

Johnston (Station) Historical Society
P.O.Box 109 Johnston, Iowa 50131

NEWSLETTER

Volume XII, No.3 May, 2005
A 501(c) (3) organization

Published Bi-Monthly by JSHS

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

JN. Historical Society

**Phone lines are in at the house and the phone number is:
(515) 331-0687**

Some history of the Hunt Family in Johnston:

Virginia Hunt Silver and her brother, Howard John Hunt, are great great grandchildren of Ezekiel and Mary Hunt, the first pioneers in the Johnston area. Their great grandparents were James and Rebecca (Newbrough) Hunt. Rebecca died in childbirth December 6, 1877, and is buried at Ridgedale Cemetery. James went on to marry two more times and is buried in the Union Cemetery in Humboldt, Iowa. James and Rebecca purchased land on the west side of Camp- Dodge and built a small house in March, 1852. This house stood until the late 1990's when Camp Dodge tore it down and made this area into the Inter-Urban Park. Virginia Hunt Silver and Howard Hunt are both members of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society.

As a child growing up in the Slater area, Virginia always wanted to draw or paint something. The opportunity came when she retired in 1985 while living at Okoboji, IA. The Lakes Art Center offered summer classes taught by various visiting artists. Her first oil painting was of a Madison County covered bridge and still hangs in her Altoona, IA, home. This was before the "Bridges of Madison County" book or movie. Limited edition prints of her oil painting of the Lake Okoboji excursion ship, Queen II, were the first to be sanctioned by the Iowa Great Lakes Maritime Museum. Other limited edition prints of the Dickinson County Amusement Park "Fun House" and the "Big Coaster" followed. The originals of the latter two are part of the Lakes Art Center permanent art collection. "Fun House" has sold out, but "Queen II" and "Big Coaster" are still available, as well as magnets with the original "Queen II" painting image.

Commissioned to paint the popular lakes area night spot, "Vern & Coila's" was one of her greatest challenges. Her realistic style features many Iowa scenes such as barns, houses, bridges, animals, birds, people, landscapes and more. Her trademark in a landscape is a 'hawk in a tree'.....Sometimes hard to find. Her work has received a number of blue ribbons, purchase awards and honorable mentions. She once entered 4 paintings at the Clay County Fair in Spencer and won 4 blue ribbons. "I never entered again, not wanting to spoil the record!"

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday May 22, 2005

Wednesday June 22, 2005

Sunday July 24, 2005

All meetings at the Simpson House
at 4:00 p.m.

RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERSHIPS: Please send in renewals if the number following your name is less than '05

New members are always welcome. And do bring guests to our regular meetings.

From the PRESIDENT

Just to bring you all up to date on the progress of our project, once again the prisoners from Newton have come to our rescue. Eight men came for almost three weeks in April. It rained on five of those days and so they couldn't come. The work was outside and we had three teams of gifted, hard-working men working on applying the cultured stone façade on the poured concrete walls of the barn, on preparing forms for concrete to be poured for the front steps of the house, a ramp for handicapped access and a brick walkway. The men also totally reinstalled the inscribed brick patio of the barn. The patio is now smooth, flat and excellent. The inscribed bricks are in place and more names have been sent to the monument company for inscription.

We received word from Polk County that our house project was awarded \$1,500 to be used for our concrete work. We also were awarded \$1,000 to be used for cemetery repairs to headstones.

Jerry Gorden, our Society archivist, has begun accepting items for the museum displays. We want to have a good representation to show our history during Green Days.

Starting May 16th, the inmates are coming back for a week to finish grouting the barn façade and building a stone retaining wall for the concrete/earthen ramp. Jimmy Bolls, of Dallas Center will also come to work with the men to finish putting together the windmill and erecting it.

The air condition systems have also been installed in the house and are ready for use. Many thanks to Russ Slauson for all of his work in making this possible.

For all our members, near and far, now is the time to come see what has been accomplished. There is plenty of work for everyone.

In Memory Of:

Clifford J. Walsh - a member of the JSHS since 1998, who passed away on April 26, 2005, at home. Cliff was owner and President of Walsh Equipment, Inc; a past member of Hyperion Country Club, Foxtrot Flying Club, The American Legion and the Cambio Club. He served in the United States Army. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, and daughters Victoria Walsh Long, Kimberly Walsh, and Michelle Walsh; also surviving are three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and five stepsons. Cliff was a founding member of St. Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church and had lived in Johnston for the past 35 years.

Josephine A. Magonegil - a member of the JSHS since 1997, Josie passed away on April 28, 2005, at Mercy Hospice in Johnston. She was a longtime Pioneer employee and a founding member of St. Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church. Josie is survived by her son, James Magonegil of Pine Mountain, GA. and her daughter, Jean Marie Magonegil of Johnston.

Our sincerest sympathies to the Walsh and Magonegil families. Cliff and Josie will be missed greatly.

Our archivist, Jerry Gorden, can be reached at (515) 276-5677. If you have any items you would like to donate to the museum, or loan for display, please contact Jerry. Arrangements will be made to assist you in presenting your items at your convenience.

Donations: Scout (\$100-199)

Kenneth Rittgers

Judy Bogaard - designated towards the carpet runner on the stairway

Brick: Joyce M. & Richard W. Betz

The donation of a laminator and supplies for the historical museum by Judy Bogaard.

Thank you to all who continue to contribute financially and with their time and skills.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

There are a number of opportunities for our membership to participate in the next step of the Historical Society, which is to approve and accept usable items for the museum.

Volunteers can organize and prepare historical material for display in the museum for the following areas:

1. History of the area: such as the Indians, Early family histories and their way of life.
2. School and Community: examples are year books, photos, school memorabilia, History and stories of the churches, civic organizations, Veterans groups, Camp Dodge, burial sites, the Inter-Urban - just to name a few.
3. Business and Agriculture. Some examples here are Surber's Barbershop, Otto's, Frazier's Ice Cream, Iltis Lumber Company, Robinette Chevrolet, Elwell's; Carter's Store, Schlenker Orchard, Garlock Orchard, Pioneer Seed Co., HyLine Chicks, Findley Seed Corn's, Dave Miller's station, Al's Texaco, and many more.

We will always be looking forward to your remembrances about any business or school memory or whatever you think may be of interest to others who visit the museum. Please share with us.

We are also interested in family histories of those "newer" residents of Johnston and community, and encourage the youngsters in the community to write up a story about their own family so we can begin a file for those stories. They are an integral part of the History of Johnston.

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Now a resident of Altoona, IA, Virginia still does some original and commission paintings, when time permits, but no longer demonstrates or exhibits at art shows. She also spends time detailing antique wood spools and water coloring her printed note cards featuring typical Iowa scenes. Yes, there is a hawk in each scene!

Howard John Hunt, at an early age developed an urge to fly and spent his early childhood building model airplanes. Then, at the age of 16, he announced to his parents that he needed their signatures on a "solo license". By saving and going without things, he had managed to accumulate eight hours of dual instruction over a period of two years. After high school graduation, he was off to Iowa State College for two and one half years to get the Army Air Corps qualifications and civilian pilot training being offered. When World War II broke out, he joined the Army Air Corps and was assigned as Air

Transport Command pilot, flying missions into all theaters of operation. It was during the time he was stationed at Wilmington, Delaware, the Howard met Ruth Gadow of Preston, Maryland.

After the war he and other veterans decided to start an airline to Alaska. For a time it was a very successful line, grossing over two million dollars per year and employing up to 150 people. Due to difficulty with CAB, the line went out of business in 1951. He then worked for other non-scheduled airlines and finally went to work for the FAA as a Navajids Flight Inspection pilot. During his stay in Anchorage, AK, he has been involved in many adventurous projects - salvaging airplanes, one of which was a DC-4 on the ice in Hudson Bay; prospecting; mountaineering; skiing; house building; homesteading; hunting; and mining.

Howard and Ruth had three daughters: Nancy, Barbara and Diane. In 1962, Ruth succumbed to cancer and Howard later married Carol Pierce. She has been in Alaska many years, working in the post office, selling real estate, building a cabin at Big Lake. Carol has a daughter, Dashelle, and Howard and Carol have a son named Howard Michael Hunt - the only namesake to carry the Hunt name forward.

The Hunts have established deep roots in and around Anchorage.

- written by Ferne Bice Michael

A GENTLE REMINDER We can always use your helpful hands as volunteers.

Your memberships and donations are essential to carry this project to the fulfillment of our mission statement.

Bricks are one way to preserve and honor those who are helping to preserve the past.

**Please contact us at any time: P.O. Box 109
Johnston, IA**

50131

Commemorative Brick Order Form:

Engraved Brick (\$85 each)

Please fill in the name (s) to be engraved (a maximum of 14 characters per line for 2 lines)

Name & address _____

Check payable to Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Mail to P. O. Box 109, Johnston, IA 50131

Bylaws Change

On April 27, 2005, the Annual meeting of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society was held following the adjournment of the regular monthly meeting.

Bob Finney, Chairman of the Board of Directors, gave his report and presented the following recommendations for a change to the By-Laws.

Article XXIII, Second revised by-laws reads as follows: "ANNUAL MEETING. The Annual Meeting of the Corporation shall be held on the last Tuesday of April each year at Crown Point, City of Johnston, at four o'clock p.m., or at any other place within the City of Johnston, Iowa, as designated by the Board of Directors and notice to the members by the Secretary."

The Board of Directors recommends the change to read as follows:

"ANNUAL MEETING. The annual meeting of the corporation shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of April each year at the Johnston (Station) Historical Society House at 4:00 p.m., or at any other place designated by the Board of Directors, and notice to the members by the Secretary."

This change will be voted on at the next meeting.

MARK YOUR CALENDERS:

June 16 - 19, 2005 The Johnston All - Class Reunion AND Green Days (A Community-Wide Festival)

Thursday: family movie in the "barn"; "Taste of Johnston" ; 3 on 3 basketball; King & Queen candidate introduction; Carnival

Friday: Street dance; 3 on 3 basketball; Carnival; Business Expo; King & Queen Coronation; Food booths

Saturday: Parade; Business Expo; Car Show; 3 on 3 basketball; National Guard display; Cookie bake-off; Carnival; Food Booths; Bill Riley Talent Show; Street Dance

Sunday: Carnival rides, miscellaneous activities

****The Simpson House and Barn will be open during some of the hours of the Festival. Come visit and join in the fun.****