



# Newsletter

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Board members: Jackie Frederick, Alan Spohnheimer and Bruce Johnson.

Following the Board elections, the slate of officers was discussed, voted on and approved. For 2023, these will comprise Bruce Johnson as President and Treasurer, and Dick Steffen as Vice President and Secretary.



## Museum Hosts Lunch Group

The Jewell Historical Society hosted Jewell’s “Tuesday Together” lunch group on Tuesday, January 31, 2023. JHS Vice President and Jewell History Museum curator Dick Steffen welcomed the group and presented a brief program explaining JHS and the Museum. After the presentation, attendees were free to tour the Museum and its exhibits before retiring to the basement to enjoy a communal “pot luck” meal.

## Board and Officer Elections

Elections were held at the January JHS meeting to fill two Board position, and to elect officers. Board members Kenn Outzen and Dick Steffen both agreed to serve another three-year term each. They will be serving alongside the other



**JHS Board Members (l – r) Johnson, Steffen, Spohnheimer, Frederick & Outzen.**

The Board and Officers of the Jewell Historical Society are looking forward to a successful and exciting year for the Jewell History Museum, acquiring new artifacts and possibly offering a few programs of interest to the Community. And the hope is that new volunteers will be engaged to help in these efforts.



## Iowa History Month



March has been designated Iowa History Month, and the Jewell Historical Society (JHS) is observing the event by beginning to plan for this year's open hours at the Jewell History Museum, and by organizing programs at the Museum which will share aspects of Jewell's History and Heritage with interested citizens.

Typically, the Museum is open for visits by the public Sunday afternoons between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and this year looks to be no different. But note that the Museum can be visited at other times: simply phone JHS Vice President and Museum Curator, Dick Steffen at (515) 310-0413 and leave a message. Dick will return your call as soon as he can. Many new historical artifacts have been added during the past year, and the public is cordially invited to come and view them. Also, thanks to the efforts of the South Hamilton fifth-grade class, many of the Museum's artifacts are now labeled with specially-developed "QR" codes, so that visitors can download descriptions of them onto their electronic devices!

The JHS Board is also considering topics for programs/presentations which will be open to the public. A number of such topics are under consideration, and the Board will be making a decision soon. Stay tuned for further news about these!

The Jewell Historical Society meets on the third Monday of every month, at 3:00 PM, at the Jewell History Museum (501 Johnson St.). The

public is cordially invited to attend any of these meetings, and anyone interested in volunteering to help the JHS in its mission will also be very welcome! Simply phone to Dick at the above phone number.



## Tales from the JHS Website

The following two excerpts and other stories of interest can be found on the Society's website, [www.JewellJunctionHistory.org](http://www.JewellJunctionHistory.org). The site was developed, is maintained and is frequently updated by the Society's Webmaster, JHS Board member Alan Spohnheimer.

### *Do you know why the Streets of Jewell have their names?*



*Anderson Street* was named for William Anderson, the first school teacher in Jewell, a mayor and banker.

*Blaine Street* ???

*Carmichael Street* named for Lewis Carmichael, one of the platters of the Addition to Jewell Junction.

*Collins Street* ???

*Deckor Street* named for a member of the first City Council.

*Division Street* ???

*Edwards Street* named for one of the early bankers and developers of Jewell.

*Elm Street* ???

*Harrison Street* ???

**Idaho Street** ???

**Jewell Street** named for David Talent Jewell, who owned the farm land where the two railroads met.

**Johnson Street** named for John O. L. Johnson.

**King Street** named for John and Jane King, because John was the first mayor (and more) of Jewell.

**Lyon Street** named after Lyon Township where Jewell is located.

**Park Street** named because that marked where the Jewell City Park was.

**Mark Street** named for Mark Hanson of the Jewell Lumber Company at 802 Main.

**Reinhart Street** is named because in 1860, David Talent Jewell married Drucilla Rinehart.

**Do You Know Who owned the First Automobile in Jewell?**



**Dr. Christensen and son Kermit in the first car, 1908**

Dr. C. J. Christensen came to Jewell in 1902 just after he graduated from the College of Medicine at the University of Iowa. He continued his medical practice in Jewell until 1937. The start of his practice was in the days of the horse and buggy, and he made his house calls in his buggy. Dr. Christensen soon owned the first automobile in Jewell, a red 1908 Maxwell.

Do you know why the Streets of Jewell have their names?

**A Blast from the Past**

The following brief excerpt is from the Quasquicentennial Book (p. 22), published in 2006. This 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.



John A. Cooper and his wife Laura came to Hamilton County in 1859 by ox drawn team and wagon and settled along the Skunk River near Callanan. Mr. Cooper had an accident with his team that left him an invalid. He obtained permission from the United States Post Office for his mail to be delivered to the house since it was right on the Star Coach Route that carried mail from Newton and Nevada to the North Skunk Grove connection with the Western Stage Line to Fort Dodge. It may have been one of the first examples of rural free delivery in the United States. When he and Laura moved to Jewell Junction in 1881, she applied for and was designated as the first postmaster in the new town. The first Post Office in Jewell operated out of her combination house, millinery shop, general store and post office.



**The Marker for John and Laura Cooper can be found in Evergreen Cemetery in Jewell.**



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