



Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Discovering and Preserving Johnston History, for Tomorrow

JOHNSTON
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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From the President...

The COVID-19 pandemic has created some winners and some losers. It has been harder to serve our mission of presenting local history. We used reasonable COVID-19 restrictions and many city sponsored events to present that history, but could not open the 1902 Simpson House museum on a regular basis. However, despite those challenges, museum visitor numbers have not significantly declined.

Thanks to the commitment of its members and volunteers, the Johnston (Station) Historical Society has also been a winner. Our win has been in the financial and collections areas. That has allowed us to improve our financial reserves, improve our collection management and move toward providing on-line access to our extensive collection of local history documents and photos. Those efforts are made possible by member dues and additional contributions, two special project grants, summer college student interns, high school "Silver Cord" volunteers and many other volunteers.

In 2022, we plan to complete the comprehensive on-line collections inventory. We will also use technology to eliminate one of the 2 office rooms at the Simpson House Museum; allowing another room to be used for local history exhibits.

We hope that conditions allow us to have a reopening during the City Kites on the Green event on Saturday, May 7 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Please join us then.

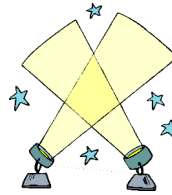


John Brown, President

1902 Simpson House Video

A short video tour of the house that was posted on the State Local History network site in 2018 can be viewed at:

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

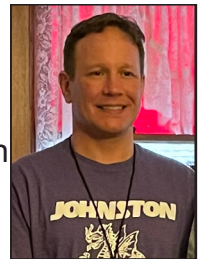


Volunteer Spotlight

A. J. Simpson

By A. J. Simpson

As a lifelong Johnston resident, I appreciate the history of Johnston and am proud to volunteer for the Johnston Station Historical Society. I have a special connection to the JSHS museum as it was actually the house I grew up in as a child and a place that I have many fond memories. It has been very interesting to see the transition from house to museum. A few of my favorite things about the museum include the extensive history of Johnston High School, including the old class pictures and various JHS memorabilia. I also like how the museum has incorporated the history of Camp Dodge. If you have not had the opportunity to tour the museum and learn a little more about the history of Johnston, I highly recommend it!



Missing Johnston High School Yearbooks & Senior Class Pictures

The Johnston High School yearbooks and senior class photos are some of the most popular items for visitors to the 1902 Simpson House museum. A recent visitor found his, his father's and his grandfather's picture there. Also, Johnston High School classes often include a visit to the Johnston schools exhibits at the Simpson House in their reunion weekend activities.

Could you help us in obtaining copies or originals of the Johnston High School senior class pictures and yearbooks for the missing years below?

The Simpson House school room includes the Johnston High School yearbooks from 1928 (the first yearbook), 1936, 1940 and all the volumes from 1947 to 2013.

Continued on page 3

Johnston Historical Society's Gift to the Community



By Mary Jane Paez

April 18, 2001, the Johnston (Station) Historical Society embarked on a new project to create a museum for Johnston's history and to create a community events facility in an historic setting.

The Simpson family donated a century old six-bedroom farmhouse, a barn built in 1936 and a windmill. It took over a year to prepare the structures for the move; to do fundraising; to create architectural and structural plans; and to get all the approvals and paperwork needed to accomplish our goals.



LaVern & Shirley, Joe & Jeff Simpson

In June 25, 2002, the Society made history by moving the house and barn loft two miles from their original site. Work soon started on excavation, pouring walls for the house basement and barn ground level, backfilling and berming, installing supporting beams and columns, installing water and sewer systems, creating the wooden deck to the west of the loft and creating the base for the brick patio to the east of the loft.

June 2003, the concrete floor of the barn was poured along with the house basement floor and cellar steps. Interior walls were created and utilities were installed. With more fundraising, more grant writing, in-kind labor and cost reductions from contractors, Community Service support, volunteers from Pioneer Hi-Bred, the Johnston community, High School seniors, the Johnston Park Board, the Mayor's Youth Council, inmate help from Newton and Mitchellville Prisons, and thousands of hours by Society members, we came to what we have today. The barn was finished with restrooms, kitchen, and heating and air conditioning on the ground level.



The upper patio was completed incorporating inscribed bricks from donors who supported this effort. The bricks are 1902 bricks that were salvaged from the foundation of the house at the 86th Street site. A new steel roof was installed and a cultured stone façade covered the poured concrete walls.

On January 3, 2005, the Johnston (Station) Historical Society presented the City of Johnston with this gift to the community. The Society paid \$249,350 for the moving and renovation of the barn. In exchange for this gift, the City pays for the electricity, gas, and water at the museum. Mowing and snow removal is also taken care of. Moving and renovation of the house to become a museum cost the Society \$222,120. The museum is located on prime park property overlooking the lake.

The house is now a museum with numerous rooms full of stories and artifacts pertaining to the history of Johnston. Anyone who has lived, labored or learned in Johnston is a part of its history.

All of this has been made possible through the generosity of our donors - people and businesses that have given time, money and resources to this project. The Society had a vision to give this barn as a legacy to the community.



Missing Johnston High School Yearbooks & Senior Class Pictures

Continued from page 1

We need the following missing Yearbooks from 1929 to 1935, 1937, 1938 and 1939, 1941 to 1946 and on and after 2014.

The Johnston Historical Society has worked with the city library to put yearbooks on-line and you can see those at: <https://www.johnstonlibrary.com/research/yearbooks/>

We have the senior class pictures from 1921 (the second graduating class), 1923, 1925 to 1932, 1934 to 1940, 1942, 1944, 1946, 1948, 1950 to 1969, 1971 to 1993 and 2005 to 2007.

