

# Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 24, Issue 4

Newsletter

Winter 2016

## From the President

2016 activities:

- Our Annual Meeting/Open House was Sunday, April 11.
- The sign was installed with our name and hours open. Hopefully those passing by will notice there is a historical museum. We have received positive feedback.
- The old flag pole has been removed, a new one installed near the front porch.
- Carla once again worked her magic on the flower beds with seasonal flowers on display for all who visited the museum.
- Special tours were given to attendees at Sundae in the Park, the class of 1964 and a group of Boy Scouts. A good way to introduce the museum is with the history of Johnston.
- We served a Soup Supper to our members in November (see article for detail).
- We had approximately 220 visitors tour the museum in 2016.

Thank you to all the board members who have worked hard to make this year a success.

Lois Waggoner, President



## 2017 Annual Dues

This is a reminder that all members' annual dues are due January 1, 2017 for the 2017 calendar year. The price has remained at \$20.00, the same as last year. We have enclosed an envelope for your convenience in mailing your dues to the museum.

If the number after your name on the mailing label is 17 or higher, your dues for 2017 are already paid.

We welcome any additional money or donations you wish to send. We will send a receipt for donations over and above the membership dues. We could not remain open and continue the work here, if we did not receive the dues and the generous donations. We thank you in advance for your continued support.

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## Ballot Enclosed

It is time to elect board members. There are three positions open, and only one incumbent running for the board.

The ballot is enclosed. You may vote for three. Write-in's are welcome. Please place your ballot in the enclosed envelope and return no later than January 10, 2017.

## Board Members Needed

Two of our board members are completing their first, three-year term. Al Lathrum is going to run for the board again; Lois Waggoner has chosen not to run for a second term. In addition to losing Lois, Terri Holmgren recently gave her resignation after serving only one year. With regret, she determined she did not have the time necessary to give to the board. In her newly "retired life," she has taken on a couple teaching jobs.

Without the time and devotion spent by each board member, there would not be a museum to preserve the artifacts that tell the history of Johnston. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the board, please give us a call at the museum or write their name on the ballot. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, call the museum 331-0687 and leave a message.

## Fall Soup Supper Results

On Thursday, November 3, we invited our members and guests to a Soup Supper. We served 4 different soups with sides and desserts.

A program was presented by Eric Melton, Director of the Johnston Library. We were all amazed to learn of the many resources available to us at the library. It was a very interesting and informative presentation. We left knowing that Johnston's library has the latest technology available for learning.

We thank the board members for cooking the soups and providing the extras. We served a total of 22 people, down from previous years. The food was donated by board members. We received \$153 in the donation box.

## Donations

Below are the individuals/foundations who have donated to the work of preserving the history of Johnston since the last newsletter. We would like to recognize these individuals:

Deb Krambeck in memory of Liz McCarl  
Lois Waggoner  
Weatherspoon Charitable Foundation

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of you for your generous donation.

## New Members

New Members since our last newsletter:

Judy Briles  
Carol Garland  
Leonard J. Overton

We welcome each of you and thank you for joining the Historical Society. We hope you will want to get involved in the work at the museum.

**Reminder:**  
**The Museum is closed for the winter from December 1, 2016 to the first of April 2017.**

We will show the museum by appointment only. If you wish to take a tour, call the museum phone 515-331-0687 & leave a message. As board members, we continue to hold meetings and carry out the necessary work of the museum.

See you in the spring!

## **Johnston Historical Museum Future**

The members of the Johnston Historical Board discussed at a recent meeting the continued existence of the Johnston Museum. We are quite concerned how much longer we can continue to operate with fewer and fewer people interested in running for the board. Like many volunteer organizations, it's difficult to get people to give of their time. This is the first time we have been unable to find a person to serve on the Board. If no one volunteers, we will be forced to operate with a board of five for now in hopes we can fill the other two positions later. We are currently missing an archivist and our secretary position is looking for a replacement to train in the coming year. We will be voting to fill the offices in January. Those of us left will be doing double duty to continue this work.

We discussed with members at the recent Soup Supper, the need to increase our membership base. It is, of course, through the membership dues and donations that we can continue to exist. We did discuss raising our dues, but have decided to keep them the same for now. We have approximately 95 members. It was suggested we have an open house with tours, asking members to bring a guest who might be interested in joining. We will attempt this in the spring time. It was also suggested we advertise in some local publications. Many people do not know we exist. It costs to advertise, but we are looking for ways in which to do that.

