

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

Volume XV No.3 Published bi-monthly May 2007
Email address: JSHS6161@aol.com Telephone: (515)331-0687 JSHS is a 501(c)(3) organization
President: Mary Jane Paez Treasurer: Robert Thomas
Vice President/Programs: Judy Bogaard
Membership: Garland Seibert Secretary/Newsletter: Marlys Seibert

President's Column

May, 2007

Just in time for our annual meeting in April, we received word from Polk County Supervisor E. J. Giovannetti that we had been awarded \$1,500 to be used toward the residing of the Simpson House. This is a good beginning of the final step to complete the museum. Ever since Vern and Shirley Simpson donated the house to us, we have worked so very hard to accomplish what we have. Two years ago at this time, we were putting the finishing touches with curtains and a staircase runner. We have since put our energies to accessions, displays and historical research.

The present Masonite siding was placed over a tar paper like siding that is covering the original cedar clapboard siding. At some point, the original wooden storm windows were discarded and replaced with aluminum combination windows. Some of the aluminum windows don't fit the opening and some are missing the storm window part of the frame. We have talked to numerous contractors about our options to replace the siding and storm windows. Each one has a different angle and creates more questions than answers. The costs vary between \$15,000 to \$30,000 depending on choice of products.

We have a year to accomplish this task and use the Polk County Community Betterment Grant. No matter what choice of siding and windows we end up with, we will need to seriously raise some funds to finish this project.

On a lighter note, I'd like to tell you about our plans for Johnston Green Days, June 14th through the 16th. On Thursday evening, the 14th, there will be an opportunity to enjoy a "Taste of Johnston" from 5:30 to 8:00. A movie, "Night in the Museum" will be shown in the library from 6:00 to 8:00. From 8:00 to 10:00, the Society will host a concert in the barn with Brenda Smith and Bluegrass Round-Up. Brenda says the group is excited about being part of Green Days and will surely have you grinnin' and tappin' your toes in the Barn!

On Saturday, the 16th, starting at 10:00 a.m., be sure to watch for Judy Bogaard & Virginia McGinn with the "Betz Brothers" accommodating JSHS members on their tractor/trailer combo in the parade. From noon on, the museum will be open for tours and kids will be working with our volunteers on crafts in the barn.

We need volunteers and visitors for all our activities. **Please join us!**

Johnston Green days - 2007 Our 11th Anniversary!!

JUNE 14TH, THURSDAY

5:30 pm – 8:00 pm "Taste of Johnston & Wine Tasting"

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Music by "SPAM"

(Stage sponsored by Doctors Now Walk-In Care)

6:00 pm – 8:00pm Family Movie in the Library: "Night at the Museum"

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm Historical Society Concert in the Barn

Band: **Brenda Smith & Bluegrass Round-Up**

6:00 pm – 10:00 pm Carnival (unlimited rides with the purchase of wristband)

JUNE 15th, FRIDAY

5:00 pm – 12:00 am Carnival

5:00 pm – 11:00 pm Food Booths

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Evening Star Garden Stroll

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Field to Food Run

6:00 pm – 12:00 am Street Dance & Beer Garden 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm: D.J. Band:

9:00 pm- 12:00 am: "Swing Crew" (Stage sponsored by Doctors Now Walk-In Care)

JUNE 16TH, SATURDAY

7:00 am - 10:00am Johnston Fire Association serving Breakfast

10:00 am – 11:00am Parade along Pioneer Parkway

11:00 am - 12:00 am Carnival

11:30 am – 11:00 pm Food Booths

12: 00 pm – 5:00 pm Tour of Simpson House & Old Time Crafts in the Barn

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm John Deere Display

12:00 pm – 3:00 pm Classic Car Show (Sponsored by Polk County Bank)

12:00 pm- 3:00 pm Public Safety Expo

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm Cookie Bake-Off Contest in Library

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Iowa Helicopter Rides

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Bill Riley Talent Search (Sponsored by Charter Bank)

1:00 pm – 6:00 pm Bike Race on Pioneer Parkway

6:00 pm – 12:00 am Street Dance & Beer Garden

Bands: 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm "Tony Valdez Large Band"

9:00 pm- 12:00 am "Towncrier"

(Stage sponsored by Doctors Now Walk-In Care)

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm **Showcase of Johnston Youth Bands-**

Teens & Pre-teens event in the Barn

JUNE 17TH, SUNDAY

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Carnival (Unlimited rides with purchase of wristband)

NEW MEMBERS: Ethel Conn Des Moines, IA
Richard W. Haller Johnston, IA

DONATIONS:

Up to \$49: Howard Hunt Nick Orlich's Patricia & Jim Tharp
\$50 to 99: Bettie & Richard Franklin
\$100 & over: Shirley Simpson Emma Jean Stillwell

***PLEASE NOTE that** Dick Hyde will be at the Simpson House on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to accept donations, etc.

