

JASPER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WELCOME HISTORY BUFFS

The Historical Society has prepared two new exhibits that will be available until December 31. The photo below was taken by Sue Caldwell as she and Judy Kanne assisted David Vohlken in determining which artifacts to include in an American Indian display that is now at the Jasper Co. Public Library in Rensselaer. The exhibit includes spear points that go back into the Paliolithic era. Stephanie Johnson was responsible for creating the final display.



The second exhibit includes items related to Rev. Helenor Alter Davisson and is now on display at the museum. Beyond informing people about Helenor and the Methodist Historic Site #487, the display provides information on Alter and Davisson families, a collection of Methodist Hymnals, information on Monnett School for Girls which was operated for many years by the Deaconesses of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a collection of Methodist membership records dating back to the

1860's, etc. Interesting tidbits from the display:

- Helenor assisted her uncle Dr. David Alter with the installation of a telegraph system in Greencastle, Indiana in 1837 - years prior to Samuel Morse receiving his patent for the telegraph.
- Isaac Alter provided land for the Rosebud School and was principal founder of the Rosebud Church.
- The Monnett exhibit includes a 1948-49 class photo and a letter about student Shirley Ann Henderson.
- The exhibit includes photos of Alter men quarrying stone on Rev. John Alter's land. The Old Stone House was built from the limestone quarried there.
- The oldest Methodist ledger on display is a copy of one from the Grand Prairie Circuit of the Methodist Protestant Church. It includes meeting records from the 1860's.
- Thomas H. Davisson's military records confirm that he was crippled when he received a gunshot to the right knee during the battle of Stoney River.
- Rev. George Payne, an early Methodist Protestant minister, preached his last sermon December 5, 1909 in our museum building when it was a Methodist Protestant Church.
- Thomas Davisson's second wife Nancy McColly later became the fourth wife of Rev. George Payne.

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PAINTING THE POST OFFICE



Thanks to Rick Brunton for doing some touch-up painting on the Parr Post Office. Rick also created a new sign like one that was originally on the building.

HELENOR TOMBSTONE RESTORATION



**Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration
Employee At Work**

The Jasper County Tourism Board donated \$1,500 towards cost of restoration. Other donations came from the JCHS, Brushwood and Trinity United Methodist Churches and individual donations.



July 24: Visit of Historical Society of the United Methodist Church members at Sandridge Cemetery with newly restored tombstones

VINTAGE VIEWS VOL XXIV

The cover of the newest issue of Vintage Views features a photo of the fire at Wright's Furniture on July 7, 1948. Inside are articles about Rex Blacker and Rensselaer Auto Parts, Dean Putt, Marge Lintner, Wright's Furniture and Funeral Home, Weinburg Brothers, Saint Augustine Church, Rensselaer Rotary Club, and Steve Brandenburg.

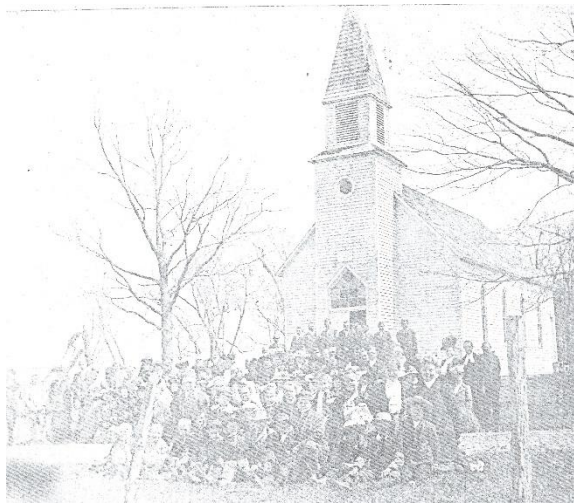


Dean and Eileen Putt

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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERN CHURCH RECORDS

Records from St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church have been donated to the JCHS. The first church was built 1902 and destroyed by a tornado on April 21, 1912. It was shortly replaced by a second building which lasted until January 1, 1947 when it was destroyed by fire. The current church was built in the fall of 1947. The pastor at that time was Rev. Walter R. Vandre and Herbert Schultz served as president of the congregation.



Congregation of St. John's in front of the 1902 church

The Rensselaer Republican for April 22, 1912 reported heavy losses from the tornado to the Schultz settlement. Three farm houses with their outbuildings were destroyed as was the Wild Lilly School. Robert Schultz, son of August Schultz, died of a crushed skull. Mr. and Mrs. Schultz and two other sons, Dennis and Minnie Healey, and August Kreuger and his wife also suffered injuries. Nearby Morocco received even more extensive damage and 8 people were killed there.

