

JASPER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WELCOME HISTORY BUFFS

Summer was a busy time in the county as you will see in our photo essay later in the newsletter. The Historical Society participated with the Fine Arts group at the fairgrounds in a photography program to capture activities in Jasper Co. in 2016, and you can see some of the results here and view approximately 800 more at the museum.

We recently received a donation of the 75th anniversary issue of the Rensselaer Republican dated December 24, 1971. The cover page was a copy of the first issue of its predecessor the Evening Republican which was passed free of charge to all Rensselaer households on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1896. Future issues were to cost 10 cents per week.

Interestingly enough, there was a short article on Christmas programs including one to be held at the Free Will Baptist church (currently our museum).

“At the F. W. Baptist church a novel attraction will be a large “Ferris Wheel” upon which the presents are arranged. It is handsome as well as novel, and it revolves, like its great phototype. Literary exercises will be rendered.”

BIG TIME AT WHEATFIELD

Double Wedding of Gypsies to Be Celebrated After Tribal Custom

An article under this headline appeared in the Jasper County Democrat September 7, 1912.

A double wedding of the two young Gypsy couples who procured licences here Tuesday afternoon will be celebrated at

Wheatfield tomorrow after the custom of those dark skinned nomads. Ground has been leased for the celebrating and dancing and feasting will prevail all day.

The marriage is quite a notable one (for) the tribe, which is camping near Wheatfield, in that brother and sister marry brother and sister and it is said that there will be tribesmen present from all over this section of the country. At first it was said that there would be over two hundred Gypsies in attendance at the celebration, but it is now claimed there will be double this number, and no doubt with the large number of outsiders attracted to the grounds—a part of the field where ball games are held, having been leased for the occasion—a land-office business at fortune telling and ‘hoss trading’ will be done.

The marriage of the two couples. . . is quite an international alliance. One of the grooms was born in Colorado, while his father was born in Australia and his mother in Brazil, South America. His bride was born, as was her mother, in Brazil, S. A., and her father was born in France. Reverse it and you have the genealogy of the other couple.

Another section of the paper reported that the following marriage licenses were issued September 3: “Gus George of Urbana, Ill, aged 21, occupation horse dealer. Mary Stevenson of the same place First marriage for each. Female signs by mark.

Steve Stevenson of Urbana, Ill, aged __ occupation horse dealer, to Mary George, also of Urbana, aged 19, occupation horse dealer. First marriage for each. Both applicants sign by mark, being unable to write.”

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The same issue reported on the death of Capt. J. M. Wasson, president of the First National Bank of Rensselaer. "Mr. Wasson was born May 16, 1839 in Drake Co., Ohio and served in the 40th Ohio during the entire civil war, and was captured by the enemy and confined in Libby prison, but he among many others made his escape through the famous tunnel made by the prisoners. He was recaptured, however, and taken back to prison after several days."

SUMMERTIME IN PHOTOS 2016



Guest Enjoying Pickle at JCHS Log Cabin



Queen and Court at Jasper Co. Fair



Mayor and Mrs. Steve Wood & Jeff Gastineau at Rotary Fair Booth



Jasper the Bicentennial Bison Painted by Doris Meyers, Christine Herre, Cindy Ziese, Lindsay Preston & Kayla Groen



Little Guest With Pickle at JCHS Log Cabin

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Roger & Linda Buschman at Fair



Bonnie Zimmer Teaching at Art Camp



**New Jasper Foundation Executive Director
Brienne Hooker**



**New Rensselaer Mural by Cameron
Moberg**



Swine Club Repairing Fairground Fences



Dedication of New Fuel Field at JC Airport

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Clean-Up Day at JCHS Log Cabin



Trying to Churn at Log Cabin



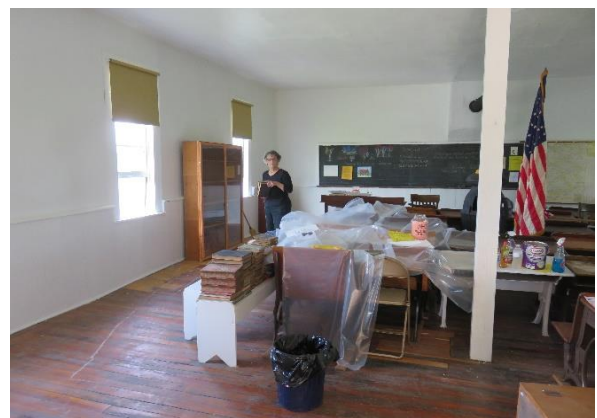
St. Vincent's Medical Chopper at E A A Chapter 828 Fly In at Jasper Co. Airport



**JC Cruisers Car Show at Brookside Park
Prior to the Cruise Night Drive Around
Rensselaer**



**Bikers Against Child Abuse at J C Cruisers
Show**



**JCHS School House Painted by Pat Kingman
Thank you Pat!**

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Bicentennial Meeting at JCHS



9-11 Memorial Moved to Rensselaer Fire Department's New Building



DeMotte Historical Society Train Depot Museum

DR. BENJAMIN TEFFT UPDATE

Dr. Richard Stowe, former Historian of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church read the Isaac Dunn article in our recent newsletter and provided some interesting additional information related to Dr. Tefft for whom the town of Tefft was named. "Dr. Tefft had previously been recruited for a faculty position at the Asbury University (now DePauw) by its then president, Matthew Simpson. There Tefft was involved with Rev. Edward R. Ames, who served as a visitor and/or trustee of the institution and who successfully nominated Tefft for the editorship of the influential M. E. magazine, The Ladies Repository. Both Simpson and Ames were elected bishops in 1852 and became arguably the most important bishops in the Church during the Civil War and Reconstruction."

VIC MOORE WITH MEDALS FROM THE TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC



Korean War veteran Victor Moore recently showed the medals received from his participation in the Greater Lafayette Honor Flight to Washington D. C. Vic reported how great it was to have strangers and children thank him for his service.

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Let us hear from you:

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IN 47978

This issue contains photos of happenings around Jasper County during the last few months. Bring your 2016 photos to the museum so they can be added to the time capsule and the museum's collection.

The newest edition of Vintage View is now available. This fabulous edition contains articles on Kevin Moriarity; Lefty Clark; Rev. Helenor Davisson; Ramon Salyer; Punt, Pass and Kick; the Pioneer Village; Chuck Bahler; and Jasper, the Bicentennial Bison. Send \$14 to the museum if you want a copy mailed to you.



Richard A. Stowe, Dale Alter, and Doug Davies at the 150th Celebration of the Ordination of Rev. Helenor Davisson, first American woman ordained in the United Methodist Church. The celebration was held at the Jasper Co. Historical Society Museum on August 24, 2016.