

# Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 23, Issue 4

Newsletter

Winter 2015

## From the President

This has been an active year. We accomplished the following:

- Completion of painting by Peterson Painting.
- Installation of new front storm door and water heater thanks to Al.
- Annual Meeting/Open House Sunday April 12th.
- Carla once again worked her magic on the flower beds with seasonal flowers on display for all who came to the museum and barn.
- Garage sale held in the barn in July. (Special thanks to Nicholas and Drake with the Silver Cord Program of Johnston High School for getting things transported out of the basement to the barn.)
- Jan rearranged the school room to make room for the two display cases we received from the Gold Star Museum. She was able to display more of our school memorabilia in the larger cases.

*Cont. on pg. 2*



## 2016 Annual Dues

This is a reminder that all members' annual dues are due January 1, 2016 for the 2016 calendar year. The price has remained at \$20.00, the same as last year. We have enclosed an envelope for your convenience in mailing your dues.

If the number after your name on the mailing label is 16 or higher, your dues for 2016 are already paid.

We welcome any additional money or donations you wish to send. We will send a receipt for donations over and above the membership dues. We could not remain open and continue the work here, if it were not for our membership dues and donations. We thank you in advance for your continued support.

## Chili Supper Results

November 5, 2015 was our third annual Chili Supper. The 30 people that attended, enjoyed eating the chili, sides, and desserts prepared by various board members. A good time was had by all who attended.

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*President's message from pg. 1*

- Chili supper November 5th at which we discussed the proposed new sign.
- We had around 140 visitors come to the museum.
- We had 16 new members.

I want to take this time to thank everyone for making 2015 a successful year. Thank you all for your support.

Lois Waggoner, President

## **Ballot Enclosed**

It is time to elect board members. There are three positions open, and three members running for board. The following individuals are running for board:

Nancy Pontious Budrevich, incumbent  
Mike Knight, new member  
Terri Seibert Holmgren, new member

The ballot is enclosed. You may vote for three. A write-in name is welcome. Please place your ballot in the enclosed envelope and return no later than January 15, 2016.

## **Museum School Room**

We mentioned in previous newsletters this year that Jan Jensen, our archivist, was changing the room that houses the Johnston School archives. She was instrumental in obtaining new glass display cases to replace the one that was in the middle of the room. She has now completed the make-over. We want to personally thank you, Jan, for your work on this project. It was not a quick fix and we know you have spent many hours to make it look so nice. Thank you for all the hours you have dedicated to this endeavor. You are appreciated.

## **Signage Update/Donations**

We have set up a fund to collect donations for the proposed new sign to be placed in front of the Museum.

We are in need of two things: donations for this projected \$1500 to \$1800 expense and someone that knows how and is willing to lay the brick base once we have the plans. This price does not include laying of the base.

To date we have collected \$725.00. The individuals that donated money for this cause are:

JHS Class of 1963  
Carla Johns  
Lois Waggoner  
Marilyn Coonley  
Don and Jean Heldenbrand

## **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:

Deb Robinette Krambeck  
Weatherspoon Charitable Foundation  
Delores Vignovich for military scrapbook

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

## **New Members**

New Members since last reported are:

Sandra Law Gapinski  
Steve and Susan Krantz  
James Krantz  
Terri Seibert Holmgren

We welcome each of you and thank you for joining the Historical Society.

## The Mott's

Dick Mott was born on May 11, 1928 to parents, Lee Everett and Fern Hazel Mott. Lee was a farmer in Scotch Ridge, Iowa, an area between Indianola and Des Moines. While living in the Scotch Ridge area, Dick had gone to a two-room school, one room housed 1-4 grades, the other 5-8. After Dick's father was killed in a farm accident in the summer of 1936, his mother moved the three children, Charles, Dick and Betty, along with her parents, Art and Ida Toepfer to Johnston.

His grandparents bought a 60 acre farm for \$9,000. The farm was located west of Beaver and south of NW 62nd Ave, (then called Johnston Road). The land which surrounds the Kinsey Cemetery was once part of the farm. Johnston Road was a two-lane dirt road when they moved into their large, square 4 bedroom farmhouse on March 1, 1937. Dick was only 8 years old at the time.



**The Mott Farmhouse**

Johnston became home to the Mott family. His siblings, Charles Mott married Eva and they had three children. Betty Mott married Orie Reed and they had two children. All three siblings raised their children in Johnston, however, Chuck and family eventually moved to Milo, Iowa where his wife, Eva still lives today.

Dick began school in Johnston when he was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Johnston had 13 grades. He had not attended kindergarten in the country school, so was one year younger than the others in his class. He graduated with the class of 1945 with 17 students in his class.

