

Carondelet Historical Society NEWSLETTER

Perpetuating the Heritage of Carondelet

Vol. 41, No. 1

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Winter 2014

Constructing the Des Peres School

The stately Des Peres School building, now the centerpiece of the Carondelet Historic Center at 6303 Michigan Avenue, towered over the surrounding homes when it was built in 1873. German-born and trained architect Frederick Raeder designed the simplified Italianate school building with its symmetrical plan. The projecting entrance bay of the red brick school rises three stories to a peaked gable end. The handsome doorway framed by tall narrow windows dominates the first floor of the bay, while an oculus window is centered in the gable end. More than one hundred ornately milled brackets supported the extended eaves of the roof. Raeder was serving as the school board architect when he designed the Des Peres School.



A recent photo by J. R. Remelius shows the Carondelet Historic Center with the authentically restored second story windows.

The proceedings of the School Board from the early 1870's document not just the architect for the Des Peres School, but how the contractors were chosen who carried out Raeder's plans for the school.

In the minutes of the St. Louis Public School Board of November 12, 1872, the Building Committee reported that they had "advertised for bids for the erection of a two room and a four-room building, both in South St. Louis, formerly Carondelet, and awarded the contract to Wm. Zeppenfeld, he being the lowest bidder on both

houses." The two-room school referred to was "Colored School No. 6," later renamed Delany School. Located at 6138 Virginia, the humble-sized school was replaced

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Bracketing History

The Society is beginning a campaign "Bracketing History" to fund the final step in restoring the original Victorian character to the Des Peres School, now the Carondelet Historic Center. That step is to replicate and install the 101 ornately milled brackets that supported the eaves of the roof. This project, which will cost tens of thousands of dollars, is part of the restoration of the exterior of the Des Peres School, that is allowing the restrained beauty of its simplified Italianate design to once again emerge.

The Victorian era school building had been mutilated after 1960, when it was converted into a grocery store warehouse. The transformation included filling the tall windows with concrete blocks, removing the roof

brackets and chopping off the eaves. A one-story market building was even constructed adjoining the south side of the building and wrapped around the front corner of the school.

The modern market addition was removed by Carondelet Family Care, which had occupied the addition from 1981 to 2005. Over the years the Carondelet Historical Society restored the entrance and doors and reopened the first floor windows of the original school building.

During the last year, thanks to the bequest by Lois Waninger, the Society has reopened the original eight windows on the second story. Replicas of the original

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Perpetuating the
Heritage of
Carondelet*

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Carondelet Historical Society
6303 Michigan Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63111
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Dred Scott and Peter Blow

The Carondelet Historical Society will host "Reflections - Dred Scott and Peter Blow Descendants" on Saturday, February 15 at 1:00 p.m. Scott family descendants, Lynne Jackson and Sherrie Jackson, and Blow family descendants, John Le Bourgeois and Ashton Le Bourgeois, will discuss the connections between these two St. Louis families whose lives and actions impacted the nation. The Dred Scott Theatre Troupe will present a 25 minute dramatization on the same theme. Co-authors John Le Bourgeois and Ashton Le Bourgeois will be available to sign copies of their book *The Blows of Yesteryear: An American Saga*.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 15, 2014

1:00 pm

"Reflections - Dred Scott and Peter Blow Descendants"

Sunday, March 2

1:00 p.m.

Sunday at the Movies
"The Quiet Man" (1952)

Sunday, April 6

1:00 p.m.

General Membership Meeting

Sunday, May 4

1:00 p.m.

Sunday at the Movies
"Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" (1954)

Sunday, June 8

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Open House

Sunday September 14

1:00 p.m.

General Membership Meeting

Sunday December 14

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Open House

Carondelet Historical Society

Membership Application

Name _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____ Zip _____

_____ Individual	\$15	_____ Victor Kunz Art Gallery Benefactor	\$50
_____ Family	\$25	_____ Fred Bouchein Library Benefactor	\$75
_____ Business	\$40	_____ James Eads Engineers	\$100
_____ Life	\$250	_____ Susan E. Blow Educators	\$125

Make checks payable to Carondelet Historical Society.

Mail to Carondelet Historical Society, Mary Ann Simon, 6303 Michigan Ave., St. Louis MO 63111

In Memoriam

Frank Foley, Jr., longtime volunteer at the Carondelet Historical Society and Board Member from 1991 to 2013, passed away on December 1, 2013 at age 94. Through the years, Foley participated in the Society's art exhibits, helped organize quilt shows, a fabric art exhibit, and theatrical productions. Single-handedly, he wallpapered the meeting room in the Historic Center and painted a mural at the entrance to the Bouchein Library. He crafted handmade quilts that were raffled to benefit the Society. Foley lent a hand, with enthusiasm, on any Society project.

