

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 27, Issue 3

Newsletter

Fall 2019

From the President

This summer we were fortunate to have T and T Sprinkler Service INC. of Grimes Iowa, install our new irrigation system around the Simpson House covering our wonderful flower gardens. This improvement has made it so much more manageable to maintain the beauty of our gardens.



I want to thank past Board Members Carla Johns and Deb Robinette Krambeck for an outstanding job in creating and maintaining our flower gardens this spring and summer. Carla has told me that with the addition of the irrigation system this year it has freed up precious time so she can design and manage the gardens in a way she was unable to do in the past, by eliminating the hauling of heavy hoses and watering by hand. The addition of the irrigation system makes it possible for the flowers to receive water in a regulated measured amount and at times more receptive to healthy plant life.

Michael B. Knight, President



Our gardens are flourishing, Thank you T and T-----and volunteers Carla, Deb, and Mike!!!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. From the President, Upcoming Events
2. Thanks You, Meet the new members
3. Class Reunions, Community Event
4. Sundae in the Park, 50th Gala
5. Eagle Scout Project
6. Pizza Coupons, Obits, Holiday Open House
7. Jammin' in Johnston, Appreciation Dinner
8. Window Project
9. What's New in the Museum, IHJ article, Mary Jane Paez presentation on the Simpson House and Barn move

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here is where we will be. Stop by and say hello!

- 10/5 City 50th Celebration Gala-Hyperion
- 10/12 Mary Jane Paez, Crown Point Center
- 10/13 Museum open house 1P-3P
- 10/18 Art in the Barn 5:30pm
- 10/24 Member Meeting/Appreciation Dinner
- 11/10 Museum Open house 1P-3P
- 11/12 Jammin' in Johnston
- 12/7 Holiday Open House



Pick up your free Johnston Historical Trivia booklet at any of our events.



The Board of Directors would like to thank all of our supporters who share in our passion for local history.

Thank you to those who donated items, money or time:

John & Shelly Brown
Gary Busby
Mike & Linda Knight
Joseph Miller
NCMIC Group, Inc.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

A.J. SIMPSON, JOHNSTON, IOWA



Meet A. J. Simpson, New Board Member

I am a life-long Johnston resident with a unique connection to the Johnston Station Historical Society Museum. It was actually my childhood home! I enjoy history and look forward to contributing to the continued success of the Johnston Station Historical Society.

On a professional level I work for NCMIC Group in Clive, Iowa as the Vice President of Agency Operations. I have over 20 years of experience in leadership, management, strategy, quality control, and process improvement. I enjoy collaborating with team members, building relationships, and developing talented employees.

I also serve as the Vice President of the board of directors for Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to creating safe and happy childhoods from Iowa's children through advocacy, awareness and prevention of child abuse.



Meet Matthew Ding, Advisory JSHS Board Member

I'm Matthew and I'm going to be a senior at Johnston High School. At school, I'm involved with the Marching Band, Math Club, and Student Council. My favorite subject is history and I've had a lot of in-depth historical research experience from the National History Day competition. I've been volunteering with the Johnston Historical Society since last fall for the 50th-anniversary celebrations and I hope to continue helping in any way I can!

Class Reunion activities making a stop at the Museum



1953-1954 Class Reunion

Front: Bill Turpin, Marlys & Garland Seibert, Sandy Ridgeway, Verilea Adams Back: Gary Orlich, Bill Adams, Janet Elwell Schuessler, Dick Betz, Janet Hale



1958 Class Reunion

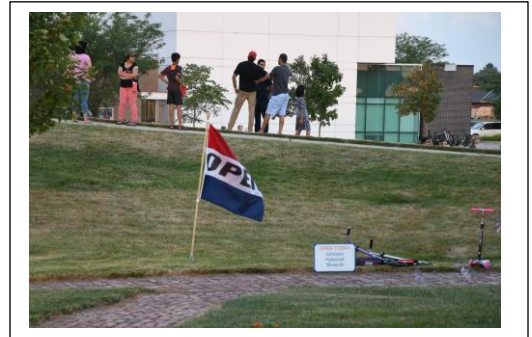
Front Left: Gary Gibbons, Connie McBurney Percival, Bob Kinsey, Pauline Foshe Osentowski, Kate Robbinette Farlow



