

JOHNSTON (STATION) HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O.Box 109 Johnston, Iowa 50131
6161 Northglenn Drive - Johnston Commons Park

Volume XIV No.6 Published bi-monthly November 2006
Email address: JSHS6161@aol.com Telephone: (515)331-0687 **JSHS is a 501(c)(3) organization**
President: Mary Jane Paez Treasurer: Robert Thomas
Vice President/Programs: Judy Bogaard
Membership: Garland Seibert Secretary/Newsletter: Marlys Seibert

MERLE HAY BRICKS

History was made in Johnston this month. Eighty-eight years after the last brick was laid to create what is now known as Merle Hay Road, Garland Seibert laid the last Merle Hay Road brick in a 200' pathway that leads from the parking lot to the Simpson barn. A side path leads to the museum back door.

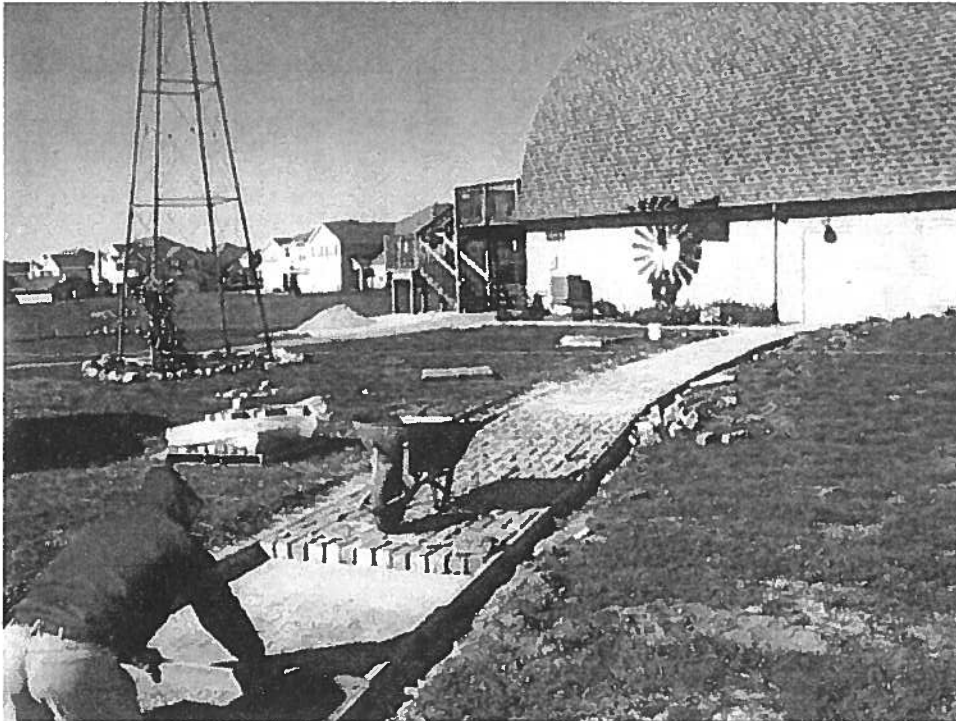
With the build up of World War I, Camp Dodge was chosen as the military training center for the upper Midwest, because of its similarity of climate and topography to France. By the summer of 1917, it became apparent that better access was needed at Camp Dodge to move troops and equipment. Fifty-eighth Street, as the dirt road was known, had to be paved with brick to accommodate the increased traffic. With the final widening of Merle Hay Road from Northglenn Drive to its terminus at NW Beaver Drive, the historic bricks were unearthed and donated to our project by the city. With the cooperation of McClure Engineering, truck loads of bricks were hauled to our site for cleaning and stacking, done mostly by Garland. Earlier in the summer, volunteers from the engineering company laid bricks under the west deck of the Simpson barn to increase the size of the shaded patio.



