

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

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* The first 2008 meeting of the Ripley Co. Historical Society will be Sunday, January 13th at 2:00 in the Archives Library on the West Side of the Courthouse Square, Versailles. The program will be by Franklin Township Director, Esther Edmondson sharing highlights of her Alaskan Cruise. Everyone is invited.

* The **Civilian Conservation Corps** Statue has been ordered!! RCHS is very thankful to have received the grants from Rising Sun Regional Foundation, Inc. and Ripley County Community Foundation, totaling \$20,000, enabling us to obtain the CCC statue. This project was the idea of Ruth Swinney, who died a few months ago. Her daughter, Lisa Ebinger is working with Ted Tapp, Versailles Park Property Manger and RCHS to complete this project to commemorate a very important time in the history of Ripley County and the entire United States. The bronze statue will be installed near the entrance of the Versailles State Park in late 2008 or early 2009, in conjunction with the Park's building project.

* **We have a new book**, "Versailles, Indiana School Life 1818 -1966 History & Documentary Sketches." The author is Alan F. Smith, Jr. the son of RCHS genealogist and historian, Alan Smith, who had published several books before his death in 2003. Alan Jr. was assisted by local scholars, Ken Akers, Mary Margaret Moorhead, William Moorhead, and Marion Jackson. It was published by Four-Sep Publications of Friendship, with art and layout direction by Christopher Meyer. The hard back, 162 page book is indexed and has the school's Senior pictures plus basketball team pictures, many sketches and random information. The Smith family has generously given some to the RCHS to sell. They are selling fast so if you want this Versailles School and History book, it is available at our Archives for \$20 or by mail for \$22.

THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE:

Ripley County History, Volume I	\$65	Vintage Postcards by Alan Smith	\$20
Brown Twp. Tales by Alan Smith	20	Brown Township Cemetery Index	10
Tales of Versailles by Alan Smith	16	Johnson Township Cemetery Index	10

Osgood, Indiana Sesquicentennial Celebration, 1856 – 2006, Remembering the Past, Documenting the Present, Looking to the Future. 74 pages, soft back, edited by Helen Vayhinger Caplinger. \$17 at our archives.

COME VISIT, a book by Jean McClellan featuring stories and remembrances of the people moved from their homes to make way for the Jefferson Proving Ground. This hard-back book sells for \$25 at our archives.

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

MINUTES OF THE RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 14, 2007

The Historical meeting was held at the Archives building at 2:00 pm with 33 guests and members present.

Minutes were read by Henry Walker and approved as read. The treasurer's report was given by Bea Boyd and approved as given.

Norris Krall, Ruth Swinney, Bea Boyd, JoAn Krall met with officials of the Rising Sun Regional Foundation seeking funding for the CCC monument for the Park.

Books and articles from old house were sold at auction and brought over \$1000.00.

Mike Stratton and committee are meeting to get Historical Markers for various sites in Ripley County. They asked permission to seek grants through RCHS to pay for the markers, and erecting them. Amount estimated from \$12000.00 to \$15000.00.

Also \$200.00 will be paid by RCHS to replace the U.S. Geological Marker on the Cox farm east of Holton

Norris Krall is still looking for information on Veterans of World War II. He has talked to History Teachers about having history students help on collecting information. One of every 8 men served in some capacity during the war. Send the information to Ripley County Historical Society at P.O. box 525, Versailles, In 47042 or directly to Norris at 4499 N. Old Michigan Road, Osgood.

Our program was Indian artifacts and was presented by Bob Kimball. He and his family have an extensive collection, collected from many parts of the country. It was a very interesting and an educational program.

Next meeting January 13, 2008 at RCHS Archives, Refreshments by Shelby Township.

