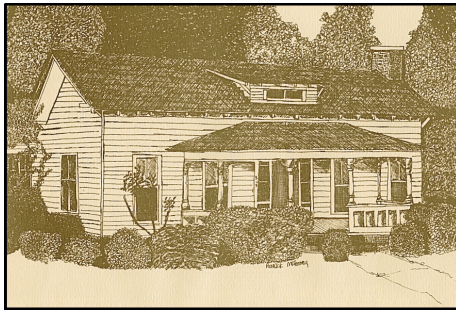


Randol-Melin House, 1877 - 303 W. Washington St.



Built by D.B. Pankey in 1877 and sold to T.R.R. Ely in 1887, this Folk Victorian-style house is believed to be the oldest in Kennett.

During the Victorian era, decorative brackets like these were often ordered from catalogs. The Victorian screen door features gingerbread corner brackets and spindles in the middle, while the original four-panel solid wood interior doors retain their cast iron rim locks, which were popular at the time. Unlike today's mortise locks, which are set within the door's edge, these rim locks are

surface-mounted. The house also boasts its original milk house, where dairy products were cooled with ice, insulated by sawdust-filled walls. Inside, the home has eight rooms, two of which have 14-foot ceilings.

In 1904, the house was purchased by V.V. Randol, who served as county surveyor from 1902 until 1940. Randol was also a school superintendent, rural mail carrier, farmer, and beekeeper. His son, Eugene Randol, was Kennett's longest-serving postmaster - from 1935 to 1941. The house has remained in the family.

Children of V.V. Randol in front of the house about 1905: Eugene, Helen and Elizabeth. Also shown are a rim lock and the milk house.



Sources: *History of Southeast Missouri*, Robert Sidney Douglass, 1912; *History of Dunklin County, Mo.*, Mary Smythe-Davis, 1895; *Dunklin County Historical Society*; *Dunklin Daily Democrat*, *Twice-A-Week Democrat*. Sketches by KHS Art Club, 1982. Scan the QR code for more information on Kennett's history.

