

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 21, Issue 4

Newsletter

Winter 2013

2013 Year in Review:

This has been an active year. We accomplished the following:

- Spring cleaning day inside the museum
- Jan rearranged the display rooms on the upper floor to better display our artifacts, (an ambitious undertaking)
- Held a member Open House Sunday, June 9 for members
- Carla once again worked her magic on the flower beds with seasonal flowers on display for all who came to the museum or barn
- Held a garage sale in the Barn in August
- Bought a table, tent and sign and began setting up at the Johnston Farmers Market
- Fall clean-up day October 19 to clean basement.
- Chili supper November 7 for members & guests.

Seeing Johnston Historical members who are not on the board getting involved in helping us with some of the mentioned activities was most pleasing. We thank each of you who gave of your time this year.



2014 Annual Dues

The 2014 membership dues are due January 1, 2014. To renew your membership, please send \$20.00 to the Johnston Historical Society, 6161 Northglenn Drive, Johnston, IA 50131.

If there is a number 14 after your name on the mailing label, your dues are current.

We welcome any additional money you might want to send as a donation to the Johnston Historical Museum. A receipt for income tax purposes will be sent to you for the donation.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 2013 Year in Review/Annual Dues
- 2 Donations/Chili Supper
- 3 History of Schlenker Family
- 4 2014 Board Election Ballot
- 5 Obituaries
- 6 2013 Board Members

Email Addresses

We have been receiving system failures with some of the Email addresses we currently have on record for members. This newsletter will be sent by regular mail in order that all receive it. Those of you who wish to receive it in the future by email, please email us at jshs@q.com and request such.

2013 Donations

Below are individuals who have donated to the work of preserving the history of Johnston this year. We would like to recognize those individuals:

Denny and Candy Elwell Foundation
Mark Putney
Vivian Kinsey
Ferne Michael
Mary Bowden
Don Heldenbrand
Jackie Reineke
Weatherspoon Foundation
Judy Christy
Eva Dunn O'Brien
Deb Krambeck

In Memory of Dick Tarlton:

Jackie Reineke
Bev Tarlton
Ferne Michael
Carla Kinsey

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of you for your generous donation. The Johnston Historical Society could not survive and continue to preserve the valuable history at the museum without you.

Museum Maintenance Needs

There are currently many maintenance needs at the museum: The floors on the main floor need to be refinished, the windows on the outside are peeling and in bad need of repainting, the ceiling in the upper story repaired, furnace needs repaired, and replace water heater.

We welcome any donations. A receipt will be sent for income tax purposes. We thank you for considering the Johnston Historical Society as a place to donate.

Chili Supper



John Brown and Dick Hyde

The chili supper was held Thurs., November 7. We served appetizers, chili, cornbread and dessert to 25 people. Although we had hoped for a larger crowd, all that came seemed to have a good time.

We thank John Brown, for giving his time to enlighten us on historical places in Iowa to visit. John is a board member for the State Historical Society of Iowa. He lives in Johnston and is also a member of Johnston's Historical Society. His information was quite interesting and gave us ideas for various day trips.

Clean-Up Day October 19, 2013

We spent this day cleaning the basement area, tossing unusable items, rearranging those items to be saved for the garage sale in 2014. We now have an area to work on restoration of items for the museum. Besides the board members that worked, the members who donated their time were: Al Lathrum, Penny DeJoode, Bev Christofferson, and Joe Miller. We thank each of you for giving of your time and helping with a much needed project.

Thank You Board Members

We thank two of our board members who will be leaving at the end of the year. Sharon Hyde has served two terms so will be leaving. Chris Kinsey has served one term and has chosen not to run again. We thank both of you for giving of your time to work on the board. Sharon has been instrumental in obtaining the various grants for our work at the museum. Chris has helped us with various events. We appreciate the contribution each of you have provided.

The Schlenker Family from Baden, Germany

With the death of resident Barton Schlenker, we decided to make our historical piece about their family.

In the year 1848, with unrest in Europe, and especially in the German Confederation of states, there was business depression, and overpopulation, and serious crop failures. Many people of the land immigrated to America. One immigrant that could trace his ancestry to this time was Theobald Schlenker. He was born in Baden, Germany in 1826. By 1848, he was an officer in the Imperial Army. He fled to America with fellow officers when the insurrection in Baden failed. He most likely entered the United States at New Orleans and settled in McGregor Iowa in Clayton County. It was there he met Maria Louisa Mahle, who also was from Germany.

Theobald and Maria moved to Polk County, to a farm on what is now NW 58th Avenue, just east of Woodside School. They had 9 children. The eldest was William, born 1858. William married Catherine Schnoor who came from north of Perry. After their marriage, they moved to a farm just north of the Polk County farm, on East 14th Street, where there was also a coal mine. They had two children: Henry William, born 1884 and Luella Catherine, born 1886.