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## **Johnston Class of 1964**



L to R, Front row: Janice (Mace) Ayd, Ron Foshe, Jean (Lowry) Podominick

Second row: Tom Wright, Linda (Dietz) Jasa, Bill Stover

Third row: Tom Leffler, Allen Johnson, Mike Knight

Class of 1964 toured the museum on October 15, 2016 while in town for their class reunion.

Their class was instrumental in paying for the new flag pole.



Johnston Cub Scout Pack 244 from Beaver Creek Elementary School with their leader, Paul Wandeschied, while visiting the museum on October 16, 2016

## Work Day at the Museum



We held a Work Day at the Museum on Saturday, October 29, 2016. It was a beautiful fall day.

- Al Lathrum finished installing the siding on the bottom half of the new sign. (See photo above)
- Nancy Budrevich busied herself dumping bags of dirt around the foundation in hopes it might prevent leakage around the foundation we experience during rainy days.
- Deb Krambeck and Marilyn Coonley worked on the inside dusting and sweeping the floors. Lois Waggoner lended a helping hand in all areas.

*Recently Nancy and I (Deb), were at the museum when a young mother and her daughter came to our door. They had recently moved to Johnston and told us they were looking for some historical information for a homework assignment for the young girl. Her assignment was to find two historical facts that took place near their residence. We asked where they lived and found out they live near the Y Home at Merle Hay Rd, north of Beaver. Nancy found the binder that contains history of the YMCA Boys Home and the old Dutch Windmill. They were quite interested in the windmill story.*

*Although many of you may remember the old windmill, you may not know the history of its origin. I decided to share this story written by Mrs. Eunice Heard about the windmill landmark. Hope you enjoy reminiscing as I did. It goes as follows:*

## **Old Dutch is Landmark**

by Mrs. Eunice Heard

When you drive north on Beaver Road, cross over the Interstate and Beaver Creek, and continue north until the road divides, then turn to the left up the hill, you will be following "the ridge," as it was usually called. It is thought that the road followed an old Indian trail, for they had learned to stay on high ground to keep out of the ever-present mud in raining weather.

The ridge road continues northwest and leads to the YMCA Boys Home. There, out in the open lawn is located a large windmill known locally as "Old Dutch." Its story is very interesting.

It begins right after the first World War, when Frank C. Waterbury must have made many trips to and from Camp Dodge. Admiring the countryside, he decided to buy land for a farm and country home in the area. When the war was over, he went to the man who owned this land, a farm of 55 or more acres. The owner was blind and old and was willing to sell it to Mr. Waterbury but he wanted the payment in "hard money" so he could feel it. Mr. Waterbury found a way to get around that. He brought him \$50 in silver dollars, and paid him the rest by check. The man was so pleased with his dollars that the deal was quickly closed. This was in 1922.

Camp Dodge was being closed and small housing units called "Camp Dodge huts" could be bought and moved in very easily – a place for tools and equipment. Mr. Waterbury also built a little log house from trees cut on the property and this was used for picnics and weekends spent on the farm. (These were still in use on the grounds in 1970, when this story was written.)

His next purchase was two old streetcars being sold by the Des Moines Company. They were used to live in for long summer camping, and sometime later they were set apart and a large room added between the two sections to make a very pleasant country home that is still in use on the grounds.

Then Mr. Waterbury began his most exciting venture, and here is the story as told by his daughter, Mrs. Robert Colflesh, who lived there with her young family for the next 15 years. It goes as follows:

A salesman in Mr. Waterbury's business firm came to see the farm on his return from a business trip to Holland. He admired the farm and then said to Mr. Waterbury, "You have plenty of room out here – why don't you build a fine Dutch windmill in this sightly spot? I met a man in Holland who owns a fine one which he has to sell, as it is in the way of a civic improvement. He says it could be carefully dismantled and the machinery, the sails and the specifications for the building shipped to Des Moines. We can find an ex-Hollander to put it together again."

Mr. Waterbury thought it over – he had never been to Holland, although he had traveled long trips all over the world. He had seen pictures and trusted his salesman friend. The colorful structure was in place by 1925.