Community Activity

Member, Missy Shepherd hosted an after hours event for Johnston Community Greeting July 11th on the porch at the JSHS Museum. Missy, our Johnston Community Greeter, shared what all Johnston has to offer its residents with those attending. Tours of the museum were given by Lois Waggoner, Liz Van Zomeren, John Brown during this event. The after hours events are part of the Johnston Chamber of Commerce programs.

SUNDAE IN THE PARK



Johnston Historical Museum was open Sunday August 11th from 6-8pm as part of the annual Sundae in the Park. This event is to welcome students back to the upcoming school year. City Department Directors served free ice cream in the Johnston Commons for everyone to enjoy!!! This year 98 people toured our museum under the guidance of volunteers: A.J. Simpson, Jan Jensen, John Brown, Lois Waggoner, Matthew Ding, Nancy Budrevich.

Johnston 50th Anniversary Gala Invitation

You are invited to Johnston 50th Anniversary Gala, which will be held on Saturday, October 5 at 6:00 p.m. at Hyperion Field Club, 7390 NW Beaver Drive.

The Gala is one of the final events planned for 2019 celebrating Johnston's 50 years as a city. The cost is \$50.00 per person, which includes one complimentary drink.

The evening will include a sit-down dinner (with choice of a chicken or vegetarian entree), a presentation on what was happening in the state, country and world in 1969, a disc jockey playing music popular in 1969, cash bar and many other surprises. You are welcome to share this invitation with your friends, neighbors and colleagues.

Seating is limited to 225 people, so make your reservations early (RSVP deadline is September 17th).

Make a reservation by visiting www.cityofjohnston.com/gala <<http://www.cityofjohnston.com/gala>>.



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Johnston Historical Walk

**between the Johnston Historical Society
& Simpson Barn**

Dear Johnston Neighbors,

I am a current Life Scout on my way to Eagle Scout in Troop 44 in Johnston. I will be completing my Eagle Scout Service Project by creating a Historical Walk, including landscaping and historical markers of people and events that have had a significant impact on our community.

I plan on highlighting the Sac and Fox Native Americans, the earliest pioneers and business owners in Johnston such as the Hunts, the Lawsons, and the Ottos, WWI Veteran Merle Hay, teacher Bernice Scott, and Corteva (Pioneer) founder and statesman, Henry A. Wallace. I also plan to highlight the Camp Dodge.

I am doing this project to demonstrate the leadership skills I have learned through the Boy Scouts of America, to enrich and educate my community, and to fulfill my lifelong goal of becoming an Eagle Scout!

If you would like to follow my progress and learn more about my inspiration, please check out my public *Facebook Page* called "Jake's Eagle Scout Service Project."

My goal is to raise \$6,500 by Sept. 15, 2019

If you are interested in supporting my project, there are two ways to donate:

1. Check or Cash Donation:

Jake Wicks
6801 NW 56th Street
Johnston, IA 50131

*Note "Eagle Scout Project" in the Memo line

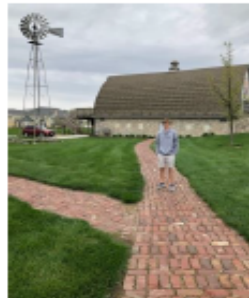
2.) Donate online through *GoFundMe* at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/jake039s-eagle-scout-service-project>

If you have any questions, please contact me at jakewilliamwicks@gmail.com.

Thank you so much for your consideration!

