

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 26, Issue 1

Newsletter

Spring 2018

From the President

They say it is spring, and I hope that someday that will be true.

We will be open on the 8th of April from 1 PM to 3 PM, which will include our first official meeting of the Board for the year.

This year we will be working along side Johnston Schools and the Johnston Library. We want to be part of the community and step forward to make sure people know that we are here and what we have to offer.

We have a Board that is more than willing to go the extra mile, but at the same time we need more members to come up with good ideas and are willing to help us to get those ideas accomplished.

We as Board Members are but the keeper of the keys and you, as members should help keep us going in the right direction.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your support in backing us as we try and maintain one of the best museums in central Iowa.

Michael B. Knight, President



2018 Board of Directors Johnston Historical Society

President: Michael Knight, 1964 Johnston High School graduate

Vice President: John Brown, resident

Secretary: Elaine Egan, resident

Treasurer: Nancy Budrevich, 1962 Johnston High School graduate

Archivist: Jan Jensen, resident

Associate Archivist: Liz Van Zomeren, resident

Membership Co-chairs: Marilyn Coonley and Al Lathrum, 1964 Johnston High School graduates

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ANNUAL MEETING & OPEN HOUSE of the Johnston Station Historical Society

Sunday, April 8, 2018
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Annual meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m.
Refreshments will be served.

Volunteer Opportunities

Got some time to spare? Join us at the Johnston Historical Society. We need help with the following:

- *Museum Greeters
- *Garden Help
- *Farmers Market Booth Attendees
- *Museum Cleaning
- *Event Planning
- *Mailings
- *Sharing a memory

Our greatest need is April through November. Leave a message at 515-331-0687 if you can help.

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:

Lois Waggoner
Ellen Frei
Marilyn Finney
Scott Temple
Mark Putney
Jackie Seibert
Mr. & Mrs. John Brown
Carla Johns
Roger Wigton
Denny & Candy Elwell Foundation
Janet Schuessler
Fred Schuler
Wesley Jordan
Nancy Budrevich

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of you for your generous donation of cash and items. With these gifts, we are able to maintain our rich history of Johnston.

Johnston Green Days 2018

Green Days again will be on the Johnston Commons, June 14 through June 17, 2018.

The museum will be open from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Saturday June 16th during this event. Stop in and say hello to your board members and other volunteers during this event.

First Step Completed in AASLH StEPs Program

We have our Bronze Certificate after completing the first steps under the leadership of board vice president, John Brown. This involves making sure we meet the standards and excellence of review developed by the American Association for State and Local History which we have joined. This is part of the campaign to increase our visibility and will add to our credibility when applying for grants or other monies as the need arises.

Museum Hours

The museum will open on April 8 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Our regular hours will be the second Sunday of each month from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. through November.

If that time isn't convenient, please leave a message at 515-331-0687 to schedule another time.

Inter-Urban Railway Electric Substation at Brennan Last surviving connection to the interurban railway and Johnston Station?



On the west edge of the property of ACCO Unlimited north of NW Johnston Drive, stands, as it has for 101 years, a square dark brick building. Walkers and riders on the Interurban Bike Trail pass it each time they travel the trail to the ice cream store or another link on the trail. Do they know what it was and its importance to Johnston back in the early 1900's?

The Interurban railway ran from Des Moines to Perry, via Johnston Station, Camp Dodge, Herrold, and Granger. Delivering goods and people to the various stops, it would stop in the Lovington area and at the spot where it crossed Merle Hay Road, to pick up passengers when flagged down. Then it would continue to the station to complete a delivery. That big brown building was one of six transfer stations providing power to the Interurban line as it traveled to and from Des Moines. The brick building is approximately 28 by 28 feet and one and a half stories tall. There are only three left in the Des Moines area—two in Des Moines and the one in Johnston.

The stop in our area became known as Johnston Station, named after its station master, John Johnston. The area known as Johnston Station continued to grow, eventually becoming the City of Johnston which was incorporated in 1969.

The Inter-Urban Railroad was incorporated in 1899 and in 1902 a line was built to Colfax. In 1906 the line to Perry was built. In 1917 and 1918 it provided military traffic to Camp Dodge. In 1922 it was renamed the Des Moines and Central Iowa Railroad. Again during WWII it thrived with transportation between Des Moines and Camp Dodge. In 1949 passenger service was stopped on the line through Johnston. The trains went to diesel engines and continued to provide freight service to industrial areas. In 1968 the line was sold to the Chicago & North Western Railroad. Many of us remember the engineer sounding the horn (can't really call it a whistle) as it went past the football field during Friday night games. Might have even stopped and watched the game a few times. The track is no longer running along that field; it all has been removed through Johnston.

ACCO Unlimited is in the process of planning a construction project for their property at 5105 NW Johnston Drive. Part of their plan is to demolish the inter-urban substation located on this property. ACCO has indicated a willingness to donate the building to the City of Johnston if it can be relocated prior to the planned construction in the late summer or early fall of 2018.

Inter-Urban Railway (continued)

The City of Johnston, the Johnston Historical Society and other interested parties are exploring options for usage and relocation in order to preserve this building. Suggestions have been made as to what to do with this building. Everything from a museum in Johnston Commons or a trail rest stop to a Kayak/Canoe Rental Facility in the planned Gateway Water Trail.

If a reasonable use and location for this building can be found, would you be willing to make a commitment to contribute to the cost of moving and restoring this facility? A post card is included in this newsletter to indicate your choice. Fundraising, grants and other financial efforts will need to be made to save this building. Please mark the card and return as soon as possible.

