

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

Museum--Corner Main and Water Streets

Versailles, Indiana 47042

VOLUME XVII

APRIL 1998

NUMBER 2

SPRING MEETING

The Ripley County Historical Society meeting will be held on Sunday, APRIL 19 (change of date is because of Easter Sunday), at 2:00 o'clock in the Archives building on the square in Versailles. The program will be presented by Alan Smith. There will also be some changes voted on to bring our by-laws up to date.

MINUTES OF RECENT MEETINGS

The R.C.H.S. met in the Archives on the square at 2 o'clock January 11. There were 33 members and guests present. The secretary's and Treasurer's reports were heard and accepted.

Our chairs have been nicely labled by Wilbur Myers at no charge to the Society. Our thanks and appreciation to Wilbur for a neat job.

After more research on the subject a commercial second printing of the History Book #1 does not seem feasible. We are exploring the possibility of making some "homemade" volumes ourselves as they are needed. Sandy and Lorrie are researching the possibilities.

The county newspapers are no longer kept at the courthouse. Bea will investigate the idea of buying what we don't have.

Alan Smith reported on classifying the reports we have and their location. Mental Health records are being documented. Shelves were put in upstairs to facilitate the storage.

The subject of a sprinkler system was called to our attention; there is none in the building. We hope to take this under consideration in the near future.

A meeting on basic computer operation was held Saturday, January 17 from 1 to 3 by Lorrie which was well attended and much appreciated.

The Society was informed of Phyllis Miller's death. We have missed her since she moved out of our community and we are sad to hear of her passing.

A report on procuring historical signs for the hanging tree and Gordon's Leap were found to be of very high cost. We will investigate having them done locally.

A nominating committee to secure directors was appointed. Sandra Meisberger, Helen Caplinger and Kathleen Lane are to find nominees for Franklin, Jackson and Johnson townships.

The March business meeting date was set for Saturday, March 7 at 2 o'clock after discussion of conflicts and convenience of those involved.

Some Otter Creek Bridge Christmas ornaments were presented for sale at \$8:00 and an ornament from the Friendship Shoot was included.

A motion was made to get a microfilm reader with printer. Cannon was recommended and should be about \$4500. This was tabled to be voted on in March.

The program was given by David Dreyer on the settling of northern Ripley County by people from Germany and their connections with Napoleon, Spades, Hubbles Corner, Sunman, Adams and Finks Church area. These were particularly interesting because some of those families had members present. In Germany many of the homesteads had the house and barn as one building. You often entered through the barn. Pipe Creek Church at Penntown and Cedar Grove Church in Franklin County were involved in some of the tracing.

Following the close of the regular meeting the Directors met for a brief meeting. There is an agreement to let courthouse personell store material in our building but we must further distinguish what can be stored.

Alice McCoy will see Gerald Asche and Judge Taul on the subject and Bea Boyd is to ask for the storage money.

There was a question by Carolyn of doing some checking about the heating bill in the old Archives building.

There is a serious need to repair some windows in the Bank building and it was decided to consult Bill Deberger at Halcombs.

At present there is \$24,000 in the Building fund.

THINGS HERBERT TOLD ME

I ran across a paper that I had carried in my billfold since 1992. This was relating to communication ssince it mentioned the "Titanic", I thought it may be of interest. Submitted by Bea Boyd.

KOKA -1st broadcasting Station.

Herbert Thompson heard one of the voice conversations from the Steamship America as it was crossing the ocean. Bell Telephone installed telephone radio. 1st time ever crossed and was in constant voice communication from New York to England,

Herbert's crystal set could get Federal Government Station from Arlington, VA that gave Time and Weather. Cross Plains guys could hear from France and Germany.

David Sarnoff was working for Marconi Company and picked up the distress signal from the Titanic. (He was ignored because they thought the Titanic unsinkable) in 1912(80 yrs ago). Sarnoff later founded RCA, pressured by the Government, Westinghouse with 40% and G. E. 60% formed RCA Radio Corp of America.

WWI seized German Telephones and never returned to them. Two stations backed by Marconi are still in England.

AT&T developed the fiberoptic. Western Electric made all of the phones.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Phyllis C. Miller

b. June 14, 1922

d. January 3, 1998

I need not write a lot of things. Her life spoke for itself and all who knew her -loved her. I would like to copy her last remarks. "It is not important this distance between us, for I close my eyes and see you, and hold your hand. If I go on before you remember to always look up, for I will be painting the heavens from dawn until dusk." So I look up in the skies and see her painting.. bb.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Be it remembered, That there are hereby adopted the following articles of incorporation pursuant to the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, March 6th, 1889, Acts 1889, Page 141, entitled "An Act for the Incorporation of Societies not for pecuniary profit, defining their powers and providing for the election of directors, the dissolution of such corporations, distribution of their property, and the changing to their articles of association and declaring an emergency."

ARTICLE I: Name ----

The name of the society shall be "Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society."

ARTICLE II: Purpose ----

The purpose of this society shall be the promotion of historical study and investigation pertaining to the discovery, collections, organization, preservation and if practicable, the publication of all materials and facts pertaining to the history of the county and of every town and community of the county through the collection, organization and preservation of all books, pamphlets, maps, genealogical, pictures, journals, diaries, field books and all other material which will describe or illustrate the social, religious, political, industrial and educational progress of the county and every community therein and generally to carry out the intent and purpose of an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, approved March 1, 1901, Acts 1901, page 522 entitled, "An Act for the encouragement of County Historical societies, and providing for estimates for same by Board of Commissioners and for the making of appropriations for same out of the funds by County Councils, and for the expenditure of monéys for the benefit of such societies," and to further hold real property in the name of the society for said purposes of the society.

* Amendment to ARTICLE II,

HEREIN FURTHER NOTED, That this Corporation is organized and operated for the sole purpose of the preservation of historical data throughout the county for the education of it's Citizens in the social, religious, political, industrial, and educational progress of the County and the Communities therein.

ARTICLE III: Seal ----

The corporate seal of this corporation shall be a round disc, 1 3/4 " in diameter, around the outer edge of which shall be impressed the words, "Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society" and across the center thereof, the word "Seal".

ARTICLE IV: Distribution of Assets ----

In the event of the termination or dissolution of said Corporation, after payment of all liabilities, any remaining assets or income shall be distributed to another organization (in the county - if there be one - if not, then to the State Archives, State Museum or State Historical Society), having similar purposed exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the internal Revenue Code.

Adopted at the General Meeting of the Directors and Members, January 13, 1974.

BY-LAWS ----

ARTICLE I: Members and Dues ----

Section 1: Any person interested in the history of Ripley County may be a member. There will be two categories, adult and junior (anyone under 18).

Section 2: The annual dues for the calendar year shall be two dollars(\$2.00) for adults and One dollar (\$1.00) for Junior Members. These are payable at the first general meeting, after that members are delinquent and if dues are not paid by June 1st, names will be dropped from the membership list. The fiscal year shall be from January 1st. to January 1st.

ARTICLE II: Election of officers ----

Section 1: The board of directors of this society shall be elected in open meeting of the organization at each annual meeting. There shall be one director elected from each township.

Section 2: A Curater should be selected by the Board of Directors to see to the Museum and be responsible for keys and needs of the museum, which should be reported to the President for consideration of the Board.

Section 3: Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for terms of three years each (after 1970, at which time the Society was re-organized and all eleven Directors were elected); three Directors being elected in 1971; four Directors being elected in 1972 and 1973, continuing in this manner in the succeeding years. They will serve in alphabetical order by townships. If a Director does not appear for at least three consecutive meetings he or she will be replaced by a new Director, to be appointed to fill the term at the next General Meeting.

Section 4: The board of Directors shall elect their own Officers each year at the first Board Meeting following the Annual meeting of the entire membership. There shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board shall appoint a nominating committee at least three weeks before the annual meeting and these shall present names from townships where vacancies will occur. The Society shall be governed by the Board of Directors subject in all their acts to the approval of the entire membership organization. Eight members will make a quorum.

ARTICLE III: Meetings ----

Section 1: There shall be at least four General Meetings of the Society each year, the Annual Meeting being held in April. Fifteen (15) of its members shall constitute a quorum. The Board of Directors may call as many other general meetings for special purposes as may seem desirable during the year. The Board of Directors shall meet at the call of the President. It shall have the authority to transact business in the interim between general meetings.

Section 2: The first meeting of the Board shall be within one month following the Annual Meeting. The Board may assist the President in naming committees to carry out the works of the Society and shall perform such other duties as the President may direct.

