

Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

FOUNDED 1980 AS AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Newsletter to Members 2004 SUMMER...ISSUE #3/4

The mission of the Ames Historical Society is to preserve local history and illuminate its stories.



The Sheldon-Munn hotel opened in 1916 and was the showplace of Ames. The original blueprints are in the collection of the Ames Historical Society.

Ames Historical Society Board:

President Kathy Svec
Vice-President Janet Jepeway
Secretary Carole Jensen
Treasurer Peggy Baer

Members:

Jorgen Rasmussen, Lynn Jenison, Leo Lawler, Margaret Elbert Benson, Catherine Hunt, Dennis Wendell., Deborah Vance, Ken Cameron, Cynthia Bennet

The Board meets the second Monday of each month at City Hall.

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501C3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through publications, programs, exhibitions and operation of an archive and historic site.

Headqtrs: 108 5th, Ames, Iowa 50010
Mail: PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515-232- 2148
E-mail: amesheritage@qwest.net

The newsletter is published four times a year for AHS members. Comments & questions may be directed to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010.

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett, Ames, IA. Open April 1 through October 31.

Second Exhibit in the Documentary Series: Ada Hayden Heritage Park:

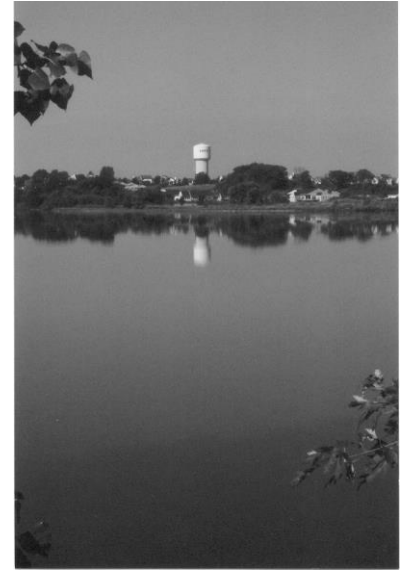
Water, Fish, Flora & Fauna

April 5 through May 31, 2004

Conservation Center, McFarland Park
5646 I 180th (north of 13th Street off Dayton Road)

Viewing hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm, Sat-Sun 1-5pm; 515232-2516

Water, Fish, Flora, Fauna is the second exhibit of documentary photographs by Janet Jepeway, part of an ongoing project that is recording the transformation of Hallett's Quarry as it becomes Ada Hayden Heritage Park. The photographs will be archived with the Ames Historical Society when the project is complete.



Thursday, April 29, 7pm

Lecture:

Fish and Fishing at Ada Hayden Heritage Park

by Ted Tedesco, veteran angler and City of Ames Mayor
Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park



Sunday, May 16, 1:30-4pm

Lecture:

Butterflies and Dragonflies of Ada Hayden Heritage Park

by Royce Bitzer, ISU Department of Entomology

Exhibit Walk-Through:

Who Lives at Ada Hayden Heritage Park?

by Janet Jepeway, photographer
Conservation Center, McFarland Park
free and open to the public

Mark These Dates for More Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 2, Partners Festival, 2-5pm, McFarland Park

Enjoy heritage-themed activities along with crafts, games, dancing, displays, rides and more during McFarland Park's spring celebration.

Friday, June 4, ArtWalk, 5-9pm, Main Street area

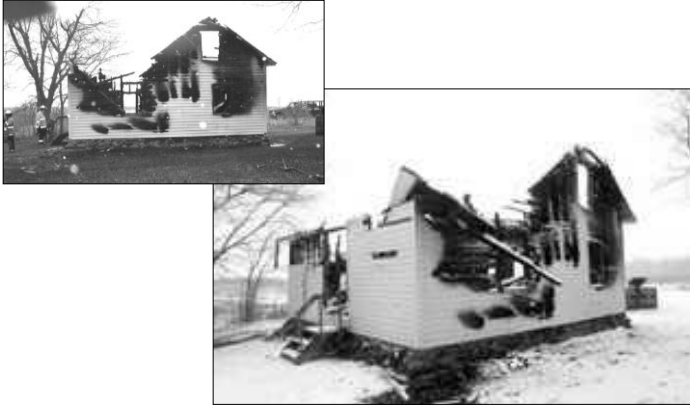
Museum Open House at 108 5th during ArtWalk

