

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

Museum--Corner Main and Water Streets

Versailles, Indiana 47042

VOLUME XVI

JANUARY 1996

NUMBER 1

WINTER MEETING

The first meeting this year will be held Sunday, January 14 at 2 o'clock in the Christian Church of Holton. As you will see by the insert in the Bulletin there have been some surprising developments in the "Bank Purchase" situation. There will be more information available and we will attempt to answer your questions.

NOTES ON THE OCTOBER MEETING

The fall meeting of the Ripley County Historical Society was held in the Batesville Library. Forty members and guests were present. All eleven townships were represented.

President Betty Roepke called the meeting to order. Everyone introduced themselves. The secretary's reports were read. There were two special directors meetings held, one on July 30 and the other on August 20. All were approved.

Bea gave an account of all business transactions from the past three months. The society had received \$1500.00 from the Tyson fund, which was appreciated very much. Also \$380 was received in memorials for Herbert Thompson. A balance of \$1451.50 was reported in the checking account.

During old business Carolyn Hahn reported the person she had contacted to inspect the archives building said, "The building would not collapse. A portion in front needed to be jacked up and minor repair to the rooms." Stutler Bros. had fixed the electrical problem and also other electric wiring while they were there. It was found that birds had built nests in the chimney. This problem will be taken care of and a cap put on the chimney. The main item of business was the big question of buying the old Versailles Bank Building to use for records and papers for the Historical Society. At present the owner's rock bottom price is \$70,000. After very many questions and ideas the matter was left for the final decision ^{of} the directors.

The afternoon program was given by Dr. James Ramage who is a Professor of History at Northern Kentucky University. He is the author of a book about Gen. John Hunt Morgan which was his topic. His thoughts about the southern General were quite different than what the northern people felt for the General.

At the close of the general meeting the directors held their meeting. David Dreyer made a motion that a committee be appointed to raise funds this year for the bank building. This was seconded by Sandra Meisberger and approved. The first 1996 meeting will be in Otter Creek Township.

DUES ARE DUE as of first of January. Check your mailing label. This year they are still \$5 a year or \$100 for life membership. Please send to: Mrs. Donald Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023

Peoples History of Ripley County, Indiana
Facts and Fancies Concerning "Old Timbers" by Violet E. Toph

[This is continued from the October issue which contained the first part of the story. Violet walked many miles to get material for her Peoples History. Sometimes someone would take her in a buggy, and later in an auto. She should have had a horse. bb] .

The keynote of this Estate seems to be comfort and sports, which enable the world weary Millionaire to relax and imagine he is "just a man". Everywhere the sports idea is suggested and reminders of former scenes of pleasure deck the Lodge. Some are quite startling. The Stroller started back in dismay at the sight of "Old Tige" sprawled at the entrance of the regular living room. As he failed to bark or growl, she decided he was not a watch dog but a very real imitation of "Man's loved companion". Each door suggests varieties of "Huskies" but what would an Alaskan native say to "my Lady's Pomeranian"? The Stroller was very glad that the numerous bear skins and the mountain lion skin with open mouths filled with cruel looking teeth were the reminders of the Proprietor's cause instead of the bears and panthers which used to roam adown Big. Graham. The elk and moose heads also recall scenes of interest to the owner and his family, but they suggested to the Stroller the days of "Auld lang syne" when herds of deer roamed over the hills of old Shelby Township. Fishing on Big Graham must seem tame to the present owner after fishing in the Everglades, Columbia River, etc. as suggested by "the Big Fish". Is it a Tarpon? Anyway it is "a whale of a fish". Fishing in Big Graham was sport and meat too for the Pioneers of Shelby Township, and the dug out canoe of the dusky savage floated down after the finny tribe and the scalps of the white man. Two kinds of sports, yes, different indeed!

Two enormous fireplaces, one at each end of the room, with andirons, tongs and old fireplace cooking utensils unobtrusively supplemented by several pieces of modern culinary art enables the Thomsons to amuse themselves and guests by making a pot of soup, frying a dish of flapjacks, roasting a haunch of venison (if it's ordered from the west or Canada), roasting apples, popping corn, baking a pot of beans, a corn pone, etc. If either doesn't turn out right no difference for there is a competent cook with a modern range and cooking utensils in the kitchen. Not so in the one room log cabin of the pioneer.

