

Jewell Historical Society

Newsletter

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South Hamilton 5th Grade Class Donates QR Codes to Museum



The South Hamilton 5th Grade class, along with their teachers, attended the May 16 meeting of the Jewell Historical Society in order to present the fifty-three QR Codes they had developed as part of a joint project with the Museum. The project involved not only developing the codes, but also connecting them to item descriptions provided by JHS Board members. After accepting the donation from the students, Museum Curator and JHS Vice-President Dick Steffen addressed the students to thank them and explain how their efforts will improve the displays by making more information about them available to patrons.

Information about the coded items can be accessed by finding one of the bright yellow signs like the sample pictured below, opening the camera app on your smartphone or tablet and holding your device in front of the QR code.

After a few seconds, a notification link will appear. Click the link and turn up the volume on your phone. The link redirects you to a website that contains the information to listen to and/or read at the site. If desired, this sample QR code can be used for practice.



Grants Received



The Jewell Historical Society (JHS) has recently been awarded two grants which will help defray costs associated with a repainting project aimed at “sprucing up” the exterior of the Jewell History Museum. Hamilton County Tourism announced that JHS will receive over \$2300 for this purpose, while Diamond Vogel Paints and the “Paint Iowa Beautiful” program announced an award of up to five (5) gallons of paint to help with the project. The JHS is grateful to these organizations for their help in furthering the Society’s efforts in preserving the history and heritage of Jewell Junction! Now that the weather is moderating, the repainting project should begin soon. The Society has engaged local painting contractor Nancy Tjaden to undertake the project.

JHS Represented at Community Roundtable Event

On Tuesday, April 26, 2022, JHS Vice President and Museum Curator Dick Steffen attended the Enhance Hamilton County Foundation’s first monthly Community Roundtable at Fuller Hall in Webster City. The event hosted representatives from thirteen area non-profit organizations, who spoke about their missions, visions and

goals. More than 30 businesses and individuals wishing to help such organizations with volunteers or monetary support had a chance to listen to the reports.



It is anticipated that such events will occur monthly, in various locations around the county, and JHS hopes to participate frequently. This is a valuable forum in which the public as well as organizational and corporate donors can hear about, understand and appreciate what the JHS is doing to serve the citizens of Jewell.

Membership News

In an effort to simplify the process of monitoring Membership enrollments, the JHS Board has decided to adjust membership terms to coincide with the calendar year. To this end, all current membership terms will automatically be extended through the end of the current year. Thereafter, members will be contacted toward the end of every calendar year and asked to consider renewing their memberships. Also, any new memberships purchased before the end of this year will be good through the end of 2023.

From the Website

Blast from the Past

This ad, encouraging people to buy a new Ford automobile from Maxon Motor Company in Jewell Iowa, was reproduced in the Quasiquicentennial Book (p. 74), published in 2006. In the accompanying article it states that Maxon's dealership, which closed in 1932, was located next door to the Strand Theater on Jewell's Main Street. At that time, Maxon also owned the theater.



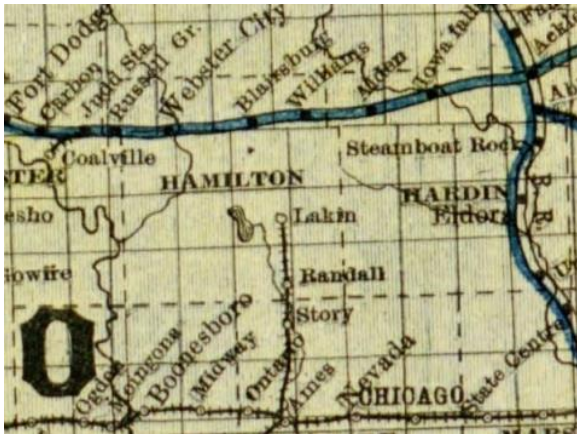
This book and the Centennial Book (published in 1981) are available for review in the Jewell History Museum. In addition, copies can be found at the Montgomery Memorial Library, from where they can also be checked out by Library cardholders.

The following reference to the Jewell area's early railroad history has been excerpted and paraphrased from information included on the Jewell Historical Society's website, www.JewellJunctionHistory.org. The site was developed, is maintained and is frequently updated by the Society's Webmaster, JHS Board member Alan Spohnheimer.

The earliest railroad effort in the area was in 1874, when a narrow gauge (3 feet between rails) rail line had been completed from Des Moines to Ames. First known as the Iowa and Minnesota, and later as the Des Moines and Minnesota, the line came north to meet the standard gauge (4 feet and 8 and one half inches between rails) east-west rail line in Ames. Under the railroad president James Callanan, a prominent Des Moines banker and real estate agent, the narrow gauge was finally known as the Des Moines and Minneapolis Railroad and was to be constructed for points north.

By the spring of 1877, it was determined that if the people in four townships in the southeast part Hamilton County (Ellsworth township, Lincoln Township, Lyon and Scott) taxed themselves 5%, they might successfully use that money to invite the railroad company to build north to this area, but the monies would have been made available only if the railroad had actually been constructed and operated to within a mile of those townships by December 1 of 1878. This settlement was originally planned to have the name Lakin, for an early pioneer of that part of the county. Since they discovered that a post office with that name already existed, and knew that Mr. Callanan was the primary investor of the railroad, they became convinced if they would adopt "Callanan" to be the name of the community, the railroad might be better tempted to come there. And the Des Moines & Minnesota Railroad did indeed build their track

there and did construct a depot to provide rail service there. Some early maps, like this portion of a 1879 version, actually show the town as Lakin.



Jewell Jubilee

The Jewell Historical Society was DOUBLY represented in the Jewell Jubilee Parade on Saturday, June 11:

Notably, JHS Board Member Kenn Outzen was tabbed to be this year's parade Grand Marshal!! Congratulations to Kenn!

Also, JHS member Debera Fish drove her car in the parade, festooned with the JHS Magnetic sign.



The Jewell History Museum was then open during the remainder of the weekend celebration, was staffed by JHS volunteers, and was visited by many interested "history buffs!"



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

Diamond Vogel Paint

and the

"Paint Iowa Beautiful" Program

Hamilton County Development
Tourism Grants

The Enhance Hamilton County Foundation

and

Private Donors

