

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

P.O. Box 525

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

VOLUME XX

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JANUARY MEETING

The January meeting will be held January 9th, at 2:00 P.M., in the RCHS building on the court house square.

The October meeting was held the 10th of October. The minutes were read and then the treasurer's report was made by Bea Boyd.

The program for the October meeting was presented by Mr. Robert Taylor, from Sunman. Mr. Taylor showed us how to weave wreaths and pictures from human hair. This was a very attention grabbing program. We were all a bit awed at the delicate, time consuming task of winding a thin wire around a few strands of hair laid along a thin cylinder and then to see a lovely flower bloom when the cylinder was removed; and the wired hair bent into a teardrop shape.

The new millennium doesn't start until 12:01 A.M., January 1st, 2001. Why so? When the first calendar was created, it didn't start as year zero, it started as year 1. Therefore, 1,000 years after this, the next millennium started at 12:01 A.M. 1001. So, all those Y2K thumpers are jumping the gun by 365 days.

RCHS has their new copier! So all of us can now receive their bulletins in pristine condition, with all the pages intact. RCHS apologizes for the missing pages in the October bulletin. They were left out in an effort to keep the old copier running long enough to get the bulletins copied.

Please check your newsletter label to see if it is time to renew your membership. Our operating budget depends on you!

October Meeting minutes

The Ripley County Historical Society Meeting was held at the RCHS Library in Versailles with 33 members and guests present.

The minutes were read by Henry Walker. Motion made by Wilbur Myers and they were accepted as read.

Treasure's report given by Bea Boyd. Motion made and seconded to be approved as read. She also gave a report on the Lilly grant. Carolyn Hahn gave report on progress at the museum building, should have the remaining bills and work finished in the near future. Also the society is responsible for a time capsule.

A note from the ⁶Dyers was read by Alice McCoy about David's mother's table.

A color printer has been donated to the Society by Mr & Mrs Manion, of Louisville, KY. Also a magnifying reader, which had been presented to the Tyson Library by Dr. Mulford, has been presented to RCHS by the Tyson Library. We also have a color scanner hooked to the computer. It has been loaned to RCHS by Sandra Meisberger.

A new copier has been ordered with money granted from the Tyson Fund. The amount from the fund was \$3,000.00.

No activity on the building fund as noted by Norris Krall. It was also noted that the much needed repair work had been done to Otter Creek Cemetery with a Rising Sun Foundation grant of \$8,000.00, matching the funds raised by the local community.

It was reported that a stone marker where the first county court was held is in danger of falling in a ditch. The Ripley County Highway Department was notified. Follow up will be done. The land has been surveyed off for housing, and is presently owned by Denver Mills.

Need to check to be sure microfilms to be replaced have been ordered. (Note-not replaced, but missing newspapers purchased)

A report on a fire that destroyed 1500 acres near Osgood, in 1874 that threatened the town was read.

A motion was made by Lori Hoffman, and seconded by Alan Smith to adjourn. The next meeting will be at the RCHS Library, the second Sunday in January and is to be hosted by Brown Twp.

A very good program on Hair Wreaths, jewelry, and art was presented by Robert Taylor of Sunman. He showed many articles, some of which he had made. He also told that he had spent years to find how the once popular art form was made. He finished by saying that since he has retired it has become a cottage business for him. A very much enjoyed program.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Secretary - Henry Walker	Ripley County History Book Vol I	\$65.00
President - Alice McCoy	Ripley County History Book Vol II	55.00
	Johnson Township Cemetery	10.00
	Brown Township Cemetery	10.00

Please send orders to Ripley County Historical Soc
PO Box 525
Versailles, In 47042

NEW MARION MARKER

Historical Society dedicated marker at New Marion

First Court was held at New Marion 104 years ago. This dedication in Sept 1922. All of Shelby Township and many others were present at New Marion Sunday to help celebrate the first homecoming held in Ripley County and the dedication of the marker that has been erected to mark the spot where the first court was held in Ripley County. Both the events were under the auspices of the Ripley County Historical Society.

In the afternoon, Judge M. F. Thompson, native son of Shelby Township delivered the dedicatory address. After the noon hour, Airy Taylor, A. R. Beach, Rev. Geo Scheidler, pastor St. Magdalen delivered addresses. Mrs. Emma King Benham read an original poem

and S. R. Ryker read a short Historical sketch of Shelby Twp. Mr. Ryker also had prepared a history of the Michigan road but time did not permit of it being read. Judge Bagot and Mrs. Keherer of Anderson were expected to be present as was Chas Peak, but no control prevented them, however Judge Bagot sent a letter which was read by Dr. John H. Hess. There were other short addresses made by Wm. R. Castner, Chas Royce, B. L. Vawters and others spoke.

The music was furnished by Mrs. Emma Creath's orchestra. The biggest event of the day, however was the opportunity offered for meeting old friends and renewing old acquaintances. Persons who had not met since children, met again. Men and women who left Shelby Twp as children were there, with grandchildren, besides these there were people there from all parts of the country. They were from Osgood, Batesville, Milan, Holton, Sunman. In fact nearly every town, village and Hamlet in the county was represented.

The Historical Society of Ripley County has a big program mapped out. Ripley County is rich in historical material and it is the purpose of the society to collect this material now, before those who helped make Ripley County have passed away.

