

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 19, Issue 3

Newsletter

May/ June 2011

President's Column:

The last two months we have had good news and bad news. The bad news first: due to the bad weather we have had very few visitors. The good news is that volunteers have had more time to work on their projects.

We have had seven new mannequins placed throughout the museum. Jan has done an excellent job on this project. She has also finished lettering the outdoor signs. They should be put in place soon. Carla is working hard on getting the flower gardens weeded and ready for planting.

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Bob Thomas Inducted into Johnston Community School Hall of Fame

Bob Thomas, long time volunteer and past Board member of the Johnston Historical Society, was inducted into the Johnston Community School Foundation Hall of Fame at a dinner held at Summit Middle School on April 29, 2011.

Bob was a graduate of Johnston High School's class of 1941. He was a member of the Iowa National Guard from 1943 to 1985 when he retired as a colonel.

He was honored for his contributions to the Camp Dodge Gold Star Military Museum and the Johnston Station Historical Society.

Our congratulations to Bob Thomas.

The Board has purchased a 22 inch combination TV and DVD player for viewing the many DVDs that contain aspects of Johnston history.

There were 32 people at the pot luck and band concert on Saturday, May 14th. Everyone enjoyed the music and conversation.

We hope in the next two months the weather will improve and persons will stop by to view the new displays as well as enjoy the beautiful flower gardens.

Dick Hyde
Board President

Johnston History Quiz

Who was the first superintendent of the Johnston Schools?

- a. W.C. Clampitt
- b. Cecil Nickle
- c. Martin Albers

Who was the longest serving superintendent of the Johnston Schools?

- a. Charles Varner
- b. Louis Friestad
- c. H.H. van Benthuysen

Answers are on the bottom of page 5

Johnston School History

Johnston Fight Song

This fight song was sung at pep rallies in the 1930's and 1940's to the tune of "Betty Co-Ed".

*Johnston High is ever pressing
Onward*

*The other schools are hid behind her
dust.*

*She conquers all, She can, She will,
She must.*

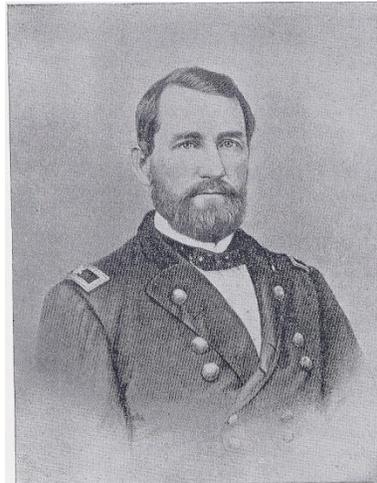
*It is time to tell the world about Her
Before another year flies by.*

*Johnston High is loved by all her
graduates*

*And I'm the one who loves dear
Johnston High*

A Civil War General and an Iowa Statesman Played Roles in the History of Johnston

The General



General James Madison Tuttle

General James Madison Tuttle commanded the Iowa Brigade during the Civil War on the battlefield at Shiloh. His brigade was known as the “Hornet’s Nest” because of their strong resistance to the Confederate forces.

General Tuttle returned to civilian life in September 1864 and moved his family to Des Moines. Between 1864 and 1866 he bought small parcels of land in what is now Johnston until he had accumulated nearly 1200 acres. Some familiar family names selling land to General Tuttle were John and Marie Betz, Simon Casady, and Theobald and Louisa Schlenker.

Today this land is bordered approximately by Merle Hay Road on the east, 180/35 on the south, Beaver Creek on the west, and the Johnston Library and Johnston Historical Museum on the north.

General Tuttle never lived on the land, but he farmed it and raised hogs. These hogs were processed in his pork packing business which was established in Des Moines in 1869. This was the same year he sold the land to Moses Robinson.

The Statesman



Honorable Moses W. Robinson

The Honorable Moses W. Robinson served the State of Iowa as a legislator and a member of the Constitutional Convention which drafted the second Iowa Constitution. In 1869 Moses moved his family from the Burlington area to the Des Moines area and bought the Tuttle farm. He built a home on this land which was located where the Weatherspoon home once stood and more recently the location of the Irwin Bike Shop. The land became known as Robinson's Ranch.

The 1870 census of Walnut Township (now Webster) lists Moses living with his family and 19 farmhands. These farmhands were of diverse backgrounds with listed birth places that included Canada, Denmark, Prussia, New York, Tennessee, Sweden, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Norway and Pennsylvania. Moses died at his home in 1882.

Moses and his wife are buried in McDivitt Grove cemetery in Urbandale.

Obituaries

Obituaries are compiled by Dick Tarlton. This is a known list of deaths that Dick could obtain. If anyone knows of others please let Dick know. Our address is 6161 Northglenn Dr. Johnston, IA 50131 or by email: JSHS@Q.COM or phone 515-331-0687. Over 700 Johnston School related obituaries are now on file at the museum.

| Name | Class | Date of Death |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Patricia Byers Wallerstedt | 1945 | 5-20-11 |
| Raymond C. Schleihs | 1935 | 5-25-11 |
| Sarah Mildred Andrews | 1934 | 5-2-10 |
| Gary Signs | 1960 | 3-10-11 |
| Cynthia Marie Samuelson Miller | 1972 | 4-21-11 |

City News

The city of Johnston is considering the need for a new Public Safety facility and second fire station. Due to Johnston's growth more homes and buildings are farther away from the existing fire station than is recommended by the National Fire Prevention Association, thus increasing the emergency response time. Response times are also lengthened because firefighters are housed in a building located near the fire station that was once used as a temporary classroom building.

The Johnston Police Department is also in serious need of additional space. The current police station is housed in city hall, a remodeled former grocery store. Police currently work in cramped and non-secure working conditions.

More details about the project are posted on the city's website, [www.city of johnston.com](http://www.cityofjohnston.com).

Hours Museum is Open

Tuesday thru Thursday and the 2nd Sunday of each month
from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
or by appointment
331-0687

Answers to History Quiz

1. c. Martin Albers
2. b. Louis Friestad

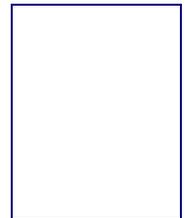
Mark Your Calendars

June: The Johnston Station Jazz Band will play during Green Days in the Simpson Barn from 6-8P.M. Thursday the 16th of June. It will be an evening of big band music.

The museum will also be open on Saturday June 16th from 12 until 5P.M.

July: We will be having a cook out. Wednesday July 13th in the barn from 5 until 7P.M. Guests are welcome. A free will donation will be accepted.

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6161 Northglenn Dr
Johnston, IA 50131



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