



Newsletter

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JHS Board Update

In keeping with recent interest in relaxing the formality of JHS Board meetings, there was no regular election of Board members this past January. Instead, the two Board members whose terms had expired at the end of 2025 each agreed to serve another 3-year term. Officers also agreed to stay in their role for another year. The current Board is pictured below:



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

Jewell History Museum Update

The Jewell Historical Society has been working to clean, reorganize and update the museum and its artifacts on display. This effort began shortly after the end of last year’s open season (June through August), and will continue to this year’s season and beyond. It is a slow process, given that we have a very limited number of volunteers (mostly Board members) working on the

project. Nevertheless, the intent is to improve the experience visitors will have when visiting and learning more about Jewell’s history and heritage. Ongoing projects will include, but not be limited to:

- Floor cleaning/vacuuuming
- Display case cleaning
- Improving lighting of displays
- Straightening and reorganization of records
- New exhibit display formats



New Display Under Construction will Feature a Historical Look at Jewell’s Main Street.

These and other projects will be ongoing as time permits, and as volunteers are available.



American Cream Draft Horse Update



An American Cream Draft Horse

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, Barbara Homrighaus spoke at the Museum, presenting an introduction to the American Cream Draft Horse, its breeding and development in the area between Jewell and Radcliffe, and on the role of Erick Christian, DVM, a Jewell area veterinarian, in the development of the breed (see Vol 4, #2 of this Newsletter). Since that time, the American Cream Draft Horse Association has been working tirelessly to promote the breed and to help encourage the Iowa Legislature to formally recognize the breed as the official State Horse of Iowa. To this

end, Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 2010 was introduced and debated. Sadly, the effort has been tabled for the time being. But the Jewell Historical Society is proud to have sent to the Legislature the following letter of support for this effort:

*To Whom It May Concern,
On behalf of the Jewell Historical Society, I am writing to support the efforts of the American Cream Draft Horse Association (ACDHA) in endorsing the effort to pass SJR2007 [SJR 2010], a bill naming the American Cream Draft Horse as the official horse of Iowa.*

As a duly registered 501(c)3 organization in Jewell, Iowa, we support and promote a better understanding and appreciation of the history and heritage of Jewell Junction, Iowa and the surrounding area. We do this through occasional local programs and through the contents and displays in our facility, the Jewell History Museum.

One of the historical events which we have been promoting during the last few years is the development of the draft horse breed known as the American Cream Draft Horse. As you are aware, this is the only working breed of draft horses native to the United States. The breed was developed in the Jewell-Ellsworth-Radcliffe area of central Iowa, and included the efforts of Erick Christian, DVM, a Jewell veterinarian important to the breeding and development of the breed.

We feel this gives our Society and our community a stake in the breed and in supporting its recognition by all the citizens of our fair state.

*Thank you for your consideration.
Respectfully submitted,
Bruce G. Johnson, Jr., President
Jewell Historical Society*



JHS Website News

This article is excerpted from the JHS website.



Did you know why our town is called Jewell (Junction)?

The War of 1812 helped to make Jewell Junction possible. Grants of 160 acres were given soldiers to help encourage settlers to come and settle west of the Mississippi River. A grant was given to William Winslow, a physician of Maine. He sold this grant of land to a Cornelius Haden in 1856 for less than \$1.00 per acre. There were settlers along the Skunk River in 1855 and along the Boone River in the 1840s. Between the two rivers was little but prairie and timber. David T. Jewell bought this grant and moved with his family to this area by wagon in 1877.

The narrow gauge railroad (three feet between the rails), the Des Moines & Minnesota Railroad, had been built north from Ames in 1877, with the expectation that it would extend to Alden. Instead, it terminated near the corner of the four Hamilton townships (Ellsworth, Scott, Lyon,

and Lincoln), where the railroad needed to cross the Skunk River. At that spot, the busy boom town of Callanan was started, but it lasted only three years.

Another railroad company, the Toledo & Northwestern Railroad, was building a westward railroad line in 1880 from Tama City on its mainline aimed at Minnesota and the Black Hills. Heading west, it would eventually cross the Skunk River and meet with the north-south narrow gauge Des Moines & Minnesota Railroad which had been constructed north of Ames to terminate at the 3 year busy town of Callanan a few years before that rail line was diverted north and converted to a standard gauge railroad to junction with the Toledo & Northwestern.

This and other stories of interest can be found on www.JewellJunctionHistory.org. The JHS website 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. 170), published in 1981. It has been slightly edited to fit the available space, but grammar and punctuation have been left as in the original. This book 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.

The Old Maid's Convention



May 7, 1914

Anticipation of something good might have drawn the big crowd that turned out for the first "Old Maid's Convention" put on at the Isis by the ladies of the Congregational church, but when the second performance drew almost as big a crowd, it is pretty certainly established that the ladies must have more than made good with the crowd. Last Thursday night the house was filled almost as full as it was the first time and \$81.20 was taken in at the door. There were good crowds from Randall, Radcliffe, Story City and Ellsworth to help swell the attendance besides those from this vicinity. Many who attended the first night show went back for another good laugh. The ladies sprung quite a number of new local hits this time and performed really better than in their first attempt.

In the cast: Mrs. Claude Martin, Mrs. Harry Dow, Mrs. Myrtie [sic] Bonner, Mrs. C. A. Pfund, Mrs. E. G. Clark, Mrs. M. H. Porter, Mrs. Geo. Bonner, Mrs. Frank Snyder, Mrs. Myrtle O'Connor, Mrs. Carl Eglund, Mrs. Howard Smith, Mrs. M. J. Severson, Mrs. William Anderson, Mrs. Bristol, Mrs. Att. Alexander, Mrs. Chas. Sidenstucker, Mrs. Frank Hall, and Mrs. B. S. Millett, Mrs. L. G. M. King. Men: M.L. Porter and Mr. Chris Anderson.



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