

THE QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE  
Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc.

Museum--Corner Main and Water Streets

Versailles, Indiana 47042

VOLUME XV

JANUARY 1991

NUMBER 1

WINTER MEETING 1991

*Sunday*  
The first quarterly meeting of the Ripley County Historical Society for 1991 will be held in Washington Twp. at the Elrod Community Building, January ~~14~~<sup>13</sup> at 2 o'clock. The location is on the north side of US 50 in Elrod, about 5 miles east of Versailles.

The program will be given by Dan Goris of Versailles based on the Civil War. All people who are interested in the Historical Society and/or the programs are always welcome.

NOTES OF THE AUTUMN MEETING

The R.C.H.S. held their fall meeting at the Baptist Church in New Marion, on Sunday afternoon, October 14th. It was a beautiful day.

The president, Chester Henderson, called the meeting to order. Twenty-one members and guests answered roll call.

The secretary's report was read with addition added, then accepted. The directors voted to buy the additional Ripley Co. History Books that Norris Krall had informed the society would be available in the near future. Bea Boyd gave the treasurer's report. \$3000 was recieved from the Tyson Fund.

Chester reported to the group that the cistern behind the archives building had been pumped out by the Versailles Fire Departmen and that he and Dr. Glover had filled it with pieces of stone and junk and a truckload of stone.

A get well card was sent to Herbert Thompson, who was in the hospital at Madison. A thanks to Kathleen Lane and her family for doing extra cleaning at the Museum. Kathleen thought more than the usual amount of people toured the Museum during the Pumpkin Show.

Kathryn Manship asked the question; Does anyone have knowledge of a Mrs. Spencer's funeral held in Old Milan, possibly in the home of Governor S. S. Harding. Another question raised was what procedure should be used when 4H children are doing genealogy projects. A motion was made and seconded to charge them 10¢ a copy rather than the 25¢ for the first copy. Motion carried. Another motion was made and seconded to raise the 1992 dues to \$4.00. Motion passed.

The following places were assigned to hold our meetings this coming year: April -- Brown Twp.; July -- Franklin Twp.; October -- Delaware Twp. If this is not agreeable please contact Chester.

The program for the afternoon was given by Geraldine Walker of Milan. She told of her Indian Heritage. She had on display many of her indian articles of clothing, baskets, jewelry, bead work and paintings. Her family went from New York to Oklahoma. Her Grandparents along with her father and mother did much work on Indian Affairs in Washington D. C. She noted that at one time her mother had attended school here in Indiana (White Institute) near Richmond. Both her father and mother were teachers in an Indian Boarding School. She her-

self is very proud to have been a teacher for over forty years. She met and married her husband, Henry Walker, during World War II.

At the close of the meeting refreshments were served by Kathleen Lane and friends.

Seven of the directors met after the regular meeting and decided not to buy earthquake insurance. A thank you note was to be sent to the Versailles Fire Dept. A new copy machine was to be purchased by Bea Boyd with the Tyson grant. It has been done. Our thanks to the Tyson Fund.

#### PLEASE CHECK YOUR NUMBERS !!!!

Membership is by calendar year, January through December. We ask each member who is not a Life Member to examine the figures following their name on the address side of this bulletin. If your figure is 1990 we appreciate you continuing your membership by sending your check for \$3.00 to the Society Treasurer, Mrs. Don Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023. If for any reason your records do not agree with ours please contact the treasurer.

Membership is open to anyone who is interested in the history of our County and its preservation, regardless of where they may live. Membership includes this bulletin which is published quarterly. Jr. memberships for persons under 18 are \$1.50. Life is \$100 per person.

Beginning 1992 the dues will be raised to \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for Juniors. We appreciate the interest and contributions of members from other counties and states.

#### GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

There has been a hitching post in front of the Archives building for some years. Myrna Bronnenburg Hooton gave a plaque for it, stating: This hitching post was given by Myrna Bronnenburg Hooton from her parents home, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Bronnenburg in Versailles. It was placed and secured to the stone post by Troy Hooton, September 24, 1990.

