

The Quarterly Bulletin of the
RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Library – 125 Washington Street
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The second quarterly meeting of 2003 will be held on April 13, at 2:00, at the RCHS Archives Library on the west side of the Courthouse Square in Versailles. All members are urged to attend and become involved in RCHS activities. Visitors are always welcome.

Marguerite Walker will present a program on the history of Laughery Township. Marguerite lives in the Batesville-Napoleon area, is a retired nurse and has some interesting local information to share with us.

The return of warm weather has brought several researchers to our Archives Library. We are always in need of more volunteers, so if anyone is interested in giving some time to our society please contact our President, Alice McCoy.

Civil War historians have completed marking the trail of Confederate General John Hunt Morgan through southern Indiana. Many commemorative re-enactment events will be held along the trail in the month of April. On his raid General Morgan traveled through seven Indiana counties. About 20 Hoosiers were killed, 24 wounded, bridges and railroad tracks were demolished, many depots and buildings burned during this raid. Much of this information was taken from an article in the *RoundAbout*. More information on the coming events can be obtained at Madison Visitors Bureau at 1-800-559-2956 or Historic Hoosier Hills at 812-689-6410, ext. 5.

THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE:

Ripley County History, Volume I	\$65
Ripley County History, Volume II	55
Brown Township Tales by Alan F. Smith	20
Tales of Versailles by Alan F. Smith	16
Vintage Postcards of Ripley County by Alan Smith	20
Brown Township Cemetery Index	10
Johnson Township Cemetery Index	10
Flat Rock Cemetery Index	5

Mailing fees added for all books shipped.

Please check the date on your address label, if it is prior to 2003, your membership has expired and this may be the last bulletin you receive. We purge our list yearly and remove the out-of-date memberships. We greatly value all our members and hope all will soon renew by sending \$5 to Treasurer, Bea Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47037.

Dues:

New memberships are \$10.00 for the first year.

Renewals are \$5.00 per year thereafter.

Life memberships are \$100

TRIBUTE TO ALAN



Ripley County was forced to say Good-bye to one of its finest and most colorful citizens when after a very short period of illness, Alan F. Smith, Sr. died on January 23. Alan was a pharmacist by vocation, a philanthropist by character and one of our most avid local historians. Alan never met a stranger, was always willing to assist anyone, and was most kind to all who came to him for help.

The Ripley County Historical Society is in stunned disbelief that one of our most knowledgeable members has left us. No longer can we "just ask Alan" when we can't find the answer to our question. Fortunately for all of us, Alan started collecting local history and pictures about 35 years ago. He wrote much of the County and Versailles history for the two volumes of Ripley County History that were published in 1988 and 1992.

In the last few years, Alan authored and had published the following books:

Dillsboro Oakdale Cemetery

A Tale of Two Townships: History of Clay & Caesar Creek Townships, Dearborn Co. IN

Tales of Versailles: a History of Versailles Brought to Life

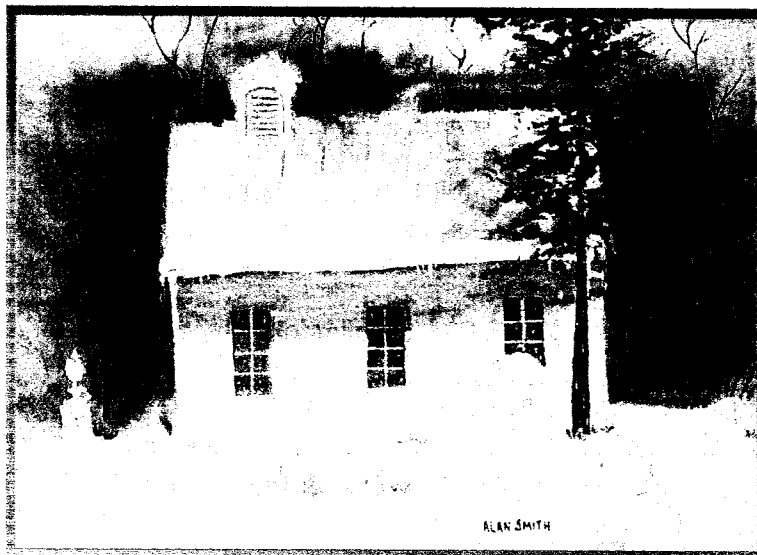
Brown Township Tales: The History, Stories, & Lore of Brown Township, Ripley Co. IN

Vintage Postcards of Ripley County, Indiana

The Historical Society is grateful to Alan and the Smith family for allowing us to use much of his photo collection and to display, sell and profit from his books. We are also grateful for the opportunity to digitize his postcard and photo collection for future use and reference.

