



Sainte Marie Foundation News

Celebrating our special hometown Spring 2023

Volume 16 Issue 1

SAINTE MARIE FARMERS MARKET



The Farmers Market at Picquet Park in the Village of Sainte Marie will open on the first Saturday in June from 8-noon. The market will be open on the first and third Saturdays through September. It is sponsored by the Sainte Marie Foundation.



Flower Baskets

Thank you to all of you that helped by sponsoring one of the beautiful baskets that will line Main Street in Sainte Marie this summer. We also need some help with watering. Please contact Mike Hartrich (618.562.8678) if you can help.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt



Award Winners

Hartrich Meats is always award worthy to those who have enjoyed their quality meats. They were recognized for two outstanding products recently at the Meat on the Midway Product Show in Effingham. Stop by and try their award-winning Hot Venison Bologna and Italian Beef and all their other great products!



Help Us Show Off Our Past!

Sainte Marie and the Bend have always liked to celebrate! The Foundation would like to commemorate those celebrations. The next museum exhibit will be opening soon and will feature the different ways we show our achievements and honor our past!

Needed for the display are items from:

- 1962, 1987, and 2012 Sainte Marie Celebrations
- 1976 Bicentennial
- Saint Mary's picnics, especially on the grounds around the old white parish center
- Bend picnics

Items needed are pictures, movies, slides, videos Memorabilia from any of the above events, dresses/clothing from the anniversary celebrations, buttons, souvenirs, dolls from the doll stands, and written or video recordings of memories of meals, games, the cook shack, dances at the white parish hall or from any of the above celebrations..

Contact Mike Hartrich at 618.562.8678, Donna M. Keller (text) at 618.562.3434. or Sharon Tuttle (text) at 618.309.1550. You can also contact Mike or Donna through FB Messenger.





A constant in the Sainte Marie Community for the past 118 years is our local bank. Started in 1905 by the Severine Laugel, it has become an institution that has served a much wider area. The original members were Louis Huss, D. P. Ochs, Frank L. Merceret, Severine Laugel, Arthur Pictor, Joseph Picquet, A. J. Litzelman, Anslem Spitzer, J. M. Miller, William Reis, F. E. Kraus, Charles Litzelman, C.P. Harmon, P. Berns, Joseph Kaufmann, R. W. Kuechler, W. A. Wenz, William Mason, S. P. Berns, Jacob Rennie, and Charles Barthelme. The bank building was a two-room metal clad building located north of the old brick Hartrich store.

The members formed the bank under the name of the Bank of Sainte Marie. Total resources at the time were \$17,024.29. A new building was built in 1911 and housed the bank until the present-day bank was built in 1981.

On December 14, 1920, a new charter was granted by the State of Illinois to operate as a state bank. At this time, the name of the bank was changed the Sainte Marie State Bank. An early day slogan of the bank was, "If you have money, we want it; if you want money, we have it."

A long-time slogan was "The bank where a depositor never lost a dollar."

One of the most exciting events in Sainte Marie history happened on Wednesday, July 21, 1920. Three men entered the bank and held up cashier Irenis Barthelme, and customer Gus Richards who entered the bank while the robbery was in progress. The bandits took off with all the cash and paper resources valued at \$39,982.98 save \$0.78! It took the excellent work of Sheriff J. A. Eaton, Deputy Sheriff Paul Girhard, several other officers, and a posse formed of a large number of private citizens, to capture the bandits and their accomplices. All but \$0.06 of the stolen money was recovered.

Later that decade, a major economic depression swept across the country. This brought about the failure of many banks. Sainte Marie State Bank was an exception to that. The year end report for 1932 showed the bank to be in excellent financial shape. On March 6, 1933, a federal order was given to suspend all operations at banks nationwide. After the books were examined at the Sainte Marie bank, it was approved to open in April 1933 and has remained open since. The bank received their FDIC signage in August of 1934, several months after the insurance went into effect.

S. R. Laugel was the first bank president. Ed Barthelme was longtime president of the bank, followed by his son-in-law E. C. "Country" Alblinger who assumed the position at the time of Ed's passing. His son Don took over President for many

years until his death. Susan Tarr took over the reins in January of 2023. She is the first woman bank president in Jasper County!

