

The Quarterly Bulletin of the
RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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APRIL MEETING

The April 14, 2002 Meeting will be at 2:00 at the RCHS building in Versailles. The program "Appreciate History through Autographs" will be given by John Pratt of Greensburg. Mr. Pratt has collected more than 2,000 autographs which are on display along with other collections at "Pratt Books and Other Fun Stuff," a new store located in the old YMCA building in Greensburg, which Mr. Pratt recently purchased. He says his most treasured signature is that of Mother Teresa. Another extremely treasured autograph is one of Arthur Ashe, which he obtained only a month before the first African-American Davis Cup participant and the first black male to win the U.S. Open and Wimbledon announced he had AIDS. Mr. Pratt has collected 40 autographs of astronauts including the first woman astronaut, Sally Ride. Other autographs include those of Jimmy Stewart, Dan Quayle, Richard Nixon, Jessamine West, Gerald Ford, George Bush, George W. Bush, Colin Powell, Desmond Tutu, to name a few. Come and learn the value of your own signature.

REMEMBER WE STILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING BOOKS FOR SALE:

Ripley County History, Volume I	\$65
Ripley County History, Volume II	55
Tales of Versailles by Alan F. Smith	16
Vintage Postcards of Ripley County by Alan Smith	19
Brown Township Cemetery Index	10
Johnson Township Cemetery Index	10

Thanks to Willard Tucker and Don Hughes, we also have available a newly updated listing of the burials at the Union Flat Rock Cemetery. This listing includes all known burials plus some additional information about many of the deceased. Contact RCHS if you are interested in this update.

Your membership expires on December 31 of the year shown on your mailing label. Check to make certain your dues are paid up-to-date. If not, mail your renewal to RCHS or to Beatrice Boyd, Treasurer, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023

Dues:

New memberships are \$10.00 for the first year.
Renewals are \$5.00 per year thereafter.
Life memberships are \$100

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Ripley County Historical Society held its meeting on January 13, 2002 at the Archives Building in Versailles. There were 32 members and visitors present

Minutes were read by Henry Walker and were accepted with corrections made in names misspelled.

Bea Boyd read the finance report. It was moved by Alan Smith and second by Betty Roepke to be accepted as read. Motion passed.

Thanks to Allen for seeing that work on the roof and chimney were completed. Roof was replaced and chimney was cleaned and furnace checked. The furnace is in good working order but old. Norris noted that one of our duties was to preserve old things.

Thanks were given to Norris for work done to the bathrooms.

Notice received from Ohio County H. S. of exhibit to be presented called "Ladies of Fashion" by Frankenmuth, Michigan.

Don Nealis gave a report and brought pictures of work already completed on Cemeteries. The new grant for cemetery work was deferred. It is still in the works but money was not available at this time. Lori gave report on Toph papers. And asked about chances of a third county history book. From the responses made, that seems doubtful in the near future. Norris is working on history of Dabney Church. He also noted that the Osgood Baptist Church would be a century old next Sunday.

Stelle Fetcher reported that Mr. And Mrs. Harvey Lauber would be celebrating their 69th wedding anniversary at the St Paul Methodist Church near Sunman.

Pastor Felde of the Olean Lutheran Church gave a program on Missionary work they had done in Popua, New Guiana. He and his wife had two seven year terms there and two daughters born there. He presented a very good slide program and also showed artifacts used by the people there. Seven years were spent in a remote area and very primitive, the other were spent taching in a seminary there. It was a very interesting program and he noted that they wre very helpful to American Gi's who faught there in World War II. Also they did not like the Japanese. We enjoyed the program very much.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served by Johson Twp.

President, Alice McCoy

Secretary, Henry Walker

COMING SOON!

The History of Brown Township by Alan F. Smith is ready to go to the publisher. This hard backed book will feature many pictures on its 180 pages. It will sell for \$20 plus postage. Watch for more information in next newsletter.

ANOTHER BOOK COMING SOON!

A detailed history of the Dabney Baptist Church and the Dabney (Poston) Community, located on Michigan Road in Otter Creek Township, is being prepared by Norris and Joan Krall to commemorate the church's Sesquicentennial. It will have a soft cover, contain around 200 pages with pictures, maps, complete list of 150 year church membership, mini family histories of the early settlers to present residents and will be indexed. It will be published by September and will sell for around \$10 to \$15. More information in the next newsletter.

Sunman Cub Scouts Visit RCHS

Tiger Cub Scouts Sunman Den 7 toured the Funkhouser log cabin on March 19. Their project, "How People Lived in the Past" will count toward their local history badge. Pictured are: Scouts Joshua Stenger, Gabe Martini, Isaac Gorman, Nicholas Ballman and Michael



Photo by Mary Margaret Moorhead, courtesy of Ripley Publishing Co.

