

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 25, Issue 1

Newsletter

Spring 2017

From the Desk of the President

I hope everyone enjoyed the mild winter and now you are ready for spring. This year I bring you good news, that we have acquired two new members to the Board. They are Elizabeth Van Zomeren and John Brown. With their arrival they bring with them enthusiasm and a fresh outlook and new ideas for the Museum.

I have just created a new Face Book Group page for the Johnston Historical Museum. If you are a Face Book Member please feel free to join our Group. Simply go to (Johnston Station Historical Society and Museum) on Face Book and click to join. With this you will be able to follow us in the pursuit of new changes, events and meetings we plan to have in the future.

Michael B. Knight, President



2017 JSHS Board of Directors

Michael Knight is a 1964 graduate of Johnston High School.

Marilyn Coonley is a 1964 graduate of Johnston High School.

Deb Krambeck is a 1963 graduate of Johnston High School.

Nancy Budrevich is a 1962 graduate of Johnston High School.

Al Lathrum is a 1964 graduate of Johnston High School.

Jan Jensen is a Johnston resident.

Elizabeth VanZomeren is Johnston resident.

John Brown is a Johnston resident.

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ANNUAL MEETING & OPEN HOUSE of the Johnston Station Historical Society

Sunday April 23, 2017
1:00-4:00 P.M.

Annual Meeting will be held at 2:00 P.M.
Refreshments will be served.
Join us for a chance to win a door prize.

Annual Membership Dues

We recently sent postcards to those who, according to our records, have not paid their dues for 2017. If you have not paid your dues, please do so soon.

The annual dues are \$20. Make checks payable to the Johnston Station Historical Society. Our address is 6161 Northglenn Dr., Johnston, IA 50131

Volunteer Opportunities

We are seeking members who might be interested in volunteering at the museum. We could use someone to assist during open times or with special projects, help with museum tours, man a booth at the Farmers Market, help on cleaning days, share memories with guests, help in the garden, help with mailings, etc. This would be from April through November and we would call in advance. Please call and leave a message if you're able to 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:

Carla Johns
Scott Temple
Donella Lint
Don Heldenbrand
Margaret Beck
John Brown
Pauline Osentowski
Vivian Zimmerman
Howard Hunt
Wesley Jordan
Linda & Larry Zeiger
Joseph Miller
Mark Putney
Denny Elwell
Fred Schuler
Roger & Betty Wigton
Thomas Rock
Jean McGonigal

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

Museum Hours for the Johnston Station Historical Society

Second Sunday of each month
1:00-3:00 p.m.

Please call the museum to schedule a personal tour at another time

Museum phone 515-331-0687
Alternate phone Nancy at 515-255-4030

Welcome Back

Jan Jensen has been re-elected to the JSHS Board this year and will serve as archivist. She and Liz will be working together in this position on displays and accumulating more items for the museum.

Researching a Memory

Giving a name to building--possible after 60 years?

I grew up in “Dogpatch” and rode the school bus each day, so did not spend much time in Johnston proper. The Station was only contact off the school grounds I knew about. Getting the “older kids” to buy treats for you at the station during lunch period and then the thrill when you were old enough to go to the station yourself was part of my education. Then being able to walk to Elwell’s during lunch and buying whole dill pickles was great—couldn’t doddle as could not be late back to school!

The memory is of a field trip in the 50's. The store was on the south side of the street (now known as NW 62nd) across from *the* grocery store—Elwell’s, but not directly across and a little bit west of there. This memory grows, unsubstantiated, safely resting in the mind as a perfect memory of school years at Johnston Consolidated School. Mrs. Helen Berry, Home Economics teacher at Johnston Consolidated School, took her class on a “walking field trip” to a fabric store just down the street from the school. It seemed a dark narrow place, not much outside light coming in but there was electric light. Maybe dim because walked in from sunshine bright out of doors?? For some, it was the first time in a fabric store. The owner discussed patterns and sewing different types of fabric; needles and threads; buttons and zippers. Showing her goods with pride and knowledge. And we got to look and plan what we might want for our first sewing project in class.

First question brought up in the search for a name of this building in Johnston: Do you remember a fairly long dark building, on the south side of the street that the school was on, that might have been a variety store? No one knew of such a building, so search began. It was east across the train/inter-urban tracks, but no pictures found showed such a building like the memory held “in my mind's eye.”

I’m told, originally it was called Carter’s Grocery Store. Research at museum shows Mrs. (Amelia) Carter ran the store from 1915-1950 on the southwest corner of NW62nd and Merle Hay Road. My memory would be about 1957-59. Pictures of this building do not show what I wanted to see.

