

# Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 17, Issue 5

Newsletter

September 2009

## President's Column

On August 13, 2009 we held a successful potluck meeting in the Barn. Everyone enjoyed the chance to talk with old friends and meet new ones. The September meeting was an ice cream social, also held in the Barn. The Museum was open and guests were impressed with what we had to offer on the history of Johnston.

The Board of Directors voted to add a research room in the upstairs of the house. The room will provide a place for people to find information about Johnston. Located in the research room are books containing historical information on many Johnston families. There are also books with information about the City of Johnston as well as Johnston clubs, organizations, and churches. The research room is fitted with a new computer with Internet access and a three-in-one printer. This room is available for anyone interested in Johnston's history.

Dick Hyde

Board President



## Congratulations

Congratulations to Johnston High School teacher Sarah Brown Wessling. She was named 2010 Iowa Teacher of the Year by the Iowa Department of Education. Wessling has taught in Johnston for 10 years and is chairperson of the English Department.

Congratulations to members Garland and Marlys Seibert on 50 years of marriage. They have been involved in the society for many years and have played a key role in its success. Garland is a 1954 graduate of Johnston High School.

Congratulations to the Johnston High School girl's softball team on winning the 2009 4A State Championship. Congratulations also to the Johnston Boy's baseball team who went to State.

## **Did You Know.....**

-----that the Society provides historical displays in the Johnston Community? Currently there are five displays. They are located in City Hall, The Freedom Center at Camp Dodge, the Crown Point Community Center and the Johnston Schools. Display themes are “The Stage Coach Era”, “The History of Johnston Schools”, “Camp Dodge During World War I” and “Old Homes of Johnston.”

-----that the Society has a web page? Keith Westbrook created and maintains this web site which has a great deal of information about the Society. We encourage you to visit it at [johnstonhistoricalsociety.org](http://johnstonhistoricalsociety.org). Thanks Keith!

-----that the newsletter is sent to 141 members in 16 states? The purchase of a new laser printer allows us to print in house and in color. If you wish to receive your newsletter by e-mail, contact us at [jshs@q.com](mailto:jshs@q.com).

-----that the Museum is now open five days a week? The hours are Monday from 5 PM to 7 PM and Tuesday through Friday from 2PM to 4PM. A big thank you to the volunteers who make it possible for the Museum to be open.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

The October meeting will be held Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> from 5PM to 7PM in the Barn. It will be a chili and soup evening. Come and bring a salad. A representative from the Gold Star Museum will give a short presentation.

The November meeting will be held on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> from 5PM to 7PM. This meeting will include a tour of the new 30,000 square foot Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge. Plan on meeting at the Museum shortly before 5PM. Cake and ice cream will be served in the Barn following the tour.

## Obituaries

Obituaries are compiled by Dick Tarlton. This is a known list of deaths that Dick could obtain. If anyone knows of others please let Dick know. Our address is 6161 Northglenn Dr. Johnston, IA 50131 or by email: [JSHS@Q.COM](mailto:JSHS@Q.COM) or phone 515-331-0687.

The Society expresses sympathy to the family and friends of these graduates.

Name	Graduating year	Date of Death
Helen M. Andrews Sherrad	1933	4-22-09
Bessie Minnie Brundage Smith	1934	2-14-09
Eva Rastovac Fraizer	1935	8-27-09
Albert Elings	1939	7-24-09
F. Lowell Steen	1939	7-26-09
Paul A. Burt	1942	8-24-09
Robert J. Porter	1946	2-17-09
William J Peterson	1952	5-3-09
John Mahin	1954	4-4-09
Shirley M. Monahan	1956	1-19-09
Robert Stifel	1959	7-27-09
Carol L. May Sittler	1960	4-26-09
Fred J. Watne	1962	5-16-09
Steve A. Blakley	1963	6-18-09
Robert Barry Bloomfield	1964	1-5-09
Larry Bass	1969	8-10-09
Richard R. Terry	1969	2-29-09
Delores J. Olsasky	1970	2-6-09
Ryan W. Crowder	1995	6-4-09

**Tribute to Shirley Schleih Adams**  
**11-14-1924 to 8-8-2009**  
**Board Member**  
**Johnston Historical Society**

It is hard to believe she is gone, that package of ambition, ideas, criticism, support, loyalty, and calming force. I didn't know Shirley all that long, maybe three years, but in that time I got to know her pretty well. What she lacked in stature she gained in determination on her projects at the Museum and in her personal life. All I know is that we have lost a great friend, but the projects she completed will remind us every day of that bundle of energy. A thank you to all who contributed to the Society in memory of Shirley. The monies collected will be put to good use on the projects she was interested in.

Dick Tarlton

**Spotlight on Johnston Police Officer Sgt. Mike Martin**

Sgt. Mike Martin has been a police officer for 29 years. He worked in Decatur County, Iowa as a Deputy Investigator for 10 years and has worked for the Johnston Police Department for 19 years. Before becoming a police officer, Sgt. Martin was a communication specialist in the U.S. Army.

Sgt. Martin always wanted a job where he could work outdoors and interact with people. He says that the best part of his job is dealing with new technological improvements that assist officers in crime solving. He says the worst part of his job is dealing with domestic violence and traffic fatalities. Sgt. Martin enjoys boating at his lake home and spending time with his grandchildren.

Thanks to Sgt. Martin and all the other police officers for their service and dedication.

## **Don Peitzman Reflects on his Participation In the Honor Flight Program To Washington DC**

The day is Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. I have had a very sleepless night – at 1:20 AM, I got up out of bed and am ready for the day. There are 350 World War II veterans being readied for the “Honor Flight” to Washington D.C. Security and screening of everyone took place and then we were loaded on a 747 with 404 seats. We were told that 402 seats on the plane were occupied. While in the air, we were told that we were at an altitude of 39,000 feet traveling at 673 miles per hour and the outside temperature at that altitude was 68 degrees below zero.

We landed at Dulles airport and were assigned to different colored teams. I was on the white team and white bus. The buses made stops at all the War Monuments, and we were allowed ample time at each stop. The World War II monument was the best part of the trip for me, along with the “Changing of the Guard” at Arlington Cemetery. At all times we were treated with the utmost courtesy and honor. I will long remember this experience and the World War II “Honor Flight”. God Bless the United States of America.

Don Peitzman

Mert Hanson was also one of the 350 persons from Iowa that attended this event.

## **Johnston Fire Department News**

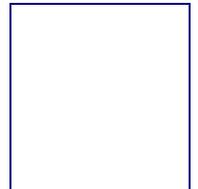
The Johnston Fire Department has added three new trucks to its fleet. One is a 2000 gallon tanker with a 500 gallon per minute pump. Another is a new engine that is a fully functional rescue unit with a complete compliment of hydraulic vehicle extraction tools. Also added is a new lifeline ambulance that is one of the most up to date ambulances in the metro area.

## Iowa Female Prep a Athlete of 2009

Abby Sonner of Johnston has been named The Des Moines Register's female high school athlete for 2009. Abby is a three sport athlete at Johnston High School. As a junior she led the Dragons to a 4A volleyball State championship. She played in two State finals during her senior year leading Johnston to a State 4-A softball title and to a second place in the 4A State volleyball tournament.

Congratulations Abby

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## Mother/Daughter Softball

The unranked Johnston Dragons won the Class 4A softball tournament with a victory over Waukee. The bittersweet storyline of the tournament: Freshmen Abbey Wilmes, JHS starting pitcher and captain of the All-Tournament team, beat her mother's team. Her mother, Andrea Wilmes, is the Waukee softball coach. Abbey's sister Bailey also plays for the JHS softball team.