No Society funds were used to do post card included with the newsletter; paper and postage was donated.

Meet Elaine Egan New Secretary Johnston Board of Directors



I was born in Ottumwa, Iowa. My family moved to the Denver area when I was 14. I graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a degree in elementary education and taught 4th grade in St. Francis, Kansas for almost 4 years. After a move back to Denver I joined Mountain Bell where I spent the next 32 years, retiring in 2010 as a computer systems analyst.

One of my passions is local history and, while living in Westminster, CO, I served as secretary of the Westminster Historical Society and, for the past two years, as director of the Bowles House Museum. My specialty was designing programming for school children and creating exhibits.

I met my husband, Larry, in college and we have been married 42 years. We have a daughter and son-in-law (Erin and Jeremy) who live in Wichita, KS with our grandchildren, Dillon and Taylor. Our son Ryan and his wife, Devin, live in Johnston with our grandson, Hunter. Our youngest child, Alex, is a sport broadcaster in Fargo, ND. Because family is so important we spend a lot of spare time watching grandchildren participate in baseball games and hockey tournaments. We moved to Johnston in July 2017 and are excited to be a part of the community.

Celebrating Christmas 2017 at the Museum



Vintage Tree at the
Museum

Our Christmas event was a wonderful success. Board members treated visitors to cookies, hot cocoa, and coffee while youngsters strung popcorn and made paper chains to decorate the museum trees.

More than 30 people toured the museum and received a gift bag of cocoa mix. Visitors included the A. J. Simpson family. A. J. is a grandson of the family who lived in the home since the 1950's and donated the house to the historical society.



Board members
Nancy, Mike, Marilyn, Al, Jan
and John



A. J. Simpson Family



Tom Leffler and Jan
helping a young
boy string popcorn
and cranberries

CONDOLENCES

JSHS MEMBER Michael Voorhees, passed away on March 1, 2018. As a lifelong resident of Johnston, Mike graduated in the Johnston High School class of 1959 and was involved in our community. He is survived by his wife Kristine, 3 children and a brother (Jeff).

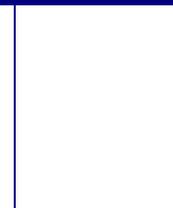
We have also been notified that Jeanne Swanson Landgren has died. Jeanne graduated with Johnston Class of 1941 and has been a member of JSHS since 1997.

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; or by phone: 515-331-0687. Over 1,000 Johnston related obituaries are now on file at the museum.

Name	Relationship to Johnston	Date of Death
Thurmadene Lester Garrison	Class of 1952	1/24/2018
Barbara Richards Milliman	Class of 1954	1/15/2018
Maxine Monahan Diers	Class of 1955	12/15/2017
Gary L. Sellner	Class of 1959	12/11/2017
Michael G. Voorhees	Class of 1959	3/1/2018
Lola Perin Foster	Class of 1963	6/28/2017
Robert C Stenstrom	Class of 1963	2/13/2018
Sheila Fleener Ludwig	Class of 1968	3/20/2017
Gary L. O'Leary	Class of 1977	10/15/2017
Jacqueline Lockard Sims	Class of 1980	1/30/2018
Nancy Hagler -Williams	Class of 1983	1/6/2018
Iona Marie Ansorge	Teacher	12/3/2017
Daniel G Weiss	Teacher	10/15/2017
Kathryn Herr	Johnston Resident	10/21/2017
Rosemary Jeffries	Johnston Resident	11/23/2017
Margaret Carlson	Former Resident	12/12/2017
Craig Henning	Former Resident	12/16/2017
Robert Reineke	Former Resident	1/8/2018
Marianne Stinson	Johnston Resident	12/2/2017
William Sawdey	Johnston Resident	
Donna Wessendorf	Johnston Resident	12/18/2017
K. Steve Deaton	Johnston Resident	12/20/2017
James "Fred" Thompson	Johnston Resident	1/2/2018
George Carroll	Former Johnston Resident	1/18/2018
Walter "Ike" Eichhorn	Johnston Resident	1/24/2018
LaRay Chapman	Johnston Resident	1/31/2018
Jean Allen	Johnston Resident	2/2/2018
Betty Baker	Johnston Resident	2/7/2018
Luciano Fiori	Johnston Resident	2/14/2018
James "Don" Jessen	Johnston Resident	2/22/2018
Jerry Hibbs	Johnston Resident	2/24/2018
Rosemary Larkin	Johnston Resident	3/1/2018
Mary Alderson	Johnston Resident	3/2/2018
John and Kathleen Eernisse	Johnston Residents	2/15 & 3/10/2018

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



Mission Statement

The purpose of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society is to bring people together who are interested in the history and preservation of the Johnston area, which includes the early settlements of Johnston Station, Beaver Creek Settlement, Ridgedale, Huntsville, Herrold and Dodge City.

To this goal, we work to get the community engaged and involved in Johnston's rich history by providing a museum and events to the public.

Johnston Historical Board Members

Michael Knight, President
Elaine Egan, Secretary
Jan Jensen, Archivist
Marilyn Coonley, Membership

John Brown, Vice President
Nancy Budrevich, Treasurer
Liz Van Zomeren, Associate Archivist
Alan Lathrum, Membership

Museum phone: 515-331-0687
Website: www.johnstoniowahistorical.org

**The museum will be open the 2nd Sunday of each month, 1:00p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Other times by appointment
If you are interested in a tour, please call the museum phone and leave a message.**