



JOHNSTON *Historical* SOCIETY

(Station) ^^ PO BOX 109, Johnston, IA 50131-0109

Pres Bob Otto
Secy-Trea Ray Schliebs

NEWSLETTER

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TIME & 4:00 P.M. October 26, 1994
PLACE Johnston Middle School, Room 213

PROGRAM Either Ernie Beck will talk on the coal mines in the Johnston Area and/or Chuck Roberts will describe the Grand County Colorado Historical Society and its system of preservation of its history and their method of recordkeeping.

!!! MEMBERSHIP !!!

32 individuals or families as of 10-20-94 see list enclosed

Claims Clubs (con't)

from Vol I No. 1 *the first settlers who had borne the privations and hardships of the wilderness for several years of their lands, and whatever improvements they had put upon them(their claims).* "The homesteads which they had wrested from the primitive wilderness of prairie or forest and changed by enterprise and industry into cultivated fields, laden with yellow corn or waving grain were liable to become the property of land-sharks, whose avaricious eyes saw the value of the land and cared little for justice or right; provided, themselves might secure a handsome profit. With longer purses they could afford to pay higher prices than the poor settler; while the latter sensible of their rights and aware of what labor, exposure and self-denial they had acquired these rights felt in view of these prospects, indignant and exasperated, and felt so justly."

..."So highly incensed did the people become at the idea of speculators overbidding them at land sale, that they viewed every stranger with distrust, lest his errand among them should be to note the numbers of some choice tracts, and make them his own by giving prices beyond the reach of the claimant. A unity of feeling on this subject filled the entire country. They were determined to save their claims despite any effort or intervention to the contrary, and if possible, their intention was to pay no more than the lowest government price. Strangers passing through the country had to be careful not to meddle with the lands claimed, otherwise than honestly buying them from the possessors. If the object was thought to be different, if they were suspected of being engaged in any scheme for the unjust deprivation of any settler of what were considered his unquestionable rights,

they at once incurred the hostile feeling of every inhabitant, and were not safe until they had entirely left the country."

...some regular organization was needed...Settlers or citizens held a meeting to consider the proper course (*to halt claim jumping and usurpation*) At a public meeting of citizens on April 8th, 1848, resolutions were passed and claims club organized and as a result a committee designated elected R.L Tidrick as bidder (for the citizen claim-holders). "...and a platoon of men were selected from the club whose duty it was to thoroughly arm themselves and accompany the bidder in the capacity of an escort. Mr. Tidrick and his bodygard attended the sales and such a formidable array did they present that ultimately secured at the minimum price of \$1.25 per acre and the matter was as a general thing finally adjusted amicably."

The stated purpose of the meeting on the 8th of April, 1848 was "to Adopt measures for the security and protection of the citizens of said county (*Polk*) in their claims against speculators, and all persons who may be disposed wrongfully to deprive settlers of their claims by preemption or otherwise." -from History of Polk County, 1880

LAND OFFICES

Land Offices in IOWA AND IOWA TERRITORY

1840	1850	1860
Iowa Territory	Iowa	Iowa
Burlington Dubuque	Dubuque Fairfield Iowa City	Council Bluffs Ft. Des Moines Fort Dodge Sioux City

??? Did you know ???

In 1850 after ABRAHAM LINCOLN was defeated in his third bid for another two year term, he (like all congressmen of our day[1994]) applied for a government job as Commissioner of Land Offices. The congress turned him down and appointed someone else. ??? You know the rest of the story ???

TODAY'S EVENT & CONDITIONS ARE TOMORROW'S HISTORY

The project of preserving the record of the present houses in Johnston which have historical significance is proceeding well. If you know of a house that fits the description, let President Bob Otto know.

INVENTORY OF DONORS AND HISTORIC ARTIFACTS

Forms being considered for indexing, cross-indexing material and donors. Wanta Help?