

# JASPER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME HISTORY BUFFS

The 23<sup>rd</sup> issue of Vintage Views is now available for purchase. The cost is \$10 plus \$3.00 for postage if you want it mailed.



The cover pictures Nane Long Loy (in Junior Red Cross attire) and Ruth Harriet Eger McFall collecting for starving people in Belgium after World War I. County Historian Judy Kanne's article is titled "A Lady Named Nane Long Loy". Other articles and photos relate to Morris Jacks' store on wheels, J A Grant & Son Motor Freight, Hollis "Holly" Hayes, the Rensselaer Lions Club, and more. Also included are a tribute to the 2014 state champion football team from Rensselaer and a reprint of an article about the Bomber name by Michael Campbell.



John G Hayes' Postal Wagon

The above wagon was driven by John G. Hayes, father of Hollis Hayes, when John worked for the Rensselaer Post Office. Learn more about John in Hollis' story in Vintage Views.

## JASPER CO. HISTORICAL TIDBIT

Article in unknown newspaper—date unknown

*The name Jasper was chosen to honor a hero of the Revolution, a young sergeant stationed at Fort Moultrie. On June 28, 1776, while the fort was under attack by the British, the flag was shot down. Jasper faced the storm of the battle, rescued the flag and nailed it to the broken staff. This signaled the people watching from the mainland that the fort had not been captured.*

**FOLLOW THE JCHS ON FACEBOOK**

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## DONATION OF RENSSELAERIANS

The May, 1922 issue of The Rensselaerian, one of many donated by Bob Andree, introduced "The Squad".

*To date the following men have been assigned to the varsity basket ball squad:*

*Captain Harmon, Willis Wright, Warren Wright, Clarence Jay, Walker Gilmore, Francis Hunt, Wayne Tilton, Alva Weiss, LaVerne Paulus, Carl Michaels, Paul Gates, Harold Fleming. Two more to be assigned later.*

The October 24, 1921 issue of THE RENSSELAERIAN reported:

### **RILEY MEMORIAL TO BE ERECTED**

*At last a fitting memorial is to be erected to honor the memory of James Whitcomb Riley, the children's poet. Plans are well under way for the erection at Indianapolis of a free state hospital to which any child residing in Indiana may be admitted for medical or surgical attention. ...Every school child in Indiana is asked to contribute and all are urged to earn the money. In this way each one will feel a more personal interest. The children's names will be placed in the library of the hospital where they will serve as a testimonial of the children's love for the Hoosier poet. Each schoolroom which collects \$10 or more is to be given a framed picture of Riley.*

*This matter is being taken up in all the grades of the Rensselaer schools. The High School hopes to get one of the pictures of Riley to hand in the Assembly.*



## REVIEWING VINTAGE VIEWS

Myles Beeching, Vanessa Peveto, and Arlene Walter enjoyed looking at our Vintage Views collection. Myles, who donated his RCHS sports jacket to the museum, is Arlene's nephew.

## FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH



For years JCHS members have been looking at what was on the other side of this sign—a discarded tombstone for Davy Crockett. It turns out that the beautifully carved back side is really the front side and is the original cornerstone for our building.

We do not have a photo showing this stone attached to the church. A later photo shows a box in the bottom of the peak and centered above the front door that would have been large enough to hold this stone.

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## HANDICAPPED ACCESS

The JCHS Board of Directors decided to provide handicapped access to our building. With a generous gift from Jorja Selby, memorial funds from family and friends of Michael Campbell, a donation from the Retired Iron Club, and free installation of railings donated by Fred Kem, we were able to cover the cost of a new set of steps, an access ramp and new railings. Cement work was completed by Wiggs Concrete Company and the railings were added by Kem's Hardware. THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED!!!



**Crew from Wiggs Concrete Company  
Framing the Ramp**



**Finished Ramp with Railings Installed  
by Kem's Hardware**

## SCHOOL BOOK PROJECT

We are currently indexing school records from the 1883-1884 school year. There are several additional school records that we would also like to index. Anyone want to volunteer?

Below is a sample of information for Barkley Township District 9 Independence School:

Teachers: Emma F. Gwin and Rosa Coons

Enrollment: 13 males and 13 females

Average Daily Attendance: 20.8

Number of cases of tardiness: 79

Pupils listed: 24

Perfect Pupils: Ula Switzer, Dila Norman, Bertie Israel, Stella Israel, Charles Israel, Wiley Israel, Warren Galbreth, Nellie Galbreth, John Galbreth, Lewis Galbreth, Sarah Knight, Jane Knight, Esper McClary, Cornelius Shea, Minnie Wilson, Thomas Zimmerman, Ezra Switzer, Charles Norman, Joseph Norman, Jennie Knight, Frank Hurley, Elza Ott, Jessie Adair, Matie Hurley

## 2015 DUES REMINDER

In 2015 we will be collecting dues in January. 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.



