

The Happenings

June/July 1993

St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express National Memorial

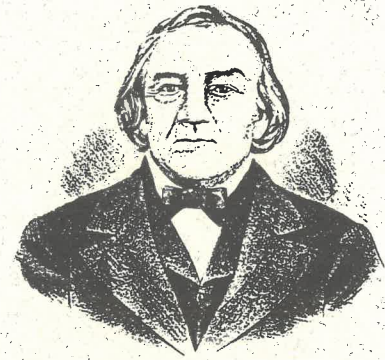
150th ANNIVERSARY

July 26, 1843 - the City of St. Joseph was established. The story of St. Joseph's beginnings is an interesting one. It is a tale that every third grader in our school district is told. The story extends beyond the boundaries of our town to become a part of our country's expansion to the West.

The story begins with fur traders exploring the land of the Missouri River Valley. One of those traders in 1799 was Joseph Robidoux, a boy of 16 years, who was accompanying his famous fur trading family up the Missouri River and past Blacksnake Hills, the future site of St. Joseph. Robidoux's early years as a trader centered around the Council Bluffs area, but by the fall of 1826, he had chosen the area at the mouth of Roy's Branch for a post. During the spring of 1827, Robidoux moved his post down river about a mile to the mouth of Blacksnake Creek. Today, the site of Robidoux's post is at the foot of Jules Street under the I-229 overpass. From that location, St. Joseph would grow.

Until 1837, Robidoux and a few men in the employ of the Indian agency were the only non-Indians who could legally live in the Blacksnake Hills area. It was part of the Platte Territory which belonged to the Iowa, Sac and Fox tribes. After 1837 when the Platte Territory was purchased from the Indians and added to the already existing State of Missouri, settlers flocked in. Many of the settlers chose to locate near Robidoux's trading post at Blacksnake Hills.

Robidoux, realizing the value of the land around his post and seeing a chance to make a profit, purchased 160 acres with the intent of platting a town and selling off lots. He asked Simeon Kemper and Frederick Smith, two early settlers who were also surveyors, to each draw up a plat of a city. Robidoux would choose one of the plats. Kemper's plan had wide streets, and he suggested the name of Robidoux for the town. Smith's plat had narrow streets with those running east and west named for Robidoux family members. In Smith's plan the town was called St. Joseph. When he chose Smith's plat,



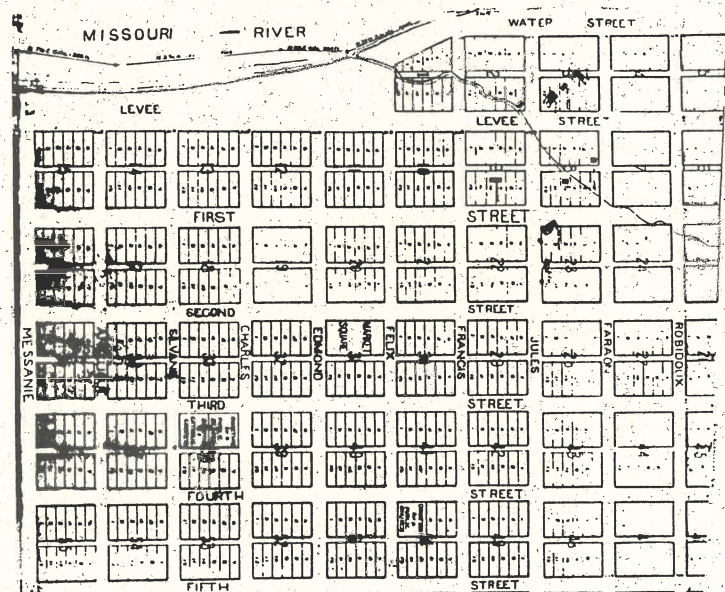
Joseph Robidoux, fur trader and founder of St. Joseph, Missouri. This drawing shows Robidoux in his late forties or early fifties - the age at which he was operating a fur trading post at Blacksnake Hills, the future site of St. Joseph.

Robidoux commented (according to folklore) :

"I want to sell my land in lots, not give it away in streets." The town was officially established when the plat was recorded in St. Louis on July 26, 1843.

The sale of town lots began immediately, and St. Joseph's population jumped from 200 in June 1843 to 500 in December 1843. The town would continue to grow and play a major role in the story of the development of the American West.

It's been a great 150 years! Happy Birthday, St. Joseph!



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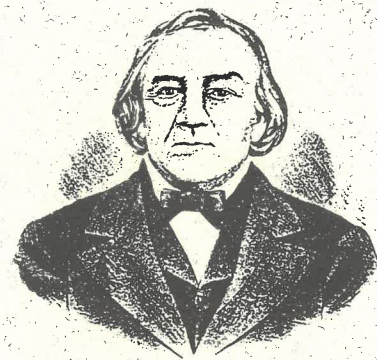
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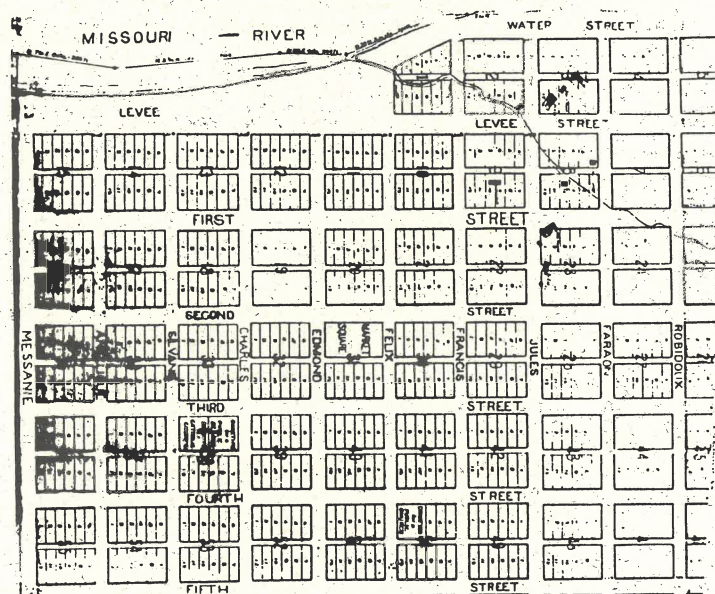
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 17 The Oregon-California Trails Association sponsored a field trip to trails leading into St. Joseph from the east.
- July 20 "YOU ARE THE DIFFERENCE - A CUSTOMER SERVICE AND TOURISM WORKSHOP" held at the National Military Heritage Museum.
- July 23 St. Joseph Museum sponsored field trip of Historical Buchanan County and St. Joseph.
- August 17 "YOU ARE THE DIFFERENCE - A CUSTOMER SERVICE AND TOURISM WORKSHOP" will be held. Location to be announced.

