

Johnston (Statton) Historical Society  
Post Office Box 109  
Johnston, Iowa 50131  
www.johnstonhistoricalsociety.com

# NEWSLETTER

Volume X No. 6

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President: Mary Jane Paez  
Vice-Pres. & Programs: Judy Bogaard  
Secretaries: Marlys Seibert & Pat Wallerstedt

Treasurer: Robert Thomas  
Membership: Garland Seibert  
Newsletter: Selma Duvick

## NOVEMBER MEETING:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 4:00 PM

SIMPSON HOUSE

PROGRAM:  
CURRENT PROGRESS ON RENOVATION

(We have heat in one room of the House!)

Looking ahead:

No meeting in December

Meetings scheduled in 2004:

January 25 (Sun.)	July 25 (Sun.)
February 25 (Wed.)	August 25 (Wed.)
March 28 (Sun.)	September 28 (Sun.)
April 28 (Wed.)	October 27 (Wed.)
May 23 (Sun.)	November 28 (Sun.)
June 23 (Wed.)	December : no meeting



## From the President.....

It occurs to me that every time I write this column, I report what has been accomplished on the house and barn project.

I think it is time to list the things that need to be done to finish the project.

In going through the house we made a room-by-room assessment of work to be done. The repeating theme is to repair wall cracks, paint walls, sand and finish wood floors, install ceiling molding and baseboard, clean woodwork and refinish some woodwork.

Some of the windows have cracked and so they are systematically being removed and glass replaced. The house half-bath is ready for the installation of the plumbing fixtures. The main floor and second floor are ready for light fixture installation. We are waiting to do that until after the painting and sanding is finished, as we don't want to mess up the hard work we did cleaning and polishing them.

We are ready to install the porch pillars now that the porch flooring deck has been replaced with beautiful new fir strips. The porch will also need a railing since it is more than eight inches off the ground.

We are ready to build a handicapped accessible ramp for the house and to build the interior basement stairs. Temporary heat is in the house; we are hoping to have a new furnace and ductwork by spring. Eventually we will need a new sloping cellar door, but so far the existing plywood door is adequate.

Concrete steps and sidewalks are needed. And if an angel showed up on our doorstep, we could redo the siding and roof! (See the wish list below).

The barn is coming along nicely. To complete that part of the project we need to finish the plumbing with installation of the fixtures. And we plan to apply for a county grant to complete the kitchen. The furnace and ductwork will be done this winter.

Wiring needs to be completed in the ground level rooms. Interior stairs to the loft need to be constructed and two glass block windows installed.

We want to put a façade of cultured rock outside to cover the poured concrete walls. Interior walls will be insulated and covered with cedar board. Gravel for the roadway needs to be hauled and spread.

The windmill is ready to reassemble and set up, and sidewalks and pathways are in the plan. Work has begun on the brick patio, and some of the inscribed bricks are in place. It looks excellent! (We are still taking orders for bricks.)

Another angel could take a look at the shingles, and help with new ones!

By making lists and being able to cross through items as they are accomplished we can see our progress on paper as well as on site. Much of the work just requires time and volunteers to finish the job.

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Mary Jane Paez

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### **Open House & Barn**

On Sunday afternoon, November 9, the JSJS invited the public to an open house to show what the society and its busy

volunteers have accomplished. Here is Bob Thomas' report:

"A good day for visitors! All enjoyed checking out the house and barn and learning about the renovation progress. Those that were unable to attend missed some good cookies and lots of conversation. We will be happy to have any of you stop by whenever you are in the area; bring a friend.

Some bricks were sold, but we still have more. We heard about more items that will be available for display when the buildings are ready. For those who have items for the museum that are now in your way, let us know and we will find a place to store them.

People enjoyed seeing the just-completed tile project and the barn loft ceiling lights. Ferne (Michael) brought a table she has refinished; it was left on the porch of the house and was saved from the dumpster. It cleaned up real well!

We now have heat in the house and soon will have a furnace in the barn. Our project will not stop for cold weather, but may be slowed due to lack of help. All that might be able to help are encouraged to stop by, as you are needed! I always say it is nice to be needed!!"

We'll plan for another open house, certainly by next spring when we will be energized by warmer weather.

