

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 27, Issue 1

Newsletter

Spring 2019

From the President

I hope by the time you read this, spring has appeared in Iowa for 2019. It has truly been a long winter for all of us.

On March 10th, we had a wonderful turnout for the opening of the Time Capsule, which had been sealed since 1994. Along with the help from the City of Johnston and many volunteers, the Historical Banners were unveiled to the delight of the audience. They depict the history of Johnston, which includes a lot of information not known to the general public.

We had many guests, which included, Mayor Paula Dierenfeld, City Manager Jim Sanders, Past Mayor Mary Ann Roberts, just to mention a few.

The News Media, ABC, NBC, and CBS, and local newspapers covered the event.



The event was hosted by the Johnston Historical Society, which provided coffee and drinks and cookies to the large crowds of attendees.

This was a great way to start the 50th Year Anniversary for the city of Johnston.

Michael B. Knight, President



ANNUAL MEETING and MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, April 14

1PM-3PM

The annual meeting will start at 2PM.

Refreshments will be served.

Help us celebrate!

Johnston Station Historical Society

1994-2019

25 years of saving history

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message, Annual Meeting
- 2 Thank You, Good Search
- 3 Calendar, Shut the Front Door!, Volunteer Opportunities, Museum Open, 2019 JSHS Board of Directors, Digital Newsletter, 2019 Dues
- 4-5 "Home is the Nicest Word There Is"
- 6 Opening the Past
- 7 Museum Tours, Obituaries

THANK YOU

The Board of Directors would like to thank all of our supporters who share in our passion for local history.

Thank you to those who donated items, money or time:

The Denny & Candy Elwell Foundation

Jason & Margaret Beck

John & Michelle Brown

Nancy Budrevich

Jan Jensen

Alan Lathrum

Melody Pontious

Mark Putney

Scott Temple

Liz Van Zomeren

Linda Zeiger

Thank you to our renewing members:

Thomas Leffler & Judy Anderson (5 years)

Tamara Andrews (9 years)

John & Michelle Brown (8 years)

Mary Brown (5 years)

Nancy Budrevich (6 years)

Rose Busby (22 years)

Nancy Carroll (20 years)

Cammie Rae Dunlap (4 years)

Patricia Goss

Robert & Eileen Grahl

Shirlee Herrold (22 years)

Jerry & Carol Hoots (5 years)

Howard J. Hunt (21 years)

Marie Hutcheson (10 years)

Carol Jacques (8 years)

Jan Jensen (10 years)

Carla Johns (10 years)

Cathline Johnson (5 years)

Peggy & Clive Johnston (13 years)

Michael Knight (4 years)

Steve & Susan Krantz (4 years)

Alan Lathrum (6 years)

(Renewing Members)

Donella Lint (9 years)

Waneta Major

Dick McCarl (5 years)

Karen & William Miltenberger

Richard & Betty Mott

Pauline Osentowski (4 years)

Mildred Peitzman (9 years)

Melody Pontious (2 years)

Mark Putney (5 years)

Dr. Richard & Lorna Reay

Jackie Reineke (21 years)

Joanne & Richard Rock (9 years)

Carol Schleih (5 years)

Jim & Janet Schuessler (9 years)

Fred Schuler (4 years)

Judy Lee Sullivan (11 years)

Scott & Cheryl Temple (9 years)

Robbie Thompson Blythe (10 years)

Liz Van Zomeren (3 years)

Keith Westbrook (4 years)

Roger & Betty Wigton (10 years)

JoAnn Willcockson (10 years)

Linda Zeiger

Welcome New Members!

Mike Dewey

Matthew Ding

Missy Shepherd



Goodsearch.org helps non-profits raise funds by donating a penny for each Yahoo search done through their website.

Sign up and designate the Johnston Station Historical Society as your charity. We receive a penny for every search you conduct.

