

Newsletter

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President: Mary Jane Paez
Vice-Pres. & Program: Patty Wallerstedt
Secretary: Beulah Darling

Treasurer: Don Denman
Newsletter: Selma Duvick
Ray Schleih

January Meeting
Sunday, January 24, 4 p.m.
Crown Point Meeting Room
Program:

**Incorporation of Johnston:
The "Inside Story"**

Don Running, who, among many others, was instrumental in the incorporation of Johnston as a city, will tell us about this experience.

Light refreshments - No Potluck

November Meeting Report:

Our speaker, R. Wayne Skidmore, was unable to appear due to the illness of his wife.

During the business meeting, Ray Schleih reported that the flag pole, given by the Allender family, and erected at the Kinsey Cemetery was dedicated at a ceremony on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11.

Other items discussed:

Possibility of erecting a cemetery gate at the Valley View Cemetery.

Arrangement for having the flag at Kinsey Cemetery displayed on appropriate days.

Display of historical photos at Crown Point, city to make copies.

Meetings Scheduled for 1999

- Wednesday, Feb. 24, 4 p.m. at Johnston High School Library. See Story below
- Sunday, March 8 4 p.m. at Crown Point, program to be announced.
- Tuesday, April 27, 4 p.m. at Crown Point, Annual Meeting

Membership Renewals

For those who have not renewed-- please send your dues for the year, \$5 for individuals, \$6 for family, to the Johnston Station Historical Society, Post Office Box 109, Johnston IA 50131.

Check your mailing label--if there is a "98" following your name, you need to renew. And thanks to the many of you who have already sent in your checks!

From the President.....

Since our last newsletter, Johnston has lost two exceptional citizens. On behalf of the Johnston Historical Society, I extend our heartfelt sympathies to the families of Maxine Skidmore and Lloyd Busby. They will be missed greatly.

As members of a Historical Society, we each have an interest in history. We have been working on recording the history of Johnston in a book with chapters about the schools, churches, groups, city, etc. Dates, places and events are all part of our history. What makes that history come alive are the stories about the personalities involved.

Every one of us, living and breathing today, have experienced the biggest changes in history. Think of what life was like as a small child compared to today's world. You owe your descendants a story of those changes.

Over the past year, I have been looking for my roots. Along with my Christmas letter this year, I sent each of my first cousins a page of photos and copies of things I've found about our grandparents. I asked that in return they send me a few short thoughts of our grandparents. What wonderful stories I have received. These are being compiled to share with the

family. Although my grandchildren will never have met my grandparents, they will know them through these stories.

Mary Jane Paez

Welcome to New Members

The following are new members:

Richard and Phyllis Peterson
Johnston, Iowa

Eva L. Mott,
Milo, Iowa

Jerilyn Denman
Urbandale, Iowa

Dorothy Orlich
Kingwood, Texas

Paul Clements
Johnston, Iowa

Bert Kuefner
Earlham, Iowa

It's January in Iowa.....

And we want to report to all of our members who are enjoying sun and warm weather elsewhere in the country that you are missing some typical weather---- 20 degrees below zero, a foot of snow-- and then more snow on snow.

Genealogy "On-Line"

Are you "on line"? Are you able to "surf"? Or do you have a son or daughter, or a 10-year-old grandson or niece who is a whiz with computers?

Whether you are computer literate or not, you will want to attend the February 24th meeting where Mary Jane Paez, and Dennis Yoshimura from the Johnston High School faculty, will demonstrate how to access hundreds of records of organizations, families, cemeteries, etc. to look for those long-lost cousins or your Civil War ancestor.

As we have reported in earlier newsletters, the cemetery census information which members of the society gathered, was taken to City Hall, and transcribed there. Mary Jane has taken this information and entered it in what is known as the "Tombstone Transcription Project".

We can take some pride in the fact that our census work is among the very first in Polk County to be entered in this project.

Even if you THINK you won't want to, or be able to use this technology, come and see what can be done. It will amaze you!! (We'll have hand-outs to help you get started).

We will meet at the Johnston High School Library at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4.

The JSHS invites members of other Historical Societies in the Des Moines Metro area-- Big Creek, Ankeny, Polk

County, Urbandale, West Des Moines, etc. to join us for this meeting.

Do you remember when.....

- N.W.63rd Place was Allen Road?
- N W. 62nd Avenue was Johnston Road, and before that, the Panora Speedway?
- N.W.60th Avenue was Hunt Road?
- N.W. 57th Avenue was Fruitland Drive?
- N.W.55th Avenue was Brennan Drive?
- 59th Court was Dewey Road?
- N.W. 54th Street was Harlan Drive?
- N.W. Beaver Drive was Beaver Road?
- Can you remember other named streets?

Contributions

During the past year, the following members have made monetary contributions to the Johnston (Station) Historical Society.

We Thank them all.

