

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

Museum--Corner Main and Water Streets

Versailles, Indiana 47042

VOLUME XVII

JANUARY 1998

NUMBER 1

WINTER MEETING

The Ripley County Historical Society Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 11 at 2:00 o'clock in the Archives building on the square in Versailles. The program will be given by David Dreyer.

REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS

The October meeting has few minutes recorded due to some confusion during and after the meeting. New officers were elected by the Directors, as follows: President, Alice McCoy; Vice President, Betty Roepke; Treasurer, Bea Boyd; Secretary, has yet to be selected.

Marion T. Jackson, a graduate of Versailles High School, has a B.S. and Ph.D from Purdue, donated a book to R.C.H.S. titled "The Natural Heritage of Indiana". You may order a copy at the Archives Building if you desire.

A business and planning meeting was held November 30 with the Directors and other workers taking part. More and more of our correspondence is being done on the internet. Lorrie Hoffman works with the Society in this department.

We discussed expanding our microfilm collection of the county newspapers. Since 1990 the Recorders office no longer binds the papers. Norris Krall was asked to check with the Commissioners and a motion was made for Bea to buy those we do not have. The motion was carried. Henry Walker informed us that Mary Kelly wished to make a donation of some sort as a memorial to Myron. Henry will look into this farther and report back.

Bea got a demo. copy machine. The cost will be \$4495 for the copier and \$210 for the cabinet. After some discussion we will be able to get both for \$3495. Smitty made a motion that we buy it, Lorrie seconded it and it passed.

Smitty suggested we have an evening training session to help those who volunteer to help at the Archives; also to make a record of what we have and where to find it. We hope to accomplish this.

Carolyn was asked to get estimates on old Archives rejuvenation but we decided we should "back burner" this for now.

Another project is to locate the bylaws and update them if it is deemed necessary.

We discussed the possibility of another printing of the Ripley County History Book, Vol. 1. We have had several inquiries about this and there are no more available as of now. We need to know how much interest there is, so we are sending a blank in the bulletin for you to send back if you are interested.

SERVICES AND CHARGES

Dues for new members is \$10; for renewed membership is \$5. Life memberships are still \$100. If you wish the name and address of others working on your family line please send a self addressed, stamped envelope, no fee. There is a research fee of \$2 for each surname or question dealing with specific points concerning Ripley County. We cannot do a complete family history. Those doing research in the new building where all the data and reference material is now located will be charged \$3 a day for use of the material. If an appointment is made outside of regular hours the charge is \$5. All our help is volunteer and not always close by. The new archives regular hours are 1 to 4. Copy charges are 25¢ per page for 8x11 and 50¢ for 11x17. Genealogy queries are 50¢ for members and \$1 for non-members, payable by check or stamps. Please make them as concise and legible as possible. PLEASE send all correspondence containing money to Mrs. Bea Boyd. Besides being treasurer she keeps mailing lists and memberships. There are still some Ripley County History Book II's available for \$55.

31 May 1883

The following is a list of discharged & deceased soldiers within the Co. known who is buried in Cliff Hill Cem. at Versailles: Dr. James H. CRAVENS, surgeon; Col. James H. CRAVENS, 83rd In. 1861; John B. FOY, sgt. Co. I. 123rd In.; Col John HUNTER, Independent Vol. 1812; Thomas BIRD, 1812; Lewis BUCKINGHAM, Co. D, 68th In.; George BUCHANAN Co D, 37th, In; Jas KELLEY, Black Hawk War; James CURRAN Co A 37th In; John GROSSMAN, Co. A, 37th In.; John SHROYER Capt. I, 13th In; Martin L. SHOOK, Co E. 83th In.; Samuel PAPET, Co. A. 37th In; George BLACK, Co I 13th In; Dan CONNELLY, 5th In. Mexican War; Capt WHEELER; Capt R.H. SMITH, John M. DICKERSON 83rd In. Wm ANDERSON 37th In; John P. CRAIG 37th In.; Chris W. SHOOK Mexican War; Lewis MILLER; Ike KELLY; David H. KITTS 83 rd In. (Art. from Kathryn Manship

THIS IS NOT AN ORDER BLANK !! SEND NO MONEY !!

This is merely a survey to determine if there is enough interest to make another printing feasible. This is not a commitment. IF there is a second printing of the RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORY BOOK, Vol. 1 I would be interested in purchasing one.

NAME _____

Please send to:

Mrs. Donald Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023

Down Memory's Lane

St. John's Lutheran School

FARMERS RETREAT, IN



1888-1950

Ere time should erase all history, we record for generations yet unborn some of the joys and hardships of early school days. These events still remain in the memory of some who lived them.

Walking was the means of transportation. To some, this meant walking six or eight miles to and from school. Trudging through all kinds of weather, sunshine, cold, rain or snow. A rare treat was a ride in a buggy or wagon. What a happy moment it was when you were picked up by someone on the way to town.

Common was the scene of wet coats, socks or shoes drying around the potbelly stove, and cold feet ringing its base.

