

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

Museum--Corner Main and Water Streets

Versailles, Indiana 47042

VOLUME XIII

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NUMBER 4

AUTUMN MEETING AT HOLTON

Bea Boyd has invited the Ripley County Historical Society to hold their fall meeting at the Holton Christian Church, October 8 at 2 o'clock. The program will be presented by the Hendersons on New Zealand and Australia.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER MEETING

Fourteen members and friends of the R.C.H.S. met July 9th in the Archives building for their summer meeting. The president, Chester Henderson, called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

Several members expressed their interest in getting our request in to the Tyson Fund distribution which will be held in September.

Mildred Cizek gave the program on "Old Times". She told about her life with her family, living and working on the Wilson Dairy Farm. Recounting how different farmers around the area would care for milking of the cows. She also had a crystal set radio which Herbert Thompson explained as to the making and working of the set. Most members remembered the crystal sets but had not seen one in many years. It was a joy to hear Herbert tell about building his own crystal set. In those days he had to send to Sears Roebuck & Co. for parts.

WORK SLOW-DOWN IN THE AREA

The Ripley County History Books have arrived at many households in the county and nearby territory. I'll bet a lot of people are putting off the less urgent chores to read about their friends and neighbors. We are fortunate in having several so we can both read at once which cuts down on the marital stress. We must handle with care so we don't give the children's Christmas presents that second-hand look.

The books were shipped by Taylor Publishing Co. August 18 therefore Mr. Norris Krall can no longer accept orders at the \$48 price. All additional books will be under the control of Taylor Publishing Co. and Rheadawn Metz. Mr. Krall understood that the price will be \$65 for any books that are still in inventory.

PUMPKIN SHOW TIME

The R.C.H.S. Museum will be open September 30 from noon until 6 o'clock for the Pumpkin Show. Come and help or come and look. You can always find something different each time you visit.

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: Need date of death of Henry SCUDDER, who died Laughery twp. between 11 Sept. 1850 and 20 June 1860, dates of censuses. Also need proof Phoebe (who married Stephen RYBOLT) was his daughter, and names and data of other children. When, where did first wife Catharine (Crowell) die?
Janet Jordan Bitler, 449 Commercial St., Weymouth, MA 02188-3724

Query: Wish to gather any information on the descendants of ROSWELL JOHNSON. Children were:
ELIZABETH b. 2 Aug. 1801 VA. m. Ripley Co. IN 9 Dec. 1819 to SAMUEL COLE.
JOHN MARION JOHNSON b. 20 Aug. 1805 VA. d. 23 Dec. 1880 Dearborn Co. IN m. Dearborn Co. 25 Aug. 1831 to ELIZA STANFORD.
REBECCA JOHNSON b. 15 Oct. 1809 VA. m. Ripley Co. 24 May 1832 to HENRY S. PATE.
WILLIAM H. JOHNSON b. 29 Dec. 1812 VA. m. 10 Oct. 1833 CLEMENCY PREBLE.
THOMAS WESLEY JOHNSON b. 24 Dec. 1817 IN. m. (twice) 1st to MALINDA THOMPSON 2 Feb. 1837. 2nd to WEALTHY DAVIS. Children both marriages.
AMANDA M. JOHNSON b. 14 Mar. 1820 IN m. (three times) 1st to GOFF WILSON; 2nd to REUBIN WILSON. Children 1st two marriages.
SARAH JANE JOHNSON b. 16 July 1821 IN m. 27 Aug. 1837 Ripley Co. to OBED WILLSON.

Wish to compile descendants at least 5 generations of above. Four JOHNSONS found in Ripley Co., IN in 1820 census. ROSWELL, JOHN, MARK and WILLIAM. ROSWELL and JOHN over 45 and MARK and WILLIAM are 26-45. Does anyone know if they are related? A Bee Hunter Johnson is mentioned as a brother of Roswell JOHNSON. Anyone know more on this?

Ronald W. Strock, 11482 Windemere Ct., Osceola, IN 46561

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY HISTORIC HOMES TOUR

Columbus, IN, noted world-wide for its modern architecture also celebrates its past during the biennial Historic Homes Tour. Scheduled dates are: Saturday, October 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, October 8, 12 noon to 5 p.m.

The tour will feature eleven turn of the century private homes, public buildings and farm representing an outstanding example of prosperous rural architecture. This self-guided tour offers well-informed hosts at each location. Also included, an antique show, homemade foods and musical entertainment.

Tickets are \$7 in advance; \$8 the day of the tour.

