

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

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President's Column

September, 2007

Another milestone has been reached, as you read this. The Johnston Historical Society museum is being restored to its 1902 glory. The masonite siding is being replaced with James Hardie plankboard clapboard. The exterior will then be primed and painted. Denny Elwell's donation was a big help, along with other donations from members, that allowed us to go ahead with this last structural improvement to the museum. To complete the project, Russ Slauson is working on fabricating a steel cellar door. Dick Tarlton will be working with his son to create permanent wooden storm windows to replace the ill-fitting aluminum combination storm windows.

Our turn of the (last) century jewel is glistening. We couldn't be more proud of what a phenomenal asset this beautiful house is to the community!

Shirley Schleihs Adams has created another display that showcases the Johnston Community School District history.

Keith Westbrook has offered to help with working on sorting photos on the iMAC and helping Kathy Wallerstedt with updating our website.

Dick Tarlton has been approached by three members who would like to carry on with his obituary project, to work on researching Johnston graduates from 1960 and on. Dick continues with his project of finding obituaries for graduates from 1920 to 1960.

We have set the wheels in motion for a craft and bake sale in the barn on November 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Shirlee Herrold and Brenda Smith have been fielding calls from crafters. Anyone interested can call Brenda @ 278 0822 or Shirlee @ 284 8124. This should be a fun day for all and it will be an opportunity to help replenish funds for our day to day expenses of running a museum.

We were very pleased in August to host the Big Creek Players, depicting life during the Depression in Polk City. They will present a comedy at our meeting in October. It will be about a meeting of the hysterical society.

We are getting more members to come out for meetings and our monthly open houses. We are most blessed to have dedicated members.

Welcome to New Members:

Warren and Vickey Garlock - Whitehouse, Texas
Laurayne Robinette - Urbandale, IA
Keith Westbrook (JHS 1962) - Ankeny, IA

Donations:

Warren & Vickey Garlock	Whitehouse, TX	\$100
Dennis Elwell (in parents' name) for siding on House		\$7000
The Weatherspoon Charitable Foundation		\$1000
Marilyn & Robert Gates		
Greater Des Moines Community Foundation (Bravo)		\$750
The Weatherspoon Charitable Foundation		\$320
Carroll E. and Lilly M. Broadie		\$100

MEMORIALS: L A & F L Avitt - Des Moines \$25 Memorial for The Garlock Family
Richard W. Tarlton Family - In memory of
1) \$25 Donald V. Otto JHS 1937
2) \$25 Doris Bauman Hawbaker JHS 1932
3) \$25 Dorothy Hunt Temple Thompson JHS 1929

BRICKS:

By Charlotte Temple Niederhauser in memory of her mother: Dorothy Temple Thompson
By The Weatherspoon Charitable Foundation for eight bricks to read:
The Weatherspoon Family; James; Margaret; Martha; Mary; Jackie; James Paul; JoAnn

Thank you so very much for new memberships, donations, memorials, and brick orders.

DON'T MISS IT!!

WHO: The Johnston (Station) Historical Society
WHAT: First Annual Craft & Bake Sale
WHERE: at The Simpson Barn
WHEN: Saturday, November 3rd, 2007 from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M.

We will be renting space to vendors BUT need baked goods from you!
Items can be brought to the House on Friday from 10-3 p.m. or to the Barn on Saturday.

Please price your donations in increments of .25 cents.

THIS IS A FUND RAISER FOR JSHS and we need your help Thank you!
If you have questions, please call Shirley Schleih's Adams at 515-255-7773

The Historical Society must maintain funds for several reasons such as for payment of the telephone bill, our Internet connection, office supplies, equipment for the computer, items needed to proceed with interviews and taping of interviews, as well as for hardware/boards/framing supplies. This first-ever craft and bake sale will require participation from as many as possible. Just a dozen cookies - a cake - cupcakes - bars - breads--- whatever is your specialty in baking -will be so very much appreciated. The spaces for vendors will be reasonably priced at \$20 per space. Contact the Museum for details on where to make a reservation. Should anyone know of someone who has crafts to sell, *please* get in touch.

A smile is a light that shows the heart is at home

Thank you to all who have renewed your membership dues for 2007. We truly appreciate your support. Next year's dues will be delinquent by July 1, 2008

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 - 4:00 PM

THE PROGRAM WILL BE A PRESENTATION OF THE ORPHAN TRAINS - GIVEN BY THE DAUGHTER OF ONE OF THOSE CHILDREN WHO ARRIVED IN IOWA ON ONE OF THOSE ORPHAN TRAINS! THEN, ON **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, - 4:00 P.M.** WE WILL HAVE A PROGRAM BY THE POLK CITY PLAYERS. PLEASE JOIN US ON BOTH DATES --- ***GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.***

A CHALLENGE FOR YOU:

Each of us has a story. Although there are several family histories in our Museum, we still have room for more, for anecdotes, for more family tree information, more obituaries, photos and newspaper clippings showing some of the residents, happenings, and homes as well as businesses of Johnston both past and present. We have an opportunity for youngsters to connect with the past and for them to connect to us. The local Girl Scouts have an opportunity to earn a merit badge by way of the Historical Society. It would be so wonderful to have the young and old come together for an exchange of ideas and information. The Challenge then is pick up pen and paper and share information on where you lived and for how long; how you are/were connected to Johnston; what businesses you remember and where they were located; you get the idea!! Please share some of the local 'color' of Johnston.

