

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

Museum--Corner Main and Water Streets

Versailles, Indiana 47042

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SUMMER MEETING

The next meeting of the Ripley County Historical Society will be held Sunday, July 10 at 2 O'clock. Center Twp. is hosting the meeting in the basement of the Osgood Library.

Myron and Robert Kelly are cooking up a program for us. We all know they are real good "cooks".

NOTES ON THE SPRING MEETING

The R.C.H.S. met April 10 at the Lamplight Villa in Milan. Betty Roepke, President, welcomed 34 members and guests. The secretary's report was read and approved. Bea Boyd gave the treasurer's report. She had paid all current bills leaving a balance of \$827.42 in the checking account.

The nominating committee presented the following slate for directors: Laughery Twp.; Carolyn Hahn and Sally Widener, Otter Creek; Bea Boyd, Shelby Twp.; Kathleen Lane, Washington Twp.; Myron Kelly. A ballot vote was taken for Laughery Twp. and Carolyn Hahn was elected to fill the slate of directors.

Alice Glover reported she had heard from Berna Steinkamp, one of our members who recently moved to Michigan.

Myron Kelly is planning another July 4th celebration to be held at the Old Washington Cemetery. Watch the paper for more information.

Joan Krall gave the final report on the second Ripley County History Book. She had completed all the work concerning the book. See any member of the R.C.H.S. to secure a wonderful part of our heritage.

The program for the afternoon was given by Dr. William Glover on MISX and MI 9, the underground activity during WW II. He also had several pieces of memorabilia he was able to save from his P.O.W. days.

CONGRATULATIONS:.....

To Mr. and Mrs. Scott Smith on the birth of a son in May. Scott did a lot of work on the History Book.

To R.C.H.S. member Ethel Mathias who recently had her family history on the "Meet Your Neighbor" page of the Versailles Republican. She will celebrate her 90th birthday soon.

And to Angie (Glover) Olds who was recently elected President of the Arizona Family History Society.

VOLUNTEERS ARE BADLY NEEDED ----- don't panic, we are only asking for 2 hours. We need people to host at the Museum on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:30. A few of the faithful stay again and again. I'm sure it is becoming a burden for some of them. I'm as guilty as anyone and vow to do a share of the 22 days remaining in the 1994 season. I enjoy it as I know each of you will. Please call Kathleen Lane 689 - 5317 and give an afternoon.

## GOODS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE

The Ripley County History Book II is available at \$55. There are books on Johnson and Brown Cemetery records for \$7.50 or \$9.00 if mailed.

If you wish the name and address of others working on your family line please send a self addressed, stamped envelope, no fee. There will be a \$2.00 research fee for each surname or question dealing with specific points concerning Ripley County. We cannot do a complete family history. Charge for copies: 25¢ for 8" x 11" and 50¢ for 11" x 17". We are not a paid staff. Family History Committee members do this voluntarily.

## GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Church Directory of St. Maurice Church, Napoleon Apr. '94

8 pages BROSHER genealogy May '94  
from Wayne Broshar, St. Paul, Mn

7 sheets genealogy TUCKER, SMALL, CLARK May '94  
by Dorothy Bailey, Port Angeles, Wa.

Jacob M. Caplinger Civil War papers from Shirley May '94

HARMAN, MICHAEL and NANCY SPENCER 1 page family record May '94

KITTLE FAMILY, CORSON, AKERS 18 pages June '94  
from Bruce and Joyce Kittle, Aurora

8th grade graduation picture 1915 in frame, Percy Burton's class.  
from Bob Burton -- Percy's son March '94

### VIOLET TOPH'S LETTER TO MRS. BENHAM

I found the letter in a little basket in the ARchives at the Museum several years ago and filed it in the Toph Family File. I was looking for something in her file the other day and seeing the letter, I thought perhaps someone else might like to read it also, especially if you have had a bad day or sore back. I had not noticed until the 2nd reading that there was no news and wondering what time of day she wrote the letter?

Violet's home was at the south edge of Versailles. The John Paul Homes were built to the south of her to supply additional housing units since Jefferson Proving Ground had been established. This is what she refers to as "old Housing Project"

Her attitude softened toward the "Project" as after the war the service men returning home were able to find homes there to rent.

Any suggestions on the Brock bottle?

*by Bea B.*

This is a copy of a letter, that was found  
in the little basket in the museum  
(tells something about Violet), 1941

Versailles, Ind.

Dec. 7, 1941

Dear Mrs. Benham:

My encyclopedia gives this concernning Brock:

" Brock, Sir Isaac, a British military commander, born in Guernsey, Oct. 6, 1762 suppressed a threatened mutiny in Canada in 1802; made Lieutenant-Governor of upper Canada in 1810; took Detroit from the Americans under General Hull in 1812; and was killed at the battle of Queenstown Oct. 13, 1812. A monument to his memory stands on the west bank of the Niagara River. Brockville, town, port of entry, and county seat of Leeds County, Ontario, Canada on the St Lawrence river below The Thousand Islands and the Grand Trunk, the Canadian Pacific and the Brockville and Sault Ste. Marie Railroads; 125 miles west of Montreal was named for Gen. Brock. "

Of course I don't know whether this has anything to do with the bottle or not. I had hoped to get back to Benham again before Christmas, but am having so much trouble with my back and side that I am afraid I won't be able to come anyway soon.

