

Littleton & Chatham

Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2, No. 4 Fall/Winter 2010



4TH ANNUAL

BIKE RIDE

MAY 21ST

The Littleton and Chatham Historical Society has organized their fourth bike ride fundraiser. Riders of all ages are welcome and the ride will be at your own pace. Riders can pick up their t-shirts and register for door prizes outside the Littleton Lounge around 8:30 am. Riders can choose from a 45 mile or 23 mile route. The routes will be marked. Available stops along the way include the Littleton Lounge, Casey's on 12th St. NE in

Independence, a bike refreshment station on W33 and the intersection of C57 & Amish Blvd., as well as Prontos in Hazleton and Fairbank.

The registration fee will be \$20 with a T-shirt, or \$15 without a T-shirt. Mail completed registration and payment to Littleton and Chatham Historical Society, 1006 150th St., Fairbank IA 50629. Registration forms can be found through the ride calendar at www.bikeiowa.com or at <http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~littletonia>. Questions? Call (319) 415-1175 or email: tonybengston@yahoo.com.

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415-1175

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Jane Lillibridge
827-6291

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827-6171

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On August 14th riders took off from the Littleton Lounge during the 3rd Annual LCHS Bike Ride. Tony Bengston photo.

Below, Tom Searcy returns after combining routes for a ride close to 50 miles. Pam Searcy photo.



"Success is getting what you want; happiness is wanting what you get."

~Charles F. Kettering

"The Littleton and Chatham Historical Society strives to accurately document, promote and preserve the history of the Littleton and Chatham area to cultivate interest and educational understanding for future generations."

Calendar of Events-

Meeting

Mon. Jan. 10, 2011
7:00 pm at 108
Perry St. Jesup
(Chatham) Jane
Lillibridge
residence

Regular Meeting

Mon. Apr 11, 2011
7:00 pm at 601
State St. Independ-
ence (Chatham)
Pleasant Grove
Presbyterian
Church

Bike Ride

Sat. May 21, 2011
8:30 am at 511
State St. Jesup
(Littleton)
Littleton Lounge

Regular Meeting

Mon. July 11, 2011
7:00 pm at 601
State St. Independ-
ence (Chatham)
Pleasant Grove
Presbyterian
Church

LITTLETON & CHATHAM CALENDAR

The Littleton and Chatham Historical Society is compiling a 2012 calendar documenting the historical existence of the Littleton and Chatham area. We welcome images that can be scanned to add to this calendar. The photos can be of people or buildings, old photos or photos taken more recent. Contact a board member or attend a meeting to learn more!

"Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal. Nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong attitude."

~Thomas Jefferson

May E. Francis State Superintendent of Public Instruction, resided here on Dillon Avenue. The Kurtz home was rebuilt by the Amish community after a fire on Feb. 18, 2006. Photo taken 2005 by Nyle McMartin.



Brothers Lewis V. T. Francis and Ralph Francis bought this brick home two miles north of Chatham from Mary E. Wilson, widow of Samuel L. Wilson, in October of 1900. Samuel's father built the home in 1864. The home remained in the Francis family until 1953. May E. Francis, sister of Lewis and Ralph lived here prior to moving to Bremer County between 1910 and 1915. May first taught six plus terms at Independence area schools before continuing her teaching at schools in Fairbank Township.

Jesup High School

Community Cleanup

A big thank you goes out to the Jesup High School students, teachers and coaches that made the October 22nd Community Service Workday a huge success. Everyone did an outstanding job to make those overdue projects in the Littleton/Chatham community come to reality. Whether it was raking leaves or giving the church stairs and ramp a fresh coat of paint, everything shines a little brighter!



Tony Bengston photo.



Tony Bengston photo.

Second Cleanup: **1,500 lbs. of Trash** **1,260lbs. of Metal!**

On Saturday September 11, 2010 the Littleton and Chatham Historical Society lead a river cleanup on the Wapsipinicon River from the Robert "Chic" McGlaughlin Access Area at the Littleton Dam to Hickory Heights cabin area north of Independence, a distance of seven river miles. Volunteers included: Galen Amfahr, Rodney Brodigan, Al Donaldson, Ana Donaldson, Steve Maynard, Ed Thoma, Jason Vorthmann, Cally Bengston, Jeffrey Milks, Craig Amfahr, Dan Cohen, Micki Sand-Cohen, Ron Brodigan, Randie Brodigan, Nyle McMartin, Jane Lillibridge, Tony Bengston, Maya Ogren, Craig Bussan, Alexander Bussan, Nick Kremer, Luke Kremer, Donald Backer, Chas Niedert and Jordan Hogan. The group collected 1,500 pounds of trash, 1,260 pounds of scrap metal and over 177 pounds of recyclable materials. Other items of interest were 8 tires, a baby carrier, freezer, mattress, chest cooler, house siding, a section of pontoon, refrigerator and 80 foot of tile! Some items had to be left until conditions permit, such as a flat bottom boat buried in the sand. Volunteers that provided additional assistance in the morning and afternoon; Toni Amfahr, Duane and Dee Brandt, Terry and Monica Bengston. A CRTSP grant from the Iowa Whitewater Coalition covered the expenses and contributions were also made by the Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association, Streamkeepers program, Wapsi Canoe, Thomas-James LLC and Tournier's Recycling Inc. The group made a great attempt to clean up this section of river. We look forward to cleaning additional areas in the future. We welcome the public's support and hope everyone will do their part in keeping their river and community clean. Thank you to everyone involved.

"Love your life and what you've been given, it is not accidental ~ search for your purpose and and do it as best you can."

~Bonnie Mohr

Monica Bengston photo.



Subscribe now for your LCHS newsletter in full color, purchase a 1 year membership for \$10. Your donation is tax deductible. Mail membership to: Littleton and Chatham Historical Society, 1006 150th St. Fairbank, IA 50629.

Littleton and Chatham Historical Society

1006 150th St.

Fairbank, IA 50629



Littleton Mill circa 1898

MILLER MOVES

William Auringer, who has had charge of the Littleton Mill for nearly a year, moved with his family to Riceville Tuesday. We are told of a Triumph farmer who bought nearly 150 bushels of grain to be ground a few days since when he learned that Mr. Auringer was to move away, said: "That is the hardest blow Littleton has had yet," and many more for miles around in each direction will say the same. Many times Mr. Auringer has worked till the small hours of the morning that no one might be disappointed in getting grists when called for and the business was constantly increasing. Patrons learned that Mr. Auringer was not one who would stoop to low trickery to win a dollar and that cannot be said of everyone. There was probably not a day during the residence of the family in Littleton when they did not show a kindness to neighbors, and speaking for ourselves and others we hope they may enjoy health and prosperity in the Riceville home. Independence Bulletin-Journal Nov. 3, 1910