Cheryl Welch, President

Henry Walker, Secretary

Activities Around The Archives

* Josephine Rascoe Keenan, wife of RCHS Brown Township Director Frank Keenan, is a writer of children stories. She has a very interesting story titled "Ohoyo Osh Chisba, The Unknown Woman" published in the November, 2007 Cricket Magazine. The story is an interpretation of a Choctaw Legend about corn. The story is beautifully illustrated and gives insight on Native American culture. The magazine has been added to the RCHS collection of local authors.

* **PLEASE** help us honor **RIPLEY COUNTY'S GREATEST GENERATION**

We visited Vevay this spring and saw the book Switzerland County had published honoring their WWII Veterans. We thought how nice it would be to have a book with a short history and pictures of each one of Ripley County's Finest. Ken Hylton, Ripley County Veterans Service Officer, was contacted and he expressed his willingness to help anyway he could. Many teachers and Veterans Organizations are also interested and want to help. There were approximately 2000 Ripley County men and women in military service during the time of WWII (1941-1945). To have an accurate record of the veterans, we need the help of all interested in Ripley County history. We are collecting pictures and histories now, **PLEASE** help us by sending information about your relatives, friends and neighbors. It certainly would be a shame if the book was published and your loved-one was not included because you did not take the time to send their information. Fill out the form enclosed in this newsletter. Form can be copied, send a separate form for each veteran. Send to: Norris Krall, 4499 N. Old Michigan Road, Osgood, IN 47037.

The last page of this newsletter is an example of how the book will look.



History and Information about the CCC by Bea Boyd

In 1933, millions of young men couldn't find work. The Great Depression had hit the United States and people felt useless and discouraged. That year Franklin D. Roosevelt took office as President and he immediately acted. At his request, Congress set up the Civilian Conservation Corps in March 1933. The corps recruited thousands of unemployed young men and sent them to help stop the destruction and erosion of the country's natural resources.

The results were astounding. They constructed 46,854 bridges, developed more than 800 parks, planted 3 billion trees, erected miles of fences, constructed lodges, museums and landmarks, thus providing employment for more than 3 million youths. Eventually there were camps in all states and Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. They received room, board, clothing, and \$5 a month for personal expenses. Twenty-five dollars a month were sent to their families to help them out. The work was hard, it was "on the job training" without modern day equipment, just hoes, picks, shovels, and sledge hammers.

Many CCC workers later became familiar names such as: Frank Sinatra, Marlan Brando, Robert Mitchum and many others who became our brave servicemen in WWII.

Local Information - I would like to tell you about our local CCC Camps. In August of 1934, the National Park Service announced plans to develop a federal park at the Versailles Recreation Demonstration Area on 1700 acres of Ripley County marginal farmland. By fall the land was secured and on January 1935 the first men of the Civilian Conservation Corps arrived to begin work. By 1943, the recreation area totaled over 5000 acres and on April 24, 1943, The National Park Service deeded the property to the State of Indiana and the Versailles project became Versailles State Park, Indiana's second largest park.

They always used to say, "Ripley County ground wouldn't raise a good racket." We (the Beach Family) lived on Otter Creek west of Holton and the bottom land did raise good crops. There were 40 acres joining us that were just clay banks. I remember seeing the CCC boys when they came there and built wooden dams to stop the wash and they planted pine trees on the whole hillside.

A young man from the Flat Rock Community named George Adams was one of the CCC workers stationed at the Versailles Camp. While he was working around the county, he met my sister, Mary and eventually they married. George has been dead since 2003, but when I asked Mary what she remembered about the CCC, she dug out the information George had stored in his CCC trunk since 1937. The mementos includes a large group picture of the Versailles workers with their names. Robert Adams, son of George and Mary, made a copy of the information and pictures for me. George was also at Medaryville, Indiana. It is now a rehab center.

Kathryn Kemker Holt's father worked at the Versailles CCC camp. He was not a CCC youth. Their home adjoined the Versailles camp.

My brother, Woodrow Beach, was at the Henryville, Indiana CCC camp. They planted trees all over Southwest Indiana.

