

Johnston (Station) Historical Society Newsletter

POST OFFICE BOX 109 JOHNSTON, IOWA 50131

AN IRS CODE 5012C3RGANIZATION

MISSION STATEMENT: *Johnston (Station) Historical Society Mission Statement --- "the corporation's major function will be to discover and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area..." "The society will provide for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility..." "The society will disseminate historical information and arouse interest in the past..."*

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MARCH 2005

President: Mary Jane Paez
Vice President: Judy Bogaard
Treasurer: Robert Thomas
Secretary/Newsletter: Marlys Seibert
Membership: Garland Seibert

March Meeting
Wednesday, March 30
4:00 p.m.
Simpson House
Jerry Gorden, Society's
Archivist, will begin processing
donations of historical
significance.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:

A WHOLE LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER. Inmates from Newton Correctional Facility came and worked on everything from ceilings to floors and in between. The final result is that the house is finished inside. The woodwork and staircase are beautiful. These men put their hearts and souls into their work and made the 102-year old house come alive. Garland Seibert and Bob Thomas were kept really busy working to keep the men supplied.

Ferne & Lloyd Michael and Bob Thomas kept the men motivated with daily doses of sweet rolls and doughnuts. A final pizza party was enjoyed by all.

What still needs to be done is on the outside. We would like to consider re-siding and re-insulating the house. We would also like to replace the aluminum combination windows with permanent wooden storm windows. We are hoping to hear soon that we will get some assistance from a Polk County Community Betterment grant to help with installation of outside stairs, a ramp, back door stoop and sidewalks. We would also like to make a permanent replacement for the plywood cellar door.

A committee, composed of the Board, has come together to make decisions about making the house into a museum. An outline of classification of exhibits was developed, along with a list of items that we have for display so far. Jerome Thompson, who is the State Curator for the Iowa Historical Building, came to our February meeting, toured the facilities, and gave us an overview of archival materials and procedures. He was very impressed with what has been accomplished. He also encourages us not to lose our momentum.

The Johnston Historical Society has been featured in the winter '04-'05 edition of IMPACT, a magazine that is published and distributed by Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino. The kitchen in the barn was built with \$2000 that was awarded to the Society by E.J.Giovannetti in the form of a Community Betterment Grant last year. The pictures of the loft, the west end of the barn, and the kitchen are really beautiful.

The Society has also received a letter from Mayor Brian Laurenzo, on behalf of the community, expressing their appreciation for the Simpson Barn Project. After the cultured limestone is finished with warmer weather, we will have a "Handing Over of the Keys" Ceremony at the barn.

We will be sending a list of names for inscription on bricks to be placed in the barn patio. We can always take more names. The patio was made so that inscribed bricks can be inserted into the patio. *Mary Jane Paez*

DONATIONS:

CARETAKERS (\$1-99)

Dave Goss, Jr.
Fran Longo Melas
Tom Leffler and Judy Anderson
John and JoAnn Theisen

SCOUT (\$100-199)

R. Elnora Masters

BRICKS:

D. NEIDERKORN FAMILY
(Johnston residents who moved to Raleigh, NC) by Timothy Haight family

**JOHNSTON CONSOLIDATED
SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1935**
Helen (Stice) D. Favre
Eva (Rastovac) Fraizer
Virginia (Martin) Howsare
Richard Kuefner
Raymond Schlenker
Ray C. Schleih

**SHELLY ANN
GORDEN 1960-03**

MEMORIALS:

Katy Thomas Koll by Bob & Jean Thomas
Viola Rastovac by Ferne & Lloyd Michael
Katy Koll by Ferne & Lloyd Michael
Marie Schlenker by Ferne & Lloyd Michael

WISH LIST

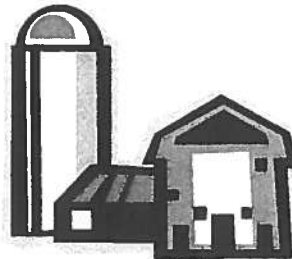
Paper shredder
small television
copier
DVD player
calendar board
Bulletin board
desk organizer
Cash donations to purchase supplies
Brick orders!

Volunteers

March 18, 2001, Vern and Shirley Simpson signed an agreement with the Society turning over the ownership of their home, barn and windmill for the use of the Society.

Since then we have finished the barn and the inside of the house. We are ready to start the next phase - creating a museum of Johnston history.

We need to also look for financial assistance for completing the outside work.





February 8, 2005

City Hall

6221 Merle Hay Road
P.O. Box 410
Johnston, IA 50131
515-278-2344
Fax 515-278-2033

Mary Jane Paez, President
Johnston (Station) Historical Society
PO Box 109
Johnston, IA 50131

Dear Mary Jane:

On behalf of the citizens of Johnston, the Johnston City Council, City Staff, and myself, I wish to extend our sincere appreciation for the Johnston Station Historical Society's wonderful work on the Simpson Barn Project. Without the dedication from your group, this project would have never happened. Your tireless enthusiasm for the project as well as the steadfast daily management of the project by Bob Thomas was truly commendable. Accordingly, at your convenience, we would like to conduct an official "Handing Over of the Keys" Ceremony at the Barn or City Hall, your choice, so that we can take the time to properly express the City's gratitude for all of your hard work.

Please contact Connie Maxwell at Public Works 515-278-0822, Ext 260, to set a time for the ceremony that is convenient for all who wish to attend.

Very truly yours,

Brian J. Laurenzo
Mayor, City of Johnston

Police Department

6221 Merle Hay Road
P.O. Box 410
Johnston, IA 50131
515-278-2345

Public Works

6400 NW Beaver Dr.
P.O. Box 410
Johnston, IA 50131
515-278-0822
Fax 515-727-8092

Crown Point

Community Center
6300 Pioneer Parkway
P.O. Box 410
Johnston, IA 50131
515-251-3707

Public Library

6700 Merle Hay Road
P.O. Box 327
Johnston, IA 50131
515-278-5233
Fax 515-278-4975

*Living * Learning * Growing*

Some of the museum displays could show the "history of the area", "school days", "community", "Camp Dodge", "businesses" and "agriculture". Below are items that we have already.

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Copy of City incorporation | Metal cupboard |
| Trays used in lunchroom of consolidated school | Flag staff |
| Bicentennial flag flown over Lawson School – 1976 | Doilies and afghan |
| Teacher's school bell from Herrold School | Metal shelves |
| 1860's grand piano | U S Army horse saddle blankets |
| Iltis Lumber nail apron | 2 file cabinets |
| Findley corn seed bag | 2 modern school desks and 1 chair |
| Old school books from Herrold School | Hand crafted wall clock |
| Johnston Year Book – 1938 | Kinsey trunk |
| 45 rpm record of Pioneer advertising with Wayne Skidmore | Card catalog |
| newspaper articles North Polk County News – 6 boxes | Class pictures on carousel |
| Otto's Conoco ice scraper | Time capsule |
| Barn lanterns | Oil painting of house |
| Spike harrow | Oak table with leaves |
| Harness parts | 2 antique book cases |
| Cultivator tines | B & G plates |
| Fly net | 5 panels vintage lace curtains |
| Harness collar | pioneer family displays |
| Soap caldron | military items |
| Plat books | old typewriter from school |
| Hand corn planter | display boards |
| 2 hay rake wheels | corn sheller |
| pitch fork | old agriculture books |
| Wallace Farmer covers on plaques | 2 treadle sewing machines |
| cedar chest | mimeo machine |
| office desk, console, file cabinet | Ironrite mangle |
| butter churn | pay receipts for detasseling |