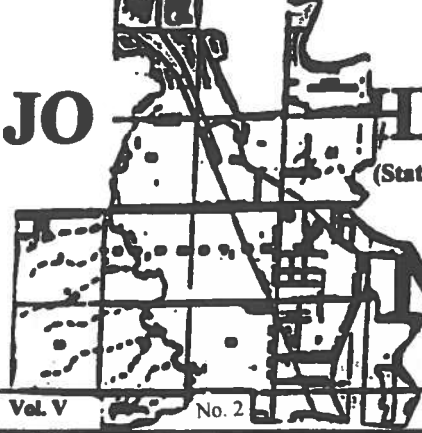


JOHNSTON Historical SOCIETY

(Station) ^^ P.O. Box 109, Johnston, IA 50131-0109

President Mary Jane Paez
Secy-Treas. Ray Schliebs



NEWSLETTER

Vol. V

No. 2

Published Bi-Monthly

March

March Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 25 1998

Place: Crown Point Meeting Room

Time: 400 P.M.

Program: Sue Nystrom, 6th grade Teacher at Johnston Middle School
Teaching Johnston History in the 6th Grade :
(and how we can help!)



January Meeting Report

Members met for a potluck dinner at Crown Point. The treasurer reported a balance of \$928.09. Newsletters were sent this month to 127 households.

There was lengthy discussion of possibilities for finding a house or building to serve as a museum/headquarters for the JSHS. The committee, and president Mary Jane Paez presented a number of possible options, all of which will be investigated further by the committee.

Meetings for the remainder of 1998 are scheduled as follows: March 25, Tuesday, April 28 (annual meeting), May 27, July 22, September 23, November 18.

It was suggested that the JSHS again have a display at the Johnston "Green Days" event on May 2.

Lou Friestad agreed to do some recruitment of business members in the community. Giving levels will be established for these members.

Bob Thomas continues to work on the compilation of the Johnston History Book.



New Members

Welcome to new members!!

Vivian Kinsey, Urbandale, Iowa
Mildred Sample, Indianapolis, Indiana
Maxine Fjare, Council Bluffs Iowa
Gene Hoover, Melbourne, Florida
JoAnn Hubacek, Johnston, Iowa
Ray Orlich, Downey, California
Jeanne Zettle, Des Moines, Iowa
Joe Hawkins, Des Moines, Iowa

The Johnston (Station) Historical Society is an IRS Code 501 (c) (3) organization

From the President.....

RAMBLINGS

I was not born in Johnston nor did I go to school here. My pride in the community and my love of history prompted me to become a charter member of the Johnston Historical Society. Neither birthplace nor being an alumni is a prerequisite for membership.

I have recently become more interested in my own history. An unwitting gift that my father gave me is an autobiography that he wrote as a freshman in college, many years before I was born. With clues from this source, I was urged by my out of state siblings to find out more about our grandparents, as immigrants to Iowa.

With only one visit to the State Historical Museum Library, I found my grandparents' 1889 marriage license registry. I also found that my great grandmother came to Iowa and is buried in Iowa. That insignificant fact is thrilling to me.

The only way that I could find this information is because in the 1930's, a WPA project was assigned to census all the old cemeteries in Iowa. I'm sure that her burial site is long lost.

This leads me to the Johnston Historical Society. In Johnston, we have 3 old cemeteries that were taken over from the Township, to be cared for by the city. Some of our JHS members have done a census of each

cemetery, helping the city immeasurably.

The original records of the cemeteries are lost. Having this information and making it available, will help future historians. They too will experience the thrill of finding and ancestor as I have.

Mary Jane Paez



Contributions

During the past year a number of members have made contributions to the JSHS over and above membership.

The JSHS is grateful to and thanks the following:

Howard J. and Carol Hunt,
Anchorage, Alaska

Lavern & Shirley Simpson
Johnston, Iowa

David and Patsy Goss
Johnston, Iowa

Wesley D. Jordan
Johnston, Iowa

Emma Jean Stillwell
Johnston, Iowa

Mildred Sample
Indianapolis, Indiana

In honor of the Nick Orlich Family
and John Cruikshank, a gift from:
Gene B. Hoover,
Melbourne, Florida

A Reminder:

Look at the address label on your envelope. If the number 97S or 97 F appears following your name, you need to renew your membership . Send renewals - \$6.00 for family, \$5.00 single, to the Johnston Station Historical Society, P.O. Box 109, Johnston , Iowa 50131.

Ongoing Activities

Johnston History

Bob Thomas reports that he has completed a first draft of the history of Camp Dodge, a part of the Johnston History up-date.

He expects to have copies for members to review at our March meeting.

Cemetery Census

Information from the Valley View Cemetery census continues to generate interest and information on local families and early burials there.

It is hoped that in the weeks to come some of this information will be available for this Newsletter.

**Rural, or "One-Room" Schools
in the Johnston Area**

Old maps locate a number of "one room", or rural schools in the Johnston area.

In Jefferson Township, section 36, the Ridgedale school was a part of the settlement started by Ezekiel Hunt. It was located on what is now N.W. Beaver Drive, just south of the Ridgedale cemetery and the church (no longer there) which were a part of that settlement.

It was probably built in the 1850's. One tradition says that it was moved (when?) to become a part of the farm home still standing just south of Beaver Drive, north of N.W. 70th Ave. and east of N.W. 61st Court. (Until recently, the Gomis residence.) Another tradition holds that it was moved across Beaver Drive, served as a pro shop for the Hyperion Field Club, and later was demolished during renovations at the club.

Other rural schools were Friar School, Ryder School, Lawson (or Valley) School, and Herrold School, in addition to schools farther north along Beaver Drive. More about these in future Newsletters.

If any of our members have photos or information about any of these schools, we'd appreciate receiving it both to publish and to put in our archives.

Write to JSHS, Post Office Box 109, Johnston, Iowa, 50131.