

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 XXVII**

**JANUARY 2006**

**NUMBER 1**

► The first meeting of 2006 will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2006 at the Archives – Library Building on the west side of the courthouse square. The program will be given by our own member – volunteer, Sandra Meisberger. Sandy is the current Regent of the Ross' Run Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She will be speaking about the Purpose and History of the DAR. There were 51 veterans of the Revolutionary War who settled in Ripley County and are buried here. There are still many descendants of these veterans in Ripley County as well as many other descendants of Revolutionary War veterans who have migrated into this county. This program should be of special interest to those and to the public in general. All are invited to attend this program.

► Congratulations and confirmation has just been received from Stephen Berrey, Indiana State Library, stating that at the December 16, 2005 meeting of the Indiana Library and Historical Board approval was granted for historical markers for the "Ohio and Mississippi Railroad" and Mr. James H. Cravens. The markers will be placed in Osgood prior to the town's sesquicentennial. We will have more information in our April issue.

► A reminder to everyone seeking research help: Do not send your request by e-mail. We are not staffed sufficiently to handle all the e-mails. You must send your request in regular mail accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped, large envelope and a check for \$3 for each family name requested, you will be billed for the copying cost and any extra postage when material is sent. Also, be sure to send enough information for us to be sure we know the person on whom, you are requesting information.

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THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE:

Ripley County History, Volume I	\$65	Vintage Postcards by Alan Smith	\$20
Ripley County History, Volume II	55	Brown Township Cemetery Index	10
Brown Twp. Tales by Alan Smith	20	Johnson Township Cemetery Index	10
Tales of Versailles by Alan Smith	16	Mailing fees added for all books shipped.	

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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

**Dues:** New memberships are \$10.00 for the first year.

Renewals are \$5.00 per year thereafter.

Life memberships are \$100

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## MINUTES OF THE RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The fall meeting of the Ripley County Historical Society was held October 9, 2005 at the Archives building. There were 23 guests and members present, each gave their name and stated where they were from.

The minutes were read by Henry Walker, a correction was made to change Mr. Decker's first name to Joe. The minutes were accepted.

The Treasurers report was given by Bea Boyd and accepted as read. A \$16,000.00 grant was received from the Tyson fund for the purchase of a new air conditioner; this was placed in a three month CD, as it will not be needed until the conditioner is installed. Jerry Walker moved and Marguerite Walker seconded, the report was accepted

Norris reported on the water situation at the Museum. The water from the parking lot and eaves was diverted so it no longer goes in the basement. The plumbing is in working order. Also the sidewalk was patched. We now need people to help remove the dirt from the basement.

Harold McReynolds gave the program. Recollections of time spent near Milan, in Stringtown and also of a softball game that won the state championship by the Versailles American Legion Team.

Harold is a member of the Lawrence County Historical and Genealogical Society. They now have a new Museum thanks to Edward Hutton and hard work by the Society. Harold developed a Brain Game, which has helped to bring in money for the Society. Demonstration and Rules were presented. The games are available at RCHS.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments by Adams Township were enjoyed. Refreshments next meeting by Center Township since Brown has no director. We need a director from there.

Next meeting date will be January 8, 2006

President, Betty Roepke

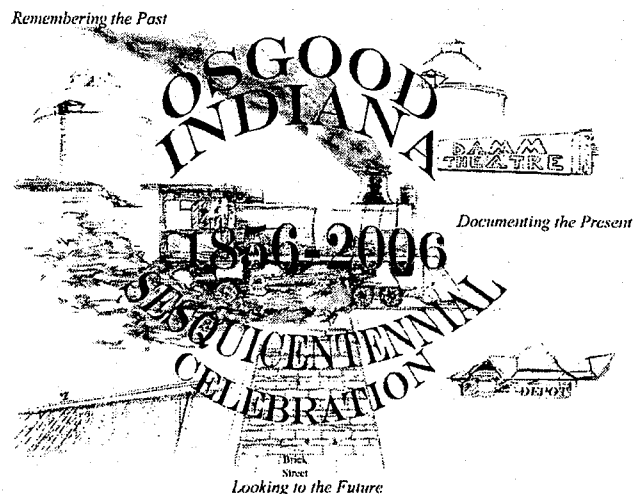
Secretary, Henry Walker

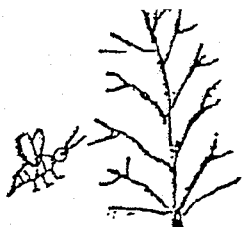
### 2006 OSGOOD SESQUICENTENNIAL LOGO DESIGNED BY RCHS FAMILY MEMBER

Osgood plans are underway for its 2006 Sesquicentennial Celebration to be held during next Labor Day weekend. One of the first items accomplished was the adoption of the logo designed by Brandon Raye Smart of Osgood, featuring historical photographs of local landmarks. A graduate of Jac-Cen-Del High School, and a 2002 graduate of The College of Mount Saint Joseph, Brandon Smart has a bachelor's degree of Fine Arts in Photography. Congratulations Brandon!! Brandon, his mother Cathy (Mrs. Jeff)

Volz and his sister Alicia videotaped portions of the Underground Railroad auto tour tapes. Cathy has been digitizing our RCHS photo collection and his grandmother Louise Combs has volunteered at RCHS. We thank all of them.