On the bank's new FaceBook page, *Sainte Marie State Bank*, Susan commented that she had been in banking since high school when she was a co-op student and has worked in most banking positions since then.

Susan mentioned that some new features that are possibilities are online banking and a savings account program for kids.

The bank held an open house recently providing the public a chance to visit, enjoy some refreshments, and talk to employees. We wish the bank many more years of success!



Current Sainte Marie State Bank Management Team

Front Row: Susan Tarr, President; Jane Geltz, Teller; Amanda Kuhl, Customer Service Representative

Back Row: Mihaela Alblinger, Cashier; Robert Alblinger, Vice-President/Director



First Bank Building



Second Bank building, erected 1911



Current Building built in 1981

Transitions

Marcella L. Menke Strutner, 96, passed away on February 26, 2023.

She was born in Sainte Marie township, the daughter of Leonard and Frances Menke. She attended Sainte Mary of the Assumption School, two years at Sainte Marie High School and then finished her education at Newton Community High School, graduating with the class of 1945. She worked in Chicago with the Treasury Department recording service E war bonds. Marcella was the last surviving charter member of the Sainte Marie American Legion Auxiliary Unit 932. She was a member of this organization for 74 years.

She married Oscar Strutner in 1948 and he preceded her in death in 2015. They were the parents of: Suzy (Tom) Lawler, Barb (Larry) Thoele, Jane (Dave) Geltz, Tony (Martha) Strutner, Jim (deceased) and Eric (Lorraine) Strutner.

Marcella is also survived by daughter-in-law, Christy Strutner, 14 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

Besides her husband, Oscar, and son, Jim, Marcella was also preceded in death by granddaughter, Allison Thoele, great granddaughter Evie Lawler, and brothers Lee and Gene Menke.

Leroy Frohning, 85, of rural Newton passed away of January 4, 2023. He grew up on the family farm south of Newton. He married Betty Seiler in 1961, and she preceded him in death in 2016.

Leroy is survived by daughters: Linda (Bill) Clinton, Teresa (Kevin) Ochs, Cheryl (David) Matson, Sandy (Roy Allen) Dhom, and Leanne (Ben) Keller

Coletta T. Steber Ochs, 93, passed away on February 23, 2023. She was born in Claremont on March 14, 1929, the daughter of Gus and Christine Steber. She married Leonard Ochs in 1960. He preceded her in death in 2016. Coletta sold chickens and eggs and raised beautiful flower gardens. They were blessed with two children: Alan (Nancy) Ochs, and Dan (Jill) Ochs. Also surviving are Owen Ochs, and step grandchild Kirstin (Joshua) Ochs and two great grandchildren.

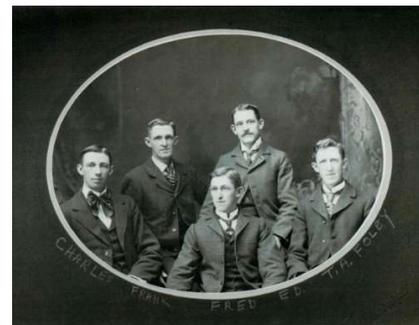
It's a Small World After All

The following story was sent to me by Gordon Bower, grandson of Jerome Hartrich. Jerry was one of the sons of Paul and Monice Hartrich. He married Helen Foley from Paris, and they lived in the Xavier Picquet mansion. Shortly after the birth of their seventh child, Helen Hartrich died. To help Jerry take care of the children, Helen's mother and father moved to Sainte Marie and lived with him.

Gordon lives in Punta Gordo, Florida. Several years ago, he had a bad case of bronchitis and was admitted to the hospital. While waiting for a procedure, the tech in the operating room mentioned to Gordon that they had been born in Illinois. Gordon replied that he, too, had been born in Illinois. When asked what part of the state, he replied it was a small town in the southern part of the state; one the others had probably never heard of, Newton. The other party replied he was from Paris, Illinois.

Gordon said he had relatives in Paris and often went there on Memorial Day to decorate graves and picnic. He asked the gentleman's last name. It was Foley! The same as his grandmother and great-grandparents. The other gentleman said he had heard of Fred. His great grandfather's name was TA Foley, who may have been Fred's brother. I told him to come up to my room the next day to look at a photo I had on my phone. I had not noticed the names at the bottom of the photo, but there they were in black and white – Fred and TA sitting side by side, "big Foley ears flying in the breeze."

