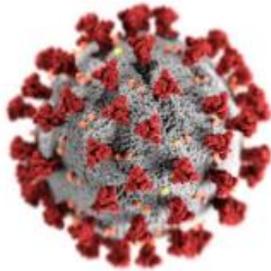


Jewell Historical Society

Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 3
Jul – Sept, 2020



JHS Board Resumes In-Person Meetings But Limits Open Hours

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jewell Historical Society (JHS) Board continues to hold its meetings either virtually using an on-line videoconferencing program, or weather permitting, in person, outdoors, using appropriate physical distancing and disinfection procedures at the Jewell History Museum, located at 501 Johnson St. in Jewell. The Board regularly meets on the third Monday of every month at 3:00 PM.

Also, the Jewell History Museum is still not open for patron visits on a regular schedule like it was last year. Instead, the facility will be open for visits by appointment only. Interested persons may phone to JHS vice president and museum curator Dick Steffen at (515) 310-0413, and leave a message on his voicemail. Dick will return the call so that a visit can be scheduled.

Jewell Historical Society Website News

The Board thinks it might be both fun and instructive to include in the Newsletter interesting items from the Jewell Historical Society website from time to time. For example:

Why is Our Town Called Jewell (Junction)?

The War of 1812 helped to make Jewell Junction possible. Grants of 160 acres were given soldiers to help encourage settlers to come west of the Mississippi River. A grant was given to William Winslow, a physician of Maine. He sold this grant of land to a Cornelius Haden in 1856 for less than \$1.00 per acre. There were settlers along the Skunk River in 1855 and along the Boone River in the 1840s. Between the two rivers was little but prairie and timber. David T. Jewell bought this grant and brought his family to this area by wagon in 1877.

This and other items are available at www.jewelljunctionhistory.org. And be sure to check out the many recent updates and additions to the website. The site was developed, is maintained and is frequently updated by our Webmaster, JHS Board member Alan Spohnheimer.

A Blast from the Past

And as mentioned previously, the Board has decided to include in each issue of the Newsletter a brief excerpt or summary from the books which were published during Jewell's Centennial and Quasiquicentennial. It is hoped that these items will entertain and inform readers.

This issue's submission is from an article in the original Centennial Book (published in 1981) about the Montgomery Memorial Library.



The Montgomery Memorial Library at 419 Main Street.

Montgomery Memorial Library

"In 1945 E. W. Montgomery gave all but \$9,000 of his estate to establish a Modern Free Public Library in Jewell. The library was in his home at 419 Main Street, just south of the Lutheran Church. His will provided that Otto Fenton, Mrs. G. H. Maxon, Elmer Rorem, and Attorney G. O. Blake would be the trustees, 'that the trustees shall make annual financial reports to the Masonic Lodge of Jewell, and that vacancies that may arise in the library board of trustees in the future shall be filled by the lodge.' The Lodge turned complete obligations over to the trustees. This library had a fine assortment of books, magazines, musical records and complete sets of early Jewell newspapers dating to 1899. Approximately 7,000 books have been accessioned, and approximately 1300 borrowers had registered by 1976. There

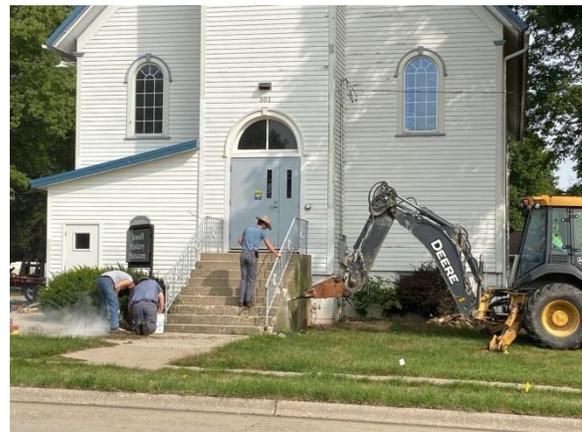
are books for all ages. It has been a fine influence in this community. The library hours were 1 – 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday in 1976."

Read the complete article as well as other items of interest in the Centennial Book. Both this book and the Quasiquicentennial Book (published 2006), are available for review in the Jewell History Museum. Copies are also available for review at the Montgomery Memorial Library, from where they can also be checked out by Library cardholders.

Entryway Improvements

Work is almost complete on the Jewell History Museum's new front stairs. HI Services, Inc. out of Lehigh IA is the contractor on the project, which was made possible through the generosity of a local donor. The new stairs have been designed to allow for the addition of a handicap access ramp at some point in the future. This ramp phase will begin once funding is available.

The following pictures show the progress.



Demolition Begins

Entryway Improvements (cont.)



Demolition Continues



Foundation Work Begins



Demolition Complete



The Form is Built



New Stairs Are Poured



Only Need the Railing!

The museum project has been partially funded by grants and donations from:

The Jewell Centennial Trust

The IMT Group

Jewell Lions

Hamilton County Tourism:

Hamilton Hometowns®. "Deeply Rooted in Central Iowa;"

and

The Enhance Hamilton County Foundation



The Jewell Historical Society is working to catalog, preserve and display items important to the history and heritage of Jewell Junction, Iowa. Please help the mission of your Society and of the Jewell History Museum by becoming a member at one of the levels indicated. Your membership helps to maintain the operation of the Jewell History Museum. (Note: The "Utility Membership" will support the Museum's utility bills for a month.)

Annual Memberships

- ___ Individual \$ 25.00
- ___ Family \$ 45.00
- ___ Patron \$ 100.00
- ___ Utility \$ 250.00

Lifetime Membership

- ___ Lifetime \$1,000.00

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please return to:
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PO Box 2
Jewell IA 50130