With heavy hearts, we say,

"Farewell and Thank you, dear friend, we will cherish your memory in our hearts as long as we live and your work will be preserved and enjoyed for generations to come."



A Watercolor By Alan F. Smith, Sr.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January 16, 2003

The January meeting was held at the RCHS Library at 2:00 with 29 members and guests present.

Alma Price had the program before our meeting as she had another engagement. She gave a program on the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder. The last Wilder home in Bransfield Missouri is now a museum that contains many of the artifacts of her life. The house they lived in is open to the public as well as a rock house they built for their daughter Rose. Her books are still being published, she wrote nine and two were written from papers she left. There are also museums in the other places where they lived. Mrs. Price also had some memorabilia with her.

The minutes were read and approved. It was noted that some of us attended the Commissioners meeting on the stone bridge at Holton. It was too late to save that one but will have an affect on others that may come up for replacement.

Bea gave the treasurers report and it was approved. A new copier was purchased from Sharp. It was used to print the bulletins for this quarter.

A committee was named to select Director Candidates for Adams, Brown, Center and Delaware townships. They were Bea Boyd, Genelle Henderson, and Jerry Walker.

Alan Smith is not well, let's all send cards. Also Kathleen Lane is now living with her daughter.

Underground railroad is ongoing and has to get documenting to support the history. Alan Smiths post cards are being scanned and copied so they can be preserved. There are many of them to do. Norris will have workshop on scanning them.

Helen Einhaus said there was a painting by Forsyth on the Antique show. They discovered a lot about his work and also of another artist also from Osgood. Their work was covered in a book copied by Sandy Meisberger. She brought one to the meeting.

Darlene Gerster and Roselyn McKittrick are working on a book about the Milan community to be published in 2004.

Next meeting will be April 13 at the Library.

Henry Walker, Secretary

A SCHOOL HACK RIDE by Arriest Udey

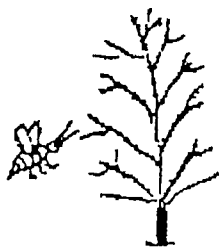
When my contemporaries in the over-80 set exclaim, "You say you never walked to school!" I counter with, "And you never rode in a school hack?"

The horse (or mule) drawn vehicle called a school hack was, of course, the predecessor of the modern school bus. In 1926, when I began attending school in southeastern Indiana, dirt roads, also called mud roads, were sometimes almost impassable for automobiles in winter and spring. A trusty team of mules or horses could be depended on to negotiate the four-mile trip twice a day in fine style.

The school hack, a small windowless "room on wagon wheels" resembled the huckster wagons of the time. Instead of being lined with shelves for dry goods, however, the school hack had a bench on each of the long sides. There was a seat at the front for the driver and an opening through which he could handle the reins and watch the road. A door at back was the only other opening and it had a window for light. The hack was painted a dark color, not "school bus orange."

Since there was no way of heating the hack, frigid winter weather presented a problem. The mothers dressed their children accordingly -- for the girls, heavy long underwear, cotton stockings, and warm winter dresses. Slacks or snowsuits would have been more practical, but "trousers" for girls were not considered proper. A full-length heavy coat and a toboggan were a must. On very cold days my mother would heat a brick in the oven of the range and carry the newspaper-wrapped hot brick to the hack for me, providing a cozy foot rest.

The school bus that replaced the hack in a couple of years was, of course, a major improvement, but my school hack experience does provide me bragging rights now 75 years later!



BUZZING! ROUND
 YOUR
 FAMILY TREE
 by
 Bea

Q-4-2003 Thomas J. Young ,678 Regent Road, Cincinnati, Oh 45245 is interested in any descendants of Joseph Hawkins Fitzgerald, Alexander McRae & Eunice Fitzgerald McRae.

REMC has made the decision to implement an automated meter reading program over a four year period beginning 2004. I recall when each subscriber read their own meter, and beyond that I remember when we had no electricity on the farm. It didn't get there until after the end of WWII. This was a very wonderful program that was started during the presidency of F. D. Roosevelt.