CALENDAR



Be sure to look for us at the following events. Stop by and say hi to the Johnston Station Historical Society.

- 4/14 Museum open house 1P-3P
- 5/4 Kites on the Green
- 5/1 Museum open house 1P-3P
- 5/14 Ray Schleih's Park Picnic 6P-8P
- 6/8 Lawson School/Historic Mural Tour 1P
- 6/9 Museum open house 1P-3P
- 6/13-16 Green Days
- 6/18 Crosshaven Park Picnic 6P-8P
- 7/14 Museum open house 1P-3P
- 7/16 Adventure Ridge Park Picnic 6P-8P
- 8/11 Sundae in Park 6-8P
- 8/13 Dewey Park Picnic 6-8P
- 9/8 Museum open house 1P-3P
- 9/27 50th Celebration Gala
- 10/13 Museum open house 1P-3P
- 11/10 Museum Open house 1P-3P

Your 2019 Board of Directors Johnston Historical Society

President: Michael Knight
Vice President: John Brown
Secretary: Elaine Egan
Treasurer: Lois Waggoner
Archivist: Jan Jensen
Associate Archivist: Liz Van Zomeren
Membership Co-chairs: Marilyn Coonley and Al Lathrum



2019 Dues

Thank you to all who have renewed their JSHS membership for 2019.

If you have not yet done so, there is still time! Send in your dues today to 6161 Northglenn Drive, Johnston, IA 50131.

SHUT THE FRONT DOOR!

Special thanks to Liz Von Zomeren for funding the repair of the front door of the museum. The weather had taken its toll on this door and the veneer was in bad shape. Liz researched what it takes to restore this piece of history. She contacted John Eft of Some Assembly Required in Urbandale who provided a temporary replacement door while he worked on ours and installed the repaired door in early March.



Be sure to check out the workmanship during our membership meeting on April 14.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are seeking members who are interested in volunteering at the museum. You could be a greeter during the monthly open hours or help on cleaning days. How about pulling a weed or two in our magnificent gardens? Give us a call and leave a message at 515-331-

0687.



Museum Open for the Season

The museum is open for free tours on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 1PM to 3PM. You may also call for a tour. Leave a message at 515-331-0687.

Digital Newsletter

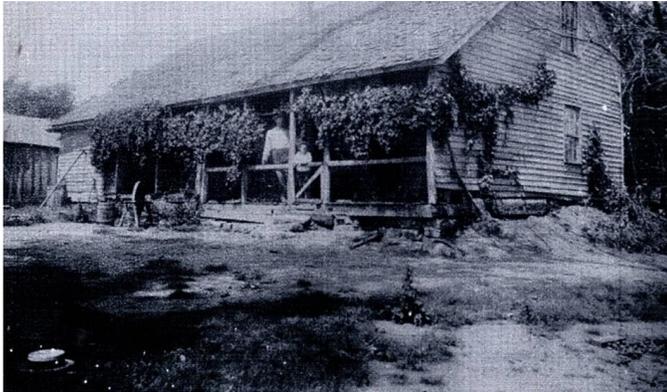
Would you like to receive your newsletter via email? Join 19 of your fellow members who have requested a digital copy. Send your contact info to jshs@q.com and you will be added to the distribution list.

Celebrating 50!

“Home is the Nicest Word There Is”

~Laura Ingalls Wilder

As we celebrate Johnston’s 50th anniversary we honor the people, organizations, and businesses that formed our community. Pictured here are early homes that housed our pioneer families.



This house was the family home of Jacob Rittgers and was located at the triangle of N.W. Beaver Drive and Kempton Drive (N.W. 66th Avenue). It was built in the 1850’s. Jacob was the stagecoach station operator and the stages stopped there for food and rest.

*“Life takes you to unexpected places,
love brings you home.”*



This 1890 home was built at Camp Dodge. It was later moved to Johnston Acres. It was constructed using square nails.

“Home is where the heart is.”