The upstairs and downstairs bedrooms show preparations for the comfortable lodging of many guests. The ladies' bedroom contains a huge four poster bed covered with a patchwork quilt which lookas as if great grandmother had fashioned it from Pioneer scraps. Alas this old fashioned place of repose seems to be "a bone of contention" for the Superintendent said that the ladies quarreled for the privilege of sleeping in the four poster. The other beds in this room and in the boys' room were single modern beds made at Berea College and furnished with spreads and mattresses also the handiwork of Berea students. Again the old and new hob-nob with but a tiny clash. Comfort galore but do

millionaires' guests ever snore? If so imagine the music issuing from these rooms during the "wee sma hours of the night. Occasionally a book, a bedroom slipper, a bit of dainty larngerie or a tie flung on a dresser, bed, table or chair gave a homelike atmosphere to the upstairs rooms.

Very thick doors of light colored wood are noticeable traced with black-locks which the Superintendent said were no two designs just alike and black conventional design hinges. The prevalence of black cat designs caused the Stroller to wonder if it were Halloween there all the year around, and if the china dogs ever treed the iron cats.

Do the wealthy ever rise early enough to view the sunrise? The Stroller regretfully decided that the superb view from the rustic porch across the East side of the LODge would have but scant admiration from the devotees on the night before card tables. Wrapped in the arms of Morpheus they would not even see the approach of wonderful Old Aurora. Sunrise, however, was not the only attraction of the sylvan lounging place. It is almost on a level with the tops of the wonderful sycamores, poplar, maple, ash, and black oak trees which have their homes on Big Graham. A sheer drop of seventy feet from the railing of the veranda into the bed of the stream with the tinkle, tinkle of its sometimes languorous flow and the sometimes rushing roaring melody rising to mingle with the musical mating song of the cardinals, robins, bluebirds, wrens and rarer birds which worship nature at this sylvan shrine.

With a sign, the Stroller, re-entered the LODge to be greeted with a whiff of fragrance which suggested "the cedars of Lebanon" but later reflection caused her to think that moths were just as liable to have an appetite for twenty-five or fifty thousand dollar furs and coats as for twenty five and fifty dollar ones, hence the NEW TIMBERS clothes presses of cedar.

Imaging the amazement of the Algonquins and Iroquois or great grandfather Amos and Great grandmother Frances Ann if they could stroll into their modern adaptation of the early 1820's and see the six-horse power engine pumping the water from a distant spring over the bank of Big Graham into the toilets and kitchen of "Old Timbers". Would they recognize the fireplaces with their modern comfort in contrast with those of their time which resulted in frozen backs and toasted faces, when the snow sifted in where the chinkin had fallen from between the logs of the poorly built cabin.

A tiny horse shoe over the barn door proclaims good luck for the master and his Ladye Faire when they ride to the hounds or merely canter over the rolling hills or rambling bridle paths of their bosky dells. Six superb mounts extended their velvety noses for caresses but the seventh, My Lady's own private mount showed more than "a touch of DIABLERIE" when resentment of the intrusion of "poah white trash" in the midst of luxury was expressed by flung back ears curling lips and an attempt to nip a piece out of not only the intruder but the Superintendent as well. Perhaps this was only the equine way of saying, "My mistress is a lady of great spirit and prowess".

Eleven cute wild duckies rambled through the gangway of the barn and contributed their dainty musical quack quacks of welcome in an attempt to mitigate the naughtiness of My "Ladye's Mount".

Everywhere a great love of man's most ancient companion, the dog is shown not only by the artificial dogs already mentioned but by an attractive kennel full of the real article, and by a somewhat artistic picture which hangs in the den, of two English dogs which Mr. Williams said were the constant companions of the master and his sons.

Enough of a Stroller's disconnected fancy so let's to business. Not only is this vast estate a sanctuary for world-weary minds and a relaxation for strained nerves but it is very practical as well. There are 300 acres of spruce, pine, poplar and walnut already set out with from two to three years growth, hence the name in the future may become "NEW TIMBERS" The game preserve is also practical and a pleasant prospect for the youths who will inherit their father's wise provisions for their future. Another practical side of this Park is that it furnishes employment for several residents of Shelby Township. Mr and Mrs. Williams, their two daughters, a son-in-law and two other men are resident employees and at times as occasion requires a number of other workmen receive employment. At present a large ice house, tool shed and blacksmith shop is being constructed of cement blocks. This of course employs a number of men. When guests are present extra women are employed as cooks and maids.

A number of farms were bought to comprise the 2,300 acres. Some of these were the Homes of Messers Emmett Williams, Mike Lineweber, Charles Rea, Robert Elston, Garnet Henry, Henry Delay, John Glauber and Charles Furlow.

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

HUNTINGTON DESCENDANTS 197 pages donated by Eileen Livingston Mullins
2 books (loose leaf note books) from Alfred Wilson
SCHUSTER, HILL, HAGEN, SMITH, WILSON, with pictures. Delaware and Prattsburg area.

Delaware Methodist Cemetery and Grigsby Family Cemetery, Delaware, Ripley Co. IN 1994
from Evelyn Hastings Martin.

SOME MORE MOORES HILL COLLEGE GRADUATES

MOORES HILL COLLEGE

43

1885.

Mary B. Hole, A. B., A. M., LaHabra, Cal.
Belle Conkling, B. S., Philadelphia, Penn.
Oliver Hall, B. S., LL. B., Lawyer, Butte, Montana.
Reuben H. Moore, B. S., A. M., S. T. B., Martinsville, Ind.
Alta M. Roberts, B. S., Indianapolis, Ind.
Eva M. Opp, B. S., Newport, Ky.

1886.

Edward A. Robertson, A. B., A. M., President George R. Smith College,
Sedalia, Mo.
Samuel W. Collett, B. S., M. S., Teacher in High School, Xenia, Ohio.
Ora P. Daughters, B. S., Teacher, Moores Hill, Ind.
Charles H. Meeds, B. S., Civil Engineer, Winton Place, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Vergil M. Henderson, B. S., Teacher, Cleves, Ohio.
John W. Johnson, B. S., Cashier in Bank, Patriot, Ind.
Henry Ross, B. S., Minister, Morton, Ind.
Edith Shookley, B. S., Teacher, Moores Hill, Ind.

1887.

Edith Pfaffenberger, A. B., A. M., Seymour, Ind.
Laura E. McIntire, B. S., Des Moines, Iowa.

1888.

Andrew J. Bigney, A. B., A. M., Teacher in Moores Hill College, Moores
Hill, Ind.
Herbert M. Adkinson, B. S., Manufacturer, Indianapolis, Ind.
Harvey J. Clements, B. S., M. S., M. D., Physician, 1556 Canal St., New
Orleans, La.
Oulla J. Vayhinger, B. S., Moores Hill, Ind.
Sadie Mitchell, B. S., Scottsburg, Ind.
Henry B. Smith, B. S., A. B., A. M., Teacher in High School, 1450 Penn.
Ave., Denver, Colo.

1889.

Harry Phillips, A. B., Stenographer, Indianapolis, Ind.
William E. Shaw, A. B., A. M., B. D., Minister, Chebanse, Ill.
Wallace D. Corry, B. S., M. D., Physician, Nebraska, Ind.
Ruth Moore, B. S., Moores Hill, Ind.
John F. Robertson, B. S., M. D., Physician, 2813 East Michigan St.,
Indianapolis, Ind.
Pearl Shookley, B. S., Student in Missions, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Elbert L. Wimmer, B. S., Minister, Logansport, Ind.



BUZZINGS ROUND YOUR FAMILY TREE by Bea

Q-1-1996 Mrs. Ruth Ehr Gott, 709 Piccadilly Rd., Anderson, In 46013 would like to hear from any descendants of the JOHN and MARY (CARTER) WHITEHEAD Family. They settled near Summan, Franklin Twp, Ripley Co. in 1818. They were parents of 10(ten) children. Two were b. in Morris Co. N. J.

