

Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc.

Museum--Corner Main and Water Streets

Versailles, Indiana 47042

VOLUME XII

JULY 1988

NUMBER 3

SUMMER MEETING

The July 10 meeting of the Ripley County Historical Society will be held at the Annex, next to the Museum in Versailles at 2 o'clock E.S.T. The program is to be presented by Bo Susnick on antique tools.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE APRIL MEETING

The spring meeting of the R.C.H.S. was held April 10 at the Union Flatrock Baptist Church in Jackson Twp. It is a pretty little country church in an attractive setting beside the creek. President Randy Young conducted the business meeting. Minutes of the January meeting were approved with a minor correction. The Treasurer's report was heard and accepted. Each of the 36 attending introduced himself and stated the area he represented.

Phyllis Miller reported for the nominating committee. Nominees for director were: Carolyn Hahn for Laughery Twp.; Bea Boyd for Otter Creek Twp.; Kathleen Lane for Shelby Twp.; and Myron Kelly for Washington Twp. There being no nominations from the floor, the four were declared elected.

The president told of a new 4H project on genealogy that is being introduced in the county this year. The county 4H director, Mrs. Jan Luers and project leader B. J. Ault requested information from the Historical Society as to the reference material available and wished to meet at the Annex April 23. Mrs. Alice Glover volunteered to help with the meeting. (To update on the project -- The 4H group met at the Annex and were shown the facilities and material available to them. Kathryn and Mary Manship told them how to proceed in finding information and answered questions. Then while some of the 4H people were looking for research material, others toured the Museum as there wasn't room for all of them to work in the files at once. They were a very pleasant group to work with.)

The afternoon program was presented by Kathryn Manship, who continued her account of the life of Ed Short, a fascinating Ripley Co. native whose life story she had introduced to the group at the October meeting. Mrs. Manship illustrated her talk with numerous legal documents, pictures and newspaper clippings from that exciting period of our history.

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Please check the date on your mailing label to see if your dues are paid up to date. The \$3.00 annual dues are to be sent to our treasurer by January. Mrs. Donald Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023

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We still need people for Museum Hosts for July and August. You will find it an interesting experience. Call Mr. Herbert Thompson at 689 - 5019 or Mrs. Kathleen Lane at 689 - 5317.

An experience of the late Isaac King; re-told by his daughter
Mrs. Emma King Benham.

The article recently appearing in the Republican about Morgan's Raid recalls an often told tale of the late Isaac T. King, of his own experience at that time with a squad of Morgan's men, when with two companions, Herman Hubricht and R. M. Creath, they responded to the call of the Versailles people for help to protect the county's property from a threatened attack by Morgan and his men.

Each astride a spirited plow charger, and armed with shotguns, these three intrepid knights, after bidding farewell to their weeping wives, sallied forth to mortal combat with the blood-thirsty foe.

When just north of the Jimmie White homestead, a squad of men, way outnumbering their own party was seen approaching and here called a halt. Instead of halting, however, the trio with sublime faith in the old adage, "Those who run away will live to fight another day." took to the woods and ducking among the trees and bushes slid their steeds over the bluff at that point, skirted the bluff-side a distance and finally concealed their horses under an overhanging ledge of rock, that was footed by a dense thicket of underbrush and tying them, abandoned them to their fate, which proved to be a sad one, as the raiders left the road in pursuit and were both seen and heard shouting and shooting as they beat the bushes for their quarry.

Still keeping under cover of the woods and bushes, the three finally reached Versailles safely, but immediately fell into rough hands there, their guns being captured and among many others were broken across the corner of the Courthouse. That is all but one, and this was a small gun loaned to one of the three by John Bennett Carrington, it being one he had made, its being silver mounted and ornate with carving, a fine specimen of the skill of which he, a Yankee mechanic, from the "State of Wooden Nutmegs" was capable. This little gun bore the name of Betty, had it engraven or inlaid in silver on her polished surface, and Betty was such a noted beauty, and not one bit backward about "speaking her mind" and when she did it was "right to the point", that she was greatly coveted by swain, both country and otherwise; but she being the apple of her parent's eye, each suitor was doomed to disappointment.

