

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

Museum--Corner Main and Water Streets

Bernaillon, Indiana 47042

VOLUME XVIII

JANUARY 1994

NUMBER 1

WINTER MEETING

The winter meeting of the R.C.H.S. will be held in Brown twp. Sunday, January 9 in the Olean St. Paul Lutheran Church at 2 o'clock. The program will be given by the Roepkes about their trip to Europe earlier this year. Lets hope we don't get snowed in.

* AUTUMN MEETING

The Ripley County Historical Society met October 10 at the Raintree Retirement Village in Sunman.

The program was given first as the Kellys had another commitment. Myron showed a video tape taken at the Old Washington Cemetery, of the 4th of July program honoring the Revolutionary War Veterans buried there. There were over 100 people present, color guards, bugler and bagpiper. The firing squad was made up of people from the shoots at the Walter Cline Range. They were in appropriate dress and used their flintlock rifles. It was a very impressive and unique ceremony.

Robert Kelly followed his father's program by showing us pictures of their travels through Africa. He was in the lesser known areas which were very primitive. They had some very odd experiences but were treated royally wherever they went.

The business meeting was opened by Pres. Betty Roepke and each one introduced himself by name and twp. or town. There were over 30 members and visitors present. Bea Boyd gave the treas. report which was accepted.

Our director from Jackson Twp. has moved out of state so Kathryn Manship was appointed to replace her. Delicious refreshments were served at the close of the meeting while the directors held their business meeting.

DO remember your DUES are DUE

Dues are \$4 per person per year payable on or before January first in order to receive your April bulletin. Life memberships are \$100 per person.

The Ripley County History Book Vol II came in time for Christmas which sure slowed up Christmas preparations!

A TRIBUTE TO "UNCLE JIM"

Over \$240,000 was distributed locally from the Tyson Fund at the annual meeting on the birthday of Uncle Jim Tyson. September 14.

The town of Versailles was top recipient, receiving \$93,134. but the RCHS received \$6000. We knew the Tyson Church was in needed repairs and almost hesitated to ask for \$3,000. This was like a gift from heaven.

The Tyson Fund trustees are Jeff Logman, Pres, Ted Spurlock, V P, Marge Pohle, Sec, Ginger Bradford, Dan Goris, Patsy Holdsworth, Jerry Lowe, Sally Stegner, and Jim Whitehead.

So many people have benefited by the gifts of this generous man and we want to preserve his memory. At the October RCHS Meeting the Directors decided they would place a bronze plaque to mark his birthplace. The building owner, Michael Bedel, gave his permission and the plaque was ordered. It came this week. It will be installed on this historic building located on the CourtHouse Square.

We sadly bid farewell to a lifelong member of the community and a charter member of the Historical Society. She was famous over a wide area for her paintings. She retired, sold out and has moved to Michigan where several of her children live. Phyllis Miller will be missed by a great many people.

TRIVIA ---

In northern climates, the deep ground frost thawed in May. That's when the remains of those who died during the winter could be buried. Engaged couples respectfully delayed their weddings until after the funerals, so June became the traditional marriage month.

CHIPS FROM AN OLD CHOPPING BLOCK

By Gayle S. Eads

Fox drives, at least in the southern part of Ripley County, were a kind of neighborhood cooperative effort, the general objective being to capture foxes and reduce the raids of that little animal upon the poultry flocks of the farmers. There was also a social factor involved, since the participants following the end of the drive, would visit with friends in the vicinity of the "center" to partake of whatever refreshments might be offered.

The drives were publicized by hand bills, similar to a sale bill, notices were carried in the county papers and the party line telephones were brought into use through the "general ring" which was a signal or all subscribers to listen in for the news. (This is not to say that some subscribers didn't listen to conversations at other times, since privacy was not one of the conveniences of a country party line).

One such notice was billed as "Tanglewood Grand Fox Drive", and the wording pretty well describes the action:

There will be a grand fox drive held on Feb. 26, 1898 to center on Uncle Samuel Shaw's farm, south of the barn, with lines as follows:

Beginning at Marshall Downey's thence east to C. T. Shaw's east corner; thence south to Graham Creek, and following said creek to William Holman's corner; thence to the North Fork road; thence north to the place of beginning.

