

The Jasper County Historical Society
presents the Fourth Annual

Memories

Alive

at

WESTON

CEMETERY



September 18, 2021

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

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 at its current size. A board of trustees governed the cemetery until the 1980s 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>
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<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>501 South College Avenue, Rensselaer, IN www.myalliancebank.com</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.browngardenandfloral.net</p>

D) Moses Marion (1791-1869) is one of four or five veterans of the War of 1812 buried in Weston Cemetery. His grandfather was a cousin of Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox of the Revolutionary War.

E) Harry Kurrie (1875-1938) came to Rensselaer after graduating from IU with a law degree, joining the firm of Foltz, Spitler, and Kurrie. From 1902 to 1914 he served as a lawyer for the Monon Railroad and from 1914 until his death he was the president of that railroad. He married two of Simon P Thompson's (1838-1910) daughters, Grace (1879-1907) and Edna (1882-1919).

F) Eleanor Stackhouse Atkinson (1863-1942) is the most successful author buried in Weston Cemetery. Her writing career began as a newspaper reporter in Chicago. Her best known book is *Greyfriars Bobby* (1912), which has been more popular in the U.K. than in the U.S. Her grandson Wally Cox (1924-1973) acted in many television shows in the 1950s and 1960s.

G) Mary Virginia Spitler Hammond (1843-1927) was the daughter of pioneer settler George Spitler (1813-1862). She married Judge Edwin Hammond (1835-1920) and was active in a number of organizations and causes, including the World's Fair of 1893. She merited an entry in the book *Woman of the Century 1893*. Her daughter married W. B. Austin (1860-1934).

H) Martha Sharp (1849-1936) carried on the photography business of her husband Joseph Sharp (1846-1903) after his death. Many of the early photographs of Rensselaer and its citizens were taken by them.

Cast

Estella Zea	Terra Neidigh
Civil War Row	Rob Pfaff
Samual Sparling	Sean Egan
Moses Marion	Jay Covill
Harry Kurrie	Chris Grow
Eleanor Stackhouse Atkinson	Susie Rayburn
Mary Virginia Spitler Hammond	Linda Buschman
Martha Sharp	Beverly Crynes

Tour Guides: Kristi Slaby, Judy Kanne, Vandeline Baker, Kevin Cochran, Peggy Gratner, Janett Kingman, Elizabeth Gray, Nancy Klockow, Kathy Staddon

Planning, organizing, researching, etc.: Linda Buschman, Judy Kanne, Beverly Crynes, Tony Baltes, Kevin Cochran, Janett Kingman, Roger Buschman, Robert Schenk, Melissa Smith, Joan Lindstrom, Kathy Parkison, Rob Pfaff, Jenny DeWees, Janelle Musch, Jason Shireley, Cassius Pulver, and Jason Wu. Apologies to those who were omitted.

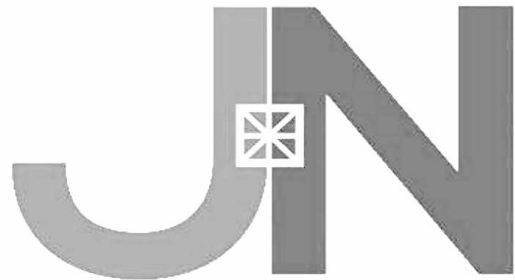
Rensselaer Printco printed the tickets and the program.

Biographical Notes

Terra Neidigh moved from Iowa with her husband and two boys in 2020. An avid fiction writer/storyteller, she works at Van Rensselaer. • 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. • Sean Egan is a Rensselaer native who has travelled the world, only to find himself living back in Northwest Indiana where he runs a school. • Jay Covill, a resident of Rensselaer since 1992, is a former food service director at the Hospital. • Born and raised in Rensselaer, Chris Grow's ancestors were the first white people to arrive in Jasper county in the

1830s. • Susie Rayburn, lifelong resident of Rensselaer, teaches 8th and 9th grade English at Tri-County and is a lover of all things theatrical. • Linda Buschman is Vice President of the Jasper County Historical Society. • Beverly Crynes works at the Van Rensselaer school and has performed in several Carnegie Player productions.

**Special thanks to the Jasper Newton Foundation,
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Two Presentations

This year's program will be confined to people buried in the eastern 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.

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 original Walk. 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.

Featured Decedents

A) Estella Zea (1856-1921) was the mother of Ernest Zea (1882-1952). Blind and crippled, Ernest was for many years a fixture in downtown Rensselaer, where he sold pencils on a street corner. He and his parents are buried in unmarked graves in the lot of his grandfather, Henry Aldrich (1820-1896).

B) Civil War Row contains ten graves of soldiers who died in uniform or shortly after being discharged from the army. (Soldiers who died shortly after being discharged had been seriously wounded and were discharged because they were no longer of use to the army.)

C) Samuel Sparling (1809-1894) The Sparling family is gone but the name lives on as a street. The Sparling house, built about 1850, was located just south of what is now the Jasper County Health Department. Samuel was one of Rensselaer's first residents, arriving in 1836. During his life he held several public offices: County Treasurer, Commissioner, and Rensselaer Postmaster.