

JOHNSTON (STATION) HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O.Box 109 Johnston, Iowa 50131  
6161 Northglenn Drive - Johnston Commons Park

Volume XV No.1

Published bi-monthly

January 2007

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JSHS is a 501(c)(3) organization

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Treasurer: Robert Thomas

Vice President/Programs: Judy Bogaard

Membership: Garland Seibert

Secretary/Newsletter: Mariys Seibert

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**President's Column January -**

As we all know, one good thing frequently leads to another. After Bob Simon, of the Urbandale Historical Society gave us a program on Merle Hay Road and the man, Merle Hay, we used his resources to create a power point slide presentation. His same resources were used to create a display for one of the cases at City Hall. Shirley Schleihs Adams used her artistic talents to design and arrange the display. We are fortunate to have her share her gift.

Shirley has also met repeatedly with and interviewed Ethel Coan, from the class of 1925. Ethel subsequently has donated countless memorabilia relating to her school years. One thing of interest is some notebook pages with Johnston cheerleading cheers from the '20's.

Dick Tarlton has worked countless hours tracking down Johnston alums, even to their obituaries. His limit was up to the late '50's. Lois Wagner has expressed an interest in continuing the process under Dick's tutelage. We continue to scour the newspaper for obituaries of Johnston interest. Johnston alumni can be researched on the computer that we have in the "school" room.

Mary Jones, an environmental specialist at Camp Dodge, has given us a power point that she created about some of the historical and environmental aspects of Camp Dodge.

The Presbyterian Church that was south of the Ridgedale Cemetery and functioned from 1889 to 1919 was another project that led to good things. Ray Schleihs donated the wooden sign that had hung over the front door of the church. Interviews and research led us to further questions. The building had been moved and used for many years as a home for numerous families. When the home was on the market, Bob Thomas contacted the owner and received permission to visit the building. We found the original archway that had encased a window over the front door of the church. Since the house was to be destroyed, we were lucky to be able to rescue the archway and some native timber that had been used in the joists of the building. We now have a display with a picture of the church, a picture of the house, and a written explanation of the history – all enclosed in the archway. Some of the research for this display was from the abstracts of Hyperion Field Club. We are making a copy of the abstracts for future reference, thanks to John Ausen from Hyperion.

The City of Johnston has given us a copy of a set of aerial photos on a disc that shows the watershed area of Beaver Creek. The photos are stunning and a good resource for research. They can be viewed on the Society computer.

We received a grant of \$2000 that will be paid quarterly from BRAVO, the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation. This money is earmarked for equipment to edit and display our video creations. With the donations received from Wes Jordan and Denny Elwell, along with a grant from Sam's Club, we have purchased an excellent digital video camera along with microphones. We also purchased an iMAC computer that allows us to edit the videos. We are taking classes at the Apple Store in West Des Moines to learn all the capabilities of this computer. So far we have made video interviews with Fran Sandregren Badgley, Bill Brown with Ferne Michael, Mary McPherson, Jim Thomas and Ray Schleihs. As we continue to become more comfortable with the equipment we will make more videos.

We were asked by the Urbandale Historical Society to give a presentation on the History of Johnston in February. This really pushed us along. The resources that we have been accumulating at the museum have been a big help. We have a power point slide show ready to be screened at our next meeting for our members to give input and suggestions before the final unveiling at the Urbandale meeting. The Johnston Lions Club wants to see the presentation also for its Feb. meeting. As you can see – one good thing has definitely led to another.

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*New Members* (last quarter 2006)

Mike Meston Des Moines, IA JHS '59

Mildred Rastovac Johnston, IA JHS '43

*Membership Renewal:* five year by Lois Waggoner, Urbandale, IA

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**BRICKS:** PAUL & JOANN WILLCOCKSON BY & JOANN WILCOCKSON by their daughter, Tracey Orman  
C.K.Robbie THOMPSON-BLYTHE by Michael Madelon Roberts and Joan E. Roberts

