

# Gazette

October 2018

Daniel Johnson, Editor

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## We need your help!!!



There is always work to be done at the Robidoux Row, and we are asking our members to donate some of their time to help with museum upkeep. At this time we are asking for volunteers to assist with:

- custodial duties
- maintenance
- upkeep of the Row's garden
- tour guides
- newsletter preparation including articles and mailing prep

We at the Robidoux Row and Saint Joseph Historical Society take great pride in the independence of our museum, but along with our smaller size come certain obstacles. Volunteering in anyway is a great way to help us keep costs down and keep the Row looking as great as is always has.

Volunteering is a great way to give back to your community, spend time with friends and meet new people, and have fun. If you are interested in the opportunities listed above, or if you are interested in other potential volunteer opportunities at the Robidoux Row please call us at (816) 232-5861 or email us at [sjhsatrr@gmail.com](mailto:sjhsatrr@gmail.com).

### Saint Joseph Historical Society

#### *Gazette*

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**

## Who are we?

Daniel Johnson

I am repeatedly asked who the Robidoux Row Museum and Saint Joseph Historical Society are. I love receiving this question as it makes me think about my answer and why we exist. Many would answer that as a Museum our job is to educate people about Joseph Robidoux and give tours. While this is true there is so much more.

I often times will remind people that the Robidoux Row is where it all began for Saint Joseph. It is where settlers stayed before travelling west to Oregon, San Francisco and Santa Fe. It is also where settlers stayed as they built the city that is now Saint Joseph. It is the location where Joseph lived for his last 10 years. Joseph met and interacted with so many important people in the history of our country.

As the Saint Joseph Historical Society, we preserve this history along with the heritage of Saint Joseph. We also offer people a glimpse into the past and an understanding of what Saint Joseph was and can become again.

## In the Archives

Ethan Tyrrell

A museum's archives are like a treasure trove for a history enthusiast. Recently Daniel and I have begun digging into the vast collections that the museum has kept archived over the years. While we are still early on in our sorting of the collections, our findings have already been fascinating. Items so far have ranged from the normal and expected, like photo albums from within the last decade of the Row, to rare artifacts, like century old journals and even a document signed by Felix Robidoux.

Our goal through exploring the archives is to find pieces that will lead to new exhibits for Robidoux Row. These new exhibits will showcase and will educate the public on the uncommon history of St. Joseph. We have a wonderful history in this town, and it's a history that the people of this town ought to learn.

On a personal level, searching through the archives has deepened my connection with St. Joseph. I have called this town my home for the entirety of my life, but by processing the artifacts in the archives, I am experiencing the town from a new perspective. Seeing images of the town in its glory days or even simply reading advertisements from long-forgotten shops really transports a person to different time. It makes me excited to share the history of this town with others.

## DONATIONS TO THE ROW

**Linda Bish** donated tablet page from Brenda Lacey's collection

**Marcia Boggess** donated a chair previously owned by Tru Davis II.

**George Leach** donated a box of onion bulbs for the garden.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Christmas Party**  
**Sunday December 9**  
**At 5:30 PM**

**October 24, 2018**  
**Board Meeting Robidoux Row 6:00**

**November 14, 2018**  
**Board Meeting Robidoux Row 6:00pm**

**December 22, 2018**  
**Board Meeting Robidoux Row 6:00pm**

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

# Christmas at the Row

December 9<sup>th</sup>  
5:30PM

You are cordially invited to Christmas at the Row.  
Food, Entertainment and Conversation.

A special gift will be given to all attendees from the Saint Joseph  
Historical Society.

Only \$15.00 for a night of fun, friendship and delicious food.

Please RSVP to 816-232-5861 or email [sjhsatrr@gmail.com](mailto:sjhsatrr@gmail.com)  
You may pay upon reservation or at the event.



## From the desk of the President

The following is an unusual President's message. It is from Isobel McGowan, the President of the Historic St. Joseph Foundation. We, as the "custodians" of St. Joseph history and the Robidoux Row, cannot be the only ones to preserve St. Joseph's proud heritage. If we preserve our historic properties, we are helping to maintain St. Joseph's History. We need to work collaboratively with all who care, especially the Historic St. Joseph Foundation. Please read and consider joining the foundation as well as being a member of the Historical Society. And, please support our efforts to work in tandem with the Foundation. If you have questions just call me at 816-273-3649.

*-Patrick Squires*

I was asked recently what I see as the greatest need in St. Joseph with respect to historic preservation and architectural conservation. My answer: we must raise awareness and appreciation of our inventory of historic architecture. Decades – indeed, almost a century - of disinvestment and deterioration started back in the 1930s when our historic neighborhoods were denied investment under the redlining program. And that program had predictable results: our historic neighborhoods are now rife with urban/neighborhood blight. Even worse, the historic fabric of our city is vanishing before our eyes as fires, leaking roofs, and collapsing masonry claim one building after another. I declare a preservation emergency in St. Joseph!

The Historic St. Joseph Foundation is working to meet that emergency head-on. We believe that the economic and cultural benefits of revitalization would be/could be truly phenomenal if the institutions and interest groups of our community work together to undertake proactive preservation and revitalization strategies. We have the brain power and the energy in our community to achieve that goal.

