

The Quarterly Bulletin of the  
Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc.

Museum -- Corner of Main and Water Streets  
Versailles, Indiana 47042

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VOLUME XIX

APRIL 1999

NUMBER 2

## APRIL MEETING

The April meeting will be held April 13<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 P.M., in its building on the court house square. The program for the April meeting wasn't given, due to the presenter being absent.

The sales of the reprinted 1<sup>st</sup> volume of the Ripley County History is still going strong.

Membership is doing fairly well, a few here and there.

A Hands On Genealogy Workshop is being held March 27, 1999 in the SEIData Conference Room, on US 50, in Dillsboro, IN. Contact Ed Dalton, 812-744-8800 or Email: [dalton@seidata.com](mailto:dalton@seidata.com) for more information.

Inside this edition you will find the Proposed Bylaws for your perusal. Also listed inside is a Records Checklist to help you decide what records to try to get for researching from.

Fraudulent LINEAGES. <http://www.linkline.com/personal/xymox/fraud/fraud223.htm>  
This website concerns illegal lineages. It is a matter of concern, and everyone is asked to keep a lookout for certain lineages that have been used for ages as valid lineages.

## Minutes of the January 1999 Meeting

January meeting was held at the RCHS Library on Jan. 17th. Regular meeting date was changed because of ice conditions on Jan. 10th. Meeting was called to order by Pres. Alice McCoy at 2:10. Each attending stated name and township. There was a good representation from each township; David Dreyer from Indianapolis and Jeff Hummel from Kansas.

Pres. McCoy asked if all received their bulletins since they contain the minutes from the last meeting the minutes were not read.

Alan Smith made a report on the sign placement. Mulford spot, Manship, Red Lower, and Henderson. Bill Dobson helped him put up the signs.

Lori is going to work on Thank you cards on the computer.

Fran had made arrangements with McDonald's and they were furnishing the drink and apple pies for the meeting.

Pres. McCoy appointed a committee to select directors for 1999. Kathryn Manship, Lori Hoffman and Joan Krall were appointed to this committee.

Treasurer's report given by Bea Boyd for Oct, Nov & Dec 1998. Also total receipts and disbursements for entire year (1998).

Smitty commented on water bill. After some discussion, it was confirmed that the commode was left running. Bill was back to normal after signs were posted to check before leaving.

Lori asked about the Tyson Fund. She suggested to ask for a scanner this year. Sandy Meisberger said she has a scanner, will bring it in so we can use it until we get one.

Carolyn Hahn reported on the Archives Building. They have been working inside and when weather gets better, they will work outside.

Our visitor Jeff Hummel stated his 3x gr. Grandfather Sam Henry Hummel married Anna Mehl. They had 10 children; but that he was only able to find one. He is looking for children of the 10. He did not know if Hummel Figurines people were any of his relation.

Vic Sarringhaus from Adams Twp says the Sarringhaus line came from Germany in 1852. He has been looking at Finkes Cemetery - seems stones are missing.

Alice tells story of Caesar's Creek Cemetery, looked for by the Roder family. It turned out it was Wilson Cemetery on top of hill and out of Friendship.

Lori told the people at the meeting the bulletin was theirs, and to please send any information or tidbits to RCHS for use in the bulletin.

Seems like most of the town was without gas. The janitor from the courthouse came over and re-lit the furnace.

Wilbur Myers had a 1908 picture of the courthouse, and also the New Marion/Holton school book, and these were passed around for viewing.

Randy Young reported putting information online concerning Basketball Tournaments.

Norris Krall reported on the progress of the By-Laws. This will be submitted at the next meeting.

The man who was slated to present the program at this meeting was absent.

In case of bad weather, it is up to the volunteer for that day to decide to be open or closed.

Refreshments were courtesy of McDonald's's and Otter Creek Twp. Shelby Twp. Hosts for the April meeting.

Acting Sec. - Bea Boyd

### **Article VII Duties of Officers**

**Section 1: President** The President shall be the chief executive officer of the RCHS. The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and shall preside at all meetings of the Board. The President shall appoint all Committees.

**Section 2: First Vice President** The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President.

**Section 3: Secretary** The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of minutes of all meetings of the Board and general membership.

**Section 4: Treasurer** The Treasurer shall keep correct and complete records of accounts, showing at all times the actual financial condition of the RCHS. The Treasurer shall present a financial report at all regularly scheduled meetings. The Treasurer shall make all financial books and records available for inspection at reasonable times to any member of the Board. The Treasurer shall prepare and file on behalf of the RCHS its annual Not-For-Profit Corporation Annual Report and other such financial reports and returns as may be required from time to time to maintain the RCHS in good standing under the law. The Treasurer shall have a yearly audit of the books performed.

