

The Quarterly Bulletin
Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc.
Library – 125 Washington Street
Museum – Corner of Main and Water Streets
Versailles, Indiana 47042

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▲ The Ripley Co. Historical Society will meet Sunday, April 15, at 2:00 at the Archive Library on the west side of Versailles Courthouse Square. The program for our next meeting will be given by Betty Roepeke on Quilts. Refreshments will be provided by Fred Glover, Franklin Township.

▲ Research \$5.00 for non-members, and \$.50 per page copied.

▲ We are sad to announce that Kathryn Manship died on January 9, 2012 at her daughter's home. She was one of our earliest members and Director. She worked in our genealogy department for many years. We give our condolences to her family.

▲ 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, (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.

▲ 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.

▲ Windows have been replaced in the RCHS Library. If you wish to donate \$250.00 for a window in your name, a memorial, or in honor of a loved one, send your donation and request to RCHS on the address below. A plaque will be made with the honored names inscribed. There is still time for donations.

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

NOTICE: 2012 Yearly Dues are due in January 2012.

Mail your renewal for 2012 to RCHS at P.O. Box 525, Versailles, IN 47042

Dues: Annual \$15; Life \$150.

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>Vintage Postcards</i> by Alan Smith	20
<i>Jackson Township Cemetery Index</i>	13	<i>Johnson Township Cemetery Index</i>	10
<i>Milan, Indiana, A Storied Past</i>	16	<i>Lest We Forget WWII</i>	35
<i>Broken Wings</i> , By Robert Kelly	20	<i>Assorted Jefferson Proving Ground Books</i>	
Shipping Charges added for all books	5		

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SECRETARY MINUTES
January 8, 2012

The winter quarterly meeting, held at the Society's Archives Building, 125 Washington Street, Versailles, on January 8, 2012, was called to order by President Cheryl Welch at 2:00 p.m. Cheryl led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The autumn quarterly meeting having been cancelled, Secretary Frank Keenan read the minutes of the summer quarterly meeting, which were approved as read. Treasurer Owen Menchhofer distributed and read highlights from his Income & Expenses Report for the period 1/1/2011 through 12/31/2011, which was approved as read.

President Welch announced that a Nominating Committee would be appointed for the Directorships of Adams, Brown, Center, and Delaware Townships to be voted on at the Spring meeting, which, due to Easter, will be held on April 15 2012, the third Sunday in April, instead of the second Sunday.

The Society continues to need volunteers at its Archive Building, and donations of \$250.00 toward the cost of replacement windows at the Archive building are still being accepted.

Bill Gloyd advised that a regional meeting of Historic Societies would be held at the Osgood Museum on Route 421, commencing at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 2, 2012. Anyone interest is welcome to attend.

The program for the spring meeting will be on quilts and will be presented by Vice President Betty Roepke. Franklin Township is responsible for refreshments.

Following the business meeting attendees were serenaded by the trio, "Two Hits and a Miss," comprised of Jackson Twp. Director Delbert Abplanalp, Earl Comer, and Pam Quick. Songs played by the trio reflected thoughtful choices for an RCHS audience. The trio's set began with a nostalgic not to the heritage of many of the County's early settlers, including a song of longing about Kentucky's Muhlenberg County and another about the Fraulein left behind. The Civil War song, "Two Little Boys," paid homage to fidelity and courage, and poignantly reminded us of the terrible cost in Hoosier blood and treasure spent towards the saving of the Union. The set concluded with comforting gospel and western songs, and all joined in to sing the chorus of the trio's encore, "The Red River Valley." Suffice it to say that the program of Delbert and his friends was all "hits" and no "misses"!

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Keenan, Secretary



FRIENDSHIP STATE BANK 1912

THE FRIENDSHIP STATE BANK THE BEST BANK IN RIPLEY COUNTY

By Tom Krumm

It is October 16, 1912, and there is a huge advertisement in the Versailles Republican. There will be a bank opening and Farmers Fair in the village of Friendship, Indiana, on October 26, 1912. Who would have predicted that this same bank would faithfully serve the residents of Ripley County for 100 years!

How many banks in the USA can say they were never closed even for one work day during the last 100 years? I have heard it said that estimates state less than 5 in the entire USA. We have been blessed with the knowledge that a Ripley County bank, "The Friendship State Bank" can state this fact.

For 100 years our local citizens made this possible because they knew we needed bank services. In 1912, Wilkie Lemon was selected by local business men (primarily farmers) to learn how to operate and manage a bank. He did this by getting on the job training from an Osgood bank for six months in 1912.

There are six banks in Ripley County operating today, and the one with the largest amount of customer deposits (136,000,000+) in the county is The Friendship State Bank. This is especially surprising when you realize Friendship is an unincorporated town that has less than 100 residents. Sunman, Holton, Napoleon, Batesville, Milan, Osgood, and Versailles are all larger communities than Friendship. Other communities closed their banks during this period of time.

Most of the Friendship Bank employees have faith in their bank; they own part of it. Wilkie Lemon and his son James W. Lemon were farmers, and they knew farmers need support for their crops on a seasonal basis. They knew the farmers needed to invest in costly farm equipment to remain competitive. They knew crop harvests were up and down and their bank had to match these needs.

It was usual for a Friendship bank loan officer to attend local farm auctions and meet the financing needs of landowners. Several local farmers have made the comment that Friendship Bank loan officers respected the honesty of local farmers. Still, what made this bank so dynamic?

It took a while to find the answer but it was because of the Lemon family. Wilkie Lemon's ancestors knew what it took to build a nation as well as a bank. At least one of his ancestors served for parts of four years in the Revolutionary War.

Beginning on May 5th, the bank will be celebrating their heritage six Saturdays in a row. Everyone is welcome to join the party. Both James W. Lemon (Chairman of the Board) and James Wm. Lemon (CEO) and additional members of the Lemon family will be there. It's time to shake their hand and thank them for their contribution to Ripley County.

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. – Mr. Fred Glover, 5611 E Co Rd 300 N, Milan, IN 47031	
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
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

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