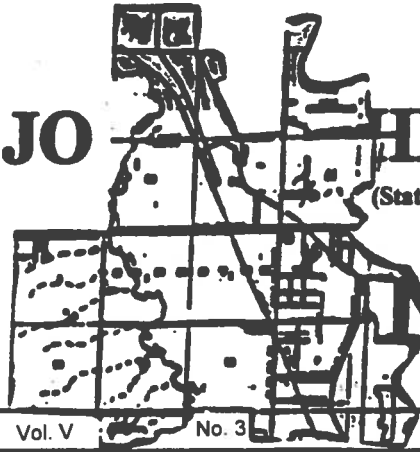


JOHNSTON Historical SOCIETY

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

President Mary Jane Paez
Secretary Beulah Darling
Treasurer Don Denman



NEWSLETTER

Vol. V

No. 3

Published Bi-Monthly

May

May Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 1998

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Place: Crown Point Meeting Room

Program:

We'll be hearing from Forrest McClure about his family and his grandfather, John Johnston, Superintendent of the Beaver Valley Division of the Interurban Railway, for whom the City of Johnston is named.

March Meeting

Scheduled speaker Susan Nystrom was unable to attend the meeting. (See Annual Meeting Report)

Business conducted:

Discussion of search for museum space, and investigation concerning possible acquiring of the old farm house on the original Rittgers farm on N.W. Beaver and Merle Hay Road. Possibilities for a membership survey, and participation by JSHS in Johnston Green Days.

Annual Meeting

Members of the JSHS met at the Crown Point Meeting Room on Tuesday, April 28, 4:00 p.m.

Officers were elected. (see below)

Other Business: There was discussion of placement of a flag pole at the Kinsey-Lawson Cemetery. Ray Schleihs will research possibilities for costs, etc.

The Board recommended that the meetings in July and September be on Sunday afternoon. Moved and voted that the July meeting be on a Sunday. Place and program to be determined.

The question of dues was introduced. It was decided that a decision on regular membership dues be deferred. Corporate memberships will be \$25 per year.

Treasurer Ray Schleihs gave his report.

Bob Otto, one of the founders of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society, and Betty Otto, were elected as Honorary Life Members of the Society. Bob was the first president of the JSHS, and served until April of 1996.

Bill Wagner, architect and local historian, was named an Honorary Life Member of the Society, in recognition of his help in establishing information on the farmhouse on

the old Daniel Rittgers property on N.W. Beaver Drive.

Program:

Sue Nystrom, 6th grade teacher at Johnston Middle School spoke on her work with school children on Iowa and local history, and of her interest in the history of the Johnston Community.

Ms. Nystrom is looking for local resource people to speak to her classes, and to suggest topics which would interest the students.

She suggested the possibility of having a "Community History Week" to encourage further interest in Johnston History.

Pat Wallerstedt and Ferne Michael will work together to develop resources for school classes.

XX

NEW OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Officers elected:

- President: Mary Jane Paez
- Vice-president & Program Chair: Pat Wallerstedt
- Secretary: Beulah Darling
- Treasurer: Don Denman
- Directors:
 - Mary Ann Roberts (3 years)
 - Irene Aulich (2 years)
 - Judy Bogaard (1 year)

Committees:

- Membership (open)
- By-laws: Ken Rittgers
- Projects: Bob Thomas

Ways and Means:

- Louis and Gay Friestad
- Bill and Shirley Herrold
- Margaret Pennington

Finance:

- Louis Friestad
- Ray Schleih

Acquisitions: (open)

Program:

- Pat Wallerstedt

Archive: Bob & Shirley Johnson

Public Relations: (open)

Audit: (open)

Phone: Ferne Michael

Genealogy: (open)

Museum/House:

- Ray Schleih, Chair
- Beulah Darling
- Lloyd Michael
- Bob Thomas
- Ken Wallerstedt
- Barbara Zorn

Genealogy: (open)

**Newsletter: Selma Duvick
Ray Schleih.**

Members will note that there are 6 committee positions which have not been filled .
You are encouraged to consider volunteering for a committee where you think you may be interested and able to help. Call Mary Jane Paez!!

New Members

Ferne Michael, former membership chair, has brought in a record number of new members during the past two months. Thanks, Ferne for a job well done over the past few years!!!

Welcome to new members:

Emma Jean Armstrong,
Lakewood, CA

Mary (Vignovich) Ferguson
Johnston, IA

Donald & Patsy Gerdorn
Johnston, IA

Eli Orlich
Phoenix, AZ

Violet Robinson
Des Moines, IA

Darrell Stuck
Lake Forest, CA

Judith Lee Sullivan
Colfax, IA

Catherine Brandon
Montrose, CO

Esther Murray
Dayton, IA

Richard Murray
Dallas, TX

Marna Parker
Austin, TX

Laurayne Robinette
Urbandale, IA

Margaret Sartain
Means, KY

Elsie Sheeder
Guthrie Center, IA

Mary Smith
Saratoga, CA

Leona Sutton
Des Moines, IA

Patricia Walker
Woodbury, MN

Bill Wagner
Dallas Center, IA

Clifford & Patricia Walsh
Johnston, IA

Howard A. & Beverly L. Shelton
Johnston, IA

Mark Miller
Adel, IA

Ray Pugh
Johnston, IA

Val Bilbrey
Granger, IA

Francine & Ron Canfield
Johnston, IA

Gwen Beck
Johnston, IA

Steve & Debra Straw
Johnston, IA

Local residents may want to stop at City Hall to look at the photographic montage in the hallway display case. The original is at the Iowa Genealogical Society, and was copied by Ferne Michael, who has lent it for display.

