

The Jasper County Historical Society
presents the Third Annual

memories ALIVE

at

WESTON
CEMETERY



September 19, 2020
Shelter Program 11:00 am CDT
Walking Tour 2:00 pm CDT

Walking Tour starts at the Hall Shelter in Brookside Park
Pre-Sale Tickets: Adults \$10; Under 12 \$5
Event-Day Tickets: Adults \$12; Under 12 \$6

50¢

Jasper County Historical Society

The Jasper County Historical Society (JCHS) was organized on June 30, 1966 and incorporated as a nonprofit on August 28, 1969. The JCHS meets monthly September to December and February to June. The Society has a museum that is open to the public on the first and third Saturdays of each month. It also maintains several historic structures at the Jasper County Fairgrounds that are open to the public during fair week.

The JCHS collects and preserves items of significance to the history of Jasper County and provides speakers for local groups, schools, and other groups outside the County. JCHS meets with individuals and families seeking genealogical information and photographs from its collections. It also publishes the *Vintage Views* magazine.

Weston Cemetery

The first burial in Weston Cemetery occurred on August 24, 1842, (five years after the first settlers appeared in what is now Rensselaer). The owner of the original section of the cemetery, Dr. Henry Weston who was the son-in-law of the eventual city's namesake, gave the land to the City of Rensselaer in 1868. When the city platted the cemetery in 1873, there were already about 200 recorded burials.

There are over 700 veterans buried in Weston Cemetery. Veteran burials encompass all wars beginning with the War of 1812. In Section A of the old section there is a row of Civil War veterans buried next to each other. This area is known to cemetery employees as "Civil War Row". The military ranks of those within Weston Cemetery range from General (two) to private/airman and seaman.

The cemetery has been added to numerous times through purchases or gifts to arrive to its current size. In 2020 we will visit sections west of the creek that were added in 1913. A board of trustees governed the cemetery until the 1980's at which time the board was dissolved and the City of Rensselaer assumed full responsibility of the cemetery operations.

<p>BEAVER & BEAVER P.C. ATTORNEYS AT LAW <i>EST. 1970</i> ERIC J. BEAVER</p>	<p>eMbers Venue & Station</p>  <p>www.embersvenue.net (219) 869-9537</p>
<p>WILLS, PROBATE, ESTATE PLANNING REAL ESTATE • BUSINESS LAW • FAMILY LAW PERSONAL INJURY • CRIMINAL DEFENSE</p> <p>201 W. WASHINGTON ST. RENSSELAER, IN 47978 219-866-4171 www.beaverlegal.com</p> 	 <p>STEINKE FUNERAL HOME</p> <p>www.steinkefuneralhome.com (219) 866-5151</p>
<p><i>Rensselaer Monument, Inc.</i></p> <p>3455 W Clark Street Rensselaer, IN</p> <p>www.renselaermonument.com 219-866-8102</p> <p>In Memory of Ronald L. Woolley & Rhonda Woolley Parker</p>	<p>Judy Kanne</p>  <p>INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY</p> <p><i>Jasper County Historian</i></p> <p>(219) 866-7825 ja@rhsi.tv</p> <p>INDIANA COUNTY HISTORIAN PROGRAM</p>
<p><i>Chasing the Past Genealogical Services</i></p> <p>Locally Owned and Operated Specializing in Family Lineages chasingthepastgenealogy.us</p> <p>Brown's Garden & Floral Shoppe</p> <p>925 W Clark St, Rensselaer (219) 866-8735 www.brownsyardenandfloral.net</p>	

D) Nello Lunghi (1893-1948) was a man who knew Mussolini. Born in Italy, he came to Rensselaer fairly late in his life where he ran a popular restaurant and managed the Jasper County Airport

E) Theodore Knorr (1910-1971) helped establish the Rensselaer Speedway, which operated from 1952 to 1987. His son, also Ted Knorr, was one of the racers until his employer, the State Police, told him that racing was not compatible with being a state trooper.

F) Sarah Chilcote Sigler (1868-1953) lived much of her life in Mount Ayr where her husband, Joseph Raymond Sigler (1878-1943) was a banker at the Bank of Mt Ayr.

G) Nellie Donegan Reynolds (1878-1945) was born in Australia and as a teenager was part of the family bicycle act called the Dunedin Troupe. While in Europe she married William Andree, who died in 1906. She met Earle Reynolds in New York. After they married in 1908, they toured the United States and the world performing on skates. Her twin daughters joined them in the act when they finished high school.