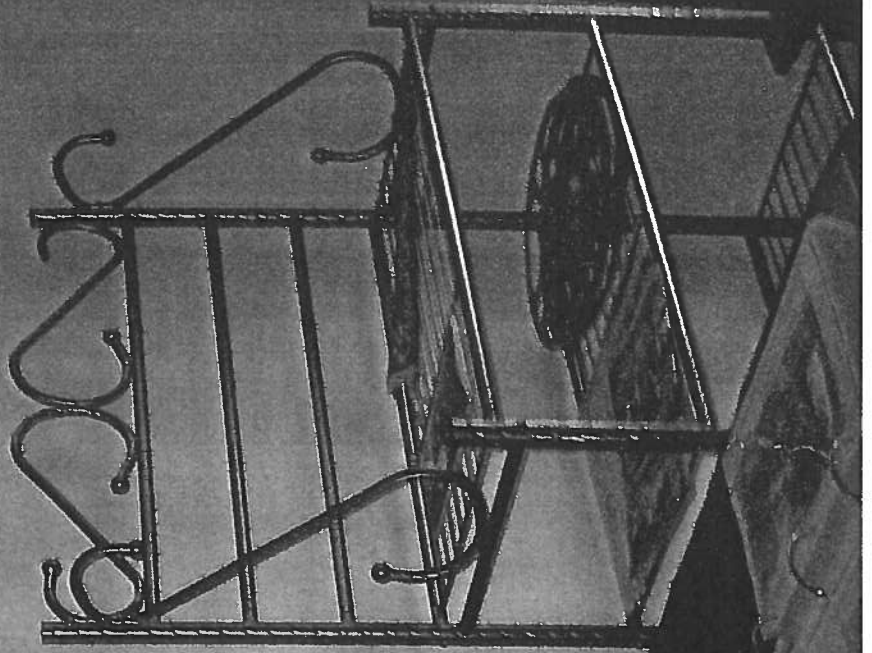
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This Christmas season the Simpson/House Museum was festive with our donated tree prettily decorated with ornaments and lights provided by Virginia Betz McGinn. Each evening the lighted tree gave a festive look and we fit right in with the area decorations. In the front entry there was a ceramic Christmas tree with lighted interior that provided a delight to the eye. This was donated by Judy Betz Bogaard. THANK YOU to Virginia and Judy!!

Pictured on the following page is the newest display featuring the archway from the Presbyterian Church that was located on NW Beaver Drive, across from Camp Dodge. The arch held a stained glass window above the front entry. When the church was converted to a residence, the arch was partially covered over with a porch. Recent demolition of the home allowed the JSHS to acquire this piece of history and all is now on display along with the original signboard (to upper right of arch in this photo) that appeared just below the peak of the roof.

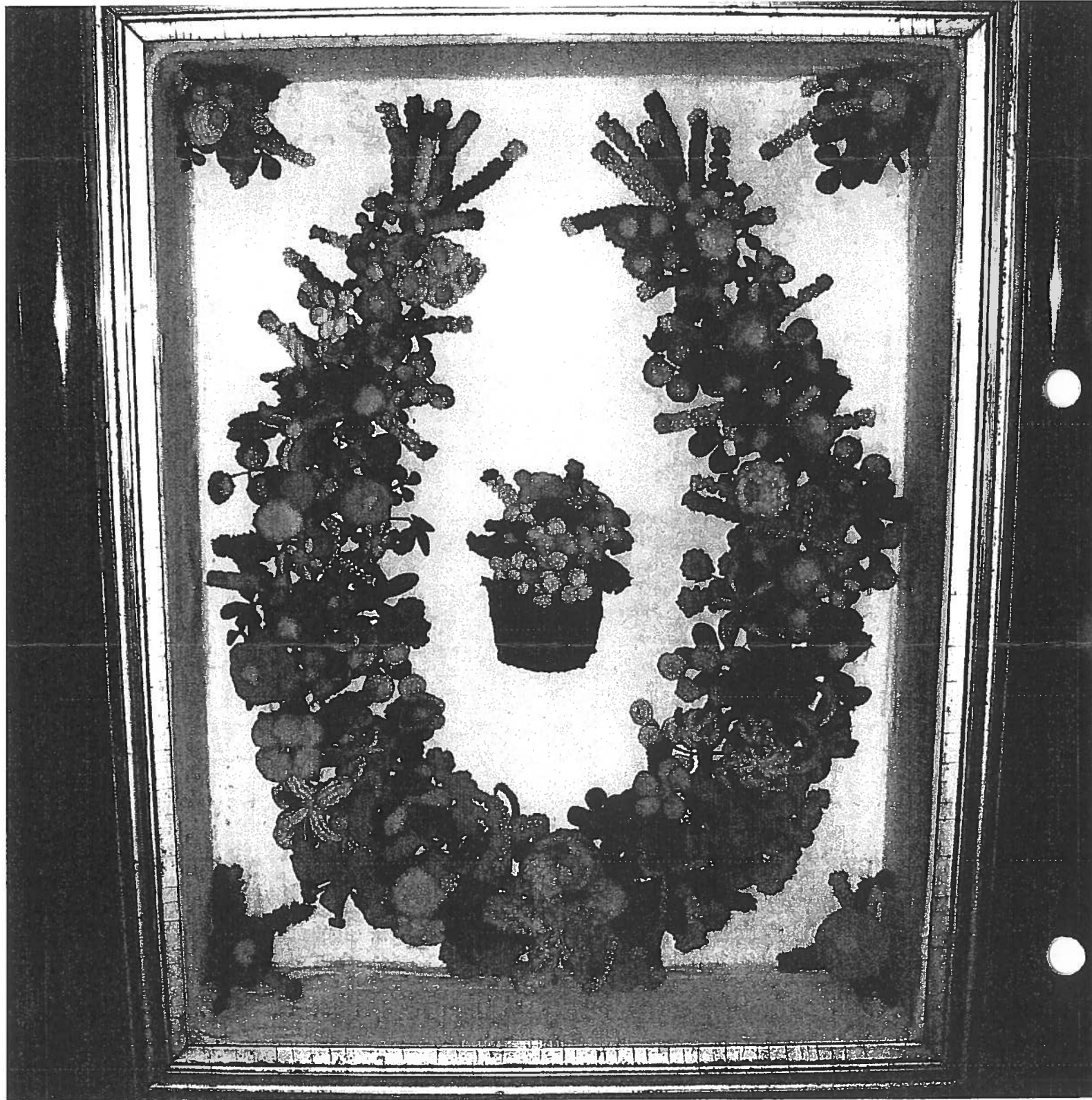
ORIGINALS AND  
REPLICA  
PRESERVED AT  
1967-1974



