



Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Discovering and Preserving Johnston History, for Tomorrow

JOHNSTON
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Fall 2023

From the President...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Johnston for their interest in local history! We have seen a significant increase in visitors to the museum, and we have had great attendance at our Johnston History presentations at the Johnston library. I would also like to congratulate John Brown and the rest of the Johnston Station Historical Society for the completion of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (STEPS) certification program. Completion of this certification program is an important milestone in achieving national standards related to preserving and interpreting history, enabling JSHS to better serve the Johnston community for many years to come.



A.J. Simpson,

President

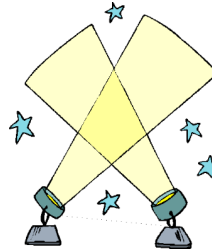
1902 Simpson House Video

A short video tour of the house can be viewed on the State Local History network site at:

<https://www.facebook.com/IowaHistory/videos/925822240920506/>

Dewey Park Historical Marker

Johnston's first park, which was created with substantial assistance from Ben Dewey, now includes a historical marker to commemorate his life. The marker includes a QR code that can be used to access three JSHS website pages that give more information on Ben Dewey's life and contributions to our community. The 10-acre park includes a picnic shelter, playground equipment, a soccer field and a walking/biking trail. The city plans to soon replace the playground equipment and improve the shelter and restroom facilities.



Spotlight on AI Tokheim JSHS Treasurer & Information Technology By John Brown

AI Tokheim and his wife Leah are 20+ years Johnston residents and along with their two sons greatly value being part of the Johnston community. AI and Leah both recently retired from lengthy careers with John Deere and have chosen to use prior work skills to make contributions to the organizations they now support as volunteers.



AI joined to board in 2020 and has served us well with his technology and accounting expertise through the COVID 19 pandemic and beyond. In addition to being a CPA, his decades of experience with information technology has significantly improved our operations. He has led efforts to enhance museum security, accounting processes, cloud network connectivity, data storage, and voice/phone services.

Thanks to AI for all he does for JSHS.



History of Johnston Presentations September 17, October 15 and November 12, 2023

Part One of this series was a success. 40 attendees attended the Sunday, September 17 session at the Johnston Library. Matthew Mickles, Mary Jane Paez, Larry Madole and John Brown were our presenters. Our new Board member, Larry Madole, was the standout star of the event.

Part Two on Sunday, October 15 covered the history of Johnston, Iowa and included the history of the Lions Club, Hyperion Field and Motor Club, Camp Dodge, the Inter-Urban, Henry Wallace and Pioneer, Ben Dewey and the incorporation of the City of Johnston in 1969. Tom Leffler, Mary Jane Paez, A.J. Simpson and John Brown were the presenters.

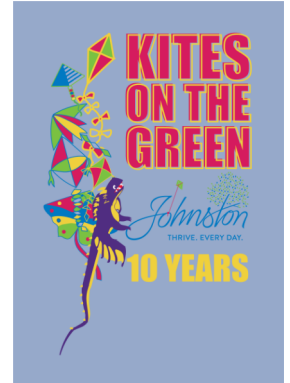


Part Three Please join us on Sunday, November 12th at 1:30 at the Johnston Library for part 3 of this series. Speakers will include two former city managers and Mayor Dierenfeld and will feature accomplishments and growth of our city and community.



Kites on the Green Festival Awarded a Silver Circle Award

The Kites on the Green Festival, a yearly community event, received a Silver Circle Award at the 3CMA Savvy Awards. This award, given at the 3CMA Annual Conference, highlights outstanding achievements in local government.



The Kites on the Green Festival stood out among over 875 entries in 38 different categories. It showed excellent community engagement. This engagement included a 1902 Simpson House Museum open house, which included over 200 visitors to our museum. The Johnston Historical Society and its open house volunteers are glad to have been part of this successful event.

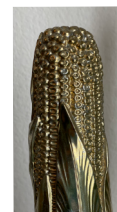
Recent Events

The 1902 Simpson House Museum continues to be open during Johnston Commons Park events. These included the Johnston Partnership Ice Cream Social held on Sunday, August 27, 2-4 pm in the Simpson Barn. The event included live music, pie, ice cream, and tours of our museum. The event was hosted by the churches of Johnston; raising \$10,206 towards the Johnston Partnership Benevolence Fund. This will assist with financial needs of the Johnston Partnership, such as rental assistance, utility assistance or other emergency financial needs. It is good to see another benefit of the Johnston Historical Society gift of the Simpson barn to our community and to help make this event a success.

We also hosted the 50th reunion group of the Johnston High School class of 1973 on Sept 23rd.

Johnston Businesses Artifacts

We are building up the collection artifacts on Johnston businesses and organizations of today and yesterday. Please consider donating any of those items.



Simpson Barn plaza commemorative bricks opportunity



The Patio on the East side of the Barn contains our Commemorative Bricks. Have a Brick engraved as a memorial or a commemoration of a loved one, a family, or a high school class. The \$150 cost pays the cost of the commemorative brick engraving, shipping and a small benefit to JSHS. Note that minimum order requirements and charges may cause an engraved brick order to be delayed until those minimums are met.



Simpson Barn renovations

The city continues to invest in the renovations to the Simpson barn. Recent efforts include replacement of the 2nd floor wooden floor in July and removal of painted graffiti from the stone foundation. The barn also received a new HVAC system, both upstairs and downstairs, and a new approach was poured outside the main door. Thanks to the city for preserving this community asset.

Completed AASLH STEPS certification

The Johnston Historical Society has completed all 18 levels of the *American Association for State and Local History* (AASLH)

STEPS (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations) This process began in 2017 and was completed this October.

STEPS gives smaller historical museums a practical, self-study format to assess and improve their operations using a series of questions and performance indicators.

STEPS has six performance sections:

1. Mission, Vision, and Governance
2. Audience and Community Engagement
3. Interpretation
4. Stewardship of Collections
5. Stewardship of Historic Structures and Landscapes
6. Management

Each section has three levels: Basic, Good, and Better. Each of those 18 levels has 12 to 18 performance standards, for a total of 246 standards.

As the Johnston Historical Society progressed by meeting all Basic, Good, and Better performance indicators within a section, it earned Bronze, Silver, or Gold certificates. It worked toward excellence, one step at a time.



Our Plans for the next Two Years

In addition to meeting history museum best practice standards, STEPS identified areas of future focus for the Johnston Historical Society. In addition to the ongoing maintenance of the 1902 Simpson House Museum and holding regular open house events, plans for the next 2 years include:

1. Completing the input of collection information into an on-line database.
2. Creating public internet access to that information; through its website and the Johnston library website.
3. Improvements to the popular Johnston schools exhibit room, to make that information more accessible and better preserve class pictures and yearbooks.
4. Converting the extensive Heard Nursery picture collection, the 1915-2023 Fruitland Brennan Neighborhood Improvement league records, the 1945 to 1990 Lions Club records and the 2008 early Johnston residents' oral history recordings into a readily accessible digital format.
5. Working with the City of Johnston and Corteva on plans for the 2026 100-year anniversary of Pioneer Hi-Bred and the USA 250-year anniversary.

Please consider supporting these initiatives as a donor or as a volunteer.

SAVE THE DATE:

Sat, Dec. 9th 10 a.m.- Noon
JSHS Holiday Open House



Disability Access reminder



The 1902 Simpson House Museum and windmill grounds include broad sidewalks and curb ramps so that they are readily accessible from the adjacent public parking lot. The front and side porch and the first-floor public exhibit rooms are also readily accessible from those sidewalks, using ramps, the wide front doorway, and the open nature of those first-floor exhibit rooms. Also, even though the addition of lifts or elevators to allow similar readily accessible access to the second floor would threaten or destroy the significance of the 1902 Simpson House Museum, JSHS has a video review of the second floor exhibits available for viewing on the first floor and tour guides can also provide additional details and answer questions. Also, in many cases, selected smaller items displayed on the second floor could be temporarily brought down to the first floor for viewing.

Also, as noted above, public access to most JSHS collection photos and documents will soon be available online.

JSHS invites persons with disabilities and disability organizations to assist us in making any appropriate improvements to this public access.

Obituaries

Obituaries are compiled by Nancy Budrevich. If you know of others, please contact JSHS. Contact information on this page.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Death date</u>	<u>Class of</u>
Cheryl Ann Lathrop	4-16-2023	1972
Sandra K. Terry (Saunders)	9-26-2023	1969
David L. Fox	9-29-2023	1973

Board Members and Officers

Board Members and Officers

Board members: Tom Leffler, Al Tokheim. A.J. Simpson, Mary Jane Paez and Larry Modole.

Student Advisory member: Matthew Mickles

Officers:

- A.J. Simpson President
- Tom Leffler Vice President
- John Brown Secretary & Archivist
- Al Tokheim... Treasurer & Information Technology

Please contact us if you are interested in serving as a Board member or officer or want to nominate a Board member.

Johnston Businesses History

We have consolidated our office space to one room and moved the research room downstairs. This has allowed us to have one room dedicated to Pioneer Hi-Bred history and a room dedicated to the history of other Johnston businesses. We need artifacts related to the history of those business; especially those that have closed, consolidated, or relocated. Please consider donating any older Johnston business artifacts.

Upcoming Election of Board Members

The ballot for the annual election of Board members will be included in the December Winter 2023 newsletter. Any member can ask to be on that ballot or have their name written in on that ballot.

Larry Madole, Mary Jane Paez and Al Tokheim are willing to serve a 3 year term as a director.

A.J. Simpson has served two 3-year terms and will be required by our Bylaws to leave the board for at least one year. John Brown has asked to re-join the Board, as one year will have elapsed since he completed his second 3-year term.

Board meetings are held monthly on the 4th Wednesday at 6:30 PM. The meetings are almost always completed in an hour or less and members can attend in person, by using Zoom or by phone.

Please contact the Johnston Historical Society if you want to nominate yourself or any other member for our board.

We now have PayPal

For the convenience of member and donors, JSHS now accepts PayPal when paying annual membership dues or making gifts to help preserve Johnston History. When using PayPal, it is as simple as using our email address as a payment destination.

JohnstonHistoricalSociety@gmail.com
or scan the following QR code



Scan. Pay. Go.

Enter the desired payment amount, add a note telling us what it is for and you are done. It is that simple.



Johnston Historical Society

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