

JASPER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WELCOME HISTORY BUFFS

St. Joseph's College is now in its 126th year of serving our community. The school was chartered by the state in 1889 and the Main Building, or Administration Building as most of you would refer to it, was built in 1890. Many will also remember the untimely demise of that building in the 1973 fire.

In March of this year, the college installed its 18th president, Dr. Robert A Pastoor. Dr. Pastoor comes to Rensselaer via Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio. We wish him the best in his new endeavors.

The museum has several excellent sources of information related to the history of St. Joseph's College such as the following publications:

Saint Joseph's College A CHRONOLOGY by Charles J. Robbins, C.PP.S.

St. Joseph's Indian Normal School, 1888-1896 by Dominic B. Gerlach, C.PP.S.

Saint Joseph's College, A CENTENNIAL PICTORIAL HISTORY by Dominic B. Gerlach, C.PP.S.

On this page are copies of three old St. Joseph's College postcards from our museum collection. We would like to obtain additional college postcards so they can be included in a Jasper County postcard book that we plan to publish next year.

For many years the Chicago Bears trained at St. Joseph's College. Unfortunately, the Historical Society does not have any records or photos of their time in Rensselaer. Can anyone help our curator eliminate this gap in our collection?

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE POSTCARDS

Gymnasium, Erected 1904



Drexel Hall



Chapel and Administration Building



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2015 JASPER COUNTY FAIR HOURS

The historic buildings at the fairgrounds including the log cabin, post office, Roosevelt privy, and school house will be open Sunday, July 19 from 1-4, Tuesday, July 21 from 1-4, and Thursday, July 23 from 1-4.

The society will also have a table at the Volunteer Fair in the Community building from 4 pm to 7 pm on Sunday, July 19.

Come join the fun! Watch the kids eating pickles or just relax and visit with fair attendees and fellow historians.

Rita Barnett will demonstrate quilt tying during our open hours on Tuesday. If you have a skill you would like to demonstrate, please notify Judy Kanne.

Vintage Views will be available for purchase in the entrance of the school building. Please support our main fund raiser by purchasing a copy of Vintage Views.

LOOKING BACK: 1938 FAIR

The Official Program of the Jasper County Fair in 1938 contains ads from the following area food and drink related establishments: Kanne's Café, Lunchi's Food and Ice Cream, Hardesty's, Collegesside Lunch Room, Bridges Ideal Bakery, Kellner & Son (milk), Rensselaer Bottling Works, Davis' Grocery, Iroquois Roller Mill, and the Chamberlin Ice Cream Co. All of these businesses were located in Rensselaer. Mary's Restaurant in DeMotte also advertised in the fair brochure. Do these names bring back happy memories?

On Thursday, September 1, 1938 four horse events were held at the fair: 2:24

Trot, 2:29 Pace, 5/8 Mile Run, and the 1 ½ Mile Run. Interesting horse names included Kentucky Tom, Hot Shot, Athlone Santos Boy, Wild Grapes, Golden Crescent, Beverly Sue, Shy Buck, Nurse's Boy, Guinea Lady, and Chickenary.

The '38 brochure also included political ads. The following were running for county offices: Wm. H. Murray for Assessor, Louis E. Barber and Joseph Graham for Treasurer, and Herman Ames for Sheriff. J. Frank Fenwick was a candidate for Clerk of the Jasper Circuit Court, and John R. Merritt was campaigning for the position of Clerk and Treasurer of the City of Rensselaer.

SPRUCING UP THE SCHOOL BUILDING

Eighteen volunteers from the REMC, including CEO Bryan Washburn, painted the outside of the schoolhouse at the fairgrounds. Randy Morris served as project manager. Thanks REMC for your generous support to the Society and our community.



REMC PAINTING CREW

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BRIGHTENING THE ENTRYWAY

Notice President Roger Buschman standing in front of our cheery red door. Roger dressed in the tux to greet guests at our annual tea party. Thanks to painters Randall and Laura Newcomb for enhancing our entrance. We plan to have the back door painted to match the front entrance when Mother Nature cooperates.

