

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

Museum--Corner Main and Water Streets

Herrsville, Indiana 47042

VOLUME XVII

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NUMBER 4

AUTUMN MEETING

The Ripley County Historical Society will meet at the Archives building on the square in Versailles, Sunday, October 12 at 2:00 o'clock.

REPORT OF THE JULY MEETING

The meeting opened with the program presented by Mr. Jim Waechter, director of the Wayne County Indian's Historical Museum at Richmond. He suggested we rotate our items and have them organized to tell a story to make it more interesting for children to learn of our history.

Their museum started in 1855 with a collection of steam engines but is now great in size and variety.

He spoke of various hazards to the artifacts and how to prevent many of them, such as light and how they should be cataloged. Acid free paper, boxes and folders should be used for storage. Don't ever hang silk items, they should be put in a case or box for display. White cotton gloves should be worn when handling most items. Be careful that pictures, paintings, etc. are matted so they don't touch the glass and keep them from direct light. Drapes should be kept drawn as much as possible.

The meeting then opened with each one introducing themselves with name and area. Reports were read and accepted. An update on the building fund was made by Norris Krall.

A vote of thanks was given to the Town of Versailles who helped put the rope up on our flagpole. It probably saved some one of us trying to shinny up!

The bank building needs repairs before winter. Also repairs are needed on the old archives buildings water supply. An air conditioner should be put in the museum before next summer.

At the directors meeting it was voted that a key would be given to the Clerks office for their use alone. They must sign in and list what is brought in and out.

SERVICES AND CHARGES

Dues for new members is \$10; for renewed membership is \$5. Life memberships are still \$100. 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 research fee of \$2 for each surname or question dealing with specific points concerning Ripley County. We cannot do a complete family history. Those doing research in the new building where all the data and reference material is now located will be charged \$3 a day for use of the material. If an appointment is made outside of regular hours the charge is \$5. All our help is volunteer and not always close by. The new archives regular hours are 1 to 4. Copy charges are 25¢ per page for 8x11 and 50¢ for 11x17. Genealogy queries are 50¢ for members and \$1 for non-members, payable by check or stamps. Please make them as concise and legible as possible. PLEASE send all correspondence containing money to Mrs. Bea Boyd. Besides being treasurer she keeps mailing lists and memberships. There are still some Ripley County History Book II's available for \$55.

Ripley County Historical Society and the community has suffered a great loss. Myron E. Kelly passed away September 4, 1997. He had been a director in the Historical Society for many year being replaced only recently at his own request due to poor health. He had been active whenever needed whether working on upkeep or giving us one of his m ny slide programs about their many trips, local history or scenery or the one we enjoyed seeing over and over about WW II. He had dozens of them.

Many people took their problems to Kelly's Welding Shop until he retired. He could fix just about anything. His unique "Horse Fiddle" was used for many a chiveree.

He is survived by his wife Mary, a son Robert and a grandson Brian. He will be greatly missed by many people.

POSTMASTER APPOINTMENTS POSTON

Isaac Stewart	2nd Dec 1856
Hezekiah Shook	13th Mar 1858
Jonathan Judah	20th Jan 1861
James F. Shook	3rd Sept 1861
Hezekiah Shook	20th May 1864
Michael Price	31st May 1866
Harding Yater	20th Nov 186-
Hezekiah Shook	4th Apr 1870
John C. Wade	5th Apr 1881
Daniel Faulkner	9th May 1883
Martin V. Sheets	20th Apr 1889
Walter Faulkner	29th Apr 1897

POSTOFFICE CHANGE FROM POSTON TO DABNEY 14th Sept 1897

Walter Faulkner	14th Sept 1897
William E. Edens	26th Apr 1901
William Vanosdol	12th Oct 1909
Frank Lockridge	8th Apr 1905
Ira. M. Schoonover	4th Apr 1905
Ralph H. Stevens	27th Oct 1927
Ralph H. Stevens	1st Dec 1927

This is a follow-up of the Postmaster appointments appearing in the bulletin April 1997. Thanks to Carol LOvins, Postmistress of Holton Postoffice. bb.

Thank You

To all the people who helped at the Museum and Bank Building Archives during the Pumpkin Show, and to the many who helped over the summer.