Captains as follows:

East line: Riding Captains; D. K. Marsh, James Laswell, James Wooley, George Kinnett, Walking Captains; Wm. Black, J. A. Horton, L. V. Shook, David Marsh, and Mel Rayborn.

South Line: Riding Captains; Alfred Wooley, Thos. Wooley, John Livingston, Frank Hankins.

Walking Captains; M. M. Gookins, T. L. Hughes, Anthony Myers and William Holman.

West Line: Riding Captains; Philip Seelinger, Wm. Miller, Marshall Downey, Albert Shaw. Walking Captains; Sam Melson, Omer Williams, Lytleton Reynolds and Calvin Rea.

South Line: Riding Captains; Frank Braley, Wm. Griffith, Jesse Kelley, G. W. Bodine. Walking Captains; Thomas Creigmile, Steve Trisler, Everett Jackson and Robert Raney.

W. W. Connelley, Commander-in-Chief.

Postively no dogs or guns allowed on grounds. Lines will form at 9:30 a.m. and start promptly at 9:45 a.m. All captains carry a flag. By order of Committee: Wm. Hughes, Mel Rayborn, Alfred Wooley, L. V. Shook.

The rule, no dogs or guns, was one of safety to prevent the "drivers" from getting excited and shooting one another especially as the lines centered in an open field and the foxes ran first one way and then another to try to escape. Although some did escape; most were disposed of by stout sticks and the committee sold their pelts to buy more hand bills for the next drive. Some claimed that fox hunters who kept fox hounds and enjoyed the sport of the chase to hear their hounds bay, were not above making a hole in the line so the fox might be available another day for a chase. In any case, both were conservationists, one favoring poultry and the other foxes.

And what fox drives would not have preferred to have been a "riding captain" rather than a "walking lineman" whose job was to beat on a pan or ring a bell?

These columns were gathered by Bea Boyd. Ruth Behlmer loaned them and others were given to the Museum by Flora Ballman. They were gathered into a notebook in 1987.

*From
Behlmer*

The Lost State of Franklin

Greeneville was capital of the ill-fated state of Franklin, started by John Sevier and Landon Carter at Jonesboro, Tenn., Aug 23, 1784. They moved the capital to Greeneville in November, 1785. Sevier and his followers sought to form a government independent of North Carolina, which controlled the territory until the Revolutionary War ended, when the federal government pressured North Carolina to give up its western holdings.

Named for Benjamin Franklin, the State of Franklin established its own courts and militia. An argument about the new state's Constitution and a feud between Sevier's followers and North Carolina loyalists doomed the state. Efforts to have Franklin admitted to the Union as the 14th state failed by one vote in Congress, and in 1789, Sevier swore allegiance to North Carolina and was elected by Greene County to the North Carolina Senate.

With that move by Sevier, the State of Franklin effectively died. But in 1796, the new state of Tennessee was admitted to the Union.

(BlueRidge Country; Greeneville Tennessee, by Charles B Johnson; Sept/Oct 1993, p.32.)

We have lost another long time member. Rachel White of Osgood died October 5. She was a faithful member for many years.

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

DAR Patriot Index, 1966

Roster Soldiers And Patriots of the American Revolution Buried in Indiana, Vols. I, II, and III.

by Cathy May, Librarian, Ross' Run Chapter DAR

The Cranfill Family, A History. Also DALRYMPLE, SPARLING, NEWMAN, YOUNG, PETERMAN, HUNT and HOFF.

by Jim and Jean, Nickey, Cincinnati

Carroll County and the Michigan Road by Juanita Hunter
from Carroll Co. Museum

Folder containing Newsletters to Date from Tri- County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 118, Batesville, IN 47006

Young John Licking and Ancestors -- 3 pgs.

Young Mary Libbert and Ancestors -- 3 pgs.

from Alan F. Smith, Versailles

RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Officers elected to serve until after the April 1994 meeting.

ADAMS Twp.; Mrs. Charles Roepke, 9644E Co Rd 1300N, Sunman, IN 47041 Pres.
BROWN Twp.; Mrs. Alice McCoy, 5616S St Rd 129S, Versailles, IN 47042 SEC.
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Mrs. Alice Glover, 5611E Co Rd 300N, Milan, IN 47031 BULLETIN EDITOR

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