Since retirement he also ushered at the Fox Theatre, guided tours at Tower Grove House at the Missouri Botanical Gardens, volunteered at Missouri Historical Society and tutored for the St. Louis Public Schools.

An Air Force veteran, Foley was buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery with full military honors.

Board Changes

Volunteer Kay Stanford has generously agreed to complete Frank Foley's unexpired term on the Board of Directors. Professional demands on her time have forced Marci Donovan to resign from the Society's Board of Directors. Marci began volunteering at the Historic Center in 2001 and shared her talents with graphics and computer skills. Dave Bouchein has graciously agreed to complete Donovan's unexpired term on the Board. The board elected Dave Bouchein Vice-President at the January 2014 meeting.

Volunteers are the Backbone

Kay Zimmer Stanford bubbles with her characteristic enthusiasm as she states, "I love my friends, I am so blessed. I am still friends with so many Cleveland Dutchman classmates."

It was through her years of volunteering with the Cleveland High School Staff Alumni Association, housed in the Carondelet Historic Center, that Stanford got involved with the Historical Society. Recently, she has agreed to complete the unexpired term of the late Frank Foley on the Carondelet Historical Society's Board of Directors.

Kay grew up in South St. Louis, first in the South Hampton neighborhood and attending Buder Grade School. By high school, her family had moved to Pennsylvania Avenue at Robert Avenue in Carondelet and she attended Cleveland High School.

She loved participating in the marching band and became captain of the Majorettes. "My favorite band song was the Cleveland Loyalty Song," she says proudly. She starts reciting the lyrics, which were set to the University of Wisconsin fight song, "On Wisconsin."

Then Stanford mentions that the band director stayed current in his musical choices. She recalled that her second favorite piece of band music was the theme to the popular television series "Batman." She immediately hummed a few bars.

Stanford, who graduated from high school in 1969, explains her personal loyalty to the school. "Cleveland was so good to me, helped me through so much and through rough times." She comments on the tumult of the 1960's for young people and notes that she was "never into drugs or drinking." She gives credit to the atmosphere at Cleveland and to her Dutchmen friends.

After Cleveland, Stanford attended college for two years at Colorado Western College in Montrose, Colo-

rado. "Then I started having kids and liked that better. I love being a mom." Stanford has four children, six grandkids aged 18 months to 25 years, and three great grandkids by her step granddaughter.

Stanford works as a professional caregiver for elderly and people with special needs. Her business is called KayCare. She adds that being the eldest child in a big family, she feels that she has always been a caregiver.



Kay Stanford

In 2006, she started volunteering in the Cleveland High School room on the Historic Center's second floor. "Our motto is 'keeping Dutchmen connected.'" She explains that she loves meeting new people before saying, "I wear my Cleveland sweatshirt everywhere. It encourages conversation."

While volunteering in the Cleveland High Room, Stanford recognized that all the exhibit rooms in the Historic Center needed major cleaning. She organized a volunteer crew of 16 alumni of Cleveland High School, who showed up one Saturday with buckets, mops, brooms, dust cloths.... Working like a whirlwind, they completed a massive cleaning of the huge building in a few hours.

Stanford is currently coordinating volunteers so that a representatives of the Cleveland High School Association will be available on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Historic Center to greet visitors and answer alumni questions.

Civil War Begins in Carondelet

In the winter and spring of 1861, Carondelet was in turmoil. The secession of South Carolina on December 20, 1860 had set in motion state conventions resulting in the secession of the cotton states in the South. The Northern and Midwestern states responded with boisterous rallies supporting the Union and abolition. In Carondelet as in St. Louis, however, political allegiances were not so clear. And a critical meeting of Union supporters in Carondelet almost descended into chaos.

Two articles in the *Daily Missouri Democrat* on successive days described a heated meeting in Carondelet held on January 17. They describe the political struggle brewing in Carondelet and a speech by the celebrated orator and criminal attorney, Uriel Wright. The articles of January 18 and January 19 provide insights into the reaction of prominent Carondelet residents to the ensuing national tragedy.

The verbiage of the circular publicizing the meeting, issued the morning of the meeting, was carried in the article published January 19 and clearly stated that the meeting was to support the Union.

Union Meeting At The Lafayette, Thursday Evening, Jan. 17th.

The citizens of Carondelet, irrespective of party, are requested to attend a UNION MEETING at Lafayette Hall, this (Thursday) evening at 7 o'clock. B. Gratz Brown, Major Uriel Wright and others, will address the meeting. Come one, come all !! and let us speak unitedly for our country.

The site of the meeting, Lafayette Hall, was a then new, three story brick building facing Broadway at the southeast corner of Loughborough.

The reports of the meeting were written in first person. The writer and the newspaper were clearly sympathetic to the Union cause. While meetings were being held across the City, only the meeting in Carondelet resulted in articles describing the "chicanery" of the proceedings. The article of the 18th described the tactics the Secessionists used to take over the meeting.

"Some leading Democrats of this section, with more audacity than fairness, took possession of the meeting, and organized one-half hour before the time appointed for the meeting to commence, and before the friends of



Lafayette Hall was the scene of a heated political meeting on January 17, 1861. Carondelet photographer Donald Dates took this photo of the old Hall, when it was used as a warehouse, before it burned in 1948.

the Union were aware of what was going on, the meeting was in full blast -- an avowed disunionist in the chair, and a committee of seven on resolutions, all but one of their own ilk, was appointed."

The more extensive article of January 19th stated that "Major Thomas Harney was chosen chairman, F. W. Levant, J. Quigley, Vice Presidents," and Edward Haren Secretary. The Chair appointed a committee to report resolutions to the meeting including James M. Loughborough, Socrates Newman, R. R. Southard, N. L. Hornsby, Josiah Cross, and John F. Hume.

It appeared that the parties who had started the meeting early to secure the leadership and resolutions for Secession did not realize that John F. Hume was a Union supporter. The paper on the 18th reported, "But the friends of the Union were not to be cowed by such audacity, and boldly rallied to sustain their one friend (Hume), whom the secessionists unwittingly had placed on the Committee on Resolutions."

While the resolutions committee was meeting, Major Harney made a speech described as representing "the most extreme Southern school."

At its close, former Mayor of Carondelet (Bohemian immigrant, and physician) Dr. William Taussig protested against "the perversion of the object of the meeting from Union to Disunion purposes." According to the *Missouri Daily Democrat* of January 19, "He courteously reminded the chair that the meeting was called to hear Union speeches, and we had been treated to a violent disunion speech. The offices of the meeting were filled by

avowed secessionists, and he saw no chance for Union men to be either heard or properly represented.” The Chair replied that the meeting was not a party meeting and that he thought all sides had a right to be heard. Dr. Taussig moved for an adjournment.

Then the noted orator and attorney from St. Louis, Uriel Wright was called to speak. Wright had attended West Point but resigned after his father’s death to study law. He married and left his native Virginia for Missouri in 1833. After losing his inheritance in land speculation in Marion County, Missouri, he entered politics and became an eminent criminal lawyer. Hyde and Conard’s 1899 profile of Wright quoted a judge saying that Wright’s “words flowed from his lips like a placid stream; his voice was clear and musical, his invective scathing.” The “beauty of his diction” was celebrated.

The reporter wrote that “Major Wright” took the stand, and began, “Mr. Chairman, and fellow citizens of these United States - for I hold that there is still a United States, the seceders [sic] to the country not withstanding....” He spoke for over an hour. The *Daily Missouri Democrat* described the speech as masterly and praised its eloquence and pathos. The article of the 19th described the effect of Wright’s speech on the secessionists. “The countenances of the secessionists all at once assumed a terrible elongation, some of which would have rivalled [sic] in length Old Abe’s longest fence rail. They saw they were lost.”

Then the report of the Committee on Resolutions followed. The majority report supporting secession was by wealthy Carondelet landowner J. M. Loughborough and was signed by five others, six out of seven of the committee.

The lone Unionist on the resolutions committee, attorney John F. Hume, made the minority report.

After reading the two, there were several motions apparently over the control of the meeting. Then the meeting reorganized and called Dr. Webster, of 321 Kraus Street, to the chair, and Hubert Primm, son of Judge Wilson Primm of 6220 Michigan, secretary. A motion to adopt the minority report was carried by at least ten to one because it reflected “the true sentiments of the people of Carondelet on this all important, all absorbing question of Union, and secession, no man can doubt that knows the people.”

After the adoption of the resolutions, Major Harney, no longer chairman, asked to reply to Major Wright. His defense of the secessionists seemed to have fallen on deaf ears.

