

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

Museum--Corner Main and Water Streets

Versailles, Indiana 47042

VOLUME XV

OCTOBER 1991

NUMBER 4

→ RIPLEY COUNTY ADDRESS CHANGES ←

Due to 911 we need your new mailing address in order to assure you of continued bulletin mailing. Please send your new address with your 1992 renewal or otherwise inform us, or your bulletin will be held for an address. Each bulletin returned to us with improper address corrected, costs us 30¢ and another 30¢ to remail it to you, so please help us. Dues for 1992 are \$4. Send dues and addresses to: Mrs. Don Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023

AUTUMN MEETING

The next meeting of the Ripley County Historical Society will be held in Delaware Township at the Delaware Methodist Church, Sunday, October 13, at 2 o'clock. It is located on SR 129 just north of the blinker at SR 350.

Jamie Schantz is scheduled to give the program about wool and spinning. Sounds interesting and as always the public is invited.

REPORT ON THE JULY MEETING

The Ripley County Historical Society held its summer meeting in Adams Township at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Roepke with 31 members and guests attending.

Betty Roepke, president, called the meeting to order. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and approved. During the business meeting several reports were given. Chester Henderson said Darrell Day did not receive the grant he was seeking. Bea Boyd and Arriest Udey had completed the work on the Historical Markers.

Millie Nocks informed the society, Floyd Rayner had an old hay rake to donate. Norris Krall revealed what information he had about the Ripley County History Books. The company that printed the book would like to see a second book done. The directors will vote on the matter. Alice Glover had a flyer advertising the coming of the river barge called ALWAYS A RIVER which will be at Vevay from July 25th to 28th.

Phyllis Miller brought many of her beautiful paintings. She explained her ideas and reasons for doing what she did. Over the years she has had people from all walks of life as her students. She is very pleased when one of her former students receives an award. At the close of the meeting she did a pencil sketch of Bea Boyd.

At the directors meeting it was voted to start the second history book of Ripley County. The directors felt that until a place could be obtained they could not handle large pieces of equipment. Dr. Glover said he would store the hay rake for the present.

ALWAYS A RIVER

The Barge Museum was well attended. I hear the Vevay stop was one of the most successful. Bea Boyd attended on Thursday. I think the town on Vevay was surprised because they thought Thursday would be slow -- wrong! We parked at the school and took the shuttle bus to river edge. Then we also took a shuttle bus to the Markland Power Plant and Dam. It was as enjoyable as the River Barge.

The Glovers went on Friday to avoid the week-end jam and felt lucky that the line was only an hour long!

One really needed two trips to absorb it all. It was no problem going down the riverbank to the barge but when we came off into the bright sun, the return appeared hot and steep. At that moment an elderly gentleman, in attire from 100 years ago, in his trusty golf cart appeared to assist the "less-than-young-and-able" up the riverbank, even to your car if it was your wish. We went as far as the home-made ice cream stand. Many stands near the river offered exhibits, souvenirs, food and atmosphere provided by calliope music appropriate to the event.

The programs on channel 48 about ALWAYS A RIVER have been very entertaining and gave more information and background on the project. If you missed them, keep watch, they may be run again.

MILAN TURNS OUT FOR WOODS

The September 8th turnout for the Autographing and sale of "A BOY, A BALL AND A DREAM", biography of Marvin Wood, coach of the Milan Indians State Basketball Champs of 1954, was a huge success.

Among those in attendance beside Marvin and Mary Lou Wood were the following team players of 1954; Bob Plump, Roger Schroeder, Bob Engle, Ray Craft, Gene White and Glen Butte. The book was written by Kerry Marshall. Three chapters are about Wood's time in Ripley Co.

by Bea Boyd

THIRD BOOK PUBLISHED BY AUTHOR

Gary Lavetta, former Ripley County author, now at North Vernon, has another book published. His first book "Civil War Angel" then "Home in the Hills" and now "The Lily Trail" are good wholesome books selling for \$4.95. Memory Lane Books, 14 Noon Drive E., N. Vernon, IN 47265

by Bea Boyd

LOSS OF CHARTER MEMBER

Lowell P. Kelly, age 87, from St. Bernard, OH died July 13, 1991. Mr. Kelly and wife Marie were charter members at the reorganization of the Historical Society. He was a brother of Myron Kelly, Washington Twp. Director and was buried at Oakdale Cemetery in Dillsboro.

CENTENARIAN PASSES ON

Asa Conover, born July 4, 1888, at Hopewell, the son of Thomas (b. 1848 in Ripley Co.) and Anna Conover, died September 12 at Manderley Health Care Center, Osgood. The Conover School was named for his Grandfather, Charles Conover, (b. 1822 in NJ) and wife Jane b. OH, early settlers of Otter Creek Township.