The February weather was wretched! One pleasant surprise was to see the "snowrollers" in this part of the country. Everything has to be just right, Temperature, winds and snow. Only God can make a snowroller. It was something to see the fields and yards covered with them. As Lazy Jim Day would sing "I don't reckon that will happen again for months and months and months".

Did you know that the 1986 reunion at Rykers Ridge attracted 96 people from 22 states, Washington D. C. and 1 foreign country, Brazil. This was the last one held. Interesting to know how many would be there if one was held now.

This is a continuation of the listings from Dr. Roberts book. The accouch wife. from January Bulletin.

1876

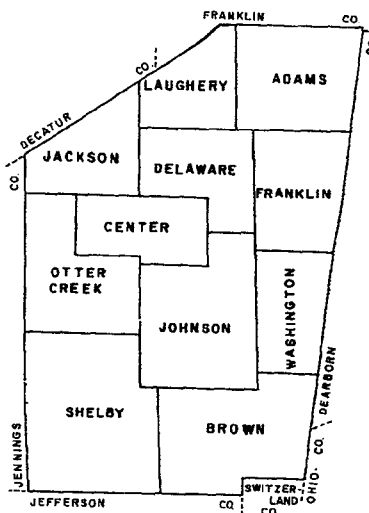
Aug 15. Cana Harris	Oct 11 Harvey O'Neal
18, Cornett Yater	Nov 23 Holman Yater
19 Port Skeen	Dec. 5 James Ralston
Sept 4 Sam Mack	11 Alva Dickerson
18 Court McNew	21 Wes Shaw
22 Jonathan Coon	25 H. H. Hughs
27 Ned Brown	31 John Downey.
28 Dick Brown	

We have received \$5,000 (Five Thousand) from Rising Sun Regional Foundation, Inc. This is for restoration of the Ditch Cemetery located in Shelby Township. Thanks to them we have been able to restore several cemeteries.

Bright, Indiana is a small town located in Dearborn County. They have their own song, "Bright, Indiana" I have heard it several times on local radio. Catchy little ditty!

I miss Alan Smith. He most always dropped in on Monday. Keep thinking I'll look up and see him coming through the door.

Statistics on Deer Hunting. 104,425 deer were harvested during 2002 hunting season in Indiana. 1735 in Ripley County.



FROM
 the
 ARCHIVES
 Gleaned by JoAnn

Articles from Old Newspapers and Histories

Code of Abbreviations: Townships - first two letters of its name, except Otter Creek is OC, * indicates the community is extinct or called by another name, ♦ indicates start of another item from the same location.

Batesville - La 1913. "Fact stranger than Fiction" On Monday, April 21, 1913, Mr. August Obert, an aged citizen, almost blind and almost deaf evidently neither saw or heard the train, driven by engineer Dan Shea, as it was backing onto the freight track on Main Street. The train hit and fatally wounded the 83 year old man. Coroner Kennedy held an inquest with the verdict being the death was caused by being run over by the local freight. Meanwhile: Mr. Conrad Huenefeld, who had been at the site of the accident, started to his home in Morris by walking east on the train track. After the investigation the train started on its way east and soon overtook Mr. Huenefeld from behind. Mr. Huenefeld did not get out of the way, the train could not stop and Mr. Huenefeld was fatally injured. Engineer Shea said he had been on the railroad for 25 years and never hit anyone and now in one day had struck down two men. (News item submitted by Alice McCoy.)

North Vernon - Jennings Co. 1903. Walter B. Yater, who travels for St. Louis Shoe Company spent Sunday in this city with his father, James L. Yater. He announced his marriage, which will occur Feb. 21 to Miss Mattie B. Moss of Cumberland Gap, Tenn. Miss Moss visited here a couple of years ago when she was attending the Conservatory of Music at Cincinnati.

Versailles - Jo 1/1883. From private ad: If you contemplate buying an organ or piano, drop a postal to A.J. & I.H. Hassmer, Versailles, Indiana. They are home agents for D.A. Baldwin & Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio.
 ♦ Among the Morgan Raid claims that have been allowed are the following: Michael S. Cummins \$135; Alexander Connelly \$125; Davis W. Fuller \$80; C.T. Gookins \$135; Peter Hanier(sp?) \$125; David T. Hunter, Deceased, Sarah L. Hunter Administratrix \$50; Squire M. Justice \$130; Elizabeth Johnson \$10; James Leonard \$140; Amos Laswell \$125; Thomas Moxley(sp?) \$15; John D. Meyer \$125; James V. Noyes \$35; Nancy Pratt \$100; Thomas Purrel(sp?) \$45; Elijah Round \$130; John

L. Shook \$205; Elmore Saltmarsh \$125; James Stevenson \$125; Leander Smith \$135; Anthony Steinmetz \$55.50; Jacob Wiss \$135. ♦ For Sale - Real Estate - 80 acres, one mile east of Versailles (the old Stark farm). Has good barn and orchard; the dwelling house needs some repairs. The farm belongs to George W. Benon, who resides in Danville, Ill and will sell for \$700 cash in hand.

