

The Quarterly Bulletin
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 XXXIII

January 2012

Number 1

▲ The Ripley Co. Historical Society will meet Sunday, Jan. 8, 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 Delbert Abplanalp & Friends, Music. Refreshments will be provided by Lois Workman, Delaware Township.

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

▲ The October meeting was not held due to several board members being unable to attend. There will not be a Secretarial Report in this issue due to the cancelled meeting.

▲ 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		

(The following message was requested to be printed from Eric Sandweiss)

INDIANA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY

EDITOR: Eric Sandweiss
Carmony Associate Professor of History
Indiana University

Attention: Ripley County Historical Society Members

The Indiana Magazine of History (IMH) wants you! Published four times annually since 1905, the IMH is the journal of record for Hoosier history. In addition to running fascinating articles about Indiana from the pioneer period to our own time, we review books, interview Hoosier history-makers, and feature special roundtables on topics of interest to today's history lovers.

The IMH is running a special offer to welcome new readers from among the members of the Ripley County Historical Society. If you order before January 31, 2012, we will send you two years (eight issues) of the IMH for just \$40.00, a savings to you of almost 20 percent off our regular rate.

To subscribe, just call or write us: IMH, 742 Ballantine Hall, Indiana University, 1020 E. Kirwood, Bloomington, IN 47405. (812) 855-4139. Or visit our website: www.indiana.edu/~imaghist/ and follow the steps for subscribing. Be sure to identify yourself as a Ripley County Historical Society member.

We look forward to having you as an IMH reader!



JOHN PAUL PROJECT CONSTRUCTION Early 1940's

JOHN PAUL, A VERY TALENTED PERSON FOUNDER OF VERSAILLES

By Tom Krumm

John Paul was a leader, a soldier, a land speculator, a businessman, and a politician. He was born on November 12, 1758 in Germantown, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. When he was 8 years old he and his parents moved to Red Stone Old Fort, Pennsylvania. This is now part of West Virginia, which was near the border of Ohio. He was educated in the schools of Pennsylvania. At 19, he had grown to be 6 feet tall and was known for his physical fitness.

In 1778, he was a private in Captain William Harrod's regiment; Captain Harrod reported to General George Rogers Clark. They fought against the Indians and the British in the Northwest Territory during the Revolutionary War and captured Kaskaskia, Illinois and Vincennes, Indiana. Many of the troops deserted or would not re-enlist. John Paul stayed with Clark throughout the time he was needed. Not much history is written about John Paul for the 10 years following the Revolutionary War until 1791. In 1791, John and six others went on a hunting trip for beavers near Marietta, Ohio. They were attacked by a band of Shawnee Indians headed by a young Tecumseh. All but two were killed and John Paul was shot in the hand. He joined his family in Kentucky and became the first county clerk of Hardin County in 1793. The records he produced were very detailed and were written even before the county courthouse had been built. He kept them on pages that were sewn together.

John married Sarah Grover in 1795, and they lived in a log cabin near what is now Harrodsburg, Kentucky. He resigned his position in Hardin County in 1800 and moved to what is now Xenia, Ohio. He started a saw mill and a grain mill and purchased 2,000 acres for 1,050 pounds of Virginia money. He was chosen the first clerk of Greene County because of his conscientious attention to detail in keeping records. He donated the land for public buildings plus he sold the 258 acres in downtown Xenia for \$250. He was in the first Ohio Senate who wrote the State of Ohio Constitution.

In 1807, he and a neighbor walked to Vincennes to a land sale where he purchased land located in New Albany, Indiana. He found this land had frequent river fog and he decided to sell it so he could buy land in Jefferson and Ripley County areas. On October 6, 1809, he came with his family to establish a permanent home inside Madison, Indiana. He again donated land for a court house and a graveyard. This motivated a committee to select Madison as the county seat for the new Jefferson County, which was formed from part of Clark and Dearborn counties.

He and a friend started the first Madison ferry across the Ohio River in 1811. In 1812, he joined the "Gentlemen Volunteers" army who received no pay and were active when the need arose during the War of 1812. In 1813, he started the second newspaper in Indiana, "The Western Eagle". He also built a saw mill and a grain mill in 1813.

In 1814, he started the "Farmers and Mechanics Bank", which was one of 2 banks chartered in Indiana. He was president of this bank, and it survived the economic downturns of 1818 and 1819. The first bank (in Vincennes) failed. John was also elected to the Indiana Senate in 1816 and became leader of the Senate.

In 1818, Ripley County was formed. A committee of three picked the Versailles location to be the county seat. John Paul owned much of the land and donated the amount needed for the county public buildings and the Cliff Hill Cemetery. It is surprising that John did not rise to higher offices during his lifetime.

One of his daughters, Ann Parker Paul, married William Hendricks who was elected as the first Indiana representative in Congress in 1816. In 1822, William became the second governor of Indiana.

John Paul died in 1830 from complications from a head injury after falling from a horse in a rain swollen Clifty Falls Creek. Both he and his wife are buried in Fairmont Cemetery in Madison. His original graveyard is now "John Paul Park" located on Mill Street in Madison. The housing built for the workers of Jefferson Proving Ground located in Versailles is also named in his honor. It would be hard to find another person who is considered the founder of three towns (Xenia, Madison, and Versailles).

There was a second John Paul in Ripley County who settled in Friendship and started a store. He comes from an Irish family. He was not related to the founder of Versailles.

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

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