

JOHNSTON (STATION) HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O.Box 109 Johnston, Iowa 50131
6161 Northglenn Drive - Johnston Commons Park

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JSHS is a 501(C)(3) organization

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President's Column

March 2008

Whenever I give a tour at the museum, it never fails to delight me when I hear positive comments. One high school student asked incredulously, "Where did you get all this stuff?" We would have none of our "stuff" if it hadn't been for wonderful pack rats who held on to mementos. Thankfully they think of us when they are looking over their treasures. Someone kept a weekly pass for the Inter-urban. Someone else kept a token for the same ride. We have a WACS compact used in World War II. The Farm Bureau sign telling that E. J. Garlock lived in the house was found. An apron made from a feed sack came in along with canning jars of all shapes and sizes. We have a chicken catcher standing in the same corner with the bull leader. The Presbyterian Church sign dating to 1889 was carefully kept until we had a place to display it. We have plat books from the '50's and a map showing the area as it was in 1907. We have an iron bunny door stop that we use as a table centerpiece. We have notes of scribbled cheers that were shouted for student athletes in the 1920's. The old manual typewriter that was used in the typing classes is an eye-opener for our younger visitors. The useless vacuum that was patented in 1915 must have been a real pain to try to pump enough to create a little suction. We have another non-electric vacuum that has a little flywheel that swells the bag with air after a vigorous back and forth motion. Someone kept a few S & H green stamps for posterity. It's too back we don't have a catalog to show all the premiums one could work towards with books of stamps. With all these artifacts, it's pretty easy to give a tour and amaze our visitors with stories to go with the displays. It's too easy to get rid of things that we don't use anymore. Thank goodness we have the stories to tell. We always welcome more "history".

THANK YOU TO: Lyle & Sharon Kreps, Johnston, IA for their generous donation.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO MEMBER Ethel Conn on March 28th.

Ethel graduated from Johnston High School in 1926. *Happy Birthday, Ethel!*

Our sympathy to Sharon McKinney (JSHS member) – on the death of her mother, Ruth O. McKinney (widow of Steve McKinney) on January 9, 2008, in Rancho Santa Fe, CA.

Upcoming Meetings: MARCH 30, 2008 at 4:00 P.M. APRIL 23, 2008 at 4:00 P.M.

NEXT OPEN HOUSES: APRIL 13, 2008 and MAY 11, 2008 Time: 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

**Please be sure to check out the Historical Society's new and improved web site at:

www.johnstonhistoricalsociety.org Please take time to check out this site. We think you will be glad you did! We are most fortunate to have such able assistance from Keith Westbrook with all his computer knowledge. Richard Hyde, Archivist, and Keith have worked many hours to complete the revised method of documentation needed and progress continues on other aspects of the record keeping. Thanks to Dick and Keith.

[One of our goals is to have as much information available as possible regarding the History of Johnston (Station). As we grow there are more inquiries from interested individuals about early businesses, early families that made up the community, Camp Dodge, Pioneer's story, Johnston Schools, etc. To meet these interests we need everyone's help in accumulating more information.]

Green Days is fast approaching. Mark your calendars for June 19 through the 22nd. We want to invite you to attend and participate in some or all of the activities that are scheduled for this year's 12th anniversary of Green Days. •Beer Garden and entertainment on the stage

- Bill Riley Talent Search
- Bike Races & Classic Car Show
- Fireman's Breakfast
- Cookie Bake-Off Contest
- Parade on Saturday morning
- Events at the Johnston Barn
- Old time crafts at the Barn
- Farm Olympics and Taste of Johnston

The first transcontinental airmail flight originated in February 1921, creating the opportunity for Des Moines to establish an airfield. This field was the embryo of our Des Moines Municipal Airport, located on SE 30th Street and Vandalia Road. It was called Des Moines Aviation Park.

With the end of World War I, Army planes and engines were sold as surplus, making aviation a reality to thousands of ordinary citizens. Naturally, the popularity of airplanes meant developing facilities for the crafts. So, in the years between 1918 and 1926, small airfields sprang up like mushrooms around the Des Moines area:

-Clyde Herring Airport was located at the northeast corner of Merle Hay Road and Douglas Avenues from 1918 to 1924.

