

THE QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE  
Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc.

Museum--Corner Main and Water Streets

Versailles, Indiana 47042

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VOLUME XVI

APRIL 1992

NUMBER 2

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### SPRING MEETING

The next meeting of the Ripley County Historical Society will be held in Jackson Township at the Central House in Napoleon, Sunday, April 12 at 2 o'clock. The program will be given by Myron Kelly.

The other 1992 meetings are scheduled as follows:

SUMMER -- July 12 -- Johnson Township (Versailles, Alan Smith)

FALL -- October 11 -- Laughery Township (Batesville, Library)

### WINTER MEETING REPORT

The January 12 meeting of the R.C.H.S. was held in the Milan Baptist Church. Mr. and Mrs. McIntyre from Versailles were introduced and entertained the group with hymns and songs.

Betty Roepke, President, conducted the business meeting. Everyone introduced themselves. The secretary gave a short report from the fall meeting. Bea Boyd, treasurer, gave a three month report. After all bills had been paid the check book balance was \$452.54. The president appointed Myron Kelly, Ruth Pickett and Bea Boyd to serve on the nominating committee, to secure nominees for directors from Adams, Brown, Center and Delaware Township. Alan Smith said that he and Herbert Thompson had been looking at materials stored on the second floor of the annex. Both he and Herbert felt there was a need for sorting. President Roepke told them to continue their work of sorting out the things that needed to be catalogued.

Bea Boyd read a letter that Norris Krall had sent with information from Taylor Publishing Co. concerning the publishing of the second history book.

Myron Kelly told the society he had received an offer from the Boy Scout Troop in Versailles to help clean the Old Washington Cemetery this spring (May 9). There are five Revolutionary War Soldiers buried there. The society hopes to contact the Covered Bridge Committee to offer their services to help clean the graffiti that is on the two covered bridges in the county.

### IT'S TIME FOR SPRINGTIME VOLUNTEERS

The Museum will be opening on week ends beginning Memorial Day week end through Labor Day. Three or four people are needed each day to help visitors at the museum and archives building. It is open for 2 hours - 2:30 to 4:30, each Saturday, Sunday and holiday. You will have the opportunity to sign up at the April meeting. You will find this an excellent opportunity to visit with friends, meet new people and to browse through the exhibits. Your service will be appreciated and you will find it a pleasant duty.

## RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORY BOOK - VOLUME II

The Ripley County Historical Society is excited to announce that they are compiling a sequel to the first history book that was published in 1988. This second edition will feature a limited number of family histories and a large amount of pictorial history of Ripley County.

**FAMILY HISTORY:** The family history section of the new book will contain a limited number of family stories for families whose history was not included in the first volume. We will not reprint anything already in Volume I. We will limit the family histories, so if you are interested in submitting a story, do it now! Please write the history in narrative form, making it interesting to other readers. All families from Ripley County either past or present, old-timers or newcomers are encouraged to send in their stories. One history per household, 500 words maximum. Submit typewritten histories, be sure your names and dates are correct. Please include, on a separate page, a list of names in your history for the book index. A family photograph may also be included. Be sure appropriate caption identifying people in photo is included, also, be sure your name and address is on the back of photo. These pictures will be returned to you.

**PHOTOGRAPHS OF RIPLEY COUNTY:** This book will be primarily a record of Ripley County in pictures, please submit any old interesting pictures you may have, for consideration. You may want to have a copy made, even though they will be handled with great care, we cannot guarantee 100 % return. However, we do not know of any pictures lost with the first book.

**PUBLICATION DATE AND COST:** We are expecting to compile enough material for this book in approximately six months, (August, 1992), and hope for publication within one year. So to insure that you are included in the book, do not delay. The book will have 200 pages with an index, and will have a hard bound cover similar to the first book. The book will be published by Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, Texas and will be shipped directly to you for \$39.95. There will be no cost to have your material included in the book. To order a copy of Volume II, send your order, with check payable to Ripley County History Book, to P.O. Box 20, Osgood, Indiana 47037.

### BOOKS FOR SALE BY R.C.H.S

Cemetery records for:

Johnson Twp.	83 pgs.	p. 1984
Brown Twp.	63 pgs.	p. 1984
Otter Creek Twp.	65 pgs.	p. 1984

All books are indexed.

Each \$7.50 + \$1.50 mailing. Send checks & orders to Ripley County Historical Society, P.O.Box 525, Versailles, IN 47042

# HISTORY OF THE MILAN WESLEYAN CHURCH 1934-1990

The Milan Wesleyan Methodist Church became The Milan Wesleyan Church in 1968 following a merger of two denominations.

The Church was formerly the home of the Universalist, built approximately 1882. It was obtained and bought through the last trustees of the Universalist Church.

The Church was organized with the Kentucky Conference under the leadership of Rev. Jacob Hunter, Conference President. Rev. James Zuch was the first pastor. Twelve members joined the church on May 29, 1934. They were: Alice Allen, Carrie Colson, Pearl Enters, William Enters, Fred Hagerty, May Hendrickson, Laura Lewis, Viola Miller, Paul Miller, Eunice Wilson, Ella Zuch, and Rev. James Zuch. With the merger, the church name was changed and it became a part of the Southern Indiana District of the Wesleyan Church. It is now called the Indiana South District.