In a Versailles Republican newspaper clipping dated 1987, Barnard Kathman from Benham said, "Everyone from the Midwest was sent to Ft. Knox, Kentucky where we were issued

overstocked WWI uniforms, caps and mess kits. We got our assignments then and I was sent to Camp Scioto #567, Friendship, Ohio." At this time they were attempting to form a Chapter of CCC Alumni in their area.

Ruth Ann's Dream – Ruth Ann Swinney had a dream, when she read in a magazine that they were placing bronze statues of a CCC worker in parks over the United States. She thought how wonderful it would be to have the first statue placed in Indiana, at our local Versailles Park where the CCC workers camped and did so much work, such as building cabins and shelters, dams, etc. that are still in use today. Ruth Ann not only thought .. she took action and with the help of RCHS a grant request was made to the **Rising Sun Regional Foundation, Inc.** The grant for \$15,000 came through about 2 weeks before Ruth Ann's death. The 2nd grant, applied for by her daughter, Lisa Ebinger, from **Ripley County Community Foundation** for \$5,000 came through this fall. The statue was ordered on December 16, 2007. The foundation for the 6 foot statue will be provided by the Versailles State Park, under the direction of Ted Tapp, Park Property Manger. The CCC Worker statue will be placed near the park entrance next to a new administration building planned to be built in 2008.

Most of the CCC Youths have passed away but we need to remember what they did to help build and beautify America.

The following article is a direct copy from Violet Toph's records of an informational meeting about the CCC in 1941. Shortly after this meeting World War II broke out and funding for the CCC ceased and most of the CCC men entered military service.

Page 1889 Peoples History of Ripley County, Indiana
CCCMeeting

Toph records
w: CCC

In order to familiarize the lay public with the advantages which the Civilian Conservation Corps offers unemployed youth between the ages of 17 and 23½ years, 21 guests were entertained at the Versailles Veteran CCC camp Friday evening May 9, 1941, when various speakers traced the procedure from application for CCC membership to its fulfillment. In company with CCC staff members and officials the number entertained at dinner totaled approximately 45 people. Many of the visitors assembled early and were conducted to various projects and buildings on the grounds.

Capt. F.L. Boaz presided during the program which was in observance of "Know Your CCC Camp week." being observed nationally. Mrs. Goldie Michel, county welfare director, explained the procedure from the time a CCC applicant entered the welfare office until his investigation had been completed and he had met the eligibility for certification. At this point Capt. Boaz took up the account of the applicant's arrival in the local camp, his physical examination and activities until he is sent to induction camp. Supt. Herman D. Ellis of the Federal Park area then proceeded with information, pointing out the second medical examination which they must undergo before they are sent to the various camps. Their reception into camps, the assignment of their clothing and jobs was then described by Capt. E.T. Winks. He informed the guests that the boys could finish high school, take up auto mechanics, electricity, wood work and other trades. Various staff members were then introduced by Capt. Winks and spoke briefly. E.B. Fogleman CCC educational advisor also spoke.

RIPLEY COUNTY'S GREATEST

NAME OF VETERAN

PARENT'S NAMES
INCLUDING MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME

WIFE'S MAIDEN NAME
& CHILDREN'S NAMES

DATE OF BIRTH DATE OF DEATH (IF DECEASED)

DATE OF ENTRY TO SERVICE DRAFTED ENLISTED

DATE OF DISCHARGE HIGHEST RANK

BRANCH OF SERVICE ARMY NAVY MARINES COAST GUARD
MERCHANT MARINE WAC AAF

UNIT(S)

MEDALS, AWARDS, CITATIONS RECEIVED:

THEATER(S) OF SERVICE:

RESIDENCE AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE (Township or City, State only):

PRESENT RESIDENCE (If Living or Place of burial if deceased):

PICTURE ATTACHED:
RETURN TO:

NEED NOT RETURN

FILE NAME:

