



Hitchcock House

2000-2500 visitors each year. The barn is open for free activities.

Meeting Minutes

Ken Graham opened the meeting on March 9. Keith Denton, Kirk Vorthmann, Dee Gutttau, and John Hotchkiss provided jokes followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Gary Funkhouser offered the opening prayer.

Ken Graham celebrates his 67th birthday Monday. Ken Graham contributed to the Youth Fund for bragging rights. Kirk Vorthmann contributed to announce that St. Lutheran has a spaghetti dinner Sunday.



John Hotchkiss spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on March 9. He is a retired Civil Service and manages the Hitchcock House in Lewis. The Hitchcock House is part of the Underground Railroad network to freedom and a National Historic Landmark. The Underground Railroad helped runaway slaves escape to freedom in Canada.

George Hitchcock moved to Iowa in 1853. He had two brothers who were ministers. He worked in a rock quarry and lost one eye working there. He lived in a log cabin South of Lewis. One day a church member brought some runaway slaves to his house. George decided it was the right thing to do to help runaway slaves.

George built a house of brown sandstone as his house and an Iowa safe house. There were numerous safe houses in Iowa, including towns like Tabor, West Des Moines, and Salem. George built a separate room in the basement, hidden behind a cabinet. There is no record of how many former slaves stayed there, but over 40,000 slaves escaped between 1840 and the end of the Civil War.

There was a bounty on escaped slaves. A male was generally worth \$1000 and a female \$1500. George was never caught hiding slaves.

With the end of slavery, George and his wife moved to Kansas. The Hitchcock house was lived in until the 1960s. The vacant house was vandalized and rapidly deteriorated. The walls were crumbling, the windows broken, and the roof was collapsing.

In 1983 the Hitchcock House Restoration Committee was organized. It has now been restored to its former glory. It has 2 foot thick wall. John and his wife have lived on the property since 2010. John Hotchkiss recently found that he is related to George Hitchcock.

The house is open for tours May 1st through September 30th. It is open 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Tours are \$5 per person. There are 35 volunteers signed up to help with tours. They have

Calendar

- Mar 13 – Can Kennel Sorting, 5:30 p.m. JOOI Club
- Mar 14 – Pops Concert, 5:00 p.m. supper, 5:00 p.m. performances
- Mar 18 – Optimist Zone meeting, Griswold Methodist Church, 6:30 p.m.
- Mar 27 – Can Kennel Sorting, TBD p.m.

Birthdays

- Mar 2 – Ward Chambers
- Mar 11 – Kenneth Graham
- Mar 20 – Jon Jacobsen

Anniversaries

- Mar 4 – Gene & Erika Seran
- Mar 8 – Keith & Georgia Denton (recognized)



Music Students and teachers accepting Can Kennel check from Gary Gutttau

Members of the Music Boosters came to pick up a second can kennel check. The youth in music this year are heading for Chicago on March 20. They will participate in a clinic at Vandercook College of Music, see the Blue Man Group, and go o Evil Times Dinner Show. 103 students and 9 adults will make the trip. They leave March 20th at midnight and will return around 11:00 p.m. on March 23rd. Cost of the trip is \$480 per person, with half of it raised through fundraisers.

Mr. Jensen said that his son just got a job teaching K-5 music at Sheldon, Iowa. Congratulations.

March 18 is the optimist Zone meeting at the Griswold Methodist church. The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m.

Bill Vorthmann won the 50/50. Dennis White won the attendance award. There were 15 members and 6 guests at the meeting.

Programs

- Mar - Dale Willenborg
- Apr - Chad Gutttau
- May - Gary Funkhouser
- Jun - Gary Gutttau

Prayers

- March 9-Gary Funkhouser
- March 16-Richard Vorthmann
- March 23-Chuck Nielsen
- March 30 -
- April 6 - Chad Gutttau
- April 13- Dale Willenborg