

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

Library – 125 Washington Street  
Museum – Corner of Main and Water Streets  
Versailles, Indiana 47042

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**VOLUME XXV**

**APRIL 2004**

**NUMBER 2**

Because Easter falls on our regular meeting date, note date change to **April 18, 2004**, at 2:00 pm in the RCHS Library Building on the square in Versailles. The program will include information on Milan's Sesquicentennial and update on Freedom Trail Marker Reception.

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### Notes re: Our Staff

- ◆ Our beloved President, Alice McCoy, has not been able to be at the Archives as much as usual. We really miss her and pray that she will soon be feeling better.
- ◆ One of our most faithful volunteers, Arriest Udey, was married to Mr. O. Terry on St. Patrick's day and has moved to Dearborn County. Hope she will still have some time to volunteer at RCHS.
- ◆ Carolyn Hahn, our Laughery Township Director, has retired and moved to Florida. Thanks Carolyn for all your help to RCHS. Looking forward to seeing you again soon.
- ◆ County Historian, Helen Einhaus, and Diane Coon have been very busy working with the "Ripley County Underground Railroad Task Force". Two Freedom Trail Markers will be dedicated on May 15. The reception will start on the Courthouse lawn at 11 AM and travel to the Union Flat Rock Church for the 2 PM dedication. (see article on page 4)
- ◆ Thanks to County Clerk Ginger Bradford's directions our court records, which are stored in the Archives basement and second floor, are being cleaned and sorted. This is a much needed improvement.

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### THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE:

Ripley County History, Volume I	\$65
Ripley County History, Volume II	55
Brown Township Tales by Alan F. Smith	20
Tales of Versailles by Alan F. Smith	16
Vintage Postcards of Ripley County by Alan F. Smith	20
Brown Township Cemetery Index	10
Johnson Township Cemetery Index	10
Flat Rock Cemetery Index	5

Flat Rock Cemetery 2003 update sheet available; send \$1 and SASE  
Mailing fees added for all books shipped.

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### Dues:

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. Our membership list will be purged before next mailing!

New memberships are \$10.00 for the first year.

Renewals are \$5.00 per year thereafter.

Life memberships are \$100

## MINUTES OF THE RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The January 11, 2004, meeting was held at 2:00 p.m. at the library building with 31 members and guests present. Minutes were read. A correction was made in the number of Markers for the Underground Railroad. The one for the Courthouse and the one for Flat Rock Church were approved the one for Napoleon was denied at this time.

Bea Boyd gave the treasure's report and it was approved.

Geo. Ammerman could not be present so the program was presented by Diane Coon. She brought us up to date on the Underground Railroad project and presented what our part would be in it.

A nominating committee was named to select Directors for Franklin, Johnson, and Jackson Townships. They were Roselyn McKittrick, Bea Boyd and Arriest Udey.

There was a good article in the Over Fifty newspaper about the work done on Prattsburg Cemetery finished in 2003, the Ditch Cemetery is also complete, we have applied for a grant for the Culver Cemetery. These are Cemeteries in Ripley County that have Revolutionary War Veteran's Graves. The Old Washington Cemetery is also on that list.

Roselyn McKittrick asked for any artifacts, pictures, old post cards about Milan that could be used in the sesquicentennial celebration in July of this year. They will present a half hour documentary in March.

History tree at the Court house has been dedicated and is very impressive. It was hand carved by Weberdings of Batesville.

Diane Coon presented pictures of the official state markers that were approved. One will be at the Court House, the other at Flat Rock. The State is paying \$1000 for one. Signs should be ready in April or May. A Dedication date will be set, possibly the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. We would like to have a State Official for the Dedication and also have the Multi Media center open by then.

A replacement is needed on the site committee to replace the late Alan Smith.

Helen Einhaus and Betty Carlson will try and locate information on descendants of the families that worked with the Underground Railroad.

Refreshments were requested for the dedication ceremony and for the two tours.

Next meeting date will be 18<sup>th</sup> of April, the Sunday following Easter.

Meeting Adjourned, refreshments by Delaware Township.