DAR FLAG PROGRAM

The DAR holds monthly meetings at the Jasper County Historical Society. In honor of Flag Day, Jan Merritt took advantage of our collection of American flags to talk about some of the early flags.

Jan is pictured with the Bennington Flag. A brief history of the flag is described on a card attached to the flag: *On August 16, 1777 the Battle of Bennington helped disrupt the British invasion of New York from Canada. The battle was fought largely by the Vermont Militia who carried this early version of the stars and stripes.*

The Rensselaer Iron Club also meets at the museum on a regular basis.



JAN MERRITT WITH BENNINGTON FLAG



GLASS PLATE PHOTO OF PARKER STUDIO

HARRY PARKER GLASS PLATES

Museum curator Judy Kanne recently had approximately 80 prints made from Harry Parker's glass plates that are in the JCHS

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collection. The pictures are striking, so we are including a few in this newsletter.

Harry's studio was located on Washington Street. He lived in the house currently occupied by Judy and her husband Michael on Milroy Avenue. Judy reported that Harry had a dark room built under the stairway.

Harry also coached high school and semi-pro teams in the early nineteen hundreds.

The photo below is from the 1913-1914 Chaos and shows the football team attending a banquet given by Coach Parker and his wife Irma.



Banquet Given by Coach Parker and Wife

If you recognize any of the scenes, houses, or people in these photographs from the Parker collection, please let us know. The details are fantastic when you view the photos on our computer. We invite you to come see the photos.

According to census records, Parker was born in Kentucky. According to his tombstone he lived from 1857 to 1939, making him 82. Funeral home records record his age at death as 75. Various records all have different birth ages so the actual birth date is still a mystery to us. Parker's wife Irma Kannal (daughter of

Emmet & Mary Kannal) lived from 1877-1962.



WHO IS THIS FAMILY? HOUSE LOCATION?



FAMILY NAME? LOCATION?



WHAT CLASS IS THIS?

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CANOE RIDE IN FRONT OF ST JOSEPH'S



IROQUOIS RIVER FLOODING

The above Parker photos remind us that flooding is nothing new to this area.

REV. HELENOR DAVISSON SITE VISIT

The Jasper County Historical Society will be hosts at a luncheon for members of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church on July 24. The group is holding their annual meeting in Evanston, Illinois July 20-23 and many of the members will be coming to Jasper County after the conference to tour the Rev. Helenor Alter Davisson historic sites.

Our guests will be gathering at Trinity Methodist Church for an introduction to Helenor and will then proceed to Helenor's burial site at Sandridge Cemetery and then on JCHS's Rosebud School building which once served as a Methodist Protestant meeting place before coming to the museum for luncheon and viewing of a Helenor display.

The JCHS will also be displaying information on Monnett School for Girls which was managed for many years by the Methodist Episcopal Deaconesses. The photos below are from one of the school brochures. We will also be displaying Jasper County Methodist records from the late 1800's.



9 Monnett Hall

MONNETT SCHOOL

Monnett School is a Christian Boarding School for Girls. It is operated under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Girls registered in the first to eighth grades are candidates for enrollment. As a School it is fully accredited by the State Department of Education. Instructors, state qualified, prepare the girls for admittance into any corresponding grade or high school. Classes are offered in Domestic Arts. Small classes afford the girls equal opportunities for individual recitation and supervision. Only girls qualifying morally, mentally and physically may be enrolled.

Monnett is a School and at the same time a Home—placing emphasis upon Health of Body, Health of Mind and Strength of Character. Sympathetic, understanding housemothers guide the girls, in every respect, very much as a mother might. To girls denied normal home life, Monnett School especially offers service.

Expenses are kept reasonably low. Tuition, board, room and laundry \$30 per month. Enrollment Fee, \$10. Piano lessons and personal expenses extra. Additional information on request.

Cora E. Foltz, Principal
Rensselaer, Indiana

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FOLLOW WEBSITE PROGRESS ON
JCHSIN.ORG



**READ INFORMATION ABOUT ST.
JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, THE 1938
COUNTY FAIR, MONNETT
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, AND
PHOTOGRAPHER HARRY
PARKER IN THIS ISSUE**