



Newsletter

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Apr – June 2026

JHS to Support Library Efforts

Montgomery Memorial Library Director Roxie Young met with the JHS Board in April to talk about a project jointly sponsored by libraries in Jewell, Ellsworth and Webster City.



The intent is to digitize several of the Hamilton County newspapers and combine the information onto a single website. Thus, the records would be centralized and would be more complete than what is currently available on diverse sites. Then individuals looking for archived information from the newspapers would be able to reference a single source rather than "surfing" through several sites.

While not seeking a monetary donation at this time, Young asked the JHS Board to support the group's effort. Such support would help to validate the importance of such a project. And as the project gets closer to fruition, the hope is that JHS could also help the effort financially. The Board approved such support.



Museum Landscaping Update

The JHS members and Board would like to thank Brant Barquist, who is again keeping our lawn trimmed! He is doing a great job this summer as he has in past years!

Also, many thanks to the Babcock family for their efforts in reorganizing the plantings in the Museum's southeast corner. They are also seeing to the ongoing maintenance of this area.



JHS Website News

This article is excerpted from the JHS website. The newspaper entry reproduced here is transcribed exactly as it was written, without efforts at editing.

THE BAND LEAD A COUNTYWIDE TOUR ADVERTISING A PICNIC IN JEWELL



This scene might be the Fourth of July celebration or the signing of the Armistice, but it is not either one. It was just Jewell's way of advertising a famous picnic to be held in Jewell. The picture was taken in 1910 about 28 years ago, and it shows the west side of town. On the west side we see Dr. Slater's office, the Racket Store and the City Meat Market. Notice that large sign on the east side that says AUTOMOBILES. And from the looks of the picture they must have had quite a few automobiles in Jewell at that time.

Those people we know are: Dr. R. W. DeLa, right front; Dell Johnson, baritone horn; Otto Fenton, cornet; Alfred Andersen, trombone; Naomi Severson, with dark sweater; Mary Hoon, left of Naomi, Mrs. Cora Alexander, extreme right; Gertrude Alexander, back of Naomi; Mrs. L. E.

Alexander, mother of Att Alexander at the extreme right, and Rina Johnson to her left.

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 Quasquicentennial Book (p. 129), published in 2006. 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 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.



A twin-arch, stone bridge was constructed east of the depot to cross the Mud Lake drainage ditch. Each arch of the bridge was 24' in diameter. The bridge was in place by 1900. The east end of the yard began on the bridge at the switch stand faintly shown in the picture. The switch for the junction of

the line to Tama and the line to Ames was just east of the bridge.



A typical eastbound train passed over the twin-arched bridge after 1905. In the heyday of passenger traffic through Jewell, trains to Sioux City and the Dakotas and trains from Des Moines on to Minneapolis and St. Paul carried some Pullman or sleeper cars and sometimes a diner. Most passenger trains, however, were of the three-car variety with a baggage car and post office car. Since most did not have diners, passengers bought their lunch from trackside vendors or in lunchrooms attached to the depot.

JHS Announces Museum Open Hours

The JHS Board is once again pleased to announce that summertime open hours have begun. The Jewell History Museum will be open to the public every Sunday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM during the months of June, July, and August. Come visit your museum and see some of the artifacts important to Jewell's history and heritage!

As we've indicated in the past, these open hours are somewhat dependent on having a sufficient number of volunteers to help with

the task of greeting visitors. As much as possible, Board members will serve in this capacity, but the hope is that other volunteers will step forward to share in these duties. Such volunteers would serve as Docents on a Sunday of their choice along with one or more Board Members. We always try to have at least two individuals in attendance. A detailed knowledge of the Museum's collection is NOT a requirement; only a willingness to greet and visit with guests touring the facility. Some individuals have indicated such a willingness to help monitor the Museum during these open hours. If that could be you, please contact JHS Vice-president and Museum Curator Dick Steffen by phoning him at (515) 310-0413 and leaving a message. Dick will return your call as soon as possible.

JHS Membership Policy Update

The Society welcomes individuals interested in becoming a member at one of the levels indicated below. Monitoring these membership terms has always been a challenge, but current Board Treasurer Donna Busch has devised a method for helping in this regard. When membership checks are received, she will reply to the sender with a note of thanks for their interest in helping support the organization. She will also include a request that the member keep track of when their renewal will be due.

To become a member, or to renew your membership, please use the form below.

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. 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.)

Annual Memberships

____ Individual	\$ 25.00
____ Family	\$ 45.00
____ Patron	\$ 100.00
____ Utility	\$ 250.00

Lifetime Membership

____ Lifetime	\$1,000.00
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Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please return to:
Jewell Historical Society
PO Box 2
Jewell IA 50130



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

