

RITTER MUSEUM PARLOR Restored to 1892 Era

It was the fall of 2023 when the *Cardinal Ritter Birthplace Foundation, Inc. (CRBFI)* was notified that a beautiful Eastlake Period display cabinet was available at no cost from the New Albany Floyd County Library. The style matched the late Victorian era of the home. Within days, the library graciously delivered the treasure and placed it in the entrance parlor.



Almost immediately other donated items appeared: a secretary that was plucked from the local flood waters and later restored, three matching period chairs from a dusty attic and re-upholstered by a local artist, a Victorian lamp, and a cast-iron plant stand. Late 19th century period rose-patterned wallpaper soon covered the walls and echoes the Cardinal's love of growing roses. Above the fireplace is a beautiful original oil painting of the Cardinal.



Family is the focus of this parlor restoration. On one wall hangs a circa 1903 family photo in an antique frame featuring Bertha and Nicholas at rest on a summer afternoon with their five sons and one daughter with her dolly in a pram. In the display case are portraits of those same six children circa 1917 on the occasion of Elmer Joseph's ordination. Lastly, there hangs a group photo of the family circa 1941-43. The images were entrusted

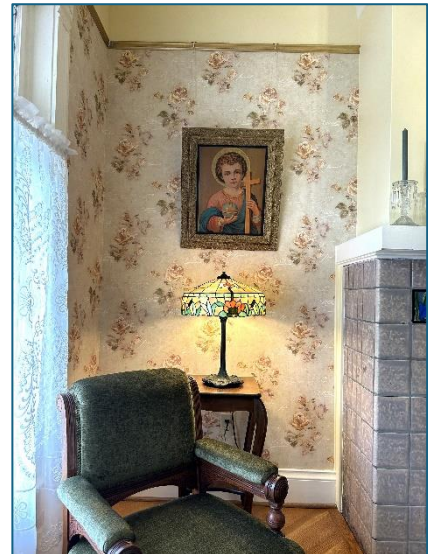
to the *CRBFI Archive* by current members of the Ritter family following their 2013 reunion held at the Birthplace.

The Ritter Museum Front Parlor now echoes the lives of Nicholas and Bertha Ritter and their children, adjoining the family business, the Ritter Bakery storefront.



The RITTER MUSEUM portion of the Cardinal Ritter House now includes four unique locations.

1. The 2013 **Ritter Museum Room** displays the history of Cardinal Ritter's life and accomplishments. It connects the original house to the 2011 Neighborhood Resource Center meeting room.
2. The **Ritter Museum Rose Garden** adjacent to the Museum Room pays homage to the cardinal's favorite hobby, tending to his roses.
3. The **Ritter Museum Birth Room** on the second floor was restored in 2023 to recognize the actual place where Elmer Joseph Ritter was born in 1892.
4. The **Ritter Museum Front Parlor** was renovated 2024 to recognize the family heritage of Nicholas and Bertha and their six children, thus completing the historic public spaces in the Cardinal Ritter Birthplace.



CARDINAL RITTER BIRTHPLACE FOUNDATION, INCORPORATED

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