

GAZETTE

219 East Poulin Street
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501

Memberships:

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

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Published Quarterly

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Cole Woodbury

Flag Day Celebration Planned

June 14th : 4P.M - 7 P.M.



June 14th is Flag Day and Robidoux Row is using the day to honor not only our Nation's flag, but to all honor all those people who place themselves in harms way to protect and serve our community. The above illustration is from a circa 1909 patriotic postcard and is the cover of the invitation that was issued to Firefighters, First Responders, Law Enforcement, and those who have served, or are currently serving, in the Military. We will be serving hotdogs, cookies and drinks at no cost for those in attendance. This is not an event designed to be open to the public in general, but for members of the Historical Society and those groups invited. ➡

Flag Day
June 14th
4 -7 PM

➤ The museum will be open starting at 4 P.M. until 5:30 P.M. after which an opening ceremony will take place. This will include a soloist performing the National Anthem, as well as a few other patriotic, or flag related melodies. There will be a formal presentation of the colors (the flag). Mayor Bill McMurray will be present to make a proclamation and a group of bagpipers will close out the event around 7 P.M.

Please, mark your own calendar and plan on attending this event to show your support for both Robidoux Row, the St. Joseph Historical Society, and those selfless individuals who sacrifice so make our community a safe place to live. 🇺🇸

Made With Uncommon Character

“St. Joseph, The City Worthwhile” was once the slogan used to promote St. Joseph. It even appeared for a time on a five-story electric sign atop the Corby Building downtown. In recent years, a new slogan has been adopted: “Made With Uncommon Character, St. Joseph, Missouri”. The St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce uses this phrase to promote our city in a variety of ways.

One unique method is a weekly online feature of a vintage St. Joseph postcard paired with the same view today as a backdrop. Using postcards from the collection of Cole Woodbury, marketing guru Emily Baumann (also a SJHS board member) uses her photography skills to create a new image that is posted online. Woodbury adds a commentary about the image and the postcard trying to weave history, preservation, and other interesting facts into the discussion.

Be sure to follow these posts like below online at:
www.uncommoncharacter.com or [facebook.com/uncommoncharacter](https://www.facebook.com/uncommoncharacter)



This week's postcard shows this monument that stands in Ashland Cemetery. The memorial, built in 1914, was fairly new when this real photo postcard was mailed in 1915. It was erected to honor those who gave their lives defending our nation during the Civil War. Atop the granite obelisk is a sculpture of a Union soldier and at the bottom of the base are the initials G. A. R., which stands for Grand Army of the Republic. Behind this memorial are the simple white grave markers of numerous soldiers buried within its shadow.

A rubber stamp on the backside of this postcard identifies this as having been made by Dave Luchsinger of the Scenic View Company of St. Joseph, Missouri. This is the only postcard of St. Joseph that I have ever found that features this mark. Many years ago when I found this postcard, I looked up the name Luchsinger in the phone book and found only one listing. I

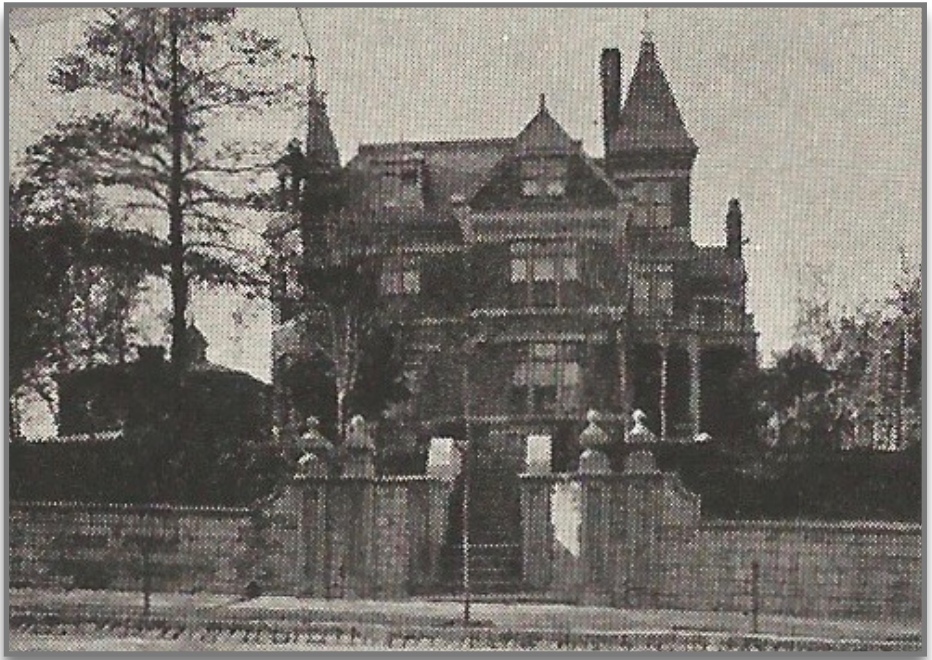
called the number in hopes of finding someone who could tell me something about the photographer. The elderly gentleman who answered my call was a nephew of the man who originally created this image. He told me that his Uncle Dave had been a fireman and an amateur photographer who passed away in the 1950s. I was curious whether any of his other images survived. I was on the edge of my seat in anticipation upon hearing that his uncle's enclosed back porch was packed with boxes of his images when he died. I could just imagine the treasure trove of local images contained in those boxes. My excitement quickly turned to horror when I learned that the man's family, seeing them only as useless clutter, threw them all away.