History is the record of what has been done by people whether it is in a nation, State, County or community and it is the History of the individual communities that makes the history of the nation. Everybody should belong to the Historical Society of Ripley Co. The dues are only 50¢ per year and the society needs some money to carry on its work. If you cannot participate actively in the work of the society, you can spare 50¢ to help carry on the work. Mrs. Clara Jones of Osgood will accept your money and enroll you as a member of the Society.

Then there is another way in which you can help. You may have some articles of Historical value, say an old lamp, an old time and iron or some other articles that you personally don't think of much value, but which from an Historical standpoint may be very valuable, if you have, call attention to it and the society may be very glad to get it. The society has no money to buy these things but will borrow them and keep them on display at the Osgood Library and will take good care of them.

These are just a few suggestions, there are lots of others which may occur to you.

The marker that was dedicated Sunday is located on the east side of the road at the top of the hill leading up from Big Graham Creek. It is made of Bedford stone and is the gift of Joseph Hassmer. The work was done by Jenkins and Holman. It serves a double purpose; that of marking the site of the first court held in Ripley County and is also a road marker. The first court was held in a building or possibly under a big tree a short distance to the east of the marker. The building has been torn down but the marker will stand for ages.

As said, this work Sunday is just a beginning. Other townships have events of importance that can be celebrated and no doubt, will be celebrated as soon as the course of events justify.

This was typed from a handwritten copy.

Since the roadside marker has come into controversy, I thought this article would be excellent to run in the bulletin. bb.



Benjamin Brown's home, where the first Ripley County Court was held 5-11-1818



5/11/1818 Circuit Court Marker at New Marion

DEATHS and MEMORIALS

Memory of Dave Mendel . Received notice of his death on October 15, 1999 Memorials received from following.

Dr/ Douglas and Joan Zipes, Carmel, In
Michael Autry Minneapolis, Mn
William and Debra Carter, Nineveh, In
Dr. Richard and Rozanne Kovacs, Indianapolis, In
Illumenex Corp, Plymouth , Minn
Leslie Brown, Indianapolis.

Earl Udey B June 29, 1904 d Nov 14, 1999

DUES ARE DUE as of the first of January. Check your mailing label. The dues are \$10.00 for new members and 5.00 for renewal. Please send dues to :Mrs. Don Boyd, PO Box , Holton, 47023.

Q-1-2000 Alice Lutz Swanson would like more information on the Volz Family. Boltz-other spelling. Her grandfather was John Strassinger, Gr Gr parents were Henry and Christine Volz Strassinger. Her Address 309 Avendia Gaviota, San Clemente, Ca. 92672.

Q-1-2000 Asking for help. re: John and Nancy Johnson Sheets who parented Baily Sheets, his bro and sisters. I have exhausted my side from Caleb and Olive Sheets. Are there any Sheet researchers who can help with birth and death from other family members?
John Sheets Box 88, Medora, In 47260

It has been my desire to visit the old family cemeteries of Shelby Twp. On Nov 9, my son, Don Nealis and I headed down south on the Old Michigan Road. We checked out the old HAMILTON cemetery which is located on the Hance property on the bend just before the Old Michigan Road runs into 421. Our 2nd stop was at the Hance Grocery on 421. (This is a very neat Grocery Store, people in that area are very fortunate to have it, besides groceries, etc, you can get a super sandwich. and also find someone who knows the territory and can give instructions. Actually we ended up in Brown Twp at a cemetery, vine covered completely enclosed with a wrought iron fence, rusty and falling in places. This must have been beautiful when cared for. The burials in this cemetery are listed in the Brown Twp Cemetery book. Families there were Blackwells, Harmon, Overturfs,. There is a Civil War Soldier, A Rev. War Soldier. This was 1 mile w of the Blackwell School. Violet listed this in 1935. Returning home, making some calls, to see if it is O.K. to go on peoples property. (This is a good idea or you might end up picking out buckshot) On Nov 27 we took off again and visited 3 cemeteries in Shelby Twp. Thanks to Bernard Geisler, who gave us directions to the Old Ditch Cemetery on his property. Violet had been there and listed graves in 1935 and we were able to find every stone she had listed, also found 2 not listed, since there were no dates on them they may have been buried after her listing. The stones were of very hard substance. Strangely enough, when Violet was there she was helped by the Grandparents of Bernard Geisler. We then went to the Overturf Cemetery. These two could use some restoration. The 3rd cemetery was the OLD CONCORD. There we found bases but no stones only 2 dates and one epitaph. Farewell my wife and children all

From you your father, Christ doth call

Mourn not for me, it is in vain

To call me to your sight again.

I cannot sing Violet Tophs praises enough. She saw way ahead of many people and got out and done what she could do, sometimes walking miles to record history.

I would be amiss not to mention the Gilmore and Golda Reynolds Trust, since it has made news over the nation. It had been in existence since 1990 but not much mentioned until the 23 mil was disclosed. Newspapers, radio, tv, even Peoples Magazine had news about this gift to the town of Osgood.

When you get this Christmas will be a thing of the past, hope you had a good one!

Please send all queries to the Society Treasurer.

Mrs. Don Boyd, PO Box 83, Holton, In 47023



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
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Delaware Twp. - To Be Filled
Franklin Twp. - Mrs. Jacqueline Rohlfing; 6162 N Co Rd 800E Milan IN 47031
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HONORARY

Mary Manship - 3373 W Co Rd 600 N, Osgood, IN 47037 C.G.R.S.
Lori Hoffman - Bulletin Editor * Web Master

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