H) Moses Leopold (1876-1972) was a son of Abraham Leopold, a prominent early Rensselaer merchant. His brothers followed their father and became merchants, but Moses became a lawyer and served as a Circuit Court Judge from 1932 until 1969.

Cast

Faith Shedd Watson	Kathy Parkison
Lt John Hudson	Aidan Geleott
John Edward Alter	Robert Pfaff
Nellie Donegan Reynolds	Elizabeth Gray
Moses Leopold	John Waymire
Sarah Chilcote Sitler	Beverly Crynes
Theodore Knorr	Otie Wood
Nello Lunghi	Chris Grow

Tour Guides: Vandeline Baker, Josie Brown, Linda Buschman, Peggy Gratner, Judy Kanne, Janett Kingman, Kristi Slaby, Nancy Studer

Planning, organizing, researching, etc.: Linda Buschman, Judy Kanne, Beverly Crynes, Kevin Cochran, Sue Caldwell, Janett Kingman, Roger Buschman, Robert Schenk, Melissa Smith, Melissa Widner, Joan Lindstrom, Kathy Parkison, Ron Cox, and Jenny DeWees. Apologies to those who were omitted.

Thanks to the Jasper County Fair Board and the Community Building Leadership for the donation of the stage.

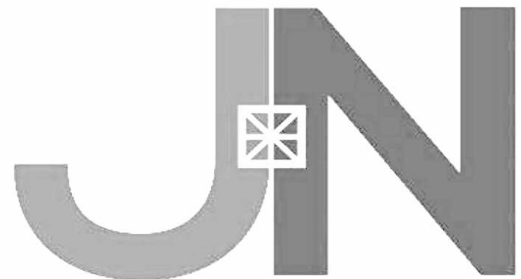
Rensselaer Printco printed the tickets and program.

Biographical Notes

Kathy Parkison taught Business and Economics at IU-Kokomo until she retired in spring 2020. Her family has been in Jasper County since 1837. • Aidan Geleott is a student at RCHS and has been involved in Fendig theatre • Rob Pfaff taught chemistry and Core at SJC until its closure. An avid genealogist, he is the Immediate Past President of the Indiana Sons of the American Revolution and their National Trustee. • Elizabeth Gray directed the 2019 production of the Carnegie Players *Drowsy Chaperone*. She is employed at Purdue University's School of Engineering. • Born and raised in Rensselaer and a graduate of Saint Joseph's College, John Waymire is a retired elementary school teacher and

principal who currently supervises student teachers for the University of Phoenix. • Beverly Crynes works at the Van Rensselaer school and has performed in several Carnegie Player productions. • Ote Wood, a Rensselaer resident and a Carnegie Players board member, works hard, plays hard and loves life. • Born and raised in Rensselaer, Chris Grow's ancestors were the first white people to arrive in Jasper county in the 1830s.

Special thanks to the Jasper Newton Foundation, the Jasper County Tourism Commission, and Wendy and Rick Odle for financial support.



JASPER NEWTON
Foundation

www.jaspernewtonfoundation.org
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New: Two Presentations

This year's program will be confined to people buried in the western section of Weston Cemetery. It will feature eight of the 7500+ graves in Weston Cemetery. Costumed actors will tell the stories of the featured deceased.

This year there will be two presentations. A morning presentation will take place in the Hall Shelter and will not involve any walking. Anyone who cannot or does not want to walk the roughly half mile of the route should attend this presentation. The afternoon presentation will keep the format of the past two years. Those attending will be divided into groups, with each group starting at a different station on the tour.

We hope the event will be entertaining and educational. Because the Cemetery has many more than eight interesting stories to tell, the JCHS plans to make walking tours an annual event.

Featured Decedents

A) Faith Shedd Watson (1914-1999) was the great niece of John Graves Shedd, the second president of Marshall Fields in Chicago and endower of the Shedd Aquarium. In 1946 she married Henry Watson, who owned the Watson Plumbing and Heating Company.

B) Lt John Hudson (1923-1945) graduated from Rensselaer High School in 1941 and was a junior at Indiana University when he joined the Army. He was killed in WWII shortly after the Battle of the Bulge while his unit was advancing on Dith, Germany.

C) John Edward Alter (1853-1934) was the author of *Hoosier Hunting Ground: or The Beaver Lake Trail*, a book of fiction about life of trappers, horse thieves, counterfeiters, and Indians of our area in 1840. He wrote under the pen name of Bill Bat.