

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

P.O. Box 525
Versailles, Indiana 47042

Museum -- Corner of Main and Water Streets

VOLUME XIX

APRIL 2000

NUMBER 2

APRIL MEETING

The April meeting will be held April 9th, at 2:00 P.M., in Sunman, at the Old Tyme Sweet Shop, on Main Street (State Rd 101). Parking is across the street.

The January meeting was held the 9th of January. The minutes were read by Henry Walker and then the treasurer's report was made by Bea Boyd.

The program for the January meeting was presented by Jackie Rohlfing on Dolls. She talked about the history of dolls. Dolls are one of three most collectible items, the other two being stamps and coins.

CENSUS 2000! This is your future, don't leave it blank!

You can even fill out the 2000 census form online at <http://www.2000.census.gov/> and it won't cost you a stamp.

Directors for Adams, Brown, Center & Delaware Twps will be discussed by the Nominating Committee, which consists of Henry Walker, Chester Henderson and Kathryn Manship.

Membership Renewals. Bulletin address labels that have 1999 in the top left are your way of knowing if you still need to pay your 2000 membership dues. Please check your label, and renew your dues, if you haven't done so already. If not renewed by April 30th, you will have to pay full membership fee to renew.

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JANUARY 9, 2000

The first meeting of the year 2000 was held at the RCHS Library, Sunday 9th of January with 22 members and guests present.

David Dreyer gave a report on items presented to the Society from his Mother's estate. The table, was used in the Sunman Farmers Bank, and was used by the Directors of the Bank. The cabinet was used in Dr. Christian Neufarth's office. He also founded the bank that used the table. These were from his fathers side of the family. The other two articles, a music box Christmas tree stand, and lady playing the piano were from his Mother's family. The Music box was used as decoration in the Behlmer's store in Sunman. His Mother traveled extensively and purchased the lady at piano in Italy. A copy of their history and David's report will be displayed in the cabinet.

It was reported that new cabinets would be delivered to the Museum and house tomorrow, 10th January.

Minutes of last meeting were read by Henry Walker Accepted as read mo. Kathleen, sec. Jerry. Finance report read by Bee Boyd. It was also accepted with motions by Wilbur and sec Charles. She reported we had received several memorial gifts in memory of David Mendal. Also noted were deaths of J. Alfred Wiltburger and Schutte.

Alice McCoy reported on the amount of correspondence we have received from members from out of state.

Saturday the Probation Officer brought some help to straighten up files from the Court House. It was very much appreciated and the records are now easier to locate. They will also be available in the future should we need them. Alice McCoy supervised.

Norris Krall gave report on the building fund.

Wilbur Meyers has repaired another chair. We are very thankful as it seems some of the chairs need lots of care.

Talked about newspaper copies and more things coming from the Court House. We now have books 1 thru 12 from the Commissioners.

Need to put signs at the museum and house to direct people to the Library and the hours we are open.

The Program was given by Jackie Rohlfing on Dolls. She gave us the history of dolls. They are one of three most collectible, the other two being stamps and coins. She has a doll shop at the rear of the old Krick hardware store, which is now an antique store owned by Rosylyn McKittrick. She displayed dolls that she had made as well as old dolls from her collection and also showed how they are made. A program that was enjoyed by everyone.

Refreshments were served by Brown Township.

President, Alice McCoy
Secretary, Henry Walker

100 Years Ago

A few items from the Batesville Tribune:

“Everybody is enthusiastic over the proposed electric car line between Osgood and Versailles. The right-of-way has been granted and all necessary steps taken and an election is to be held in the two townships shortly to determine whether it will be built”. *Was it ever built?*

Napoleon:

Miss Rena Holzer, a pleasant young lady, of St. Magdalene, is here visiting her brother, Peter Holzer.

A few items from the Osgood Journal:

Sears Roebuck Co. Sewing Machine \$15.00

John O. Kaiser sold the Sherman House at Batesville to August Bloemer for the sum over \$4,000.00 Kaiser has made a mint of money there. Tuesday Jan 15 1900

A Mystery.... Benville - Where was it located?



Favorite Tombstone

1754-1797

KATE YAHOO

Here lies the remains of old Aunt Kate,

Beautiful children she had eight.

She might have had more,

But now it's too late.

5 Men Are Hanged from Same Tree At Versailles

Terrible Deed

On Sept. 15, 1897

Full Particulars of Gruesome Sight Given; Gov. Sends Order

From the files of the Versailles Republican September 15, 1897.

(Continued from last week)

The peaceful citizens of the quiet town of Versailles were aroused from their slumbers at an early hour Wednesday morning, Sept. 15, 1897, with the startling news that one of the most terrible tragedies of modern times had taken place within her borders.

The awful news spread like fire and the horrid spectre of five human beings, hanging cold in death to the same tree, met the gaze of all who cared to look. Mob law had done its work and Lyle Levi, Clifford Gordon, Henry Schuter, Burt Andrews and William Jenkins, all of Osgood, had paid the penalties of their supposed crime, according to the law of Judge Lynch.

Our readers are no doubt aware of the fact that a gang of burglars, robbers and thieves have been making nights hideous in the rural districts in and about Osgood by their fearless and foul depredations to such an extent that honest people feared to be away or even at home during the night-time. In another column of our paper will be found the daring schemes to rob the store of Wooley brothers, at Correct, on last Saturday night and of the trap laid to apprehend the perpetrators, the battle which ensued, the wounding of our county sheriff, the chase and capture of Gordon and Andrews; also the information obtained by which the contemplated raid was overheard and completed.

stubborn and was treated in like manner.

The three bodies were then taken to the outer corridor and ten to twelve of the lynchers repaired to the upper cell rooms where they found Gordon and Andrews, these men were seized and bound with little difficulty, ropes placed around their necks and they were pulled or hauled downstairs, ropes having in the meantime been placed about the necks of the other three men.

The order was then given to "pull on those ropes and to pull fast." The parties hurried forward around to the street running north from the jail, pulling and hauling the groaning and dead men as they went, until they arrived about two blocks north of the jail at a large elm tree near the creek bluff; when all of the five men were strung up on the same tree, and left for the hands of humanity to lower and bury. No sounds could be heard save the groans of the dying and no voice audible save that of the commander to face about and march to the place from whence they came.

The mob came into town from the north over the Milan pike, horses were left tied along the roadside from the large bridge to the foot of the hill and the rest of the trip was made on foot in military order. The retreat was made in like manner to where the horses were tied and the raiders disappeared as mysteriously as they came. Guards were left at the jail for one hour and held the jailors confined for that period after the prisoners were taken away. Precautions had also been taken to station guards through the various avenues of the town to prevent concentration of people. Alarm was given by Mr. Kenan after his release and the town was soon astir. God forbid that such an affair shall ever again occur within the borders of our state. The

head, his skull was fractured, his body also indicated strangulation. Clifford Gordon: the rope was tied tightly around his neck with noose, and hanging to the limb of the tree. In my opinion his neck was fractured which, produced death. Burt Andrews: his body was hanging to a tree, his feet touching the ground; suspended by a rope around his neck by a slip noose. From appearance of his body death was caused by strangulation. At this point the inquest was continued for further hearing to Thursday, Sept. 16, 1897.

Great excitement prevails, and during the day thousands of excited persons visited the scene of the hanging. The tree on which the men were hanging has almost been carried away by relic hunters. The ropes with which the men were hanging were carried away in a few minutes after the acting coroner ordered them cut down.

Governor Mount Deplores Deed

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 15, 1897, editor post: News of the lynching at Versailles fills me with inexpressible regrets. As soon as I received information of the lamentable occurrence I telegraphed the sheriff that the participants in the infamous outrage must be apprehended. Whitecapism and mob violence must be stopped, and I shall vigorously use all of the power of the executive of the state to that end. Signed J. A. Mount, Governor of Indiana.

Governor Mount Is Hot

All The Powers Of The State Will Be Employed Against The Lynchers.

Sheriff Busching has received the following telegram from Governor Mount: "Wire me at once the particulars of the lynching that has occurred in your county. I further direct that you proceed immediately with all the power you can command to bring to justice all parties guilty of participating in the murder of the five men alleged to have been lynched. Such lawlessness is intolerable and all the power of the state, if necessary, will be vigorously employed for the arrest and punishment of all parties implicated. Signed James A. Mount, Governor of Indiana."