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### NEW RESEARCH FEES AND COPY COSTS

- ◆ It has become necessary to adjust our prices to cover increasing costs. All snail-mail requests must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped large envelope and \$3 for each family name or surname to be researched. Also send money for copying costs. The copying rate is 25¢ for the first 4 sheets and 10¢ for all additional pages. If more than 5 pages of copies are requested please send extra \$1 for postage. A bill for any additional cost will be sent with the material requested.
- ◆ When requesting copies of the **Toph Papers**, send \$3 for handling and 35¢ for each copy, plus postage. All copies of microfilm records will be 50¢ each.
- ◆ E-mail requests will be researched and a bill sent with the information requested. If large amount of data is requested we will send an estimate of the cost and must require the money to be sent before answering requests.
- ◆ No telephone requests can accepted. All requests must be made by snail mail or e-mail. We do not have the staff to take research orders from the phone.
- ◆ All RCHS members making requests must follow the rules above. However, all members that visit the Archives may research without paying the regular \$3 research fee, but will be charged copy fees.
- ◆ It is our desire to share the information from our large collection of Ripley County data and we **Thank You** for your help and patience as we try to fill your requests. We need more volunteers.



Z Buzzing' Around your Family Tree Z  
Z by Bea Z

Query 04-04

KINCART, Samuel b. 1803 ca in Ky. Anyone searching for this surname. Please contact Evelyn Pffingston Dismore  
PO box 206 Gilbertsville, Ky 42044.

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Accouches continued from Dr. Jeremiah Roberts account book.

Feb. 27, 1878	Oliver Burton	April 28 1878	to L. Cess
March 1, 1878	John McFateridge	May 5, 1878,	J. D. Hall
March 25, 1878	Alonzo Dickerson	May 10 1878	William Lindsay
Apr 16 1878	Josh Vanosdol	May 15 1878	L. T. Williams

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James E. Watson, Senator from Indiana made provisions for a George Washington Bust to be sent to the Historical Society in Versailles by Assistant Director Representative Sol Bloom, U. S. commission for celebration of the 200th anniversary of Washington's Birthday.

History of the Bust was enclosed in a letter to Violet Toph, curator of the Ripley County Historical Society Museum.

Rep. Sol Bloom returned from Europe last summer and brought with him an art rarity. A marble bust of George Washington by English Sculpter of late 18th and 19th, Joseph Nollekins.

The bust was made from original painting by Gilbert Stuart and in 130 years has only been viewed by but few Americans or maybe ever heard of. Rep. Bloom is possessor of original Nollekins but 100 replicas have found their way into all parts of the United States.

Each U. S. Senator and Representatives has been presented with one and arrangements now to present to 48 governors. The original to be with Headquarters of U. S. George Washington Bicentennial commission Washington Building, Washington, D. C. I wonder where they are now? I do know that Violet took care of the one sent to the Historical Society. It is located at RCHS Museum in Versailles on Corner of Water and Main Streets. The museum will be open in summer months every Sunday from 2 to 4 P.M. The museum is full of interesting articles.. Each one with their own story.

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Teachers in Jackson Township Schools in 1893 for the coming year.

Thomas Cregmile (Primary) Napoleon

Perry Brown, Lamb's

Lewis Ross-Smiley's

Miss Ala Hodson-Swartz's

Randolph Acher-Vankirk's

Miss Rosa Hazen-Newman

George W. Cowan, Flat Rock-School to begin Sept 25

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The first Township Institute in Johnson Township will be held in the School House in Versailles Saturday October 12, 1878.

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Cravens and Holland-attorneys with offices in Versailles and Osgood in 1878. J. W. Henthorne, new editor for the Ripley Index. Their office is one door South of Hassmer Hotel in Versailles.

## TWO INDIANA FREEDOM TRAIL MARKERS TO BE DEDICATED MAY 15, 2004

The Indiana State "Freedom Trail" historical marker honoring Stephen S. Harding, Esq., will be dedicated by state and local officials at 11a.m. Saturday, May 15, 2004. The dedication will take place at the Versailles Court House.

\* The Ripley County Historical Society will open the Stephen S. Harding Memorial Room at the RCHS Annex that same day. Docents will be present to tell the Harding story.

\* Descendants of Stephen S. Harding joining us for the event will be recognized. We are still searching for descendants of Mr. Harding. Please contact County Historian, Helen Einhaus, <hteinhau@seidata.com>

\* The Ripley County Commissioners will have the Court House open to permit visitors to view the County History Tree and the Underground Railroad displays in the main hallway.