We are planning that our April program will be by a member of the Osgood Sesquicentennial Committee to tell us about Osgood's planned celebration of 150 years!





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I attended the 4th Annual Jefferson Proving Ground Heritage Seminar at OLD TIMBERS LODGE. Lunch was catered by the Rolling Pin from Versailles. What a delightful day! meeting old friends and new ones. Presenters- for the day gave very interesting programs. Jean McClellan, Columbus talked of the Bethel area. Jean has recently published a book on JPG. This is more on the northern part. Much had been published on the South part. I am excited to get a copy. Vernon L. Shepherd showed slides of Life in the White Hall neighborhood and family history before JPG, Shelby Township, Ripley County. His house was where Old Timbers Lake is now. Carol Poffinbarger, Hamilton, Ohio had some fascinating stories. Carol is the Granddaughter of Hallie Miller, Thomson's cook at Old Timbers. Lieutenant-Colonel Matt Sweeney, Nashville, had a few words. (Commander of Jefferson Range). Norma Lou Irvin, born and raised near Old Timbers reported on her visit with Chilton Thomson on updating the OLD TIMBERS book that he published in 1981. Mrs. Irvin was given permission and the opportunity to provide an update to be done by JPG Heritage Partnership. The books were for sale and can now be purchased at Spence-Tyson Drug Store in Versailles. Barbara Jachimiak was on hand to autograph her book on "A History of St. Magdalene Catholic Church."

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Some articles gleaned from September 1924.

I.O.O.F lodge at Holton will dedicate their new hall, September 18th beginning at 2:00 o'clock. Supper @ 6:00. \$1.00 plate for all over 12 years of age, 6-12 50¢, under 6, free. Supper will be served at the Red Men's Hall.

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1<sup>ST</sup> Jackson reunion held at Tanglewood in a grove owned by Roland Jackson. Speakers were Rowland and Frank Jackson of Versailles and Albert Shook of Windfall.

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The Lucille Hat Shop, Milan, IN just received a large and complete line of Fall goods in both large and small head size.

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Locating Confederate Graves.

Two grave markers of Confederate soldiers were found in Jefferson Proving Ground N. E. near the Bomb Field. If they have not been removed there would still be evidence of 2 graves somewhere in the area between St. Magdalene and the Bomb Field area. This information was written by George H. Miller who wrote for the Madison Courier. (1975 article)

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I have a booklet listing the mail carriers route into what is now JPG. With the Lord willing and the Creek don't rise I will print it in the next bulletin. A Merry Christmas to all of you and a Happy New Year.

## LEVI CEMETERY and the burial of ISAAC LEVI

By: Bea Boyd

The Levi Cemetery is located NW Qtr. of Section 22 Twp 8N Range 11E. Martin and Sarah Levi sold their property to Henry Papet 2 Sept 1847 with the exception of ONE SQUARE ROD which was occupied by a burial place of the deceased family Levis. Deed Record Page 103.

Isaac Levi was buried here in 1850 - Through the years the stones were destroyed. Our plans were to put up a stone for Isaac and also a stone designating the Levi Cemetery. A government stone was ordered for Isaac from the Veterans Administration and was delivered March 5, 2001. An estimate was received to do the work. Descendants of the Levi family started a fund (we also applied unsuccessfully for grants). Since we were prevented from placing the stone on the above cemetery, this project has been in limbo. Something needed to be done.

Contact was made with Bill Warren, Trustee of Center Township to see if the stone could be set in the Perservance Cemetery where many of the Levis have been buried. In 2000 this Cemetery had been renovated and recently was enclosed with a white plastic fence. Bill takes very good care of the cemeteries in Center.

