

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

www.rchslib.org

e-mail: staff@rchslib.org

VOLUME XXXI

APRIL 2010

NUMBER 2

▲ The Ripley Co. Historical Society will meet Sunday April 11, at 2:00 at the Archive Library on the west side of Versailles Courthouse Square. The program for our next meeting is History of Ripley County by Marita Hooton Cizek.

▲ The Board of Directors voted to raise the price of research and copies. They are: Research \$5.00 for non-members, and \$.50 per page copied.

▲ The WWII Veterans book Update. The WWII War Veterans book, titled **LEST WE FORGET**, is still available. It can be obtained for \$35 at (1) Batesville Historical Society which is located on George Street next to the Post Office (during its open hours), (2) the Osgood Museum on South Buckeye Street (on Friday or Saturday afternoons) or in Versailles at the Ripley County Historical Society Library on the west side of the Courthouse Square (open every weekday afternoon from 1 to 4). Also, **LEST WE FORGET** can be ordered for shipment by mail for \$40. Checks should be made payable to Ripley County Historical Society. We give our heartfelt thanks to Joan and Norris Krall. They did an excellent job!

▲ Members that are willing to receive the newsletter via email instead of postal mailing can do so by emailing RCHS with your request along with your email address. The email for sending your request is printed above.

▲ Cheryl Welch and Owen Menchhofer has requested that members pay their dues by the end of February or you will not receive a newsletter. The reason for this is to make bookkeeping easier for Owen. Membership for the year begins January 1 and ends December 31, therefore, when one pays the latter part of the year, they do not get their money's worth as a member for that year.

The RCHS Archives Library is open for public research weekdays 1 – 4 pm, except holidays, Pumpkin Show week (Sept.), also the week before and between Christmas and New Years. The Library will also be closed during inclement weather. Questions call 812-689-3031

Mail your renewal for 2010 to RCHS at P.O. Box 525, Versailles, IN 47042

Dues: Annual \$10; Life \$100.

THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE:

<i>Ripley County History, Volume 1</i>	\$65	<i>Versailles, IN School Life 1818-1966</i>	\$ 20
<i>Brown Twp. Tales</i> by Alan Smith	20	<i>Osgood, IN Sesquicentennial 1856-2006</i>	17
<i>Tales of Versailles</i> by Alan Smith	16	<i>Come Visit</i> by Jean McClellan	25
<i>Vintage Postcards</i> by Alan Smith	20	<i>Jackson Township Cemetery Index</i>	13
<i>Brown Township Cemetery Index</i>	10	<i>Johnson Township Cemetery Index</i>	10
<i>Milan, Indiana, A Storied Past</i>	16	<i>The Life of A Centenarian</i> by Ethel Mathias	35
<i>Broken Wings</i> , By Robert Kelly	20	<i>Lest We Forget WWII</i>	35
Shipping Charges added for all books	5		

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES
January 10, 2010

The winter quarterly meeting of the Society was called to order by President Cheryl Welch on January 10, 2010. Cheryl led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Each of the 25 attendees identified themselves by name and township of residence.

Secretary Frank Keenan read the minutes of the fall quarterly meeting of October, 2009, which were approved as read.

Owen Menchhofer, Treasurer, gave his report of the Society's current finances, which was approved as read. Owen's Financial Report shows that sales of *Lest We Forget: A Tribute to the World War II Veterans*, written and compiled by Norris and Joan Krall, coupled with grant money received for the publication fees, have already covered the cost of printing the book. Norris and Joan have graciously donated to the Society all rights to the book.

President Welch reported that she has sought permission for Rising Sun Regional Foundation to apply the remaining funds to the purchase of a new microfilm reader/copier, which was not listed in said grant request.

President Welch noted that volunteers for the Archives Building schedule of Monday through Friday, 1 pm to 4 pm were still needed. Anyone interested, phone Cheryl Welch 812-689-5767.

President Welch reminded the members that the election of Board Members for Franklin, Jackson, and Johnson Townships are to be held at the spring meeting on April 11, 2010.

Rosalind McKittrick, Curator for the Milan H.S. Class of 1954 Basketball Museum, attended the meeting and shared with attendees that, on average, eighty visitors a month visit the museum. The museum has been visited by folks from every state in the union, and from several foreign countries.

Frank Keenan read the Society's letter of November 1, 2009, to the Indiana Dept. of Transportation, Cultural Resource Section, urging the Department designate all of the County' stone arch bridges as "Select", giving said bridges a fair degree of protection from demolition and replacement. Similar letters were sent by County Tourism Bureau Director Katherine Taul and Director Kent Abraham, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Southeast Field Office. County Director Taul said that INDOT would consider designating 8 of the county's 13 stone arch bridges as SELECT, if Commissioners would commit to take care of them. The Commissioners have agreed. INDOT's final decision is slated to be made in February.

The business was closed, and the program was presented by Dannie Welch, showing excerpts from the DVD "For Our Country: The Story of the Jefferson Proving Ground", made available to the Society by the Jefferson Proving Ground Committee.