\* A gospel singer from North Vernon will participate in the ceremonies along with state and local dignitaries.

\* The RCHS Archives will be open to the public.

\* At 2:00 p.m. on May 15, 2004, the Indiana State "Freedom Trail" historical marker honoring the Union Freewill Baptist Church at Flat Rock in southwestern Jackson Township will be dedicated.

\* Docents from the Union Flat Rock Baptist Church will give tours of the church and the cemetery and tell the story of Flat Rock Church and community and the Underground Railroad.

\* The 1st Baptist Church Choir of Eminence, Kentucky, will present a nice selection of Underground Railroad spirituals as part of the dedication ceremony.

\* All descendants of the original members and current members of the church will be acknowledged.

The tour routes from Versailles to Flat Rock and from Versailles to Old Milan will be ready by May 15th with the brochures, maps and CDs available for those who want to hear more about the Underground Railroad people, operations, and incidents in Ripley County. Later in the year four additional tours will be opened.

We especially wish to recognize several persons working on various aspects of the dedications: Katherine Taul, Executive Director of Ripley County Tourism, coordinating with state and local officials and arranging the sound system; Jeff French, Andy Scholle and Chris Meyer as a committee establishing the Stephen S. Harding Memorial Room, coordinating their efforts with the museum curator, Cheryl Welch, and a very special recognition and thanks to The Friendship State Bank in funding professional movers to move the 1850's Harding piano to the newly designated room. A partial listing of donations to the Harding Memorial Room to date are: the Harding Eastlake glider, on loan by Esther Edmondson; Alan F. Smith's line drawing of the old Ripley County Court House and a period rug, donated by the Alan F. Smith family; portraits of Stephen S. Harding, from the Utah State Historical Society Photo Archives, donated by Diane Perrine Coon; a period chandelier donated by Charles and Jackie Rohlfing and retrieval of the Harding law books is progressing. There are additional Harding letters, artifacts and furniture that hopefully will be added to this. We will have a complete listing of donors and names of lenders to our project in the next bulletin.

### **Ripley County's Anti-Slavery Movement Leads to Freedom - *The Osgood Journal* Series**

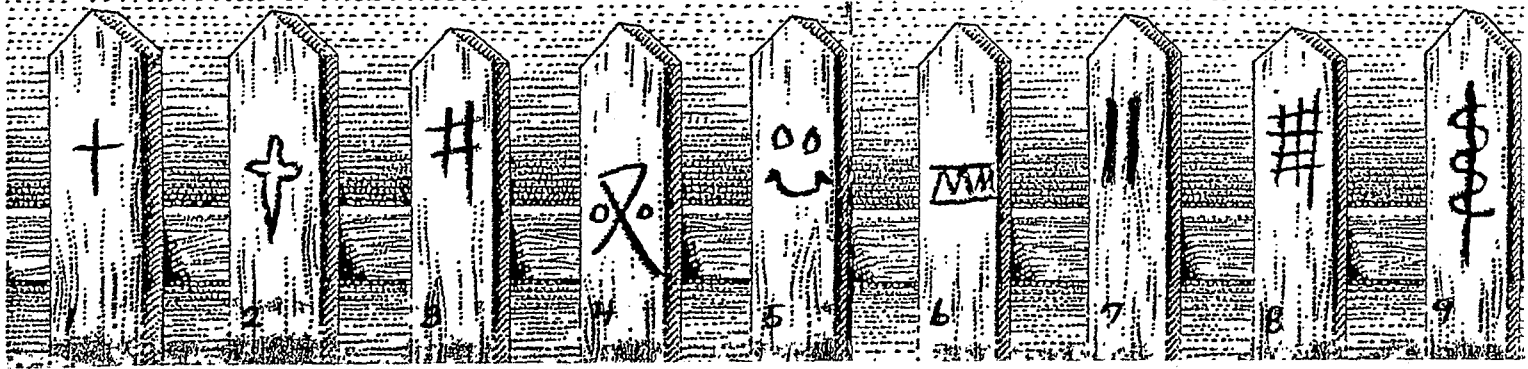
Four feature articles about the life and contributions of Stephen S. Harding and four feature stories about the people and events at the Union Flat Rock Church are currently running in *The Osgood Journal*. Editor, Wanda Burnett, has graciously given this substantial publicity to give in-depth background of the people and places being honored by the Indiana State "Freedom Trails" historical markers. Historian, Diane Perrine Coon, compiled the articles based on materials collected to submit the applications for the Indiana State historical markers. Coon is serving as the Project Director for the Ripley County Underground Railroad Task Force. This research has been aided by the grants from the Rising Sun Regional Foundation and the Gilmore and Golda Reynolds Foundation.

