

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 18, Issue 2

Newsletter

March 2010

President's Column:

January and February were both productive months. Despite the weather we had a good turnout for our trip to the Urbandale Historical Society's Olmstead-Urban House. Virginia Gee was our host. She talked about the history of the house and the City of Urbandale. It is a beautiful old house furnished with traditional furniture. It was like going into someone's home in the 1930's.

In February we held a chili supper that was well attended with over 20 people. They enjoyed a social hour where everyone reminisced about how it was in the old Johnston when we were still a small town. A presentation was given on the history

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Moses H. Lawson Early Johnston Settler

Moses Lawson came to Iowa in 1855. Although most of the early settlers were strictly farmers, Moses had several other business ventures going at the same time. Farming was his main occupation, but he also operated a sawmill approximately where the Lloyd Busby's now live on Beaver Drive, south of NW 62nd St. He also operated a riverboat ferry located just north of the J.B. Rittgers farm on Lower Beaver Road. Moses Lawson gave land from his farm to build a public school on Lower Beaver Road. In addition to the land, he donated lumber, cut and sawed, for the school construction. The school was known as Valley Public School and was the first school of this type in the area.

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of Johnston beginning in the 1850's until the present. This presentation was a start of what we would like to package into a booklet and a DVD. We want to collect as many documents and pictures of the past as possible for this project.

The Board elected the following officers for 2010:

Dick Hyde, President
Wanda Slauson, Vice President
Carla Johns, Treasurer
Jackie Reineke, Secretary
Board Members:
Jan Jensen
Marilyn Finney
Sharon Hyde

DICK HYDE

Johnston History Quiz

- 1. H.A. Wallace died**
 - A. November 1965**
 - B. July 1960**
 - C. April 1980**
- 2. Ice Storm shut down electricity for 24-36 hours**
 - A. April 1958**
 - B. February 1961**
 - C. December 1979**

Answers are on the bottom of page 7

Capt. Daniel Whitten

Capt. Daniel Whitten, 28, of Grimes, graduated from Johnston High School in 1999 and the United States Military Academy in 2004. While at Johnston he played football, was in ROTC and the National Honor Society. Teachers said he was dedicated and very hard working. Johnston High School Principal Bruce Hukee said "You always appreciate the kids that want to serve their country but we never want to see one of our kids lose their life."

Capt. Whitten was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the infantry in May 2004. While at West Point, Dan distinguished himself as one who stood for the values of the Academy. He was helpful to his fellow cadets and treated everyone with dignity and respect. He once said his biggest accomplishment there was his impact on his subordinates.

Capt. Whitten served four months in Iraq. In January 2007, he was deployed for 15 months in Afghanistan. Last August, he became the commander of Company C, 1-508th Parachute Infantry Regiment and deployed for his third

time. He was killed in action in Zabul Province, Afghanistan in February 2010. He is survived by his wife, Starr Whitten; his parents, Jill Whitten of Grimes and Dan Whitten of Florida; and a sister, U.S. Army Capt. Sarah Whitten who is also serving in Afghanistan.

Capt. Daniel Whitten
December 19, 1981- February 2, 2010



Meet the New Board Members

Carla Johns is a 1963 graduate of Johnston High School. She attended Johnston schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. She is the daughter of Robert and Ruth Kinsey. Her great great grandfather, Edward Kinsey immigrated here from Wales. He married Marilda Wolfe on June 5, 1856. They lived in Des Moines before moving in the 1860's to their farm home located on the Southside of NW 62nd Ave between Beaver Ave and Merle Hay Road, the current home of the Allenders. Elmer Kinsey, one of Edward's sons, was Carla's great grandfather. His son, Archie Kinsey, was her grandfather. Archie Kinsey married Esther Temple. Esther's family also has a long history in Johnston. Her father was John Temple and her mother was Mary Hunt. Carla married Jackie Johns, a 1966 graduate of Johnston High school, and they have two children, Jeff and Heidi, who are also Johnston graduates. Carla worked for The Principal Financial Group, formerly called The Bankers Life, for 43 years before retiring 2 years ago.

Janice Jensen was born Janice Allen and raised in Red Oak, Iowa. She has worked in many fields including nursing, secretarial, equipment maintenance, and child care. She joined the Iowa National Guard in 1976 and served 13 years. She was also a civil service employee at Camp Dodge for 20 years. She has served as a unit historian for the 1168th Transportation company in Red Oak and the Company A 234th Signal Battalion in Des Moines. Jan moved to Johnston in 1984. She was married to Arthur Jerry Jensen of Johnston in May 1993. The blended family consists of 7 children, four who graduated from Johnston, 19 grandchildren and three great-grand children. Jan and Arthur Jerry are empty nesters and live on 52nd Ct in Johnston.

Johnston School News

In support of two Johnston High School teachers who are battling cancer, the students put on a Cancer Awareness Week which raised over \$7,400. This money was donated to the American Cancer Society.

Johnston High School teacher and Iowa Teacher of the Year Sarah Wessling is one of four finalists for National Teacher of the Year.

The Johnston High School girls basketball team defeated Roosevelt 55 to 32 in the regional tournament and advanced to the state tournament. They were defeated in the quarterfinal round by #1 ranked Lin-Mar. Congratulations to the girl's team.

The boys and girls bowling teams also went to state. The girl's team finished 5th and the boys 6th. Johnston wrestlers were represented at state by Alex Richards, Stephen Shaffer, and Joe Scanlan.

View Johnston High School Class Pictures on the Web

It is possible to view many of the Johnston High School senior class pictures on the Johnston Historical Society web site: johnstonhistoricalsociety.org. After the web page has been loaded, click on the Johnston School tab located on the left side of the page and next click on the tab titled Class Photos. To better view a class photo, click on the photo to enlarge it.