- Miller's Mall Field functioned two miles south and a mile east of the Iowa State Fair Grounds from 1920 to 1925.

-Fisher's Field was situated a mile south of the Fairgrounds from 1920 to 1925.

-Pop White and his son operated White's Field between Franklin Avenue and Hickman Road, just west of 49th Street in Des Moines. This field saw action from 1924 to 1926.

-Hanna Field, dedicated by aviation legend Charles Lindbergh, was a sixteen-acre tract near Altoona, northeast of Des Moines, in 1927. Hanna Field housed Des Moines' first airline hangar. It was 100 x 100 feet, constructed of metal, and cost \$22,000 to build.

Over eighty (80) sites were considered for the present location of the Des Moines International Airport. In 1929, the 43rd Iowa General Assembly opened the door to establishing an airport as part of the City of Des Moines when it passed an act that allowed cities to levy assessments and provide for the sale of bonds to build municipal airports.

This is the time of year we begin our membership drive.

Dues should be paid for the year by July 1 and are welcomed. Any additional donation is happily added to our treasury.

Also, there is still plenty of room for additional bricks on the patio at the Barn. These are still available for \$85 per brick. Space allows for two lines, fourteen (14) spaces each line.

Excerpts from **THE COMMUNITY REVIEW** Johnston, Iowa September, 1923

“The student body selected the name for this paper. Names were handed in by the students and the winning name was chosen by the faculty and the staff. Dorothy Wilson was the winner. Her title was ‘The Community Review.’ The reward is a subscription to the paper for one year.”

“Many improvements have been made at the Jefferson township consolidated school at Herrold during vacation; desks varnished, basement cleaned, new windows put in basement, shelves put in and also a teeter-totter for the children to play on. The teachers and pupils are fixing up the rest room and putting curtains up at the windows.”

“Greta Ivers won a medal for securing the most registrations for the Christian Endeavor convention held in Des Moines last summer.”

“Mr. O.P. Herrold had 851 head of sheep shipped to Herrold from Idaho. Their average cost is about \$8.03 per head. The neighbors helped drive them home.”

“The senior class of Johnston Hi regrets that one of their former classmates, Emma Betz, cannot join them in their activities this year. Due to her mother’s ill health she will be unable to attend school the first semester.”

“Teaching At Fort Dodge. Katherine Lundstrom, a graduate of Johnston, is teaching school north of Fort Dodge. She discovered a large snake in the school building one evening, but swept it out and killed it.”

“Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Bauman made a business trip to Des Moines on Tuesday.”

“The young people of the community will enjoy a party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L.C.Anekte on Tuesday evening in honor of their daughter’s, Ruth, eighteenth birthday.”

“Mrs. J.W.Bauman entertained the Lutheran Ladies’ Aid recently. A two-course luncheon was served at the close of the meeting.”

“Edna Temple has been absent from school lately on account of her arm, which is affected with blood poisoning.”

“Mr. R.K.Stuart is having a new addition built on his home. (continued next page -

“SCHOOL BEGINS: “The opening of the Johnston school on September 4th marked the beginning of a wonderful year in the history of the Johnston Consolidated school.

The faculty is the largest we have ever had. There is a total working force of twelve. Among these are a few new faces, Miss Golda Hughes, Miss Bess Cramer and Miss Lilah DeArmond in the grades and Miss Helen Betz and C.W.Thornburg in the high school.

Those who were familiar with the plan of the school last year will be a little confused when they step into the building this year and try to find a certain teacher or a certain grade. The enrollment this year has greatly increased over former years (292 to be exact) and every available room and seat is taken.

On the first floor we find the primary grade, under Miss Hughes, in its old place. The first grade, under Miss Cramer, will be found in the room formerly occupied by the third grade; and the second and third grades, with Miss Blaine in charge, are in the room that faces the east.

On the second floor we find in the east and south rooms the fourth, fifth and sixth grades. Miss DeArmond is in charge of the fourth grade, with Miss Herrold having control of the fifth, while the sixth grade classes are divided between the two. In the high school assembly we find the seventh and eighth grades. The seventh grade uses the ‘old office’ for a classroom with Mrs. Henkle doing the instructing, while the eighth grade and Mrs. Ballou hold down the same place as last year. The high school classes are divided between Mrs. Yahn, Miss Jensen, Miss Betz, Mr. Thornburg and Mr. Nickle.