### **Article VIII Committees**

**Section 1.** Committees of the Board may be standing or ad hoc. The President shall appoint all committees subject to approval by the Board. Standing committees shall consist of a minimum of three individuals and shall be chaired by a member of the Board. At least one member of each standing committee shall be appointed from the general membership, i.e. shall not be a Board member. The President may from time to time, with the approval of the Board, appoint additional members of any standing committee. The President may also from time to time as required and with the approval of the Board appoint any special ad hoc committees.

**Section 2.** Each standing committee shall report to the Board its recommendations upon all areas of its responsibility. At least 60 days before the end of each fiscal year, each standing committee shall present to the Budget Committee its proposed budget for its activities for the following fiscal year.

**Section 3.** The standing committees and their assigned functions are:

Membership Committee—promotes new memberships and the renewal of existing members.

Program Committee—develops varied and interesting programs for each regular meeting of the membership and follows up on scheduled programs.

Museum Committee—assists the curator with museum duties, displays, schedules, etc. Archive Collections Committee—Reviews, organizes, indexes, etc. historical document collections. Property Committee—oversees the maintenance of RCHS property.

Publicity Committee—promotes and advertises RCHS and its activities, publishes the newsletter, advertising brochures, etc.

Public Relations Committee—maintains contact with county officials, organizations, banks and businesses and provides public speakers as requested.

Fund-raising Committee—develops Fund-raising ideas, writes grants, and oversees all Fund-raising activities except memberships. Electronic Data Committee to promote RCHS through the Internet, and reviews and approves all material posted or to be posted on the organizations Web page.

Publications committee to promote and manage the sale of publications and continually develop new items and ideas for additional publications.

Budget and Finance Committee—prepares the annual budget for RCHS and presents to Board at last meeting of old year and reviews financial operations and advises on investment of RCHS assets.

### **Article IX Miscellaneous**

**Section 1.** Meetings of the Board and membership shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order

### **Article X Execution of instruments**

**Section 1.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Board, all written contracts and other documents entered into by RCHS shall be executed on behalf of the organization by the President. The Board may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the RCHS to enter into a contract or to execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the RCHS. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

### **Article XI Dissolution**

**Section 1.** In the event of the dissolution of the RCHS, all assets shall be distributed to such an organization or organizations which have purposes and objectives similar to those of the RCHS and are exempt from United States income taxes under the provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code; or shall be distributed to the federal government; or to a state or local government for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

### **Article XII Amendments**

**Section 1.** These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of members present or voting by proxy at any regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose, provided the amendment has been previously passed by two-thirds vote of the Board and that the text of the amendment is submitted to the members at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

These Bylaws were approved and adopted on \_\_\_\_\_.

Secretary

**These have been intentionally compressed to save space  
RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To promote public awareness and appreciation of Ripley County and local area history, the Ripley County Historical Society collects, preserves, interprets, and disseminates evidence of local history believing that an understanding and appreciation of the past enlightens the present and gives vision for the future. RCHS will accomplish its mission by providing public access to its collections, answering historical and genealogical inquiries, publishing and distributing books and pamphlets of local interest, and conducting programs and tours for the benefit of local school students and other interested persons.

**Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc.  
Bylaws**

**Article I Name**

**Section 1.** The name of the organization shall be the Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc. This organization was reorganized in 1970, as a tax exempt Sec. 501 ( c ) 3 not-for-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Indiana.

**Section 2.** This organization shall for the purposes of brevity hereinafter be referred to as RCHS.

**Section 3.** The fiscal year of RCHS shall coincide with the calendar year.

**Article II Purposes**

**Section 1.** The purposes of RCHS are set forth in its Articles of Incorporation on file with the Indiana Secretary of State. The general purpose shall be to collect, preserve, research, and interpret the heritage of Ripley County, Indiana, and thereby to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of our county's history, art, and natural environment.

**Article III Membership**

**Section 1.** The RCHS shall be composed of active members.

**Section 2.** Active members of the RCHS comprise all who have paid the current membership dues.

**Section 3.** Membership categories and dues shall be determined from time to time by the Board of the RCHS.

**Section 4.** Each membership, regardless of category, is entitled to one vote at the annual business meeting. Article IV Board

**Article IV Meetings**

**Section 1.** The Board of Directors of the RCHS hereafter called the Board shall be elected by the general membership at the annual meeting of the Corporation.

**Section 2.** RCHS shall be governed by the Board of Directors subject in all their acts to the approval of the entire membership of the organization. Seven directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the organization's business.