Now the man entrusted with Betty on this memorable occasion told afterwards that he stood as close as he dared to the destroyers of so many trusty weapons, meaning to rescue Betty's mangled remains and return them to her owner, feeling sure that he who could build her could repair her, but when her turn came, the man stayed his hand, saying "That's a fine gun." and Betty went out with Morgan's men and it was always supposed foreswore her sex and became a Raider.

The three men returned home on foot, sadder and wiser, never once dreaming but that their horses had met the fate of Betty, so sure in fact, that almost four days passed before a doubt of their fate entered the minds of their owners and then a part of them started to make sure. It was only after a long and almost hopeless search that they found the hiding place of their steeds and were overjoyed to find them even as the horses were to be found - "lively critters", instead of corpses, for the dense thicket in which they were hidden had been food for the three, but was stripped of every twig. The hiding place of the horses had been selected at random and with pardonable haste, each of the men being strangers to the locality, except as seen from the roadway, but it was so well chosen that Morgan was cheated out of three good horses. The memory of Betty is still green among the old timers and their descendants.

A PROGRESS REPORT ON CARNEGIE HALL

As many of us in Ripley County are involved or concerned we will bring you an update. The committee to save and restore Carnegie Hall of Moores Hill College are getting "boney fingers" from the many projects involved in their efforts.

They have suspended the Thursday night dinners during the heat of the summer but serve refreshments, sandwiches, drinks, etc. during the Thursday Bingo. They also cater delicious food (either meals or refreshments) at a reasonable price for a wide variety of events; wedding receptions, auction sales, anniversary parties and reunions, either in the building or at other locations. The auditorium is available to rent for such events or there are smaller rooms for smaller gatherings.

Recently a large east room was opened as a museum for Moores Hill College and High School memorabilia. They are open from 1 to 4:30 fast time, on Saturday and Sunday or by appointment. They welcome visitors and donations of items.

The auditorium has had dinner theaters (with nice oldies that make the toes tap), craft shows, flea markets and more. This spring the Columbus Symphony presented a delightful program.

There is a craft shop with a big variety of goods and some antiques. Some things are donated but most are taken on consignment.

They are receiving some help with the maintenance and restoration through the Speedy Program and The Council on Aging.

GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

Please make queries as concise as practical. Typewritten copy is preferred but if handwritten make sure that it is very legible. The charge is 50¢ per query to society members and \$1.00 to non-members, payable in advance by check or stamps. Please send all queries to the treasurer; Mrs. Donald Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023

Hanson STEVENS m. Lavinia WICKARD in Ripley Co. May 11, 1838. Children b. in Ind., Iowa, Ore. The Hanson Stevens family has been holding annual reunions in Ore. for 96 yrs. Committee working on 100th, and publishing STEVENS genealogy. If interested contact: Scott Clevenger, 1415 N.W. 14th St., Corvallis, OR 97330

A quarterly family newsletter, "Brengele Branches", is published for \$15 per year with unlimited free queries to those interested in BRENGLE/BRINGLE/PRINGLE families from; Charles Brengele, 6619 Pheasant Rd., Baltimore, MD 21220

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Wortman Family, 9 pages. Apr. 88
by Alan F. Smith, Versailles

The Raccoon Lutheran Church Cemetery, Brown Twp. directions to find it.
by Flora Ballman Sept 87

Hendrixson Family, 5 pgs. family sheets.

Dole Family, 1 sheet

Mar. 88

by Verne L. Hendrixson, 825 N.W. Box 28, Buhler, KN 67522

First Holton Christian Church, 2 sheets. (church files)
by Bea Boyd, Holton

Directory of Indiana Museums from association of Indiana Museums.
1988 addition placed in Indiana section. Apr. 88

Ripley County All Star Basketball. Sports file.
Hopewell Church Directory. Church file. Apr. 88
Original plans of the Fangman Veneer Mill in Osgood. Apr. 87
by Kathryn Manship

"Searching for Your Ancestors" Apr. 88
by Ripley Co. 4H Genealogy Project.

Bible Records of Stevans Family, 15 pgs.
Wickard History, 6 pgs. Apr. 88 (family history
by Scott Clevenger, 1415 N.W. 14th St. Corvallis, OR 97330 file)

Burton Family, 12 pgs. family file Apr. 88
by Nina B. Burton, R.1, Cottonwood Falls, KN 66845

A Tribute To David Toops. Apr. 88
by The Hopewell Church.

