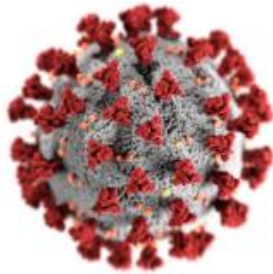


Jewell Historical Society

Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 2
Apr – Jun 2020



JHS Board Resumes In-Person Meetings But Limits Open Hours

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jewell Historical Society (JHS) Board has been holding its meetings virtually during the past few months, using an on-line videoconferencing program. In addition, the Jewell History Museum has not been open for patron visits on a regular schedule like it was last year. But in July, the Board elected to meet in person, outdoors, using appropriate physical distancing and disinfection procedures. At this meeting, the Board decided to forgo regular open hours for the remainder of 2020. Instead, the facility will be open for patron 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. The Board regularly meets on the third Monday of every month at 3:00 PM in the Jewell History Museum, located at 501 Johnson St. in Jewell. Weather

permitting, such meetings will be held outdoors to ensure the safety of all attendees as much as possible. However, the Board reserves the right to resume virtual meetings if this is deemed preferable.

Jewell Historical Society Website News

The Jewell Historical Society recently received an Email from the Executive Director of a youth services organization located in a nearby Iowa town. She thanked us for having developed a wonderful history-based website and indicated that she has used the site as part of a beginner's genealogy and historic research class she teaches to young people in her town. The JHS website was developed, is maintained and is frequently updated by our Webmaster, JHS Board member Alan Spohnheimer. Check it out at www.jewelljunctionhistory.org.

A Blast from the Past

In order to add some actual Jewell History to these newsletters, 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 (1981) and Quasquicentennial (2006). It is hoped that these items will entertain and inform readers.

To start, we submit the following photo, which was run as an ad in June 7, 2005 issue of the *South Hamilton Record-News*. The purpose was to ask readers to share any pictures and/or other memories which could be included in the Jewell Quasquicentennial Book, which was intended to be a pictorial history of Jewell from 1881 to 2006 as a supplement to the 1981 Centennial Book.



Such requests were published regularly between July, 2005 and January, 2006, and were coordinated by a committee of local volunteers who called themselves the Quasquicentennial History Team. The book was published a few months later in 2006.



Members of the Quasquicentennial History Team
L – R: Dick Steffen, Bill Huegerich, Mary Vavroch, Debera Fish, Karleen Parrish, Bethel Westre, Janet Beary (not pictured: Les Moland)

Both the Centennial Book and the Quasquicentennial Book 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.

Meet the JHS Board



Jewell Historical Society Board members, left to right: Bruce Johnson, Dick Steffen, Alan Spohnheimer, Jackie Frederick, Kenn Outzen.

As mentioned previously, the JHS Board meets regularly in order to attend to the business of the Society. Any interested individual is welcome to attend these meetings. The Board tries to meet in person, but recent events have somewhat limited its ability to regularly do so. The current Board consists of the following volunteers.

Bruce Johnson serves as President & Treasurer of the Jewell Historical Society. In those capacities, he presides over Board meetings, keeps the books and helps to research grants to help fund major projects.

Dick Steffen is Vice-president & Secretary of the Society and also serves as Museum Curator & Town Historian. Dick helps to run the meetings, and also cares for the building and grounds, including organizing the many displays. He also records the meeting minutes and serves as primary

contact for groups wishing to tour the Museum, and for potential donors of objects, artifacts, etc.

Board member Alan Spohnheimer is the Society's Webmaster. His efforts in building, maintaining and continually updating the Society's website allow people to access information about the Museum and its contents from the comfort of their own homes. By going to www.jewelljunctionhistory.org, folks from 'anywhere' can view our town's history at "the junction of yesterday and tomorrow."

Board member Kenn Outzen was an early proponent of establishing a museum in Jewell, and through his investigative efforts, the Society was able to acquire the present building to house Jewell's historic artifacts. He also has handcrafted models of some of Jewell's historic buildings and these are on display in the Museum.

Board member Jackie Frederick also serves on the Board of the Hamilton Heritage Hunters, a group dedicated to genealogical research in and around Hamilton County. As such, she serves as the JHS Board's genealogy expert, and has helped current and former Jewell residents to find links to the past.

Entryway Improvements



Old Entry



New Entry

With the recent completion of the Museum's southwest entrance rebuilding project, thanks to Jay Barquist and AgForce of Jewell, the building's entryways are much more attractive and functional than in the past. The main entrance had been previously updated by H.I. Services, Inc., and the concrete stairs at the main entrance will soon be replaced, completing the entryway renovation project.

New Plantings



The Babcock family of Jewell has generously donated both their time and the materials to beautify the Jewell History Museum's grounds. Thanks to their initiative, the east side of the building now contains a wonderfully landscaped and mulched garden of hostas. The JHS Board is extremely grateful to them for taking on this project

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 _____

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