### **MILAN TO CELEBRATE SESQUICENTENNIAL**

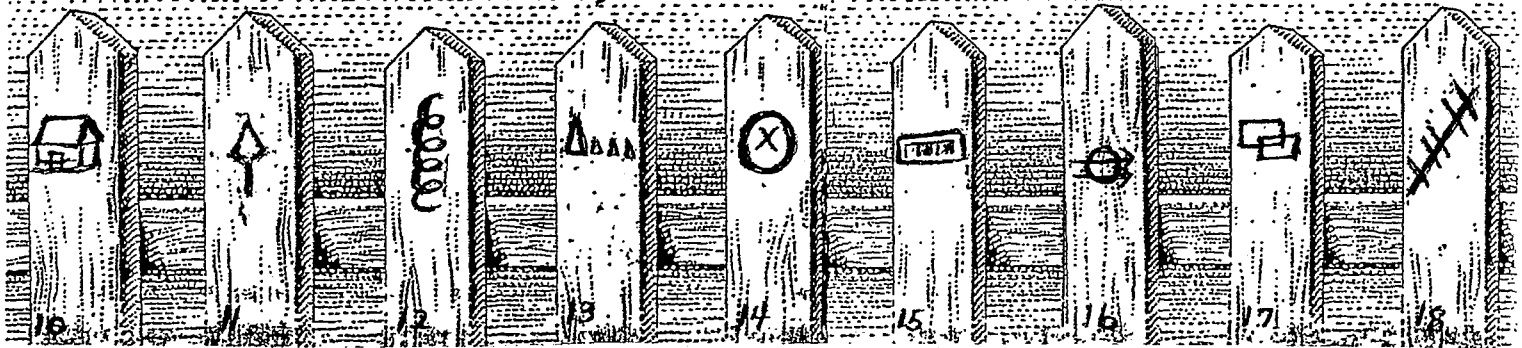
An electrifying enthusiasm is permeating Milan as the town gets ready for its Sesquicentennial Celebration July 1 through 4. Many current and former residents are busy helping with the Milan History book, the State Championship Basketball Team museum, the entertainment programs, parade and collection of historic memorabilia to be displayed. This celebration was the brainchild of Roselyn McKittrick, who has been collecting, preserving and documenting Milan information, pictures and antiques for many years. Milan is one of the most well known small towns in the United States because of the movie "Hoosiers" which was based on the 1954 Milan Indians Basketball team. Milan is not just a sports town; it is also a railroad town and has a unique 150-year history. A very detailed history book is being published. If you are interested in purchasing a book, you may send your order with payment and the book will be sent to you, or the book will be available locally for purchase after publication.

**To order the book(s), to be sent directly to you, send \$25 each (includes \$5 mailing fee) to Roselyn McKittrick, P.O. Box 296, Milan, IN 47031. Make checks payable to Roselyn McKittrick and include you name and address. Orders must be sent by May 1, 2004.**

