

Mary Bantz

Mary (Barker) Bantz (1832-1939), wife of Noah Bantz caused a little bit of a ruckus in November 1907, when she walked into the Delaware County Clerk's office and said, "I would like very much to get a hunting license, please."

Deputy County Clerk, Earl Patterson, walked up to his side of the counter a bit confused as he asked, "What do you want it for?" Without hesitation Mary replied, "For myself."

Patterson was not sure what to do. He had never issued a hunting license to a woman, and he wondered if he could legally issue one to a female. He excused himself, went to the other room and began examining the state statute for the information.

He found nothing in the statute that stated that a person must be male to receive a hunting license, so he returned to the outer office and asked Mary for a complete description of herself as the law required and wrote out the license.

After paying one dollar, Mary Bantz walked from the clerk's office with the **first hunting license** to ever be issued to a woman in Delaware County. She was said to be a fair marksman who took great interest in the sport.