



# Newsletter

Vol. 5, No. 3  
July – Sept 2024

## JHS Receives Final Centennial Trust Bequest

In the years since its inception, the Jewell Historical Society has applied for and received monetary grants from a variety of sources which have greatly helped the Museum to fund numerous improvement projects.

One of the most generous of these sources has been the Jewell Centennial Trust. The Trust was formed in 1981 in conjunction with Jewell’s Centennial celebration, and the Trust Committee remained active for four decades thereafter. It helped to fund numerous projects undertaken by many local nonprofit organizations, and this has greatly improved the lives of all Jewell residents.

With the recent dissolution of the Trust, its Committee has distributed the remaining funds in its coffers to several area nonprofits, and the Jewell Historical Society was one of the beneficiaries.

The JHS sincerely thanks the Trust Committee for its generosity over the years to the museum, as well as to all the other community groups which have benefited!!

## JHS Reorganizes “Theater” Area As 2024 Open Hours Season Comes to an End

JHS and Jewell History Museum volunteers have reorganized the building’s “theater” area, where talks and presentations can be held. With the purchase of an inexpensive, large-screen TV set (see last Newsletter issue), the lower level of the Museum has been set aside for such a function.



Newly Reorganized Lower Level Area for Programs and Presentations

And once again the JHS hosted a successful season of regular open hours, which came to a close on Labor Day. Numerous patrons visited and took the opportunity to view, enjoy and learn from the many artifacts important to Jewell’s history and heritage.

The season included a series of programs all of which adhered to the theme “*Jewell Folks Travel.*” The series began with a talk about travelling to Jewell in the 1940s and ‘50s. This was followed by one about a 1940s trip to Ellsworth, and the series was capped by an end-of-the-summer presentation by JHS Vice President and Museum Curator, Dick Steffen on Ruth and Elmer Nosebakken’s fictional trip to the Indian Country in Arizona in 1928, comparing it with an actual trip taken by Jewell residents in 2019.



The La Fonda Hotel, Headquarters of the Nosebakkens’ Trip in 1928.



The La Posada Hotel, Winslow AZ, where the Jewell couple stayed in 2019

The JHS Board greatly appreciates attendance by and support of the public. Open hours are planned again for next year. Plan to visit and see our revised displays! And remember that the Museum is available to visit any time during the year. Just

contact Museum Curator, Dick Steffen at (515) 310-0413.

### **Visit to Another Area Museum**

This marks the first entry in what is intended to be a series of articles featuring other history museums in our area. Articles may or may not appear regularly in this newsletter, but the hope is that occasional visits to our sister institutions will result in a better understanding, both for us and for our readers, of our shared history and heritage. So, with that brief and probably incomplete introduction, let’s dive in!

### ***Swedish Immigrant Museum***



Museum Director and Foundation President, Mia Patterson, at the Swedish Immigrant Museum in Stratford.

The Swedish Immigrant Museum and Research Center is located at 819 Goldsmith St. in Stratford, IA, just a half-block west of the main drag, Shakespeare Ave., on the south edge of Stratford’s downtown. The building also serves as the home of the Swede Bend Settlement Foundation.

The Foundation is dedicated to the preservation and documentation of the heritage, historical and cultural aspects of Swedish-Americans who settled at Swede Bend, while the Museum houses and displays a collection of artifacts belonging to the area's Swedish pioneers. The research library offers a robust collection of genealogical materials including access to Swedish records, obituaries, cemetery records, church records, community histories and much more. Information can be found at: <https://swdebend.com/>

### Newsletter Note

Dear Readers,

We happily found ourselves with a bit too much news to include easily in this issue. We will try to include more of these items in our end-of-year recap issue. Many thanks for your continued interest and support.

Bruce Johnson,  
JHS President &  
Newsletter Editor.



### JHS Website News

The following article is excerpted from the JHS website. The original article was published in the Jewell Record on December 23, 1909.

#### *At the Christian Church*

*At the Christian church the observance of Christmas day will be in the hands of the Sunday school and an appropriate program has been arranged. Owing to the revival meetings not so elaborate a program as usual is being arranged this year. But there will be a short talk by the*

*pastor, Rev. Miller, and an enjoyable program of recitations and musical numbers. And there will be the usual treats for the little folks given by the Sunday school. All are at liberty to bring presents for friends to hang upon the Christmas tree. The program will be given at 7:30 o'clock Friday evening, the 24<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.*



*This 1910 Postcard view of Deckor Street in Jewell shows the Jewell Christian Church. The steeple in the background indicates the location of the Jewell Methodist Church*

This and other stories of interest can be found on [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.



### A Blast from the Past

The following is a brief excerpt from the Jewell Centennial Book (p. 41), published in 1981. It has been slightly edited for clarity. This and the Quasiqucentennial 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.

***The East Hamilton Get Together Club***



The Original East Hamilton Township Get Together Club (photo taken in 1964)

*On October 4, 1939, a group of Ladies were invited to the home of Mrs. Philip Klaver for a Farm Bureau lesson from the Extension Service. Mrs. S. A. Isvik was the leader... The group decided to form a club (which would) meet the last Friday of every month.... The ladies are from the Jewell, Kamrar and Stanhope area. The programs are for homemakers with current events, gardening and farming.*



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

- The Jewell Centennial Trust
- The IMT Group
- POET
- Jewell Lions
- The Wal-Mart Community Grants Program
- Hamilton County Development
- Tourism Grants
- The Enhance Hamilton County Foundation
- and
- Private Donors



**Membership Time!!**

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 volunteering and/or becoming a member at one of the levels indicated. Any new or renewal memberships purchased before the end of this year will be good through the end of 2025. 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.)

Members will continue to receive copies of this Newsletter which will help to keep them up to date on JHS activities.

**Annual Memberships**

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 45.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Utility	\$ 250.00

**Lifetime Membership**

<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime	\$1,000.00
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:  
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 Jewell IA 50130