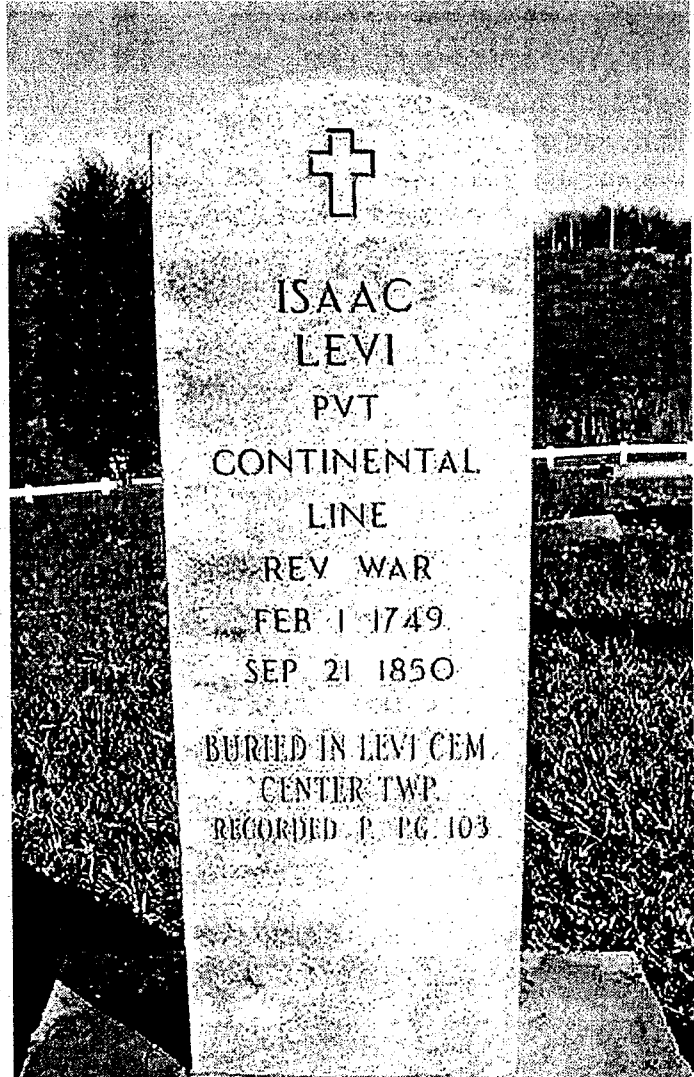
The stone was set during the last of October 2005, by Nealis Monument Company. The day I went to see the stone, they were waiting for a burial of a Korean Soldier, a young man was warming up his bugle for the services. The cemetery is located atop a hill, the surrounding view is splendid.

Lettering was done on the stone (see photo) showing where Isaac Levi was buried according to the Records office at the Versailles Court House.

The donations made by the following descendants covered the cost of setting and lettering.

Joan Rabideau  
John Hammond III  
E. Van Olson  
Robin Kills-a-Hundred  
Craig C. Burke  
Ronald M. Katz  
Paul D. Smith

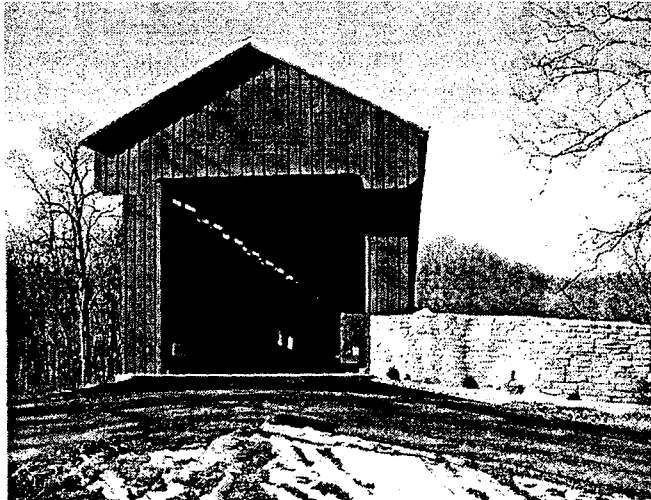
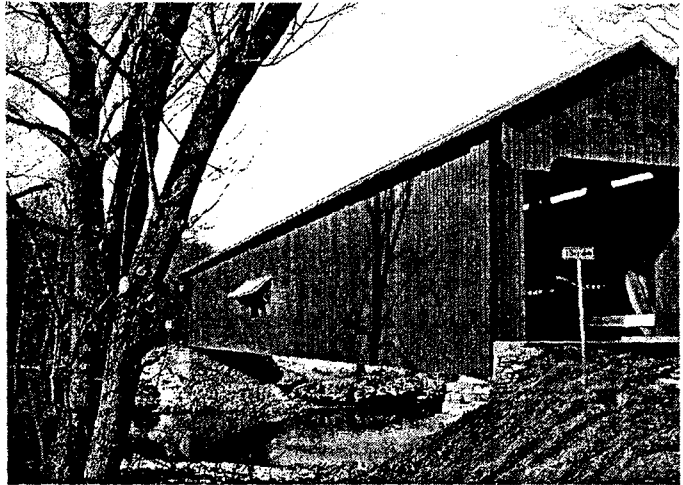
Barbara & Michael Blickman  
Mary Jan Koenig d/o William Frederick Phillips-  
who was born in Osgood  
Descendants through Margaret Levi Risk  
whose father was Martin R. Levi  
Brian Golah from PA  
Randolph Golah from N. Y.