John F. Hume next took the stand and declared that “there never was a more causeless revolt than this of the seceding States since Lucifer led his cohorts of apostate angels against the throne of God.” The 30-year-old Ohio native spoke for three quarters of an hour.

The article published on the 19th reported that Mr. Heinrichs had presented another resolution which was adopted. “That we tender our thanks to Major Wright for his able and fearless address in defense of the American Union on this occasion, and that we entirely approve the sentiments of his speech as expressed by him.”

The meeting adjourned with three rousing cheers for the Union unconditionally.

The meeting appears to have been a turning point in local history. The fact that the meeting was held in Lafayette Hall reflected the ascendancy of the Germans in Carondelet. Carondelet had outgrown its old, stone city hall and calaboose that had served through the days of French and Creole prominence. City business was moved to Lafayette Hall, which served as the City Hall until St. Louis annexed Carondelet in 1870.

The support for the Union demonstrated at the meeting undoubtedly encouraged river engineer James B. Eads to choose the Carondelet boatyards to build ironclads for the Union. This choice would spur industrial development in Carondelet.

Ironically, it would not be long before Uriel Wright would abandon his allegiance to the Union. The talented Wright was known for inconsistencies. Hyde and Conard’s profile stated, “On the heels of a denunciation of gambling, so fierce and yet so pathetic that men trembled and wept as they listened to it, (Wright) might be seen at a card table.” As a delegate to the State Convention of 1861, he combated Secession. Then following the Battle of Camp Jackson in Midtown St. Louis on May 10, in which new Union volunteers fired into taunting civilian crowds killing 28, he declared, “if Unionism meant such atrocious deeds as has been witnessed in St. Louis, he was no longer a Union man.” The man who helped maintain Carondelet for the Union joined the Confederate Army.

(Multiple accounts of Carondelet history make brief references to an important Union meeting in Lafayette Hall featuring Uriel Wright, held at the end of March 1861. It appears the source for these descriptions are all from the same source, a text published in German in the *Westliche Post* and printed in book form in 1873, by Gustav Heinrichs. The text was translated by M. Heinrichsmeyer and published in the *Missouri Historical Society Bulletin*. Though Heinrichs’ descriptions of Carondelet are very enlightening, it is probable that he was referring to the meeting on January 17, and the timeline and details of the meeting and other events were confused by either the passing of time or the translation.)

Change of Address Requested:

If you have moved, please notify the Society of your new address. In that way you can save the Society volunteers hours and postage.

School *from page 1*

with a large school designed by William Ittner in 1911. (That school building was converted into condominiums in 2003.)

When Zeppenfeld returned the signed contract, however, he had stricken essential conditions. After negotiations failed, the contract was awarded to the next lowest bidder. Messrs. Woods & Barnes' bid for the two room school was \$6,977 and for the four room Des Peres School was \$13,715.

The principles in Woods & Barnes were Stephenson Woods and John W. Barnes. Edwards' City Directory lists Stephenson as an architect with a residence in the then developing area just west of Grand Avenue in Midtown. According to census records, Ohio-born Woods was in his mid-sixties when he was awarded the contract to build Des Peres School. The handbook and record of the Second Presbyterian Church, then located on Lucas Place (now Locust Street) just west of the Robert Campbell House, lists Stephenson Woods with "Lee Avenue Mission" following his name.

City Directories list John W. Barnes as a "carpenter and builder" residing in downtown St. Louis near 10th

and Washington. Apparently both contractors were Presbyterian, since the manual of the First Presbyterian Church published in 1888 lists a John W. Barnes as a member of that stone Gothic church, which stood on Lucas Place a block east of the Robert Campbell House.

Though the schools opened for the 1873-74 school year, Woods & Barnes appear to have met challenges in completing the buildings. The Secretary of the School Board noted at the August 12, 1873 meeting, only weeks before the new Carondelet schools were to open, "Several of the subcontractors and material men, creditors of Woods & Barnes, have filed with me notices to the Board of their intention to file liens against both the Des Peres and No. 6 School-houses for work and labor done and materials furnished to Woods & Barnes...."

Among the men signing the bond for the new Carondelet school buildings were Jephtha Simpson and Thomas R. Pullis, whose cast iron foundry was noted for crafting exceptional cast iron storefronts during the late 19th century.

(The School Board reports were found at the St. Louis Public Library.)

Our Members Are Generous

Since the last newsletter, the following friends and members have made donations to cover the operating costs of the Historic Center: Terry & Matt Borowiak, Dave & Marla Bouchein, John Flaherty, Donna Grieshaber, Dorothy Krehbiel, John Martin, Laura Orthwein, Stewart Skelton, Bob & Mary Ellen Svoboda, Betty Tonneas and Joanie Villar.