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Roger & Linda Buschman, President and Vice President of the JCHS, with Gov. Mike & Mrs. Pence during the Governor's recent trip to Rensselaer

**CONTACT US at**

[JCHSmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:JCHSmuseum@gmail.com)

## JASPER FOUNDATION GRANT RECEIVED

The Jasper County Foundation awarded the JCHS a \$907 grant to be used towards the pillow stone which will hold the Rev. Helenor Davisson plaques (United Methodist Historic Site, Circuit Rider plaque, and future United Methodist Historic Landmark plaque). The pillow stone, base & installation will cost approximately \$1,370. So far we have also collected \$990 in additional donations. Further funding is needed as it will cost approximately \$2,700 for resetting and cleaning the monuments associated with this project.

An application has been made to the Indiana Genealogical Society for a \$500 grant towards tombstone restoration work, but we will not know if it is approved until April. Additional funding

will also eventually be needed for the third phase which is placing plaques at other locations associated with the Rev. Helenor Alter Davisson Historic Site such as the Jasper County Museum building, the Rosebud School House, and the Alter Farm and Cemetery. The Methodist Church may provide a grant for the Historic Landmark plaque for Helenor's gravesite, but it will be 2016 before we know if the site receives Historic Landmark status and whether or not the grant is provided to us.

**Please consider a donation to this particular project! We must quickly collect the additional \$2,000 in funding so work can be completed prior to July.**

## THE THOMPSON FARM

Beth Bassett of the Newton County Historical Society found the following article in the Kentland Gazette of September 12, 1889.

### *The Largest Farm in Jasper County*

*State Senator S. P. Thompson is the owner of the largest farm in Jasper County. This farm has an area of 5,000 acres and is described by a correspondent of the Rensselaer Republican as follows:*

*A few days ago your correspondent had the pleasure of spending a night on S. P. Thompson's 5,000 acre farm in Union Township, the largest in the county. I had the impression before visiting this farm that it was little less than a succession of sand ridges and swamps, but what was my surprise to find a very large part of it the very best of land. The improvements are of the most substantial character. The farm house is a nice, roomy, two-story cottage, finished off in good style and pleasantly*

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*situated, surrounded by commodious and well painted out-buildings. The four large barns furnish shelter for about 150 head of stock and mow capacity for 300 tons of hay. These buildings are all constructed in the most substantial manner. The farm has about 35 miles of fence, much of it being hog-tight, built of boards and wire. The Iroquois river flows through the center of the farm, at this point being a small creek of living water, with good land up to the banks. In addition to this water privilege, which is of great value in handling stock, the farm has a number of good wells, one of which is an artesian, with a very strong flow of water.*



JCHS Members at Sept. 2014 Meeting

## RECIPE FOR BALDNESS

Ayda & Alfredo Saavedra donated some materials found in the Hoover House building. Included in the collection is a membership book for the Rensselaer Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church from the late 1880's and early 1890's. References in the book mention the Parker, Hanging Grove and Pleasant Grove churches. Rev R. M. Simmons wrote: "At the conference of October 1-6, 1890, Parker was attached to the Rensselaer

Circuit and made a regular preaching place. The class was organized October 12 from members of the Hanging Grove class. They are a spiritual class." If anyone has any information on these churches, we would be interested in copying the information.

The strangest thing about the church ledger is the recipe for baldness written on the last page:

### *Hair Restorer from Mrs. Griswold*

*2 oz. Castor Oil, 2 oz. alcohol, 1 oz. Tincture Cantharides, 1 oz. Rain Water, 1 Dram Oil of Bergamont*

*Apply twice a week with tips of fingers. If it excites any inflammation on the scalp, use it only once a week.*

*It is quite strong so keep an eye to its action so as not to inflame the scalp. N. B. This goes with the above: Glycerine and rosewater equal parts. Apply once a day.*

*This has been known to restore hair to absolutely bald heads.*

The 1940 photo shown below is of the rear of St. Augustine Church. This is one of many fascinating photos included in the Saavedra donation. Thank you Saavedra family.



St. Augustine Church 1940