Carters was in a 1 ½ story building with an addition to the south that held 2 other shops. The last one on the end was a barber shop—originally Worthy Surber’s and eventually became the Johnston Barber Shop. Was the space between the barber shop and the grocery store part of the grocery business to begin with—was this my fabric store? It had another addition at the rear to the west—was this my fabric store?

What I’ve learned is how one memory can stir up and enchant the researcher. The building at 6184 Merle Hay Road has been a grocery store, a hardware store, and a feed store. It has housed a barber shop, an apartment, an antique store, and a lawn mower repair shop. The building is gone and the exact corner is a parking lot for the present Johnston Barber Shop and next door to that is still a Johnston Bait Shop. I learned about the existence of Camp Dodge houses in Johnston and maybe other places—but that’s for another day.

Deb Robinette remembers shopping there with her mother as a child and they did carry fabric and other things. So, this building must be the home for my memory just as it was a place of memories for those of you I spoke with. Thank you all for sharing.

Nancy Budrevich

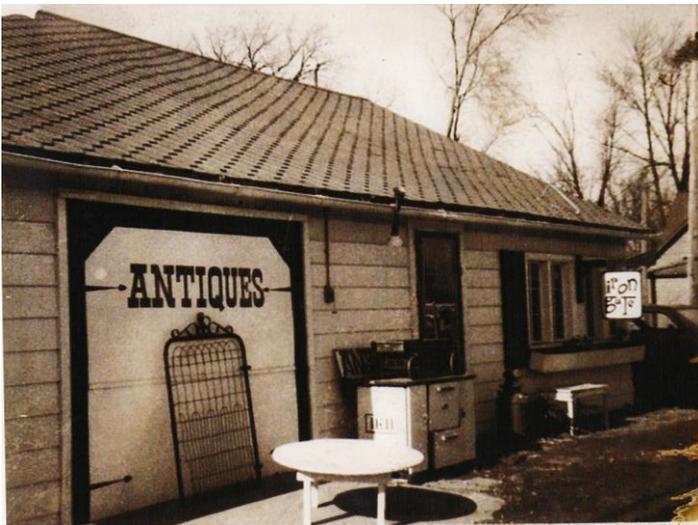
Pictures of a Memory



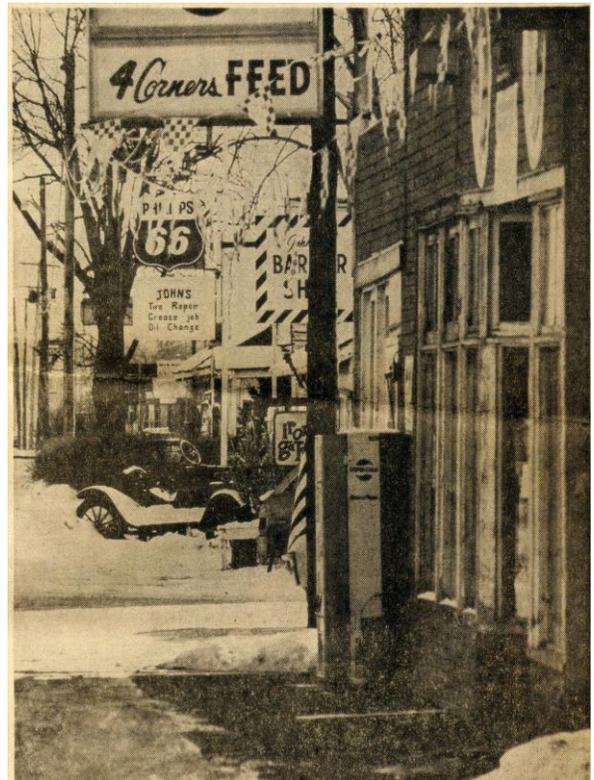
Carters General Store 1915-1950 and Post Office 1923-1943.
Surber's Barbershop located on the left side.
Located at the corner of Merle Hay Road and NW 62nd Ave.



Amelia Carter sitting in front of the store.



Marge Mable's shop, The Iron Gate.
Located at the rear of the feed store facing NW 62nd Ave.



4 Corners Feed 1969

New Board Members



John L. Brown resides in Johnston, with his wife Michele. He is Associate Chief Counsel at John Deere Financial and was designated as a John Deere Fellow in 2015. He is a member and former chairman of the State Historical Society of Iowa, and is its longest serving member.



