



Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Discovering and Preserving Johnston History, for Tomorrow

JOHNSTON
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 28 • Issue 4

Winter 2020

From the President...

I want to thank all the members and donors for their support in 2020. Many non-profit organizations, along with many businesses, have been severely hurt or may even close, due to the effects of the pandemic.

However, with the help of members, volunteers and other donors, the Johnston (Station) Historical Society remains sustainable and is looking for new ways to serve the Johnston community. Special thanks to the donors who provided generous contributions in 2020 beyond their membership dues.

Our plans for 2021 include:

1. Install the 2 trail/roadside historical markers at Ridgedale Cemetery and the Rittgers stagecoach stop sites on Beaver Drive.
2. Help the City save the Johnston Drive 1917 interurban railroad powerhouse on Johnston Drive and convert it to suitable new uses.
3. Continue to encourage the City of Johnston to create a Historic Preservation Commission.
4. Evaluate how to digitize the JSHS document and photo collection and make it accessible on-line.
5. Reopen the 1902 Simpson House, once the pandemic passes.

John Brown, President

Board Members and Officers

Board members: Tom Leffler, Al Tokheim.

A.J. Simpson, Lois Waggoner and John Brown.

Student Advisory member: Lily Simpson

Officers

John Brown President and Archivist

Lois Waggoner Vice President
& Assistant Archivist

A.J. Simpson Secretary

Al Tokheim Treasurer & Information Technology

Board Members Needed

Please consider serving on the board of directors. We have two vacancies the board can fill until the year end election by the members. The members can then confirm that appointment for a 3-year term. Board members can serve 2 terms. The Board meets monthly at 6:00 on the 4th Thursday (by Zoom meeting in 2020). If you are interested in serving on the board, please submit your name and contact information to us by mail or by email at jshs@q.com.

Wishing you all the best this Holiday Season and in the coming year!
Johnston Historical Society
Board of Directors.



1902 Simpson House Museum Access:

We hope to reopen the museum in 2021 and want to provide that experience to all who are interested. 2020 was the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which ensured reasonable equal access to persons with limited mobility, limited vision, limited hearing, and other disabilities. The 1902 Simpson House Museum has a access ramp on the North side and the North porch door allows wheelchair access. The first floor of the museum has sufficient room for wheelchair access to all of the artifacts in the rooms that are open to the public.

While it is not possible to remove some barriers to accessibility to the 2nd floor exhibit rooms, because the required alterations would reduce or destroy the significance of our historic facility, volunteers can provide alternative methods of access. Since the second floor of our historic house museum can only be reached by climbing stairs, volunteers can provide notebooks of photographs and a video that depicts the items, space and information shown on the second floor to a person who is unable to climb the stairs. Those photographs and video are in an accessible first floor location. This permits people with a mobility disability to obtain information about the items and space on the upper level that others obtain who are able to climb the stairs. Also, the research items, like the extensive collection of family histories, can be brought down to the first floor for easy access.

Please contact us at jshs@q.com if you have any questions about the 1902 Simpson House museum accessibility.



Johnston Historical Society
6161 Northglenn Drive
Johnston, IA 50131 515-608-5730
Email: jshs@q.com
Website: JohnstonIowaHistorical.org
Visit our website for new developments

In Memory of

Margaret A. (Otto) Beck, 90, of Johnston, and member of JSHS passed away on Monday, November 9, 2020, at Mercy One West.

Margaret was born on October 23, 1930, to Arlie Vincent & Lenora (Kuefner) Otto of Johnston. She graduated in 1949 from Johnston High School. While running her father's grocery store in Johnston, she met and then married Jason Beck in 1952.

Her father was the school board president at one time and Lawson Elementary was named after her great-grandfather, John F. Lawson, who donated the land for the first one-room schoolhouse in the Johnston Station area. Margaret was a very good basketball player and was named to the Des Moines Register's All-State Girls Basketball Honor Roll.

She is survived by her husband of 68 years, N. Jason Beck, children Janice (Dr. John) Stock and Alan (Dr. Susan) Beck, four grandchildren and three great-grandsons. Margaret was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers, Robert and Donald, and sisters, Arlene Murray and Betty Gandy.

Our condolences to these families.

New Members

Please encourage those interested in supporting our mission and vision to become a member of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society. To become a member of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society, print the membership brochure on the website (<http://johnstoniawahistorical.org/>), complete the Membership Application and send it with your \$20 check to:

Johnston (Station) Historical Society
6161 Northglenn Drive
Johnston, Iowa 50131

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society is to bring people together who are interested in the history and preservation of the Johnston area, which includes the early settlements of Johnston Station, Beaver Creek Settlement, Ridgedale, Huntsville, Herrold and Dodge City.

