

THE SAINT JOSEPH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Gazette

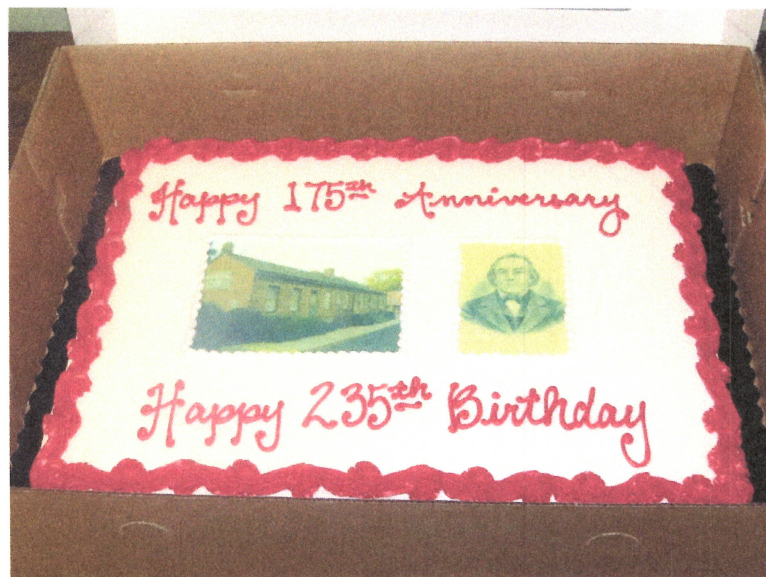
August 2018

Daniel Johnson, Editor

Contents

Joseph's Birthday Party... Page 1
Donations to the Row ... Page 2
Calendar of Events ... Page 2
Pictures of Joseph's B-day... Page 3
From the Desk of the President ...
Page 4
Meet the new Director ... Page 4
Introduction to the new Executive
Assistant ... Page 4
List of current members ... Page 5
New Members ... Page 5
Voices of the Past ... Page 6

Joseph's Birthday was a huge success!



"It started here!" was the theme of the August 11th Birthday Bash held at the Robidoux Row Museum to commemorate Joseph Robidoux's 235th birthday and the 175th birthday of the founding of St. Joseph by Robidoux.

The celebration was kicked off with the reading of a proclamation by Mayor Bill McMurray proclaiming August 11th as Robidoux Row Day and the introduction of the new museum director, Daniel Johnson. The Star Spangle Banner was played as an opening to these events on a period hand crank organ by Greg Filardo.

The events at the celebration were numerous. Cindy Weaver and Jim as representatives of OCTA setup a period camp complete with t covered wagon. Greg Filardo not only played contemporary tunes on but also discussed and demonstrated hand powered music boxes of the era in which Joseph Robidoux lived. Well-known story tellers of St. Joseph told of various events surrounding Joseph Robidoux, the Robidoux Row Museum and of the times. Former museum director Clyde Weeks commented on the historic aspects of Robidoux Row, Joy Bakers (as Pelagie) presented information about how Pelagie, Robidoux's sister, took care of him in his later years at the Robidoux Row, Bob Slater discussed the social and cultural aspects of local newspaper of the period and Harrison Hartley closed the session with "The Robidoux that you never knew." On the upper porch Karla Keith engaged children in various activities throughout the day. The popularity of these activities was so tremendous that by the end of the day, materials for these programs were exhausted.

Through the entire day the Robidoux Row Museum was kept open and hundreds of people toured the museum. In fact, some individuals were so enthusiastic that they toured the museum twice. Visitors were largely from the region although

Saint Joseph Historical Society *JOURNAL*

Published quarterly by Saint Joseph
Historical Society and Robidoux Row
Museum. Phone 816-232-5861

Memberships:

Individual \$20 Family \$35
Contributor \$50 Patron \$100
Benefactor \$500 Life \$750

SJHS 219 East Poulin St.
St. Joseph, MO 64501

Continued from Page 1....

there were several individuals who toured who lived as far-a-way as Switzerland. There were also some Robidoux descents in-attendance. All-in-all, three hundred people were present at the event.

