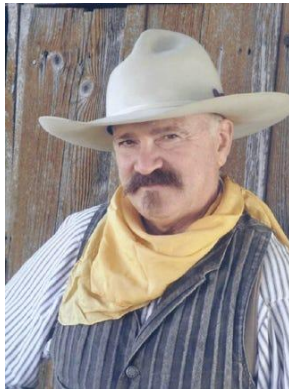


**Jefferson County Historical Society
Oskaloosa, Kansas
October 2023 Newsletter**

Annual Meeting

Please join us at the Jefferson County Historical Society Annual Meeting on November 5 at 3 pm in the Edmonds Chapel at Old Jefferson Town for an overview of accomplishments in the past year and to elect a slate of officers.



The meeting will be followed by a presentation by Jim Gray on the topic,

“Head ‘Em up and Move ‘Em Out”
about the early days of ranching and trail driving. You will have an opportunity to view the Civil War era supply wagon owned by the society.

Have you been doing any research lately?

The Jefferson County Historical Society members and numerous visitors are continually doing research. Whether it is tracing their family’s history, interest in the one-room schools, old maps of railroads, finding previous owners of your property, identifying pictures, reviewing information on the Perry Dam, or even looking for information on murders in the county, it is all RESEARCH.

A huge source of local information is contained in the county newspapers. Many of the older newspapers are available at newspapers.com, while microfilm available at the JCHS Library files

in the gap. The Society recently acquired microfilm of the Oskaloosa Independent dating from 01 May 2004 to 06 September 2012 by sending them out to be filmed, a process formerly done by the Kansas State Historical Society. These 10 rolls of microfilm were \$3300 and were funded by memorials from past members of the former Jefferson County Genealogical Society, which was merged into the Historical Society. Those microfilm are now available in the JCHS Library.

Additionally, issues of the Oskaloosa Independent and the Valley Falls Vindicator from 13 September 2012 to present are available with an online subscription at www.jeffcountynews.com.

Online subscriptions are \$32.50 annually for The Oskaloosa Independent and \$32.50 annually for The Valley Falls Vindicator. A combination of the print and online versions are available for \$42.50 per year. Send your subscription request to: Davis Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 187, Valley Falls, KS. 66088. Phone 785-945-3257.



The Historical Society maintains a subscription to newspapers.com. The public is welcome to come to the library and access that data during library hours. The library is open from 9 am to noon year-round on Saturdays, excluding holiday weekends, or by appointment. Email us

at oldjefftown@gmail.com to make an appointment.

Fundraising

The future of the Jefferson County Historical Society depends on the fundraising efforts of many members, primarily Mary Luse. Mary is involved in many activities of the society, including fundraising, serving as treasurer and purchasing agent, managing many of the upkeep and repair projects, showing up when a repair person needs access to the buildings and grounds, and accomplishes additions to our obituary card file collection, just to name a few. She deserves much more recognition than she receives.

Old Jefferson Town Day

Saturday, August 26, 2023, the Historical Society hosted their annual fundraising event, "Old Jefferson Town Day". It was a pleasant day with a welcome temperature of 86 degrees. Prior to the event Oskaloosa had eight days in the 100's, ranging from 103 to 112. So, without a doubt, it was a great day. We did have a light shower during the tractor ride, but it seemed that no one minded or complained.

The day started with a tractor ride of vintage and modern-day tractors. They traveled 10 miles to Old Town Ozawkie Park and then returned to Oskaloosa for an old-fashioned thresher's meal of fried chicken, pulled pork, cheesy potatoes, veggies, and lots of desserts of pie, cake, cookies, and ice cream. We served approximately 130 meals.

During the day, we had exhibits of 20 tractors. The oldest tractors displayed were owned by Jerry Seifert with a 1936 and a 1937 John Deere "B" tractor. David DeBratz and his 1959 John Deere 730 tractor traveled the farthest, coming from Council Grove, Kansas. Other exhibits included several stationary engines, antique cars and trucks, 2 older caterpillar dozers, an antique toy tractor, wagon, and tricycle. We also had working exhibits including a demonstration in the blacksmith shop attended by Austin Hillrich,

rug weaving in the library with Paul Matzek and rope making with John Steinmetz.

Following the buffet luncheon, we had a raffle for the kids and then a raffle for the adults. There were "barrel train" rides for the kids all day. The "barrel train" was loaned for the day by the Danny Schwinn Family, Easton. Later, we introduced the



Civil War Era Supply Wagon

that was donated to the Historical Society four years ago. The wagon had been housed off the property and had finally been moved to the library basement recently. To wind up the day we had music at the bandstand with Ella Curtiss and her friends seven-piece band, "One Last Time."

The Event collected funds for the upkeep and maintenance of our 10 vintage buildings from 75 sponsors, our exhibitors, and lunch sales. We were also selected to receive "matching funds" of \$2500.00 from Modern Woodsmen of America. Submitted by Mary Luse.

Collection Management

Treasures continue to turn up as data entry into Past Perfect by a team of volunteers continues. The team includes Bev Schuler, Mary Ann Noll, Denise Spainhower, Jennie Coss, Deb Case, Jeanette Waters, Mary Guffey, Rita Lyon, Leanne Chapman and Ardie Grimes. Visit our public access page at <https://oldjeffersontown.catalogaccess.com/search>