



**JOHNSTON Historical SOCIETY**  
(Station) ^^ PO BOX 109, Johnston, IA 50131-0109 Pres Bob Otto  
Secy-Trea Ray Schliebs

**NEWSLETTER**

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**TIME & PLACE** 4:00 P.M. July 26, 1995 Be on time!!!  
Iowa Genealogical Society, 6000 Douglas Des Moines [across from Younkers] Back door is at Ground Level. Front door, you must walk down steps. Doors lock at 4 P.M. Try to be there **promptly**.

**PROGRAM** Sue Cochran, librarian of the Society will teach us about "Beginning Genealogy" Sue is an expert and has been doing this work for many years. She will let us use the library until 7 P.M., when it is open to the public. If you want to stay beyond 7 P.M. the library is open to 9 P.M. There is a nominal charge, if you are not a member. Our Society could apply to be associated with IGS, it would have advantages. Poweshiek County is such a Chapter member.

#### DID YOU KNOW ?

Five of our members are associated with the class of 1943 at JHS. Bob Otto, Lowell Temple, Fern Bice Michael and William Byers. Bob Thomas was in the preceding class. 17% of the class and most probably 20% or more of the living. A Quorum under the corporation statutes!

If you think Mary Ann produces this newsletter, I am glad to give her the credit. She is nicer than I am, a better cook, more organized, better looking and a true native, **BUT** she doesn't know how to run a computer and as **important** as a computer is, refuses to learn.

#### *HELP!*

We solicit material for the news letter from members and otherwise. If you have some historic material that you would like to share we would be more than happy to submit it to the newsletter committee and make it a part of our newsletter.

## ON THE OLD RIDGE ROAD

(Somertimes called the Ft. Dodge Rd)

This horse-and buggy path is now Northwest Beaver Drive and the Harvey's house was the first place east of Elliott's Ford Road.

One of the oldest house in Polk county(still in use) was built in Jefferson twp. before the Civil War in 1857. The house was built for Abraham Elliott, who homesteaded the land in 1853. The Elliotts lived there until 1889, when they sold to Mr. & Mrs. Samuel S. Harvey.

The construction of the house was done by a cabinet and casket maker. It was built from native walnut cut from adjoining timberland and processed in lumber mills at Polk City. There were no nails in the frame-work. It was morticed and pegged. The floors were nailed to the handhewn floor joists with square nails.

Inside; the woodwork, open staircase, paneling and wide board floors were all of black walnut. Outside; also of black walnut was vertical siding with battens.

The Harveys with their two small daughters moved into the house, and like may young wives, Mrs Harvey wanted to make some changes. She had seven fireplaces removed and a monstrous woodburing furnace installed in the basement.

The old barn once housed horses used on the Des Moines-Woodward Stage line. Near by, the old Ford Road led down to the Des Moines river, where the Fort Dodge-Keokuk Stages once forded the river. For many years in the attic of the house laid saddle bags, that had been used to deliver mail along the Stage routes.

Several old time furnishings in the Harvey house were a walnut cupboard, a spice cabinet, salt box, coffee grinder and spining wheel.

While the house was being built, the Elliott family lived in a one room cabin, which when used by Mrs. Harvey was called the "wash house". It had the original stone fireplace with swinging crane and cooking kettle, also on the property was an Ice House. The front entrance area was ground-level and the back storage room was about six feet deep and lined with mounds of sawdust. Here is where the large blocks of ice cut from the river were stored to be used in hot weather.

Mr. & Mrs. Harvey lived here for almost sixty years. In 1948 they both died; he at age 92 and she was 90. They had been married sixty-four years.

In the interwening years Mr. & Mrs. Frank Lawson owned the property. It was then claimed by the Army Corp of Engineers to become a part of Sailorville Lakes south shore.

Ray Schleihs says that Don G. Christenson bought , moved and remodeled the house. It now stands at 8791 NW Beaver Dr.

Information [*except buyer and present location*] compiled by Mavis (Cunningham) Kingsbury, granddaughter of the Harvey's.

**If this message is checked in red that means we have not received yours dues. [] unless paid, this will be your last newsletter.**