The Historic St. Joseph Foundation has two projects already established: The Jewels of St. Joseph Annual Homes Tour, and the Architecture of Historic St. Joseph Missouri Coloring Book. Both serve to raise awareness of and increase appreciation for the historic assets of the city, as well as raising funds for this organization. Both of these projects are important, but they are not enough. One might say, too little, too late. More action is urgently needed. We must translate our abiding appreciation for the historic architecture of this city into positive, proactive steps toward actually saving what we have left.

The specific objectives detailed in our Mission Statement are:

- Increase public awareness of the value of historic buildings and resources
- Enhance understanding of the challenges and the benefits of historic preservation/architectural conservation
- Preserve threatened structures

The Historic St. Joseph Foundation, through its Board, its Executive Director, and its membership, is focused on outreach and advocacy activities that will make a difference. We will continue to advocate for establishment of a successful land bank. We will continue to work on development of a skilled preservation trades education program. We will support a rental property registration and inspection resolution. And we will work with other organizations and institutions including the Chamber of Commerce, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Missouri Western University, Habitat for Humanity, the news media, the banking community, churches, realtors, and our city government to find opportunities to advertise, utilize, and improve the historic built environment in St. Joseph. Now is the time for St. Joseph to reclaim its title, "The City Worthwhile."

Please join us, it's easy and it's fun! There are no dues or fees, just send us your e-mail. Working together we can make these ambitious goals a reality. Email us at [historiestjosephfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:historiestjosephfoundation@gmail.com) and follow us on Facebook!

*-Isobel McGowan*

**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.**

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  
 Julia Chambers  
 Jessica Pierce  
 Tracy Anderson

**Lifetime members:**

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

Viola Whittington  
 Richard Roberdeaux  
 Patricia Greenich  
 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 Deirdre 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  
 Marty and Jo Ann Grey  
 Daniel and Anna Johnson  
 Bridgett DeJong

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

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  
 Dave and Tammy Bennett  
 Hillyards Industries  
 Ted and Karen Hauser

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

## Tastes of the Past

Part of our mission at the Robidoux Row Museum is to take visitors back to experience what life was like in the 1850s. One way anyone can experience a taste of the past is to, well, literally taste the past. As we get into the holiday season, here is a recipe for a key dish in an 1850s Christmas feast, mince pies. Most families would use mutton or sirloin steak as the meat of choice in the pies. Some families would use fish instead. Lemon and orange juices were added for sourness. To sweeten the pies, they used dried fruits and honey rather than sugar. For extra spice, some added saffron or ginger. The finished product was a delicious pie to ring in the Christmas season.

### Mince Pie

One and a half pounds of lean underdone roast beef  
Two pounds of beef suet  
One pound of stoned raisins  
One pound of pickled sultanas  
One and a half pounds of apples  
One and a half pounds of pears  
One pound of mixed peel  
Three quarters of a pound of blanched and chopped Valencia almonds  
The thin peel of two oranges and two lemons

All the before mentioned ingredients are to be chopped and then mixed with one pound of well washed and dried currants, a quarter of an ounce of mixed powdered spice, the juice from the lemons and oranges, one and a half pounds of Demerara sugar, half a pint of brandy, half a pint of sherry, half a pint of port, one full wineglass each of Marshall's maraschino syrup and noyeau syrup, and a quarter of a pint of Silver Rays (white) rum.

Make some puff paste, roll it out a quarter of an inch thick, and line some little plain or fancy- patty pans with it; place a teaspoonful or dessert spoonful, or more, of mincemeat in each, according to its size, wet the edges of the paste and cover the mincemeat over with more paste; brush over the top with beaten-up whole raw egg, and put them in a quick oven for about five minutes, then take them out, dust them over with icing sugar to glaze them, and put them back to bake for fifteen to twenty minutes. Dish up in a pile on a dishpaper or napkin, and serve hot.

Recipe courtesy of [https://www.whychristmas.com/fun/recipe\\_old\\_mince\\_pies.shtml](https://www.whychristmas.com/fun/recipe_old_mince_pies.shtml)

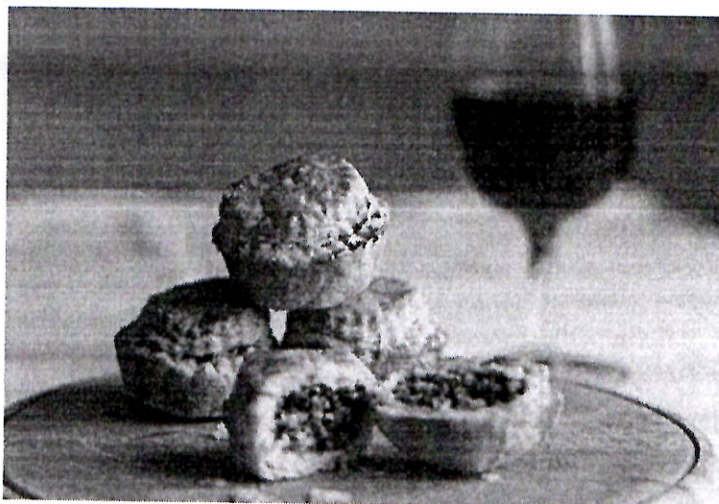


Image source: [http://blog.english-heritage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/755x514\\_-Mince-pies-with-port-LR.jpg](http://blog.english-heritage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/755x514_-Mince-pies-with-port-LR.jpg)