

THE QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE
Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc.

Museum--Corner Main and Water Streets

Versailles, Indiana 47042

VOLUME XVI

JULY 1992

NUMBER 3

SUMMER MEETING

The July meeting of the Ripley County Historical Society will be held in The Versailles Baptist Church basement; entrance is on the south side of the church. The time is Sunday, July 12 at 2 o'clock.

The program will be "German Immigration to Ripley County" presented by David Dryer of Indianapolis.

NOTES ON THE SPRING MEETING

The spring meeting of the Ripley County Historical Society was held at the Central House in Napoleon on April 12.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Betty Roepke. Due to a conflict in time the program for the day was held first. Myron Kelly was in charge of the program. He showed slides from his days spent with Uncle Sam during World War II. His comments along with slides of the aircraft used during the war made a very interesting program.

President Roepke then asked for everyone to introduce themselves then the secretary's report was read with no corrections and was approved as read. The treasurer's report was approved as read. The checking account was \$452.54.

Bea Boyd, chairperson of the nominating committee presented the following slate for directors:

Adams Twp. ----	Betty Roepke
Brown Twp. ----	Alice McCoy
Center Twp. ----	Mildred Cizek
Delaware Twp. ---	Grace Dunbar

As there were no nominations from the floor the slate presented was approved.

Charles Roepke reported he had talked with one of the commissioners about the possibility of repairing the covered bridges in Ripley County. The directors and any interested parties will attend a meeting of the commissioners soon.

Norris Krall gave an update on the second Ripley County History Book. Alice Glover noted there would be a quilt show at Carnegie Hall, Moores Hill, on May 3.

There was no directors meeting. The meeting was adjourned and several members hurried to Versailles to attend the Hendersons' 50th wedding anniversary celebration.

MEMBERS CELEBRATE 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Myron and Mary Kelly held their reception March 29 while Chester and Genelle Henderson had theirs April 12. Both were held at the Versailles Baptist Church. Congratulations all !

GRAVES OF REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS CLEARED

Myron Kelly, Washington Township Director can sleep better now since a long-time goal he has been trying to reach was finally accomplished on May 9, 1992. Thanks to the help of Debbie McIntyre, Versailles Republican writer. She featured Myron in her "Meet Your Neighbor"

column and his concerns of the historic Old Washington Cemetery near Elrod. The only road to the cemetery was abandoned in 1852 when the log church was burned by an arsonist.

There are possibly 35 graves of members of Old Washington Church and among these are 5 who served in the Revolutionary War. The clearing off was done by Veterans and Boy Scouts. They plan to do this every year - since it had not been cleared for 8 years. Mr. Kelly is a WW II Veteran. An article on the Revolutionary Soldiers who came to Indiana has been published in our previous bulletins, July '87, Oct. '87 and Jan. '88.

by Bea Boyd

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Burst - Oliger Family May '92
by Carlos Dannacher, 12225 Kingshell Dr., St. Louis, MO 63141

Decatur Co. Operation Storm - Hometown Scrapbook Apr. '92
by William O. Ford, V.F.W. Post 5584 & Ladie's Aux. Greensburg, IN

Holton School; 1852 - 1991. Past-Tense 116 pgs. Indexed June '92

GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

As a service to readers interested in genealogy we publish queries in each issue. Please make them as concise as practical. Typewritten copy is preferred. If handwritten, make sure it is very legible. The charge is 50¢ per query to Society members and \$1.00 per query to non-members; payable in advance by check or stamps. Please send queries to: Mrs. Don Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023

Query 3:92: Need information on Dawson WADE Jr. b. ca 1770 VA. m. Nancy RICE of KY, where? d. ca 1831-40 Ripley Co., IN. Did he leave a will? Where is he buried? Who are his children? Will exchange info.

Phyllis Fry, 836 Hillside Drive, Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Query 3:92: Would appreciate hearing from anyone having information on the family of Jonathan SKEEN b.11-24-1797, d. 2-16-1880. His wife Malinda JONES SKEEN b. ca 1805. According to the 1850 census they were both from KY. What County did they come from in KY? When did Malinda SKEEN die? Who were their Parents?

Mrs. Ellen Belcher, Rt. #1, 222 Powell, Gurley, AL 35748-9656

Query 3:92: Need information on descendants of James JENNINGS b. 5 May 1787, Kent Co. Eng. and wife Ann KEMP b. 1790. Both d. in Ripley Co. 11 children, possibly 5 b. in England. Joshua (10th) b. 15 Apr. 1833 Ripley Co. m. Elizabeth BENNETT. Joshua & Eliz. moved to Decatur Co. Iowa 1854. Will exchange info.

Query 3: 92: Need information on Elizabeth BENNETT b. 18 May 1833 m. Joshua JENNINGS 4 May 1852 in Ripley Co. d. 5 Apr. 1906 in Russell Co. KA. Her parents Mathew BENNETT & Hannah MURPHY.

Mrs. Burrell Braby, R. 1, Bx 19, Garden Grove, Iowa 50103

Query 3:92: Thomas Scott GRIMES m. Mary HESS Jan. 1, 1843. Both bur. Salem Church Cemetery, Cross Plains, IN. They had 4 children; Samuel m. Becky BUCHANAN, John Enterprize m. Jennie Elizabeth BUCHANAN, Elizabeth m. _____ SEDAM, and PLUME.

He was a minister in Jennings County from Marriage Records of 1845-1850. He resided in Sand Creek Twp. in the 1850 Census. They resided in Brown Twp. Ripley Co. in the 1880 Census. In the 1900 Census Mary resided with Samuel in Brn. Twp. Ripley Co. I would like to exchange information on any of the above.

Abigail Dowling, R.R.#1, Box 205, Hammond, IL 61929-9544.

MORGAN RAID CLAIMS

Mr. George B. Cowlam, Agent of the Quarter Master's Department, US Army is in town, stopping at the Hassmer Hotel. Mr. Cowlam's business is to investigate such claims as have been filed for property taken by the Union Forces engaged in the pursuit of the Rebel Forces of Gen. Morgan in July 1863, and to report to the authorities at Washington, charged with the settlement of these claims, as to their justness, etc. He will be at Versailles this week, taking up claims in the immediate vicinity and south of this point, and afterward visit points along the railroad, Osgood, Delaware, Milan, notifying claimants when and where to appear before him to prove their claims. As this investigation is ordered by the government, is free of any expense to claimants and as those who fail to prove their claims when notified will have only themselves to blame for the consequent loss, it will be well for those receiving notices to appear promptly. Mr. Cowlam has now on hands the following Ripley Co. Claims:

Christina Anderson, Elijah Brown, Wm. Bonforth, W.D. Bratten, Selah Bodine, Isaac Blaisdell, Wilson W. Chance, James H. Cravens, Alex Connelly, John Cravens, William Chadwell, Henry Durant, Davis W. Fuller, Alfred Flint, David Hastings, John Hanse, Jonathan Hill, Peter Houger, S.B. Isgrigg, Thomas Harper, Elizabeth Johnson, Margaret E. Johnson, Jacob Kirsh, Samuel Knowlton, Christian Luhring, Jacob Ludwick, Amos Laswell, Hiram Melson, J.D. Meyer, Adaline Malhop, Richard Morton, Daniel Marsh, J.V. Noyes, Nancy Pratt, Thos. Purcell, John Rea, B.E. Ransome, Eb. Redlove, Harleigh Sage, Albert H. Severs, Samuel Shaw, David McKay, agent for Alfred Smart deceased, Lawrence Steinmetz, Jacob Steinmetz, Anthony Steinmetz, Eph Sparks, Jas. B. Spears, Thomas F. Spencer, Jos. Stephens, Eliphalet Stephens, Leander Smith, J.W. Sweazey, Jos. Truitt, Wm. Thompson, Jas. Vanness, O.G. Wilson, F.J. Wetzler, Julia A. Webster, Wm. White, Nicholas Young.

by Bea Boyd

DEATHS OF MEMBERS

Marie (Mrs. Lowell) Kelly died in March 1992, she and her husband (who died last July) were charter members of the reorganized R.C.H.S. The last bulletin sent to Melba West, Lake Jackson, TX was returned informing us of her death.

A STORY FROM HERBERT

Carl Adkins was carrying the mail to Cross Plains. Star Route ran from Versailles to Cross Plains. There was a man in Cross Plains by name of Herbert Miller, son of Dr. Miller. He had the Drug Store and Post Office at Cross Plains and had the first wireless in Ripley County. Carl told Miller that there was a boy at Versailles that had an outfit, too. Miller said, "Bring him down". (As you have guessed, the boy was Herbert Thompson who at this time was 12 or 13 years of age; born in 1907.) "We went down 2 or 3 times." says Herbert. Herbert Miller later moved to Nashville, IN and had a drugstore across from what is now the old Nashville store. Herbert Miller's son works for Hooks Drugs now.

When broadcasting began in 1921, Ray Spencer was interested. Ray repaired phones. Ray had a nice drug store and soda fountain in Versailles. He was also a mail carrier. Oscar Hughes, Ray and Herbert Thompson went to Aurora and there went by interurban to Saylor Park and on to Cincinnati by street car to Music Hall to the exposition. Here you could buy parts and assemble your own wireless. They went to the Electric Co. and Ray bought \$150 worth of parts. Tubes were \$8.00 a piece. Herbert helped him put it together. Ray was shaky and touched 2 wires and burned out 3 tubes. He had to go back to Cincinnati and get 3 new tubes at a cost of \$24. There was one tube on head phones. There were 2 pair of head phones so 4 people could listen at a time.

Herbert Thompson interviewed by Bea Boyd

RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Box 525
Versailles, Indiana, 47042

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Officers elected to serve until after the April 1993 meeting.

ADAMS Twp.; Mrs. Charles Roepke, 9644E Co Rd 1300N, Sunman, IN 47041 Pres.
BROWN Twp.; Mrs. Alice McCoy, 5616S St Rd 129S, Versailles, IN 47042 SEC.
CENTER Twp.; Mrs. George Cizek, 433 S. Buckeye, Osgood, IN 47037
DELAWARE Twp.; Mrs. Grace Dunbar, 5780N St Rd 129N, Osgood, IN 47037
FRANKLIN Twp.; Dr. William F. Glover, 5611E Co Rd 300N, Milan, IN 47031
JACKSON Twp.; Mrs. Phyllis Miller, P.O. Box 22, Napoleon, IN 47034 V. PRES.
JOHNSON Twp.; Mr. Chester Henderson, 3372E Co Rd 125 S, Dillsboro, IN 47018
LAUGHERY Twp.; Mrs. Carolyn Hahn, 13403N Delaware, Batesville, IN 47006
OTTER CREEK Twp.; Mrs. Donald Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023 TREAS.
SHELBY Twp.; Mrs. Howard Lane, 7192S Co Rd 400W, Versailles, IN 47042 MUSEUM CURATOR
WASHINGTON Twp.; Mr Myron Kelly, 1028S St Rd 101, Dillsboro, IN 47018
Miss Mary Manship, C.G.R.S. 3378W Co Rd 600W, Osgood, IN 47037
Mrs. Alice Glover, 5611E Co Rd 300N, Milan, IN 47031 BULLETIN EDITOR

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