Asa will be remembered as a fine old gentleman whose life touched many. He is survived by a son, Egbert Conover of Holton. The funeral was held Monday, September 16, in Hopewell Church which is still in process of being rebuilt from June 1990 tornado. The Church Homecoming September 15, 1991 was the first service held.

by Bea Boyd

POST OFFICES AND POSTMASTERS OF 1851

An alphabetized names of Postmaster appointments for Ripley County, 1819 to 1850 was in the January 1982 bulletin. This article was provided by Ann Gibbs, now deceased. Her source was Blakes "The Postal History of Indiana". I came across this list "1851 Postmasters Guide" by H.A. Hicks, Asheville, NC

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| BALLSTOWN - Samuel Ball | NEW MARION - Calvin Westover |
| CROSS PLAINS - William Blackwell | NORTH HOGAN - Ebenezer S. Hawley |
| DELAWARE - Samuel Gookins | OLEAN - Jacob H. Ross |
| ELROD - George H. Elrod | OTTER VILLAGE - Stephen Andrews |
| HART'S MILL - Daniel McPaul | PRATTSBURGH - Horace A. Mayhen |
| HERMAN - Abraham Vangile | STRINGTOWN - Squire H. Knapp |
| MILAN - Hiram Knowlton | VERSAILLES - Joseph Goude |
| NAPOLEON - Mark H. Mullins | WAY - John Conway |

by Bea Boyd

[wonder why they didn't mention SPRINGDALE?]

ATTENTION CIVIL WAR BUFFS -- The Indiana Historical Society has published a book "Indiana Quakers Confront the Civil War". It is also of interest to genealogists working in that period. Available from area bookstores and Indiana University Press.

BITS AND PIECES FROM "COTTON'S KEEPSAKE"

STRINGTOWN ...

Here used to reside old Father Sutton and lady, whom I early knew and cherished as friends, dear to my heart. Their numerous children live here still, in peace and plenty. My good friend Craven resides a little east, -- an early settler -- wolves plenty. Wm. Sutton once had a fearful runaway affair, was injured but a little. J.N. Blasdell, whom I have long known as an excellent and worthy citizen, resides here in easy circumstances. All of whom treated me most kindly, as did their excellent families. John Smith was killed by the falling of a tree in 1854. Isaac Howery by the falling of a limb in a storm in 1836. John F. Beal had his thigh and his ribs all badly broken by a fall from a tree. Isaac N. Blasdell once had a fearful runaway, but escaped unharmed, by a miracle. Vachel Lindsay dirked his own son, a lad of some 16 years, in a most horrid and fearful manner once. A Miss Tucker hung herself here, in 1842.

MILAN ...

The residence of that beautiful orator, the Hon. S. S. Harding, who lives in a palace, and abounds in plenty, and brother to Dr. M. H. Harding, of whom favorable mention has already been made. Their venerable widowed mother died precisely as did Mrs. King, consumed by the burning of her dress, all alone -- had been left but a short time to be in company again soon, when, alas! it was too late. Her cries were heard but not apprehended. Full of years and full of honors, she passed this painfully away, loved and lamented by all who knew her. A Mr. Blackmore was suddenly killed by the fall of a board from a building. A Mr. Dixon and son were both drowned in attempting to ford the creek in a wagon, one of the horses also perished. The lamented Judge Dennison once had a fearful run away, and was crippled for life. Old Father Swift twice wounded in the wars of the country, used to reside here, but has gone to his reward. His excellent widow still survives him.

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. Donald Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023

Query # 91-4: I would like to contact anyone having information about my Grandfather, Robert Elmer McCREARY b. 30/ Apr./ 1882, d. 24/ Mar./ 1914. m. Harriet Jane SABIE 19/ Apr./ 1902. One dau. Lillian b.20/ Jan./ 1904. Later m. Mary Furnish and had one son, Charles Russell b. 12/ Dec./ 1910 and one dau. Corrinne?

Query # 91-4: I would like to contact anyone having info. about my Great-Grandfather, Robert A. McCREARY b.12/ Aug./ 1847, d. 10/ May/ 1926. m. Elizabeth NELSON ?
Marie Martin, 194 W 150 N, Valparaiso, IN 46383

Query # 91-4: BEACH, William S. b. 1854 Switzerland Co. IN. 1880 census in Shelby Twp., Ripley Co. w. Drucilla (Tague). s. Oliver Dennis b. 6-May-1878; s. Walter D. b. c 1879. What happened to William & Drucilla? Help appreciated.
Margaret Beach, 15030 Wengate St., San Leandro, CA 94579-1536

Query # 91-4: Looking for grave of Abraham HOOVER who died in 1845. Was he born in 1798 or 1812?
Mabel Hoover, 42 Chesney Dr., Henderson, NV 89014

from searcher to searcher

When people come to the archives looking for genealogy info we invite them to fill out a file card stating the family they are researching and their own name and address. In this way we hope to put people in touch with others who are working on same family lines, to their mutual benefit. We will print these names as room permits.