ORIGINALS AND  
REPLICA  
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*Shown below is another special display. This exquisitely detailed fiber and thread horseshoe-shape arrangement is displayed in a walnut shadowbox frame. The delicate handwork was accomplished by Catherine Schnoor Schlenker and her mother, Maria Louisa Mahle Schlenker in the late 1800's. Catherine (Married to William Schlenker) was the grandmother of Barton Schlenker, who generously has donated this wonderfully detailed floral design exhibit to the Historical Society... a superb tribute to the family.*



**LOOKING BACK -**

1997: -the new gate and entrance sign had been erected at Ridgedale Cemetery on N.W.Beaver Drive - JSHS had been granted the tax-deductible status under the IRS code so contributions over and above membership dues became tax deductible - and displays were just beginning to be placed in the corridor at City Hall.

2002: - the site plan for the house and barn had been approved with features including that the house would overlook a pond on the side with the front/side porch - the switchback handicap access would attach to the side porch - apple trees would be planted - ground floor access to the barn on the west and south - restrooms, serving kitchen, meeting room, utility room and storage room in lower level of barn - access to the loft would be from ground level by way of two staircases and from the outside by a walkway gradually rising to a brick patio and door to the loft - a wooden deck with overlook to the west. If this sounds familiar it is because that has all been accomplished. And now there is even more that needs to be accomplished and we can do that with the help of our membership, new members and donations of both time and money. Membership renewals will soon be due. Please rejoin and remain a member of something very special!

**THE TWO MOST BEAUTIFUL WORDS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARE: 'CHECK ENCLOSED'!**

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**FOR YOU CALENDAR SCHEDULE**

**Meeting dates of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society for 2007:**

Sunday January 28, 2007 Program is a presentation of the History of Johnston

Wednesday February 28 Program: A Red Hat Lady

Sunday March 25

**Annual Meeting** Wednesday April 25;

Wednesday May 23;

Wednesday June 27;

Sunday July 22;

Wednesday August 22;

Sunday September 23;

Wednesday Oct 24;

Sunday November 25, 2007

**\*Meetings begin at 4:00 p.m. and are finished by 6:00 p.m.**

(Program suggestions are always welcome.)

**OPEN HOUSES WILL CONTINUE TO BE HELD ON THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTERNOON OF EACH MONTH FROM 2:00 TO 4:00 P.M.**

*We always have some empty chairs that look so lonely. Please mark your calendars and when distance is not the real factor, join us for these meetings. Open House days are a great opportunity to bring guests by to show off all that the membership has done to help create a growing historical record of the Johnston Community. You need to be very proud of being a part of it all!*

**Compliments of a Friend by Ogden Nash**

How many gifted pens have penned  
That Mother is a boy's best friend!  
How many more, with like afflatus,  
Award the dog that honored status  
I hope my tongue in prune juice smothers  
If I belittle dogs or mothers  
But, gracious, how can I agree?  
I know my own best friend is me.  
We share our joys and our aversions,  
We're thicker than the Medes and Persians,  
We blend like voices in a chorus,  
The same things please, the same things bore us.  
If I am broke, then me needs money,  
I make a joke, me finds it funny.  
I think of beer, me shares the craving,  
If I have whiskers, me needs shaving.  
I know what I like, me knows what art is,  
We hate the people at cocktail parties.  
When I can stand the crowd no more,  
Why, me is halfway to the door.  
We two reactionary codgers  
Prefer the Giants to the Dodgers.  
I an a dodo, me an auk.  
We grieve that pictures learned to talk.  
For every sin that I produce,  
Kind me can find some soft excuse,  
And when I blow a final gasket,  
Who but me will share my casket?  
*Beside us, Pythias and Damon*  
*Were just two unacquainted laymen.*  
*Sneer not, for if you answer true,*  
*Don't you feel that way about you?*

Remember:

*"Day without Sunshine is a lot like Night"*  
**SO, KEEP SMILING!**