CONDOLENCES:

Jerry Lee Gorden, Archivist for JSHS, died this past February. He served in the National Guard, joining in 1954 prior to graduation from Spencer High School in 1955. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; son Steven K. and daughter Sherry B Long; as well as six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Their daughter, Shelley Ann preceded him in death.

Phyllis Cherryholmes, wife of Lloyd Cherryholmes, JSHS members, died in March

Our most sincere sympathy to these families.

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***Wednesday, MAY 23, 2007 regular meeting at 4:00 p.m.

PROGRAM: RAY DENNIS - RADIO BROADCASTING****

***Wednesday, June 27, 2007 regular meeting at 4:00 p.m.

***Sunday, July 22, 2007 regular meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Museum Open House is held the second Sunday of each month 2-4 PM

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The Johnston (Station) Historical Society is fortunate to have both the Simpson House and The Barn, along with the windmill, on its site. After reading an item in the newspaper about the fact that perhaps 70 percent of Iowa citizens over the age of 65 have lived on a farm, I was reminded of the big part the barn played in early rural life.

The barn was the place where many activities took place. Besides being where cattle, horses, even poultry and pigs were housed, there was place for storage of

grain (the granary) as well as the loft where the hay (loose or in bales, round and/or square in later years) as well as a 'milk room' where the cream separator was located. In my estimation, it was an honor to be entrusted with the cleaning of this apparatus after its use every morning. Not only was it fun to clean out the residue (which the cats clamored for), but it was equally fun to stack those shiny, silvery discs in a pyramid to dry.

In earlier times, the barn was perhaps built first and the family occupied a small portion of the building until such time as the house could be built. Barns come in a variety of styles - we see round, crib, prairie, bank, Dutch, to name a few of the styles built. In Iowa, we are fortunate to have the Iowa Barn Foundation which is focused on preserving some of these structures as 'working barns'.

Many of us recall hearing of the social event known as a "barn raising" when families gathered together to put the rafters in place and complete the barn. A common occurrence upon completion was a barn dance. At the time of those early barn raisings there was abundant food, fun and 'neighboring'.

Having grown up on a farm, I recall playing in the barn - whether it was crawling up and over pens and stalls, playing with the cow stanchions, swinging from a rope tied high from the peak of the barn, making a fort within the hay by burrowing into the high piles, or jumping from the platform along one end of the barn into the piles of hay far below. When moved to its present site, our Barn included a basketball hoop at one end where the young Simpson lads had hours of fun shooting baskets and playing 'horse' with their friends. The 'hoop' now resides with one who cherishes so many memories of those times.

Summertime meant putting the hay in the loft by means of a hayrack with three sling-loads of hay on it or with the use of a hay fork, (sometimes with actual horse power, other times with mechanical horse power known as the tractor). Each sling or fork-full of hay was raised to the level of the peak of the barn, where it then followed a track into the loft. The 'trip' let the hay drop at the appropriate place and whoever was fortunate enough to be in the loft to level off the hay got to go to work. If the load was baled, there was a pyramid of bales placed on the sling, hooked and raised through the hay loft door to be dropped with a 'thud' to the floor, then to be stacked and stored for an entire winter's food. Since this method was stressful to the floor and joists of the loft floor, bales were mostly lifted to the loft by means of a grain elevator. Straw from the oats harvest was also baled and stored for bedding, though often stacked in some place other than the loft of the barn.

Barn doors were often halved to serve the purpose of letting light and air in while containing the animals within the structure. Many stories can be shared about these grand old structures with so much character and grand style. Certainly the barn was the most important out-building on the farm.

When you have come to the edge of all the light you know. And are about to step off into the darkness of the unknown, Faith is knowing one of two things will happen:
There will be something solid to stand on or you will be taught to fly.

Membership update

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Johnston High School graduate?

Maiden name & year graduated _____

Street Address _____

City-State-Zip Code _____

E-Mail _____ Phone Number _____

Membership Renewal _____ Single _____ \$12 Family

Additional Contribution _____

Engraved Brick \$85 each with two lines of fourteen spaces each line.

Mail Checks and correspondence to:

Johnston Historical Society P.O.Box 109 Johnston, IA 50131

E-Mail correspondence: JSHS6161@aol.com

If your name has an "07" behind it on the address label, you are current in your membership. Any number that is "06" or less is not currently up-to-date with membership and those with no number or a number less than "06" are receiving their last newsletter. The By-Laws state that dues are due and payable June 1 each year. Please realize that the increased postage rate makes it a necessity to mail newsletters to current members only. Thank you for your understanding.

If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow.

PLEASE BE IN TOUCH -- MILES DO NOT PREVENT YOU FROM BEING INVOLVED WITH SHARING NEWS, OLD AND RECENT; WITH SUPPORT AND SUGGESTIONS; WITH TIME AND DOLLARS. TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PROJECTS SUCH AS THE SIDING AND WINDOWS REQUIRES THE SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT FROM MANY.