REMINGTON SCHOOL BOARD NOTICE

The following notice was found in a Remington School Board minute book (property of the Jasper Co. Historical Society).

Remington, Indiana, May 20th 1911.
Report of Health Board.

The Health Board met and by a majority vote the Board ordered the Public Schools, Churches, and Sunday Schools and the Lyric Theater and Opera House closed in order that we may better control the epidemic of Scarlet Fever.

And further that all convalescent cases that are still scaling must be kept off the streets.

The Board respectfully requests that the above order must be carried out at once.

Board of Health,

B. F. Spencer Sec. protem

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and complete copy of the order adopted by the Heath Board of the Town of Remington, Indiana, on May 20th 1911.

Alfred P Rainier M.D.

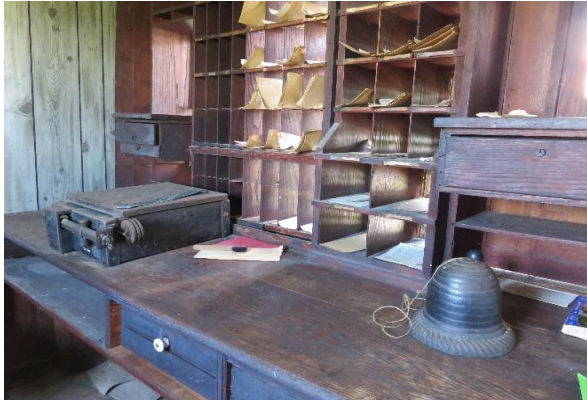
Secretary Board of Health

Handwritten note on bottom:

The board also recommends that the building and pupils books and all books of the school be thoroughly fumigated before allowing them to be taken away.

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2015 JASPER COUNTY FAIR PHOTOS



Inside of Post Office



Rita Barnett Demonstrating Quilt Tying



Linda Kozyra Serving Dill Pickles



McKenna Kingman with Vintage Views



DeMotte Historical Society Display



Post Office Visitors

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A HISTORICAL SOUVENIR

Among the items collected by former County Historian Beulah Arnott is a pamphlet titled *A HISTORICAL SOUVENIR JASPER – BENTON – NEWTON COUNTIES, INDIANA*. It was published in Rensselaer in 1929. The following article by Harriet Rainier describes the history of Remington.

“Remington, a town of approximately twelve hundred population, is located in the southern part of Jasper County.

Previous to 1860 the settlement centered about Carpenter’s Grove, which is now Fountain Park, while the postoffice was located on the George Thompson farm, now known as the James Green farm, three and one-half miles northwest of the present postoffice and was known as the Carpenter’s Creek postoffice. Mail at that time was carried through Remington, between Rensselaer and Attica on horseback. George Thompson was the first postmaster.

The first railroad in Jasper county, which is now called the Pennsylvania, was completed in 1860. Jesse Fordyce, who owned the tract of land where Remington now stands, donated ground to the company for a station and switch. The postoffice was then moved to its present location and the place took the name of Carpenter’s Station. In the following year, for unknown reasons, the name was changed to Remington.

Some of the prominent pioneer citizens were: G. B. Clark, Jesse Fordyce, G. W. Hascell, Lycurgus Rowles, Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Patton and Jacob Shaw. Remington lies in the heart of a rich corn belt and has long

been rated as a million bushel point; it forms the junction of paved highways 24 and 53. It has four churches, forty-three business houses, a \$10,000 Carnegie Library, ten-room grade school, new \$110,000 high school building, an adequate water system and boulevard lights.

Remington is the home of Fountain Park Chautauqua, the oldest institution of its kind in the middle west, organized in 1895 and in continuous annual session since that time. For thirty-four years the thousands of people who have gathered here have been privileged to hear some of the most outstanding and brilliant talent of the world. The uplifting and refining influence of the institution has left its stamp upon the entire community.”

The brochure contains similar articles about Jasper, Newton and Benton counties and also has articles about the communities of Wheatfield, DeMotte, Brook, and Goodland.

Inserted into the middle of the brochure was a page listing clippings saved by Bernice Lesh. It includes the following notes most of which seem to apply to Rensselaer:

The first crop harvested was corn and it sold on the Chicago market for 30 cents a bushel.

The first marriage was that of Edward Dryer to Elizabeth Barr. The first divorce was Edward Dryer from Elizabeth Barr.

The first physician was Dr. Clark who came in 1837 to administer quinine.

George Spitler was the first teacher who got \$20 a month, women got \$10.

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**This postcard of the old Jasper County
Hospital was published by Fendig's Rexall
Drug Store, Rensselaer, Ind.**