Nurse uniform of Winona Comer (Mrs. Donald Hubbard) at Methodist Hospital. Army Nurse Corps Uniform and Overcoat, also caps. She served in ETO also Hospitals in U.S. 14 Sept. 1942 -- 6 Dec. 1945.

Crazy quilt loaned to museum by Mrs. Lucille McCoy, Osgood, IN Quilt was made by Lane McCoy's many lady friends and presented to him on his 21st birthday at Correct, IN.

1901 Annual from Moores Hill College from Clara Smith Arend given by her daughter, Marguerete Arend Lynch, 1399 Leakwood Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45224 Sept. 1990

Gene Stratton Porter by Judith Reich Long from the IN Hist. Soc. 9-90

Life sketch of Rev. Robert P. Wilson given by Laurel L. Coverdale 355 Heights Rd., Ridgewood, N.J. 07451 Nov. 1990

Brandt Family History, 28 pgs. in family file given by B.H. Beckett, 1140 N. Gibson Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219 Nov. 1990

St. Nicholas School 1985-1986 Sunman, IN 24 pgs.  
gift from Kathryn Manship Nov. 1990

## GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

As a service to readers interested in genealogy we publish queries in each issue. Please make them as concise as practical. Typewritten copy is preferred. If handwritten, make sure it is very legible. The charge is 50¢ per query to society members and \$1.00 per query to non-members; payable in advance by check or stamps. Please send queries to: Mrs. Donald Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023

Would like to contact anyone researching BAILEY, ENT, AUSTIN or DURBIN families that were in Ripley Co. area between 1840 --1900. Also where is Charles Ent d. 2 Oct 1892 and wife Mary Austin Ent buried d. 11 Dec. 1902. No death record at Ripley Co. Health Dept. Dora Mae Turner, P.O. Box 53, Chandler Hts. AZ 85227

### FROM SEARCHER TO SEARCHER

When people come to the archives looking for genealogy information we invite them to fill out a file card stating the family they are researching and their own name and address. In this way we hope to put people in touch with others who are working on the same family lines, to their mutual benefit. We will print these names as room permits.

BLAKE, Thomas  
by May Verkamp  
104 Cleveland Ave.  
Bellevue, KY 41073

BOSWELL  
BRUCE, Henry  
by May Verkamp  
104 Cleveland Ave.  
Bellevue, KY 41073

BARNS  
Eby Gordon Speer  
3304 Woodlawn Rd.  
Sterling, IL 61081

CADY, Abner T.  
by Howard P. Cady  
9928 Osgood Way  
San Diego, CA 92120

CARSON  
BY Mabel L. Hoover  
5202 Willowhaven Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89120

CONDON  
by Mabel L. Hoover  
5202 Willowhaven Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89120

### SOME LOCAL BOOKS AVAILABLE

"Echoes of the Jefferson Proving Ground" by Sue Baker, released by Guild Literery Service Co. in Indianapolis. 150 pgs. @ \$14.95. Autographed copies can be ordered from the author; Proving Ground Book, 730 Oak Blvd., Greenfield, IN 46140. \$17.50 prepaid includes shipping and sales tax.

"Warrior Without Weapons" by Bob Copeland. Story of his 2 years of service as a Medic on the Queen Mary during W.W.II. 208 pg. book with many photographes, on sale at Hooks Pharmacy; Spencer Tyson Drug Store and Jerie's Card Shop; or from Mary Lou (Mrs. Carl Jolly), R. 2, Versailles, IN 47042. (Copeland's sister) cost \$10.98.

Johnson Twp. Cemetery Books and Brown Twp. Cemetery Books from the Historical Society.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

AND A PLEASANT AND SATISFYING

NEW YEAR

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## MEDAL OF HONOR STORY

Some years ago a reporter for the county paper signed their article as "One Present".

As "One Present" I would like to tell you about the Memorial Services that were held at the Holton Cemetery on Sunday, November 11, 1990 at 12:30. This was to place a bronze marker for Jacob H. Overturf, born 1842 commemorating his Congressional Medal of Honor won during the Civil War at the battle of Vicksburg, MS.