**Section 3.** The Board shall consist of eleven (11) members with terms of office staggered such that approximately 1/3 of whom shall be elected annually to serve a term of three (3) years. One member of the Board shall be selected from each of the eleven townships of Ripley County. The President shall appoint a nominating committee at least four weeks before the annual meeting and this committee shall present at the annual meeting, names of director nominees from townships where vacancies will occur.

**Section 4.** A candidate for the Board must be an active member of RCHS prior to his/her election to the Board.

**Section 5.** In the event of a vacancy on the Board prior to the completion of term, the Board shall, by majority vote, fill the vacancy. The person elected shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

**Section 6.** Any member of the Board who shall be absent for three consecutive meetings without presenting satisfactory excuse or who has failed to maintain membership in the RCHS may be removed from the Board by a majority vote of the Board members. Such action shall not be taken until said Board member has been notified in writing and given an opportunity to respond.

**Article V Meetings**

**Section 1.** The annual meeting of the corporation shall be held during the month of April. The Board shall determine the time and place of the annual meeting. Notice of the meeting will be provided to all members at least 10 days prior to the date of the annual meeting. Fifteen active members present shall constitute a quorum for the election of Board members or for the transaction of business at the annual meeting.

**Section 2.** Regular meetings of the general membership shall be held as specified from time to time by the Board. Special business meetings of the Board and/or the membership may be called by the president or, in his-her absence, by the vice-president, or at the request of three officers, or at the request of five members of the RCHS. Such requests should be addressed to the Board and delivered to the RCHS business office. Due notice shall be given to all active RCHS members at least 10 days prior to a special meeting.

**Article VI Officers**

**Section 1.** The officers of the RCHS shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary and the Treasurer.

**Section 2.** The officers will be elected by the Board of Directors and must be elected from members of the Board, and no person shall be eligible for election to the office of President unless he/she has continuously been a member of the Board since the preceding regular annual election of officers.

**Section 3.** The officers shall be elected at the first regular meeting of the Board following the annual business meeting. The election of officers shall be by majority vote of the Directors.

**Section 4.** Each officer shall be elected for a term of one year and shall serve until their successor has been duly elected and qualified. Officers may succeed themselves. Vacancies shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board.

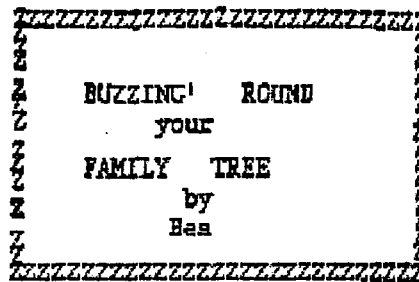
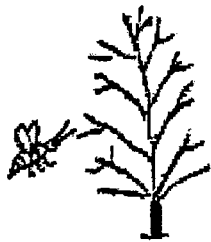
# Have You Found Everything?

## Records checklist for Researching:

1. School records or yearbooks
2. A divorce - target may have divorced more than one time.
3. A marriage - target may have married more than once.
4. A cooperative relative
5. The last known address, with "Address Correction Requested" written on the outside of the envelope
6. A copy of the medical records and original birth certificate, if obtainable - check city hall and health dept
7. Copy of targets death certificate. Identifying correct person (DOD) can be narrowed down using LDS Soc Sec database.
8. Search for death records for members of the target family. Obtaining the date of death of target's parent or other relative may lead to an obituary that may list siblings and/or children.
9. A copy of the coroners report if foul play was involved in a death.
10. A copy of the newspaper article if the death was newsworthy due to its violence or notoriety.
11. Check for professional licensing which requires state licensing
12. Check for criminal history (local police, state police)
13. Voter registration records/Board of Election
14. Lawsuits, judgments, liens at the county or federal courthouse of their home city
15. Bankruptcy filing - U.S. Bankruptcy Court (Federal)
16. Passport
17. Colleges, and Universities Ask the Alumni Office to forward a letter.
18. High School or College Fraternity: See if there is a person who keeps the old files/records.
19. Military records Request a copy of their service file.
20. Paternity and child support locator services
21. Department of Veteran Affairs Veterans Administration (VA) Request a copy of their medical file under Freedom of Info Act.
22. Railroad Retirement Board
23. Corporation records (Secretary of State) (if an officer, director or registered agent)
24. Medical Boards, if medical practitioner
25. State Bar Association, if practicing attorney
26. Certificate of Citizenship
27. Local court records, i.e. small claims court, municipal court, traffic court, city court

## Records Checklist

28. City business license application
29. Federal Aviation Authority (FAA)(if pilot)
30. Unions, associations and affiliations
31. Insurance records
32. Synagogue membership mens club, sisterhood.
33. Bar/Bat Mitzvah records from Rabbi or synagogue
34. Landsmanshaften records
35. Selective Service Records
36. Welfare records
37. City permits
38. Job applications:
39. Apartment rental applications
40. Ownership of boats, cars, airplanes, travel trailers
41. Corporate, partnership, doing business as files
43. Criss-Cross & city directories (public library)
44. Auto registration tag records
45. Probate Court or Surrogate Court records
46. Old telephone books (white pages, and yellow pages for business)
47. Name changes ( County Clerk's Office)
48. County Health Department records relating to health
49. State/County Property Tax Assessor for properties owned by individuals and businesses
50. Mormon church library (LDS--Latter Day Saints) of genealogical records
51. Truck Driver's License (Dept. Motor Vehicles).
52. Chamber of Commerce (city directories for other cities within the state)
53. Immigration and Naturalization records
54. Main public library historical/genealogical record room
55. Worker's Compensation records (as available)
56. Alimony obligations (family court)
57. Federal tax liens
58. Roster of city, county or state employees
59. Local county historical society records:
60. Old newspaper archive files in hard copy form or microfilm



Q-3-99 Have found eight of ten children of Amasa , Sr. and Nancy Mariah (HARTWELL) ROBBINS of Jennings County, In. Looking for descendants of the other two:  
George A. ROBBINS B. Apr 8, 1864, m Irene RECTOR Mar 30, 1915.  
One child, George Phillip b. Jan 1, 1918, Jennings Co, In  
George A. Died Nov 17, 1920 Jennings County.

Dora R (ROBBINS) b. Oct 23, 1881 m. Arthur ROSEBERRY Nov 13, 1897. In 1910 living in Campbell Township, Jennings Co. with 5 ch: Mamie J., Pearl, Mabel, Florence and Forrest. She died July 14, 1914 in Jennings Co.  
*Gladys (ROBBINS) Gunderson, 3028 South Second St Springfield, Illinois 62703*

Q-3-99 John Polk EWIRG b. 13 Sept, 1844 Hamilton Co, OH came to Ripley County with his father, Mr. Ewing and mother Timandra P. Ewing and Sister Mississippi (b. 1843). What was Mr. Ewing's first name and what was the maiden name of Timandra?  
*Roberta Hawk, 4812 Rimrock Rd, Billings, MT 59106*

Last fall I took Photos of the Holton Bridge from East, West, North and South view. They turned out real good. The Chamber of Commerce now has copies, one to be selected for a book they are working on. Covered Bridges have great tourist appeal.

The Versailles Republican carried an excellent article by Gus and N.M. Moorhead on "Reflections of Ripley County Musical Festival" as the oldest in the State. B Ripley County Schools participated in the First event held at the Milan High School, March 16, 1950. On March 11, 1999 the four remaining schools - Batesville, Jac-Cen-Del, Milan and South Ripley will celebrate the 50th Anniversary. They will gather in the Tyson Auditorium in Versailles.

Several have inquired re: Otter Village Cemetery.. It is not too late to mail your donation to Otter Village Cemetery Project. Attn Kralls, 4499 N. Michigan Rd, Osgood, IN 47037

I received a nice note from Berra Anna Steinkamp with her dues. You will remember her as our German lady who translated letters and documents for us. She had been to Germany in August and Sept. for her sisters illness and death. She is the remaining of 4 children, also the eldest. She lives in Michigan with her 13 year old dog, keeps in touch with her Indiana friends. Lovely lady -she spent many afternoon hours at the museum as a volunteer.



## OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Adams Twp. - Mrs. Charles Roepke; 9644 E. Co Rd 1300 N, Sunman, IN 47041

Brown Twp. - Mrs. Alice McCoy; 5616 S St Rd 129, Versailles, IN 47042

Center Twp. - Mr. Norris Krall; 4499 N Old Michigan Rd, Osgood, IN 47037

Delaware Twp. - To Be Filled

Franklin Twp. - To Be Filled

Jackson Twp. - Mrs. Kathryn Manship; 3378 W Co Rd 600 N, Osgood, IN 47037

Johnson Twp. - Mr. Alan Smith; P.O. Box 414, 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

Shelby Twp. - Mrs. Howard Lane; 7192 S Co Rd 400 W, Versailles, IN 47042

Washington Twp. - Mr. Henry Walker; 5793 E Co Rd 200 N, Milan, IN 47031

V. President

President

Treasurer

Museum Curator

## HONORARY

Miss Mary Manship - 3378 W Co Rd 600 N, Osgood, IN 47037

Lori Hoffman - Bulletin Editor & WebMaster

C. G. R. S.

The Ripley County, Indiana  
Historical Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 525  
Versailles, Indiana 47042

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WARREN OH 44483