Catherine Schlenker bought 80 acres on what is now NW 62nd Avenue in Johnston, located where the High School now stands. In 1904, Catherine gave this farm to her son Henry. William had a farm located on the east side of Merle Hay Road, just north of the current Interstate 35-80 interchange. This farm, also known as the Swanson farm he gave to his daughter

Henry's move to the farm in Johnston involved fording the Des Moines river at the foot of NW 62nd Avenue, now where the MidAmerican Energy transformer station is located. The bridge across the Des Moines River had not been built.

In 1907 Henry Schlenker married Mabel Miller. She came to Des Moines from Peoria, IL, with her mother, who was a milliner. Henry and Mabel had six children: Clarence, Leroy, Veda, Raymond, Margaret, and Barton. Henry was a farmer, a market gardener, a trucker, a bus driver and an orchardist.

On their 80 acres, the family grew all kinds of vegetables. Ray and Barton remembered working in the garden where they weeded and harvested vegetables. Henry and Mabel would then travel to Des Moines, hauling produce in their truck to the City Market, where they had a stand. This was a wholesale market. The family also had pigs and chickens, and at one time, a greenhouse. He later used a Model-T, and mounted a bus coach on the chassis, to haul his produce and even coal to sell.

In the 1920's he put his farmland into an apple orchard. On Armistice Day of 1940, Iowa and the mid-west experienced a severe and sudden freeze, thus destroying many orchards. Many trees on the Schlenker farm were killed as well.

Ray and Barton remembered going to Carter's store in Johnston to pay the grocery bill. They also remembered square dances at the home of a Kuehl family, who were at that time living in the house which was later the Bilz residence, and then the Stillwell home on NW 62nd Ave.

In 1955 the farm was sold to Pioneer Hi-Bred Company. Henry Schlenker died in 1958.

Election Coverage

It is time to elect Johnston Historical Society board members. This year there are two positions open. The following names are people that have chosen to run for the board. You may vote for up to two positions, counting a write in vote. Write in names are welcome. One completed ballot per membership. Completed ballots may be mailed to 6161 Northglenn Dr., Johnston, Iowa 50131.

Those candidates are:

2014 Board Election Official Ballot

Lois Waggoner	<input type="radio"/>
Al Lathrum	<input type="radio"/>
Write In _____	<input type="radio"/>

Mark Your Calendars:

January 14, 2014 4:00 p.m. Board Meeting at museum

July 11 & 12, 2014 Garage Sale. Begin collecting items to contribute to our annual garage sale next year. As you know, we are non-profit, so we will provide a receipt for all items donated. More details will be published next year.

**Reminder: The museum will be closed for the winter months between
December 1, 2013 and April 1, 2014.**

A Life Remembered....

Barton Schlenker, 89, a longtime Johnston resident, passed away on Monday, October 14, 2013. Barton grew up in Johnston, graduating from Johnston in 1943, then served in the U.S Navy on board ship as a baker. After he was out of the service, he owned his own bakery in the Des Moines area. Later he worked for Solar Aircraft, John Deere, and then retired from the U.S. Postal Service.

He and his wife, Virginia Fitzsimmons, (another Johnston family), had two children, Steven and Barbara. Both children are Johnston alum.

Barton was a member of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society and he donated the museum's telescoping flag pole in his family's name. Our sympathy and prayers to Barbara and Steven and the extended Schlenker family.

Another faithful and loyal soldier has passed from our midst. He will be missed.

Obituaries

Obituaries are compiled by Nancy Budrevich. This is a known list of deaths that Nancy could obtain. If anyone knows of others please let her know. Our address is 6161 Northglenn Dr. Johnston, IA 50131 or by email: JSHS@Q.COM or phone 515-331-0687. Over 1000 Johnston School related obituaries are now on file at the museum. Up to this time, we have listed only the names of Johnston graduates. In the future we will be printing names of Johnston residents, or those individuals that lived in the community for some time. They will be listed as Resident under the class column.

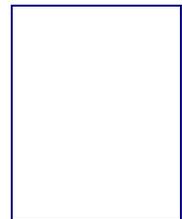
Name	Class	Date of Death
Barton Schlenker	1943	10-14-13
Edward D. Still	1955	10-21-13
John P. Robinette	1957	10-12-13
James W. Rodine	1961	10-29-13
Shirley Lamp Case	1962	10-31-13
Joann M. Seibert Gilliam	1963	10-30-13
Rudolf F. Rewaj	1970	9-13-13
Bill Gilligan	Resident	9-22-13
Beverly Bowen McLain	Resident	10-28-13



Johnston Historical Board Members

Nancy Budrevich, Vice President; Sharon Hyde; Dick Hyde, President;
Jan Jensen, Archivist; Deb Krambeck, Secretary; Chris Kinsey; Carla Johns, Treasurer

Johnston (Station) Historical Society
6161 Northglenn Dr
Johnston, IA 50131



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED