

Jewell Historical Society

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Oct – Dec, 2021

The Year in Review

The past twelve months have seen somewhat of a reestablishment of “normalcy” for the Jewell Historical Society, with many activities returning:



By the start of the year, the front entryway replacement project had been completed. And after the annual elections of Board members and Officers in January, plans were begun for once again opening the Museum to the public. By spring, the Board had resumed monthly, in-person meetings, rather than doing so virtually.



Then, after a year’s hiatus, JHS again sponsored an entry in the annual Jewell Jubilee Parade. Although never seriously contending for the title of “Best-Dressed Parade Participants,” JHS Board members Dick Steffen and Bruce Johnson had a great time sharing the Society’s good wishes (and much candy!) with parade attendees.

Starting on Memorial Day and running through Labor Day, the Jewell History Museum again opened to the public. Open hours were held every Sunday afternoon, and several dozen visitors were hosted during this time.

The summer season also saw the installation of a chairlift in the Museum. 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.



The chairlift installation costs were partially defrayed by a Tourism Grant from *Hamilton County Development*.

In the fall, Museum Curator and JHS Vice-President, Dick Steffen hosted tours for three local groups: Jewell High School alumni, the South Hamilton class of 1971 and a local chapter of PEO.

Several acquisitions were added to the Museum collections during the year also, including, among many other things:



Items from Jewell Businesses of the Past



Sweatshirt, Jewell High School Panthers

Plan a visit to the Jewell History Museum to see these and the many other items on display.

Looking to the Future

Ideas under consideration for next year include a possible fund-raising activity for the spring and/or summer. As a part of this, the JHS Board hopes to identify individuals who might be interested in helping with such a project. The Board is also looking for any individuals interested in helping out during next year's open hours by serving as docents along with JHS Board members. A detailed knowledge of the Museum's collection is NOT a requirement for this; only a willingness to greet and visit with guests touring the facility. Anyone interested in helping in any capacity can contact Dick Steffen at (515) 310-0413. Leave a message and Dick will return your call ASAP.

JHS Website News

“Once Upon a Time, Jewell was home to a college.”



Jewell had the first college in Hamilton County. It was established in Jewell in 1893 by the Jewell Lutheran College Association. The majority of the members of this association were Scandinavian Lutherans from the surrounding counties. In 1897 it became apparent that larger support was needed for the school, so the college and all of its property was transferred to the Iowa district of the Hague Synod, under whose management the college grew and progressed.

In 1902 a ladies' dormitory was constructed, but a year later the main college building burned, killing two students, Julius Peterson and Burton Millang. In February of 1904 it was decided to build a new main hall.

Because many Lutheran colleges had been established in Iowa and the declining enrollment made it harder to pay bills, it was decided to close the Jewell Lutheran College in 1925. The college property was purchased by the Jewell School District.

This and other items can be found at www.JewellJunctionHistory.org. The site was developed, is maintained and is frequently updated by the Society's Webmaster, JHS Board member Alan Spohnheimer.

A Blast from the Past

The following article was excerpted from *The Quasquicentennial Photo History of Jewell* (2006). P. 111:

Our Savior's Danish Lutheran Church was dedicated in August, 1900, at 225 Main Street. The parsonage was the next door south at 219 Main...



From 1921 to 1933, the congregation became smaller and was ministered by a Danish Lutheran Pastor from Des Moines with once a month service in Danish. In 1933 members voted to discontinue the congregation. The building was given to the synod, sold, and dismantled. Members of Our Savior's Danish Lutheran Church joined Bethesda Lutheran Church.



After resting for several years in the yard of a residential site in Jewell, the cornerstone is now on display just outside the Jewell History Museum.

Many such articles of interest can be found in this book and in the Centennial Book (published 1981). Both 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.

Best Wishes from the JHS Board

As we enter this year's Holiday Season, the Board would like to express its sincere thanks to all who continue to support our efforts. And we wish you only the best for this Season and for the future!



www.iowamuseums.org

The Jewell Historical Society works to catalog, preserve and display items important to the history and heritage of Jewell Junction, Iowa. Please consider becoming a member at one of the levels indicated. Your membership helps to maintain the operation of the Jewell History Museum.

Annual Memberships

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

*Supports the Museum's utility bills for one month.

Lifetime Membership

___ Lifetime	\$1,000.00
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Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please return to:

Jewell Historical Society
PO Box 2
Jewell IA 50130

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