

Jefferson County Historical Society

October 2017

Newsletter

Many volunteers and members helped to prepare for Old Jefferson Town's opening weekend of May 6-7. The season's preparation started with help from Chris Hotchkiss and his students from the John Dewey Academy in Ozawie. The students made repairs to the boardwalk as well as clipping and clearing brush. Another group that helped was the Jolly Juniors 4 H club. This group did a lot of dusting and cleaning several displays as well as picking up trash around the area.

In February of 2017 the board decided to proceed with the exterior renovation of the John Steuart Curry Boyhood Home despite the notice from the Kansas State Heritage Trust Fund that the needed repairs were not selected to receive funding from them. In late July the final repairs were completed and board members worked furiously to hang pictures, clean, and prepare to reopen the building for visitors.

The board also decided a few months ago to remove the aging white board fence as the posts were decayed and had become a safety hazard. Thanks to Larry Elkinton for getting this task completed. The boards that were not rotten were saved for a future project.

The events we announced in the April newsletter have now winded down for the season.

The County Wide High School Art Show was on Saturday, May 6th and Sunday, May 7th. Virginia Winsor successfully organized and prepared for the Art Show again this year. Virginia, curator of the John Steuart Curry Boyhood Home and Museum, presented Mikayla Bertels, a 2017 graduating senior from Jefferson County North High School with the first John Steuart Curry Visual Arts Scholarship being offered to a student planning to pursue a degree in Art. The scholarship was given by the Jefferson County Historical Society. Mikayla's Art Teacher is Penny Linscott. Mikayla is attending Missouri Western this fall.

May 6th thru the end of May was the "Lost Communities of Jefferson County" – Western Half of Jefferson County. A map was displayed showing the areas of where they existed. Other pictures of interest were also exhibited from these communities. This included North Cedar and Halfmound to name a few.

May 27th – 4th of July – Various military uniforms were displayed in buildings from our donated collection. We now have uniforms mainly from the Army (WWI and WWII) and the Navy (WWII & Korean Wars).

We welcome any donations of uniforms or memorabilia from individuals that have served from Jefferson County to further our collection.

If you have a photo of your servicemen or women in their uniform that you would like to share we would love to have a copy to add to our display to give the uniform “life”. Plans are to display again in the future in 2018.

June 23rd – 24th – Old Settlers Reunion in Oskaloosa – The grounds were full of visitors that day and were enjoyed by all. On Saturday June 24 Linda Jungling, a native of Winchester, displayed her oil paintings at Old Jefferson Town. Also, Austin Hillrich, Holton, demonstrated blacksmith skills out of our “little red shop”.

Month of July – Another “Lost Community” display was exhibited in the library with photos and stories of the eastern half of the county. Stories and photos from Boyle Station to Woodstock & Stringtown were displayed.

Liz Leech shared newspaper clippings from Newspaper.com on the Jacksonville community east of Oskaloosa from the 1850’s & 60s. Copies of those articles are now filed in the genealogy files in the library. Thanks Liz!

Month of August – Efforts to put out information and pictures of community clubs and history of clubs were also displayed in the library and the Reynolds Building was limited but what was displayed was unique and quite different from past exhibits.

August 26th, Saturday – Fundraiser – “Drive Your Favorite Ride to Church” – This again was a great success as we targeted our funds for the renovation of the Curry Boyhood Home.

Recognition goes to Margaret Dick for the work involved to get a \$2,500 matching funds from Modern Woodsmen again this year. We received the funds for this match early due to the amount of tireless efforts that Mary Luse did to raise the funds through local companies in and around the county and with individuals. We just came under our goal for the money spent on the extensive renovation of the home. The society owes great gratitude to both Margaret & Mary. Thanks so much.

An old time “church meeting” went on in the Edmonds Chapel with many people attending. Thanks to Rev. (Retired) Ted Lovelace and Cordiela Brown for playing the pump organ in the church for the music shared.

Food was donated again from many of our society members and people from the community to put out a delicious meal. Door prizes were given through out the evening and silent auction items were sold.

A few “drive your favorite ride to church” vehicles were on the grounds with prizes given to the favorite ride by those attending.

September 23rd & 24th - Dennis & Elaine Engle of Baldwin City shared their artwork in the Curry House. Elaine does pastoral and abstract acrylic paintings and jewelry. Dennis does sculptures and items using the encaustic technique.

September 30th & October 1st was our last weekend of the season. We had a blacksmith, Austin Hillrich, Holton, demonstrating his arts on Saturday afternoon. Collections from the historical society's donated quilts were on display in the Edmonds Chapel.

2017 ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, November 5th at Old Jefferson Town

This will be an election of officers for the upcoming year and a short planned business meeting and presentation.

The Reynolds building will be a “soup supper” and again share the company of the members & visitors that comes.

Please mark your calendar or follow Facebook for the time of this meeting and supper. We are working on the details as of the date of this newsletter. If you have any questions you may contact President Leanne Chapman at 785-691-6751 for details.

RECOGNITION OF THANKS

I want to note that we have had many good “young people” work at Old Jefferson Town throughout the season from members of the Jolly Juniors 4-H club of Oskaloosa, students from John Dewey Academy of Ozawie and an intern this summer, Olivia Jones, from Lincoln, NE that has “roots” in Oskaloosa and Valley Falls communities. All were great to work with and deeply appreciated their assistance in completing many projects in the historical society and the grounds upkeep.

Steve Dick & Matt Teague worked this season as our tour guides and assistance during the season with various buildings and grounds. I want to thank them for their work this season.

Our society wants to recognize Rick Nichols, the editor of the Oskaloosa Independent and Valley Falls Vindicator, for his support and coverage of events throughout the season at Old Jefferson Town.

Liz Leech for her putting together the Yesteryears for the historical society. Many members that are in the “electronic age” receive the copies through emails. But we still mail out copies through the mail or upon request of members.

WISH LIST OF DONATIONS

Donations of quilts are always welcome as this art is still living on so the history of our communities and individuals can be shared. A good collection of “signature” quilts from various community clubs, churches, and schools are already in our possession but we welcome more.

Pictures from tornados in Jefferson County - 1930 and 1960. Tornados were devastating in the Winchester area in 1930 & Meriden, Oskaloosa and other areas in 1960.

Donation of photos of threshing crews over the years in Jefferson County.

Donation of any photos from clubs and organizations, which could have been church ladies aides' societies, local community clubs, extension units and their history of the club or organization.

Other donations of items and articles related to Jefferson County history is gladly reviewed and considered for acceptance.

Tax-Deductible Donations - Our buildings and grounds committee met in September and reviewed repairs that are needed to several buildings on the grounds. Tax-deductible donations are always welcome to help with the maintenance of the buildings.

This winds down the 2017 season but we are looking forward to the opening of the 2018 season. Opening weekend will be **May 5th & 6th, 2018**. But hope members and visitors will come to one of the "jewels of Jefferson County" and visit or attend an event this upcoming year!

Thank you - Leanne Chapman, JCHS 2017 President

Questions or concerns can be addressed to me at: chapmanfarm94@yahoo.com
or cell phone 785-691-6751.