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GENEALOGY DEPT.

APR 1 2005

Allen County Public Library

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

Library – 125 Washington Street
Museum – Corner of Main and Water Streets
Versailles, Indiana 47042

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NUMBER 2

The second meeting of the Ripley County Historical Society for the year 2005 will be Sunday afternoon, April 10th, starting at 2:00, in the RCHS Library on the west side of the courthouse square in Versailles, Indiana. The special guest speaker will be Mr. Dan Matiatos, the Assistant Manager of Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge. His topic will be on wildlife refuge activities in general and Big Oaks Refuge in specific. Mr. Matiatos was born in North Dakota and has worked in Northwest including Alaska for several years and has recently started his service as a wildlife operations specialist at Big Oaks. Big Oaks Refuge was formed on 50,000 acres of land within the Jefferson Proving Ground. This topic is one of great interest to local residents and everyone is invited to attend.

Activities at the Archives:

► Helen Einhaus and helpers will soon finish the huge project of compiling and updating the Jackson Township Cemetery records. Old newspapers, Toph papers, Phyllis Miller's records, archives records, individual cemetery records, etc. are being diligently researched and recorded. Jackson Township RCHS Director, Andy Scholle, who is a surveyor by trade, has used GPS to identify and plot several cemeteries. Delbert and Dorothy Abplanalp, and Helen Caplinger have helped Mrs. Einhaus and husband Wayne, interview residents and tract down leads by visiting old abandoned grave sites which are usually found in a wooded area. Patty Lawrence has spent hours entering information in the computer. Norris Krall is helping get the material ready for publication. There seems to be no end to this project as new (old unknown) information keeps turning up. Included are cemeteries from around Napoleon as well as the Flat Rock Cemetery, which Don Hughes and Willard Tucker have updated to include 2004. This information will be made into the "Jackson Township, Ripley County, Indiana Cemeteries" book and will sell for \$10.

► A reminder to everyone seeking research help: Do not send your request by e-mail. We are not staffed sufficiently to handle all the e-mails. You must send your request in regular mail accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped, large envelope and a check for \$3 for each family name requested, you will be billed for the copying cost and any extra postage when material is sent. Also, be sure to send enough information for us to be sure we know the person on whom, you are requesting information.

THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE:

Ripley County History, Volume I	\$65	Vintage Postcards by Alan Smith	\$20
Ripley County History, Volume II	55	Brown Township Cemetery Index	10
Brown Twp. Tales by Alan Smith	20	Johnson Township Cemetery Index	10
Tales of Versailles by Alan Smith	16	Mailing fees added for all books shipped.	

Check to make certain your dues are paid up-to-date. If not, mail your renewal to RCHS or to Beatrice Boyd, Treasurer, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023

Dues: New memberships are \$10.00 for the first year.
Renewals are \$5.00 per year thereafter.
Life memberships are \$100

MINUTES OF THE RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The January 9, 2005 meeting of the Ripley County Historical Society was called to order by President Betty Roepke. The 33 members and guests present were welcomed and each told their name and where they reside. Secretary Henry Walker was absent so minutes of last meeting were read by Norris Krall. Beatrice Boyd gave the Treasurer's report, both reports were accepted as read. A nominating committee of Esther Edmondson, Don Nealis and Helen Decker was appointed to find Directors for townships of Laughery, Otter Creek, Shelby, and Washington, to be elected at April meeting.

Wilbur Myers of Holton reported that when the tornado hit Holton on July 30, 2004, there was so much damage to a house he owns, that it will not be repaired. The house was one of the oldest in town and there are some salvageable materials available. Anyone interested should talk to him.