EMAILED AS .JPG FILE TO nekrall@verizon.net

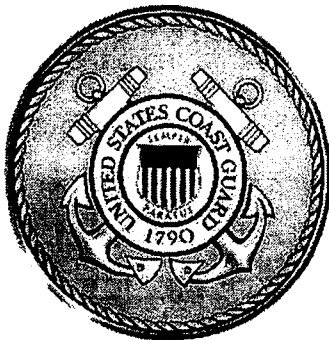
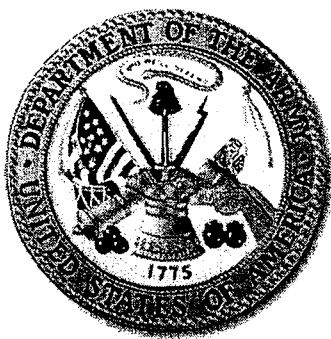
Please supply as much of the above information as is known. Blank fields of unknown information is OK. Any additional information will be kept in family file at Ripley County Historical Society

Return to Norris E. Krall; 4499 N. Old Michigan Rd. Osgood, IN 47037 or to RCHS P.O. Box 525; Versailles, IN 47042

RIPLEY COUNTY'S GREATEST GENERATION

This is the information that the Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc. would like to have on all veterans who have ties to Ripley County. Those who entered the service from Ripley County or those who migrated to Ripley County after their service will be appreciated. If all the information requested is not available, please submit that which is available. We would greatly appreciate a picture, preferably one with the service person in uniform, but a picture none the less. A good copy of the picture that does not have to be returned is preferred. If additional information is submitted, it may not be published however it will be retained in the historical society files and made available to future researchers. Do not assume that someone else will submit information about a particular veteran. We will combine information if there is a duplicate submission about a particular veteran. We have no problems with duplicate submissions. Better duplicates than none at all.

This is an excellent oral history project. If you have no first hand information, talk to your parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. Someone in your family knows first hand a veteran from World War II, our greatest generation, who helped preserve our nation and its freedoms! Statistics indicate that one of every eight Americans served at sometime during this Great War. Help preserve their memory!!



THE FINEST OF OUR GREATEST GENERATION



John Raymond Stratton 23, was born October 23, 1918, the son of Frank and Amy Edens Stratton. He graduated from Holton High in 1937. Raymond enlisted in the Navy in October, 1940. After training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, he was assigned in January, 1941 to the battleship USS Arizona. Early on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941 when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Raymond became the first from Ripley County, Indiana, to be Killed In Action during WWII. Today, the USS Arizona is a Nautical Tomb in Pearl Harbor in memory of more than 1100 men still entombed within the rusting hulk.

The Purple Heart was awarded to Seaman Raymond Stratton, posthumously.

Abram Wayne Stevens, son of Ralph and Audra Vanosdol Stevens, was born July 7, 1925. He graduated from Holton High School in 1942 at the age of 16. As soon as he was old enough, he volunteered in the Marine Corps and received training in California, Florida and North Carolina and became a radio operator and a gunner. Wayne was assigned to Marine Bombing Squadron #612, stationed at Okinawa. On July 27, 1945 his plane was on a night strike mission over Tokyo Bay. Plane and crew did not return to base and no trace of them could be found. Sgt. Wayne Stevens died just two weeks after his 20th birthday.



Sgt. Ephriam Leslie Marsh was born December 28, 1911 to Harry and Harley Surber Marsh near St. Magdalene, Indiana, and attended New Marion High School. He joined the National Guard and was inducted into the Army in December, 1942. He was promoted to Sergeant in February, 1944. Leslie was sent overseas, serving with the Medical Detachment 376 Infantry. Leslie was Killed in Action on February 10, 1944 in Fruedenberg, Germany. He was buried at Luxembourg and later returned to the United States to his final resting place in Cincinnati, Ohio. Leslie was married to Ronny Bryne Marsh and was a member of the Bethel Baptist Church. The Purple Heart and other medals were presented to his wife, posthumously.



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