A fondly remembered high school activity was playing on the basketball team for three years. In Dick's senior year, his team finished their season with a 29-3 record. The players averaged 6 feet in height which was rather tall for that time.

School memories also include an English teacher, Miss Fritz, and of course Bernice Scott, the stern principal. Bernice ruled with an iron fist and was quite the disciplinarian. Dick also shared that although Bernice was known for her tough exterior, she would help students on the side.

As a teen, Dick recalls detasseling corn for Pioneer, caddying at Hyperion Golf Course and doing fence repair for the Meredith Dairy Farm. The Meredith Mansion and the dairy farm were west of Beaver Ave and south of Meredith Drive. St. Mary of Nazareth Church owns the mansion today.

After Dick graduated from Johnston in 1945, he joined the Army at the age of 17. His mother had to sign permission for him to join the Army. He served in WW II for two years, then returned to his Johnston home. He first worked at a gas station in Beaverdale across from the Save Way Grocery Store where a young Betty Jean Ferguson worked with her parents in their family owned business.

Jean remembers working in the store at the age of 12 and continued working there until they sold the grocery store in 1952. Interestingly, there were 7 grocery stores in the Beaverdale area. Most of them were locally owned, but a couple were chains, such as the A & P and Thriftway.

Jean and her family lived in the Oak Park neighborhood while growing up. The Oak Park area is west of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Des Moines. She attended North High School which was then located at 7<sup>th</sup> and College. While working at her family grocery store, a young man by the name of Dick Mott, working across the street at the gas station, began to notice a good looking girl who walked past their station. Since Dick was not good at whistling, a man by the name of Ray Aller, who worked at the station would “wolf whistle” at her when she went by. When she looked in that direction, she would see only Dick. Well, they eventually got acquainted, and as they say, the rest is history.

They remember with fondness their first date at the Tromar Ballroom at 5<sup>th</sup> & Park in Des Moines. They often went to dances and movies while dating.

His mother once again had to sign permission for him to marry Jean in January, 1949. He was 20 years old, and the requirement for males was 21. They lived in Dick’s grandparents’ house while his grandparents went south to Arizona. They built their own house in Johnston by hand in 1952.

When Jean’s parents sold their grocery store in 1952, Jean found employment at Sanford & Company located in the Des Moines Building. Her position as an office manager kept her busy until she retired in 1960.



**50th Anniversary  
Larry, Ruth, Danielle, Jean,  
Dick and Linda**

In May of 1960, Jean and Dick had the fortune of adopting their son, Larry when he was 8 months old. Again in 1962, they were blessed with a sister for Larry. This new little bundle of joy was only days old when they adopted her. They named her Linda. They now had the “perfect” family.

Once the children were in school, Jean went back to work, this time working for Sellner Oil Company here in Johnston. She later worked for Polk County offices from 1980 in various positions, retiring from the auditor’s office in 1993.

Dick began working for Iltis Lumber in Johnston and worked there for 35 years. After the lumber company closed, Dick worked several years for American Concrete. Later in life, he drove a school bus and retired as recently as 2010.

Both Jean and Dick have done much volunteering in the Johnston community. Jean volunteered for 17 years helping 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Lawson School. Her other volunteer work has included Luther Park auxiliary, working the election polls and Johnston senior board. Jean also taught Sunday School for many years. They both have done much volunteering in their church in one capacity or another.



**65th Anniversary  
Dick and Jean with Linda**



**Danielle's Family  
Donavan, Aubrie and Danielle**

Their son, Larry, married his wife, Ruth, who was from Urbandale. They had a daughter, Danielle, who currently lives in Granger. Sadness occurred when the Mott's unexpectedly lost their son, Larry, in an automobile accident in 2013. Unfortunately, Larry's wife, Ruth, has since passed also.

They find happiness with their granddaughter, Danielle, and her husband Donovan. They have an adorable daughter, Aubrie, who was one year old in November. She is one cute little curly haired doll.

Daughter, Linda, moved to Albuquerque, NM after graduating from Drake Law School as an attorney. She served as a prosecuting attorney in the Department of Justice until moving to the quad cities in October of this year. She is making her home in Davenport but working in Rock Island, IL. This has placed her closer to her parents.

Jean and Dick lived in the house they built in 1952 until April 2013 when they moved into a new senior development in Johnston. They love their new apartment. Dick no longer has to shovel snow or mow grass and can even park his car underground at the apartment complex.