Herbert & Edith Kuefner, Des Moines IA

H. Albert & Irene Aulich, Johnston, IA

Eli Orlich, Phoenix, AZ

Martha W. Stevenson, Edgartown, MA

Margaret Weatherspoon, Ames, IA

Fran Melas, Poway, CA

Beulah Darling, Des Moines, IA

Roselyn Vorhees, Santa Barbara, CA

John & Lois Reier Johnston, IA
 Margaret Beck, Panora, IA
 Donald & Jerilyn Denman, Urbandale, IA
 Robert & Eileen Grahl, Potomac, MD
 Richard & Jean Mott, Johnston, IA
 Esther Peitzman, Johnston, IA
 Joseph & Arlene Shore, Johnston, IA
 Russell & Wanda Slauson, Grimes, IA
 Roger Wigton, Hot Springs Village, AR
 Donald & Marilyn Zarley, Des Moines, IA
 Weldon & Mavis Kingsbury, Ames, IA
 Phillip Murray, Johnston, IA
 Mark E. & Lori McAllister, Johnston, IA
 Margaret Sharp, Johnston, IA
 Audrey Archer, Broomfield, CO
 Wesley Jordan, Johnston, IA
 Jeanne Landgren Willmar, MN
 Waneta Major, Phoenix, AZ
 Howard & Carol Hunt, Anchorage, AK
 Robert & Margaret Thomas, Des Moines, IA
 Wayne & Ruth Sellner, Panora, IA
 David Jr. & Patricia Goss, Johnston, IA
 Richard & Linda Hyde, Johnston, IA
 Evelyn Bachman, Ankeny, IA

In Memoriam

Lloyd Busby, of Johnston, died on December 22, 1998. He was a native of Runnells, and had been a resident of Johnston for many years. He had been active in many Johnston community activities.

Th JSHS extends its sympathy to his wife Rose and to his family.

Maxine Skidmore, wife of R. Wayne Skidmore, and resident of Johnston, died on December 22, 1998.

The JSHS extends sympathy to her husband "Skid" and to all of her family.

Society Member Honored

William (Bill) Wagner, FAIA, a member of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society, will be honored by *The Iowan Magazine* as its first recipient of the David E. Archie Preservation Award at a ceremony at the State Historical Building, on January 20th.

"Bill" Wagner is well-known throughout the state for his work in authentic preservation and restoration of many of Iowa's historic buildings. He has great

knowledge of 19th century architecture, and the JSHS consulted with him when we considered the acquiring of the Rittgers home on N.W. Beaver Drive. (See the May 1998 issue of the Newsletter, and the Winter 1998 issue of *The Iowan*)

The Award is named for David E. Archie, founder and for many years publisher of the *The Iowan Magazine* who was also a dedicated preservationist.

JSHS sends its congratulations to Bill Wagner!

On The School Bus Route- 1916 Part II

Here are a few more lines from Charlie Hammond's verse about his school bus route in 1916. (The route went from the corner of Merle Hay Road and Meredith west to 86th Street, north to 54th Ave. and thence to 72nd Street. Then north across Beaver Creek to what is now N.W. 62nd. and the east to the Johnston Consolidated School.)

The first children mentioned were George, Forest, Helen and Louise.

At this time, no one has written or called us to suggest who these

children might be. Do you recognize the names of any of the following children?

To continue.....

The next stop on Charlie's route is on a corner--where he picks up three girls, "the nicest little girlies"--then Sybel, who has a brother with her. Then - "the best girl that I know", after which they pass the church yard, and the school house where "everything is quiet, as quiet as a mouse". Mentioned next are Hazel, Pearl, Harold and Earl, then comes Harland.

The wagon then passes up "some kiddies that used to ride with us", and picks up little Dorothy and Virginia. The next stop is at Wilson's "where we nearly always wait, and if they don't be careful sometimes they'll make us late"-----
--- "Yet Leland is a little fright for making such a noise"--

The school wagon then passes through "the timber road.", and thence to the Kuefners, "the last ones that get on"..

Then they cross what must have been Beaver Creek.:

"Then next we cross those bridges, those rickety rickety old bridges They've got us in an awful shape, our backs are all in ridges. And then we strike those mud holes we surely go in deep,

The way my poor old horse pulls
it almost makes me weep.
Now we strike the main road that
leads us into school.... “

When they reach the school,,
others mentioned are: Roland, who
is” going to hoist the flag, boys”--
(was he the custodian?)

And last but not least--

“And now before I close and quit
this little rhyme
I want to mention one who’s

working for you all the time.
And I’m sure he loves you, loves
you one and all,
Why that is Mr. Albers, who’s big
and fat and tall.
And I think you ought to like him,
and each one lend a hand
In making this here Johnston School
the best that’s in the land.”

Anyone have any clues?

The Johnston (Station) Historical Society is an IRS code 501 (c) (3) organization