Not all the classes are included at this time, but many are, starting with 1920 up to the year 1992. The pictures may also be viewed in the Museum.

Ferne's Story

The most exciting event of Lloyd's and my 2009 year was when Casey's gave 500 of Iowa's WWII veterans a once in a lifetime Honor Flight trip to Washington D.C.. As a WWII Navy Wave veteran and Lloyd being a WWII Marine Corp veteran we were both able to go.

On October 12th we met at the south Des Moines Holiday Inn to be registered and were given a hat, jacket, T-shirt, and fanny pack with disposable camera and snacks. We waited until 5PM and boarded a bus (1 of 6) where we were taken to Prairie Meadows for a banquet. All along the route people stood and waved flags for us. After a delicious meal we were entertained at a program of WWII songs sung by women portraying women singers of that era Marilyn Monroe, etc. One of the singers was in the banquet area when they called for her to sing. She came down our aisle stopping once to give a kiss on the forehead of one man – guess who Lloyd. I thought it was great – out of all those people she chose him!

We returned to our motel about 11:30PM and had to be back at the Holiday Inn by 2:30AM where we were given our breakfast and then we all had to be searched for security. About 5:00AM they bussed us over to the Des Moines Airport where we were greeted by hundreds of well wishers who took excellent care of us old, old vets on this huge airplane that was large enough for 500 plus people. They were all so kind. On each step – and there were many – two people were stationed who thanked us for our service and helped us up to the next step. We never felt so honored.

We left Des Moines about 7:30AM arriving in Washington D.C. about 11:00AM eastern time where busses waited to take us to see the memorials: WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. We also got to see the changing of the guard at the Unknown Soldiers Tomb and visited the Arlington Cemetery. However they didn't take us to see the Women's Memorial and we didn't get to go past the White House which was a disappointment to me. Everyone was marvelous to us. We returned to our plane for the return trip home about 7:30PM and arrived back in Des Moines around 11:00PM. Exhausted, but so happy to have been able to make such a trip. It took us three days to recoup, but it was well worth it.

A wonderful time that we will never forget.

Ferne R. Micheal
Graduating Class 1942

Obituaries

Obituaries are compiled by Dick Tarlton. This is a known list of deaths that Dick could obtain. If anyone knows of others please let Dick know. Our address is 6161 Northglenn Dr. Johnston, IA 50131 or by email: JSHS@Q.COM or phone 515-331-0687. Over 700 Johnston School related obituaries are now on file at the museum.

Name	Class	Date of Death
John Eugene Betz	1947	2-18-2010
William Stokes	1966	9-30-2009
David Scott Roberg	1980	1-16-2010
Eric Hines	1988	2-14-2010
Daniel Whitten	1999	2-2-2010
Laura Gwinn	2002	1-2010

George McDowell long time resident of Johnston and the brother of Board Vice President Wanda Slauson passed away on Jan 1, 2010 in Arizona. Our condolences to the McDowell family.

City News

For the first time in history, the Johnston Fire Department participated in the 2010 Fight for Air Climb, also known as the 801 Grand Power Climb, which is a 630-foot ascent to the top of the Principal Building, the tallest building in Iowa. Participants climb 41 flights of stairs to the summit.

The Johnston team was made up of seven department members. The event was held Sunday, February 28, 2010. The department smashed its fundraising goal of \$500 by raising \$1,475. All participants in the Fight for Air raised more than \$113,000 dollars which was donated to the American Lung Association.

Johnston Police Officers Recognized

Two members of the Johnston Police Department, Matt Stringham and Joe Siembieda were recognized for their service to the city by Mayor Paula Dierenfeld. Officer Siembieda has been with the department for 18 years, Officer Stringham for 13 years. Officer Stringham was also commended for his prompt actions during a local crisis situation.

Barber Shop

One of Johnston's oldest and sustained business is the Johnston Barber Shop. Originally it was owned by Worthy Surber. Mr. Surber ran the shop for many years until he died in 1952. The next owners were Harold Tharp and Clifford Paddleford. Sometime in the 1970's it was sold to one of the employees named Marvin Van Ausdale. Marvin's daughter Moni Hart worked for her father in the shop and took over management when he relocated in 1988.

The shop is now made up of all women: Moni Hart, Amber Skalicky, and Barbara Lee. They maintain the working force Tuesday-Friday and Saturday.

The shop has always been located in the same area around Merle Hay Road and NW 62nd Ave. The old hardware store which formerly stood beside the shop was torn down and the grocery store behind it burned down

The shop continues to provide great service to the locals, farmers, and of course, the soldiers and police officers from Camp Dodge.



Answers to History Quiz

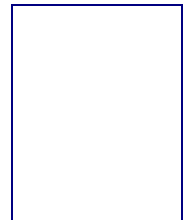
1. A
2. B

Mark Your Calendars

April: An open house will be held in the Museum on Wednesday April 21, 2010 from 5PM until 7PM. Members and guests will be able to tour the Museum and view the refurbishing projects that have taken place. In order to facilitate these projects, the Museum will be closed until that date. If you have questions, please contact Board President, Dick Hyde at (515) - 331-0687.

May: The Society will sponsor a fundraiser, Bands in the Barn, which will be held in the Simpson Barn on May 14th from 7PM to 11PM. The Johnston Station Jazz Band will play from 7 - 9PM and the Blue Grass Roundup Band will play from 9 - 11PM.

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6161 Northglenn Dr
Johnston, IA 50131



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED