

# 1 Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 19 , Issue 5

Newsletter

September/October

## President's Column:

In the past two months there have been a lot of things going on at the Museum. Jan is in the process of refurbishing the class pictures in the old carousel and placing other class pictures in the new carousel. Carla and Jackie continue to tend the gardens and will plant more tulips this fall.

The Board of Directors has voted to raise membership dues from \$12 a year to \$15 a year effective January 2012. The costs of printing and mailing the newsletter have risen along with other costs necessary to maintain the Museum.

It has been brought to our attention

*Continued on page 2*



## 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.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Column
- 2 Carla's Brownie Recipe
- 3 Letters Home
- 4 Letters Home Continued
- 5 School and City News
- 6 Mark Your Calendars

that some of the cemeteries in Johnston are in run down condition. Some stones need to be reset and general maintenance is required. We will be asking for volunteers in the spring to assist us in this project.

We encourage you to bring a guest and visit the Museum. Visitors are always surprised by all the Museum has to offer. We are open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and the second Sunday of each month from 2 p.m. to 4p.m.

Dick Hyde  
Board President

## Johnston History Quiz

Answers are on the bottom of page 5

1. The first meeting of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society was called to order on May 25th of what year?
  - a. 2001
  - b. 1989
  - c. 1994
  
2. Who was the first president of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society?
  - a. Lowell Temple
  - b. Bob Otto
  - c. Mary Ann Roberts

## Carla's Famous Brownies

Carla Kinsey Johns has treated members and guests of the Johnston Historical Society to her homemade chocolate brownies at several of the Society's meetings. The reaction has been so overwhelmingly favorable, we decided to share the recipe with all of our members.

### Rocky Road Brownies

One package of chocolate brownie mix  
One bag of miniature marshmallows  
One box of Hershey's Cocoa mix

Bake the brownies as per instruction on the box. During the last 10 minutes of bake time add the bag of marshmallows

Let cool and then frost with the frosting recipe on the Hershey's Cocoa box.

Serve and enjoy!

## Thank You

Thanks to Deb Robinette Krambeck for donating a Commemorative Brick in memory of Bee and Margaret Robinette.

## Letters Home

The Johnston Historical Society Museum has in its collection a book written by Donald Duvick titled, "Recollections of Military Service in World War II". Mr. Duvick was a company clerk for a combat engineer battalion during World War II. Brief excerpts from the many letters he wrote home between 1943 and 1946 appear below.

Duren, Germany March 20, 1945

One morning I woke up and looked out and saw telephone and electric light poles with the wires all down and houses all bombed up and fields not worked, and I knew we were in Germany. We are in town now, no civilians here at all, living in the least ruined houses. Every single house is riddled, windows broken, walls and roof blown out, belongings in heaps on floor. People left in such a hurry nothing was taken away. The front - the battle line - is about 25 miles away, but it is very quiet and peaceful around here, except for the shattered houses and German and American equipment littering the ground.

Bruck, Germany March 26, 1945

I boiled my laundry for a few hours in an aluminum kettle over a wood fire by the creek, and then rinsed the clothes out in a clear brook yesterday afternoon. I took the things down today, and they are about as clean as any laundry I have done yet.

Bonn, Germany April 2, 1945

Getting a little closer to the front all the time. Can hear the artillery across the Rhine rumbling now and then. *Recollection written later: One morning the sky was filled with bombers flying east. They had come from England. Somewhat later flocks of fighters buzzed over coming from France. We learned later that they were coordinated in a bombing attack on German troops just across the Rhine, just before allied troops crossed over, to begin the last push across Germany to meet the Soviets coming from the other direction.*

Warburg, Germany April 11, 1945

Guess what I had last nite - a full canteen cup of fresh cold milk - not condensed or evaporated but fresh from the cow. Boy, was that swell. This town I'm in now is a farming community and the dairy was captured intact. So for every meal so far I've had a full cup of milk.

Weiman, Germany May 8, 1945

Yesterday was VE Day. It didn't seem unusual - a few fellows got drunk, but that happens every few days, anyhow. In fact 4 German planes flew over First Army headquarters. I saw two of them, heard anti-aircraft firing at them and saw one nose down to the ground. I heard they were pilots who wanted to surrender to the U.S. rather than the Russians. I went through Buchenwald concentration camp, located a few miles out of here. It was pretty horrible. Hard to believe.

Bensberg, Germany June 13, 1945

I read in Stars and Stripes tonite that the non-fraternization has been lifted to allow us to at least speak to the little kids I'm glad of that, for it is really hard not to talk to some of them, they are so cute.

Maastricht, Holland August 14, 1945

V-J Day! 11:00 P.M.

Well - today's the day - the whole thing is over! Six years ago today I didn't think I'd be here when this event came - and I didn't think it would take six years.



*Donald and Selma Duvick were founding members and generous contributors to the Johnston Historical Society Donald died on May 23, 2005. He was Senior Vice-President of Pioneer Hi-Bred International.*

## **Johnston Graduate is New Miss Iowa**

Jessica Pray, a 2010 graduate of Johnston High School, won the title of Miss Iowa on June 11, 2011. She is seen in the photograph below participating in the Johnston High School 2012 Homecoming Parade.



### **Best Small Town Award**

The city of Johnston has been ranked 13th in the 2011 "America's Best Small Towns" rankings by CNN/Money. A small town was defined as having a population of 50,000 or under. Johnston has a population of 15,500 residents. This award is a credit to the dedication and service of many generations of Johnston's leaders and citizens. Congratulations to the Johnston Community on this prestigious designation.

### **Roundabouts In Johnston**

Northwest 62nd Avenue, previously known as Johnston Road, will be renovated to four lanes and will feature four roundabouts. The roundabouts will be located at Pioneer Parkway, South Drive, and at two Pioneer Hi-Bred entrances. The bridge over Beaver Creek will also be widened to four lanes. A fall 2012 completion date is estimated.

### **Answers to History Quiz**

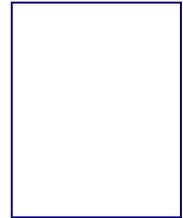
- c. 1994
- b. Bob Otto

## Mark Your Calendars

**October:** Wednesday October 12th 5pm until 7pm there will be a chili supper in the barn. bring a guest and enjoy an evening with friends. A free will donation will be excepted.

**November:** Wednesday, November 9th 5p.m. to 7 p.m. Our annual Thanksgiving dinner will be held in the Barn. Members and guests are welcome. The meal will consist of turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, bread and butter and pumpkin pie. A free will donation will

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