The vendors participating in the event included S&S BBQ, Lularoe with Lara Muse, Usbourne Books, Doterra, Felix Street Postcards, Law Farms LLC, Penguin Pete's Italian Ice, and Mr. Byers and his antiques.

The singing of Happy Birthday for the guest of honor, Joseph Robidoux, with cake and cupcakes for all occurred just prior to the storytellers with Joseph Robidoux present in the form of a life sized cut out. It is important for us to remember he would tell us, that "It started here" the beginning of St. Joseph, Missouri.



DONATIONS TO THE ROW

Martha Jones donated a group of Saint Joseph and family Photographs

The Peoria Historical Society donated a photograph of a unknown Saint Joseph child.

George Leach donated a packet of forget-me-nots.

David R Phillips donated a large collection of photographs from Saint Joseph and the surrounding areas.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 22nd, 2018
Smithsonian Museum Day

September 20, 2018
Sponsor, vendor and volunteer reception

September 26, 2018
Board Meeting Robidoux Row 5:30

October 20th, 2018
Donut Dash 5K

October 24, 2018
Board Meeting Robidoux Row 5:30

November 14, 2018
Board Meeting Robidoux Row 5:30

Annual Membership Meeting
Sunday November 18, 2018
At 2:00 PM



From the desk of our President

Patrick Squires Custodians

The dictionary defines the word custodian as “a person who has responsibility for or looks after something.” As the Saint Joseph Historical Society, we are indeed, custodians, custodians of the history of Saint Joseph, a city whose importance is so often forgotten in the panoply of American history. A small, but in our estimation, very important part of that custodianship is the maintenance of Robidoux Row. As a society, we have made major advances in the past year. I would like to thank all of those who have done so much in the last year. Our Robidoux Birthday Event is an example of what is possible. I am certainly excited about the prospects for the future. We are doing all in our power to be excellent “custodians” of the history of our much-beloved city. Part of the job of a custodian is to share the very things that are in his or her custodianship. In that vein, I would like to share a little of a new treasure that has come my way. I wish I could tell you exactly when and under what circumstances the following was written, but a friend gave me a copy of this and he did not know its origin. It is an 18-page typewritten document entitled, “Stories of Early History of St. Joseph, Prepared by Tina Cook and Eva Cook.” It further states, “This material is not in finished form but is offered to the teachers now in the hope that it may prove of immediate help in teaching the St. Joseph Unit.” Handwritten on the first page is, Miss Gardner, 4A – Noyes.” It contains several different stories, poems, outlines, plays and more. I would like to reproduce a little of the Introduction to the booklet:

It would be much more fun if some fairy could take us back many years to the time when up this muddy river there came a tiny fleet of keel-boats, each with a load of black-eyed Frenchmen. They had a cargo of beads, calico, tobacco, mirrors, brass jewelry, gunpowder and groceries. Their commander was Joseph Robidoux. He was looking for a landing place. They paddled up the mouth of Roy’s Branch (a little stream near the airfield). It was a bright September day. The bluffs were covered with forests dressed in scarlet and yellow. To the west lay wide plains over which great herds of buffalo tramped. Such quiet! Not a sound except he dripping of the oars into the water, or the crackling of the brush as some frightened wild animal leaped into the thicket. If anyone knows the history of this little booklet, please contact us. As custodians, we need to amass more of our history and then share it. Please be a part of this effort. Pat Squires.

Meet the new Director Daniel Johnson

In July, Daniel Johnson joined the Saint Joseph Historical Society and Robidoux Row Museum as Executive Director. With experience in history and working with non-profit organizations Daniel is working to enhance the Museum and Historical Societies online presence, new exhibits and new events. Daniel served as the program manager for Diversity Placement Services working in employment and maintaining budgets. Daniel is a graduate of Northwest Missouri State University majoring in Humanities with a minor in International Relations.

Daniel grew up in Pella, Iowa and always loved the history of his hometown and how they embraced their heritage. He would love to see the same passion and commitment to history in Saint Joseph. Daniel and his family moved to Saint Joseph in 2012 and immediately fell in love with the history of Saint Joseph and what a special city it is. Daniel is looking forward to moving forward into the future with the Museum and Historical Society while holding onto the amazing past of Saint Joseph.

