

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

Museum--Corner Main and Water Streets

Versailles, Indiana 47042

VOLUME XV

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AUTUMN MEETING

The fall meeting of the Ripley County Historical Society will be Sunday, October 8 at 2 o'clock at the Batesville Library. The program is being planned by Dr. James Ramage who is a Professor of History at Northern Kentucky University. He is the author of a book about Gen. John Hunt Morgan and will give the program about Gen. Morgan. He will have books available.

ABOUT THE JULY MEETING

On Sunday afternoon, July 9 the R.C.H.S. held their summer meeting in the basement of the Versailles Baptist Church. Pres. Betty Roepke opened the meeting. Thirty members and guests answered roll call.

The secretary's report was read and approved, with one slight correction; the cigar press which was brought to the April meeting was by David Dreyer instead of Wilbur Myers.

Bea gave an update of all business transacted during the past three months, having a balance of \$1010.81 in the checking account. Under new business, Alan Smith along with several other members had checked the condition of the archives building, thinking some repair was needed. The directors will check this matter. Julie Underwood volunteered to get all birth records copied and updated. Motion for her to do this was made by Genelle Henderson, seconded by Alan Smith. Shirley Uffelman was willing to investigate the possibility of getting some grants for the organization. A motion was made by Charles Roepke for her to do this, seconded by Julie Underwood. Ideas of securing a building for extra storage space was talked about. More information will be forthcoming.

Kathryn Manship was in charge of the program. Her topic was the lynching in Versailles on September 15, 1897. The people that were hanged had been in a gang for quite a few years. They had robbed, and beaten old people all over the county. Osgood was the headquarters for the gang. A lot of preparation was done before the night of the lynching. Mr. Busching was sheriff at the time but had been shot in the hand and was not at the jail on that night. Kathryn had pictures and articles from several newspapers. She had spent many hours of work and research in doing this article.

A letter was read to the effect that the R.C.H.S. is supposed to receive a book, "Thunderbolt". Additional copies may be bought by writing K-Hill Publishing, Box 91, Attica, OH 44807.

Norris had completed the paper work for the society in buying the brick for the Veterans of Ripley County.

CHECK YOUR DUES

Your mailing label has a date on it stating the date of your dues payment. It makes it much simpler for the treasurer if the dues are paid before the Jan. bulletin is published in Dec. We appreciate your cooperation.

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Gilbert E. Murray's arrowhead and artifact collection from Murray farm, Center-Jackson Twp. line. It was in the Murray family from land grant status until Gilbert's death in 1966. Indians camped around the spring-fed pond south of the farm buildings on the farm developed by Edward Murrays. Around the pond and surrounding fields there was a rich supply of artifacts.

from Betty Murray DOENGES youngest daughter of Gilbert and Lillie Huntington Murray. Aug. '94

"My Rutledge Family" by Rachel Demaree Clemons (book indexed; 200 pgs.) also family group sheet. July '95

14 pages on Sieg Family by Willamae Bushorn July '95

Lawrence & Christena (Winter) Miller TREE
from Florence Miller, Holton Aug. '95

Birth Records on Microfilm; Roll 1: Book 1 to 4 --- 1882 - 1896.
Roll 2: Book 4 to 8 --- 1903 - 1912. Roll 3: Book 9 to 11 - 1912 - 30.
Roll 4: Death Certificates 1899 - 1901. Roll 5: Contagious
Diseases 1908 - 1945.

compiled and donated by Julie Underwood Aug. '95

Descendants of William Buchanan, 3 pages
George Buchanan, History by Robert Scott 1993. 29 pgs.
from Jane Miller, Indianapolis. Aug. '95

1932 Otter Creek Census (school) 2 books
Holton School Register 1917-18, 1920-22 3 books
Dabney 1912-15, 1920-22 2 books
Bethel 1917-18, 1933-35 2 books
Enumeration of white & colored males over age 21 1931
" " " " " " " 1937 [3 books]
Sexannual enumeration of white & colored males over age of 21 1943
Brown School 1 book Sept. '95
from Jack Furst, retired Trustee of Otter Creek Twp.

"Thunderbolt" (John Hunt Morgan) Revisit S E Indiana
from Lora Schmidt Cahill. Sept. '95

"Spears" family pedigree with collateral families, related papers on
Cole, Spears, Daubenheyer. Sept. '95
from Joy L. Fishel, Mo.

GIFTS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE

Annual dues for R.C.H.S. are \$5.00 per year, payable January 1.
Life membership is \$100.00

If you wish the name and address of others working on your family line please send a self addressed, stamped envelope, no fee. There is a \$2.00 research fee for each surname or question dealing with specific points concerning Ripley County. We cannot do a complete family history. We are not a paid staff. Family history committee members do this voluntarily. Charge for copies: 25¢ for 8"x11" and 50¢ for 11"x17".

