

**JOHNSTON (STATION) HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS**

**P.O.BOX 109 JOHNSTON, IOWA 50131**

**6161 Northglenn Drive – Johnston Commons Park**

---

---

**Volume XVII No. 3**

**Published Bi-Monthly**

**May 2009**

**Telephone: (515) 331-0687**

**E-MAIL: [info@johnstonhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@johnstonhistoricalsociety.org)**

**WEB: [www.johnstonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.johnstonhistoricalsociety.org)**

**President: Mary Jane Paez**

**JSHS is a 501(C) (3) organization**

**Treasurer: Robert Thomas**

**Vice President: Keith Westbrook**

**Secretary: Marlys Seibert**

\*\*\*\*\*

**President's Column:**

*JSHS Annual Report 2009*

As the Johnston (Station) Historical Society continues in its fifteenth year, we have had a busy and productive year. We presently have 104 paid members with 13 new members in the past year.

In May of 2008, we hosted the Johnston Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Before Work. The business community was pleased to get acquainted with the museum and with our efforts to preserve the history of Johnston.

On June 17<sup>th</sup> of 2008, we celebrated the sesquicentennial of the Johnston Post Office service.

Matt Hoehamer was our summer of 2008 intern. His work was funded by a 2007 \$3,000 BRAVO grant. During his time with us, he took a photo of every artifact that we have and matched each picture with our accession database.

We received word that we were awarded a 2008 BRAVO grant for \$5,000 to be used to update our computer/scanner/printer equipment. This spring, we received notification that we could complete the project with a grant of \$2,000 from Supervisor E. J. Giovanneti for a Polk County Community Betterment Grant.

Large collections of artifacts have been donated by the Schlenker, Schleihs, Rittgers and Simpson families.

October 4, 2008 was the date of our second annual craft sale in the loft of the barn. Another sale was held that featured the artwork created by Ethel Conn, graduate of the Class of 1926 and a Society member.

A sign was placed to the south of the museum, facing Northglenn Drive, that identifies the museum and also notes open houses. Through the generosity of Barton Schlenker, a flagpole will be installed by the City before Memorial Day of this year.

A searchable website has been created that allows a person to review the seven newspapers that have served Johnston since 1970.

Displays, created by the Society, have increased in number. They are now found at City Hall, the Johnston High School, the Johnston Public Library and at the Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge.

We are presently working with the Johnston Living Magazine publisher to create *Journey Through Johnston*, a pictorial history book.

Our regular meeting date has been changed to coincide with our monthly second Sunday open house.

Finally, the museum is officially open for visitors every day – Tuesday through Saturday.

All of these activities could not be possible without the efforts of Society volunteers. We are grateful for their dedication.

We owe special thanks to our outgoing officers. Marlys Seibert is stepping down as Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Keith Westbrook has resigned as Vice President. Virginia McGinn has finished her three year term as a Director. They have served us well.

+++++

**New Members:** Michael W. and Beverly J. Horton - Altoona, IA  
Loving Arms Children's Center, Johnston  
Ross Harris-Elizabeth Van Zomeren -Johnston  
Sharon Hyde - Johnston  
Beverly Christofferson – Johnston

**Donation** of funds by Barton Schlenker for a flag pole and marker

**Additional Contributions:**

Don & Jean Heldenbrand  
A-1 & Associates LTD  
Jackie W. Reineke (Johnston H.S. Class 1962)

**Congratulations** to Michael Horton on his recent honor of being the 2009 inductee into the Alumni Hall of Fame (JHS 1955)

*A member remembers -*

*My parents moved to Johnston in 1913 and started gardening and building their greenhouses. They owned 48 acres planted mostly in watermelons, muskmelons and tomato plants. In the early years they sold their melons in stands set up along Merle Hay Road. People came to the greenhouses to buy vegetable plants - tomato, peppers eggplant and flower plants. Most popular were their pansy plants. My sisters and brother all helped. We would all load the pick up truck with melons to take to the stand the next morning. If my sisters wanted to drive the truck to the movie theater in Beavertdale that evening, we would all unload the truck, go to the movies and load it again when we got home, so it would be ready to go the next morning. I wonder if it was worth all that work!*

*There were also fruit trees on our property - plums, apples, cherries, walnuts and pears, so we were fortunate to always have fresh veggies and fruit. It was good growing up in Johnston Station!!*

*Frances Longo Melas*

**NOTICE! Regular meeting for May: Time 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, 2009**  
(Day & time changed due to Mother's Day on May 10 – regular scheduled date)

### ***Spring's Garden***

Amaryllis for splendid beauty. Buttercup for childishness.  
Caladium for joy and delight. Daffodil - you are the only one. Freesia for innocence  
Gardenia - You are lovely. Peony for bashfulness.  
Red Chrysanthemum for Love. Red Tulip for declaration of Love.  
Statice for remembrance. Wax flowers for riches. White Lily for sweetness.

***TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIPS!***

February 1924 - The Community Review: Local News

- Luther Holcomb's have installed a radio.
- Meredith's garage burned down Monday morning, January 21. The cause was unknown.
- Chas. Rittgers put up ice Wednesday and Thursday, January 23 and 24.
- Adolph Hummel has been ill with blood poisoning. He is recovering now.

*Also from 1924*

### **Getting a college Education in Germany:**

The "tramp student" has sprung up in Germany. Unable to afford lodgings in the city, he hunts out some distant farm house and begs for shelter in exchange for work. Each morning he hikes five or six miles to classes and each evening he returns and does several hours' manual work to earn his night's rest. His bed may be in the attic or barn, but it is at least dry and fairly warm.

This type of student is the outgrowth of the depreciation in currency. Hundreds arrive at the universities in the fall, elated over having earned enough during the summer months to carry them through the semester. Then comes another sharp decline of the 'mark' and their entire savings are wiped out. If they do not wish to give up their studies, they must divide their day between work and study.

The gay, spectacular student life of pre-war Germany has disappeared. Gone are the beer-drinking parties, duels, and wine cellar political discussions. The bright caps and sashes that once decorated every university town have practically disappeared. In their places are frayed work clothes, for more than eighty per cent of Germany's 120,000 students spending from four to ten hours at hard labor each day.

When the holidays arrive, they mobilize into small armies, some going into the coal mines with pick and shovel, some into the forests to chop down trees, some into the fields with pitchforks, rakes and plows. The old caste system, which made it a disgrace for a student to work, is a thing of the past.

There is no college life in Germany, such as America knows. College spirit is hard to develop when there is no campus and German universities make no effort to house the students in dormitories. Instead, living quarters must be found outside. There are at least 40,000 students who lived in unheated rooms all last winter. Another 60,000 had rooms that were heated once or twice during the cold weather. Unheated rooms in Germany mean dampness as well as cold.

The tramp student usually manages to eat a limited supply of food each day from a sympathetic farm wife. But there are thousands living in the city who are less fortunate. One girl, who collapsed while taking her examinations, confessed that she had been living for weeks on apples and a few crusts of bread. Not one student in Germany today possesses a complete set of books, and many cannot afford even one book. Consequently, the reading rooms and study halls are strained to capacity, particularly in the evening when the students have temporarily cast aside their roles as shoemakers, laundrymen, coal shoveling and the like.

But these conditions have not checked the determination of the youth of Germany to go on with their education. Berlin, Heidelberg, Leipzig, and Munich are overrun with students. They are practical-minded students, turning in ever increasing numbers from the arts and pure sciences to trade, commerce, banking and political economy. Whereas law, philosophy, and medicine and dentistry used to draw the largest registration, these courses are now second in popularity. The last two mentioned are neglected because the students cannot afford the laboratory fees or the high cost of getting started in those professions.

The European Student Relief has done much to make the lot of German students easier. There are two things, however, which stand out. One is the development of the self-help idea, showing them how to earn their own living. The other is the establishment of a bank for saving the value of the money which they earn during their vacations. Each pay day thousands send their earnings to this bank, where the marks are immediately converted into dollars – good American dollars that remain stable no matter what happens to the mark.”-----

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MAY GO ONLINE TO READ THIS NEWSLETTER, OR YOU MAY REQUEST THAT IT BE SENT TO YOU VIA E-MAIL. TO HAVE YOUR COPY SENT TO YOU VIA E-MAIL PLEASE NOTIFY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.**

*Bricks are available always - \$85 for two lines, 13 characters each line. Order as per the address below.*

***A little bit of Unknown History... just for fun! Mind up!!***

Most people don't know that back in 1912, Hellmann's mayonnaise was manufactured in England. In fact, the Titanic was carrying 12,000 jars of the condiment scheduled for delivery in Vera Cruz, Mexico, which was to be the next port of call for the great ship after its stop in New York. This would have been the largest single shipment of mayonnaise ever delivered to Mexico. But as we know, the great ship did not make it to New York. The ship hit an iceberg and sank, and the cargo was forever lost. The people of Mexico, who were crazy about mayonnaise, and were eagerly awaiting its delivery, were disconsolate at the loss. Their anguish was so great, that they declared a National Day of Mourning, which they still observe to this day. The National Day of Mourning occurs each year on May 5th and is known, of course, as “Sinko De Mayo!”

*In the past we have asked for photos, family histories, information regarding businesses, homes, and incidental information regarding Johnston Station (of old) and Johnston, Iowa, in general. Please join forces with us to keep up the good work that has begun. Without the leadership we have had (who are perhaps not properly appreciated) provided by tireless hours and hours of time, effort, personal contribution of time and money and equipment, we would not be where we are today. Please do what YOU can – A good historical society cannot be the result of only a few. Thanks. I truly enjoy having done the newsletter.* Marlys Seibert

Dues reminder: **please re-new by June 1, 2009.**

Name: Street Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

e-mail address: phone number:

Additional contribution:

**Mail to:** Johnston (Station) Historical Society P.O. Box 109 Johnston, IA 50131

New: \_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_ \$10 single \_\_\_ \$12 family \_\_\_

Thank you so very much. We appreciate your support Mail to:

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