You would taste some frozen sandwiches or the brushed-off, dropped sandwich that remained tasty or resulted in a hungry stomach. A drink from the one tin cup at the school well, serving as the soda pop fountain of its day. You would enjoy the apple, peach or pear as the candy bar.

No furnished playground or equipment. A tin can and a hickory stick for a dangerous "shinney" game. There were rough homemade bats, a tapered board for the girls, and so-called balls purchased with pennies collected from various homes. There was no diamond, only the stone-covered school lot, or amid the slick chips in the pastor's cow pasture.

Surrounding tree limbs served as gymnastic bars. No pocket-books for boys, their proudest possession was a pocket knife. A girl's jewelry was her new hair ribbon or pin.

The classroom carried no air of sweet perfume, except the fragrance of windblown flowers or summer's new-mown hay. There was smoke from the stove mingled with some traces of barnyard aroma. The much noticeable scent of a "striped cat" lingering with some boys after a morning trapline catch.

The paddle or leather strap often changed a wayward course. A frustrated teacher and horrified girls as there emerged from some "innocent" boy's pocket a mouse, bird, or chipmunk during class.

There was always the scheduled school sweeping, washing of the blackboard, carrying in the coal, and stacking wood in the shed.

On rare occasions some seventh or eighth grade students were permitted more modern transportation from home. There were the ever self-minded jennies of the Heffelmires, Ohlmansieks, Kniggas, Schmales, or others.

The rider's feet usually dangled below their bellies. Sometimes hitched to a cart, their forward pace seemed more backward. There was the fruitless anger of the drivers mingled with the onlookers' amusement. Frustrated moments as the jenny might stop in midstream.

Jesse Knollman had a fiery saddle horse known as "Roxie". The old gray "Joe" and buggy of Marwin and Arnold Luke, with its youthful drivers believing "Joe" still possessed one more higher gear.

Picture a buggy rounding the store corner too fast and sending kids, books and lunch pails scattering, or the day that a drove of cattle, being driven to market, passed through Opptown. These were school days of yore. They will be etched forever in the annals of time.

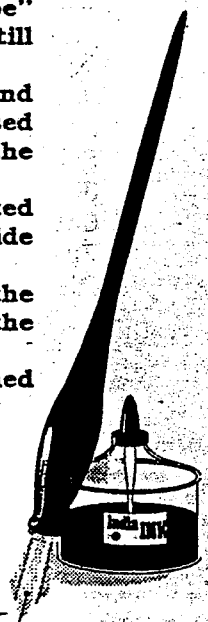
When the school day was over, then the joyous way home. Shriill voices penetrated the country side. There were moments of footraces and stone throwing. The roadside ditches, whether wet or dry, always received the unfortunate boy or girl alike.

Alas, the parting goodbyes at the crossroads or lanes leading to one's home, the distant farewell wave as the last went their way alone, homeward bound for the evening chores.

These are precious, golden moments from memories' lane, as young lives dreamed and molded amid God's handiwork.

-Gilbert Nolte

USED BY PERMISSION OF GILBERT NOLTE.



POST OFFICES

The listing for the Dabney (Poston) Postoffice listed in October 1997 page 2 needs an addition. Francis M. Edens 27 July 1910. The New Marion Post Offices were in the April 1997 Bulletin. Both of these postoffices were located on the Michigan Road. Below are some discontinued. Thanks again to Carol Lovins, Holton PostOffice. for the loan of material. bb.

KINGWOOD

Levi B. Hughes 12 July 1892
Mail to Hyde 6 Apr 1905

LOCKSPRING

Jeremiah Hull 18 Apr 1877
Discontinued June 30, 1919 to Osgood

LOOKOUT

George W. H. Schutte 28 May 1897
to Delaware Eff. 14th August 1906

MARBLE CORNER

Collins Wildman 11 May 1897
Frank F. Wildman 10 Oct 1900
Samuel G. Anderson 29 Dec 1903
Mail to Dupont 12 June 1907

James M. Thomas 4 Apr 1883
Collins Wildman 3 Aug 1889

HAVEN

William R. Rowland 9 Nov 1897
Dis mail to Versailles 31 Oct 1905

GAFF

Robert A. Bovard 23 May 1887
William W. McCoy 6 April 1905
mail to Versailles 1 Nov 1905

HANEYS CORNER

Myron H. McMullen 9 Aug 1897
Charles L. Hyatt 29 March 1901
Samuel C. Buchanan 21 May 1903
mail to Rexville 24 June 1905

Thomas Kirk 5 Dec 1871
Jos N. Underwood 19 May 1885

DELAWARE

Josiah Belden 26 Apr 1858
John D. Bruning 7 Aug 186
Samuel Gookins 25 Aug 1860
John D. Bruning 25 Aug 1870
Christian Ahrens 30 Apr 1877
Fred'k Schutter 21 Apr 1888
Dis to Rei 12 Jan 1889

HARTSMILL

James W. Cooper 13 March 1887
Leonard Whittenderfer
Jon Cole 20 July 18
Frank E. Otto 3 March 1863 to Friendship 14 Jan