The Ripley County History Book II is available for \$55. There are books on Johnson and Brown township cemetery records - \$7.50 + \$1.50 if mailed. Please send requests to:

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

-Facts And Fancies Concerning "Old Timbers" by Violet E. Toph-

Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 20, 1933, a Strolling Historian in search of data to write a history of Ripley County, Indiana, wandered down into Shelby Township near the fourteen hundred acres of Pleasure Park and Conservation land known as "Old Timbers".

Having heard much concerning this Park and being desirous of giving it honorable mention in the book, she ventured down the maple bordered driveway towards the superintendent's cottage expecting every minute to hear the dreaded GEHT HIMMAUS which welcomes those who trespass in the private domains of the wealthy. No one appeared to disturb the placid beauty of the scenery, and the wanderer knocked at the door of the cottage to find no one at home. Looking toward a very large barn she noticed a laborer and halloood, "Will you please tell me where I can find Mr. Williams, the superintendent?" She told him why she wished to see Mr. Williams.

The courteous workman came toward the house and said, "He was here a little while ago. I'll see if he is back here" returning from the rear of the cottage he said, "He's not here but if you want to go down to the other house go on and write about whatever you want to. The house is locked up but I'll send the Boss down as soon as I find Him".

With a word of thanks the Stroller ambled on admiring the ten graceful gray wild geese sailing on a small pond at the left of the driveway and glancing at the scenery in general. She paused in front of the large Lodge which is constructed of stones picked up on the land included in this tract, and covered with an old time clapboard roof. As she glanced aside to admire two enormous stone vases which were mounted on the wall at the entrance of a small garage which at the time contained but one auto, Mr. Williams and his chauffeur came and alighted with a friendly greeting.

He seemed much amused when the Stroller admitted that she was trespassing, asked to be pardoned for the same and begged for a view of "Old Timbers". He said that the sign boards at each side of the entrance, "Private, No Outlet" were to prevent motorists from mistaking the driveway for a public road, and not to keep visitors away, that they did not have certain visiting days set aside, but were permitted to show the Lodge and grounds when Mr. Thomson and his guests were not there, and that no admission fee was charged.

This struck the stroller as being unusually generous of the Proprietor for the owners of most of the fine estates in this country and abroad charge admission fees to abate the tourist nuisance and add to their incomes. Old Mother Nature and Fate, both, have been extremely kind to Shelby Township giving her Big Graham, with its steep banks and wooded hills, with an openhearted wealthy man able to buy so many attractive acres and preserve them not only for the enjoyment of himself, his family and guests

but for others who though poor can appreciate the beauties of nature and art so harmoniously displayed at "Old Timbers".

Entering the Lodge, fancies and suggestions began a fantastic struggle with facts . Is it possible to live in two centuries at one time? It seems by a small stretch of the imagination to be able to combine the 19th and 20th centuries at "Old Timbers". Electricity, Fire light and candelabra.

The Superintendent and Stroller entered an ultra -modern kitchen, passing into a serving room very suggestive of modern etiquette when many forks, knives and spoons render obsolete the old adage, "Fingers before forks". We are sure "Good Queen Bess" would not have been at home at this dining table either.

"Old timbers",new timbers,stones! The Stroller's look of astonishment at the summer dining room or porch provoked this explanation from the obliging Superintendent "This porch is made of the old boards and beams which were taken from the old houses and barns which were on the farms bought to establish this estate. That is why it is called "Old Timbers". The floor is of stones from along Big Graham. The wainscoat at the side is of clapboards brought from North Carolina as new timbers.We might have added that the forest clad banks of bonnie Big Graham carry out the "Old Timbers" idea also. Clever indeed was the skill which stained the old wood into an artistic effect without destroying its antique appearance.

This will be continued in next bulletin. Violet walked many miles to get material for her Peoples History. Sometimes someone would take her in a buggy, and later in an auto. She should have had a horse. bb

We bid farewell to our dear friend and co-worker, Herbert Thompson, at a memorial service held at Tyson United Methodith Church. on July 26, 1995. He passed away peacefully on July 20 but only a short time before , he had a long phone conversation with Alar Smith.

His ashes were taken to Cliff Hill Cemetery to be beside those of his wife, Lois, on the Thompson lot.

There is so much that can be said about him but all who knew him knew a wonderful person. He was a teacher, always ready to explain in detail, a scholar, always open for suggestions and learning himself and such a gentleman. He will be missed,but as long as anyone who knew him has memories of him-- he will always be alive.

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

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Officers elected to serve until after the April 1996 meeting.

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