ARTICLE IV: Committees ----

The following committees shall be appointed by the President or the Board; 1, membership-- chairman should be the Director of each of the townships, where a new Director is to be elected; 2. program; 3. Museum and house; 4. audit; 5. Funds; 6. printing, publishing, and records committee.

ARTICLE V: Amendments ----

These By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Society by (2/3) two-thirds vote, provided the notice of the proposed amendments has been sent to the Board as least ten days before the meeting.

ARTICLE VI: Robert's Rules of Order shall govern this Society in all instances not covered by these rules.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING

We have inclosed in the bulletin a copy of the most recent copy of the by-laws of the Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society. Please read them and be prepared to vote on any changes and/or ammendments at the April meeting. If you have suggestions please submit them before the meeting.in order to make the up-dating process as brief and painless as possible.

Underground Railroad Station near Delaware, Ripley County, Indiana

On a farm, once owned by Gustavus Vayhinger, stood an old house that, prior to and during the Civil War, was one of the stations along the "Underground Railroad" network. These stopovers provided safe havens, food and rest, for slaves escaping from a life of bondage in the South.

This house was located about three-fourths of a mile west of the village of Delaware in Ripley County, Indiana, and a short distance north of what is now State Highway 350. Route 350 now occupies the site of the one-time Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, later becoming the Baltimore and Ohio Line. About 1900 the railroad was moved to a parallel site about one-half mile to the south.

The original railroad, at one point conveniently close to a shaded creek, provided cover for the runaways. Escaping slaves had only to jump off the train near the the Vayhinger home, cross and follow the creek (Castetter Creek, locally called Greasy Run), walk up a rise to the vicinity of an orchard north of the house where a sink hole opened into a tunnel leading to a cellar beneath the Vayhinger house. After a rest and some food, the runaways could return to the railroad by the same route to continue their flight to Canada.

I once lived in this old house in the early 1930's and I can vividly remember the trap door, with a large iron ring attached, in the floor of the west room of the house. Through this trap door food and water was passed down into the cellar to the runaways. An iron bar through the ring kept intruders from entering the house from the cellar.

My grandfather Joseph Adam Smith bought this farm about 1933-4. It is now part of the Sheet's Christmas Tree Farm. It was bought by Lenna, granddaughter of Joseph Smith, and Gayle Sheets. The old house, part of which was once a log cabin, was torn down many years ago. The log cabin section of the house was dismantled piece by piece, the pieces numbered and moved to another site. There is little evidence that the old house and barn ever existed as the area is now covered by trees.

Submitted by Evelyn Hastings Martin, 6905 Bellrose NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

*Received Mar 9, 1998 - copy sent to Elbert Hines
Deport.
ch of Underground
R.R.*

RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Box 525
Versailles, Indiana, 47042

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Officers elected to serve until after the April 1998 meeting.

ADAMS Twp.; Mrs. Charles Roepke, 9644 E Co Rd 1300 N, Sunman, IN 47041 V. PRES.
BROWN Twp.; Mrs. Alice McCoy, 5616 S St Rd 129, Versailles, IN 47042 PRES.
CENTER Twp.; Mr. Norris Krall, 4499 N Old Michigan Rd, Osgood, IN 47037
DELAWARE Twp.; Mr. Scott Smith, P.O. Box 274, Batesville IN 47006
FRANKLIN Twp.; Dr. William Glover, 5611 E Co Rd 300 N, Milan, IN 47031
JACKSON Twp.; Mrs. Kathryn Manship, 3378 W Co Rd 600 N, Osgood, IN 47037
JOHNSON Twp.; Mrs. Julie Underwood, 998 W Co Rd 450 S, Versailles, IN 47042
LAUGHERY Twp.; Mrs. Carolyn Hahn, 13403 N Delaware Rd, Batesville, IN 47006
OTTER CREEK Twp.; Mrs. Donald Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023 TREAS.
SHELBY Twp.; Mrs. Howard Lane, 7192 S Co Rd 400 W, Versailles, IN 47042 MUSEUM CUR.
WASHINGTON Twp.; Mr. Myron Kelly, 1028 S St Rd 101, Dillsboro, IN 47018
Miss Mary Manship, 3378 W Co Rd 600 W, Osgood, IN 47037 C.G.R.S.
Mrs. Alice Glover, 5611 E Co Rd 300 N, Milan, IN 47031 BULLETIN EDITOR

THE RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Box 525
Versailles, Indiana 47042

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 17
Versailles, IN
47042
