



The Jasper County Historical Society
presents the Sixth Annual

Memories Alive

at

WESTON CEMETERY

September 16, 2023
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.

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

<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>Jasper County REMIC Powering Member-Driven Innovation</p> <p>280 E Wood Rd, Rensselaer, IN 47978</p> <p>www.jasperremc.com 219-866-4601</p>	

E) **Sarah Wright Blue** (1923-2008) with her husband **John Schyler Blue** (1915-1990) owned the Jasper County Abstract Company. John wrote a family history of how his family came from the east, settled in Jasper County, and then a branch continued to Kansas. This was a common story of early residents.

F) **Nora Aetna Daugherty Parkison** (1897-1946) served in WWI as a nurse. She was sent to Europe for the war and married her hometown sweetheart, James Edward Parkison, upon her return. Both families are among the earliest settlers of Jasper County.

G) **Dewey Biggs** (1897-1918) died overseas of pneumonia during WWI, the first Jasper County resident to die in service during WWI. He was originally buried in France and his body was returned to Rensselaer in May, 1920. The local American Legion Post is named after Biggs.

H) **Margaret Jane Mckinney Lewis** (1842-1929) taught school in early township schools. Her husband Isaac Lewis committed suicide leaving her with two small sons and an unborn child. Two of her sons earned doctorates and taught at universities.

Cast

Emory Harrison	Chris Grow
Margaret Jane Mckinney Lewis	Judy Kanne
Ruth Bott Beam	Barbara Slade
Dewey Biggs	Rowan Michael
Nora Aetna Daugherty Parkison	Kathy Parkison
Sarah Wright Blue	Melinda Schantz

Frank Clair	Robert Pfaff
Madelene Claire Saylor Speaks	Susie Rayburn

Tour Guides: Elizabeth Gray, Kayla De Jong, Beverly Crynes, Lisa Black, Janett Kingman, Kristi Slaby, Emberlyn Corona, Adalyn Berwanger

Planning, organizing, researching, etc.: Linda Buschman, Judy Kanne, Beverly Crynes, Kevin Cochran, Tony Baltes and Cemetery Staff, Janett Kingman, Roger Buschman, Robert Schenk, Melissa Smith, Joan Lindstrom, Rob Pfaff, Janelle Musch, Sblended Nutrition, Brown's Garden and Floral, Joseph Effinger, and Kenny Haun. Apologies to those who were omitted.

Mark Heinig is our videographer. We expect that a video of the Walk will be available in the near future. Rensselaer Printco printed the tickets.

Biographical Notes

Born and raised in Rensselaer, Chris Grow's ancestors were the first white people to arrive in Jasper county in the 1830s.

- Judy Kanne is the Jasper County Historian and Jasper County Historical Society Curator and former Visiting Professor in Education at SJC.
- Barbara Slade is a retired elementary teacher of the RCSC. She has been an actor in many Carnegie board play productions.
- Rowan Michael will be a junior at RCHS. He is in the drama club and participated in the last 3 productions.
- Kathy Parkison taught Business and Economics at IU-Kokomo until she retired in spring 2020. Her family has been in Jasper County since 1837.
- Robert Pfaff taught chemistry and Core at SJC until its

closure. An avid genealogist, he is a Past President of the Indiana Sons of the American Revolution. • Susie Rayburn, lifelong resident of Rensselaer, teaches 8th and 9th grade English at Tri-County and is a lover of all things theatrical. • Melinda Schants is the president of the Jasper County Abstract Company, a company founded by her grandfather in 1928.

Special thanks to the Jasper Newton Foundation and the Jasper County Tourism Commission for financial support.



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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) **Emory Harrison** (1898-1978) Well known coach at Rensselaer High School; the athletic complex is named for him.

B) **Ruth Bott Beam** (1892-1970) was the daughter of William Leroy Bott (1866-1948) who was orphaned as a child, but became a leading merchant in Star City before moving to Rensselaer in 1914 when he purchased most of the shares in the Rensselaer telephone company. On his death in 1948 he not only was the majority owner in the Rensselaer telephone company, but also that of Wheatfield and Remington. He helped found the Farmers and Merchants Bank and Camp Kanne.

C) **Madelene Claire Sayler Speaks** (1902-1994) was the mother of Daryl Lintner, longtime baker in Rensselaer. Her first husband, John Lintner, died in a shipwreck off the coast of Alaska in 1946. In 1962 she married Howard Speaks.

D) **Frank Clair** (1917-2005) was a hall of fame coach in the Canadian Football League, famous enough to have a Wikipedia entry. He is buried in Rensselaer because he married a local girl, Patricia Bausman (1924-2016).