Meet the new Executive Assistant

Ethan Tyrrell

Ethan Tyrrell is excited to join the Robidoux Row Museum as Executive Assistant. Ethan was born and raised in St. Joseph and grew up learning about the town and its history. The town’s numerous museums became key to him loving history and recognizing its importance. He graduated from Central High School in 2014 and then attended the University of Missouri. While at Mizzou he got experience in working in museums and archives. In May, he graduated with Bachelor’s degrees in history and German. He is passionate about history and museums, and he believes that the Row serves an important role in showcasing early St. Joe history. Ethan is eager to bring his new ideas to the museum and to assist Daniel Johnson in keeping Joseph Robidoux’s story alive.

Non profits rely on volunteers and members to thrive. Whether it could be a craft class for children or older adults, we need assistance to be able to pull programs together and we need ideas of what people would like to see us do.

Members List

Margaret Sparrow
 Carol Inman
 Michael Rabideau
 Michael O'Connor
 Andrea McCoy
 John Wolfe
 Annette Clayton
 Susie Evans
 Calvin and Sandra Smith
 August and Lela Bachman
 Leonard and Mary Smith
 Dan and Jerre Moore
 Jerry and Jackie Lewin
 Bill and Roseanne Mytton
 John and Herbie Wood
 Cole Woodbury
 Marina Trifan
 Cecilia Brunner
 Iola Arn
 Susan Wagner
 Anita Hendrickson
 Marilyn Drannan
 John and Karen Foley
 Harrison and Liss Hartley
 Richard Landon
 Connie Dixon
 Daniel and Christine Jurenka
 Amanda Walls
 Albert Robidoux
 Susan Robideau
 Robert and Laverne Robideau
 Kenneth and Katie Stafford
 Harold Lister
 Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood
 Lisa Rock
 Mary Baker
 Bill and Elaine Guenther
 Lisa Logan
 John Grimes
 Stanley Hall
 David and Sherril Lewis
 Nancy Nash
 Joy Baker
 Kelly and Adrian Alvarado
 Ron Taylor
 Jean Martin
 Denise Kiehnhoff
 Frank Robidou
 Barb and Steve Parker
 Franklin and Carmen Ellis
 Randy and Donna Klein
 Medeleine Sanders
 The Cracker House Project
 Bowers Bros Inc
 American Angus Association

Viola Whittington
 Richard Roberdeaux
 Patricia Greenwich
 Pam and Gordon Spieckerman
 Dorothy Frogge
 Tom and Ginny Rinderknecht
 Wickie Utley
 Jerome Goolsby
 Dolores Kline
 George and Carol Almanza
 Diane Waddell
 Sandra Hamilton
 Carla Saverino
 Steven and Jeannie Pitluck
 Sharon Eggleston
 Earl Myers
 Kathy Hill-Bahner
 Margo Prentiss
 Mark Culhane Robidoux
 Jockey Smock
 CJ and Sue Vetter
 Donna Boyer
 Ann Roades
 Carol and Russell Matt
 Deborah and Rick Bryan
 Lloyd Hopper
 Jack Quinn
 Judy Dye
 Henry and Phillis Robidoux
 William Lauman
 Fern Rebedeau
 Brad Cordell
 Mary McCune
 Isobel McGowan
 Tim Stites
 Frank and Betty Smith
 Dr and Mrs. Wallace McDonald
 Joshua and Lindsey Bachman
 Sandi Baker
 Brad and Heather McAnally
 David and Marci George
 Bill and Sharon Luce
 Elaine Hughes
 Patrick and Deirde Squires
 Dorothy Smith
 Kelly Bachman
 Bob and Susan Fay
 Shelley Elkins
 Joan Brugman
 Josephine Deaton
 Sharon Kosek
 Rupp Funeral Home
 Saint Joseph Public Library
 Saint Joseph CVB
 State Historical Society of Missouri