Since the last newsletter, the following organizations and institutions have made donations to the Historic Center: The Beta Theta Chapter, the Cleveland High School Classes of 1953, and Southern Commercial Bank.

Tom Weil made a generous challenge grant dedicated to the Historic Center's Library at the rededication of the Bouchein Library in October. Since then, the following friends have responded to the Tom Weil Challenge Grant: Anderson Bakewell, Edward Bakewell, Bob Blankmann, Jerry & Rosalie Brasch, Diane Chafin, Ann Corrigan, John Remelius, John (J. R.) Remelius, III, Frank Rossier, Ed Sellman, Ray Sontag, Joanie Villar and Mary Ann & Ernest Winkelmann. An anonymous donation was made in response to the challenge grant.

Since the last newsletter, Eleanor Szymanski made a donation to the Five Year Capital Fund Drive.

K. Michele Bailey made a donation in honor of member and volunteer Gloria Hoock.



When the Society bought the old Des Peres School, the Victorian era building had been radically altered.

Bracketing *from page 1*

windows were installed. The plastering on the interior surrounding the new windows was completed. Waninger's bequest also funded reconstruction of the roof and extending the eaves of the roof to the original depth.

Society President John Remelius noted that by restoring the exterior of the building with original windows, eaves and finally brackets, he hopes the Society will help strengthen the surrounding historic neighborhood.

Anyone wishing to help with the restoration of the brackets can send a check to the Society dedicated to the Bracketing History Campaign, Carondelet Historic Center, 6303 Michigan Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63111.

Progress Report

Exhibit Team

Ken Bolte, Ron Bolte, Rich Fernandez and Norm Woldow have formed a team to reconstruct the exhibits in the Display Room on the second floor. The reopening of the windows on the room's east, north and south walls forced the dismantling of the exhibits for construction and to accommodate the new windows.

Years ago volunteers led by Lois Waninger had created the exhibits when the Society's collections were limited. The team is not only looking at reconstructing the exhibits to incorporate the windows into the settings, but also to expand the subjects and themes of the exhibits and the number and variety of artifacts displayed. They are considering ways to create some areas for rotating exhibits to feature the Society's expanding collections.

Library Update

Bob Cloud reports that a half-dozen members and volunteers have taken advantage of the Society's new lending policies. He explains that members may checkout non-reference books for a period of two weeks. Thanks to donations of books, the library boasts a large number of books on the history of St. Louis, the surrounding suburbs, Missouri, and the United States. Members can check the display in the library for details on the lending policy.

Library Collection Growing

A number of books have been added to the Bouchein Library thanks to the Tom Weil Fund. The books include: *American City: St. Louis Architecture: Three Centuries of Design* by Sharoff, *Before Lewis & Clark: The Story of the Chouteaus*, *The French Dynasty that Ruled America's Frontier* by Christian, *Burninghaus, Master Painter...* by Sanders, *John Brown, Abolitionist: The Man Who Killed Slavery, Sparked the Civil War and Seeded Civil Rights* by Reynolds, *Spaniards in the Colonial Empire: Creoles*

vs. Peninsulars by Burkholder, *The Blows of Yesteryear: An American Saga* by John Le Bourgeois and Ashton H. Le Bourgeois, *The Chouteaus: First Family of the Fur Trade* by Hoig, *The Civil War in Missouri* by Louis Gerteis, *The Civil War in St. Louis* by Louis Gerteis, *The Confederate and Neo-Confederate Reader: The "Great Truth" about the "Lost Cause"* by Loewen, *The Myth of the Lost Cause and Civil War History* by Nolan and *The World, The Flesh and the Devil: A History of Colonial St. Louis* by Cleary.

Don Corrigan donated a copy of his book, *Show Me: Nature's Wrath (Missouri Weather)*, and John Remelius donated a rare copy of the 1924 *History of the Archdiocese of St. Louis*.

Special Exhibits

Ron Bolte, assisted by his brother Ken Bolte, are making early preparations for exhibits concerning the 100th anniversary of Cleveland High School and an exhibit concerning World War I and Carondelet.

Social Media

While designing posters and flyers for Society events and giving tours of the Historic Center, J. R. Remelius has generously found time to continue to update the Society's website, www.carondelethistory.com. Emma Prince is maintaining the Society's Facebook page, which now numbers 340 "likes," including a friend in Afghanistan.