June 5 - August 29, Saturdays & Sundays, 2-4:30pm

Open hours at Hoggatt School, located at 18th & Burnett

Tragedy Strikes: Fire Destroys Bauge Log Home on March 15

Shortly before 6 a.m. on March 15, fire consumed the Bauge log home at McFarland Park. The Story County sheriff termed the fire "suspicious." An investigation is still underway. Several pieces of furniture plus two cast iron stoves were lost in the blaze, although most of the furnishings were in winter storage at the Park's conservation center and survived the fire.



The home as it appeared after firefighters extinguished the flames.

Samples of the log walls – including a corner showing the log joints – plus wooden pegs, siding and square nails were salvaged from the badly burned structure. Park staff was burdened with the clean-up and on April 1st and 2nd, the remaining walls were pushed in and burned so that the site could be made safe for visitors.



The last burning pieces and final clean-up.



Elden Bauge of Ames is the last of 13 siblings born in the log home to Lars and Anna Bauge on July 24, 1916. His grandfather, a Norwegian immigrant, built the home on an 80-acre farmstead near Huxley. It was occupied by extended family up until the 1950s, but Elden is the last surviving person born there. Bauge said, "It is a sad time. I am the only one left in the whole family. I guess it is just one more thing that you lose."

He is sorry he won't have the chance to come out for weekly open houses and talk to people about his experiences growing up in the log home.

AHS encourages members to honor the legacy of the Bauge Log Home by making a donation to the AHS Museum Procurement Fund. In a permanent museum, a Bauge/Norwegian immigrant area will be created to mark this chapter of local history.



Farewell little house next to the prairie.

Farewell to the witness of pioneer life on the Iowa prairie; farewell little log home, built by the Bauges from Norway.

If those walls could talk, they'd talk about starting life as walnut trees in a wooded grove near the little town of Huxley in the still-new state of Iowa.



They'd talk about the man, Nils Bauge and his large family and neighbors, cutting and shaping those trees, building a house in the way they knew from the old country. They'd talk about how newcomers started a new and hopeful life on 80 acres of rich farmland, so different from the rocky slopes of their homeland.

Those walls would talk about watching children grow, and parents grow old, and new generations coming to live under the wood shingle roof. They'd talk about the way it happens that people live and work, and how they become citizens in their adopted land.

They'd talk about the quiet years when people no longer came in and out, and the amazing day when they were lifted from their stone foundation near Huxley and carried to a new place in McFarland Park.

They'd talk about their proud new role as the stage on which stories were told and the new pleasure they took in being so genuinely old.

And maybe, they'd tell us about their last visitors and what happened that last fiery morning.

Then, perhaps to console us, they'd remind us that if it weren't for them we would never have taken the time or been patient enough to learn what they had to tell us. They would tell us that now that the stories are ours again, they can never be taken away.

Ames Remembers World War II: Project Progresses

By Cynthia Bennet

Digging through old records and pictures is an exciting way to investigate the past, and artifacts are a wonderful means of preserving and sharing aspects of history. Yet, nothing replaces the power and the personality of a firsthand account from someone who was actually there—what we call a "primary source."

Last spring, the Ames Historical Society, then known as the Ames Heritage Association, began a project called the "Ames Remembers World War II Project." The goal is to record the memories of as many people as is possible who were living in the Ames area during the World War II era, roughly 1940 to 1946, or those who had to leave for war-related reasons.

Many projects have the worthy objective of recording veterans' recollections, and our project will include some stories from veterans from the Ames area.

However, our larger objective is to capture the memories of people who were right here in town through the war years. Whether grade school, high school, or college students; professors or business owners, housewives or farmers, we hope to hear your story of what you remember about the town at that time.

More than 25 people have been interviewed so far, and interviews will continue through the rest of this year. Each person is interviewed individually, and the interview is recorded on audiotape. Then the interview is transcribed for review and editing. Each participant is given a copy of his or her taped interview, to share with family, or to serve as the catalyst for other writing or recording endeavors the person might wish to pursue.

The edited interviews, photographs, and other materials will be gathered into a book by the historical society, and available for purchase by the public. In that way our members, and other participants, will have a chance to see their memories shared with the community, and read what others recall.

People have been so generous with their memories and stories—happy stories of a safe time and place, when children played without fear; funny stories of college pranks; inspiring stories of getting by and making do during rationing; and sad stories of loss and sacrifice as the war took its toll.

Many times people have allowed us to copy their photographs, to help illustrate the stories they told. We are so honored and grateful when people share their lives with us, and hope to spread that gift to the community through our publication.

With a volunteer board and only one part-time paid employee, progress is slow but sure. Cynthia Bennet, who has been the Society's Community Programs Coordinator, is resigning that position effective May 31, 2004 to better concentrate her time and efforts on this important project of collecting the stories of Ames citizens.

If you have given her your name and not been contacted, know that she is slowly working her way through the list. If you are unsure if you have given your name, or would like to participate, please call the Society's office at 232-2148 or Cynthia at 268-0356.

You may also drop a note to our post office box. Please give your name, address, and phone number so she can contact you. Your participation is welcomed and encouraged. Ames residents are our greatest resources.

Family Memories Become Community Stories

The Society received a remarkable gift from member, Leo Lawlor – an encased exhibit that traces the history of his father, Joseph Lawlor. Joseph was a veteran of World Wars I and II, and a prominent Ames businessman who served the community as Mayor.



Recognizing the importance of the Lawlor family's history to the Ames community, Leo solicited the aid of several siblings in gathering together distinctive artifacts from his



father's life. He then presented them in a beautiful custom-made case (left) now on display at 108 Fifth St.

The Lawlor children hope their exhibit will inspire others to contribute important family artifacts to The Society that convey different chapters in the story of the Ames.

AHS Board of Directors 2004-05

2004-2007

Carole Jensen, Dennis Wendell, Leo Lawler, Ken Cameron

2003-2006

Peggy Baer, Lynn Jenison, Margaret Elbert Benson,

Janet Jepeway

2002-2005

Kathy Svec, Jorgen Rasmussen, Catherine Hunt,

Deborah Vance, Cynthia Bennet

Officers 2004-05:

President: Kathy Svec

Vice-President: Janet Jepeway

Treasurer: Peggy Baer

Secretary: Carole Jensen

About Our New Logo

Our handsome new logo was designed by Andrew Kingsbury, a student in Graphic Design at Iowa State University and an Ames native.

Andrew especially enjoys the challenge of creating logo designs, and found a lettering style that conveys the right balance of liveliness and tradition.



L - R: Catherine Hunt, Sarah Heide, Peggy Baer, Nicole Gebhart.

Museum Building Fund Grows!

In our last newsletter, we featured a story about the anonymous donor of modest means who stimulated establishment of a Museum Building Procurement Fund. Above, the donor's glass jar filled with dimes and quarters is deposited in the AHS Building Fund account.

Building Fund	February 2004	\$1275
Building Fund	April 2004	\$2950

Renew Today!

Membership renewals for 2004 are due on the one-year anniversary date of last year's payment. See label for anniversary date & level.

Introductory	\$10		
Individual	\$25	Sustaining	\$100
Family	\$40	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000

Additional amount for Building Fund \$ _____

Ames Heritage Assn., PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 Soon!

The label shows your 2004 renewal
due date and membership level. If you
are paid for 2004, date reads 2005.

Ames Historical Society
PO Box 821
Ames, Iowa 50010

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 122
AMES, IOWA 50010