* **Lincolville** - (now Benham) Br 1883. Mr. D.M. Cavender gave a spelling school Tuesday evening which was well attended. ♦ The passage of the woman suffrage bill at the last meeting of our Mock Legislative, has caused quite an excitement among us. Since then everyone has something to say on the subject of woman's rights.

Hogan - Fr 1883. A gay party of sleigh riders came down from Milan and spent the evening at George Stockwell's one night last week. ♦ Thomas Livingston has laid in a good supply of ice for the coming summer and W. Daughters will proceed to do likewise.

* **Midway** - (Midway was between Olean and Versailles) Jo 1883. H.P. King of Osgood is going to move his mill to the farm of L.D. Shook near Koccoa Crossing.

Cross Plains - Br 2/1883. The only news and the all absorbing subject that is agitating our village now is the meeting which is going on at the M.E. Church under the auspices of Rev. Kinnear. Up to the time of writing there are twenty additions to the church and the good work is only getting under headway. Will all Christian people remember us in their petitions to the Almighty?

Delaware - De 1883. The postoffice is now in charge of Mr. Colter, our merchant. ♦ Dora Hastings is driving huckster wagon for J.S. Jordan. ♦ Misses Nobia Jordan and Claud Truitt will attend Moores Hill College in the spring.

Osgood - Ce 1883. John Crew makes a good looking clerk. ♦ Dr. Young has given up the hotel business, too hard on his health. ♦ Tad Brown is talking of leaving Osgood. Hurrah for Tad. ♦ Everybody that can get one has a cold. It is all the style. ♦ Geo. Nosekable is learning the business of cigar making with Mr. Mink

Bethel - Jo 1883. James Graham will move his sawmill to this place about the first of March.

Vevay - Switzerland Co. 1883. Never before have we had such a religious revival as the Methodist Church is now enjoying. There has been 153 conversions and 92 new members. The meetings will continue.

Correct - Jo 1883. Lon Wooly talks of going west in the spring. ♦ Robert McCoy has bought the Will Wright farm near Lincolville. ♦ Some of our young folks who are in the habit of tripping the light "fantastic toe" attended the masquerade ball in Olean last week. ♦ Luther Underwood's mule fell down and broke his shaft while pulling the buggy, leaving Luther to pull his buggy by himself. Good luck to the mule.

County Historical



Versailles, IN 47042

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

- Adams Twp. - Mrs Charles Roepke; 9644 E Co Rd 1300 N, Sunman, IN 47041 V. President
- Brown Twp. - Mrs. Alice McCoy; 5616 S St Rd 129, Versailles, IN 47042 President
- Center Twp. - Mr. Norris Krall; 4499 N Old Michigan Rd, Osgood, IN 47037
- Delaware Twp. - Mrs. Lois Workman; 4823 N Co Rd 350E, Osgood, IN 47037
- Franklin Twp. - Mrs. Jacqueline Rohlfing; 6162 N Co Rd 800E, Milan, IN 47031
- Jackson Twp. - Mrs. Kathryn Manship; 3378 W Co Rd 600N, 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 Treasurer
- Shelby Twp. - Mrs. Howard Lane; 7192 Co Rd 400W, Versailles, IN 47042 Honorary Museum Curator
- Washington Twp. - Mr. Henry Walker; 5793 E Co Rd 200N, Milan, IN 47031 Secretary

- Mary Manship - 3378 W Co Rd 600N, Osgood, IN 47037 C.G.R.S.
- Mrs. Helen Einhaus - 610 N Buckeye St., Osgood, IN 47037 <hteinhau@seidata.com> County Historian
- Lori Hoffman Web Master
- Alice McCoy, Bea Boyd, Henry & Jerry Walker, and Norris & JoAn Krall Newsletter Committee

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