



Newsletter

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July – Sept 2026

JHS Continues Partnership with Library

Montgomery Memorial Library Director Roxie Young again met with the JHS Board, this time at its Sept 20, 2026 meeting, with an update on the project jointly sponsored by libraries in Jewell, Ellsworth and Webster City.



Roxie Young (center, white shirt) Discusses the Website Project with the JHS Board

To recap: the intent is to digitize several of the Hamilton County newspapers and combine the information onto a single website. This would centralize the records allowing for a more complete and easily accessible information than what is currently available on diverse sites.

Young has met with the Montgomery Memorial Library Board which continues to support the project. And she has identified a company which can provide the services necessary to build such a website. Costs have been calculated for the three phases of this project, and Young asked if JHS was interested in sharing costs. The JHS Board voted unanimously to split the costs for the first phase of the project with the Library Board. The JHS portion will be in the neighborhood of \$690. The second and third phases are still in the planning stages and will be discussed further as they get closer to being finalized.

The online collection is expected to include issues of the old *Jewell Record* from 1886 to 1967, as well as other Hamilton County Newspapers. Financial support from the Enhance Hamilton County Foundation is expected to help with the project.



Late Summer Activities at the Museum

In early August, JHS Vice President and Museum Curator presented program on the importance of the railroads to Jewell's early history. The program was well attended,

and the audience was enthusiastically interested in the information.



Later that month,, the Museum hosted visitors from Budel, the Netherlands. Paula (nee Mennen) Jakobi was a foreign exchange student at South Hamilton, graduating in 1971 (same class as JHS Board member and Secretary, Jackie Frederick!!). She and her husband Jan were hosted in Jewell by Ron and Joan Dorris, when they were here for Paula's 55-year class reunion. They and other members of the Dorris family were given a tour of the Museum by JHS Vice President and Museum curator Dick Steffen and his wife, Sylvia.



Museum Visitors

Standing (l – r): Lynn (Dorris) Wegmann, Paula (Mennen) Jakobi, Jan Jakobi, Jackie Frederick.

Seated: Sylvia Steffen, Joan (Dorris) Tapper), Dick Steffen.

Not pictured: Dave Wegmann



A Blast from the Past

The following is a brief excerpt from the Jewell Centennial Book (pp. 131 - 132), 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 Quasquicentennial 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.

50 Years Ago – 1927

The work of installing Jewell's new steel water tank and other waterworks equipment is now almost completed. S. C. Thompson has finished his contract on the foundations and pump house, F. H. Ferbitz has almost completed the installation of the pump and motor, the light company men have been installing the electric lines and transformer to hook up the motor, and the tank construction men expect to finish their job today. It is expected that the Henningson Engineering Company's engineer will be here Friday to make the final tests on the job.



JHS Website News

This item is excerpted from the JHS website:

Claude V. Campbell, proprietor and editor of the Jewell Record, was born in Story County, Iowa, on the 13th of December, 1882. He is the second in order of birth in a family of six, his parents being J. A. and Ada (Hall) Campbell, also natives of Story County. The father, who was born on the same farm as his son, devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits until 1896, when he withdrew from the work of the fields and went to Ames. There for a time he dealt in real estate but he subsequently engaged in the grain and coal business, which he is still following. The grandparents in both lines were homesteaders in Story County, with the progress and development of which the families have been actively identified for three generations.



Reared at home in the acquirement of his education, Claude V. Campbell attended the public schools of Ames. He was graduated from the high school with the class of 1900, and subsequently enrolled in the Iowa State College, from which institution he was awarded his degree in 1904. After leaving college he obtained a position as a reporter on the Webster City Journal, where he acquired a general knowledge of the newspaper business. From there he came to Jewell Junction and bought a half interest in the Record and two years later he bought out his partner, thus becoming sole proprietor of the paper. He subsequently extended the scope of his activities by the purchase of the Stanhope Mail and the Randall Roundabout, which he consolidated with the Record, maintaining a separate department for each.

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.

JHS Membership Policy Update

The Society welcomes individuals interested in becoming members 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 indicate the expiration date of their membership and will include a request that the member keep track of when their renewal will be due.

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 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.

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

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
Generous Private Donors