Tekulve; Scout Leaders Kathy and Jon Tekulve; Helen Einhaus, Cathy Volz and Alice McCoy of the Ripley County Historical Society.

The Funkhouser Log Cabin stood on the land of Jacob Funkhouser's original land entry of 1833. Also entering land on the same day was one of his sons, David Funkhouser, and son-in-law Benjamin Kaster. Other family members, the Castor, Main and Vankirk families, lived nearby and they all contributed to the early formation of the Napoleon and Old Salem Church area. Jacob and Nancy Showalter Funkhouser are buried at Old Salem Cemetery.

John P. and Parthena Smith's land, also in Section 15, adjoined the Funkhouser property. When John P. Smith died August 9, 1855 at age 42 he was buried underneath a tree near his home. In 1907 the Funlahouser property was sold to August G. Lauber, son of Peter and Anna Engel Lauber and grandson of Valentine and Magdalena Smith Lauber, Dan Engel purchased the land in 1914. In time the cabin was referred to as the Smith-Engel cabin.



Funkhouser Smith-Engel Cabin

When the Arnold Wehr family gave the cabin to RCHS in 1979 it was dismantled and moved to its present site behind the RCHS Museum. The Museum was formerly the Grand Army of the Republic Hall until 1930 when it was donated to RCHS as a memorial to the Civil War Veterans.

The cabin is deteriorating and must soon receive significant maintenance. We are trying to locate a log cabin preservationist to advise us what steps to take. We have had much interest from different branches of the Funkhouser family and know they will be interested in this project.

Underground Railroad History

The Underground Railroad was neither "underground" nor a "railroad." Rather it refers to the 19th Century movement of enslaved African-Americans seeking freedom in the North and the assistance they received on their journey. Extensive research has been done the last few years on this ongoing project by the Department of Natural Resources - Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. Publications are available to the public for a nominal price of \$5 each which includes postage. Delivery will be in eight weeks. To order, fill in the form below, indicating the quantity of each and return it with your check or money order to: DNR, 402 W. Washington Street, RM W274, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2739.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD HISTORY

Name _____

Address (No P.O. Boxes) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

_____ Maxine Brown, *The Role of Free Blacks in the Underground Railroad Activities of South Central Indiana* (2001)

_____ Diane Coon, *Southeastern Indiana's Underground Railroad Routes and Operations* (2001)

_____ Hurley Goodall, *The invisible Road to Freedom Through Indiana as recorded by the Works Progress Administration Writers Project* (2001)

_____ Marlene Lu, *Walkin' the Wabash: The Underground Railroad on the Wabash River and Wabash & Erie Canal in Western Indiana* (2001)

_____ Angie Quinn, *The Underground Railroad in Allen County and Fort Wayne* (2001)

_____ Freetown Village, eds. *Interpretive Stories Associated with the Underground Railroad in the Indianapolis Area* (2001)

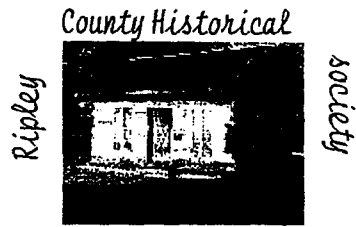
_____ Mills, Rancy Ph.D. *Underground Railroad Activity in Southwestern Indiana* (2001)

From the Mail Box: We have been receiving some very nice compliments on several of our books. Mrs. Vicki Moffett of Sun City, CA, said the Post card Book by Alan Smith was wonderful and much nicer than she had expected.

Requesting Information: Anyone wanting family genealogy research should send the request in a letter (snail mail). It is much easier for our volunteers. Remember the research charge is \$3 per name requested, copying charges are 25¢ for the first 4 copies and 10¢ each additional page, legal size is 25¢ each and larger copies are 50¢ each. There is also a charge for the postage.

Cemetery repair: We have had some requests to repair and maintain individual family burial sites. The RCHS is not able to do this; each family must maintain their own sites. RCHS has received some grants and are seeking more to repair cemeteries with Revolutionary War soldiers. A local man does good cemetery repair work. If interested in more information contact Mr. Donald Nealis, 8857 W Baseline Road, Holton, IN 47023. phone: 812-689-6773

From the past: For twenty days in 1922, you could purchase the Versailles Republican for one year for \$1.50 and the Indianapolis Daily News for one year for \$4. or both for \$4.75.



Versailles, IN 47042

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