

Jefferson County Historical Society

Oskaloosa, Kansas

October 2022 newsletter

Message from the President

As you may be aware, Old Jefferson Town museum has recently experienced a series of three separate break-ins that have resulted in the theft of 4 computers and a digital camera. We believe each of these events occurred during the overnight hours.

I would like to assure our members and the community that all member demographics, financial, and business records remain secure, and we are thankful for no damage or loss to any physical or digital artifacts or data.

After each of these unfortunate events, the Board responded by taking steps to bolster our security, including adding exterior lighting, moving objects that blocked visibility from HWY 59, changing locks and passwords, and notifying the local police and requesting extra patrols.

On September 25, the Board held a special meeting to review the details and determine any additional next steps. From there, we have engaged a firm that specializes in building security and have purchased additional security equipment and devices. We are refining our process for managing the access to the buildings to maintain tighter controls and tracking, and we have changed the interior doors to the research library and updated additional external locks.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all those members of the community who have

offered support in the form of monetary and equipment donations, expertise, and labor. We also greatly appreciate your assistance in helping us keep an eye out for any unusual activity at OJT. Please contact us or the police with any relevant information.

We truly believe Old Jefferson Town is a treasure for the whole county and beyond, and with your help, we will continue to preserve and protect it for future generations.

Thank you,
Leanne Chapman



Jefferson County Historical Society Annual Meeting

**2-4 pm Sunday, November 6,
Edmonds Chapel**

Old Jefferson Town, Oskaloosa, Kansas

Come join us for a yearly update of what is happening at the museum, and then hear from Lisa Brose, President of the Valley Falls Historical Society and Sarah Rock, who will be sharing a video about the history of Perry and future plans for videos about the history of other Jefferson County communities.

What's New at the Museum?

New or updated exhibits since our last newsletter include new signs for the collection of automobile tags which were donated by Bob Varner and for the Ozawkie Mill Stone and the merry-go-round.

The Wellman Church bell, donated by the Dennis Stevens family was painted with a rust preventative coating and now has its very own display platform just off the boardwalk.

Rural school photos from the photo collection were framed or mounted by Deb Case and Margaret Dick and have been placed in the Wellman School.

A floor loom was donated by Skip and Shelly Schupp of Ozawkie. Several volunteers including Deb Case and Mary Guffey have worked on assembly and setup, and Tonya Ketchum has begun weaving some small rugs, as well as demonstrating the weaving process for the Oskaloosa 4th graders when they visited the museum on October 6.

A stereoscopic viewer and stereographic cards were donated by Kathi Benschoter and is now on display in the front room of the library building.

Two china dolls manufactured in Germany are now displayed in the Tibbott building.

Rocking chairs donated by Charlotte Rodecap are now displayed in the Nincehelter home.

Margaret Dick and Deb Case created a display of various maps of Jefferson County. Check it out in the hallway of the library!

The Farmer's Market is a popular event happening on the museum grounds on Saturday mornings from May to September.

Mary Luse is in charge of the annual fundraiser for the society, the Tractor Drive, which was held on August 27. Mary works for months prior to the event, organizing the tractor drivers, and contacting businesses to gain support for the museum. Her

efforts in support of the museum are often overlooked. Give her a pat on the back next time you see her.



Sarah Rock and her husband, Jason, represented John Steuart Curry in the OJT entry for the Old Settlers parade.

8 newer file cabinets were donated to the library, replacing some older cabinets that had outlived their usefulness. Margaret Dick, Deb Case, Bev Shuler and others were instrumental in getting files transferred and reorganized. We love the new updated look and ease of use.

Items recently received, but not yet on display include a child's snare drum, cymbals and tambourine, donated by Joy Mestagh from the Richter estate. Also received from the Richter estate were military uniforms and paper ephemera.

Candace Braksick recently donated a child's rocking chair which belonged to Rhea G. Edmonds, daughter of William & Daisy Garrett Edmonds. Rhea lived in McLouth.

As always there has been a lot of painting, repairing, etc. to the building and grounds of the museum. Margaret Dick is the driving force and coordinator for the majority of building and grounds upkeep.

Ardie Grimes, newsletter editor