

See historic home...

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and a new wing added to the main portion of the original house. The original portion of the main house was left in tact. The only structural change was the addition of a column portico and balcony to the front entrance, architecturally similar to homes of that period.

Lindsey wrote that the site of Monument Hill, "said to be one of the highest points between Nashville and New Orleans", was used as a lookout point, occupied by Federal soldiers who engaged in skirmishes with Confederate troops crossing Shoal Creek. Cannons were mounted in the front yard and a cave on the bluff was blasted shut to prevent escaping soldiers or the storage of equipment. There were also reports that wounded soldiers were treated in the upstairs bedrooms of the old house. Captain Thomas Deavenport served in the Civil War. After the war, he had a law firm in Lawrenceburg. Private John B. Kennedy also served in the Civil War later becoming a major in the Confederate Army.

Lindsey wrote that Monument Hill is the oldest preserved house in this area. "My memories of the old house remain from early childhood. Since the late Edgar A. Perkinson was a first cousin to my grandmother, Mary Coleburn Springer, my family had many visitations here."

The Way Realty purchased the home and has completed an interior and exterior renovation. The Open House will be held Saturday, August 3rd from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monument Hill is located at 317 South Military Avenue.



Upon her death in 1999, her children, Richard Roberson and Joyce Roberson Kennedy, honored their mother by dedicating a sign to the St. Joseph Senior Citizens Center and maintaining it over the years. Recently, that sign was updated and proudly reminds people of the very active group of people who meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 to 4:30.

St. Joseph Senior Citizens Center is still thriving

By Emily Weathers Kennedy

It is often said that having older people in our lives can make a big difference. Indeed, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and folks who have lived through wars and the Great Depression share experiences that shape how we see the world and understand its history. These elders' stories are oftentimes downright entertaining.

When our children were small, my husband, Kerry, and I brought them often to visit our families in St. Joseph and Loretto. They loved everything about our small Tennessee towns and identified with them as home. They listened rapt as stories tumbled out. They asked a million questions. They thought we were the luckiest people on earth to have been raised in such an area.

One person in particular kept our attention with every visit. Our three girls would sit side by side on a green sofa at Kerry's grandmother, Virginia Roberson's, home and listen. It only took one question to get her started. "What have you been up to, Mam-ma?"

She was bubbly from her first words, oftentimes standing and moving her arms as she spoke. The remarkable thing was that she was only talking about her day-to-day activities. But, when she recounted

them they became colorful and happy. Her enthusiasm brought us into St. Joseph with her many friends and goings-on at her two favorite places—the St. Joseph United Methodist Church and the St. Joseph Senior Citizens Center.

From her stories about the Senior Center, the girls decided they, too, wanted to go. Mainly they wanted to try out the delicious potluck food, play cards, and see their great-grandmother's friends in action. So, on one Tuesday or Thursday we trekked downtown to the building tucked in between the former bank and the Roberson building.

We remember that day well. There were several tables where people were playing cards and working jigsaw puzzles. There was a spread of food to rival any family reunion. There was a group of women arrayed around a quilt frame busily talking as one hand remained underneath while the other plucked the needle only to poke it back through the cloth. Like the others in the room, they paused when they noticed our presence and greeted us warmly.

We learned that day that older folks were cheery to have visitors, especially children. And, Mam-ma had not exaggerated; these seniors were delightful.

Though our children returned to the Center, by the second time I visited our beloved Mam-ma had been gone for many years. The faces had changed with the passing of most of her generation, but the enthusiasm and happiness in the room were the same. Instead of Skip Bo I saw a table of six people playing Canasta. (Since Canasta is my favorite card game, I could appreciate the skill of six players using three decks of cards. Amazing!) The jigsaw puzzles were still being put together, and I could tell that

the seniors had enjoyed a nice meal. I wondered if there were another "live wire" as one of Mam-ma's friends described her at the Center.

My friend, Merry Gabel, has been an active volunteer at the St. Joseph Senior Citizens Center for 12 years. She recently told me that no one quilts anymore, but the money raised by the quilting as well as goat & chicken stews made enough for the more modern addition to the original bank building donated by Marvin & Grace Bryan.

Merry describes a more structured program for the Center nowadays. She leads a group exercise at 10 featuring many elements of Silver Sneakers including balance and gentle movement. She said they do a Lunch and Learn with blood pressure checks and speakers talking about health matters and various other senior topics. She said everyone is always welcome to the potluck at 11:30 and adds that sometimes they just have sandwiches, but they are always good.

A big draw for the Senior Center is the live music that starts around 1 p.m. (I smiled as I remembered stories of Mam-ma on the piano accompanying Mr. Yocum on the fiddle as they sang gospel songs at the Center.) Merry said people drop in and play an array of genres, from rock and roll and country to gospel and Irish Celtic music. Several play guitars, but some also play the dulcimer, mandolin, keyboard, dobro, upright bass, and saxophone.

Virginia Roberson would be proud of her beloved St. Joseph Senior Citizens Center and of the people who have carried on its legacy. I plan to go soon with my potluck dish and soak up the happiness in the room just like she used to do. I'll know I'll have some interesting stories to tell when I leave.

The Lawrence County Commission's Facilities Committee will meet Monday, July 29 at 4:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Administrative Center. The public is welcome to attend.

The regular monthly meeting of a local, vegan, supper-club, 'Veg-OUT!', will be held Monday night, July 29th, 6PM, in the basement of the 7th Day Adventist Church on Buffalo Rd. We meet on the LAST Mon. of ea. mth. Please bring a 'covered-dish, excluding animal products & copies of your recipe to share. For further info. : 931-762-4915 All are welcome!

Living Free Class is held every Monday night from 6-8 at United Church, 716 S. Locust Avenue, Lawrenceburg. If you or someone you know has dealt with a life-controlling issue, join us for our Living Free Class. Women's and men's groups.

Friends of David Crockett State Park and Run Club invite you to their 6th annual glow in the dark 5k and Back to School Dash. On Saturday August 3, 2019, at 7:30pm the 5k route will be only on the roadway (no trails). Registration for the 5k is \$25 and will include 1 glow stick and a t-shirt. You may register online at David Crockett State Park Facebook Page or drop your registration at the park office during normal business hours. The Back to School Dash is free to anyone under the age of 15 wanting to participate. Registration the day of the race will begin at 6:30pm at the park restaurant parking lot. Registration on day of will be \$30.

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