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
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.
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.

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.

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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.

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.

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

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.

“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.”

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

“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.”

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

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

“Home is where the dog hair sticks to everything but the dog.”

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 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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

“The best journey takes you home.”
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.
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.

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.

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