Sometimes you wonder if anyone gets an answer to their queries, when Bingo here's an uplifting letter from Betty Rhoda. She had received "Volumes" from Betty Ashby and Ida Leszczewski in answer to her last January query re: Huntington and Henderson. It has kept her busy all year. If she has learned to pronounce Ida's last name, she is ahead of me. (IN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The annual History Conference Meeting was held this year at Valle Vista Conference Center in Greenwood, In. This was wonderful for us, up Interstate 74 and then as the crow flies west to Greenwood. LOvely drive, very little traffic and no lights. Janice Avedissian, Linda Cutter and I attended.

I guess if I live to be 100, I'll not have another summer like this one. I attended 3 Attic Sales. You don't actually have to have an attic to have one but it does help. JUst means you can store more "Stuff". The sales were, O. J. Montgomerys, Estate sales of Mildred Cizek and Herbert Thompson. O. J is still living w. daughter in Holton. Now these folks were all savers and collectors. I can associate with this generation as can anyone who lived through the "Great Depression." I could write a book on this but I'll have to shorten it.

At Herbert's sale a red Sheaffer Fountain pen , \$40. and Green Parker , \$80. I talked with the man from Louisville who purchased the red pen. He deals in Watches and pens. Said the pen was worth \$1200. The Surveyor tools that had been used by Jonathan Hill brought \$2700. They were purchased by our County surveyor, Jeff French. If you are in the Court House at Versailles you can see the Court House painting by Phyllis Miller also from the Thompson sale. It is in the Office of Judge Carl Taul.

If you are in Osgood you might stop in at the Ripley County Bank and see Ms. Mildred. This was a 20 year old Hoya Plant that was Mildred Cizek's, Director from Center Twp for many years. Thanks to Willard Tucker the Hoya was saved. He had a trellis built and the beautiful shiny leaves look hand polished. The start came from Whidbey Island, Wa. in 1975. It has pink blossoms very fragrant although it is not blooming now. She was an avid reader and book collector. Some of her books are at the Osgood Library. At the sale a Little Colonel Book was sold and purchased by a man looking for 25 years for the copy to complete his set. The McGuffey readers were bought as gifts for teachers, and a Morgan Book disappeared.

In each sale you could see a persons life and hobbies. I have a lovely "Still Life" from Montgomery sale. Also in their attic was a tintype, and scratched on the back "Grandpa Joel T. Beach". Boy! was that a find. My gr-grandfather. Thanks to Alan Smith who photographed it and made a negative. 10 of his gr and gr-gr grandchildren have been recipients of a photo of him.

I wanted to compare an Estate settlement in 1850. Then the auctioneer received \$1 for crying sale, .25¢ to clerk at auction, \$1. apprasing personal Property. Some of the listed appraisal were: Pocket Knife 12½¢, 3 pr pants, 25¢, 5¢, & 75¢, Cotton handkerchief, 25¢, 2 drawing knives, 37½¢ each, hat 25¢, 2 watches, \$3¢, 25¢, suspenders , 20¢. However, some of the property did not do too well at the auction. The hat 3¢, Pocket Knife 6¢, Pr Pants 3 ¢, Vest, 1¢, Cott Handkerchief 12¢, pr socks 10¢, 2 watches 1.05 & 7.55, suspenders 25¢. Total receipts were 29.86 . Hard to believe? Many purchasers gave their notes in payment, even in sales of only land 3¢. Perhaps we need to watch our pennies a little closer. Thats what Ben Franklin said.

I've used up all my space, but did want to thank Alfred Wilson, from Knoxville, Tn. He was not able to make the trip to Indiana but his daughter, Claudia and Granddaughter came and brought the 2 volumes of history he had done on the Prattsburg area. They also visited with relatives in Milan.

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

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Officers elected to serve until after the April 1996 meeting.

ADAMS Twp.; Mrs. Charles Roepke, 9644 E Co Rd 1300 N, Sunman, IN 47041 Pres.
BROWN Twp.; Mrs. Alice McCoy, 5616 S St Rd 129, Versailles, IN 47042 Sec.
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 V. Pres.
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 N, Osgood, IN 47037
Mrs. Alice Glover, 5611 E Co Rd 300 N, Milan, IN 47031 Bulletin Ed.

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
