

# Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 22, Issue 2

Newsletter

Summer 2014

## Welcome Summer 2014

What a beautiful sight to see flowers and trees in bloom. After the dreadful Iowa winter we just experienced, it is definitely a welcome sight. The museum is open again and we're excited about the improvements and activities that are planned.

Spring cleaning is taking place, flower gardens are being worked with the addition of some annuals to brighten areas. We thank Carla Johns for her faithful work in the flowers.

Nancy Budrevich is busy planning the second annual garage sale. She has been working on getting the word out to the members.

Deb Krambeck has been spending her winter in Arizona but is back on the job and will be helping Nancy with the set-up for the garage sale. She has also assisted Carla in the flower gardens, planting some annuals.

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## Annual Garage Sale

We look forward to holding our second annual Garage (Barn) Sale in the Simpson Barn Friday, July 11, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Saturday, July 12, from 8 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Items have started coming in from donors for the garage sale. If you have not done so, look around your house or when you do your spring cleaning, perhaps there are things you might want to dispose of. Keep us in mind.

As you know, we are non-profit, so a receipt will be provided for all items donated.

Items can be brought to the museum during the days we are open which are: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 2-4:00 p.m. We are also open on the second Sunday of the month at the same time. You can also bring items on Thursday, July 10, directly to the Barn.

Any questions, or to schedule a delivery time other than the times listed above, call Nancy Budrevich at 255-4030.

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Welcome summer cont.

Jan Jensen has finished upholstering the chairs around the dining room table. The floors in the parlor, living room, and dining rooms have been refurbished. They look so much nicer. Some of the furniture items have been better located in the house making it look more like the home it once was. Jan has done an awesome job changing things around as well as working on the restoration of the Johnston High School senior pictures.

Lois Waggoner, one of our newer members, has been working on promotional items for us to advertise the museum as well as signs to place outside when the museum is open for visitors. She also has a slide presentation for viewing at the Farmers Market, which she regularly sets up.

Al Lathrum, the other new member, placed bug bombs in the museum to rid it of the many spiders. He is currently trying to patch the leaks in the foundation in the areas where the beams were placed to move the house to this location. Although he has had some health issues to deal with, he is looking into replacing the front storm door.

## **Farmers Market**

The Johnston Farmers Market began May 20, 2014. We will once again have a tent and table set up to advertise the museum. Hopefully we will be able to obtain some new members this year.

We thank Lois for working the market so faithfully with the help of Nancy to start the season. Other board members will be there also. If you go to the Farmers Market, stop by the tent and say hi to whoever is working that day. The market is open from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday.

## **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:

Michelle & John Brown  
Charles Burkett  
Nick Orlich  
Eva O'Brien  
Judy Christy  
Vivian Kinsey  
Joanne Heidman Rock & Richard Rock  
Beverly Christofferson  
Donella Lint

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.

## **Paint Estimates**

We are currently getting estimates to have the pillars, windows and trim painted on the museum. This project is overdue, as much of the paint is peeling. In addition to painting, we are in need of two new doors, a storm door on the front and new back door. We currently have \$4,300 in the maintenance fund and should receive a \$500 grant. We estimate the total will be approximately \$7,500. Our goal is to complete as much as our funds will permit by end of summer. Much of the work will have to wait until we get more funds.

## **New Members**

Since opening at the Farmers Market, we have added Christine Rocha to our Members list. We are hoping to add many more names this year.

## The Story of Moses & Mary (Sherbourn) Lawson

Elizabeth A. Lawson was the daughter of Moses and Mary (Sherbourn) Lawson. Their farm was the land between Lower Beaver Road and the Des Moines River. The family ran a ferry across the river.

There were six children in this family: John, Linnie, Frank, Edward, Minnie and Elizabeth who was known by her nickname, Ad.

Nick & Elizabeth had three children. Frank, the first son married and moved to Texas with his first wife Dollie Wilson. They had three children. Dollie died in childbirth. Frank then married Leona Wise, and they had seven children.

The third child of Nick & Elizabeth Otto was their daughter, Nellie. She was born in 1901. Nellie was a graduate of the first class of the new Johnston High School that was built on land from the Otto farm.

Nellie married Ernest Betz. They first farmed on land that is now the Johnston Commons. Together they had four children: John, Beverly, Homer and Alan.

The second son born to Nick & Elizabeth was Arlie Vincent (A.V.), born June 1895. Arlie went to the country school that was on old Highway 141 that ran through Johnston. After grade school he attended 9th grade in Herrold, Iowa. Since there wasn't any further schooling in Johnston, he rode either his bike or horse to the Des Moines University that was located in Des Moines at 2nd and Euclid, the Highland Park area.

Arlie started farming in 1916 on a farm that is now part of the Iowa National Guard area. Arlie married Lenora Kuefner in August 1917 and was drafted 2 months later. He was sent to France for 19 months. After the war, he farmed for two years. In 1922 he started his gas station business. Over the years he sold gas, coal, oil, ice, groceries and Dodge cars.

Arlie and Lenora had five children: Donald V, Arlene Lenora, Robert Christian, Betty Lou, and Margaret A. Otto.

Donald, their first child was born January 21, 1920 and married Dorothy Dust. They had a daughter, Donna Lou. After 43 years of marriage, Dorothy died and Don moved to California where Donna resided. Before moving to California, Don sold his gas station. He was well known in Johnston as he owned and operated the Deep Rock gas station on Merle Hay Road for 45 years. He was well known for his good service and friendly smile.