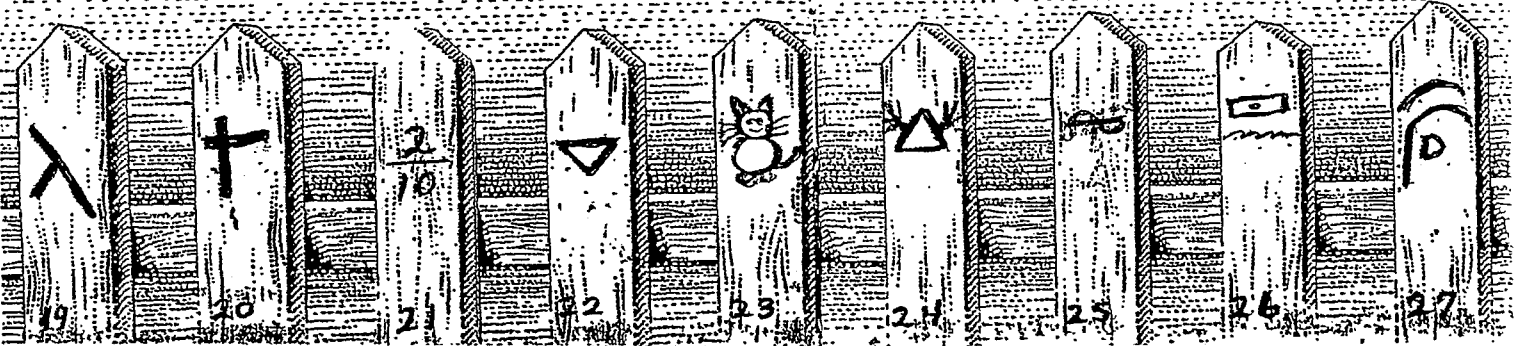
## HOBO SYMBOLS ON THE FENCE POSTS



1. Speak religiously and they give. 2. Dishonest men (a back stabber). 3. Police officer lives here. 4. Good jungle, make yourself at home. 5. You can sleep in this farmer's barn. 6. Poor water. 7. Sky is the limit. 8. Stay out of the yard. 9. Will help when sick.



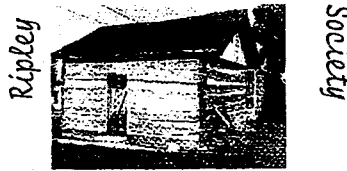
10. Bar across door-well guarded house. 11. Prepare to defend yourself. 12. Cop lives here. 13. Sob story will win a handout. 14. Good place for food & money. 15. A comb has teeth so does the dog. 16. Hit the road. 17. Cowards-they give to get rid of you. 18. This man will curse you, he has many marks against him.



19. You'll be kicked or punched. 20. Be Sanctimonious. 21. There are thieves in the neighborhood. 22. Spoiled by too many tramps. 23. Kind lady. 24. Scram, you may be shot. 25. Dishonest people. 26. Bad water. 27. May sleep in hayloff.

In the mid 1800's, when the railroads were built across America, wanderlust drove many men, young and old, to hop a ride on the freight trains for a cheap way to see the country. These men were called tramps or hobos. During the "Great Depression" in the late 1920's and early 1930's, the number of hobos grew to hundreds of thousands. These homeless men would go from town to town, some trying to find a job others just existing in the trains. To find food or possibly some work, they would leave the trains to visit the homes near the tracks. Many families would help the tattered and dirty men but some could not or would not give them a handout. The hobos soon developed a set of code marks that they put on the fence posts or buildings of the different homes, describing the treatment they had received. The code was a guide for other hobos that would come that way.

County Historical



Versailles, IN 47042

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

- Adams Twp. - Mrs Betty Roepke; 9644 E Co Rd 1300 N, Sunman, IN 47041
- Brown Twp. - Mrs. Alice McCoy; 5616 S St Rd 129, Versailles, IN 47042
- Center Twp. - Mr. Norris Krall; 4499 N Old Michigan Rd, Osgood, IN 47037
- Delaware Twp. - Mrs. Lois Workman; 4823 N Co Rd 350 E, Osgood, IN 47037
- Franklin Twp. - Mrs. Jacqueline Rohlfing; 6162 N Co Rd 800 E, Milan, IN 47031
- Jackson Twp. - Mr. Andrew Scholle; 5448 W Co Rd 800 N, Osgood, IN 47037
- Johnson Twp. - Mr. Christopher Meyer; 3854 S SR 129, Versailles 47042
- Laughery Twp. -
- Otter Creek Twp. - Mrs. Beatrice Boyd; P.O.Box 83 Holton, IN 47023
- Shelby Twp. - Mrs. Cheryl Welch; 6453 S Co Rd 225 W, Versailles, IN 47042
- Washington Twp. - Mr. Henry Walker; 5793 E Co Rd 200 N, Milan, IN 47031

V. President  
President

Treasurer  
Museum Curator  
Secretary

- Mrs. Helen Einhaus; 610 N Buckeye St., Osgood <hteinhau@seidata.com>
- Lori Hoffman; 5565 E. Lower Dry Fork Rd. Madison, IN 47250
- Alice McCoy, Bea Boyd, Henry & Jerry Walker, and Norris & JoAn Krall

County Historian  
Web Master  
Newsletter Committee

The Ripley County, Indiana,  
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