Refreshments were served by Otter Creek Township. Refreshments for the spring meeting, Sunday, April 11, 2010, will be served by Laughery Township.

Respectively submitted by Frank Keenan, Secretary

HISTORY OF RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S LOG CABIN

Known as the Smith-Engel Log Cabin

Compiled by Helen Todd Einhaus

In 1979, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Wehr donated a log cabin to the Ripley County Historical Society. Mr. And Mrs. Wehr purchased land in Laughery Township Section 15. On this land a log cabin covered in weather boarding stood empty. When the Wehr couple decided that they did not need the cabin, they offered to give the historical society the cabin if they removed it from their land. The historical society accepted their offer.

Ripley County Historical Society immediately advertised for volunteers to disassemble the cabin and reconstruct it on the land behind the museum building. Existing records show that they received some wonderful help. Some of these wonderful people were: Judith Lawless, Jamie Schante, Dan Schante, Leah Schante, Regina Wilson, Phyllis Miller, Emogene Carter, Howard and Kathleen Lane, Virginia Herbst, Chester Henderson, Genelle Henderson, Ted Wissel, Harry Holman, Harold Carter, Jon Gray, Steph Green, Eric Groves, Kenny Taylor, Randy Nealis, Rae Jean Nealis, Judith Lawless, Robert Lawless, and Dick Helton. Everyone worked in unity and the job was well done. Only two minor mishaps occurred: Harry Holman fell off the roof and landed on the hood of a truck. Harry is still walking around today. One gentleman threw a crowbar at another gentleman friend, no report of injury.

Jacob Funkhouser and family came to Ripley County from Beaver County, Pennsylvania in 1833. Jacob made two government land entries. One entry was Northwest Quarter Section 15, Town 9 North, Range 11 East consisting of 160 acres. The Funkhouser family contributed to the early formation of Napoleon and Old Salem Church area in Laughery Township, where Jacob and Nancy Funkhouser are buried.

In 1836, Jacob and Nancy deeded Section 15 to son, Jacob Funkhouser. In 1847, Jacob and his wife Elizabeth deeded land including most of Section 15 to Jacob Barrickman. Jacob and Elizabeth resided in the northeast section of Napoleon until 1853 when they sold their land to Dr. Samuel Hicks.

John P. and Parthena Smith of Pennsylvania obtained deed to Section 16, adjoining land to Jacob and Nancy Funkhouser. They are believed to be relatives. When John P. Smith died in 1855, he was buried underneath a tree standing a few yards from this cabin. A son, George W. Smith who died in 1850 is also buried there.

John Henry Borgstede purchased Section 15 property in 1894 and he added a constructed 18' x 20' one-story cabin two logs higher in order to create another half story and added a room onto the back of the cabin. An Engel descendent said that the cabin had a stone chimney in early times. Henry Borgstede became Town Marshall of Batesville, therefore, sold the cabin in 1907 to August G. Lauber, son of Peter and Anna Engel Lauber. In 1914, August and Estelle Lauber deeded the land to Dan Engel, son of Peter and Flora Smith Engel. Dan married Ida Strobel. The cabin stayed in the Engel family for years thereafter, and became known as the Smith-Engel Cabin. When the house was vacant, neighborhood dances and family reunions were held in it.

There are extensive Funkhouser Family Records on file at the Ripley County Historical Society Library.



1948



1979



1979



1979



1979



1979



1979



1979



1979

County, Indiana, Historical

Ripley



Society

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Adams Twp. – Mrs. Betty Roepke; 9644 E Co Rd 1300 N, Sunman, IN 47041	Vice President
Brown Twp. - Mr. Frank Keenan, 3241 E State Rd 62, Cross Plains, IN 47017	Secretary
Center Twp. - Mr. Charles Wm. Gloyd, P.O. Box 195, Osgood, IN 47037	
Delaware Twp. - Mrs. Lois Workman; 4823 N Co Rd 350 E, Osgood, IN 47037	
Franklin Twp. - Mrs. Esther Edmondson 7653 E Co Rd 800 N, Sunman, IN 47041	
Jackson Twp. - Mr. Delbert Abplanalp; 4543 W Co Rd 800 N, Osgood, IN 47037	
Johnson Twp. - Mr. Owen Menchhofer, 1970 N Co Rd 300 W, Holton, IN 47023	Treasurer
Laughery Twp. - Mrs. Helen Decker; 314 Crestview Lane, Batesville, IN 47006	
Otter Creek Twp. – Mr. Michael Stratton, 4300 W. U.S. 50, Holton, IN 47023	
Shelby Twp- Mrs. Cheryl Welch; 6453 S Co Rd 225 W, Versailles, IN 47042	President & Museum Curator
Washington Twp. - Mr. Henry Walker; 1721 N Co Rd 575 E, Milan, IN 47031	
Director at Large - Mrs. Sandra Meisberger, 4662 W. Co. Rd. 450 S. Versailles, IN 47042	
Lori Hoffman; 5565 E. Lower Dry Fork Rd. Madison, IN 47250	Web Master
Sandra Meisberger & Cheryl Welch	Newsletter Committee

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Versailles, IN 47042
Permit Number 17

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