Jake W. Wicks,
Life Scout, Troop 44



Future site of my project: Johnston Historical Walk. The brick path will be replaced by concrete early this Fall for greater accessibility. My signs and landscaping will go along the path.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are seeking members who are interested in volunteering at the museum. You could be a greeter during the monthly open hours or help on cleaning days. How about pulling a weed or two in our magnificent gardens? Give us a call and leave a message at 515-331-0687.

Our Casey's Pizza fundraiser is winding down. We have only 4 punch cards remaining.

Each card has 10 punches valid for one FREE medium pizza with the purchase of any large specialty pizza. That's 10 FREE medium pizzas for only \$15.00. Punch cards are redeemable for in-store



Leave a message at the museum (515-331-0687) and we'll get back to you.

Obituaries

Obituaries are compiled by **Nancy Budrevich**. If anyone knows of others, please let Nancy know. Nancy can be contacted

- by mail: 6161 Northglenn Dr., Johnston, IA, 50131
- by email: jshs@q.com
- by phone: 515-331-0687

Over 1,000 Johnston related obituaries are now on file at the museum.

Name	Relationship to Johnston	Date of Death
William Lundy Brown	Class of 1939	April 7, 2016
Mildred Orlich Bernard	Class of 1939	May 8, 2016
Jack Stuck	Class of 1955	August 10, 2019
Georgia Dings Ochoa	Classmate of 1959	August 7, 2019
Sandra Hennings Kingery	Class of 1960	June 16, 2019
Edward H. Slauson	Class of 1964	August 30, 2019
Adam M Ribordy	Class of 2012	June 13, 2019
Victoria Cary	Teacher	July 15, 2019

SAVE THE DATE

**Christmas at the Simpson House
December 7, 12:30pm-3:00pm**

We are celebration the holidays at the Simpson House Museum. Stop by for some Christmas cheer. Bring the kids and grandkids to work on some crafts and eat a Christmas cookie.

Save the Date!

Jammin' in Johnston will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 8600 Northpark Drive, Johnston, Iowa from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

There will be up to 40 unique handcrafted, fun holiday décor and gift booths. Food and beverages will also be available. For the first time, the Johnston (Station) Historical Society will be at the Fair. We will be selling Memory & Gratitude Jars and Journals. All proceeds from the sale of the jars and journals will directly benefit the museum.

What is a Gratitude Jar? It's a decorative jar where you and your family can write down on a slip of paper what you are grateful for and drop it in the jar. This is a great activity to start at Thanksgiving time and carry out all year. Start a new tradition, stop by and pick up a jar!

What is a Memory Jar? A memory jar makes a great inexpensive gift for you to give to a friend, family member or other loved one. The jar is full of slips of paper with questions to prompt a memory. It's a great gift for a child to give to a parent or grandparent. It will come with a journal where the recipient can record their memories. We will have jars, journals, and a pen available for sale and each one will be in a gift bag for giving. It's a unique way to capture your family's history!

So, mark your calendars and come out and support the Historical Society. If you would like to make a purchase of a jar/journal and can't make it to Jammin' in Johnston, please call or email the museum to place an order. If you are local to the Des Moines area, we can make arrangements for pick-up/delivery.

Save the Date-Member Appreciation Dinner Meeting

Mark your calendar for Thursday, October 24, 2019. Doors open at 5:30pm, Dinner served at 6:00pm. We hope to see many of our members and their guests at this event. Help JSHS celebrate our 25th year and the city 50th anniversary. Upper Level Simpson Barn, 6169 Northglenn Drive, Johnston, IA.

RSVP by phone 515-331-0687 or email us at jshs@q.com

About the Windows

Did you know the Simpson House museum has more than 30 windows? Last month Board Member John Brown received a knock on his front door. A Johnston Police officer was on his porch step. The officer had been on patrol around the Library and Museum and noticed that there was a broken window on the first floor of the museum; the south office window. Mr. Brown went to the museum with the officer and they determined that there was no evidence of a break-in at the office. It was determined that the window had been rattled due to high winds that the wooden frame had broken, and the glass shattered. Mr. Brown and the officer picked up the broken glass and secured the museum. Board Member Al Lathrum volunteered to rebuild the window. We are grateful to both Mr. Brown and the officer for quickly assessing the situation and securing the museum to prevent any further damage or loss to the museum. We appreciate Mr. Lathrum's woodworking skills and are grateful for his time and talent to get the window repaired.

