



Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 3
July – Sept., 2021

Museum Open Hours a Success

The Jewell History Museum has completed its first season of being open to the public since before the COVID pandemic. The facility was open every Sunday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and was staffed during those times by one or more Board members, assisted on occasion by volunteer docents. Many interested visitors toured the facility during this time and enjoyed viewing the exhibits. The last regular open day was Sunday, September 5.

The Museum is available for tours by appointment during the off season. Three such tours have already been scheduled by local groups during the month of October. If you or your group is interested in a tour, please contact Museum Curator Dick Steffen by phoning him at (515) 310-0413 and leaving a message. Dick will return your call as soon as possible.

And, the Board of the Jewell Historical Society (JHS) continues to be interested in identifying interested individuals who might be willing to help serve as volunteer docents. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Dick at the above number. A detailed knowledge of the Museum’s collection is NOT a requirement; only a willingness to greet and visit with guests touring the facility.

Chair Lift Grant Received

When the decision was made the to install a chair lift for the benefit of Museum visitors with mobility challenges, the Jewell Historical Society applied for a Tourism Grant from *Hamilton County Development* to help defray the cost of installation. The Grant was approved, and the completion of the project (see previous edition of this Newsletter) successfully satisfied the requirements for receiving final payment.

The chair, which was donated as a memorial to Adrian and Barbara Anderson by their family, can transport persons from the ground-level entrance up to the main Museum display level. It is hoped that this addition will be of benefit to those with limited mobility who might wish to visit the Museum.

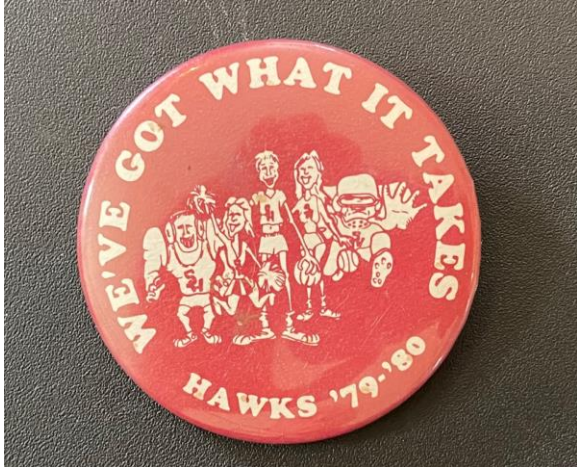


Recent Additions

Museum curator Dick Steffen, in keeping with his motto relating to our Jewell heritage:

**“From big to small,
We treasure all!”**

announces the addition of several items to the Museum’s collection. A brief sampling includes:



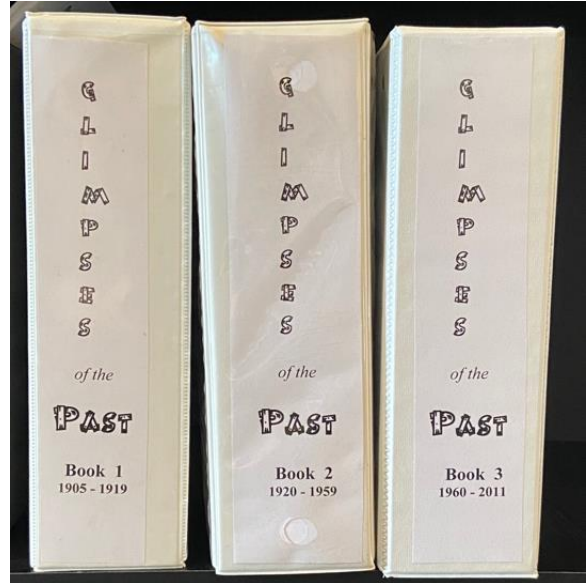
South Hamilton Homecoming Pin



Cubby-Hole-Type Storage Cabinet



The Wilcox-Pitzer Planter Wheel
This item was invented in Jewell, and was donated by JHS member Gene Pitzer.



“Glimpses of the Past”

JHS Board member Jackie Frederick has finished a project involving cutting, pasting and arranging items from this popular section of the South Hamilton Record-News. Museum visitors can access these volumes and read the items, which are included chronologically by original publication date.

These and many other items of interest and importance to the history and heritage of Jewell Junction can be viewed at the Jewell Histroy Museum



JHS Website News

The following pictures and descriptions have been excerpted and paraphrased from information included in the Jewell Historical Society’s website.

Go to: www.JewellJunctionHistory.org to see the original entry as well as many other items of interest. The site was developed, is maintained and is frequently updated by the Society’s Webmaster, JHS Board member Alan Spohnheimer.



The Jewell History Museum began its life as the first and only church building of the North St. Petri Lutheran Church, two miles east and one mile north of Randall IA.



In January of 1956, the building was moved from that location to its current location at 501 Johnson St. in Jewell



The building was placed atop a foundation on that site which had served a previous church there, and several congregations

occupied the building over the ensuing years. The last was the Victory Christian Fellowship, which moved into a newly built facility, then sold the old building for \$1.00 so that a Museum could be started in Jewell.



A Blast from the Past

The following is a brief excerpt from the Centennial Book (p. 146), published in 1981. This and the Quasquicentennial Book (published in 2006) are available for review in the Jewell History Museum. In addition, copies can be found at the Montgomery Memorial Library, from where they can also be checked out by Library cardholders.

Dr. E. W. Slater (1872 – 1945)

Dr. Slater graduated from the College of Medicine of Northwestern University, Chicago, Ill., and for 39 years was actively engaged in the practice of his profession, a short while in Ellsworth, and Webster City, and 35 years in Jewell. In his practice he enjoyed rare success and gave the highest type of service to the people of a wide territory. His unfailing kindness, his ever-present sympathy, and his devoted service won for him over the years the deepest friendship of all with whom he came in contact.

Dr. Slater was active in the matter of his profession and active in all worthy community and civic affairs. He served as mayor of Jewell, as president of the Hamilton Co. Medical Society, for several terms as county coroner. For years he was the physician for the Chicago and

Northwestern Railway Co. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, and a member of the Federated Church of Jewell.



Dr. Slater on Main Street looking north toward Bethesda Lutheran Church



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

The Jewell Centennial Trust

The IMT Group

Jewell Lions

The Wal-Mart Community Grants Program

Hamilton County Development

Tourism Grants

The Enhance Hamilton County Foundation

and

Private Donors

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:
 Jewell Historical Society
 PO Box 2
 Jewell IA 50130