Tickets are available through Bartholomew County Historical Society, 524 Third St., Columbus, IN 47201. (812) 372 - 3541
For information about Antique Show call Jeff Scofield (812) 372-4257

A TRUE REPORT OF THE RIPLEY COUNTY LYNCHING AT VERSAILLES, INDIANA,
WHICH TOOK PLACE ON THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 14, 1897

(Part 2 -- continued from the July bulletin)

Later a man giving his name as Smith started an impliment store in Milan he came to me and asked me to help him in the sale of farm impliments I told him I was trying to do something in that line myself, which I was at that time, I told him the business was very dull. The following day he came back, we talked about farm machinery and I finall asked him what kind of mowers he was selling, he hesitated and finally said the Champion which was the same machine I was selling. Then I called him down and told him he was a detective, he denied it and soon went away, but the next day came back and acknowledged that he was a detective and asked what I knew about the Versailles Lynching. I related to him the same story here written. He went away and in a few days the impliment store also disappeared, he later came back and wanted me to join him in running the members of the Mob down, I told him that as I had mingled with that Mob face to face when they were doing their grusome work and did not know one single member, I did not think that my services would be of any benefit to him at this late date.

Next an affidavit was filed before Squire Craig a Justice of the Peace at Cross Plains a small Hamlet in the extreme Southwestern part of the County. A warrant was issued and Hezekiah Hughs was arrested charged with being a member of the Mob half the people in Versailles and Vicinity were Subponaed as witnesses, the trial had been in progress for 3 days when a Constable arrived at my place at 8.30, P.M. and served a subpona on me to appear before Squire Craig promptly at 10.30 A.M. on that same date, I seen the impossibility of complying so I did not go. Two days later at 5 o'clock A M , Two Constables heavily armed arrived at my place arrested me and took me to Cross Plains. and arraigned me before Squire Craig for contempt of court. I plead not guilty and explained to the court why I had not come explained to him the deficincy in the Subpona, and was promptly Acquitted. I was then called to the stand and sworn in the Case of the State of Indiana Vs Hezekiah Hughs, I was examined by Attorney General Ketchem, His first question was. Where were you on the Night of the 14th day of last september? At Versailles Indiana. he remarked he was glad to see one man that had been at Versailles that night, there was no doubt 100 witnesses examined before me but not one of them had been at Versailles on that fatal night. He then asked me why I was there? I told him I had heard there was to be a Lynching there on that night, I did not believe it, but thru curiosity I drove over, Were you Masked? No Sir. Were you disguised in any way? I was not. It then occurred to me that on that very day at George Cope-lands Barber Shop, Some fellow with a large Mustache bantered me to have them shaved off, and we did, I explained the circumstance to the Atty and told him it was no disguise. nor was it intended as such, did you see any men at versailles that Night wearing Masks? Yes Sir I did, How many? Between 20 and 25, Did you know any of them? No Sir I did not. Thats all.

The following day Mr Hughes was Acquitted, and so ended the Disgraceful Ripley County Lynching, The poor old Tree had been whittled and chopped to pieces till it finally died also.

An Affidavit can be furnished on application as to the truthfulness of above Story.

THE CAUSE OF THE LYNCHING

It seems an organized gang of young men in and about Osgood had been committing all kinds of unlawful depredations, sponsored by an older head who was also said to be the fencor in charge of the stolen plunder, they were many times arrested, but were always ready and prepared to prove an Alibi, an arrangement was made to rob a Country Store at Correct 4 miles South of Versailles, one of the gang who had a grouch for some reason notified the Officers of the arrangement and the date, and the officers headed by the County Sheriff surrounded the store early in the night and lay in wait, and on the arrival of the robbers immediately opened fire, which was promptly returned, the Sheriff was shot in the hand and Two of the Robbers were badly wounded and all arrested, and brought to the Jail at Versailles, where they paid the penalty at the hands of the Mob.

(Post script by Dr. William F. Glover from Mrs. Harrington.)

This is the personal account of an eye witness, Mr. William F. Bagot, of the historic lynching at Versailles, Indiana, which occurred on the night of September 14, 1897. It was typed by him some years before his death in April 1935 and given to W. E. Lawless of Milan who later gave it to Roxanna Harrington. It is regrettable that he did not sign the document. Later Mrs. Harrington gave it to Dr. Glover who, at her request, had a copy made for the State Historical Society and the original processed for donation to the Ripley County Museum.

Editor's Comment: I have copied this as close to the original as possible, making corrections only when necessary to the clarity of the story. I also repeated the post script which was at the beginning of the article in the July issue.

"KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR" VISITS TWO OF OUR DIRECTORS

Bea Boyd is treasurer and Otter Creek Twp. director of the Ripley County Historical Society. She is also Ripley County Historian and digs up a lot of historical information about families. She was born Beatrice Beach in Osgood and after graduating from Holton High School, lived in Indianapolis where she went to beauty school.