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### **House and Barn Wish List.**

As the Holidays approach, small children (and some not so small) make wish lists; the JSJS has a wish list of its own. Our members and friends have an opportunity to "take ownership" of a piece of the house and

barn renovation for yourself or as a memorial, and we offer the following "wish list", everything from a \$24 bar for the barn patio fence to \$28,500 for re-roofing the barn. Here's our "wish list" and estimated cost:

Exterior lights for barn (6)	\$210
Lumber for 2 sets of stairs in barn	838
Lumber for basement stairs in house	157
Horizontal bars for barn patio fence	24
Cedar boards for exposed barn walls	350
Insulation in barn	1000
Glass block windows in barn	200
Glass block windows in house	150
Plumbing fixtures	1514
Drinking fountain for house	100
Kitchen base cabinets & wall cabinets in barn	2900
Range	587
Refrigerator	567
Dishwasher	257
Garbage disposal	90
Over-the-range microwave	198
Countertop	240
Barn water heater	250
Barn handicapped accessible drinking Fountain	318
Re-roofing for house	18500
Re-roofing for barn	28500
Gravel for roadway	700
Cultured rock face on exposed exterior of barn @440/100 sq ft x15 & mastic	9000
Repair & erect windmill	500
Cellar door and extension	950
Sidewalks & pathways	1000
House front, side, back steps	600
Floor sanding & finish	500
Porch railings	250
Window glass replacement	150

Thus far we have received great help from businesses and individuals. We'll acknowledge these in the next newsletter.

We hope to hear from some of you at

Johnston Historical Society  
P.O. Box 109, Johnston IA 50131  
The Historical Society is an IRS code  
501(c)(3) organization.

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## New Members

The Johnston Historical Society welcomes the following new members:

Shirley Miller  
Des Moines, IA

Lloyd & Phyllis Cherryholmes  
Des Moines, IA

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## CONTRIBUTIONS & GIFTS

Johnston Cub Scout Pack 244, Den 4  
Den 4 received an anonymous gift of \$322 through Mid-American Energy. The boys wanted to do something for the community with the money. After touring the Simpson House and Barn they determined that this was something they wanted to support.

They have purchased a brick with some of the money, the brick to read:

DEN 4 PACK 244  
2002

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## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Ferne Michael  
Windsor Heights, IA  
In memory of Richard Moss

Bob & Marilyn Stotts Gates  
Clearwater, Fl  
In loving memory of Gloria Thomas

Ruth Biddle  
Des Moines, IA  
In memory of Gloria Thomas

Many thanks to all for these gifts

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### BRICKS

Howard & Carol Hunt  
Anchorage, AK  
HOWARD & CAROL  
HUNT

Ruth Biddle  
Des Moines, IA  
KATHRYN B 1920  
ANDERSON 2003

Dave & Patsy Goss  
Panora, IA  
DAVE & PATSY GOSS  
PANORA, IOWA

Raymond Vignovich  
Ahwahnee, CA  
RAYMOND (RADOMIR)  
VIGNOVICH

Linda Hyde  
Johnston, IA  
RICHARD & LINDA  
HYDE & FAMILY

Thanks to all who have ordered; we  
continue to take brick orders.

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### In Memoriam

Richard A. Moss (Col. Ret.)

Johnston Historical Society member Richard Moss died on September 29, 2003. He was a WWII veteran, and served in the Army National Guard from 1946 to 1981, when he retired as a colonel.

Richard was active in a number of community organizations as well as in veteran's groups. The JSHS sends sympathy to his wife Anna, and to the rest of his family including his sisters Susan Hilliard and Helen Tufts who are members of our Society.

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### Thirty Years Ago in Johnston

Remember the "energy crisis" of 1973? In October of that year, the countries of OPEC put an embargo on shipments of oil to the US and other countries, and prices went up and supplies went down!

In Johnston, as in many other communities, this resulted in thermostats going down in the schools and homes, lights turned off when not in use, and no school-bus warm-up! Students were urged to take busses to out-of-town functions instead of private cars.

And there were no lights on the city Christmas tree. The tree, which at that time was located at Murray Circle, was decorated that year with shiny ornaments made by the Scouts, and hung by the Johnston Volunteer Firemen. Otherwise, the usual ceremonies around the tree took place on December 16, 1973.

**IT'S TIME TO RENEW!!** If the number after your name on the address label reads "03", you need to renew your membership in the JSHS. Please use the form below—and thanks!!

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

**Yes, I want to renew my (our) membership to the Johnston Historical Society.**  
(Check your newsletter mailing label. If it reads "03" after your name, you need to renew)

Single membership: 1 year for \$10.00 ( )      I want to make a contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Family membership: 1 year for \$12.00 ( )      (Tax-deductible, IRS code 501 (c)(3))

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your check to:  
Johnston (Station) Historical  
Society  
Post Office Box 109  
Johnston, IA 50131

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



**WANT TO ORDER A BRICK FOR THE BARN PATIO? USE THE FORM BELOW**

**Commemorative Brick Order Form:**

Engraved Brick (s) (\$85 each)

Please fill in the name(s) to be engraved (a maximum of 14 characters per line for two lines)  
Make a copy of this form if you are ordering more than one brick

Make checks payable to the Johnston ( Station) Historical Society

Send to the Johnston Historical Society, P.O. Box 109 Johnston, Iowa 50131