

JASPER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WELCOME HISTORY BUFFS



Be sure to visit the Jasper County Historical Society between now and August 1 to enjoy the fantastic exhibit on Charles Halleck. The exhibit was created by Museum Curator Judy Kanne.

HALLECK HISTORY: Halleck served 16 terms in the House of Representatives. He was Majority Leader from 1947-1949 and 1953-1955 and Minority Leader from 1959-1965.

Hope you can participate in these future activities:

April 21: Meet at the museum at 3:30 p.m. to carpool to the Hershman cabin in Walker Township for our monthly meeting.

May 17: Tea Party at the museum from 2:00 to 4:00. Fee \$10. Jennie Washburn and an assistant will provide a program "Tunes and Toppers". Limited number of seats available. Contact Elizabeth Waymire for reservations at 219-866-3264.

May 17: Election of Officers

June 16: 6 p.m. Annual dinner at the museum. Brian Capouch will talk about houses built by Fred McColly.

PHOTOGRAPHING OF COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE CARDS

Randi Richardson, a board member and District Director for the Indiana Genealogical Society, spent two very full days in Rensselaer helping us photograph our Council of National Defense Cards. Over 4,500 photographs were taken. Now that the photographing is complete, Janett Kingman and Sue Caldwell are cropping and tagging the photos (7,500 in all). Some research still needs done to make certain that we have correctly spelled names that are difficult to read. The final phase of the project will be to get these photos on line so people everywhere have access to the fantastic information on the cards. The Indiana Genealogical Society has agreed to display the cards on their website as soon as the last 700 photos are cropped and tagged and the index is finalized. Thanks to Randi and Janett for their help!!!!

HALLECK HISTORY: Halleck's first job at age 9 was delivering papers for the Rensselaer Republican for 10 cents a day.

MAGIC LANTERN SLIDES



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We received a number of 5 X 1 ¼ inch glass plates with painted figures on them. Research showed that they were for a Magic Lantern Slide Projector. Go on Wikipedia and search for "Magic Lantern" to see a photo of this type of slide in the projector. If anyone has an old Magic Lantern projector so we could show slides at one of our meetings, we would appreciate your lending a projector to us.

HALLECK HISTORY: Halleck graduated first in his 1924 Indiana University Law School class.

JASPER COUNTY TOURISM GRANT

The Jasper County Tourism Board gave a very generous donation of \$1,500 to the JCHS towards the Helenor Project. The funds will be utilized towards the restoration of tombstones at Sandridge and Barkley cemeteries. THANK YOU TOURISM BOARD!!!!

HALLECK HISTORY: *Senior Ambitions*, a poem by Halleck's classmate Bernice G. Long, says this about Charlie:

Charles Halleck, our Editor-in-Chief, One in whom we have much belief, Has hopes and ambitions today Of becoming President of the USA.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

One of the most fascinating jobs for a museum curator is to assist students with project research. The photo below pictures Judy Kanne assisting Clark Rodibaugh and mother Amber with a school project. Note the beautiful Christmas tree pictured in the background that was donated by Gwen Potter.



2015 DUES REMINDER

Have you paid your dues for 2015. Dues are \$5.00 for an individual, \$8.00 for a couple, and \$100 for a lifetime membership. Please send your dues in quickly so we do not face the expense of mailing a reminder notice to you.

HALLECK HISTORY: Halleck served as Editor-in-Chief of the 1918 Rensselaer CHAOS. In the Athletic section of the CHAOS, Charlie is pictured in his football uniform and given the nickname "Doc". "Doc" originally played a guard position, but owing to the loss of several men, "Doc" showed his ability as a utility man by playing end for a while in fine style, and finally he was shifted to halfback. Unfortunately the 1917 team only won two games, tied two 0 to 0 games and lost 5.

CIVIL WAR REUNION

This Civil War reunion photo was found in the Hoover family materials located in the Hoover House building. Another photo shows Grandma Morgan at age 90 in the center front on the group.

Top row: George L Morgan, Thomas A Crockett, William M Hoover, Erastus

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Peacock, Whitsel Lewis, John A. Timmons,
P. H. Hopkins

Middle row: George M Cooper, Shelby
Grant, James Orcutt, J. A. Burnham, Wm.
W. Murray, Hiram Jacks

Front row center: John Q Alter, Robert A
Dunlap



purchasing one for a friend—the magazine
makes a great gift!



The above photo of David and Mary
Johnson Horsewood was given to the JCHS
by their great-grandson Darrell Dunlap.
Photographs are always a welcome
addition to our collections.

VINTAGE VIEWS Winter 2014

Read about Sam Grant, manager of J A
Grant & Son Motor Freight, the company
founded by his grandfather John Abel
Grant, in the current issue of Vintage Views.
The delightful article was written by Grant
Edward Davisson.

Also enjoy John S. Blue's "From Hoosier
Tales & Proverbs" and learn about Dr.
William Wallace Hartsell, a homopathic
doctor who came to Rensselaer in 1883.

