



JOHNSTON *Historical* SOCIETY

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

Pres Bob Otto
Secy-Trea Ray Schliebs

NEWSLETTER

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PLACE Johnston Middle School Room 213

PROGRAM Fern Bice Michael has arranged for a Iowa Genealogical Society speaker Myrtle Van Dyke to enlighten the membership on History as it relates to genealogy.

!!! MEMBERSHIP !!!

Our member ship has increased dramatically. Charter membership is available for anyone who joins before May 31, 1995 and pays the dues for '94-'95.

>>> PROGRESS >>>

The display at City Hall is now in place. Bob Otto our President has worked long and hard to complete this display which serves us well. >>>

^^^ COMING UP ^^^

The City of Johnston's Silver Anniversary is coming up in November. There will be activity in which the club and members can participate. Keep your eyes and ears open. ^^

??? Did you know ???

The first land entry in Johnston:
Sec 6: Land lying btwn NW 62nd & 70th - Merle Hay & Soccer field Rds. William P Koger (an Ohio speculator) S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ on Oct 30, 1848. The 160 acres lies between the West line of the Rittgers' Cemetary to the Soccer field Road; $\frac{1}{4}$ mile on either side of NW 66th Ave (Kempton Dr).

Beaver Creek; In the early days Beaver Creek was known as Amaqua Creek.

The Beaver Creek Settlement: After the country was thrown open for settlement the country east of the Des Moines river, and west of the Des Moines and south of the Raccoon filled up rapidly. There was not so much disposition manifested by early settlers to locate west of the Des Moines and north of the Raccoon. We have already seen however, that as early as 1848 the McLeans, Fouts, Hunt and others settled within the bounds of Jefferson township between Beaver Creek and the Des Moines river.

W.H. McHenry, one of the early mayors of Des Moines, and at present (1880) Judge of the District Court, settled on Beaver Creek at a very early day. He was one of the most active members of the claim club, and did much to protect settlers of his neighborhood in their rights. He says that the people were a law unto themselves and in 1848, when he first settled on Beaver Creek, it was no unusual thing for Judge Lynch to assume jurisdiction and thus make up for the lack of the imperfectly executed civil law. He states further that the club laws were drafted by Thomas Baker, Mr. Watts and himself, and that it was made his duty to attend the land sales at Iowa City. From this we are led to conclude that the settlers in Beaver Creek neighborhood organized a claim club of their own as the club which was first organized at a general meeting of the settlers of the county, held at Des Moines, was held in April, 1848, probably before Judge McHenry came to the county; the persons who drafted the resolutions were Winchester, Mitchell, Scott, Sypher, and Saylor and Mr. Tidrick as appointed bidder.

A man by the name of Doggett laid out a town in this neighborhood at an early day; another village called Lovington was laid out at the mouth of Beaver Creek in December, 1854.

A family by the name of Murray, consisting of the parents and seventeen children, located in the Beaver Creek settlement about the year 1850.

Des Moines River. The Des Moines River was know to the indians as "Keosauqua".

Claim Clubs: "Some time before the lands were all surveyed and consequently before any were offered for sale, speculators from the East with plenty of money in their pockets, industriously scoured the country over, noted the most valuable portions, even though they were claims, and were prepared to give high prices for them when they came into market, thus robbing the first settlers who had borne the privations and hardships of the wilderness for several years of their lands, and whatever improvements they had put upon them.>to be continued-from History of Polk County, 1880