Placing monolithic brick pavement for the Des Moines to Camp Dodge road. 1917-1918
(Courtesy Iowa State Highway Commission)

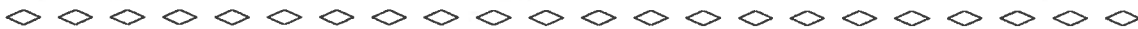
Caption under picture reads: "placing monolithic brick pavement for the Des Moines to Camp Dodge road. 1917-1918
(Courtesy Iowa State Highway Commission)"

The last of the Merle Hay Road bricks are still stacked at the west end of the parking lot. The Society will sell the bricks for 2 for \$1. Any brick left over will be buried forever in a farmer's ditch.



There have been many defining moments in our project. Garland just experienced another one.

Jerry Gorden has been our museum archivist since we started to acquire accessions. With all his experience at the Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge, he set up procedures and formats for receiving historical artifacts. Jerry has asked to step down to devote his attention to health issues. Fortunately, Dick Hyde has offered to take over this important job. We are most grateful.



As we approach the end of the year, people start thinking about where they would like to help out with donations. Our last big improvement to our museum will be to replace the masonite siding. This will improve the historic appearance of the house and also will help with insulation for better interior climate control. We have estimated that the cost would be between \$15,000 and \$20,000.



DOES ANYONE HAVE INFORMATION REGARDING THE STAGE LINES AND/OR THE COAL MINES IN JOHNSTON? We need stories and other bits of information and reminiscences of times past and present from Johnston. Verbal and written accounts of a variety of activities are of interest for the archives. Perhaps you have a memory of the various businesses of Johnston Station or from the early days of incorporation. Family histories are also of interest.



On November 4, JHS '59 class members met at the Simpson Historical House . Pictured are the 'girls', from left to right: Michael Roberts, Judi Betz Bogaard, Pauline Lewis Chambers, and Deanne Robinette Lee. The 'Guys' are Larry Madole, Mike Vorhees, Mike Meston, Gary Sellner, and Dick Kinsey (They will meet again on Dec 2 at 10:am at The Machine Shed. This is a monthly get-together for these classmates)

The Antique Auto Club of America rented the Simpson Barn for a Halloween party. They wanted to commemorate the event and ordered an inscribed brick to be added to the east patio. These bricks were originally salvaged from the basement foundation of the 100 year old Simpson house. **For ease in finding a brick in the patio, the inscribed bricks have all been mapped out and logged into the computer.**

NEWEST BRICKS:

Mary L. Kennedy
Donald J. Kennedy
ANTIQUA AUTO CLUB OF AMERICA

We extend our Sympathy to:

Elnora Masters, whose brother, Jimmie Lee Edwards, died Sept 21'06
Also to the Family of Don Rice, member, who died September 17th. His wife, Wilma Leeper Rice (JHS 41) died this past April.

Memorials Money received - all in Memory of Raymond Schlenker:

Emma Jean Stillwell	\$25
Ray & Vivian Schleih	10
Joe & Arlene Shore	10
additional	40

~~~~~  
**We love to hear from you!** We recently received a note from Marilyn Jean Stotts Gates telling us that

*"My Johnston years were wonderful, teachers great - class size perfect - students just nice "kids" I wouldn't change a thing- (that I can remember - one looks at life differently at 20 than at 80!"*

**With this encouraging note regarding how she enjoys the newsletter and all that has been accomplished with the JSHS she enclosed a personal check for \$100.00 - thank you so very much, Marilyn!**  
~~~~~

Carol Warren, a member of the Johnston Dollars for Scholars Board, writes that they are having their Fourth Annual Auction and Dinner on February 24, 2007. Their group is interested in knowing if there might be alumni that would be willing to donate items or services to help raise scholarship money for graduating seniors. Specifically, would there be alumni who, as artists, photographers, sculptures, painters, teachers of music, of dance or of other skills to others who might be willing to donate to the auction

Our Next Regular meeting is Sunday - NOVEMBER 26, 2006 AT 4:00 P.M.

The program will be showing some of the video interviews that have recently been made for our Museum.

Next Open House: See you the second Sunday in January, 2007! Bring your family and friends by to see what we have now!! Time is 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Please share any program ideas you might have with us. Thanks.

*My idea of housework is
to sweep the room with a glance!*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

WE WILL BE BACK IN 2007

Retirement: when you no longer have to work on any day that starts with "T"
- that is, Tuesday, Thursday, Today, or Tomorrow