Additional past memories of Johnston include:

- Opal's Diner, owner Opal Turpin
- Don's TV Repair, Don DeGroot
- Camp Dodge Pool
- Fruitland, Brennan, and Ellis streets
- Heard Nursery, Clyde & Bill Heard
- Iltis Lumber Yard
- Scott's Dairy owned by Jim Scott (husband of school superintendent, Bernice Scott)
- Mrs. Carter's Grocery
- Bill Peters baseball field in 1950's
- Johnston Road (now NW 62nd Ave) as a two lane gravel road
- Scholes Feed Store
- Lockhart's Peonie Gardens where the Hallmark store is currently located. Such a gorgeous site in spring that spanned to NW 60th.



**Jean's 90th Birthday  
Dick, Danielle, Aubrie and Jean**

Information provided by Jean and Dick Mott and written by Deb Robinette Krambeck.

## Bauman Family Reunion



**Front row: John S. Harding, Janette Thede, and Marilyn Bauman Finney.  
Second row: Jill Davis, Bill Thede, and Robert L. Finney.  
Third row: Richard Harding and Betty Opperman.  
Fourth row standing: Mark Harding, Sandra Urfer, Jerry Urfer, Emily Opperman,  
Robert D. Finney, Teresa Finney, and Bob Petty.**

Sitting on the front porch of the Johnston Historical Museum are descendants of John and Mary (Friar) Bauman who originally built the home in 1902. The Bauman's daughter, Laura Garlock inherited the house in 1922. Laverne and Shirley Simpson purchased the house in 1955 and donated it to the Johnston (Station) Historical Society in 2002, to be used as a museum to house the history of Johnston.

While attending a family reunion at the Simpson Barn on September 28th, the descendants of the Bauman family requested a tour of the Johnston Historical Museum. Marilyn Bauman Finney shared some information about the house. Her father, Carl, who was a son of the Baumans, had a bedroom where the Pioneer room is located on the second floor. His sister, Carrie, had the back bedroom where the attic door is and she would sneak upstairs to the attic to read her book when she was suppose to be sleeping. The Baumans had a bedroom upstairs until they moved downstairs to the room that is now the office. The school room was the kitchen and had a large table in it. There was a sink at the back door where the men could wash up before eating. There was a stairway from the kitchen to the upstairs. The computer room was the bathroom and all other rooms one the first floor were as they remain today.

## Thank You to Carla Johns and Jan Jensen

Two of our board members will be leaving the board as each has served two consecutive three-year terms. The good news is that both have promised to continue to support us in the preservation of Johnston's history.

Carla Johns, a lifelong resident of Johnston, has been our treasurer for the past 6 years. Besides her diligent treasurer duties, you can most often find her during the spring and summer months in the flower beds, weeding, deadheading or planting new flowers.

Jan has been very active in rearranging every room in the house. She is also been working on cataloging all of our artifacts and has done much work to preserve them. This is in addition to opening the museum each Thursday and spending a lot of time cleaning to keep everything looking great.

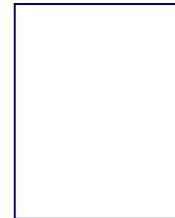
Both are quite knowledgeable of all aspects of our work at the museum, and we value their input on decisions. Their willingness to help in all areas is most valuable.

## 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](mailto: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
Brett Heitkamp	Class of 2011	10/03/15
Christina Cummings	Class of 1973	10/21/15
E. Harold Adams	Class of 1954	10/26/15
Thomas "T.J." Sandstoe	Classmate of 2018	11/07/15
Betty J. Frank	Resident	10/04/15
Gary Eyerly	Resident	10/04/15
Michael Jacques	Resident	10/30/15
Dorothy "Ferne" Westbrook	Former Resident	10/31/15
Robert Cordy	Resident	11/03/15
Sr. Mary Foley	Resident	11/06/15
Gordon Evans	Former Resident	11/07/15
Rosa Comito	Resident	11/09/15
Sr. Carolyn Walters	Resident	11/10/15
Jan Theisen	Resident	11/11/15
William (Bill) Jeffries	Former Resident	11/13/15
Lois Brown	Resident	11/14/15
Phyllis Garrett	Resident	11/15/15
Ellen "Bette" Eckerman	Resident	11/19/15
Sandra Sheldon	Resident	11/21/15
John Britt	Resident	11/28/15

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



## **Johnston Historical Board Members**

Lois Waggoner, President  
Deb Krambeck, Secretary  
Jan Jensen, Archivist  
Alan Lathrum, Membership

Nancy Budrevich, Vice President  
Carla Johns, Treasurer  
Marilyn Coonley, Membership

Museum phone: 515-331-0687  
Website: [www.johnstoniowahistorical.org](http://www.johnstoniowahistorical.org)

**Reminder of Winter Hours: The museum will be closed for the winter months between December 1, 2015 and April 1, 2016.**

**We will show the museum by appointment only.  
If you are interested in a tour please contact:**

**Lois Waggoner  
515-253-9081  
(leave a message)**