

The Quarterly Bulletin of the
Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc.

Museum -- Corner of Main and Water Streets
Versailles, Indiana 47042

VOLUME XVII OCTOBER 1998 EARLY EDITION

NUMBER 4

EXTRA, EXTRA - READ ALL ABOUT IT!!

The RCHS has made arrangements to reprint Volume I of the RCHS History Book, and is offering an early bird special to anyone wishing to purchase this book. Look inside for further information and the order blank.

OCTOBER MEETING

The Ripley County Indiana Historical Society meeting will be held on October 11, at 2:00 P.M. in the Archives building on the square.

MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING

The July meeting was held on the Court House lawn. The minutes were read, then the treasurer's report was made by Bea Boyd, of the monies taken in and paid out for the past three months.

The microfilm reader/printer was purchased, and after a few false starts, it is now in operation. Not only can copies be made from microfilm, it has a microfiche reader that can be used. And RCHS patrons are happy that now they can make copies.

The Indians got headed off at the pass. So instead, we were entertained by the daughter-in-law of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Walker, who with her husband and children, were up from Australia visiting his family. She gave a talk on various 'down under' subjects, and we all asked questions of her. She did very well considering this talk was a spur of the moment request.

The desserts were just wonderful! Homemade ice cream, vanilla and lemon flavored, and the cakes, and cookies, and brownies! And drinks were provided also. Thanks go to Betty Roepke and her helpers for the goodies.

'Hoosiers' Aboard the Sultana

When the steamship "Sultana" exploded and burned just after 2:00 A.M. on 27 April 1865, she was transporting homeward about 2,300 Union soldiers who had previously been imprisoned in the South. The U.S. Civil War now over, everyone aboard was eager to arrive home to friends and family.

Unfortunately, many never made it. Estimates vary but about 1,800 soldiers were killed in the Sultana tragedy. 98% of those aboard hailed from just five states; Ohio, Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan, or Kentucky.

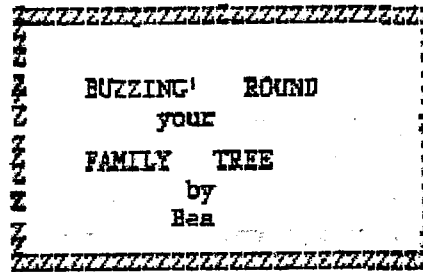
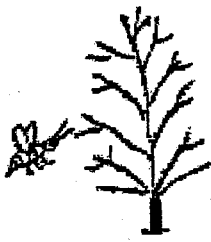
Indiana had about 460 'Hoosiers' aboard the Sultana. While two in three Indianians survived, 153 died in America's worst-ever maritime tragedy. Could one or more belong to your family tree? For those of you who can access the Internet, you can find out in short order. The URL to the site that has the database for searching is :

<http://www.rapidnet.com/~greg/Tom/Indiana/INSult.html>

For those of you that rely on the postal service for information, you can send a query to us at RCHS and someone will do the online search and mail you back. Please be sure to send an SASE along with your question.

ANSWERS TO THE JULY BULLETIN PUZZLE:

- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|
| 1. Oldest town in Indiana | - | Vincennes |
| 2. Birthplace of Dan Quayle | - | Indianapolis |
| 3. Spencer Co. Town | - | Santa Claus |
| 4. Border of IN | - | Ohio River |
| 5. IN born comedian | - | Red Skelton |
| 6. 1 st Gov of IN | - | Jonathan Jennings |
| 7. Worlds 1 st Train Robbers | - | Reno Bros |
| 8. Village School in 1851 | - | Oldenburg |
| 9. Hoagy Carmichael birthplace | - | Bloomington |
| 10. Birthplace of James W. Riley | - | Greenfield |
| 11. Winners of 1 st Indy 500 | - | Ray Harrown |
| 12. Home of Hillforest | - | Aurora |
| 13. Jefferson Co. Town
named for Pres. | - | Madison |
| 14. High land | - | Terre Haute |
| 15. Last IN town raided
By John H. Morgan | - | West Harrison |



Q-10-98 Looking for anything on William ROBERT, John L. (Leigh or Lee) LUTHER, and Lizzie (Elizabeth) REA b. ca. 1874-1886. These are children of James Calvin and Martha Chandler REA. Contact: *Tim Rea, 2107 Killridge Dr. West Dundee, IL 60118*

Q-10-98 Wanting info on Gavin James YATER and Mary Elizabeth McKENNAN. Her father was Patrick McKENNAN, mother ? DONAHUE. Contact: *Patty Yater Strawmyer, 16010 Greenwood Pine Dr. Houston, TX 77062*

For you who have not visited our RCHS library on the Court House Square, and the many who have visited doing research who perhaps failed to notice, on the walls are paintings of the battles of the Civil War. From Manassas (Bull Run), Fredericksburg, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, to Appomattox where final surrender was made. I understand that the State of Virginia has a Civil War Trails. For Civil War buffs, this would make a delightful vacation. Folks in our area have followed the John Hunt Morgan Trail.