Edward & Rose Mary Hughes
 David Shepherd
 Harvey & Karen Robideau
 Virginia Wickham
 Francis Peniston
 Doug and Nan Diedrick
 Kimberly Schutte
 Joanna Shaw
 Sarah Dougherty
 Bette Tolbert
 Jim and Elaine Bowers
 Peggy and Roger Martin
 Kim Gorman
 Deann Woodbury
 Bob Fitzpatrick Jr.
 Joan Magee
 Richard and Mignon Deshon
 J Scott Grier
 Jim and Suzanne Lehr
 Jim Root
 Tom and Janet Hansen
 Barbara Kelly
 James and Elaine Spafford
 Donald and Mary Wilde
 Bill and Connie Leppert
 Katherine Stevenson
 Sharon Laing
 Rob and Connie Friesen
 Margi Rabidoux
 Denise Hoskins
 John Witt
 Steve Hofferber
 Cammie Herrington
 Paul and Pandora Durbin
 Doug Dougherty
 Rosan Bowers
 Joshua and Caroline Castor
 Carla Keith
 Reid and Virginia Woodbury
 Karl Wellenkoetter
 John and Brenda Crawford
 Ann Redmond
 Lin Werner
 Michael Depriest
 Mary Lawhon
 Terry Oldham
 Don and Deb Mayer
 Mary Asbury
 Linda Rabideau
 Joan E. Floyd
 Renee Lawhon
 Downtown Partnership
 Kranitz, Sadoun, Carpenter, PC
 Lake Contrary School Social A/C

Lifetime members:

John and Denise Tapia
 Dave and Suzy Bradley
 Marshall and Melanie White
 Barbara Maxwell
 Kelly and Ivana Calhoun
 Debbie Gentry
 Lynda Franken

Anna and Nigh Johnson
 Alene Tourbier
 Dave and Bernie Stevenson
 Rebecca Rotterman
 Carlos and Carol Moya
 Sharon Laing

Daniel Moser
 Rebecca Thacker
 Clyde Weeks
 Tim Riley
 Eileen Dyer
 Stephen and Nancy Wilkes

New Members in July and August 2018:

Dave and Tammy Bennett
 Hillyards Industries
 Ted and Karen Hauser

Julia Chambers
 Jessica Pierce
 Tracy Anderson

Marty and Jo Ann Grey
 Daniel and Anna Johnson

Voices of the Past

Early Day St. Joseph

From The Illustrated London News, October 12, 1861

St. Joseph or St. Joe as it is irreverently called by the Americans is a pretty good town situated on the east bank of the Missouri River. It is the western terminus of the Hannibal and St. Joe Railway which completes the American system of railways westward.

St. Joe has much the same relation to the Great Plains that a seaport has to the ocean. It is the point of arrival and departure after a three month's voyage overland of hundreds of travelers and wagon trains who make the passage between California, Oregon, and the western states of the union. The passage across the mountains and over the plains is as lonely as a voyage across the ocean. Neither towns nor villages are met with, and the emigrant train has to depend upon its own resources as much as a ship does while navigating the sea.

There is a wild look about the people of St. Joe. Nearly everybody carries a rifle and has that peculiar expression of countenance which indicates the possession of the ability to take care of himself and cut up particularly rough if interfered with. Some awful roughs may be seen about occasionally but these are held in good check by the respectable portion of the place; and although St. Joe is a wild, out-of-the-way place, almost beyond the reach of the law, yet the people go about as safely and carry on their business as securely, as if they were in the neighborhood of Boston. Should any of the border ruffian class attempt any villainy, lynch law would most likely cut short his career and he might find himself hanging to the branch of a tree before he had time to engage council to prove his innocence of the crime which he was caught in the act of executing. It is an event and a picturesque scene to see one of the long trains of wagons arrive from the westward, the people looking so brown and weatherworn and the children healthy and happy, and the rush all make immediately on certain shops and stores. One great delight on the party of the men seems to be to get themselves shaved as clean as possible. Fine bright colored shirts and handkerchiefs are immediately obtained and ostentatiously exhibited.

Market day at St. Joe is a peculiar sight and gives one a better idea of the back-settlement life than can be obtained anywhere else. The farmer and his family, in their particular wagon, which with the exception of the wheels they have made themselves are things to be seen. There is no place in the United States where greater variety of character, interesting incidents, and opportunity for the study of the human nature exists to a greater extent than at St. Joe on the Missouri.