Issues are available for \$10 (plus shipping).
We have many issues left. Consider

HALLECK HISTORY: From the 1961
beginning of Kennedy's term as President,
Everett Dirkson, Minority Leader of the
Senate, and Charlie Halleck, Minority
Leader of the House, held an extremely
popular weekly political discussion that
became known as the Ev and Charlie show.
It was changed to the Ev and Jerry show
when Gerald Ford became Minority Leader
of the House in 1965, but without Halleck

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the show quickly lost its appeal with the public.

LB&T DONATES HALLECK TREASURES



Janett Kingman with Halleck Collection

Janett Kingman is shown starting to sort through Halleck items donated by Lafayette Bank & Trust. The collection included the door to Halleck's legal office which was located in the bank building in the 1930's. The papers are tied to his legal practice and will be sorted and indexed by the museum. During much of this period Halleck was serving as Prosecuting Attorney.

After a day of filing Halleck case records, Jane Lord and I talked about how fascinating and yet sad these cases were. These cases epitomize the issues of the 1930's—the depression, no money, no jobs, the ending years of prohibition, increased criminal activity, men leaving families to search for work, etc. In reading Halleck's letters, one can tell that he was extremely sympathetic to the families with financial issues.

In early years the Prosecuting Attorney position was fee based and was not very profitable in such hard financial times. It was during Halleck's years of service that

the Prosecuting Attorney finally became a paid position.

HALLECK HISTORY: Halleck served 5 terms as Prosecuting Attorney for the Jasper-Newton Circuit Court.

METHODIST CHURCH RECORDS

We are in the process of copying membership records from the Methodist churches in the area. Other denominations will also be copied in the future.

White County's Lee Methodist Church membership records were copied as the church was part of the Rensselaer and Barkley circuits at one point and many of the members were from Jasper County or closely related to people in Jasper County. The two books contain information from the 1930's through the early 1980's.

Jasper County Methodist records include the Barkley Circuit as of 1905, the Rensselaer Circuit as of 1889, Rensselaer Methodist 1882-1885, Rensselaer Methodist 1893-1905, Rensselaer Methodist 1909-1915, Trinity Methodist 1915-1927, and Trinity Methodist 1956-1959. Records are often carried over from one book to another if the person was still a member at the time a new book was started. Records include probationers, members in full connection, baptisms, deaths, marriages, why a person left the church, etc.

Historical information is often included such as a record of the 1933 centennial celebration at Trinity. The Rensselaer Circuit of 1889 book provides the following information about the Pleasant Grove Church. We feel certain that this church was in Barkley Township, but do not know

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its exact location. Your help in locating this information would be appreciated.

“The New Church at Pleasant Grove was built in the year of our Lord 1885 and was dedicated November the 15 1885 by Rev. J. N. Claypool assisted by Jr. Granvil Moody. The above named church was built by Smith, Newlin under the Supervision of Rev. R .C. McReynolds, Pastor at a cost of \$1,500. Assisted by the building committee Granvil Moody Jr., Nelson Randal, and Henry Barklet.”

HALLECK HISTORY: Halleck's father Abraham was founder of the first telephone company in Jasper County. The Halleck Telephone Co. served DeMotte, Kniman and Wheatfield.

EISENHOWER HUMOR

On Halleck Day President Dwight D. Eisenhower assisted in the laying of the cornerstone of Halleck Hall. The Rensselaer Republican reported the following:

Very Rev. Raphael L. Gross, president of the college, presented an honorary Fellow certificate to Eisenhower and made him an impromptu “president” of the college.

Noting that he, a Presbyterian was now “president” of a Catholic college, Eisenhower quipped: “I’m not so certain just where this sort of thing will lead. But I do know it’s useless to run for Pope on the Presbyterian ticket.”

HALLECK HISTORY: Charles Halleck's mother, Lura Irene Halleck was admitted to the bar by the Jasper Circuit Court in 1920. You can see her admission to bar papers at the JCHS.

BEULAH ARNOTT'S JASPER CO. TIDBITS

KNIMAN: Kniman was previously known as Moonshine, Hogan's Station, and Niman? It became Kniman in 1887. From the Rensselaer Republican March 10, 1887.

1876 ROBBERY ATTEMPT: Taken from the Rensselaer Union 1876: In 1876 a plan to rob the McCoy Bank was stopped by two detectives from Chicago. The thieves had tunneled under the vault and were about to take what they thought would be about \$20,000. As it turned out there was \$500,000 available including county funds. The detectives from Chicago named Turtle and Bull were on their trail and caught them.

INDIAN BURIAL IN RENSSELAER: Frank L. Hendrick, a 17 year old Chippewa Indian from Michigan is buried in Mt. Calvary Cemetery. He died June 10, 1892 while he was a student at the Indian School on the St. Joseph's College Campus.

The tidbits on Kniman, 1876 Robbery Attempt, and Indian burial in Rensselaer were part of an article compiled by Beulah Arnott and printed in the Rensselaer Republican Feb. 28, 2002.

HALLECK HISTORY: In 1940 Halleck nominated Wendell Willkie for President of the United States at the Republican Convention. In 1948 he seconded the nomination of Thomas E Dewey for President at the Republican Convention.

MIKE KINGMAN APPOINTED TREASURER

Alma Molenaar served many years as our faithful treasurer. Be sure to express your thanks when you see her! Mike has been appointed to fulfill the balance of her term. THANKS ALMA!!!