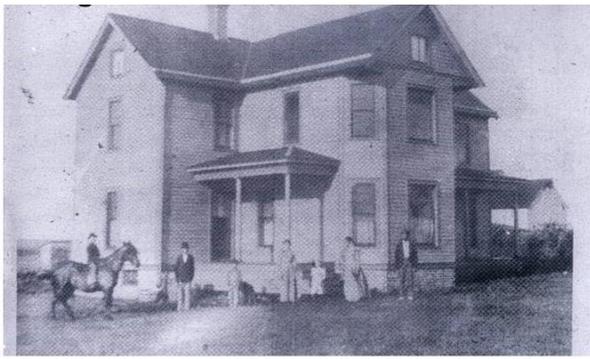
This house was the McPherson house. It was built in 1875 and was known as the “Maple Syrup House” because cans were attached to the maple trees. This house was located on N.W. Beaver Drive.

“Home, sweet home.”



This house is the Kuefner house. It was built in 1885 and was sold to Pioneer Hi-Bred in 1960. It is no longer standing.

*“A house is built of walls & beams.
A home is built of love & dreams.”*



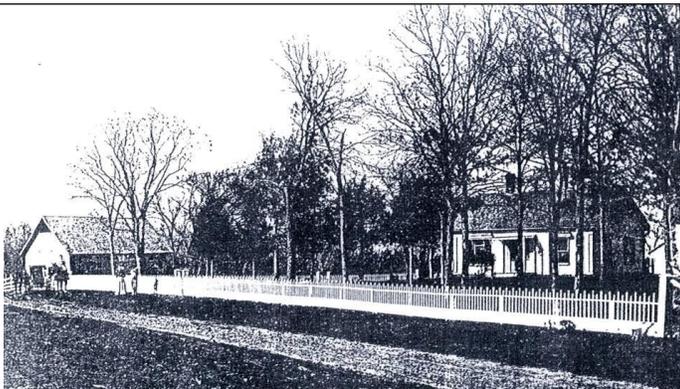
The Jacob Bauman house was built in 1900. It was a catalog house which was shipped by rail and delivered by wagons. The cost was \$900.00.



Edward Seibert built this house in 1910. It was a Sears, Roebuck & Company catalog house and cost \$3,000. His brothers helped him put it together.

In the early part of the 1900's customers could select homes from a catalog. The construction items would arrive via train – 30,000 pieces of lumber, nails, pipe, shingles, paint, and siding along with a 75-page, leather-bound instruction book (with a stern warning: "Do not take anyone's advice as to how this building should be assembled").

Oldhouseweb.com



This house was built in 1857 for Abraham Elliot by a cabinet maker. It was built with native walnut trees at Elliot's Ford then moved and remodeled. It was used as a stagecoach stop and horse exchange. The house was considered to be the oldest house in Johnston.

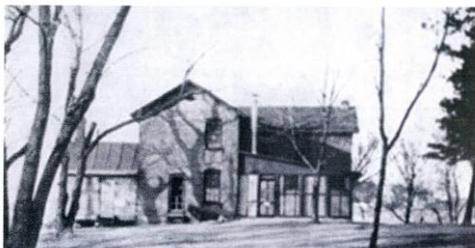
"The best journey takes you home."

"May your home always be too small to hold all of your friends."



This is the Kinsey house, built in 1890 by Edward Kinsey on Johnston Road (N.W. 62nd Avenue). For many years funeral processions crossed the yard to get to the Kinsey-Lawson Cemetery.

"Home is where the dog hair sticks to everything but the dog."



This house, known as the "Brick House" was built by John White in 1872. The bricks were made of clay and the lumber from trees found on the property. The house has been remodeled and was the home of the Adjutant General of Iowa at Camp Dodge.