We need the originals, or good copies of, the missing Johnston High School senior class pictures from 1920, 1922, 1924, 1933, 1941, 1943, 1945, 1947, 1949, 1970, 1994 to 2004 and on and after 2008.

If you or someone you know has one of these missing yearbooks or senior class pictures, please consider a tax deductible donation of those items to the Johnston Historical Society to improve one of our most popular exhibits.

Our 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.

Be a Volunteer in 2022

Please consider becoming a Johnston Historical Society volunteer. That service can be as limited or as extensive as you want, to fit your interests and other obligations. Volunteer activities include an update of the artifacts and documents inventory spreadsheet and PastPerfect Online database, clerical support, 1902 Simpson House museum maintenance and improvements, expanding our on-line digital information offerings and member and community outreach events. Contact us a johnstonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com if you are interested in a volunteer opportunity that fits you schedule.

Simpson Barn Quilts

Mary Jane Paez

In 2009, Mayor Paula Dierenfeld contacted me to ask if I would apply for a grant from BRAVO Des Moines to create a barn quilt for the Simpson Barn. Paula had grown up in Sac County where these barn embellishments were popular. There was \$2,000 awarded to the City by BRAVO.



My next task was to decide which quilt pattern to use. Barn quilts are beautiful to behold but I decided that the quilt patch should have a meaning. It should represent the history of the Johnston area. One patch soon became four. There were four that stood out that represented the importance of trees, education, agriculture, and development. I took the idea to Bill Kness of Kness Signs in Urbandale. He liked the concept and worked devotedly to create the barn quilts that now are displayed on the Simpson Barn. The Blocks are from The Quilter's Cache/Marcia Hohn.

Tell Us Your Johnston Story

The Johnston area history that needs to be documented and preserved is not limited to what happened 100 or more years ago. It includes much more recent events and life experiences. It even includes how we and our families have endured the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please send us your Johnston stories to: JohnstonHistoricalSociety@gmail.com or mail them to us at 6161 Northglenn, Johnston, Iowa 50131.

Recent Donors

We are grateful to the following members that made contributions in addition to annual dues:

Larry & Elaine Egan	Jan Jensen
Joe Miller	Carla Johns
Janet Schuessler	Helen Tufts
Waneta Major	Alix & Mary Jane Paez
Denny & Candy Elwell	Tom & Judy Leffler
John & Shelly Brown	

Donors contributing \$1000 or more in a calendar year are honored by placing their name and that year on the 1902 Simpson House Museum John Johnston Club plaque.

Support of Johnston Historical Society

In addition to member dues, our mission is supported by additional contributions from members, special project grants, and donations of artifacts, documents and photos that relate to our mission. As a Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) organization, monetary gifts, along with the value of donated artifacts, documents and photos, can be deductible from income taxable by the state and federal governments.

Your donation to the Johnston Historical Society goes directly to support its mission. As an all-volunteer organization, we have no paid staff. Unlike some charities with staff expenses, your contributions go entirely toward the 1902 Simpson House museum and our local history preservation and presentation initiatives, like our recently installed historical markers at Ridgedale Cemetary, Stage Coach Stop at NW Beaver Drive and 66th and Ray Schleih's Park on NW 55th Ave.

Obituaries

Obituaries are compiled by Nancy Budrevich. If you know of others, please contact JSHS. Contact information is below.

Noah "Jason" Beck passed on January 19 and a celebration of life will be held on May 28 at 1 PM at the St. Paul Presbyterian Church. He was employed by Hy-Line Poultry, then a division of Pioneer, for 45 years; was an avid Lions Club member and was a founding member of St. Paul Presbyterian Church. He also served on the Johnston School Board from 1969 to 1975, including service as the School Board President.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Death date</u>	<u>Class of</u>
Teresa "Teri" Kruse <i>Lions club vision volunteer in Johnston Schools</i>	12-02-2021	
Patricia Friesen <i>former JHS middle school employee</i>	12-4-2021	
Shelbi Haller Pierson	02-09-2021	2003
James Arthur <i>JHS school board member and Hy-line employee</i>	12-19-2021	
Lora Nelson Scott	12-20-2021	1982
Clyde "Bill" Winters	12-29-2021	1962
Nicholas Vignovich	1-25-2022	1947
Marilyn Ullestad <i>former School Nurse Johnston Schools</i>	02-01-2022	
Cleo "Bob" Beveridge	2-25-2022	1968

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



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

Just a reminder...

A benefit of membership is occasional free use of the 1902 Simpson House for meetings and special small events. The first floor meeting space can accommodate up to 20 people. Contact us for details. JohnstonHistoricalSociety@gmail.com

Board Members and Officers

The Johnston Historical Society is very fortunate to have a group of board members and officers with valuable knowledge, talents and experience. That includes, in addition to an interest in local history, expertise in city government, information technology, accounting, insurance, business operations and law.

Board members: Tom Leffler, Mary Jane Paez, Lois Waggoner, Al Tokheim. A.J. Simpson and John Brown.

Officers

John BrownPresident and Archivist
 Mary Jane Paez Vice President
 A.J. SimpsoSecretary
 Al TokheimTreasurer and Information Technology/Communications Officer

Please consider serving on the board of directors, as an officer or as a volunteer. The Board meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the 1902 Simpson House Museum and with the Zoom video meeting service.



Johnston Historical Society
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 Visit our website for new developments