While those images that filled the boxes on that back porch are lost forever, at least this example of Luchsinger's work survives. Much like the memorial it shows, this postcard serves as a memorial to the photographer who made it.

Museum Garden Clean-Up

On June 1st, volunteers met at the Row to get the garden weeded and pruned so it could once again look its best. We are grateful to those who took part of their day to help with this effort, with a special thanks to garden aficionado Janet Sourk for her guidance and expertise. The removal of weeds, overgrowth, dead bushes, overhanging branches has helped, but it is not all done yet. With the Flag Day Celebration looming on the 14th of June, the garden still needs some attention. Please contact Executive Director Daniel Johnson at the Row if you can help.

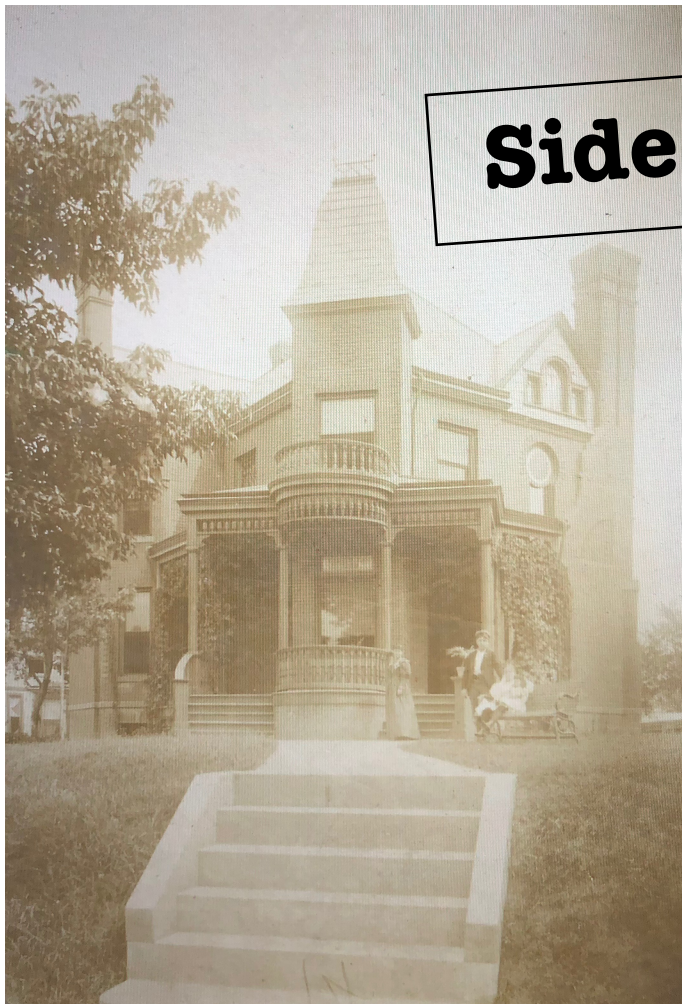
Your Editor is generally banned from working in his own personal garden, or even yard, due to his inability to identify and stay clear of poison ivy. His wife was not pleased with his decision to help work in the garden at the Row. I am proud to say that I did not come in contact with any poison ivy. However, for the first time in my life, I am covered in a vicious reaction to poison sumac. Who knew that those saplings I was cutting down weren't actually trees. My wife blames me for my current miserable condition, but personally, I'm blaming Janet.



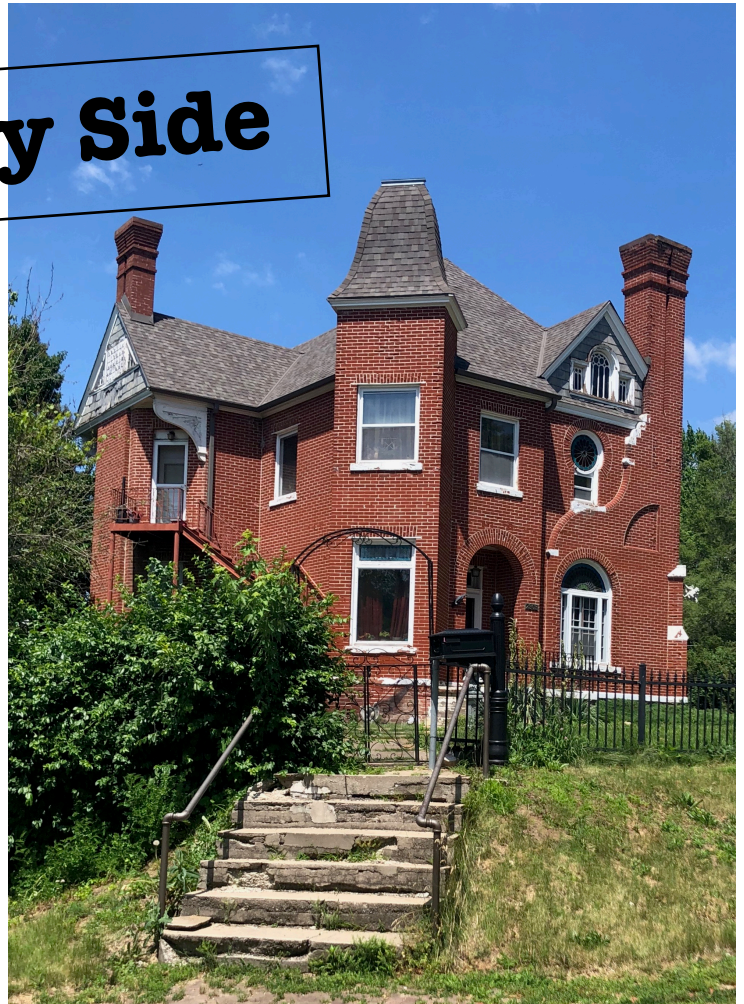
Where Was It?

Here is mystery for our members to figure out. The above image is of a very large private home that once stood in the downtown area of St. Joseph. It was built and occupied by a well-known dry goods merchant whose business building still stands today. Believe it or not, this structure actually survived into the 1960s, but decades before, it had suffered the terrible injustice of an unsympathetic addition across the front that basically obliterated the view of this grand mansion. That's it for clues. The rest is up to you.

In our next issue, we will identify the house and its location providing a little history and some additional images to include a few very rare interior views. We will also publish the name, or names, of any member who contacts the Row and correctly figures out this mystery. Good luck!



Side by Side



What a difference a front porch makes! These images show the Queen Anne style house located at 2303 Union Street. The house has always been an impressive one, but the lack of the front porch leaves it unbalanced. The original front porch featured a double staircase surmounting a half-round projection with matching balustrade on the roof above. The porch eased the verticality of the structure which is all the more severe from street level having been built upon a raised yard. Other unique features of this home include the keyhole stained glass window near the corner chimney at the upper right. The sweeping transition of the chimney brickwork in this area as it extends over a first floor window gives visual texture and whimsy to the exterior.

The original image at the left perfectly illustrates the importance of preserving images of St. Joseph and just one of many reasons why a photographic archive is needed. This photograph may well be the blueprint needed to restore the front porch, once again making this home the showplace it was intended.

As the St. Joseph Historical Society embarks on creating a photographic archive, we will arrange dates where we will be set up to scan images at Robidoux Row. Members, as well as the public, will be able to bring in images from their own collections, or family photo albums, to be scanned and added to the archive. In this manner, owners will not be separated from their treasured photographs and the images can be preserved for the future.