What are the odds that you would meet someone in an operating room 1000 miles from your hometown and discover your great grandfathers were brothers!



Foley Brothers

2nd Annual Mardi Gras Festivities

Sainte Marie was all decked out in its finest Mardi Gras colors on Saturday, February 18. The Sainte Marie American Legion Auxiliary Unit 932 sponsored the second annual Mardi Gras parade. After the parade, Town Talk restaurant featured jambalaya and jalapeno cornbread, and **Dennis Stroughmatt and the Creole Stomp** gave an outstanding performance from 6-9 at the Legion Hall. This is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Auxiliary.

Winners in the parade categories were:

Individual: Jason and Anna Keller family

Business: Town Talk Restaurant

Bar: Hi-Benders

Thanks to all for the support!



Dennis Stroughmatt & Creole Stomp

Cork & Pork Festival News

The morning of the Cork & Pork Festival, we will be having the Cork & Pork Jeep Run in memory of John Lybarger and sponsored by McClane Motors in Newton, Geltz Properties, Burke's Realty and the Midway Diner in Stoy. Volunteers will be registering Jeepers from 9-10 am at Picquet Park in Sainte Marie and will leave at 10 am with stops at MVP, Muddy Saloon, BJ's Saloon, SKY Saloon and The Hill Bar that will include a 50/50 drawing and a raffle prize at each stop. The Jeepers will be back in time for the start of the festival at around 4:30 pm and there will be other raffle prizes given away when they get back to Picquet Park for the festival. Nancy (Bruce) Ochs is in charge of the Jeep Run.

This year's Cork & Pork Festival is on Saturday, July 8th and starts at 4:30 PM. Flat Mountain will be playing from 4:30-6:30 PM and the Feudin' Hillbillies will entertain from 7-10 PM. There will be 8 wineries that will be providing samples and selling their wine by the glass, bottle or case. Hartrich Meats and the Jasper County Pork Producers will be providing the Pork Food Stand with pulled pork, Porksicles (pork chop on a stick) pulled pork nachos and of course the famous Jasper County Pork Burgers. Over one thousand pounds of pork is donated by JBS. There will also be souvenirs for sale and a beer garden, all manned by volunteers.

The Cork & Pork Festival is unique in that the only vendors at the festival are the wineries...they put the *CORK* in the Cork & Pork Festival. The food and drinks are all sold by the festival, which brings in more revenue. The festival is run completely by volunteers who work 2 hours shifts. These volunteer workers are not just from Sainte Marie...there are over 200 people from all over Jasper County and other counties, including past residents of Sainte Marie and those who just LOVE Sainte Marie! The Cork & Pork Festival has generous sponsors that allow for the planning and financing of a great festival, getting top music and gives the ability to advertise in an 8-county area. Sponsors also include many agricultural-related corporations; chemical, feed, seed companies, etc. The Cork & Pork Festival promotes tourism and brings in money from outside the county, so we also have the help of the local Embarras River Tourism Council and Discover Downstate Illinois Tourism Council.

We have a great day planned for you at the Cork & Pork Jeep Run and Festival on July 8th. If anyone would like to work a 2-hour shift, please contact Donna M. Keller. See you at the Cork & Pork Festival!



9th Annual CORK & PORK Festival

Sainte Marie, IL

Saturday July 8, 2023 at Picquet Park

\$10 COVER CHARGE PER PERSON FOR FESTIVAL & CONCERT

Limited Wine Tastings - Pork - Live Music - Beer Garden - Souvenirs



KITE HILL
WINERY



FOX CREEK
VINEYARDS



HOMESTEAD
VINEYARDS



the pour
VINEYARD



Flat Mountain
4:30 - 6:30 PM



Feudin' Hillbillies
7 - 10 PM

Made Possible By All Our Sponsors &








MUST BE 21 - HAVE ID - NO COOLERS PLEASE - EVERYONE PAYS \$10 EA

All profits go to local School & Community Organizations - Over \$188,000.00 given back

Tucson, Finally!

Sister John Berchmans was the oldest daughter of Theodore and Frances Chable Hartrich. She entered Sisters of Carondelet Convent in St. Louis in 1866 and made her final vows in September of 1868. She served five years as a teacher in the St. Louis area and was Mother Superior and teacher in Waterloo, IL for another five years. She was the a part of the third wave of Sisters who made the arduous trek west.

June 1876

About five miles from Tucson, Mother St. John, Sr. Mary, and Father Antonio came to meet us. You may imagine how glad we were to see them! The Sisters did not expect us until Friday morning, but we arrived Thursday evening. The convent is comfortably arranged; they also have a high wall around it. The town is large; all the houses are made of adobe except a few buildings which are made of brick. The Cathedral is pretty large; part of the floor is boarded. They have only a few pews in about half of the church. The feast of Corpus Christi we had the procession with the Blessed Sacrament. It is kept here on a day of obligation. Sunday afternoon we had quite a pleasant drive to the novitiate; it is in a pretty place. The house is not completed. We took our supper with us and enjoyed ourselves until evening. Last Sunday in the Octave of Corpus Christi they celebrated the feast at St. Xavier's Mission

about 9 miles south of Tucson. The Bishop, Fathers and all the Sisters except two. There was to be the procession, but the people and Indians had forgotten all about it, and of course were not prepared. We enjoyed ourselves very much in examining the ancient building. The church can be seen at a distance of about two miles. It is built in the form of a cross; the monastery is adjoining the church. The walls are of immense thickness, nearly four or five feet at least. There are two towers, one of them has never been finished; there are still five bells; some of them have been taken for other churches. The Altars, five in number are all made of brick covered with plaster, I never saw so little wood used in a building. The steps are all made of brick even those leading to the steeple. *(One line here is indiscernible because of the fold in the paper)*wall of about 2 feet in height, ornamented with heard of bears or lions, I don't know which. It must have been grand when new, when now it still retains some of its beauty and grandeur. I cannot tell you the feeling that came over one when kneeling before the altar. I must close my Journal; although I have a great deal more to tell you, but it would take too much time. Please excuse all mistakes for this is my first attempt to write a journal.

Your grateful and affectionate child and Sister,

Sr. M. J. Berchmans

Sister John Berchmans was then assigned to move to Prescott, AZ to establish a school. She was the Mother Superior at St. Joseph's Hospital during her time there. She died on June 14, 1879, at the age of 32 from unknown causes. She is buried in the Sisters' Cemetery in Prescott, AZ.

The following was taken from:

<https://sacredheartprescott.com/about/>

Three Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet; Mother John Berchmans Hartrich, Sr. Mary Martha Dunne, and Sr. Rose Doran, opened St. Joseph's Hospital. on September 6, 1878, for the employees and miners in a small frame house on the corner of Alarcon and Willis Streets. Until then civilians with serious illnesses or injuries had been admitted to the "hospital" at Whipple Barracks.

Classes were held for Catholic children of the town in a back room of the building called Little Pioneer School of the West, and by late 1880, the sisters had as many as 40 students and were in need of a larger building.

Mother Monica Corrigan, on October 1, 1879, purchased a building and grounds on Marina Street. She also purchased additional lots to create a first-class hospital. However, BP. Peter Bourgade, the new Vicar of Arizona Apostolic, thought that a small number of patients did not warrant a staff of four sisters and that the building was better suited to a much school. In order to comply with BP. Bourgade's request, St. Joseph's Hospital was converted into a school and became known as St. Joseph's Academy.

James and Louise Keller



James and Louise Keller ca. 1905

The story of James and Louise Huber Keller starts many years before they were united in marriage in 1905. In fact, their story begins thousands of miles away in the farming communities of Germany and eastern France.

Joseph Petar Huber was born in 1823 in the area where many of his ancestors had lived before him, Harbach Germany. He was the youngest child of Ignatz and Magdalena Brandstetter Huber and the third son named Joseph. As was common of the times, a family name given at birth to a child was used again if the first child had died. That way the name continued in the family.

Joseph served his time of mandatory military service and upon completion was quoted as saying: "Once I get out of the country, I will shake the dust of the fatherland from my feet, go to that fine new country called America across the sea, and never return."



