



Newsletter

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Board Elections

The Jewell Historical Society at its February meeting (the January meeting had been cancelled due to inclement weather) held an annual election. Incumbent Board members Alan Sphonheimer and Bruce Johnson were both elected to new three-year terms. In addition, two new members were elected, raising the number of Board members to seven. Newly elected were Donna Busch (three-year term expiring January, 2027) and Karen Culpepper (one-year term expiring January 2025).



Current JHS Board

Seated, l – r: Dick Steffen, Jackie Frederick, Donna Busch, Karen Culpepper. Standing, l – r: Alan Spohnheimer, Bruce Johnson. Not pictured: Kenn Outzen

Following the Board election, officers were nominated and elected. Results: Bruce Johnson, President; Dick Steffen, Vice-President; Jackie Frederick, Secretary, and; Donna Busch, Treasurer.

American Cream Horse



According to *Radio Iowa* (link below), “the Iowa Senate has voted to name the American Cream draft horse the official horse of Iowa.

This is one of several breeds of work horses that pulled plows and harvesting equipment for Iowa farmers before horses were replaced by tractors.”

A recent article in the Des Moines Register also reported on this.

The American Cream is the only breed of draft horse that can claim to be native to the United States, originating in Radcliffe IA in

the early 1900s, according to State Senator Annette Sweeney (R-Iowa Falls). In fact, the welcome sign to Radcliffe notes it is the “cradle” of the American Cream draft horse.

Despite being recognized as a breed of draft horse in the mid-1990s by the State of Iowa, there are fewer than 400 American Cream horses alive today.

The measure passed in the Iowa Senate by a vote of 43 – 3. It needs to pass the Iowa House in order to become official.



Frequent readers of this newsletter, as well as those who attend programs at the Jewell History Museum, will remember that in June, 2023, as a part of Jewell Jubilee, Barb Homrighaus did a presentation at the Museum on the role of Erick Christian, DVM [see also, JHS website article below], a Jewell area veterinarian, in the development of the American Cream Horse breed.

<https://www.radioiowa.com/2024/03/05/senate-backs-american-cream-breed-as-iowa-official-state-horse/>



JHS Website News

The following article is excerpted from the JHS website.

Dr. Erick Christian, son of Christian and Anna Christian was born in Lisbon, Illinois on September 26, 1858. Erick's mother Anna was born March 9 of 1830, and came to this country as a young lady before marrying Christian Christian during the fall of 1881. To this couple, seven children were born; Lewis, Randall, Julia, Fran, Martin, Ellis, and Erick. Erick was baptised and confirmed in the Lutheran faith in Helmer, Illinois. He lived in Illinois until the early 1880s. His mother Anna died March 8 of 1911, and was one day shy of living to the age of 81.

After moving to central Iowa, Erick married Miss Fannie Garrison on September 26, 1888 in Nevada Iowa. Erick and Fannie had two daughters; Attie, who died at the age of 3 years, and Cleo, who died when she was about 19 years. Erick lived in the country east of Ellsworth, and then for many years in the town of Jewell, where he was engaged in his work as a veterinarian throughout a wide central Iowa territory.

In 1905 Dr. Christian advertised in area papers as “veterinary surgeon, dentist, and auctioneer” and was well known for surgeries in the local area and as far south as Story City.

In 1902, Erick Christian's breeding of horses ... led to the initial American Cream Horse in the form of a mare, Old Granny. Old Granny and her ... foals [were popularly kept] in the area of Jewell, Lakin's Grove, Ellsworth and Radcliffe.



Two 1914 news articles published in the Jewell Record tell us that Erick purchased lot 2 of block 5 in the addition to the town of Jewell Junction (see early street map, above), and says that "Contractor John Klein has work started on a house and barn he will build in the west part of town for Erick Christian."

Dr. Christian... died in the first week of January, 1933, at the age of 74.

This and other stories of interest can be found on 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 is a brief excerpt from the Jewell Centennial Book (p. 123), published in 1981. This and the Quasiquicentennial 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.

Park Entrance

Mrs. Hans P. (Hannah) Knudson

Hannah Knudson was born in Denmark April 11, 1886 to Eliza and Nels Anton Nelson.

As a small girl, she came with her parents to Jewell in 1888 but after several years together with her parents, she returned to Denmark. In 1893 they came back to Jewell and bought a farm two miles west of Jewell..

Hannah attended Jewell Schools and as a young lady she became a milliner of ladies hats and worked in several milliner shops in Iowa.

In 1921, Hannah married Hans Knudson and they resided in Jewell. Hans died in 1947 and Hannah on August 9, 1979. NO children were born to this union.

In her last will and testament, Hannah left a gift of \$20,000 to the Town of Jewell. It was the decision of Mayor Cooke, the Jewell Town Council and the trustees of the estate to use this money for park improvements in Jewell.

In connection with the park improvements two attractive brick pillars were erected at the west entrance to the ball field. One pillar will contain the Jewell Time Capsule to be

opened in 2081. The second pillar bears a bronze plaque with the following inscription:

*“Park Improvements.
Donated by Hannah Knudson
In memory of her beloved husband, H. P.
Knudson, and her beloved parents, Mr. and
Mrs. N. A. Nelson”*



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- and
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