

Jewell Historical Society

Newsletter

Vol. 6, No. 4
Oct - Dec, 2025

The Year in Review



During this past year, the Jewell Historical Society, and the Jewell History Museum, have completed a number of projects and have been involved in a number of events. So, once again, we take this end-of-year opportunity to thank our many supporters, and to wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season. Here is a brief recap of just a few of the projects and activities from the past twelve months.

First Quarter

The year began with a business meeting of the JHS Board of Directors, at which time two expiring Board positions were filled. After the seats were filled, officers were elected. Officers for 2025 were Bruce Johnson (President), Dick Steffen (Vice President), Jackcie Frederick (Secretary) and Donna Busch (Treasurer).

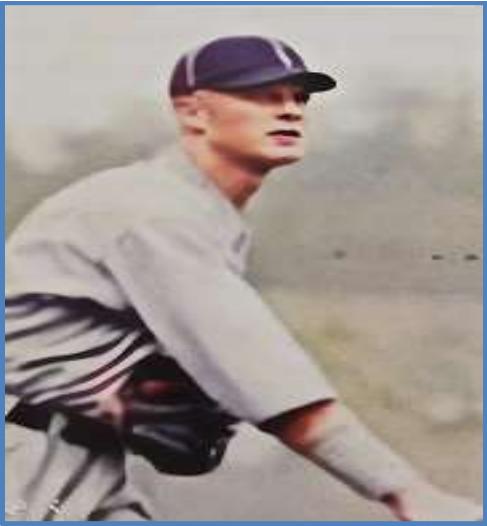


Current JHS Board

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

Among the items added to the museum's collection early in the year was a book written about a former local resident who found fame. The book is titled:

George Alton Stueland: Hometown Boy from Jewell Iowa Reaches the MLB Chicago Cubs
by Gene E. Pitzer.



George Alton Stueland

In March, the Board received a note from Mr. Tore Svenning, a resident of a small town in Norway. Mr. Svenning, an amateur historian, praised the JHS Board and explained how its website was helpful to him. He related the story of Miss Marie Hetlesæter, who emigrated from Norway to the USA with a friend, and served on the faculty of Jewell Lutheran College before moving on to Chicago and later, Oregon.

As a result of his letter, we contacted the archivist at the Norwegian-American Historical Association at St. Olaf College in Northfield MN, to which all Jewell Lutheran College records were forwarded when the College closed in 1925. Unfortunately, not much additional information was found

there. But we are pleased to have made a new friend in "the Old Country!"

Second Quarter

In April, the museum underwent some reorganization, as some exhibits were added and others were rearranged, with considerable help from South Hamilton students and staff.



Volunteers help move bulletin board

Then in June, the Jewell Historical Society again participated in the annual Jewell Jubilee parade



Also during this period, the museum participated in Jewell's Annual, Community-wide Garage Sale event. This helped to weed out some old items, raise a little cash, and draw many community residents to see and experience the museum.

Third Quarter

Infrastructural improvements to the museum building again took precedence, with the replacement of the northeast door. With the

help of a local contractor, this now serves as a safe and effective egress!



Replacement of the Museum's Northeast Door

And thanks to a donation from a local resident, in early autumn the Museum added to its collection an actual 1920 bank note from the first National Bank of Jewell Junction!



A national bank note is a form of United States currency issued by federally chartered national banks. These banks were encouraged to purchase U.S. bonds, with the notes they issued being backed by these bonds.

The autumn quarter ended with another entry in our series of occasional articles featuring visits to other history museums in our area. This time, we visited the Gilbert

(IA) Historical Society Museum and spoke with a couple of their Board members and volunteers. We hope that such visits to our sister institutions will result in a better understanding, both for us and for our readers, of our shared history and heritage.

Fourth Quarter

As the year progressed, your JHS Board continued its work on improvements to the museum's infrastructure and exhibits, beginning discussions on such things as future events, additions to the exhibits and other projects aimed at furthering our attempts to improve the community's appreciation of its history and heritage.

Such projects will include straightening and decluttering various areas of the museum building, improving some of the lighting in the building, planning for future presentations related to Jewell history, etc. The Board hopes to continue working on these during the next few months. Anyone interested in helping with these projects can contact any of the Board members. See contact information below.

**Happy Holidays to All
From the JHS Board!**



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 2026. 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:

Jewell Historical Society

PO Box 2

Jewell IA 50130

And please consider volunteering your time to help with the Museum and its operation. Volunteers are the life blood of any community organization. You can help organize displays, help with housekeeping, landscaping or maintenance, serve as a volunteer docent during open hours, work on any of our committees and/or volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors when openings occur. Contact Dick Steffen at (515) 310-0413 for more information.

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

*The Jewell Centennial Trust
The IMT Group
Diamond Vogel Paints
Jewell Lions
Walmart ® Community Grants Program
Hamilton County Tourism
and
The Enhance Hamilton County Foundation*