REPORT FROM THE BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE

In November, 1995, the Ripley County Historical Society (RCHS) appointed a Building Fund Committee to attempt to raise sufficient funds to purchase the Versailles Bank Building located on the Court House Square in Versailles as the repository for their local history and genealogy library. This committee was composed of Scott Smith, chairperson; Julie Underwood; and Norris Krall; all directors of RCHS. This committee began a fund drive to purchase the building and at the same time began negotiations with the owner of the building. In April, 1996, a lease agreement was reached with the owner of the building and an option to purchase the building was included in the agreement. In May, the committee applied for assistance with the fund drive by applying to the State of Indiana for a Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) tax credit grant. This tax credit grant was approved in August, 1996, and with the very generous gifts of local citizens along with the benevolence of the Tyson Fund Trustees, RCHS raised sufficient funds to purchase the building on September 30, 1996.

Since that purchase, the Building Fund Committee has continued to raise funds and use them for the repair and restoration of the building. To date they have: replaced the roof on a section of the building; repaired, painted, and sealed the exterior of the building; repaired and replace ceiling tile in the interior; upgraded the lighting on the first floor and in the basement; installed a dehumidifier in the basement to better control the air quality to permit the storage of records; purchased and installed a computer with access to the Internet for researchers; and posted a web page allowing world wide access to the information at RCHS.

Several additional repairs and equipment upgrades are being considered and will be performed as funds are available during the next few months to better protect and make available to the membership and the general public; the excellent historical records preserved by RCHS.

During this time we have received several contributions given in memory of a departed friend or loved one. These contributions have greatly assisted us in our purchase and preservation of this old building. Such contributions may still be made to RCHS and will be used to maintain this facility for the benefit of all interested researchers. All donations will be appropriately and permanently remembered in the records of RCHS.

During the past 18 months since the local history and genealogy library has been located on the square, traffic has increased threefold. Visitors and researchers come from all over the State of Indiana, the U.S., and a few foreign countries. The Library is now opened each weekday afternoon by volunteers from RCHS.

**RCHS wishes to again thank all contributors for their support
of this project!**

September 30, 1997

OCT, 1997 Pg. 3

BUILDING CONTRIBUTORS

H. W. Abplanalp
Apex Industries, Inc.
Hope Austin
John Austin
Batesville Healthcare Center, Inc.
Robert E. Boggs
Bovard Funeral Home
Beatrice Boyd
Carl & Viola Bruns
James & Christine Bruns
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Cheryl Welch
James & Linda Wheeler
Sara Wiles
Ray & Holly Willis
Douglas C. Wilson
Tom Wolfe
Thorp Wolford
David & June Wright
Pamela Wygant
Mary Wyss
Gene Young

Bovard Family Reunion

IN MEMORY OF:

Dorothy Abplanalp
by H.W. Abplanalp

J. W. & Orissa Gelvin Benham
and their four daughters
by Robert E. Boggs

Christie & Alice Kassendick
by Mr. & Mrs. William Innes

Dr. Lester H. & Eva Neill Hopkins
Gene Wilson
by Martha Hopkins Struever

Randy Nealis
by Beatrice Boyd

Lester & Daisy Tucker
Elmer & Norma Krall
The Whitham Family of
Ripley County
by Norris E. & Joan Krall

Ruby Bultman Stratton
by Michael and Janine Stratton

Harry W. Thompson
Carlos "Barney" Craig
Herbert Thompson
by Ripley Publishing Co.

Leah Jackson Wolford
by Thorp L. Wolford

John S. & Lucinda Voris Harrell
by Russell H. Harrell

The Alfred E. Huntington Family
The Newell Richey Family
by Robert W. Huntington

John William Kelley
by Fern Walker Kelley

Carrie L. Thackery
by Owen & Marguerite Walker

Ruth & Lorain Cook
by Bill & Carolyn Hahn

Sarah Bruns Behlmer
Dr. Ralph W. Dreyer
Elsie M. Dreyer
Mayme Neufarth Dreyer
by David S. Dreyer

IN HONOR OF:

Mildred Behlmer Dreyer
by David S. Dreyer

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

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Officers elected to serve until after the April 1997 meeting.

ADAMS Twp.; Mrs. Charles Roepke, 9644 E Co Rd 1300 N, Sunman, IN 47041
BROWN Twp.; Mrs. Alice McCoy, 5616 S St Rd 129, Versailles, IN 47042 SEC.
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