



# JOHNSTON Historical SOCIETY

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

Pres Mary Ann Roberts  
Secy-Trea Ray Schliehs

# NEWSLETTER

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## OCTOBER MEETING

**Time:** 4:00 p.m. October 23, 1996  
**Place:** Crown Point Conference Room  
Off Pioneer Parkway

**Program:** Paul Maddy, expert and consultant on historical headstones, and headstone restoration will be the speaker.

This will be a really worth-while program, especially as there has been some interest expressed concerning repair and restoration of headstones at our cemeteries

### Dues.

Dues for the current year were due by June 1, 1996. If you have not paid your dues, please send your check to the Johnston Historical Society, P.O. Box 109 Johnston, Iowa 50131. Dues are \$5.00 individual or \$6.00 for a family membership.

### IRS Status

Ray Schliehs reports that the Society's check to the IRS has cleared, and so we await the word that we may have been granted status under IRS code 501 (c) (3). This will mean that in future contributions to the Johnston Historical Society will be tax-deductible.

### Cemetery Census

Ridgedale Cemetery: Ferne Michael and Bob Thomas continue to work with Lori Mentzel at City Hall to complete the accurate platting of Ridgedale Cemetery. Preliminary census of headstones and spaces was done some weeks ago, and now with the help of a computer program, they are putting together a complete mapping of the cemetery.

Ferne Michael is planning to make a list of war veterans who are buried in the cemetery, with the help of records at Camp Dodge.

Mary Jane Paez reports that the new sign and gate for the Ridgedale Cemetery is being constructed, and may be ready for installation in a month or so.

Charles L. Roberts

With the untimely death of Charles Roberts on Sept. 11, 1996, the Johnston Historical Society has lost one of its founders, its tireless workers, and enthusiastic supporters. "Chuck" was a true "history buff", an interest which also led him into genealogical research. He knew where to look for information, and was full of bits of local Johnston historical lore gleaned from his research, concerning early settlement, pioneer families, and location of early settlements.

When the time came for the society to incorporate, and become a non-profit organization under Iowa law, Chuck's advice and experience as a lawyer were invaluable.

Chuck's talents extended to the use of his computer, which he generously shared with the Society. He was the writer/editor of the Historical Society Newsletter, and was responsible for its distribution, from the writing, the editing, to the printing, even to the address labels.

While traveling in this country, he made it a habit to visit local Historical Societies, and bring to our meetings ideas for our local society which struck him as interesting or useful. His presence, his advice, his knowledge, and his enthusiasm will be missed.

The Johnston Historical Society extends its sympathy to his wife, Mary Ann, our current president, and to his family.

Virginia A. Stuart Betz

The community and the Historical Society have, with the death of Virginia Betz, lost a charter member, and loyal supporter. Mrs. Betz, who died on October 6, 1996, was a descendant of pioneer Iowa and area families, and was born and lived in this area all of her life. A former school teacher, she was keenly interested in the history of Johnston and surrounding communities, as well as the history of her own family. Mrs. Betz was a loyal, interested, and regular participant at our meetings; she will be missed by us all.

Her daughter Judy Bogaard, and sons Raymond and Richard are members of the JHS, and the Society extends sympathy to them, and to the other members of her family.