Opening the Past

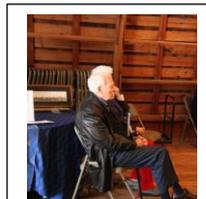
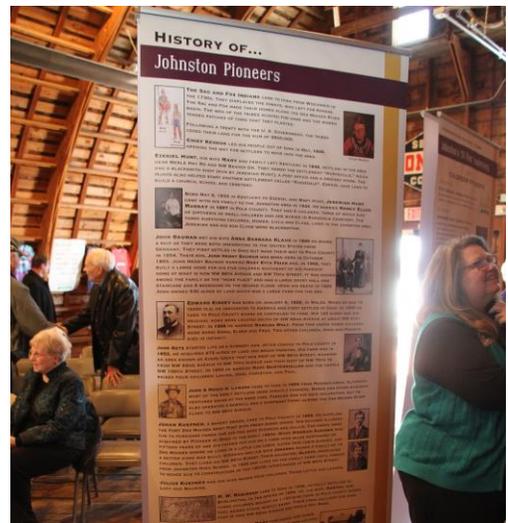
The Johnston Station Historical Society (JSHS) hosted the opening of the time capsule sealed at the city's 25th anniversary. A crowd of 75 gathered at the Simpson Barn to view the items that had been stored since 1994.

There were many documents, including newspapers and ledgers as well as mugs and banners with the logos from the early years of Johnston. One of the most interesting items was a letter from the mayor in 1994, John VerHoef, to the current mayor with some predictions about the 2019 version of Johnson.

Mike Knight, JSHS president, also unveiled the panels created by the Johnston 50 Year Commemoration Steering Committee's Historical Sub-Committee. These panels provide information about Johnston pioneers, Saylorville Lake, early churches and schools, the Lions Club, Camp Dodge/Herrold, the Interurban and the Johnston Historical Society. These panels will be on display during future celebrations.



Mayor Paula Dierenfeld, JSHS President Mike Knight and Commission member Mary Jane Paez examine the time capsule



Museum Tours



The trustees of the State Historical Society of Iowa met at the Simpson Barn on March 13, 2019. The group toured the Simpson House Museum and the Gold Star Museum. John Brown, JSHS Vice President, is also a member of the state commission.



The P.E.O. IE Chapter met at the Simpson House on March 3. This group of philanthropic women provides scholarships and educational loans. The group enjoyed a tour of the museum before their monthly meeting.

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
- 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
Anthony R. Taylor	Class of 2016	12/9/2018
William "Will" Rose	Class of 2014	1/16/2019
Daniel K. Sutton	Class of 1981	1/19/2019
Jeffrey S. McDivitt	Class of 1968	1/30/2019
Tyrese C. Andrews	Class of 2017	2/8/2019
Jessie Taylor Perdue	Class of 1938	2/16/19
Irene Fisher Aulich	Class of 1937	2/18/2019
George Sypniewski	Teacher/Coach	1/29/2019
Harry Bebensee	Owner Johnston Pharmacy	12/24/2018
Sister Gretchen McKean	Resident	12/3/2018
Ruth M. Lee	Resident	12/6/2018
Sister Joanne Di Iulio	Resident	12/8/2018
Meredith Houle	Resident	12/20/2018
Dennis Hoelsing	Resident	1/1/2019
Duane Mayer	Resident	1/11/2019
Phyllis McLaughlin	Resident	1/17/2019
Robert Nuzum, Sr.	Resident	1/17/2019
	Managed Camp Dodge Pool	
John Lambert	Resident	1/22/2019
Wayne "Red" Wray	Resident	1/25/19
James H. Gilbert	Resident	2/6/2019
Greg H. Erb	Former Resident	2/21/2019

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

Lois Waggoner, Treasurer

Liz Van Zomeren, Associate Archivist

Alan Lathrum, Membership

The museum is open the 2nd Sunday of the month, 1-3PM or by appointment. Leave a message at 515-331-0687 if you are interested in a tour.

Website: www.johnstoniowahistorical.org