To this goal, we work to get the community engaged and involved in Johnston's rich history by providing a museum and events to the public.

OBITUARIES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Class of</u>	<u>Death</u>
Marilyn Stotts Gates	1942	1-4-2014
Wendell Jeffrey	1940	6-9-2015
Selma "Sally" Daniels Gau	1943	9-27-2015
Pauline Seibert Besch	1942	5-30-2016
Fenton Dietz	1943	4-30-2019
Charles R Burkett	Johnston Resident Former member	4-21-2020
Michael "Mick" Blubaugh	1973	5-11-2020
Lauryn C. Freundle	Johnston Student	10-18-2020
Jay P Cookman	Teacher & Guidance Counselor	10-31-2020
Lon Newlin	1963	11-8-2020
Margaret Otto Beck	1949 & member	11-9-2020
Michael Rhoades	1983	11-18-2020
Chad C. Larson	1998	11-24-2020
James "Jim" Garrison	Johnston Resident	11-25-2020

Obituaries are compiled by Nancy Budrevich. If you know of others, please contact Nancy

- **Mail:** 6161 Northglenn Dr. Johnston, IA 50131
- **Email:** jshs@q.com • **Phone:** 515-608-5730

Over 1,000 Johnston related obituaries are now on file at the museum.

Bringing Johnston History to the Digital Age:

The Simpson House Museum welcomes anyone to examine numerous photos, documents, and other historical artifacts for a look back at Johnston through the ages. Part of the JSHS mission is to connect with past, current, and future generations of history lovers, providing a convenient and safe learning experience. In today's digital world, offering online options is an integral part of expanding our visitor reach.

JSHS ambitions for an enhanced visitor and member online experience include:

- Refreshed and expanded JSHS Website and social media content
- PayPal and Venmo payment services for the convenience of JSHS members and those who generously choose to support the Society's mission.
- Develop a roadmap for implementing a collection management system (CMS), enabling digital photo and document artifact preservation with online delivery options.

As an entirely volunteer organization, JSHS relies extensively upon the time and talent of community members willing to help advance our mission. If you or someone you know has web content delivery experience or just an interest in supporting our effort, please contact us at JSHS@q.com

2021 Annual Dues

It's dues time. All members' annual dues are to be paid by January 15, 2021, for the 2021 calendar year. The cost for a yearly membership remains at \$20 and we have enclosed an envelope to mail your dues back to us for your convenience. If the number after your name on the mailing label is 21 or higher, your dues for 2021 are already paid.

We welcome any donation over and above your membership amount. Your generosity has allowed us to continue the work of saving and sharing our local history. Your support and donations are appreciated!

2021 Board Member Election

The Johnston (Station) Historical Society Bylaws provides provide that the members elect the Board members using a ballot sent with the last newsletter of the calendar year. Your ballot is below. Board members are elected for a three year term and can serve 2 terms before they are required to be off the Board for at least one year. Board members must be a member in good standing of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society. A.J. Simpson, a Johnston resident and grandson of the donors of the 1902 Simpson House, is running for a second 3-year term.

You can tear off that ballot below and mail it to:

Johnston (Station) Historical Society
6161 Northglenn Drive
Johnston, Iowa

You may also vote by e-mail, by sending a message selecting the candidates listed in this newsletter (below) or providing a write-in candidate(s). Please consider writing in your own name if you want to serve on the Board.



Comes to Johnston Historical Society:

For the convenience of member and donors, JSHS now accepts PayPal when paying annual membership dues or making gifts to help preserve Johnston History. When using PayPal, It is as simple as using our email address as a payment destination

JSHS@q.com

or scan the following QR code

Enter the desired payment amount, add a note telling us what it is for and you are done. It is that simple.



Scan. Pay. Go.

New addition to Ray Schleih's Park



Johnston Historical Society helped design and fund the plaque commemorating the life of Ray Schleih's. It was installed at the north entrance of the Ray Schleih's Park in Johnston

Ray was one of the founders of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society.

2021 Board of Election Ballot

Please vote for one by checking box following name. Write in names are welcome, along with contact information for person.

AJ SIMPSON (incumbent)

Write in _____

Please return by **January 15, 2021**. If your name on address label is followed by a number less than 21, please also send in your membership dues of \$20.00 if you have not done so. **Envelope enclosed.**