Elizabeth (Liz) Van Zomeren was born and raised in Iowa. During her childhood, she lived all over the state of Iowa, in 10 different counties. After graduating from Iowa State University with a B.S. in Community and Regional Planning, she moved to Minneapolis and worked as a City Planner, Zoning Administrator, Site Acquisition Specialist, and Senior Right of Way Agent. While working full-time in Minnesota, Liz earned a Master's Degree in Management and a paralegal certificate. In 2008, she and her husband, Ross Harris, moved back to Iowa and settled in Johnston. Liz currently works as a Real Estate Manager for a telecommunications company in West Des Moines. Liz enjoys volunteering for the Friends of the Library and her political party. She has also served as an election official in both Minnesota and Iowa. She has served on the Ankeny Community Theatre (ACT) Board and assisted in fundraising by writing grants. Liz enjoys reading, card-making and collecting books on Iowa history. She is also a Cyclone football fan.

Johnston Girls Claim Class 3A Bowling Crown Again

Johnston High School Girls Bowling Team claimed the Class 3A State Championship for the second time at Plaza Lanes in Des Moines on February 22, 2017. The girls successfully defended their title with a score of 3,107. Two of their bowlers finished in the top 5—Chantelle Forester, No 3, with a score of 479 and Madi Singleton, No. 5, with a score of 460.

2017 Class 3A State Wrestling

Congratulations to Dragon Nick Graham (27-3) for going to the State Wrestling Tournament in Des Moines this year. He placed 4th in the 145 pound weight level, losing by decision in the semi-final round. Win or lose, we're still proud of you!

Johnston Living Interview



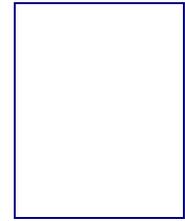
Ashley Rullestad, writer for the Johnston Living Magazine, met with Lois Waggoner at the museum in January. Ashley was doing an article on genealogical research. She was interested in finding what resources the Museum has for doing family and area research. Lois Waggoner and Terri Seibert-Holmgren, JSHS members, were interviewed and shared research they have done on their families' history. They both have been working on this history for many years. The article appeared in the February 2017 issue of Johnston Living Magazine.

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
Dorothy McDivitt Towers	Class of 1936	12-30-16
Edna Forret Knoll	Class of 1936	1-16-17
Marilyn Seibert Parizek	Class of 1965	1-17-17
Linda Danielson Hyde	Class of 1953	1-18-17
Dennis Lowry	Class of 1960	2-2-17
Eva Conner Mott	Class of 1941	2-21-17
Cirilo Cabegas Relatorres	Custodian	2-26-17
Jeanette Pettit Ziesman	Teacher	3-6-17
Vivian Kinsey	JSHS Member	3-16-17
Paul French	Johnston Resident	9-6-16
Cherilyn Ross	Johnston Resident	12-5-16
Kelby Brown	Johnston Resident	12-16-16
Shirley Zimmerman	Johnston Resident	12-20-16
Sister Elizabeth Thoman	Johnston Resident	12-22-16
Dilip Abraham Markose	Johnston Resident	12-25-16
Velma Steffen	Johnston Resident	12-25-16
Kenneth Greenwood	Johnston Resident	12-27-16
Zelma Woody	Johnston Resident	12-28-16
John Davis	Johnston Resident	12-30-16
Virginia Stoermer	Johnston Resident	12-30-16
Robert Crane	Johnston Resident	12-31-16
Vickie Dean	Johnston Resident	1-1-17
Ann Davis	Johnston Resident	1-5-17
Nellie Bartelt	Johnston Resident	1-15-17
Annie Krieg	Johnston Resident	1-21-17
Leland Carper	Johnston Resident	1-30-17
Marilyne Hanson	Johnston Resident	2-6-17
Iola Tollakson	Johnston Resident	2-8-17
Mary Agan	Johnston Resident	2-21-17
Sister Ann Therese Collins	Johnston Resident	2-26-17
Helen Olsasky	Johnston Resident	2-27-17
Virginia Leonard	Johnston Resident	3-1-17
Brittany Kock	Johnston Resident	3-4-17
Dewayne Rasmussen	Johnston Resident	3-5-17
Michelle Chappell	Johnston Resident	3-6-17
Alberta Walker	Johnston Resident	3-8-17
Kent McMullen	Johnston Resident	3-9-17
Kim Walter	Johnston Resident	3-11-17
Richard Miller	Johnston Resident	3-16-17

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Johnston, IA 50131



Johnston Historical Board Members

Michael Knight, President
Deb Krambeck, Secretary
Jan Jensen, Archivist
Alan Lathrum, Membership

Marilyn Coonley, Vice President
Nancy Budrevich, Treasurer
Elizabeth VanZomeran, Archivist
John Brown, Membership

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