The Perservance Cemetery is on East Fairground Road about one and one-half mile east of the Levi Cemetery.

## REOPENING OF THE BUSHING COVERED BRIDGE

On October 28, 2005, the Bushing Bridge was reopened to traffic after being closed most of the year for repairs. The Bushing Bridge was built in 1885, by Thomas Hardman. Although it has been repaired through the years, it received a major renovation during 2005, its 120<sup>th</sup> year of existence. New concrete footings were poured on each end of the bridge, several structural beams, the steel support rods, the floor joists, the floor, the roof and siding have all been replaced. The stone wall on the east end was removed, a new foundation was poured and the wall rebuilt. The authentic board and batten siding has been painted red to match the original. The bridge crosses Laughery Creek connecting East Perry Street in Versailles to the Versailles State Park entrance road.



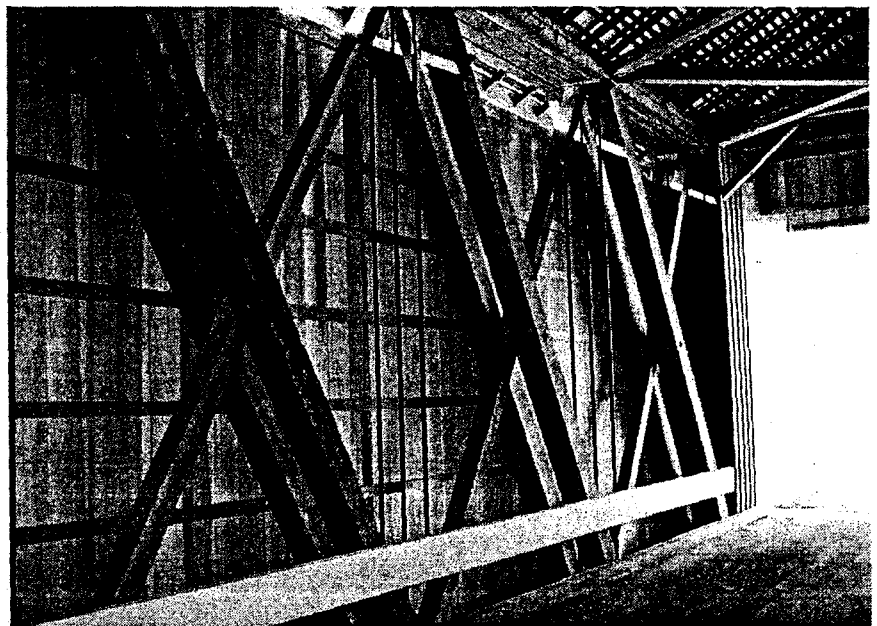
This renovation was done by a private contractor under the supervision of the Ripley County Commissioners and the Ripley County Highway Department.

The Bushing Bridge is one of two covered bridges still in existence in Ripley County, the other being the Otter Creek Bridge northwest of Holton. The Otter Creek Bridge is no longer open to traffic.

***Above Right: South Side of Bridge.***

***Above Left: East Entrance to Bridge.***

***Right: Interior of Bridge looking west. Original and new structural beams and support rods.***





Versailles, IN 47042

**OFFICERS and DIRECTORS**

Adams Twp. - Mrs Betty Roepke; 9644 E Co Rd 1300 N, Sunman, IN 47041

Brown Twp. - Vacant

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. Esther Edmondson 7653 E Co Rd 800 N, Sunman, IN 47041

Jackson Twp. - Mr. Andrew Scholle; 5448 W Co Rd 800 N, Osgood, IN 47037

Johnson Twp. - Mr. Michael Auterson; 549 W. Tanglewood Rd, Versailles, IN 47042

Laughery Twp. - Mrs. Helen Decker; 314 Crestview Lane, Batesville, IN 47006

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; 1721 N Co Rd 575 E, Milan, IN 47031

Mrs. Helen Einhaus; 643 Columbia Avenue, Osgood , IN 47037

Lori Hoffman; 5565 E. Lower Dry Fork Rd. Madison, IN 47250

Bea Boyd, Henry & Jerry Walker, and Norris & JoAn Krall

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