

JAN 06 2004

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

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VOLUME XXV

JANUARY 2004

NUMBER 1

The January 11, 2004 meeting will be at 2:00 pm at RCHS Library Building on the square in Versailles. The program will be given by George Ammerman, Jr. of Sunman. He is a train enthusiast and has been collecting train and depot information and memorabilia for many years. Mr. Ammerman, a retired businessman, has graciously agreed to share his hobby. Since the railroad has been a very important part of Ripley County history, this is a topic of interest for all of us.

Andrew Scholle was elected Jackson Township Director to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Kathryn Manship. Andy and siblings, Angie, Chris and Mike, were raised in Osgood by parents Paul and Mary Scholle. He has recently moved to his new home in Jackson Township. Andy obtained his education at Vincennes University and Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, graduating in 2002. He is employed at French & Associates Land Surveying in Versailles. Andy has done extensive work in surveying and recording grave locations of local cemeteries and has a great interest in history. We are pleased to have Andy's youth, enthusiasm, and expertise on the Board.

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.

Your membership expires on December 31 of the year shown on your mailing label. 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

GOD BLESS AMERICA IN 2004!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

MINUTES OF THE RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 13, 2003

The regular meeting of the Society was held October 13 at the Society Library with 20 members and guests present. Directors for the townships stood and introduced themselves and the others from the townships and guests from away did likewise.

The minutes were read and accepted as read. Bea gave the treasurers report and it also was accepted.

One of our faithful workers, Helen Caplinger has been ill. A card was passed and all signed it; we pray for her quick recovery.

The sale of books continues to be good.

Diane Coon gave an update on the Underground Railroad Project, with much praise for the help she received from Helen Einhaus and Norris Krall. The state has approved three markers, 1. at the Court House, 2. at Flatrock, 3. at Napoleon. We were trying for six; 4. Laughery Switch, 5. Raccoon Creek, 6. Harding homestead.

Ripley County also needs to note other historical places. This could be done with epoxy markers, these are much cheaper than metal and require no upkeep. Funds from the Ripley County Foundation and the Gilmore Reynolds Foundation could possibly be used for these. Because of the Freedom Center in Cincinnati we must conform to State rules. Helen recognized Diane for a job well done.

The County has asked that we maintain the existing historical markers. Mike Stratton will help monitor them.

Kevin Geisler, a sophomore at South Ripley, was introduced by Norris Krall. He has produced web sites for businesses and also video and slideshow productions. He showed us the wonders of the computer age. He gave a wonderful program of high quality and I am sure he will be quite successful in work and school.

Meeting was adjourned. Refreshments were served by Center Township.

Next meeting will be January 11, 2004.

Alice McCoy, President

Henry Walker, Secretary

Underground Railroad Project

The first of the educational packets, based on information about the Underground Railroad in Ripley County, were mailed to teachers of elementary and middle schools in November. Based on real-life people and two horses used in the UGRR, the stories are amplified with project suggestions and materials that broaden and deepen the child's understanding of Indiana and American history, especially of events that happened here in the county. We have also suggested a bibliography that the school librarians can use to get books and materials to support the program. Our plan is to use the 2003-2004 school year as a trial period to test out the materials and see how the teachers and students respond to our stories and materials.

We expect to develop local UGRR resources for high school based on the materials gathered for the application packages we submitted to the Indiana Historical Bureau. We hope to have these materials ready for distribution sometime this Spring. Also we will be placing copies of all of these materials as part of the Ripley County Historical Society Archives.

The final meeting in the series of reviews of our applications for Indiana Freedom Trail Markers will be held December 12, 2003. The Stephen S. Harding Application for the Court House Square and the Union Freewill Baptist Church at Flat Rock Application have been recommended for approval by the Marker Advisory Committee. Action on this recommendation will be taken at the December 12th meeting of the Indiana Library and Historical Board and we will receive notification before Christmas. The Napoleon Convergence Point Application has not been approved. We are continuing to work with the Indiana Historical Bureau and this will likely involve resubmission of the package in April 2004 with additional information. The Indiana Historical Bureau does not accept oral history nor 19th and early 20th century interviews and newspaper articles. Our applications for Laughery Switch and for the Olean/Raccoon Creek sites were not approved due to lack of primary source data. We believe that these sites are historically accurate. Plans continue for the Ripley County Heritage Signs that were discussed at the October 2003 RCHS meeting and these sites will be candidates for inclusion in this program. In 2004, additional research work is planned for the Batesville, Old Milan, Delaware, Osgood, Holton, Otter Creek and Cross Plain sites and people. We welcome any information that will assist in our research.

Funding for our Heritage Sign Program has been supported by the Rising Sun Regional Foundation, and the Center Township area by the Gilmore and Golda Reynolds Foundation. We are most appreciative of their support and enthusiasm for our county project.

Helen Einhaus, County Historian and Diane Perrine Coon, Project Director.



Buzzing

LEAP YEAR 2004 This used to be open seasons for the ladies looking for a husband. Times certainly have changed, I ran across this list of Osgood eligible bachelors that was in a County Paper in 1888 Possibly some of your ancestors

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| John Eckert | Seb Jones | Jack Henderson |
| Leo Ermich | Will Leslie | Dante McMurphy |
| Joe Hatzel | Alf Ashman | Ed Beach |
| Joe Maier | Matt Harding | Frank Gallagher |
| Pat Connelly | Charles Gray | Herman Kaiser |
| Charles Moxley | Ed Glasgow | John Perry |
| Howard Smith | Winfield Hiestand | |
| Nick Morbach | Charley McMurphy | |

Accouches continued from Dr. Roberts Account Book 1876-1879.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Nov 18, 1877 Sam Tucker | Jan 17, 1878 James Gaddis |
| Nov 19 1877 George Draper | Jan 18, 1878 John Stratton |
| Dec 11, 1877 Billey Davis | Jan 28, 1878 Sam Parker |
| Dec 17, 1877 Henry Fite | Feb 09, 1878 George Dudley |

THANKS to a grant from THE RISING SUN REGIONAL FOUNDATION, the renovation of the Ditch cemetery by Don Nealis was completed on November 11, 2003. The Ditch Cemetery is located on property of Bernard Geisler. Our thanks to him for his cooperation.

On December 18 I attended the unveiling of the History Tree. This took place in the main Floor of the Court House. This tree made of cherry wood was designed and made by the Weberding's Carving Shop, Inc of Batesville. The tree stands 8 feet high and 6 feet wide. I must say "I was really impressed"! 52 historical events and persons were listed. I was most happy to see the Holton Covered bridge and our own Violet Toph. If you missed the unveiling you can visit the History during Court House hours, 8:00-4:00. Also see www.ripleycountytourism.com. I would like to mention that on the original committee, Alan Smith and Carolyn Hahn represented the RCHS.

I ran across a clipping from the county paper. This was written by Pat Patterson. Pat, once Editor of the County paper and also Ripley County Clerk was a delightful fellow. I'd like to copy a tribute that he made to Violet Toph. "I keep remembering another person who needs special attention and honors. That person is Violet Toph who has contributed more to Ripley County history than any other person. Every person in Ripley County should know something about her life and contributions, including the long hours and days she spent in gathering history of the county. For instance, she walked to every cemetery known in this county to collect names from tombstones and document them. She never asked for recognition or credit. She was a quiet person, loved solitude and the County Historical Society. Not once while I was in the County Clerk's office did she miss collecting my membership dues in the Historical society. Ripley County is blessed with special people who are contributors and who will be remembered for their dedication and love of county!"
Rarely a week goes by that someone is not requesting something from Violets Papers.

Hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a Great New Year.
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Federal Census Data

President George Washington signed into law, an act known as Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution, which provided for the "enumeration of inhabitants." The main purpose was to count the people and record the men eligible for military service. The information was also used for collection of taxes and apportionment of seats in the House of Representatives. The census was to be taken every decade in years ending in zero.

1790 The first official census conducted under Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State, taken by U.S. Marshals on horseback, counted 3.9 million inhabitants, only listed the surname and given name of the head of household, listed other family members by number in categories of age, race, gender, also number of slaves and other people in household. The census was started in July of 1789 and finished in June of 1790. Later censuses were collected in the census calendar year.

1800 -1830 Listed by name the head of household and number of others in categories.

1840 Added information about number of deaf & dumb; blind; insane, employment, literacy, and pensioner from military service.

1850 Added given names of all in household; value of real estate; occupation, birthplace; birthplace of parents; married within the year; school attendance; whether a pauper or convict. Also added was a supplemental to record slaves and deaths.

1860 -1890 Generally same information with little more added each time. In 1860, the U.S. Congress mandated that the census be closed to public access for 72 years. However for a fee some information may be released to the named person, their heirs, or legal representative, from: Personal Census Search Unit, U.S. Census Bureau, PO Box 1545, Jeffersonville, IN 47131- phone: 812-218-3046, fax: 812-288-3371, or History Staff, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233 phone: 301-457-1167.

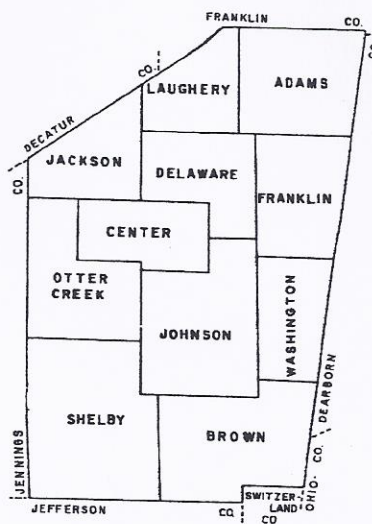
The 1890 census taken as usual, however on January 10, 1921, a fire in the Commerce Department in Washington, DC destroyed all but a few fragment pieces of the census. Over the years, Ancestry.com, with the aid of the National Archives and Records Administration and the Allen County Public Library of Fort Wayne, IN, has collected the first definitive on-line substitute for the missing census. It includes fragments of original census, special veterans schedules, Native American tribe censuses, state censuses of 1885 or 1895, city directories, but little information from rural areas.

1900-2000 Census conducted each ten years with more information added. During the Cold War following WWII, to safe-guard the census information in case of nuclear weapons attack on the United States, regional archive branches were established. The core data was housed at the main Archives in Washington, DC and duplicate data sent to the branches that are located in Anchorage, AK; Laguna Niguel, CA; San Bruno, CA; Denver, CO; East Point, CA; Chicago, IL; Waltham, MA; Pittsfield, MA; New York City, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Fort Worth, TX; and Seattle, WA.

2002 The 1930 census was released, after 72 years, to the public in May. The 1940 census will not be opened until the year 2012. The Ripley County Historical Society has a complete selection of local censuses available.

FROM the ARCHIVES

Gleaned by JOAN



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.

Napoleon - Ja 1894. Barbara Fox, a petite little lady living near Napoleon, realizing the danger of being trapped in a burning building, designed and patented the plans for a fire escape. From her design, the local blacksmith, Frederick Bredemeyer, hammered out an escape which was attached to the fourth floor window of the Heimsath Feed Mill. People came from as far away as Cincinnati to watch it demonstrated on Saturday October 12, 1895. Several people tried the escape and safely descended to the ground. Miss Fox was born in Switzerland in 1842 and came to American ten years later with her family. The Fox family was remembered for their melodious yodeling voices. Miss Fox was a charter member of the Napoleon St. John's Lutheran Church and in 1925 was laid to rest in an unmarked grave in the church cemetery.

Titusville - Sh 1883. A little daughter of James Lemon, the Superintendent of the Poor Farm, is sick with typhoid fever. ♦ J.N. Underwood fractured one of his ribs last week while lifting at his wagon wheel. ♦ There will be a fox drive on Saturday 24 in the western part of the township. All lovers of the sport are invited. ♦ J.C. Vawter proposes to run an accommodation wagon nightly for the benefit of those wishing transportation to the protracted meeting at the Baptist Church in West Fork.