In its prime it became a showplace. A Dutch garden was planted around the base and tulips were around the garden. The new windmill looked very much at home and stood up sturdily to Iowa's gusty winds and storms. The windmill is officially 115 feet tall with seven floors. The wide sails or sweeps, as they were called were cared for and controlled in the two upper floors.

The spacious first floor has been used in many ways. It has about 400 square feet of space and was finished inside so it could be used for parties or a workshop, and in later years for storage of equipment.

The second floor was finished as a playroom for the children who would be growing up on the farm. There was a metal circular stairway from the first to the fifth floor for anyone to use who was hardy enough to take the open height.

The third floor contained a large water storage tank, for the windmill was planned to provide pump water for the farm use.

The fifth floor was reached by a ladder, and adventurous visitors could step out on the railed balcony. There they could walk around it and get an exceptional view of the countryside and Des Moines through the woods to the south.

The Waterbury family sold the farm, including the windmill, in 1942 to H. A. Ross, who turned it over to YMCA to be used as a home for boys. Later this became an independent corporation. It is a fine part of our community life.

More than 300 boys have lived there, and they regard "Old Dutch," as they fondly call it, as a symbol of their secure years of boyhood spent there.

*A campaign had begun in 1984 by a committee of Johnston residents to restore the windmill. The day of the meeting, April 27, 1984, in which they were to meet, a strong wind blew the windmill down, completely destroying it. The windmill had stood at the YMCA Boys Home site for 60 years. The effort of the committee became one of rebuilding it, as opposed to restoring it. It was later decided that it was cost prohibitive.*

## Thank You to Lois Waggoner

Although Lois is a 17-year member of the Johnston Historical Society, she joined the Board in 2014. She served one year on the Membership committee, but in her second year agreed to become president after Dick Hyde left. She has dedicated many hours to the job of president, planning events and coordinating with the city on activities involving us. She is very organized and has done a marvelous job going above and beyond her duties to make sure all is done.

Although Lois lives in Urbandale, she can be found many days at the museum working on something. She gives of her time unselfishly and loves to give tours of the museum to various groups to help promote it. She is our resident "picture taker" at events and provides us with photos for the newsletter.

Lois could be found often in the summer at our tent at the Johnston Farmers Market with handout promo items she purchased personally to help advertise the Johnston Historical Society.

A big THANK YOU for your kind and generous work as president for the past two years. Hopefully you will be available to help us on various occasions. We are sad you have decided not to run again for board and we will miss you. We are hoping you will remain active as a volunteer. Your expertise is vital.

## In Loving Memory.....

Long time Johnston resident, Carroll Broadie, 94, passed away on September 29, 2016.

He was born October 2, 1921 to Earl and Della Broadie. Following high school, Carroll worked for Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., and was employed there until his retirement in 1985. However, just shy of 21 years old, he entered the Army. Carroll was honorably discharged from the service in 1946 as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant.

Carroll married Lilly Mogensen on June 11, 1949, and they were blessed with two children. The family has resided in Johnston for over 60 years.

He had many interests and hobbies in his life, which included raising and showing Boxer dogs. During this time, Carroll helped form the Des Moines Dog Obedience Training Club, which remains active today. The family also raised and showed Appaloosa horses and Belgian Draft horses. These horses were featured in many shows, parades, and at Living History Farms. He also was an avid Iowa Hawkeye fan.

Following retirement, Carroll took an active role in volunteering in his community. He volunteered with numerous projects for Johnston Community Education, at Iowa Public Television, served on the church council and various committees at St. James Lutheran church. In addition, he helped with Living History Farms Grain Harvest Festivals. Most notably, he helped to form the Johnston Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service during his 10 years as Fire Chief. He also took part in many committees and council meetings such as:

- Member of the Johnston Senior Citizens Advisory Board
- Polk County Elderly Services Council
- Older Iowans Legislative representative
- Treasurer and member of the Iowa Aging Coalition
- Community Education Resource Council member
- Election Precinct Chairperson for Johnston
- Member of the Johnston Historical Society

Carroll was presented the "PARTNERS IN AGING" award by Governor Branstad in 1993, and he was Johnston Citizen of the Year in 1997.