This had been made possible through the efforts of Ripley Co. Veterans' Officer, Harold Hopkins, Master of Ceremonies for the event. This was very impressive with Veterans from 4 wars present. Jacob H. Overturf, 90, of Madison, grandson of the Civil War Veteran was honored guest at the dedication, also other W.W.I veterans, Clem Holzer, Osgood; Lafe Nicholson, Dillsboro; Golden Hull and Emil Vanosdol of Holton.

V.F.W. Department Commander, James Leavett was guest speaker. A 21 gun salute was fired and Taps was sounded. Four other Ripley Co. men also received the Medal of Honor during the 8 months seige at Vicksburg, but Overturf was the only one buried in Ripley Co. The four being: Frank Stolz, Sunman, buried at Indianapolis; Joseph Franz, Osgood, Northfield, MN; Rueben Smalley, Poston, South Cemetery, Greensburg; William Steimnetz, Sunman, Cincinnati Wesleyan Cemetery. Greensburg honored Smalley Monday, November 12 at 11 A.M. with a marker.

On November 19th we received the news of the death of Jacob Overturf. He is now in his final resting place at the Holton Cemetery, buried next to his father, Henry Clifton Overturf and mother, Jennie Cox Overturf.

And now the rest of the story. Two days after the death of Mr. Overturf, Harold Shelp from Milan walked into Harold Hopkin's office at the Court House wanting the address of Jacob Overturf. In the 1960s he had purchased a box of "what-have-you" at the Maddox auction at Greensburg. Among the articles in the box was a black folder file of the Phoenix Insurance Co. with an 1885 calendar containing : 1.) Appointment of Jacob Overturf to 2nd Sgt., July 28, 1863. 2.) Discharge, September 10, 1864, and Pension Papers of Anna Overturf, October 12, 1916 notification of raise of widows pension to \$20 monthly.

Mr. Shelp had offers to sell but he preferred to give the papers to the Historical Society where they will be framed and placed on display.

### LEST WE FORGET

JOHN RAYMOND STRATTON, 23 years old, Seaman 1st class, U.S. Navy was on the U.S. Battleship Arizona at Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941. He was the 1st casualty of World War II from Ripley Co. He was born 23 October 1918, the son of Frank and Amy Edens Stratton of Holton.

these contributed by Bea Boyd

### CAN YOU HELP ?

#### WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED

Photographs of W.W. II home front are needed for upcoming Indiana Historical Society exhibit that will open in October 1991 at the Society and will be available to Historical Societies, schools and libraries beginning in 1992 for the 50th anniversary of W.W.II. If you know of photograph collections from this era, contact Joan Hostetler, Indiana Historical Society by April 30, 1991.



RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Box 525  
Versailles, Indiana, 47042

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Officers elected to serve until after the April 1991 meeting.

ADAMS Twp; Mrs. Charles Roepke, R. 3, Sunman, IN 47041  
BROWN Twp; Mrs. Alice McCoy, R. 1, Versailles, IN 47042 SEC.  
CENTER Twp; Mrs. George Cizek, 433 S. Buckeye, Osgood, IN 47037 V. PRES.  
DELAWARE Twp; Mrs. Grace Dunbar, R. 3, Osgood, IN 47037  
FRANKLIN Twp; Dr. William F. Glover, R.R. 2, Box 25, Milan, IN 47031  
JACKSON Twp; Mrs. Phyllis Miller, P.O. Box 22, Napoleon, IN 47034  
JOHNSON Twp; Mr. Chester Henderson, R. 1, Dillsboro, IN 47018 PRES.  
LAUGHERY Twp; Mrs. Carolyn Hahn, R. 4, Box 268, Batesville, IN 47006  
OTTER CREEK Twp; Mrs. Donald Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023 TREAS.  
SHELBY Twp; Mrs. Howard Lane, R. 2, Versailles, IN 47042 MUSEUM CURATOR  
WASHINGTON Twp; Mr. Myron Kelly, R. 1, Dillsboro, IN 47018  
Miss Mary Manship C.G.R.S. R. 3, Box 87, Osgood, IN 47037  
Mrs. Alice Glover, R.R. 2, Box 25, Milan, IN 47031 BULLETIN EDITOR

The Ripley County, Indiana  
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Versailles, Indiana 47042

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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