Otter Village - Ce 1883. Hopewell Church has a new bell. ♦ The roads are almost impassable. Our school closes about the first of March. Term 105 days. ♦ Charles Vanosdol is the hunter and trapper of these parts from the perfume that greets our nostrils this morning, he must have found a skunk. ♦ A.P. Young intends to start in the Central Normal at Danville as soon as school closes. From there, he says he is going west. ♦ Mr. & Mrs. John Peterman's remains were interred in the cemetery here last week, the event being

most uncommon, a husband, wife and child all dying in one week. Their little daughter, Gracie, preceding them in death but a week. The funeral was largely attended, leaving many friends to mourn them.

Batesville - La 1883. Charles Stewart, the barber, has sold his place of business and gone west. ♦ William Konns, the druggist, is again confined to his bed by rheumatism. ♦ John St. Clair has received twenty German carp fish which he put in his pond. If his plan is successful, Batesville will be supplied with fresh fish in a few years. ♦ The masquerade Ball proved to be a success, though rain and sleet made it quite disagreeable in getting there. Those who were not there missed one of the best balls of the season. Proceeds were about \$150.

Milan - Fr 1883, Mr. Dallas Shockley and Miss Agnes Radley were married Thursday evening at the residence of the bride's parents, by Esq. Walker of Johnson Township. Mr. Shockley is a highly respected farmer and his lovely bride is the youngest daughter of Thomas M. Radley. ♦ The hub factories have completed their contract to furnish 30,000 hubs by the first of April and the factories have been shut down for repairs.

Osgood - Ce 1883. There are twelve millionaires in the United State Senate. ♦ The singing at the Methodist Church last Sunday was not so good as usual on account of Ellen Perry having a bad cold.

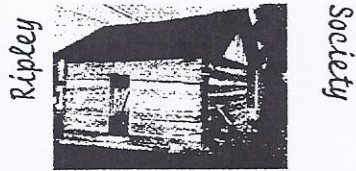
Holton - OC 1883. Work has resumed at the stone quarry. ♦ There was a fox drive at Lock Springs (in Jackson Township) last Saturday. ♦ 1920 The local undertaker, Horace Martin, was the proud owner of the first motorized hearse in the area. Sometimes when business was slow, Mr. Martin would hire himself and his vehicle to people and take them on business trips or pleasure trips. So his vehicle was used as both a hearse and a taxi. ♦ William Faulkner was an agent for Express & Railroad Companies at the Dabney Depot. He is buried in Holton Cemetery in unmarked grave. Daniel Faulkner was telegraph operator at the Dabney depot in 1883. It is believed the Faulknors ran the depot for several years. Later Station Masters were Fred Huntington and Roy Moore

Correct - Sh 1883. Born to William Curran and wife, a young dish washer. ♦ John W. McCoy has lost two children within the last week by scarlet fever.

March, 1883 Real estate transfers:

- Joseph B. Young (et el) to Newton Marsh lot #8 in New Marion \$100.
- Lenard E. Vanosdol to Anthony Brinson 138 3/4 acres, Brown Township, \$1,080.
- Willis Lemon to James W. Lemon 80 acres Brown Township \$1600.

County Historical



Versailles, IN 47042

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Adams Twp. - Mrs Betty Roepke; 9644 E Co Rd 1300 N, Sunman, IN 47041 | <u>V. President</u> |
| Brown Twp. - Mrs. Alice McCoy; 5616 S St Rd 129, Versailles, IN 47042 | <u>President</u> |
| 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. Jacqueline Rohlfing; 6162 N Co Rd 800 E, Milan, IN 47031 | |
| Jackson Twp. - Mr. Andrew Scholle, 5448 W Co Rd 800 N, Osgood, IN 47037 | |
| Johnson Twp. - Mr. Christopher Meyer, 3854 S SR 129, Versailles 47042 | |
| Laughery Twp. - Mrs. Carolyn Hahn; 13403 N Delaware Rd, Batesville, IN 47006 | <u>Treasurer</u> |
| 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 | <u>Secretary</u> |
| Mrs. Helen Einhaus - 610 N Buckeye St., Osgood <hteinhau@seidata.com> | <u>County Historian</u> |
| Lori Hoffman - Canaan, IN | <u>Web Master</u> |
| Alice McCoy, Bea Boyd, Henry & Jerry Walker, and Norris & JoAn Krall | <u>Newsletter Committee</u> |

The Ripley County, Indiana,
Historical Society, Inc.
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