Joseph Petar Huber

That sentiment was shared by many as Germany was in a tumultuous position! There was a constant threat of war defending borders, a severe economic stalled industrial growth and urban unemployment, there were crop failures, bread riots, hunger strikes, revolutions against the government, and land seizures. As a result, more than 5

million German residents made the trip to the land of promise, The United States in the mid-1800s. Joseph left Le Havre, France in 1851 on the *Minnesota* and landed in New York. He and first lived in Philadelphia with friends to learn the language and to secure employment. He moved on to Cincinnati, an area with a large German population, where he lived for ten years. It was during this time that he met and married Crescentia Roedinger, a recent widow. They moved westward to Indiana and were blessed with four boys in seven years: George, Joseph, John, and Herman. Still looking for the best place for his family, they came to Sainte Marie on the December 7, the eve of the Immaculate Conception. Because of his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Joseph felt he had found the place for his family to grow. The family bought land on the sand ridge east of Sainte Marie, living in a small cabin a neighbor let them use. After a couple of years, the cabin was bursting at the seams and the family decided to build a 15' x 25' cabin with two rooms below, one upstairs, and a large fireplace at one end. During this time, the family suffered the loss of Crescentia in January of 1877. Neighbors and his strong sense of faith helped him through this very hard time.

The log house was only temporary as Joseph had a plan for a house that would be in the family for many years. Joseph and his sons began work on the house. Having built a house in Germany such as the one he was working on now; Joseph knew exactly how many bricks he would need for the structure. He and his sons worked many hours digging clay from the banks of the Embarras, packing the clay into molds and firing the bricks. Once the correct number of bricks was had, the men began the construction of the house, and what a house it was! The beautiful house was full of solid oak and walnut and there were large rooms to accommodate the growing families.



Huber House "On the Hill"
Rural Sainte Marie, Illinois

George and John had bought their own farms and that left Joseph, Sr., Joseph, Jr., and Herman in the house. Herman married Mary Josephine Valbert, a local girl, in 1883. The house soon began to fill with children. Herman and Mary were the parents of seven children: Louise, Lawrence, Ellen,

Mary (Mayme), Esther, Josephine, and Leona. Life was very busy on the farm and the house was full of activity.



Herman and Mary Josephine Valbert Huber ca 1910



Traveling the frequently flooded Embarras :
Esther, Louise Herman holding Leona, Lawrence, and Joseph, Jr.



Huber Family Front Row L-R Lawrence, Leona, Herman, Joie, Mary
Back L-R Ellen, Mayme, Esther, Louise

James' ancestral story is very similar to Louise's. His family came was from Alsace, France. During the 1820s-1850s, life in this area was very difficult.

Farmable land was becoming scarce as the government owned more and more of the land. Inherited tracts of land became smaller and smaller. Brothers sold out to brothers

and used the money to buy passage to the United States. And then there was the Forest Code of 1827 which forbade citizens to access the nearby forests. So now, people that were used to using the forests for survival (wood, foraging, and hunting) could not do so. Of course, the threat of being conscripted into the military was very real.

Nicholas Keller was born in Wingersheim, Bas Rhin, France, the son of Joseph and Madeleine Schott Keller in 1818. He decided to leave France and come to the United States in the early 1840s. His father, Joseph, and sisters, Sophie, Magdalena, and Barbara followed Nicholas after the death of their wife and mother in 1840.



Nicholas and Catherine Keller

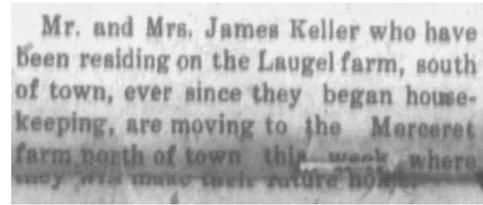
in October of 1844 in Jasper County Nicholas married Catherine Schnepf who had arrived in the U.S. in 1837. They had six children: Joseph, Michael, Nicholas, Victoria, Catherine, and Alesius.

Their son, Joseph, married Catharine Rohr in November of 1876 and they had eight children: Mary Elenore (died in infancy), Mary Clephora, James, Anna, Callistus, Charles, Mary, Joseph P., and Fannie. Nicholas died in an unfortunate accident in 1899 and Catharine was left to raise the children. The Keller children worked hard to help their mother feed and clothe their large family.