Painting the Trim

The Board of Directors has contracted to paint the exterior frames on 27 windows, along with the doorway and fascia trim on the Historic Center.

This much-needed maintenance is also being funded by Lois Waninger's bequest.

Bequests

Society President John Remelius noted that he is often frustrated when one of our great members makes a "bequest gift to the Society because I can't write a letter to thank them." He asks, "Please let me know while I can still write you with our gratitude if you've included us in your estate giving."

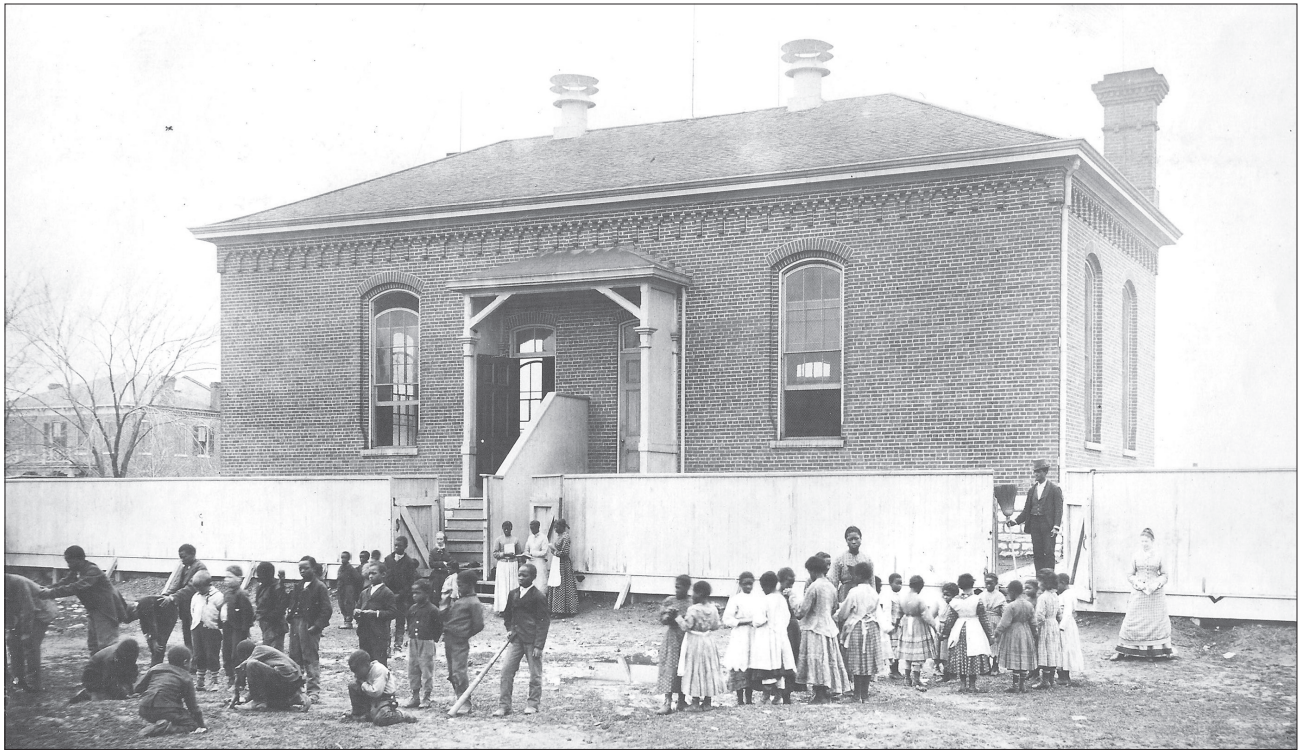
Expanded Hours

Society President John Remelius has announced that the hours of the Carondelet Historic Center will again be expanding, so the Center will be open to visitors and researchers 15 hours each week.

The new hours are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on Sunday from noon to 3:00 p.m.



The souvenir booklet published for the 1934 North American Saengerbundes song festival is among the volumes, magazines and programs given to the Society by Tom Weil.



The same contractors who built the Des Peres School in 1873 simultaneously built “Colored School No. 6” on the 6100 block of Virginia Avenue. The school was later renamed to honor Martin R. Delany, an African-American physician and publisher.

Researched and written by NiNi Harris
Layout by Lynn Josse

New Hours!
 The Carondelet Historical Society will be open for visits or tours on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 3 p.m.
 Visit any time we are open. To schedule a special tour, call (314) 481-6303.

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