The Lord has given us good pastors and shepherds through the years. The following have served in that capacity:

Rev. James Zuch	May 1934 - August 1934
Rev. Ella Zuch	August 1934 - August 1936
Rev. James Zuch	August 1936 - August 1937
Rev. James Harrington	August 1937 - August 1938
Rev. Joseph Meyers	August 1938 - August 1940
Rev. L.J. Cherryholmes	August 1940 - August 1942
Rev. Joseph Meyers	August 1942 - August 1946
Rev. Henry Taylor	August 1946 - August 1953
Rev. Jacob Hunter	August 1953 - August 1954
Rev. Hallie Giltner	August 1954 - August 1958
Rev. Eugene Harwell	August 1958 - August 1964
Rev. Lewis Baumgartel	August 1964 - August 1965
Rev. Carl I. Walker	August 1965 - Present time

Major changes have occurred through the years. Two front rooms were added under Rev. Henry Taylor, and side rooms were added under Rev. Harwell. The parsonage next door was purchased under Rev. Walker and a complete remodeling of the interior of the church in 1978. Central air conditioning was installed.

Church Secretary  
Lilly Dixon

## LOSS OF MEMBERS

Our sympathy to Laughery Twp. Director, Carolyn Hahn on the loss of her father Lorain Cook. Mr. Cook served as director for many years, as long as his health permitted.

Other deceased members are Marian Stone Hyatt of Columbus, sister of Jackson Twp. Director, Phyllis Miller. Also Myrtle Firth Smith of Versailles.

## GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

As a service to readers interested in genealogy we publish queries in each issue. Please make them as concise as practical. Typewritten copy is preferred. If handwritten, make sure it is very legible. The charge is 50¢ per query to society members and \$1.00 per query to non-members; payable in advance by check or stamps. Please send queries to: Mrs. Don Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023

QUERY 92-2: Robert N. COWAN b. Versailles IN 1854, son of George W. and Dorothe Jane Kirtley COWAN; Robert's Siblings: Margaret (Whitham), Sarah (Hancock), Michael, Lewis, Julia and Fanny. Dorothe b. Ky. d/o Thomas and Asenith Cummings KIRTLEY. Thomas b. Va. c. 1805. Who were parents of Thomas K. and George C.? Any info about any of these people appreciated.  
Mary E. Chapman, 3685 Fenelon St., San Diego, CA 92106

QUERY 92-2: Fideli BENNETT in Ripley Co. from 1840 to 1883, m. Julia Ann SCHNEIDER (SNIDER) and had 10 children. Descendants: BENNETT, DIRSCHELL, MITCHELL, KRAUSE, VOGELANG. Will exchange info and answer all.  
Norma Bennett Peters, 30 Sugar Lane, Collinsville, IL 62234

QUERY 92-2: Looking for place of burial of Mathilda LESTER. d. June 1852. Believe she was Mathilda DICKERSON of Ripley Co. b. 1810 and m. James LESTER 1829. Will appreciate name and location of cemetery. Mildred Robitaille, 9744 Old Warson Rd., St. Louis, MO 63124

QUERY 92-2: Would like to find picture of my gd.mother ELLEN MARGARET SCHMIDT NEITMAN also her parents & gdparents if possible. Ellen b. 1866, Ripley Co., IN. d. Dec. 17, 1929, Dayton, OH. dau. of FREDRICK SCHMIDT & CATHERINE OLDT SCHMIDT, gd. dau. of WM. SCHMIDT & MARIAH? and GEO. OLDT & HELENE. Both her parents and gdparents are buried in Ripley Co.  
Janet Sadler, 6467 Stonehurst Dr., Huber Heights, OH 45424

## GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

IRELAND family chart from Gary Samples, Perrysville OH Dec. '91

2 books; The Logansport and Michigan Road by Juanita Hunter arr. 1-'92 from Rex & Juanita Hunter, 4105 US27 So #11, Sebring, FL 33870-5516 (Placed in Indiana collection)

A copy of the "Day Book" containing reports of the E.U.B. Church 1867-1892 was sent to the Archives Collection at De Pauw University. by Mrs. Dorothy Petty, Greensburg. Doris Kreigir also received a copy for the Decatur Co. Historical Society.

## WHILE YOU'RE SPRING CLEANING -----

Have you looked in Grandma's old trunk lately? Give it a try and see if there are some old pictures or articles about early Ripley County that would be of interest to put in Volume 2 of the Ripley County History Book. If you missed getting your family history in the first book this is your chance to be counted. It takes longer than you think, so get started on it. You won't believe how many times you will change and rewrite it! The wheels are turning so it's time to get started. You will be glad you did.



RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Box 525  
Versailles, Indiana, 47042

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Officers elected to serve until after the April 1992 meeting.

ADAMS Twp.; Mrs. Charles Roepke, R. 3, Sunman, IN 47041 PRES.  
BROWN Twp.; Mrs. Alice McCoy, R. 1, Versailles, IN 47042 SEC.  
CENTER Twp.; Mrs. George Cizek, 433 S. Buckeye, Osgood, IN 47037  
DELAWARE Twp.; Mrs. Grace Dunbar, R. 3, Osgood, IN 47037  
FRANKLIN Twp.; Dr. William F. Glover, R.R. 2, Box 25, Milan, IN 47031  
JACKSON Twp.; Mrs. Phyllis Miller, P.O. Box 22, Napoleon, IN 47034 V. PRES.  
JOHNSON Twp.; Mr. Chester Henderson, R. 1, Dillsboro, IN 47018  
LAUGHERY Twp.; Mrs. Carolyn Hahn, R. 4, Box 268, Batesville, IN 47006  
OTTER CREEK Twp.; Mrs. Donald Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47032 TREAS.  
SHELBY Twp.; Mrs. Howard Lane, R. 2, Versailles, IN 47042 MUSEUM CURATOR  
WASHINGTON Twp.; Mr. Myron Kelly, R. 1, Dillsboro, IN 47018  
Miss Mary Manship, C.G.R.S. R. 3, Box 87, Osgood, IN 47037  
Mrs. Alice Glover, R.R. 2, Box 25, Milan, IN 47031 BULLETIN EDITOR

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