If you were not one of many who gathered at the Court House lawn for the July meeting, you missed out on the best homemade ice cream I've ever eaten, with choice of cake or pie. There was a good breeze blowing for outdoor air conditioning under the shade trees. Betty Roepke, R.C.H.S. vice president, was in charge of the program for the meeting.

I appreciate all the letters and notes I received from researchers.

The old "Last Chance" is gone. Another landmark which tied in with the Versailles hanging of 1897. (This was Frank Voss (Balz) Hotel)* A meeting was held there among local men with a man from Spades, IN on the other end of the street. * re: The Trial of Hezekiah Hughes

The R.C.H.S. museum annex has a new look. The old asbestos shingles were removed and it looks magnificent with the new siding.

At various times people have written or called asking if there is a motel in Versailles. Versailles has two motels. Moonlite Motel and 421 Poolside Motel, both located on S. Adams St, which is Hwy. 421.

POST OFFICES in Ripley County IN

This is a continuation of Post Offices and Post Masters that were listed in other bulletins. Submitted by Bea Boyd.

Elrod

George W. Elrod	01 Aug 1856
James R. Elrod	07 Jul 1880
Joseph H. Dunlap	23 Sep 1885
Francis M. Hancock	03 Dec 1889
Nathaniel H. Delap	06 Apr 1893
William Hundley	25 Jan 1894
Walter H. Johnson	13 Nov 1897-1903

Post Office moved to Milan effective 10 Dec 1905

Otter Creek

Zachariah Henderson	29 Jun 1857
Discontinued	30 Oct 1858

Stringtown

Squire Knapp	17 Apr 1848
William Sutton	07 Dec 1858
Discontinued	10 Jan 1865



MARY MARGARET MOORHEAD PHOTO

Ripley County Historical Society members Floyd Engel, Helen Einhaus, and Kathleen Lane provide a tour of the Smith-Engel Log Cabin as well as other historical sites for Dr. and Mrs. G. Ray Funkhouser, a descendant of Jacob Funkhouser, who built the cabin in 1833 on land in the Napoleon area. The Funkhousers made their first visit to this area on Monday, June 22. He is a college professor and author of two books.

Log cabin visited by Funkhouser descendant

Mary Margaret Moorhead

Staff Writer

Dr. and Mrs. G. Ray Funkhouser of Fort Washington, PA, visited the Smith Engel Log Cabin erected behind the Ripley County Historical Museum on Main and Water streets in Versailles as a special part of his trip to this area on Monday, June 22.

The great, great, great grandson of Jacob Funkhouser, who built the log cabin after he and family members came to Ripley County from Beaver County, PA in 1833, Funkhouser had not been in the area before. He and his wife were guests of Mrs. Helen Todd Einhaus and Mrs. Kathleen Marsh Lane, members of the Ripley County Historical Society, for a tour of the log cabin, the museum, and the archives at the Old Bank Building in Versailles.

Also in attendance was Floyd Engel, who had lived in the log cabin earlier in his life. In fact, according to records from the Historical Society, a Smith family that possibly was connected to the Funkhousers lived in the

Flora Smith and Peter Engel's son Dan later married Ida Strobel. Thus many Engel family members lived in the house through the years, and apparently from the family connections, it became known as the Smith-Engel Cabin. The Arnold Wehr family donated the weather boarded log cabin to the Ripley County Historical Society in 1979. Volunteers of the Society and many interested people of the county helped restore the cabin to its present site. Floyd Engel remembers living in the cabin with his brother Robert and sister Evelyn when they were children in the 1940's. Floyd continues to help the Society with the maintenance of the cabin.

According to information in the Ripley County Historical Society, Inc. brochure, "the Log Cabin was built in the 1830's by Jacob Funkhouser on land in Laughery Township acquired in a Government Land Grant. In later years it became known as the Smith-Engel Cabin, named after other families who lived there. The Wehr family purchased the land and gave the

historical Society. In 1979, the cabin was dismantled and reconstructed at the present site by the Society to preserve a historical home of the pioneers."

For the Funkhousers the trip to Ripley County was an opportunity to visit many sites of his ancestors as well as to log information for family history. An author of two books, Dr. Funkhouser received his doctorate in communications from Stanford University. He was a lecturer of marketing at the Wharton School as well as an organizational consultant to top corporations such as American Express and Bank of America. He is presently a professor at the Rutgers Graduate School of Management.

In appreciation of their hospitality, Funkhouser presented autographed copies of his book **THE POWER OF PERSUASION** (A Guide to Moving Ahead in Business and Life) published by Times Books, New York, NY, in 1986.

He has also co-authored with R. Richard Ritti the book **THE ROPES TO SKIP AND THE**



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