

# Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 18, Issue 6

Newsletter

November 2010

## President's Column:

It has been a busy two months since the last newsletter. The basement has been cleaned up and organized. Carla and Jackie have cleaned up the flower beds and they are in excellent condition. Bulbs were planted this fall for spring color. Jan is placing the obituaries in acid free document protectors to preserve them for the years to come. This project is almost completed. Jan is also working to complete the lettering on the recently refurbished outdoor signs.

The following displays have been updated: Camp Dodge during WWI, The Interurban, and The Building of the Camp Dodge Road in 1917, The Tiles of History, and The Historic

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## Dues are Due

Annual dues are due for 2011. Dues are \$12.00 and are used to help maintain the Museum and preserve the history of Johnston.

Dues can be paid by cash or check by mailing them to the Johnston Historical Society, 6161 Northglenn Drive, Johnston, IA 50131.

You may also pay your dues in person at the Museum Tuesday through Thursday or the second Sunday of the month, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

## Newsletter by Email

If you wish to receive your newsletter by email, please send a note with your dues. Thanks.

Houses of Johnston. The displays still being updated are: The History of Merle Hay Road, The History of the Johnston School System, and the Stagecoach Route through Johnston.

If any members can think of other topics about Johnston's history for displays please let me know.

We continue to experience increased visitation to the Museum. In the months of August, September and October we had over 150 visitors. Thanks to the volunteers that keep the Museum open three afternoons a week.

Dick Hyde  
Board President

### **Johnston History Quiz Now and Then**

**Now:** How many computers are currently used in the Johnston School District?

**Then:** In what year was the first Johnston High School annual published?

Answers are on the top of page 6

## **Mark Your Calendars**

### **December:**

Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> from 2-4p.m. We will have an open house to view the holiday decorations thanks to Carla and Jackie. We will have cookies, coffee, and hot chocolate. Come and enjoy the museum during the holidays.

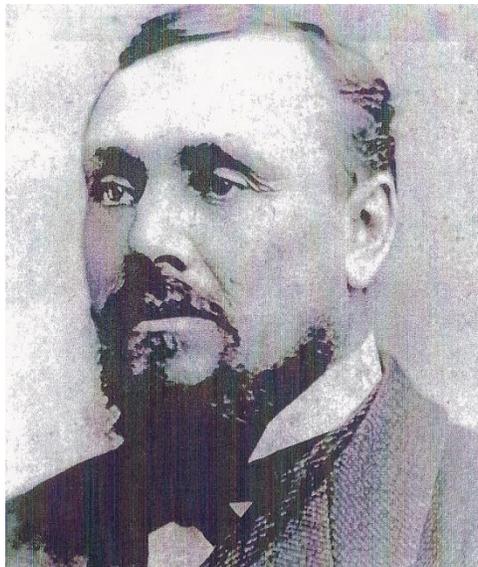
### **January:**

Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup> from 12-2p.m. we will be having our annual meeting when the board will inform the membership on the actions taken in 2010 and the overall status of the society. There will be a chili lunch following the presentation. All members are encouraged to attend.

## **Kinsey Family has Deep Roots in Johnston**

Carla Kinsey Johns, the current treasurer of the Board of Directors for the Johnston Historical Society, can trace her roots back to one of Johnston's first settlers, her great-great grandfather Edward Kinsey. Edward was born in Wales in 1835 and immigrated to America at age 19. He first settled in Ohio but moved west to Polk County, Iowa in 1855 where he continued to farm. His 145 acre farm and original home were located in the 5100 block of N.W. 62nd Avenue not far from the current intersection of N.W. 62nd and Beaver Drive. A new home was built on the same property in 1891.

In 1856 Edward married Marilda Wolf. They had five children. Emma, Elmer, and Fred lived to adulthood and spent all of their lives in Polk County. Emma married Simon Shiffer and lived in Grimes. Fred married Nellie Temple and lived in Edward's original home before they built a home on the Ridge. Elmer had two children who lived to adulthood with his first wife Margaret Shaw. They were Archie Kinsey (Carla's grandfather) and Mamie. While many of the Kinsey family have since moved to other parts of the country, many descendants of Edward continue to live in the Johnston area. Carla, who actively maintains family records, can count eight of Archie's grandchildren and their families who are still close by.



Edward Kinsey

## The Peptomist

The Johnston Historical Society Museum has copies of a Johnston all-school paper called the Peptomist that are dated 1936, 1937, and 1938. Following are a few selected excerpts:

**First Grade:** We've had our piano tuned recently, so we are looking forward to a better Rhythm Band practice

**Third Grade:** We have a baby squirrel. We had two but one died.

**Fifth Grade:** We have learned not to use tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. We have also learned how to ventilate a room.

**Sixth Grade:** On our new bulletin board we are keeping a good citizen chart. So far there are only a few names on the chart.

**Junior High:** It seems that the Junior High girls spend considerable time on knitting. Some of the girls are making pocketbooks, knitting bags, sweaters, and many other different articles.

**Freshman:** The girls Home Economics Class and the boys Horticulture Class are going to Veisha at Ames, May 13.

**Sophomore:** The sophomore girls entertained the boys of the sophomore class by preparing and serving the following dinner: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, baked beans, cabbage salad, angel food cake and tea.

**Junior Class Play:** "Shirt Sleeves: A Domestic Comedy in Three Acts  
Children 15cents    Adults 25 cents

**Senior Class:** The seniors had a very enjoyable time at a party held at the school house. An appetizing supper was served in the Home Economics room. After supper was finished everyone went on a scavenger hunt. The limited time was half-hour. All were back by this time but one car.

## 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. Over 700 Johnston School related obituaries are now on file at the museum.

Name	Class of	Date of Death
Hugh Stints	1939	3-20-10
Penny Lyn Mulhern Engeldinger	1984	11-7-2010
Steven Dale Kinsey	1967	10-24-10
Ruth Biddle	1942	10-3-10
Richard "Bud" Fischer	1947	7-25-10
Joan Blakley Moon	1957	8-6-10
Jerry Bullis	1963	6-8-10
Ellen McCurdy Steinberger	1963	5-22-10
Sally Boley Pierson	1967	6-18-10
Elizabeth A Cenor	1971	9-18-10
Emily A Prendergast	2009	9-16-10

## Board Election

**Sharon Hyde:** She was born to Dick and Linda Hyde in July 1961 and graduated from Johnston High School in 1979. She joined the Iowa Army National Guard in 1982 and retired from active duty in February 2009 after 27 years. She was deployed for Desert Shield/Desert Storm 1990-1991 with the 1034th QM Co., Iowa Army National Guard. She is now a government contractor at USPFO, Iowa Army National Guard. She has one son, Skyler Hyde, who is a senior at Johnston High School. She still resides in Johnston a block from where she grew up.

**Chris Kinsey:** I grew up in Johnston and graduated from Johnston High School in 1974, the last class to graduate out of the old high school. I currently live in Polk City with my wife, Mary, and youngest daughter, Paige. Since 1988 I have operated Kinsey Trucking out of Johnston. My interests include old Victorian Homes, vintage machinery of most any kind. I also am a volunteer tour guide at Terrace Hill in Des Moines.

**Board Member Election Ballot**  
**Due by January 10<sup>th</sup> 2011**

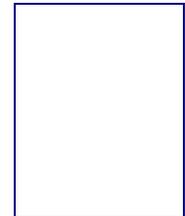
Chis Kinsey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharon Hyde	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Answers to the History Quiz**

Now: 2030

Then: 1928

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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