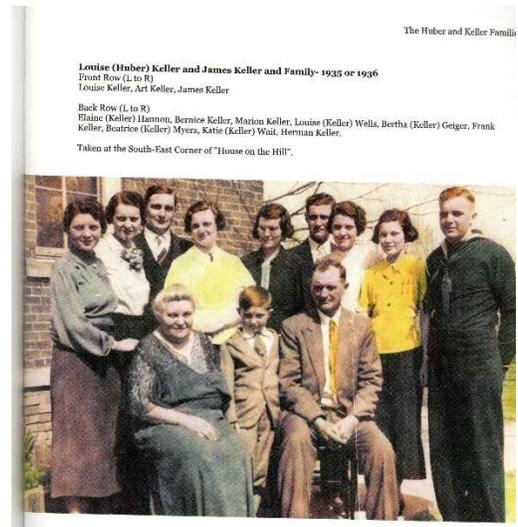
Joseph and Catharine Rohr Keller

In 1904, James I. Keller married Louise M. Huber in 1904. They lived on several farms after their marriage including the Laugel farm south of town and the Merceret farm not too far from the large brick house on the sand ridge.



Joseph, Sr. passed away on December 7, 1910. A few years later in 1916, Herman succumbed to kidney disease at the young age of 53.

A few years later, with no one to run the farm, Mary Huber decided it was time to move to Sainte Marie and the house and farm went to her oldest daughter, Louise, and Louise's husband, James Keller.



The Huber and Keller Family
 Louise (Huber) Keller and James Keller and Family- 1935 or 1936
 Front Row (L to R)
 Louise Keller, Art Keller, James Keller
 Back Row (L to R)
 Elaine (Keller) Hamm, Bernice Keller, Marion Keller, Louise (Keller) Wells, Bertha (Keller) Getger, Frank Keller, Beatrice (Keller) Myers, Katie (Keller) Wuhl, Herman Keller.
 Taken at the South-East Corner of "House on the Hill".

They took over the farming and raised a lively bunch of 10. The house was full of laughter and noise, again. Their children were: Bertha, Beatrice, Bernice, Francis, Marion, Elaine, Louise, Herman, Mary Katherine, and Arthur. There was a wide age span between the children, (24 years) so the house was full of activity for a very long time!



Huber/Keller House "On the Hill"
 Rural Sainte Marie, Illinois

James passed away in 1945 at the age of 63. Most of the older children had already married and moved away, but his youngest son, Art was only 16. Louise and Art soon moved to Sainte Marie, and it was time for another generation to take over. Frank and his wife Celeste Menke Keller and their two children, June and Jean, moved to the large brick house and took over the farming. Although the house was still very sturdy and roomy, electricity and modern conveniences were never brought to the house. The river often flooded, making it very difficult to get to school. The family lived here for several years and then moved to a house that offered things that made life easier.

Mary Katherine Keller Wait, the last of James and Louise's children, passed away in October of 2022 at the age of 101. She was a great supporter of the Sainte Marie Foundation. The brick house stood empty for the first time in almost 90 years. It had sheltered many through its long life. The house was torn down and all that remains are fragments of the great beauty she was. The handmade bricks were porous and deteriorated quickly. Its beauty remains in paintings, pictures, and the minds of those lucky enough to see it in her former glory.