Somebody has a birthday next Thursday, which will be celebrated at Corydon Indiana by a big Speaking. It must be nice to have a birthday along with a noted day or a holiday, but unlucky me didn't get to be even a Christmas gift, for I didn't arrive until the 29th. I sure wish you a happy birthday and many of them.

When I have these spells with my back, I lose all my pep and don't care whether the world wags or not, and there are so many nice things to be done, but I do not seem to want to do them. Christmas will be nothing but a drag for me, unless I get something done for my back before then. The medicine I am taking now does no good.

I got an order for about one hundred pages of typing, but go to sleep almost every time I sit down to do it. Yes, I have taken to doing typing for pay just lately, and my typer seems to resent it for it acts just awful every once in awhile and that gets on my nerves, and the noise of the old housing project sets me frantic. Sometimes I wish I could be a hundred miles away from a human being, but of course that is morbidity for if I were alone for even a week I would be crazy to get back to a village again.

I hope you are feeling much better and will have a Happy birthday and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year crowned with success.

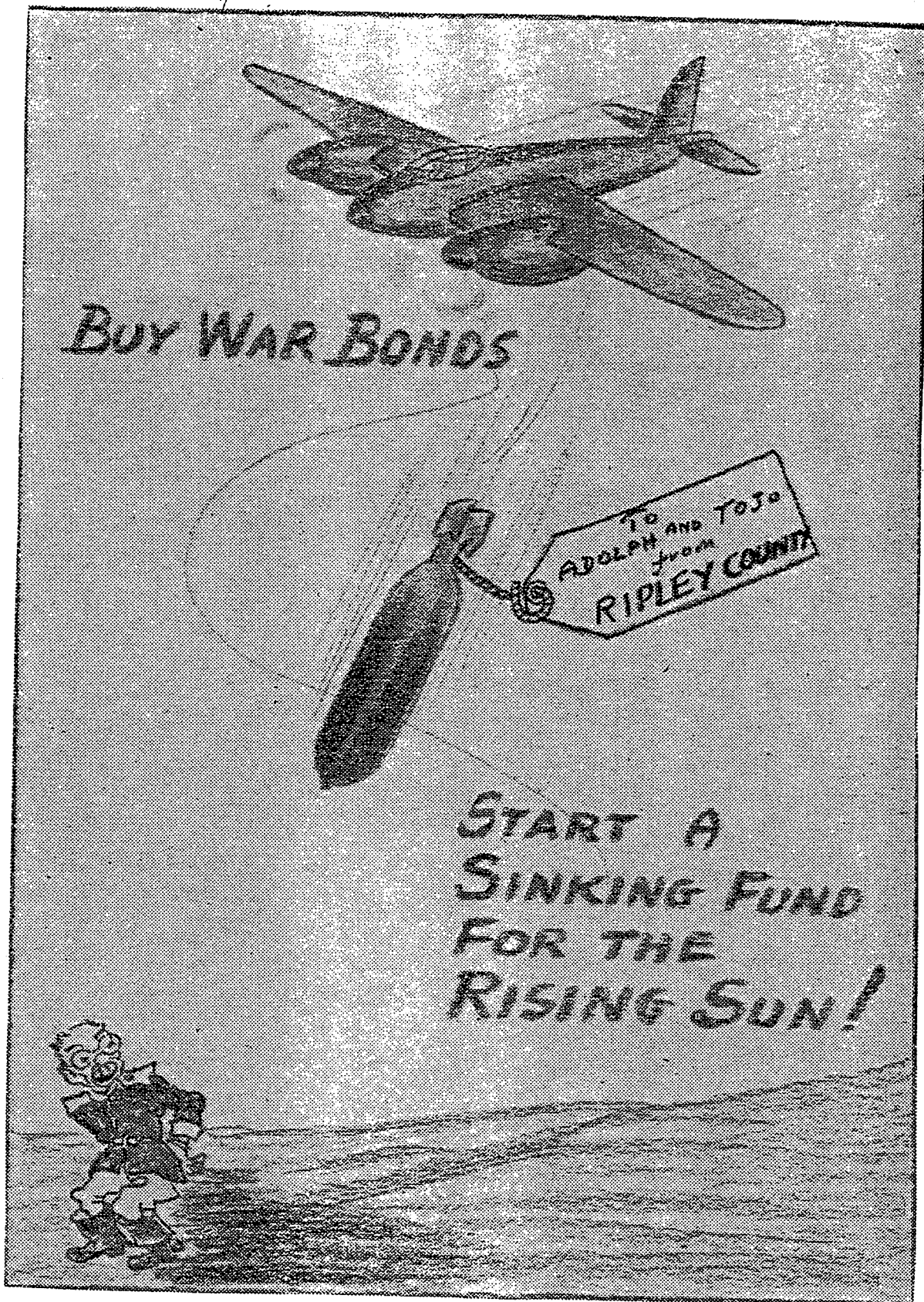
Sula and Mrs. Curran send greetings.

(There is but little news) that I hear, so will close, but thought I would send you the Brock sketch, maybe you will know whether it concerns the bottle or not.

Cordially yours,

V.E. Joph.





The young people smile tolerantly at this sort of campaigning. Some of us older folk also smile but at our memories of 50 years ago.

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

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Officers elected to serve until after the April 1995 meeting.

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

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