Hopewell Baptist Church History, 1838-1943 and 1838-1988. church file
by Edgar and Ruth Ann Swinney, Holton, IN 47023 Apr. 88

Flat Rock Church History. Apr. 88
by Randall Young

2 posters: Crop Corps, from W.W. II Farm Work Center.
1 sheet "Find Your War Job", Indiana Industry Oct. 87
(filed with Civil Defence) Agriculture Business
by Eloise Shaw, Holton, IN 47023

2 WAC Uniforms worn by Pauline Peebles and sister Gladys
1 U.S. Flag, 50 stars Nov. 87
2 U.S. Flags, 48 stars and 50 stars. Used in school room.
by Pauline Peebles Britt, Versailles, IN 47042

COVERED BRIDGE TOUR

Near three o'clock Sunday, June 5, a caravan of around 20 cars wound its way down the shady country road northwest of Holton to the covered bridge crossing Otter Creek.

The Indiana Covered Bridge Society was on a pilgrimage. Having visited bridges earlier in the day, they had had lunch and their business meeting at Old Tunnel Inn at Vernon.

Mr. Walter Poesse of Bloomington, president of the Society, introduced Beatrice Boyd, county historian, from Holton. She gave a history of the Howe truss bridge, built in 1884 by Thomas Hardman. It is one of two covered bridges left in Ripley County.

The bridge was built on land owned by her great-great uncle, John Loyd, who had land granted in the 1830's. The bridge is sound but covered with graffiti. Partiers and fishermen had torn timber from the bridge to start fires. About 15 years ago, under the direction of County Commissioner Joe Schuerman, the whole bridge was covered with tin for protection. The tin soon became full of bullet holes, but the structure of the bridge was saved.

Treasurer M. Sechrist explained that money is now available for maintenance of covered bridges. This is the first time legislation has been passed to preserve the bridges.

HUNTING FUN

The name quilt which we told about in the January 1988 bulletin is now on display in the Museum. I'm sure anybody can find somebody on the quilt who is either a relative or acquaintance. Happy Hunting !

SOME NOTES ON THE TAYLOR SCHOOL

The Taylor school was located on West Fairground Road about 3 miles west of Osgood, Indiana. It was founded around 1882 and was abandoned in 1928. The land was donated by Ben Lakin. The first teacher was Nora Newman Crouch. This information came from Mrs. Anna Barriclaw. Cleve and Phil Fagan were the last surviving pupils. (Cleve died in 1979 and Phil in 1963.) These are some of the teachers who taught there:

Nora Crouch
John Stoneking
Alva Ruby
Tom Creigmile
Lucy Roberts
Pearl Roberts
Sarah Newman
Ira Young
Margaret Sage
Stella Dermitt

Ada Ward
Mamie Dobson
Dahl Starks
(note Carrie, Doll)
Georgia Howmesser
Everett Austin
Faye Terrill
Lucille Harding
Else Raney
Ellen Rheinking

Mrs. Roy Terry
Vivian Grossmen
Madge Crouch
Madge Hunt
George Titus
Ralph Stevens
Jake Whalbring
George Newman
Perry Brown
Edgar Larabee

Bus Drivers:

Theodore Mistler
George Straber
George Brown

Ben Wilson
Nellie Wagner
John McKee

Bill Shuter
Albert Winters
Henry Tucker

contributed by Mildred Cizek



REMEMBER
AS YOU
CELEBRATE
JULY 4TH

RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Box 525
Versailles, Indiana, 47042

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Officers elected to serve until after the April 1989 meeting.

ADAMS Twp.; Mrs. Charles Roepke, R. 3, Sunman, IN 47041

BROWN Twp.; SEC. Mrs. Alice McCoy, R. 1, Versailles, IN 47042

CENTER Twp.; V.PRES. Mrs. George Cizek, 433 S. Buckeye St., Osgood, IN
47037

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GENEALOGY RECORD SEARCHER Miss Mary Manship, R. 3, Box 87, Osgood, IN
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BULLETIN EDITOR Mrs. Alice Glover, R. 2, Box 25, Milan, IN 47031

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