Carroll is survived by his daughters, Judy (James) Briles and Cheryl Broadie and many grandchildren.

Preceding him death is his wife Lilly, parents, brother and sister.

His daughter, Judy, can be found during elections carrying on the duties first began by her dad as a Precinct Chairperson for Johnston, and her sister, Cheryl, works at the election poles also. Judy had this to say about her dad:

*Dad wasn't born in Johnston but Johnston became his "home" town. He loved Johnston. Our dad was the kind of guy, when he saw something that needed to be done to make things better, he would not hesitate to work and do just that. As you can see in his list of activities, he was always active and played a major role in senior citizens' rights and concerns.*

*He lived a long and good life. As a family, we are proud of our father's accomplishments, but most importantly he was a good role model in helping others. He will be missed by all of his family and friends.*

Judy Briles and Cheryl Broadie and all family members

## **Obituaries**

Obituaries are compiled by Nancy Budrevich. If anyone knows of others, please let Nancy know. Nancy can be contacted by mail: 6161 Northglenn Dr., Johnston, IA, 50131; by email: [jshs@q.com](mailto:jshs@q.com); or by phone: 515-331-0687. Over 1,000 Johnston related obituaries are now on file at the museum.

| <b>Name</b>                     | <b>Relationship to Johnston</b> | <b>Date of Death</b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Trent Folsom                    | Class of 2015                   | 9-13-16              |
| Larry Darr                      | Class of 1967                   | 9-23-16              |
| Lloyd McCabe                    | Class of 1958                   | 9-28-16              |
| Elizabeth "Liz" Peterson McCarl | Class of 1955 & JSHS Member     | 10-3-16              |
| James R. Lane                   | Class of 1973                   | 11-4-16              |
| Eva Louise Dunn O'Brien         | Class of 1962 & JSHS Member     | 11-15-16             |
| Jean Wigton Heldenbrand         | Class of 1942 & JSHS Member     | 11-30-16             |
|                                 |                                 |                      |
|                                 |                                 |                      |
| Joan Quam                       | Johnston Resident               | 9-2-16               |
| Al Dwaine Larson                | Johnston Resident               | 9-8-16               |
| Sally Ann Rhoads                | Johnston Resident               | 9-8-16               |
| Helen McCauley                  | Johnston Resident               | 9-13-16              |
| Paul Sweeney                    | Johnston Resident               | 9-14-16              |
| Linda Seely                     | Johnston Resident               | 9-15-16              |
| Joan Hansen                     | Johnston Resident               | 9-20-16              |
| John T. Casey                   | Johnston Resident               | 9-26-16              |
| Patricia Carroll                | Former Resident                 | 9-28-16              |
| Carroll Broadie                 | Johnston Res/former JSHS Mbr    | 9-29-16              |
| Maynard "Pete" Peterson         | Johnston Resident               | 9-30-16              |
| David Arlo Miller               | Johnston Resident               | 10-2-16              |
| Robert Doyle                    | Johnston Resident               | 10-11-16             |
| Joel H. Klisart                 | Johnston Resident               | 10-20-16             |
| Richard C. "Dick" Johnson       | Johnston Resident               | 10-23-16             |
| Madilyn Kay Allender            | Johnston Resident               | 10-31-16             |
| Rev. John F. Lorenz             | Johnston Resident               | 11-1-16              |
| Curtis L. Gearhart              | Johnston Resident               | 11-7-16              |
| Ronald Nielsen                  | Johnston Resident               | 11-11-16             |
| (Winona) Elizabeth Ripley       | Johnston Resident               | 11-23-16             |
|                                 |                                 |                      |
|                                 |                                 |                      |
|                                 |                                 |                      |



Johnston (Station) Historical Society

6161 Northglenn Dr

Johnston, IA 50131

## **Johnston Historical Board Members**

Lois Waggoner, President  
Deb Krambeck, Secretary  
Terri Holmgren, Archivist  
Alan Lathrum, Membership

Michael Knight, Vice President  
Nancy Budrevich, Treasurer  
Marilyn Coonley, Membership

Museum phone: 515-331-0687  
Website: [www.johnstoniowahistorical.org](http://www.johnstoniowahistorical.org)

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
to our members from the Johnston Historical Society Board*