

GFWC Iowa Top Two Special Program WHRC

WHRC – Chairman – Julia Thoel

1. Bancroft History Assembly. A Field Trip to Union County Historical Village. The field trip began with a scavenger hunt to find objects in the schoolhouse (built in 1872) located on the compound of the Union County Historical Village. The special speaker was a member of the Village's board who had attended the school as a young student. Her mother had been a teacher there until the school closed in 1966. She told many interesting facts about the history of the school and of the daily activities as a student. After the presentation, members who had been teachers appreciated the more modern facilities after seeing what was common years ago. Others reminisced about being country school students. It was good to evaluate the good and not so good changes that have transformed our schools into what they are today.
2. Bancroft History Assembly. One member gave a program on an adventurous lady newspaper writer who was instrumental in changing society's opinion about female journalists. In the 1880's, a local newspaper published an article with the headlines "What Gias awe Good For." The writer stated they are only good for having babies and keeping house. Elizabeth Cochrane disagreed. She obtained a position on that same newspaper and was given the penname "Nellie Bly" which was taken from a song by Stephen Foster. She did not keep with quiet feminine subjects but did investigative stories on working conditions among the working class people in Mexico, conditions in a Lunatic Asylum and an actual trip around the world in 80 days. She became an international celebrity after that trip. Nellie also reported World War I news from the war zone. Elizabeth Cochrane (Nellie Bly) was a true pioneer in the field of investigative journalism.