

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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**VOLUME XXVIII**

**JANUARY 2007**

**NUMBER 1**

► The first meeting in 2007 of the Ripley Co. Historical Society will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2007 at 2:00pm, in the Archives Library on the west-side of the Courthouse Square in Versailles. The program will feature Delbert Abplanalp from Napoleon, who will discuss the building of the early roads in Ripley County and will focus particularly on the "Plank Road" between Versailles and Napoleon and how it was to become the toll road. This will be an interesting program. Delbert is one of Ripley County's interesting people and is known as the "Old Prospector" who has participated in many local parades. Everyone is invited to come visit with the "Old Prospector."



**Delbert Abplanalp,  
the Old Prospector.**

► At the last meeting, Mr. Frank Keenan was named by the RCHS directors to fill the vacancy as the Brown Township director. Mr. Keenan is a business man from Cincinnati who has purchased a home near Cross Plains. He is spending time here as he is preparing the home for his retirement. He became interested in Ripley County History as he discovered a portion of his home is an old log cabin which he is having restored.

► 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
(sold out)		Johnson Township Cemetery Index	10
Brown Twp. Tales by Alan Smith	20	Mailing fees added for all books shipped.	
Tales of Versailles by Alan Smith	16		

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:** Annual Memberships are \$10.00.

Life memberships are \$100

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## MINUTES OF THE RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Ripley County Historical Society met at 2:00pm October 8, 2006 with 27 members and guests present. The meeting was opened with each one giving their name and place of residence. The minutes were read by Henry Walker and accepted as read. The treasurer's report was given by Bea Boyd and accepted as read. Bea also reported the following Pioneer Cemeteries have been restored by the Historical Society: Weakman and Ditch, both in Brown Twp; Prattsburg in Franklin Twp; Culver in Delaware Twp. In addition, the Henderson Cemetery was restored by Chester Henderson and the Blair Cemetery was restored by James Ellerman.

The teller's cage that had been on loan from the Ripley County Bank was moved to the Osgood Museum. We received an antique roll top desk that had been used in the county offices and later in the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Davison gave the desk to the Historical Society. A certificate of appreciation was received for our help in placing the Historical Markers in Osgood for James Harrison Cravens and the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad. Norris Krall gave a report on the Osgood Museum and recommended it as a place to visit. Mr. David Westmeyer, Chairman of the Tyson Fund was given a very grateful thanks for the grant of \$12,000 to repair the Log Cabin on Water Street.

The program given by Marilyn Meisberger Browning, was a report on the Jefferson Proving Ground, about the trauma of being told the government was taking your property and only given a short time to resettle. Several people attending the meeting shared some of their memories of that time. Mrs. Browning also worked at the Proving Ground after it was established. A new book "Come Visit" had been published and is available.

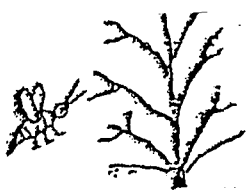
Next meeting will be on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Refreshments will be served by Johnson Township.

Betty Roepke, President, Henry Walker, Secretary

### RESTORATION OF FUNKHOUSER (SMITH-ENGEL) LOG CABIN

RCHS wishes to thank the Tyson Fund for their generous gift of \$12,000 to restore the log cabin located behind the museum. Several of the base logs of the old 1830's had deteriorated in recent years from the effects of moisture and dry rot. Joe Stephen has replaced all these this fall. All the ground level logs were replaced and were set on treated two-inch lumber to help prevent moisture migration in the future. As was expected several additional logs were found to be in a poor condition and were also replaced. All the chinking in the cabin was also replaced and the doors and windows were repaired. The cost of this restoration exceeded the grant by almost \$3,000. The roof was replaced last year. The cabin is now in a good state of repair and should be trouble free for many years to come. If you have not visited the cabin lately, you should plan a visit early next spring to see the improvements.





Z BUZZING' ROUND  
 Z your  
 Z FAMILY TREE  
 Z by  
 Z Bea

More news about Osgood native, Cecil Franke. In the July 2006 bulletin I wrote about his winning of the Flying Pig Marathon at Cincinnati. Since then he has won the Columbus Marathon with 2:18. being under 2:20 his expenses are now paid to New York to the Olympic Trials in Central Park, New York November 2007. Now, 38 this History teacher at Centerville and former JAC-CEN-DEL athlete will be running toward the goal of competing in the Olympics. A submitted picture appearing in the Osgood Journal 10-24-2006 shows his speed. It is almost a blurr. We wish him well.

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Below are some articles gleaned from Versailles Republican 9-1895.

Milan- The B&O S.W. railway will sell tickets at the rate of one cent a mile to Louisville next week-on account of the National Encampment G.A.R. Their 29th annual.

On Veterans meeting (Old veterans say "they never saw such a large attendance on 1st day any reunion" It is first encampment ever held south of the Mason and Dixon line.

Golden Corner, Eugene Obendorf, a bright young gentleman from Golden Corner, called at the Versailles Republican office to show us a portion of a tooth of some huge beast. This relic was found on the bank of Laughery Creek, about a mile below the spot where the mastodon rib was discovered a short time ago. Mr Obendorf has a valuable collection of Indian relics that he has picked up on the Obendorf farm.

Several large fish were caught by our fishermen in Laughery last week. The largest reported was 8 1/2 pounds.

Napoleon-Watermelons are very high at Napoleon 1 1/2 to 2¢ a piece. Jacob Abplanalp of Pipe creek visited his daughter, Mrs. August Michel several days last week.

M. S. Clark will hereafter run his hack every Monday morning, leaving @ 7 a.m., so as to catch the early train at Greensburg. He will also run on Wednesday and Saturday.

Will Tilly dug a fine well for Thompson Hayes recently.

Henry Johnson, Perry and Susie Myers and Minnie Lessett attended the Bicycle Tournament at Greensburg.

Versailles-A new pump has been placed in the town well near the Bank. The public is respectfully requested not to water stock at this well, as there is water for stock at the spring near White's Livery Stable.

This year has seemed short-since it went so fast. Hope your Christmas was a good one and next year will be even better.

## Activities in Ripley Co. at the arrival of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

News from the Versailles Republican and Batesville Tribune in January 1900.

\*George Wagner, who lives near Finks Church has started out the new year in a proper manner. He came to Versailles on the hunt of the representative of the Republican, so he could subscribe for the best, most reliable paper in the county.

\*The roads have been in a fine condition all fall because of the dry weather, the exception of about two weeks in December and now they are in splendid condition because of the cold weather. Certainly the log and lumber haulers have had a very favorable season for work.

### Batesville

\*Tuesday evening, Jan. 2, Miss Stratemeyer entertained with a social in honor of her brother, George of Topeka, Kansas. It was a pleasant gathering of friends and old schoolmates and enjoyed by all present. The guests were Misses Dora Wismann, Nora Walsman, Elizabeth and Amelia Duhme, Henrietta Wanning, Lotta Schrader, Martha Prell, Elma Hunefeldt, Anna Wehmyer and Pearl Ray and Messrs Wesley Schultz, Ralph Timmermann, Frank Ehret, Will Wehmyer, Edwin Wismann, Otto Nickel, Louis Zierer, and John Beihl.

\*The Young Men's Social Club gave a dance at their hall in Huntsville on New Year's night. They had a large attendance and a very good time.

\*John Menchhoffer of Adams Church took the early train for Greensburg, Saturday, where he ordered a fine

Packard for Lewis Bohlke of North Branch.

\*John H. Boose has had several teams hauling a fine quality of ice for several days. If the cold spell lasts much longer Batesville will harvest enough ice this winter to do her next summer.

\*Dr. Wallace Campbell is the new dentist in Batesville.

\*Adam Stockinger, Attorney and Notary, has an office in Bohland House.

\*Died on Monday, Jan. 1, 1900, at age 2 years, 3 months, and 22 days, little Clemens Charles Vonderheide, son of Quirin Vonderheide and wife. The remains were interred at the Catholic Cemetery. Among those attending the funeral were Dr. Vogt and wife of Oldenburg, John Huber and John Walsman of Morris, and Mrs. Zix and two children of Cincinnati.

### Osgood

\*Romney Willson came up from Versailles and played with the band boys at their concert Friday evening. Mr. Willson is quite a bright press reporter and keeps Versailles in the public eye by means of numerous dispatches from that town.

\*Mrs. Missouri Rittenhouse fell at her home last Wednesday and broke her hip. She was carrying in a stick of wood and slipped on some ice at the side of the house and fell on some

stones. She called for help and Mrs. Brard, who was there ran to her assistance but had to leave and run across the street for help. They carried her into the house and Drs. Freeman and Olmsted were called in to set the fracture, which was a very bad one.

\*Alf Ashman's handsome dwelling was destroyed by fire. It was noted that the Osgood fire company did all in their power to control the flames, but it steadily ate its way from the roof to the basement, greedily devouring the dry material.

\*Mrs. Fannie L. Yater was the guest of her friend, Mrs. T. M. Lake of Cleves, Ohio last week.

\*Mrs. Wm. Leslie and children returned home from Cincinnati, where they had been spending the holidays with her father A. B. Ashman.

\*Ed Krom went to Batesville, Thursday, to bring L. C. Ward back. Mr. Ward had been spending Christmas with his parents.

#### Versailles Court

\*Marriage Licenses: Wm. A. Ward 27, Sheldon, Ill. To Tena Brandt 23, Sunman; John Sieg 32, Spades to Sophia Rohuk 24, Spades; Louis Kohlerman 25, Milan to Drue Jerman 25, Milan.

\*New case: Thompson – In the matter of the estate of Thomas L. Hughes, dec'd, John Hughes exr, petition to turn personal property over to widow.

\*The last will and testament of John T. Dashiell dec'd, was probated Saturday.

#### Lockspring

\*January 1, 1900, Mr. Godfrey Fowl of near this place is probably the oldest man in Indiana. He was born January 1, 1800, on New Year's Day. A surprise was given him in honor of his 100 birthday Anniversary. Mr. Fowl is yet enjoying good health and promised to live many years yet. (Mr. Fowl d. 8-12-1900)

#### Ad

\*Any persons knowing themselves to be indebted to me are requested to call and settle at once. A. H. Beer, Versailles, Ind.

#### Napoleon

\*Word was received here last week that Albert Hicks was badly hurt by a bridge in Cincinnati. Dr. John C. Hicks spent several days in Cincinnati seeing his son. Mrs. Molly Foreman and her daughter, Mrs. Lillie Hicks were in Cincinnati with the latter's husband. He is slowly recovering.

#### From Toph's History -Michigan Road

In the early 1800's the Michigan Rd. was formed from the main Indian trail going north from Madison. The land was obtained, by a treaty, from the Potawatomi Indian Tribe. The road was very difficult to travel and was impassable for months at a time due to the weather. It was described as being so rough it would almost shake the teeth out of your head.



### OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Adams Twp. - Mrs Betty Roepke; 9644 E Co Rd 1300 N, Sunman, IN 47041  
 Brown Twp. - Mr. Frank Keenan, 3241 E State Rd 62, Cross Plains, IN 47017  
 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. - Mr. Michael Auterson; 549 W. Tanglewood Rd, Versailles, IN 47042  
 Laughery Twp. - Mrs. Helen Decker; 314 Crestview Lane, Batesville, IN 47006  
 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; 1721 N Co Rd 575 E, Milan, IN 47031

President

Treasurer

Museum Curator

Secretary

Lori Hoffman; 5565 E. Lower Dry Fork Rd. Madison, IN 47250  
 Bea Boyd, Henry & Jerry Walker, and Norris & JoAn Krall

Web Master

Newsletter Committee

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The Ripley County, Indiana,  
 Historical Society, Inc.  
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