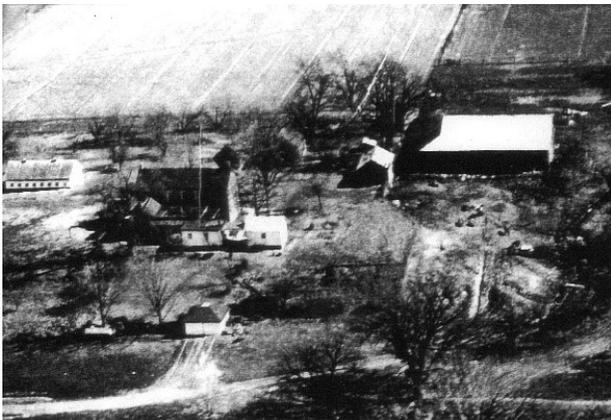
The Other Helen Keller



Helen in the mid 60s

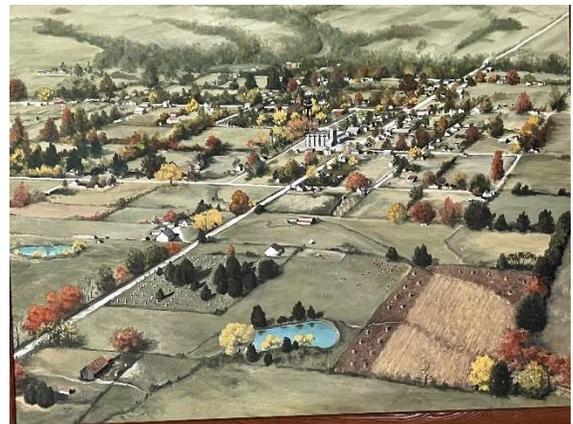
Thinkers, inventors, volunteers, spiritual leaders, diligent workers, musicians, creators...Sainte Marie has been incredibly blessed with citizens who shared their gifts with us! Making a list of such people, Helen Keller Graham would have to be one of the first to come to mind.

Helen's paintings grace the walls of many homes in Sainte Marie, Jasper County, and beyond. She painted so many wonderful depictions of local landmarks, homes, people, etc. but people really loved her paintings of old barns. Helen was proud to say that her works can be found in 13 states and three European countries! To catalog her mother's works and as a loving memorial to Helen, her daughter, Diann Graham, has been working on a book, titled "The Other Helen Keller".

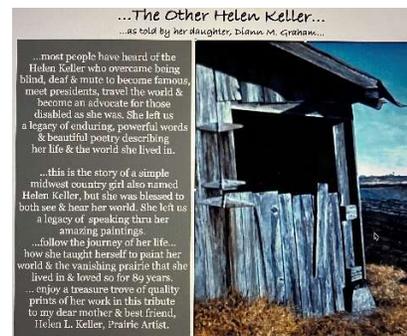


Aerial View of the farm in the 1940s

Note: Jason and Anna Keller are the next generation to own and farm the land as they recently purchased the property from Jean Keller Smith and June Keller Zuber.



One of her early commissioned works
An aerial view of Sainte Marie



The first page of the book



The Barthelme Home

Also included is an ink drawing of a large tree Helen made into a family tree. The back of the book will include family histories of the Kellers, Woodards, Starks, the Keller sisters, and the Graham's family tree.

Diann had the idea to catalog all of Helen's paintings in a book; a way to show her collective works and highlight Helen's progression as an artist. Well, that is how it started. Once Diann began, she clearly saw there was so much more to Helen than her art. What experiences shaped her? Who were the people that came before her? What were their stories? What did she learn by growing up in the Sainte Marie community?

Helen was the third of four daughters born to Joseph P. and Minnie Stark Keller. She was born in 1921 on the Keller farm just southwest of Sainte Marie. Her sisters were also well known in the community: Dorothy Hahn, Evelyn Shoffstall, and Freda Swisher. She married Charles Graham in 1941 and they had three children: two sons, Don and Charles "Lafe", and daughter, Diann. The Graham's were originally from the Bend area, but Charlie's dad then moved his family to northeastern Jasper County. Helen and Charlie's farm was near the Mound in eastern Jasper County. Charlie and Helen are both buried in the Mound Cemetery.



Many people have helped Diann with the book. Her daughter, Kelly, who spent a lot of time with her beloved Grandma Helen is writing the epilogue. The children of each of the Keller sisters are working on their branch of the family, Diann's children are helping edit Helen's part, Linda Bailey, Helen's painting buddy and Diann's 8th grade art teacher is helping with the artist's journey and gallery section, and Mike Hartrich and Gina Fox are helping with the early Sainte Marie part.

Diann is on the search for paintings her mother has done. If you have a Helen Keller Graham painting, Diann would love to see it and talk to you about it. She can be reached at 217.549.9197 or private message her on FaceBook.

Diann is self-printing the book and hopes to be able to have the first book printed by the end of April. She thinks it may end up being around 275 pages. It has taken on a life of its own!

I am sure Helen would be very proud!



Because Diann knew she had to include other parts of Helen's story, not just her art, she divided the book into several sections: history of the families, the growth and development of Helen's artistic abilities, and a gallery of her works.

Diann included the piece about Helen's development because she wanted others to know that Helen wasn't born with the ability to paint. Her progress is divided into decades and tells of her use of different media and tools.

The gallery is divided into barns, landscapes, people and pets, still lifes, and other.