Jerry Wilson, who is a fifth grade teacher at South Ripley Elementary School of Versailles, gave a very interesting account of the Meriwether Lewis and William Clark expedition. Mr. Wilson dressed in an outfit similar to what the explorers would have worn in the early 1800's. He displayed a large collection of supplies and guns used during that period. Mr. Wilson, also, showed several pictures and a map of the Lewis and Clark trail route. The expedition was done under the direction of President Thomas Jefferson and their efforts were very important in the development of our Country. Everyone present received a pamphlet with information and pictures of the Lewis and Clark trip. It was a very interesting and informative program.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments served by Otter Creek Township.

Betty Roepke, President,

Joan Krall acting secretary .

The RCHS Museum will be open Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. It will also be open on Saturday, November 24, 2005 during Pumpkin Show.



RCHS Library received an e-mail from the Philippines regarding the Ripley County Servicemen killed in South Pacific in WWII. Mr. Dave Dwiggin who is a retired Hoosier from Madison County, Indiana, is residing there and has visited the Manila American Cemetery where 17,206 American Servicemen are buried. He is attempting to find the Indiana families of these heroes to send a free photograph of the gravesite. Some died in battle in the Philippine Islands, Solomon Islands, New Guinea, Guam and Mariana Islands while others died in prison camps. There is also a memorial "Tablets of the Missing" listing the missing in action or buried at sea. His address is: zenas5@yahoo.com or 55 Balagtas Blvd, San Pablo City 4000, Philippines.

Ripley Co. Soldiers:

Diefenbach, Rudolph G., USA, DOD 10-Feb-45, buried in Manila
Messang, William J., USA, DOD 10-Feb-45, buried in Manila
Miller, Leslie E., USAAF, DOD 09-Jan-45, Missing or Buried at Sea
Nickelson, Raymond, USN, DOD 15-Dec-45, Missing or Buried at Sea

We will always be thankful beyond words for the brave heroes who gave their all to keep the United States of America the "Land of the Free"

Every Monday as I volunteer at RCHS Library I learn something new ex; One gentleman from Society of American Baseball Research was researching Grover Hartley, Osgood native and Big League baseball player; then there was a relative of Casey Jones, famous Railroad engineer from Jackson, Tn.. His home is now a museum. He was honored for giving up his life to save passengers and crew. We used to sing a ballad about him. Also a Jennings County Country Singer from Nashville, Tn. who was in Madison for a gig. Everyone has a story-just need someone to listen. Listening has become a lost art!

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Otto White 1893-1961, photographer from North Vernon, In. A tribute was held for him at Jennings County Visitor Center in Oct. I was glad to hear of this, since he had taken many photos in Ripley County, especially the 8th Grade commencements that were held at the Osgood Fairgrounds. Ripley County consisted of many small schools in the 11 townships. All the 8th grade graduates would gather at the Osgood Fair Grounds. They would then march from the Art Hall to the grandstand. Many years the music was furnished by Emma Creath's orchestra. The grandstand was crowded with family and friends. The speakers were from State offices and Professors from a University. This was an all day affair. Following the excercises, a picture was taken of the graduating class in the area center of the Racetrack by Otto White. Many of these photos have been given to the RCHS and are in the museum. Some are framed but many are in the cardboard circle they were mailed in.

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Most of our memberships are from out of county, I thought they would like to know that the Damm Theatre at Osgood was purchased by the Golda and Gilmore Reynolds Foundation. Public records revealed that the property was purchased for \$60,000. My sister and I went to see Crocodile Dundee II. Since we were the only ones who showed up that night we offered to come back later. Viola Damm said "It was advertised and we will show the movie". Sis said "I didn't have a very good seat the last show I went to" Isaïd "If you don't get a good seat tonight its your own fault" We were like Ronald and Nancy -enjoying a private showing. I remember seeing silent movies at the Damm Theatre. and also the Bank nights they had in the 1930's. The theatre would be packed.

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The first sidewalks in Versailles were laid from Wingates corner to the square at a cost of \$100.

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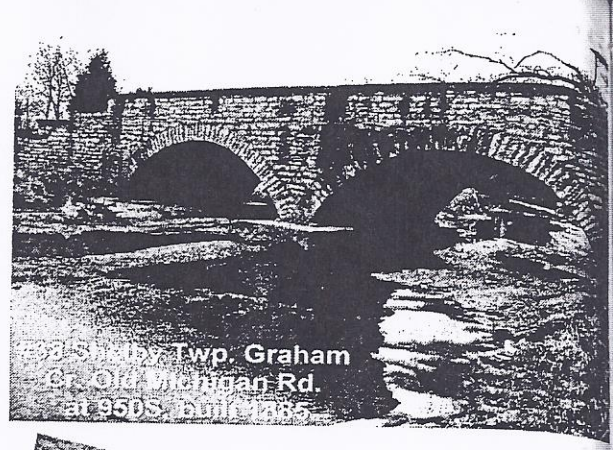
Daniel Voorhees, excellent speaker, spoke at the Centennial celebration at Versailles in 1876. Julius Wayland, Editor of Versailles newspaper at that time wanted to attend the Exposition at Philadelphia. Not having the money to go, he organized a local celebration to secure money. He got a number of people to contribute funds estimated at 1500. A table 300 foot long and loaded with food was set up. A strong guard kept the crowd away until dinner was announced, with just one grab and all the food was gone. Not a person sat down to the table to eat. This celebration was held in Conyer's Grove (where John Paul Homes are now) Oh Yes! Julius Wayland went to the Exposition at Philadelphia.

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The Court House Inn is under new management. It also has a new name. Yellow Dog Tavern and Eatery.

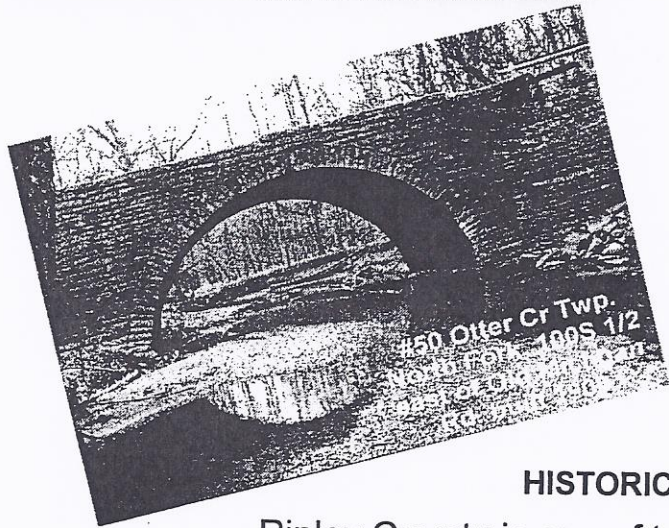


#3 Brown Twp. over Raccoon Cr. Olean Rd. near Hwy 62 W of Friendship, built 1890.

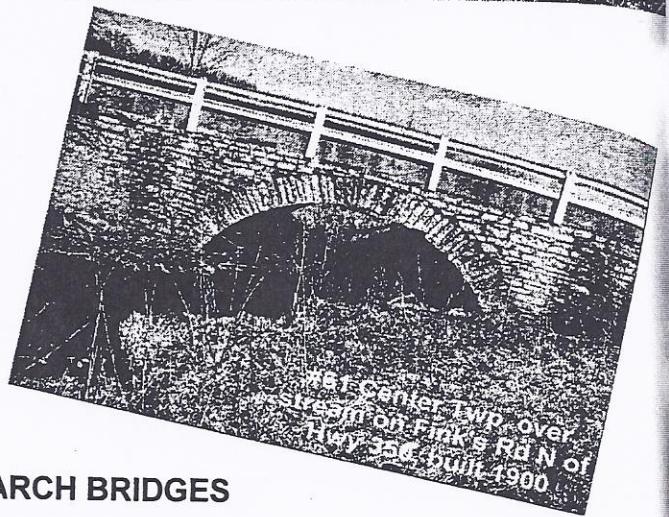


#8 Shelby Twp. Graham Cr. Old Michigan Rd. at 950S, built 1885

SAVE OUR BRIDGES!



#50 Otter Cr Twp. North 207 - 100S 1/2



Center Twp. over stream on Fink's Rd N of Hwy 300, built 1900.

HISTORIC STONE ARCH BRIDGES

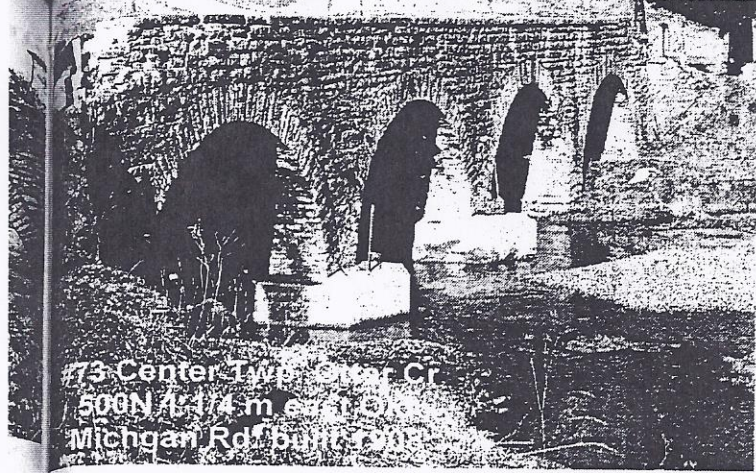
Ripley County is one of two Indiana counties that have the most stone arch bridges (the other county being Decatur). The bridges were constructed between 1870 and 1910. Eleven bridges still carry traffic daily. We also have several smaller bridges that are classified as culverts. Culverts are those that have a span of less than 20 feet. Gradually we are losing these bridges as they are replaced by more modern structures. Stone Arch bridges are an engineering marvel considering the equipment the builders had to use to cut, haul and erect the stone. At least five of our stone arch bridges have been demolished in recent years. RCHS is very concerned about preserving these historic assets. Please help by contacting us with your opinions and suggestions



#64 Center Twp. Little Otter Cr. 300N 1/4 m. east of Old Michigan Rd. b 1880



#70 Jackson Twp. Little Otter Cr. 650N 1/4 m west Old Michigan Rd. built 1900



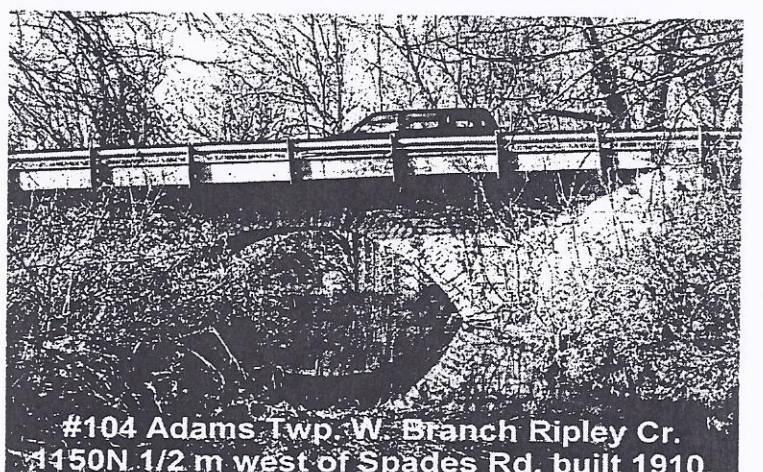
#73 Center Twp. Otter Cr.
500N 1/4 m east of
Michigan Rd. built 1908



#80 Otter Cr. Twp. Brush Cr. 850W N
of Hopewell Church, built 1875



#93 Franklin Twp. E
Branch, Ripley Co. Spades
Rd. N of Hwy 48, built 1880

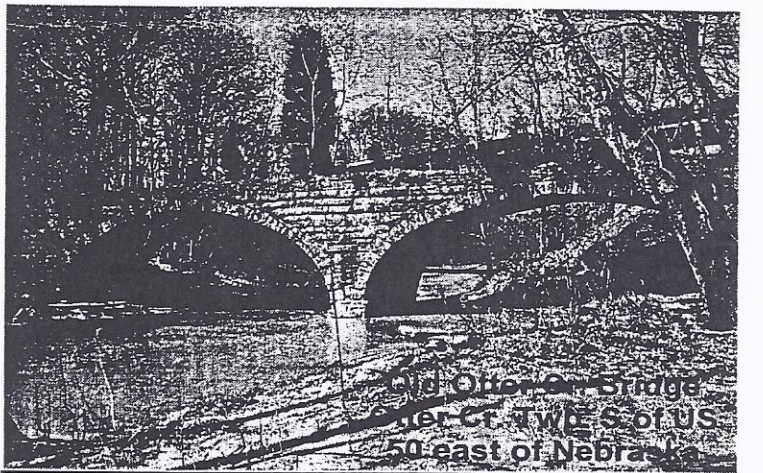


#104 Adams Twp. W. Branch Ripley Cr.
1150N 1/2 m west of Spades Rd. built 1910.



Johnson Twp.
under 421 at Wye
near Versailles

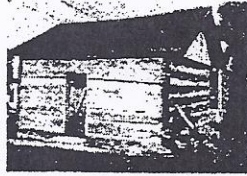
Johnson Twp. Under US 421 at Wye Park near Versailles. This bridge has been widened about 10 feet to the east to meet Federal Highway Standards. It is in danger of being demolished when the intersection of US 421 and US 50 is changed in the near future.



Old Otter Cr. Bridge
Otter Cr. Twp. S of US
50 east of Nebraska

Otter Creek Twp. built in 1908 and abandoned in 1930, over Otter Creek located South of US 50 near the Jennings County line. Railroad Bridge is located North of US 50 opposite stone arch bridge.

Thanks to: Helen Einhaus, Ripley County Historian, and Prof. James Cooper, Professor of History at DePauw University for documenting the history of these antique bridges; to Katherine Taul, Executive Director of the Ripley County Tourism Bureau, for including the bridge numbers and sites on the current Ripley County map, which is available for sale at the Tourism office or the Ripley County Auditor's office; to Norris and Joan Krall for pictures, compilation and printing RCHS newsletter.



Versailles, IN 47042

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

- Adams Twp. - Mrs Betty Roepke; 9644 E Co Rd 1300 N, Sunman, IN 47041
- Brown Twp. - Vacant
- Center Twp. - Mr. Norris Krall; 4499 N Old Michigan Rd, Osgood, IN 47037
- Delaware Twp. - Mrs. Lois Workman; 4823 N Co Rd 350 E, Osgood, IN 47037
- Franklin Twp. - Mrs. Esther Edmondson 7653 E Co Rd 800 N, Sunman, IN 47041
- Jackson Twp. - Mr. Andrew Scholle; 5448 W Co Rd 800 N, Osgood, IN 47037
- Johnson Twp. - Vacant
- Laughery Twp. - Vacant
- Otter Creek Twp. - Mrs. Beatrice Boyd; P.O.Box 83 Holton, IN 47023
- Shelby Twp. - Mrs. Cheryl Welch; 6453 S Co Rd 225 W, Versailles, IN 47042
- Washington Twp. - Mr. Henry Walker; 5793 E Co Rd 200 N, Milan, IN 47031

- Mrs. Helen Einhaus; 610 N Buckeye St., Osgood , IN 47037
- Lori Hoffman; 5565 E. Lower Dry Fork Rd. Madison, IN 47250
- Bea Boyd, Henry & Jerry Walker, and Norris & JoAn Krall

President

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Museum Curator
Secretary

County Historian
Web Master
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The Ripley County, Indiana,
Historical Society, Inc.
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