

Zach Snapp
Student Media
Mr.Shannon
12-14-22

Randolph Co. Jail Final Paper

Randolph county a small rural county with few small to mid sized towns and needed a lot of work to become the county it is today. After the founding of Randolph county one of the first necessities would happen to be a jail house. Located on the south western corner of the Winchester Indiana town square was a small log cabin built in 1820 by Alberta Banta with a build cost of \$125. The log jail house would go on to be in operation until 1856 making it operational for 36 years according to the Randolph County Historical Society.

The second jailhouse would be built in 1856 and would have multiple housing stories. Ditching the logs for more steady stone flagging, the jailhouse would be built alongside the old southern wall of the old log jailhouse. The new jailhouse would go on to include a 45 by 58 foot jail area with a sheriff's residence of 54 by 29.5 foot¹. The jailhouse floor was split into 2 tiers with separate cells. The second floor was reserved for a hospital-like infirmary with large rooms, a fireplace and heated wards. Tucker said in 1882, "Great improvements, so reckoned, and great expense as well, in jail construction, have been made since the days of the hewed log jail built in 1819."²

The current jailhouse built in 1931³, included more modern renditions of the inside of the second jailhouse. The modern jail included a updated Sheriff's quarters and an updated hospital/infirmary. Along with the sheriff's quarters and the new hospital area, there were

¹ rchsmuseum.blogspot.com, Feb. 2019 by William Jackson.

² Winchester News-Gazette, Jan. 1978.
by William Jackson.

³ Randolph county jail newspaper september 18, 1994

updated cells added too. The jailhouse cell floor was split into multiple groups, there were separate cells for male and female detainees, and the new jail even included separate cells for juveniles. The Randolph Co. jail has been in operation for a total of ninety-one years. The jail itself has changed so many times in the ninety-years it has been in operation, these changes include going from being built out of wood logs to being a complete brick and mortar building. The sheriff's themselves have changed over the years too, from our first sheriff, David Wright, to our current sheriff Art L Moystner, with a staff of seventeen full time deputies, two reserves, and nineteen jail staff.⁴ The Randolph county jail has housed nearly fourteen thousand inmates total a year,⁵ That is nearly one thousand-one hundred-and sixteen inmates a month and about 38 inmates everyday. The jail brings in around fifty-three thousand dollars in revenue every year and that equals to about four thousand- four hundred- and sixteen dollars every month. In addition to the revenue, the annual salary for the sheriff's department as an entirety is about twenty-six thousand dollars to a little over forty thousand dollars. These salaries include the officers who make nine dollars and twenty-five cents an hour and the correctional officers who make around eleven dollars an hour. The Randolph Co. jail has been around for over ninety years and our community can count on it being here for another ninety years.

⁴ in.gov

⁵ Lewisburg-wv.com randolph county jail, indiana