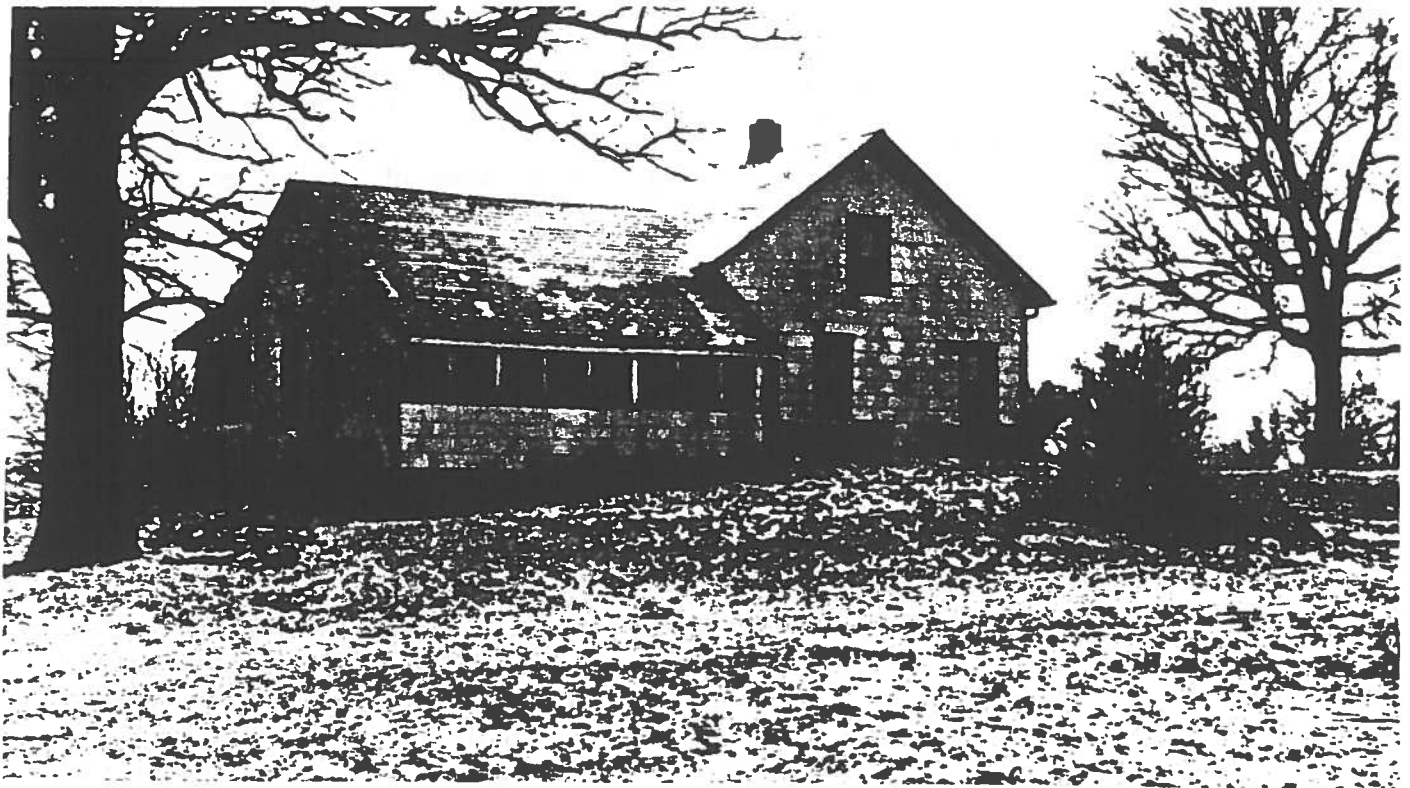
There are 455 photos of Pioneer Polk County Residents-- each one numbered and with a key to enable identification. A number of the names are recognizable as current family names in the county, (such as Hubbell, Savery, Jordan). Also to be found are some early Johnston pioneers such as McClain, Andrew, McDivitt, Oyler, and Lawson.

foundations see if a move was feasible. The general conclusion was that the house could not be moved with any hope that it could hold together, and restoration would be expensive and very difficult.

At a special meeting on April 8, members of the JSHS voted to decline the offer of the house.

We are still "looking for a home".

(Thanks to Dick Mott and Mary Rittgers for help and information)



The Old Rittgers Farmhouse, Johnston, Iowa 1998

YES, we still have a few Johnston Historical Society T-shirts-- about 6 in number and XL in size. Price: \$11.00, for out-of-towners, the

shipping and handling is \$2.00. Get in touch with Ray Schleih, 5465 N.W. 55th Ave. Johnston IA 50131, phone 276-0309.

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