She then lived in Versailles with her son from her first marriage, Donnie Nealis. She has worked as a beauty operator and book-keeper at several businesses in the area. Don Boyd left her a widow in 1976. Since her retirement from the welfare department in 1987 she keeps busy with the R.C.H.S., Holton Christian Church where she wears several hats and the Smiling Seniors of North Vernon. She is the proud Grandmother of Rae Jean Nealis, a talented music major at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond where Bea attends many of her performances.

Bill Glover also told his story to Debbie McIntyre who writes the column. He remembered growing up on the farm next to his Grandparents, working "up north" (central Ind.) on his uncle's farm for 5 years after graduating from Milan High School. He then attended Ohio State Univ. a year before he was drafted. He served in the Coast Artillery then in the Army Air Force as a bombardier on a B17 until he was shot down and became a Prisoner of War in Germany for nearly 21 months. When he returned he realized a boyhood dream - buying his grandparents' farm. He returned to O.S.U. then spent 32 years as a veterinarian, practicing

from this Hoosier Homestead Farm. While at O.S.U. Bill met and married Alice Drown and they have 4 children. Three graduated from Purdue, one from Oklahoma State. Two live near Phoenix, one in Wisconsin and Fred lives next door where he can look after the farm while they visit the other kids. They have 9 grandchildren.

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

From the estate of Marguerite W. Abdon -- June '89
William Abdon's recorder stamps; picture of Dabney depot; 2 pictures of Versailles basketball team; 1883 Atlas of Ripley Co.; teachers contract book 1929-30; Assessor's Plat book, Johnson twp. 1922; Animal branding book, Ripley Co. 1820s; Record of field notes 8K3 Albion Redlon surveyor R. 22NOO 1852 Nov. 1854; Record of field notes 8K1 Thomas Patterson, Surveyor Rec. 1845 - 9 Aug. 1850; Picture of Ver. public school H.S. and G.S. 30 Oct. 1931; Transfer book - 1849 - 54; Field notes BK2, Wm Daley surveyor 22 May 1851 to 10 Nov. 1852; minutes of the Versailles Improvement Association 1912; Census field- Apr. 1930, Versailles; Election records for Wm Abdon. sheet
by Laws Versailles Fire Department

38th Div. Army of the U.S. Camp Shelby Pictorial History 1941.
by Mr. Arthur Newhart July '89

Directions to the old Racoon Lutheran Cemetery & Church, Brown Twp.
by Flora C. Ballman 8-2-89

2 books: "An Inside View of the 1890s" and "A Family Called Abplanalp"
a fragmentary history. 8-5-89
by H. W. Abplanalp, 6455 La Jolla Blvd., #302, La Jolla, CA 92037

Song book "Waters Choral Harp" pub. by Horace Waters, 481 Broadway,
Aurora 1863 from Baptist Sunday School.
by Ruth Ehr Gott, Anderson, IN

Picture of Dabney depot
by Laura Bell McNeelan, Holton, IN

8th grade graduation picture of Ripley Co. 1919. June '89
by Ethel Mathias, Versailles

Items - obits. etc. copied from Bible of Henrietta Kelly, Ruth Wilson
and Clara Kelly Wilson

Recieved from Shelby Co. Historical Society "Third Annual Commencement"
of Milan High School, June 5, 1906.

Cape used for Entre Nous Show, belonged to Nellie Gray. Sept. '88
fr. Ruth Dougherty

I.H.S. ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

The Indiana State Historical Photography contest this year is titled "What is a Hoosier?". The R.C.H.S. has the rules and entry blanks. We have some great "Shutter Bugs" in Ripley Co. as witnessed in many of our programs. There should be some Ripley Co. pictures in this competition!

RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Box 525
Versailles, Indiana, 47042

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Officers elected to serve until after the April 1990 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
DELAWARE Twp; Mrs. Grace Dunbar, R. 3, Osgood, IN 47037
FRANKLIN Twp; Dr. William F. Glover, R.R. 2, Box 25, Milan, IN 47031
JACKSON Twp; Mr. Randy Young, R. 2, Box 366, Osgood, IN 47037
JOHNSON Twp; PRES. Mr. Chester Henderson, R. 1, Dillsboro, IN 47018
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OTTER CREEK Twp; TREAS. Mrs. Donald Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023
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WASHINGTON Twp; Mr. Myron Kelly, R. 1, Dillsboro, IN 47018
Miss Mary Manship C.G.R.S., R. 3, Box 87, Osgood, IN 47037
BULLETIN EDITOR Mrs. Alice Glover, R. 2, Box 25, Milan, IN 47031

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