The second born, Arlene was born in September 1921. Arlene was the Johnston Postmaster for the years prior to marrying Bill Murray. Bill and Arlene ran the grocery business before Bill was drafted into the Army. They had one daughter, Elizabeth who lives with her husband in Florida.

Robert Christian Otto was born July 1924. Bob married Elizabeth (Betty) Comer. Betty worked at the post office in Johnston. Bob and Betty had six children, Steven, Nora Ann, Diane, Nicky, Jeff and Greg. Bob was in the Air Force and when he returned from the service he entered Drake University. Bob worked as a teacher at various schools ending his career as principal of Johnston for 19 years before retiring. He was active in working on the Johnston Historical Society and then helping to compile names and address of Johnston Alumni. Bob died in 2002.

Their fourth child, Betty Lou was born June 1927. Betty married Harold L. Gandy. They both graduated in 1945 from Johnston High School. They have three children, Jim, Susan and John. They lived in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Texas before retiring.

Arlie and Lenora's last child was Margaret A. Otto who married Jason Beck. They have 2 children, Alan and Janice. Janice has written several books on Iowa the first being Iowa Trivia and her latest "Amazing Iowa". Margaret also ran the family grocery store for several years. Margaret and Jason moved to Lake Panorama years ago.

## 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](mailto: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 names of Johnston graduates. We are now printing names of Johnston residents, or those individuals that have been a part of the community. They will be listed as Resident under the class column.

| Name                | Class            | Date of Death |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Frederick Loveridge | 1955             | 2-19-14       |
| Kent S. Anderson    | 1998             | 3-3-14        |
| R. Michael Peterson | 1972             | 4-10-14       |
| Peter Schaefer      | Resident         | 1-5-14        |
| Janice Brubaker     | Resident         | 1-8-14        |
| William F. Mayer    | Resident         | 1-14-14       |
| Bobbie Sala         | Resident         | 1-14-14       |
| Lino Bernal         | Resident         | 1-18-14       |
| Ellen Recknor       | Resident         | 2-19-14       |
| Virginia Slusark    | Resident         | 2-19-14       |
| Donald Peitzman     | Res & JHS member | 2-22-14       |
| Denise Cox          | Resident         | 3-11-14       |
| Dorothy Dunton      | Res & Bus owner  | 3-14-14       |
| Paul Fleischacker   | Resident         | 3-20-14       |
| Eugene Knepper      | Resident         | 4-7-14        |
| David Smith         | Resident         | 4-10-14       |
| Randy Brubaker      | Resident         | 5-13-14       |
| Albert Kuefner      | Former Res       | 5-19-14       |
| Mark Kimble         | Resident         | 5-21-14       |
|                     |                  |               |
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## **Current School News**

### **Johnston High School Soccer Team**

We congratulate the Johnston High School soccer team for representing our town and school in the recent state soccer tournament. The undefeated Johnston Dragons (21-0) went to the state finals on June 10, 2014 matched up against the Iowa City West team in class 3A with high hopes to bring home the state trophy. The top-ranked Dragons lost by the same score line to Iowa City West as they did in the 2012 championship game, 1-0.

Johnston's dominant performance during the match seemed sure to bring them their first state championship win. It was not to be when the Iowa City Trojans (21-1) scored one goal in the second half. Unfortunately Johnston's top scorer, sophomore Eliver Ibisevic was sent to the bench with a yellow card with 9 minutes remaining in the game.

Regardless, the Johnston Dragons have no reason to hang their heads. They played an outstanding game and their record says it all. They ended with a 21-1 season record, which is certainly something to be proud of. It was their best performance of the week and they played a quality game. Congratulations. You made us proud.

## **Johnston School's Centennial Celebration**

### **Centennial All-Class Reunion** September 25-27, 2014

Plans are being made for the weekend which includes a Hospitality Room for Registered Alumni, a Parade, Football Game, Alumni Reception and After Reunion Gatherings. According to the School Website, there will also be a Golf Outing-Four Person Best Ball. For more detail, see the school's website: [www.johnston.k12.ia.us/Centennial](http://www.johnston.k12.ia.us/Centennial).

### **Souvenirs**

Centennial Souvenirs are available for purchase at the Johnston Community Education Office, 5608 Merle Hay Road. You may also order online and pick up items at the Community Education Office. Alumni from out of town that order items can pick them up during the all-class weekend. Online orders will not be mailed. If interested, order soon, as there will be limited quantities.

Items available are a commemorative brick (2" x 3" for \$5.00), a window cling of the official 100 year centennial logo (4" x 5" for \$5.00), coasters with various Johnston logos (set of 4 for \$20), and a window cling centennial supporter (8.5" x 11" for \$25). See Souvenir page on the website for more information.

## Johnston Historical Board Members

Dick Hyde, President  
Deb Krambeck, Secretary  
Jan Jensen, Archivist  
Alan Lathrum, Membership

Nancy Budrevich, Vice President  
Carla Johns, Treasurer  
Lois Waggoner, Membership

### Mark Your Calendars

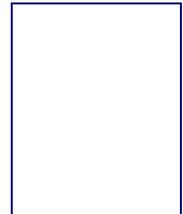
July 11 & 12, 2014

Garage Sale to be held in Simpson Barn.  
See article for times.

September 25-27, 2014

Centennial All-Class Reunion

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



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