~~Q-4~~ Buzzin' Round your FAMILY TREE

Q-4-2000-RADIGAN, RATICAN, RATEKIN, MAIER, MYERS, MEYER, .
John and Kate RATEKIN had four children Thomas b. 1856 married Frances Maier, Kate married John Steele, Mary and Patrick. Joseph and Josephine Myers had six children. Josephm Anna Slater, Edwin m. Ida Meyer, Otto, Kate m. Elsie Butterfield, Hattie m Joseph Duncan, Frances m. Thomas Radigan. Any help would be great. Mary Ann Frey, 311 Clay St., Edwardsville, IL 62025.

February 22, 200 was declared NORMAN HUELSON DAY in Ripley County. Open house was held in the Prosecutors office in the Court House. Norm, a local boy, started with the Indiana State Police in 1942. upon retirement from ISP he has served in the Prosecutors office since 1973.

I have a correction for Jan 2000 bulletin .

Earl Udey b. March 23, 1914

d. Oct. 28, 1999. This was my error, In my list of Holton Burials, I picked up the wrong date.

A reminder was sent in Jan bulletin in regards to dues. Also in February cards were sent to the ones who had not paid their dues. We send out a Jan. bulletin but if dues are not paid, that is the last one.

I have been watching the building of the new facility of the INDIANA STATE POLICE from the time of demolation of the other building. On Sunday, March 26, I attended the OPEN HOUSE a Versailles. The Versailles post covers District 42(6 counties consisting of Ripley, Dearborn, Ohio, Decatur, Switzerland and Jefferson Counties).

Bank to change name sometime in September of this year..

The Ripley County Bank, founded in 1887 by William D. Willson will be called "INTEGRA BANK". It is part of a network, of National City Bancshares Inc. We see history in the making every day!

The warm February days made it possible to do some restoration at the Perseverance Cemetery. Bill Warren, Trustee of Center Township contracted Don Nealis to do the restoration. This cemetery is located 1½ mile East of Osgood on E. Fairground Road. This land was donated by Abraham Vines and Henry Nordloh for the Perservance School circa 1870. The Deed for the cemetery was made to John Ewing, William S. Gray and William Wisē, Trustees of the cemetery from John H and wife Mary Nordloh 9th Dec 1876 for a public burial ground at the cost of \$18.87.

Violet Toph taught at the school in 1912, The school was closed in 1926. (While visiting at Manderley Nursing Home in Osgood, I talked with a lady who had attended school there) Although the cemetery contains many unmarked graves Abraham Vines and his wife are buried there also Civil War Vet, John Francisco. It is said that his was one of the largest funerals held in Center Twp. I will list a few of the families buried there. Levi, Kelly, Nordlohs, Boswell, Lafary, Tucker, Goss. The last burial was Kenneth Nordloh in November 1999.

I hope you had a good winter. I love the spring with everything coming to life. See you at the meeting at Sunman in April.

Send your Querie to Mrs. Don Boyd PO Box 83, Holton , In 47023



OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Adams Twp. - Mrs. Charles Roepke; 9644 E Co Rd 1300 N, Sunman, IN 47041 V. President
Brown Twp. - Mrs. Alice McCoy; 5616 S St Rd 129, Versailles, IN 47042 President
Center Twp. - Mr. Norris Krall; 4499 N Old Michigan Rd, Osgood, IN 47037
Delaware Twp. - Mrs. Lois Workman; 4823 N CO RD 350E OSGOOD IN 47037
Franklin Twp. - Mrs. Jacqueline Rohlfing; 6162 N Co Rd 800E Milan IN 47031
Jackson Twp. - Mrs. Kathryn Manship; 3378 W Co Rd 600 N, Osgood, IN 47037
Johnson Twp. - Mr. Alan Smith; P.O. Box 414, Versailles, IN 47042
Laughery Twp. - Mrs. Carolyn Hahn; 13403 N Delaware Rd, Batesville, IN 47006
Otter Creek Twp. - Mrs. Donald Boyd; P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023 Treasurer
Shelby Twp. - Mrs. Howard Lane; 7192 Co Rd 400 W, Versailles, IN 47042 Museum Curator
Washington Twp. - Mr. Henry Walker; 5793 E Co Rd N, Milan, IN 47031 Secretary

HONORARY

Mary Manship - 3373 W Co Rd 600 N, Osgood, IN 47037 C.G.R.S.
Lori Hoffman - Bulletin Editor * Web Master

The Ripley County, Indiana
Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 525
Versailles, Indiana 47042

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 17
Versailles, IN
47042

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED