

# Jewell Historical Society

## Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 4  
Oct - Dec, 2020



### Happy Holidays from the JHS Board!

The past year has been difficult at best. But during these trying times, the Board of the Jewell Historical Society has tried to maintain some semblance of normalcy. Meetings have been held, often virtually, using on-line videoconferencing programs, but occasionally (weather permitting) meeting in person, outdoors, with masks and physical distancing.

During this time, the Jewell History Museum, located at 501 Johnson St., has not been open for patron visits on a regular schedule like it was last year. Instead, the facility is, and will be for the foreseeable future, open for visits by appointment only. Interested persons may phone to JHS Vice President and Museum Curator Dick Steffen at (515) 310-0413, and leave a message on his voicemail. Dick will return the call so that a visit can be scheduled.

As we all look forward to what we hope is a more “normal” year, without pandemics or politics, the Board sincerely wishes all JHS Members, and everyone else, a safe, healthy and Happy Holiday Season.

### Accomplishments during 2020

As mentioned in previous issues of this Newsletter, the year 2020 saw improvements to the museum’s entrance.

One project involved repairs to, and restoration of, the southwest entrance. Damage to the roof in this area had made it likely that weather damage might occur in the museum’s interior.



Restored Southwest Entrance

The other project, replacement of the front stairs, was actually the second part of an ongoing effort to improve the main entrance and potentially to make the building more easily accessible for persons with mobility limitations. (The first

part, completed in 2018, consisted of replacing the front entry doors and repairing the door jamb.) The stair replacement was funded by a very generous private donation.



Newly-Poured Front Stairs

Once the stairs are completed with the addition of a new railing, the Board hopes to be able to install an entry ramp, but this cannot proceed until further funds are available. The Board is seeking donations and researching possible grants which could help with this part of the project.

In addition to these projects, the Board hopes to have the museum building's exterior repainted sometime soon.

### Artifact Donations Continue

Despite the quarantine-induced limitations during the past several months, the Jewell Historical Society has continued to receive many donations of articles, photos and other artifacts from several generous donors, too numerous to name. Make plans to visit the Museum to see these and other items once on-site visits are again possible. A couple examples of items received this year:



Jewell High School Pennant



Display Case

### JHS Website News

In the last issue of this Newsletter, we launched a new feature: "News from the JHS Website." In this issue, we continue with the following:

#### *Early History of Schools in Jewell*

*One of the [early] store buildings [in downtown Jewell] was moved from Callanan during the winter of 1881-1882. The reason buildings were moved in the winter was because they could be more easily put on skids and pulled by teams over the frozen ground. (This was true of so many buildings that were removed from the settlements of Lakins' Grove, Callanan, Hook's Point, and other towns that failed to attract a railroad.) This building was placed along Main Street. The first school was held in the rented back room, with William*

*Anderson serving as the teacher. The next year, a school district was organized and the school was moved to a different building south of the railroad tracks. Anderson was the only teacher for one year. In 1883 Howard Smith was added to the school staff.*



*By 1890, a whole block was purchased and a two-story brick structure was built [see above]. Two years later a four-year high school program was added. In 1905 an addition was constructed on both ends of the school. This building took care of the school needs for another 20 years.*

This and other items can be found at [www.jewelljunctionhistory.org](http://www.jewelljunctionhistory.org). And be sure to check out the many recent updates and additions to the website. The site was developed, is maintained and is frequently updated by JHS Board member and Webmaster Alan Spohnheimer.

### **A Blast from the Past**

Also as mentioned previously, the Board has decided to include in each issue of the Newsletter a brief excerpt or summary from the books which were published during Jewell's Centennial and Quasquicentennial. It is hoped that these items will entertain and inform readers.

In this issue, we present two submissions:

**The first** is from the Quasquicentennial Book, p.65 (and in the Centennial Book, p.103. It's a Holiday Picture of the front of Albert Guhl's IGA grocery store, ca. the early 1930s. This is the current location of the *Sew Bee It Quilt Shop*.



**The second** is from the Centennial Book, p. 127, and features a longtime Jewell resident that many will undoubtedly recognize:



*Education is State Trooper John Graham's beat. Graham, an education officer from Jewell, spends much of his time talking with school children, clubs and other organizations about bicycle safety, motor vehicle driving and other public safety topics. Graham also patrols area highways.*

Read the complete article as well as other items of interest in the Centennial Book (published in 1981) and in the Quasiqucentennial Book (published 2006). Both are available for review in the Jewell History Museum. Copies are also available for review at the Montgomery Memorial Library, from where they can also be checked out by Library cardholders.

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

*The Jewell Centennial Trust*

*The IMT Group*

*Jewell Lions*

*Walmart® Community Grants Program*

*Hamilton County Tourism:*

*Hamilton Hometowns®. "Deeply Rooted in Central Iowa;"*

*and*

*The Enhance Hamilton County Foundation*



[www.iowamuseums.org](http://www.iowamuseums.org)

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 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**

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.