The St. Joseph Archaeological Society will be digging every Tuesday and Friday morning from 8 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the site of Joseph Robidoux's trading post. (The time is subject to change).
The dig will last through the summer.

For more museum information call 232-8471

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St. Joseph Museum

1100 Charles Street

St. Joseph, Missouri 64501-2874

Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.

Sundays 1-5 p.m.

Pony Express National Memorial

914 Penn Street, P.O. Box 244

St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0244

Monday through Saturday 9-6 p.m.

Sundays 1-6 p.m.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL Funding Update

American Family Insurance

The Blueside Company

Johnson Controls

Mead Corporation Foundation

Margaret Ann Pitts

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ New member ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift

Your Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____

Gift membership for: (please fill in your name above)

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____

Membership level:

___ \$1000.00	Patron	___ \$100.00	Donor
___ 500.00	Fellow	___ 50.00	Subscribing
___ 250.00	Sponsor	___ 25.00	Sustaining

Enclosed is a check for:
\$ _____

Please make your check payable to the St. Joseph Museum or Pony Express National Memorial and mail to:

**ST. JOSEPH
MUSEUM**
1100 Charles Street
St. Joseph, Missouri
64501-2874

All contributions are equally divided between the St. Joseph Museum and Pony Express National Memorial unless otherwise specified.

Re-Create History and Reduce Your Taxes by 50%

The Pony Express Museum Restoration and Expansion Project is an authorized Missouri Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) Project.

Any person, firm or corporation in business in the State of Missouri is eligible to receive a NAP tax credit of up to 50% of the amount donated to the museum project.

Contributions of real estate, materials and equipment, stock, and personal time may qualify for tax credits, as well as cash donations.

Help Support The National Memorial

Capital Levels of Giving
One time gift or three year pledge

\$50,000	Capital Founders
\$25,000	Benefactors
\$10,000	Principals
\$ 5,000	Partners
\$ 1,000	Patrons
\$ 100	Donors

For more information contact: Sandy Taylor 816/232-8471

The Pony Express National Memorial 1993 Pledge Card

Yes, I would like to help support the National Memorial by making a tax-deductible capital contribution.

Name _____ Business _____

Address _____ Please send me information about the Missouri NAP tax credits:

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I would like to pledge \$ _____ I am enclosing today \$ _____ Balance to be paid _____ quarterly
_____ semi-annually _____ annually

Signature of Donor/Contact Person _____ (As it should appear on our contributor's list)

Make checks payable to Pony Express, Inc. - A National Memorial, P.O. Box 244, St. Joseph, Missouri, 64502-0244
Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

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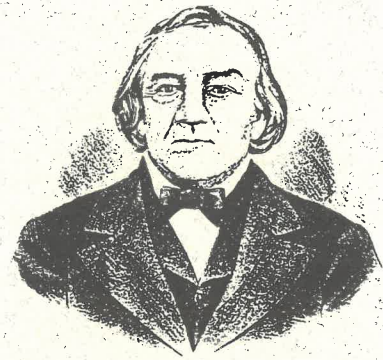
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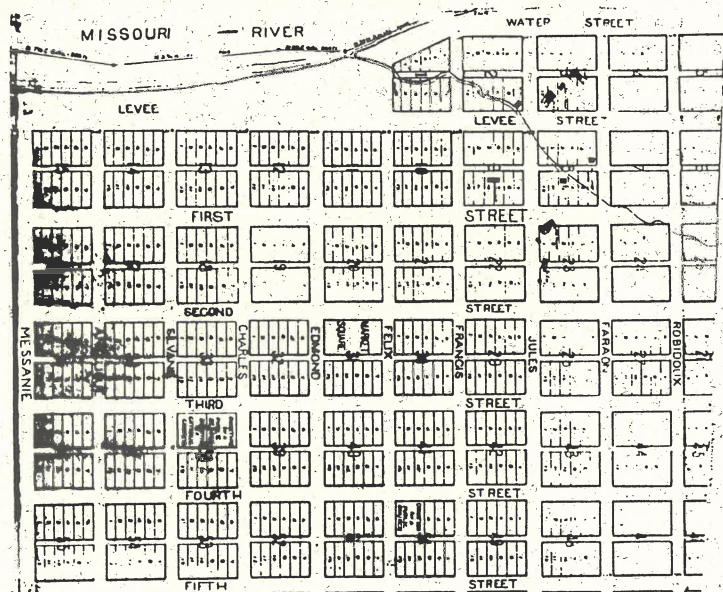
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Diagram D

Plat 35 West of St. Joe Mo. U.S. Army, 1841