The office has been moved to the former rest room on the first floor, while the janitor may be found anywhere he is needed at the time you arrive, and he is still the same smiling Ed.

So much for the organization inside the building. We might very rightly ask this question: “How do these children get to the school building?” And the answer would be: “About 225 of them are transported to the school and home again every day by one of the best groups of bus drivers in the state.

Here again we find a few changes. This year we have six motor buses. We have said farewell to the horse, although in mud and rain he still holds our respect. The trivers are the same as last year, with one exception. Mr. Mourning is driving one route in place of Mr. Temple. The board also have established a route in Johnston Acres plot No. 2 which is a benefit to that district.”

This newsletter includes a listing of area Historical Societies. Please add:

Museums In Iowa at: www.iowamuseums.org

Adel Historical Museum 1129 Main St. Adel, IA 50003 (515) 993-5472 www.adeliowa.org

The Wallace House Museum 756 – 16th Street Des Moines, IA 50314 (515)-243-7063 www.wallace.org

AMES HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
108 - 5th Street
Ames, IA 50010
(515) 232-2148
www.ameshistoricalsociety.org

ANKENY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY
1110 N.W. 2nd Street
Ankeny, IA 50023

ANKENY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
(515) 965-5795
P.O.Box 1111
301 S.W. 3rd Str...
Ankeny, IA 50021
www.ankenyhistorical.org

BIG CREEK HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
Box 201
Polk City, IA 50226

CLIVE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
8641 Swanson Blvd.
Clive, IA 50325
(515) 223-5003
www.clivehistoricalsociety.com

DALLAS COUNTY
GENEALOGY SOCIETY
P.O. Box 264
Dallas Center, IA
50063-0264
Email:
IADCGS@YAHOO.COM

DANISH IMMIGRANT
MUSEUM
2212 Washington St.
Elk Horn, IA 51531-
2116
(712) 764-7001
www.danishmuseum.org

DEXTER MUSEUM
3597 - 310th Street
Dexter, IA 50070
(515) 833-2717
www.dexteriowa.org

FORT DES MOINES
MUSEUM & EDUCATION
CENTER
75 East Army Post Rd
Des Moines, IA
50315-5866
(515) 282-8060
www.fortdesmoines.org

GERMAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE CENTER
712 W. 2nd Street
Davenport, IA 52802-
1410
(563) 322-8844
www.gahc.org

IOWA GENEALOGY
SOCIETY
628 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone numbers:
515-727-1824 and
515-276-0287
Email:
igs@iowagenealogy.org

IOWA GOLD STAR
MILITARY MUSEUM
7105 N W 70th Avenue
Johnston, IA 50131-
1824
(515) 252-4531
www.iowanationalguard.com
E-mail:
goldstarmuseum@iowa.gov

IOWA GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY
628 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA
50309-1924
(515) 276-0287
www.iowagenealogy.org
www.iowahistory.org
www.culturalaffairs.org

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6161 Northglenn Drive
P.O.Box 109
Johnston, IA 50131
(515) 331-0687
johnstonhistoricalsociety.org
E-mail:
info@johnstonhistoricalsociety.org

JORDAN HOUSE
MUSEUM
2001 Fuller Road
West Des Moines, IA
50265 (515) 225-
1286

POLK COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY
3221 Villa Vista Drive
Des Moines, IA
50316-1338
EMAIL:
webbp@dwx.com

SLATER AREA
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION
318 - 1st Avenue North
Box 487
Slater, IA 50244
(515) 228-3832
www.slateriowa.org

STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF IOWA
600 East Locust Street
Des Moines, IA 50319
(515) 281-8741
www.iowahistory.org

SWEDISH HERITAGE
MUSEUM
107 James Avenue
Swedesburg, IA 52652
(319) 254-2317

URBANDALE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
4010 - 70th Avenue
Urbandale, IA 50322
(515) 270-2917

VESTERHEIM
NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN
MUSEUM
520 West Water Street
Decorah, IA 52101
(563) 382-9681
www.vesterheim.org

WARREN COUNTY
GENEALOGY SOCIETY
P.O.Box 151
Indianola, IA 50125
Email:
vawheeldon@dwx.com