“Worth ethic, faith and value of education were important to my family,” she said. “If each generation remembers to always do their best it’s and instill these values, it is something to be proud of.”

Thompson’s presentation gave the history of Walker, who killed a man in what is now Kenova, and was ultimately sentenced to hanging. Walker is known as the only person to be hanged in Wayne County.

“One thing that makes this story intriguing is that Laban was only 17 at the time,” Thompson said.

The hanging of Walker brought thousands to the Wayne County Courthouse in November of 1879.

“It was a spectacle, and thousands of people came out to witness it,” Thompson said. “With there came more crime, as a group of men got into a fight that led to one man being shot on the way to witness the hanging.”