The Board is determined to care and preserve the Simpson House museum to allow it to be an asset to the community for future generations. Recently, Al Lathrum, John Brown, Matt Ding and AJ Simpson, have donned their painting clothes and climbed ladders to inspect, scrape and paint each window. The windows are made of wood and have endured high wind, rain and heat. There is some rot due to moisture and they need to be covered and/or replaced. There are two areas on the east side of the house where the soffit needs work.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent out in July and August to local window companies asking for bids. So far, we've received a couple of estimates around \$5,000; this is without the company measuring and inspecting each window. We are continuing to pursue getting more information about the best method to preserve the windows before further degradation occurs. This will be a large expense for the Historical Society. The City of Johnston pays for utilities for the museum and maintains the yard; the City does not provide any funding for building maintenance. The Society owns the house; the City owns the land under and around the House Museum. JHS is completely dependent on donations, dues and grants for operational expenses. While we allocate 10% of every donation to our maintenance fund, this expense is beyond our current maintenance fund balance.

Please consider helping us with this current need by considering contributing to the museum specifically for this project. We will be priming and painting the windows before the onset of winter to protect the windows. This project is currently our most pressing need.

If you know of a company or person(s) that would be interested in submitting a bid for this project, please call or email the museum.





What's New at the Museum?

The JHS Board would like to thank Johnston Police Chief Dennis McDaniel and Lt. Lynn Aswegan for assisting our Archivist, Janice Jensen, with obtaining a complete police uniform. The uniform is on display in the Community room on the second floor of the museum. We are thrilled to add this to the collection and appreciate being able to share it with the community.

Iowa History Journal

Do you subscribe to the Iowa History Journal? The September/October 2019 magazine has a three-page article, "*What's in a Name?*", by Ankeny writer Ashley Rullestad. The article details how the City of Johnston was settled in 1846 by Ezekiel Hunt. The article includes six colored photos of Johnston and lists several historical attractions in the City. The magazine is available by subscription, contact info@iowahistoryjournal.com or call (515) 490-7325 to obtain a copy. The magazine is available at Hy-Vee, Drugtown, Beaverdale Books, Mills Fleet Farm, Orschein Farm & Home. The retail price is \$3.50.

We reached out to the magazine in January to request consideration of publishing an article about the 50th anniversary celebration of the City's incorporation. We are grateful to contributing writer Mrs. Rullestad and Publisher Swanger for the well-written article to help mark this milestone.



Look for Mary Jane Paez on October 12th at Crown Point Center. **Mary Jane will be doing a presentation** on moving and restoring the Simpson house and barn in the Crown Point community room from 1:00 to 3:00 on that date.

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

6161 Northglenn Dr.

Johnston, IA 50131

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society is to bring people together who are interested in the history and preservation of the Johnston area, which includes the early settlements of Johnston Station, Beaver Creek Settlement, Ridgedale, Huntsville, Herrold and Dodge City.

To this goal, we work to get the community engaged and involved in Johnston's rich history by providing a museum and events to the public.

Board
Of
Directors



Johnston Historical Board Members

Michael Knight, President
Liz Van Zomeren, Secretary
Jan Jensen, Archivist
Marilyn Coonley, Membership

John Brown, Vice President
Lois Waggoner, Treasurer
A.J. Simpson
Alan Lathrum, Membership

The museum is open the 2nd Sunday of the month, 1-3PM (April to November) or by appointment. Leave a message at

515-331-0687 if you are interested in a tour.

Website: www.johnstoniowahistorical.org