ROSE, Ferdinand & Frederika
Fran Campbell
R.R. 2, Box 364
Austin, IN

STEVENS
Dorothy Chvenger
1415 N. W. 14th St.
Corvallis, OR 97330

SUTTON, James & Isabelle
Mrs. Joan Woodhull
R.R. 2, Box 247
Petersburg, IN 47567

SUNMAN
M. Winscott
500 W. South
Rockford, OH 45882

TRENNEPOHL
James A. Trennepohl
1763 Princeton Dr.
State College, PA 16803

TEBBY, Henry Conrad
Harold Sheiherd
5628 Sunnywoods Ln.
Cincinnati, OH 45239

STEWART, Alexander Wilson & Hannah
James A. Wiltberger
R.R. 1, Box 457
Milan, IN 47031

SMITH, Samuel & Hannah
Tony Morostica
Box 442
Rye, CO 81069

MONFORT - VANDOLAH
James C. Monfort
728 Brentwood Pl.
Los Altos, CA 94022

STARKEY, Henry & Hannah
Evelyn Hastings Martin
6905 Bellrose N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 82110

VAN OSDOL, John, Benjamin
and James
Mrs. Mildred Robitaille
9744 Old Warson Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63124

SCHMIDT & SCHULTZ
Maudie Roan
1412 - 25th St.
Woodward, OK 73801
405-254-3747

TUCKER, Thomas b. 1794
and Joseph b. 1855
Mrs. Ella Gartrell
717 Granby Place East
Westerville, OH 43081

SCHAFFSTALL, Johan & Elizabeth
Fran Campbell
R.R. 2, Box 364
Austin, IN 47102

VOGT
Kenneth Vog t
234 N - 350 W
Columbus, IN 47201

WOOLEY, Walter & Amanda Jane
Teresa L. White
188 Shady Brook Heights
Greenwood, IN 46142

VOLZ
Bob & Mary Wurtler
Cincinnati, OH

SHEPARD, George Merritt
Mike Ashby
855 Division St.
Garner, IA 50438

REDEKER, John & Anna Wright
Irene (Davis) Kruger
23194 Pocket Rd.
Batesville, IN 47006
also Ezekiel ROSE

THOMAS
Carol Funk
7521 Canady Lane
Citrus Height, CA 95610

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Heritage Seekers Quarterly Bulletin; published by N. Little Rock, AR
Sharon Hutcheson and Arlene Ryan June '91

"My Wiley Families form A to Z" (Hardback) 108 pg. & family grp. pgs.
by Helen Wiley Lee, 1839 S. Lorraine, Wichita, KS 67211 Jn. '91

"Pictorial Americana, The National Road" by Harry G. Black
from Harry G. Black, 7406 Monroe Ave., Hammond, IN 46324

Newspapers; Indianapolis News (2), Star (1), Princeton Daily Democrat
(2), Lawrenceburg Register (2), Bedford Daily Times (6); covering
W.W.1, W.W.2 and 1937 flood also 1 pg comics 3-16-47. Aug. '91
from Mrs. Freeman Dickison, 1102 S. Westbrook, Indianapolis, IN

Raiders Riot vol. 25- #6- Laura Strubbe, containing her article
"Explosion Kills 4 in Family". Her home is in the location of the
explosion. (She received info. from Historical Soc. for article.)
in the Strubbe file Aug. '91

3 sheets of descendants of Philip Harmon, Harmon & Harmon genealogy &
biography (3 pages). 2 pgs. descendants and Military Record for
Peter Pelsor. 16 pages. Aug. 17, 1991
from Donald V. Reed, 10524 Texas #4, Wichita, KS 67209

"Lutherans in Pioneer Indiana" Indexed by Ann Gibbs; added to
inventory. Sept 17, 1991

RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Box 525
Versailles, Indiana, 47042

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Officers elected to serve until after the April 1992 meeting.

ADAMS Twp.; Mrs. Charles Roepke, R. 3, Sunman, IN 47041 PRES.
BROWN Twp.; Mrs. Alice McCoy, R. 1, Versailles, IN 47042 SEC.
CENTER Twp.; Mrs. George Cizek, 433 S. Buckeye, Osgood, IN 47037
DELAWARE Twp.; Mrs. Grace Dunbar, R. 3, Osgood, IN 47037
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The Ripley County, Indiana
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