HELP!! ALONGSIDE THE RAILROAD TRACKS, ON THE NORTH SIDE OF N.W. 62ND AVENUE (or JOHNSTON ROAD) WAS A RATHER LONG BUT NARROW BUILDING WITH CEMENT STAIRS THAT FACED THE STREET. DOES ANYONE KNOW SOME OF THE HISTORY OF THAT BUILDING? WAS IT A BUSINESS AT ONE TIME?

Does anyone have a photo of the old Rider School?

What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?

For those who want the 2008 schedule of meetings

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Sunday, January 27, 2008
Wednesday February 27, 2008
Sunday March 30, 2008
Wednesday, April 23, 2008- Annual meeting
Wednesday May 21 2008
Wednesday June 25, 2008
Sunday July 27, 2008
Wednesday August 20, 2008
Sunday, September 28, 2008
Wednesday October 22. 2008
Sunday, November 23, 2008

OPEN HOUSE EVERY MONTH ON THE 2ND SUNDAY FROM 2-4:00 pm

New displays at the Museum:

One item is a wooden coat rack donated by John & JoAnn Theisen. It was hand made by JoAnn's grandfather who had arrived in Des Moines in 1913 with \$2.00 in his pocket. John's Great Uncle "Windy Forrest" was number 1 in the Carpenter's Union and JoAnn's grandfather was number 2 or 3. After registering and beginning work as a carpenter, he met a man and both worked with at the Veterans Hospital. That man later left carpenter work and became the founder of United Federal Savings. JoAnn's grandfather, Martin Peterson, went on to build several office buildings in Des Moines. He also built the beautiful stairway at the Meredith mansion. In fact, he had to re-do that stairway three times until it met Mrs. Meredith's standards! Mr. Peterson also helped build the wooden roller coaster at Riverview Park.

Two other acquisitions are old vacuum cleaners that John collected over the years. One is an early electric model and the other has a wheel that operates the bag much like a bellows - depending on friction from a centrally-located wheel on the vacuum head that turns a fan when moved quickly across the floor. Perhaps not very effective but the best to be had at that time!

Thanks, John & JoAnn

Living in 2007

A man and woman had been married for more than 60 years. They had shared everything. They had talked about everything. They had kept no secrets from each other except that the little old woman had a shoebox in the top of her closet that she had cautioned her husband never to open or to ask about. For all those years he had never thought about the box, but one day the little old woman got very sick and the doctor said she would not recover. In trying to sort out their affairs, the little old man took down the shoebox and took it to his wife's bedside. She agreed that it was time he know what was in the box. In it he found two crocheted dolls and a stack of money totaling \$95,000. He asked about the box's contents and she said "When we were to be married my grandmother told me the secret of a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you I should just keep quiet and crochet a doll." The little old man was so moved that he had to fight back tears. Only two precious dolls were in the box. She had only been angry with him two times in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with happiness. "That explains the doll, but what about all the money? Where did it come from?" "Oh," she replied, "that's the money I made from selling all the other dolls."

Weddings - Receptions - Parties - Reunions - Meetings

There is so much going on at the Simpson Barn. It has become a most popular site for all these various events. There have been local photographers bringing bridal couples out for photos with the House and Barn as background. What a beautiful display of perennial flowers we now have to enhance the surroundings.

WHAT WISDOM CAN YOU FIND THAT IS GREATER THAN KINDNESS?

The Greater Shenandoah Historical Society has been given a diploma that had come into the hands of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society. It had been awarded to an individual on October 23, 1891. The name of the recipient was difficult to read as it was done by hand, in calligraphy. They were grateful for receipt of this piece of history for the Western Normal College, although the college has been gone many years. The college had grown and kept going even after two major fires prior to its closing.



Information has been found regarding the 'Schlenker Drain'. The original contract was awarded for construction of "Drain 16" (aka the Schlenker Drain) to Empire Construction Company, who bid the job for \$12,680 and this contract was awarded by the Polk County supervisors on 6 December 1916. The documentation shows one of the property owners as the "Independent Consolidated School District of Webster and Jefferson Township". The school is shown in the assessments as owning lots 3,4, 5, 11, 12, and 13 of Johnston Acres. Johnston Acres was originally platted in 1910.



Information you could do without! -

- 'Stewardesses' is the longest word typed with only the left hand.
- 'Lollipop' is the longest word typed with only the right hand.
- No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
- A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.
- A 'jiffy' is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
- Almonds are a member of the peach family.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel it burns.
- There are more chickens than people in the world
- TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard
- Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing!

****PLEASE STOP BY AND VISIT YOUR MUSEUM
or send your friends and family by!!*



This photo shows "The Iron Gate" shop which was located at the rear in the old Carter's Store. The shop faced towards N.W. 62nd Avenue at its intersection with Merle Hay Road. It was owned and operated by Marge Mable. She now operates a shop in old Valley Junction known as "Folk Art" and with her three daughters, all Johnston High School graduates, has a wide variety of artistic treasures - all made by these four talented people.