



# JOHNSTON *Historical* SOCIETY

(Station) ^^ PO BOX 109, Johnston, IA 50131-0109

Pres Bob Otto  
Secy-Trea Ray Schliebs

# NEWSLETTER

Vol I

No. 3

Published monthly

Nov 1994

!!!!!!NOTE CHANGE OF DAY BECAUSE OF THANKSGIVING!!!!!!

**TIME &** Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. November 22, 1994  
**PLACE** Johnston Middle School, Room 213

**PROGRAM** Ernie Beck will speak to us on the coal mines in Polk County especially addressing the mines in the vicinity of Johnston. The Becks were early people in the Johnston area and this will be of great interest.

## ^^^ONE OF THE EARLIEST SETTLERS^^^

**Judge William H. McHenry.** A title is given to William H. McHenry for the reason that he later had a son by the same name. William H McHenry did not have a title when to came to this area, but in fact waded the Des Moines River to cross to Ft. Des Moines #2 on the 13th day of August, 1848. He then made his way up the Des Moines River to the Beaver Creek Valley about 6 miles above the fort, where he then located land for a farm. He surveyed for the government and was active in the Claim Club after his arrival, but was not one of the 99 signers of the agreement.

**Welcome,** new members Don Duvick, Emma Jean Stillwell, A.T.& Flo Rittgers. John & Jan VerHoef, Lou Jr. & Gay Friestadt, Steve & Patsy Noble, & Mert & Jeanne Hansen.

## BEAVER DR.

### STATE ROAD FROM FORT DES MOINES TO FORT DODGE

From Polk county records in 1852 we find the following records:

April 16th 1852

Now comes I. H. Dollison, Commissioner appointed to inquire into the expediency of altering the State Road leading from Fort Des Moines to Fort Dodge via Hickmans' Mill(*on Beaver[creek], nine miles above fort Des Moines*), and file the following report (here insert) recommending said alteration; it is therefore ordered that the 16th of July 1852, to be fixed for the final hearing of said petition.

B. Rice (*Byron Rice*)

Now comes W.H. McHenry and others and file the following petition (here insert) praying for the alteration of the State Road leading from Fort Des Moines to Fort Dodge on the South side of the Des Moines River; said alteration begining at a point where said road crosses the line between Section eighteen in Township seventy nine, Range twenty four W. 5th P.M. (at about the location of R and R Towing on Beaver Ave i.e. extension of NW 54th Ave to Beaver), thence the most practicable route to the residence of W. P. Kogar (currently the residence of Mary Ann (Rittgers) Roberts i.e. [William P Koger, s hf of ne qr, and n hf of se qr, sec 6, Oct 30, 1848], thence the most practicable route to intersect the range line between Range No 24 & 25 (now Merle Hay Rd); thence on the most practicabel route to the corner of sections 23, 24, 25, 26 in Township 80 N, Range 25 W; (one-half mile south of NW 90th on Beaver) thence north 20 chains (one-fourth mile) to the former residence of Widow Fouts; thence to intersect the said State Road near the residence of E. Spikemore. (probable near the mile long bridge intersection with Beaver Dr.) An the court being satisfied that the provisions of the law have been complied with in the premises, it is ordered that Mr John McClain be appointed Commissioner to proceed on Monday 10th of May inst. to enquire into the propriety of making said alteration.

B. Rice (Byron Rice)  
County Judge

### @@@=KNOWN HISTORIES OF POLK COUNTY=@@@

The following are the histories known to this writer of Polk County, if you know of any others. please make it known.

Early Sketches of Polk County, Iowa., Nettie Sanfer, 1874 printed by Charles A. Clarke, Newton, Iowa pp.152

Centennial History of Polk County, Iowa., J. M. Dixson, 1876, printed by Des Moines State Register pp.339

History of Polk County, Iowa. 1880 printed by Des Moines Union History Company, pp.1037.

Annals of Polk County, Iowa. 1898, Will Porter and George A. Mills, pp1064

Pioneers of Polk County, Iowa and Reminiscences of Early Days. L.F. Andrews, 1908, 2 vol. printed by Baker-Trisler Co., Des Moines

Historical Polk County, WPA, nos 1-2. Des Moines 1940-1941

History of Des Moines and Polk County, Johnson Brigham, 2 vol, 1911 printed by S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1911.

### ACTION

The board is working on the creation of committees and will be asking for volunteers to be on or chair the various committes at the next meeting. Be at the meeting so you can get on or chair the committee of your special interest.