

Fun Facts About Madison County



1. It's a county seat and its courthouse was designed by one of the two architects who designed the Iowa State Capitol building.
2. Known best for research into peanuts, he spent time in this community.
3. If you are a herpetologist, you would know that this county is one of the few in Iowa where you might have a noisy encounter with one of these.
4. Over 300,000 read it. It can be seen in 86% of the homes in America. They're part of the revival of folk handiwork.
5. They say, "one a day keeps the doctor away," this county is the home of one the best known of these fruits.
6. Cowboy, Detective, GI, one of America's favorites was born here.
7. Cowboy, Cop, Photographer – he was here too.
8. Only the Bible tops it.
9. Once there were 21 now there are 6.
10. Because they were cheapskates, that's why!

Answers

1. The Madison County Courthouse was built in Winterset of locally quarried limestone in 1876. The design was done by A.E. Piquenard, a co-designer of the Iowa State Capitol.
2. George Washington Carver came to Winterset in 1888 and worked at a local hotel as head cook. He was encouraged to attend Simpson by local residents and enrolled in 1890 walking the 25 miles and paying \$12 in tuition.
3. Madison County is one of the few counties in which rattlesnakes can be found.
4. Fons and Porter's Love of Quilting is based in Winterset. Their magazine is the most widely read quilting magazine in the world. Their public television show is now available in 86% of American homes and they have a quaint little shop in downtown Winterset.
5. The Delicious Apple was first called the Hawkeye and was discovered in Madison County in 1872.
6. Marion Robert Morrison – aka John Wayne – was born in Winterset in 1907 on May 26. He lived in Winterset for approximately 3 years and another 3 to 4 years in Earlham in Western Madison County. (When Marion's brother was born he was named Robert so Marion's middle name was changed to Mitchell).
7. Clint Eastwood directed and starred in "The Bridges of Madison County" which was filmed in Winterset and the surrounding area in 1994 and released in 1995.
8. The book, "The Bridges of Madison County" written by UNI Economics professor Robert James Waller is only surpassed by the Bible in number of copies printed.
9. We can document 21 original bridges in Madison County. There are now 5 original and one reconstructed bridge (following the arson fire that destroyed Cedar Bridge in 2002)
10. Why did they cover the bridges? It was less expensive to replace roofing rather than the heavy planking that made up the floor of the bridges.