1964 and is a home away from home to countless over-the-road drivers and a destination for travelers. The Iowa 80 Truckstop features eight restaurant choices, a convenience store, gift store, Super Truck Showroom, barber shop, chiropractor, dentist, movie theater, workout room, laundry facilities, private showers, gas islands, diesel fuel center, truck service center, Truckomat truck wash, Dogomat pet wash, CAT Scale, trucking museum, and much more. They are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and haven't closed their doors since opening day in 1964.

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Articles for the newsletter are always welcome. Submissions are due by the 20th of each month and should be emailed to walcottchamber@gmail.com.

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