

The Quarterly Bulletin of the
RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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JULY MEETING

The July 14, 2002 Meeting will be at 2:00 at the Holton Town Park. This will be the annual Summer Ice Cream Fete. Remember to bring lawn chairs for your comfort. The program will be Maxine Hayes and her Musical Saw, back by popular demand.

REMEMBER WE STILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING BOOKS FOR SALE:

Ripley County History, Volume I	\$65
Ripley County History, Volume II	55
Brown Township Tales	20
Tales of Versailles by Alan F. Smith	16
Vintage Postcards of Ripley County by Alan Smith	19
Brown Township Cemetery Index	10
Johnson Township Cemetery Index	10

Mailing fees added for all books shipped.

Your membership expires on December 31 of the year shown on your mailing label. 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

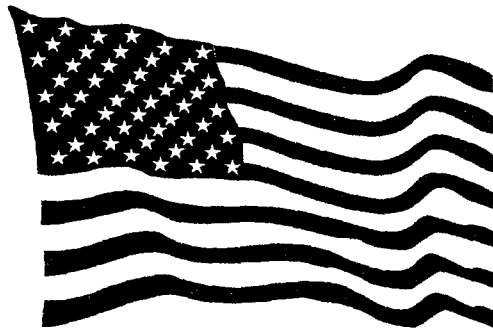
Dues:

New memberships are \$10.00 for the first year.

Renewals are \$5.00 per year thereafter.

Life memberships are \$100

UNITED WE STAND!



RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the April 14, 2002

The April meeting of the Ripley County Historical Society met April 14th at the Archives building in Versailles at 2:00 pm. There were 30 members and guests present.

The meeting opened with introductions from all present. The minutes were read by Henry Walker and approved as read. Bea Boyd gave the Treasurers report and it was also approved, by motion, second and vote.

A \$10,000 grant was received from the Rising Sun Foundation for work on the Pioneer cemeteries. A report was given on the work already done at the Prattsburg Cemetery and this will continue with this grant.

The Log Cabin was checked and the second log on east side needs to be either repaired or replaced. It was patched before with cement or mortar and hopefully this can be done again. It was checked for termites but none found although some other insects were present. It was checked by Terminex and we are waiting on an other estimate.

Helen Einhaus gave a report on the underground railroad. Work on that project is ongoing, Diane Coon is working on it. They went through lots of Harding papers at the state museum and found some interesting history.

Alan Smith's latest book, Brown Township Tales, has been published and will soon be for sale.

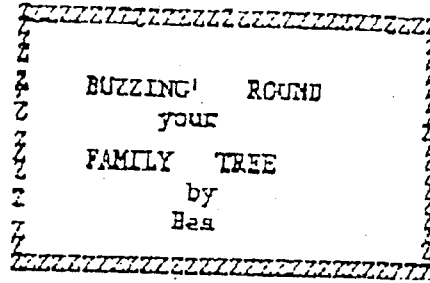
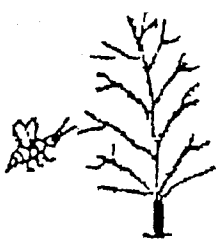
Directors were renominated and with no nominations coming from the floor were elected for another term.

A report was given on the program for First Ladies gowns at the Rising Sun Historical Society.

Roselyn McKittrick asked about preservation of Lodge books at the old lodge building in Milan. They are from many different Lodges. We will try and tag and catalog them and arrange to save them.

Our program was "History by Autographs" and was presented by John Pratt of Greensburg. He has the Craft and Book store in Greensburg. His program was very entertaining. He had many autographs, Presidents, Movie Stars, Medal of Honor holders, and many other categories. Also pictures and interesting stories, plus he received some new ones.

Our next meeting will be in the Holton Park with refreshments by Otter Creek. Please bring lawn chairs.



Q-7-2002 I have become aware of a Mariah Underwood photo Album circa 1870. You can see a listing of all the names and families on website-<http://www.geocities.com/jollygames>. Photos of following families: Underwoods, Burt, Minor, Hufford, Woodgate, Howe, Pitts, Mitchell and Wiseman.

Q-7-2002-At one time there were many people named FOX living in Ripley County in Shelby Township. There was also a Fox Cemetery, although I could never find it. The location was near the old County HOME. Does anyone have any Photos of Jacob and wife Mary Jane Eckstein Fox? Mary Jane was living with son Jacob when she was burned to death. Does anyone have any information on the FOX farm or Cemetery? Larry Fox, 807 Washington St, Cainsville, MO 64632.

On Johnson Township Schools in 1929- The Ridge School was closed this year and the children are being hauled to Wilson. The teachers in charge are: Sligo, Leonard Laswell, Union, Howard Adkins, Waterloo, Daisy Bovard, Wilson, Hetty Wright Hughes, Boswell, Edith Vansickle, Correct, Helen Lane, Tanglewood, Bonny Jackson, Splashville, Chauncy Smith, Cedar Creek, Irene Gunter, Curran, Ruth Livings.

On May 25, 2002 the Directors and interested parties met at the Bethel Cemetery Shelter House for a picnic and Cemetery Clean-up. A group of dedicated folks have been doing this for over 60 years. It has been 62 years ago that Bethel Church disbanded and the cemeteries were moved from Jefferson Proving Ground Area. Bethel was moved South of Butlerville in Jennings County. My in-laws Walter and Lavada Brown Boyd came from Indianapolis every year at decoration Time. Calvin Brown, 1st husband of Lavada was one of the Bethel Cemetery graves moved from JPG. When Lavada died she was buried beside him. Walter was buried by 1st wife, Julia Grinstead in the Otter Creek Cemetery near Nebraska (which had also been relocated from JPG). The Otter Creek Church was moved to the Old School Building, Nebraska.

More Hoosiers now understand the importance of wearing one's seat belt. "Click It or Ticket" was implemented by Governor's Council on Impaired and Dangerous Driving. Be sure and fasten your seat belt if you are traveling in Indiana.

June is a busy month. the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association Spring Shoot at the Walter Cline Range near Friendship is in full swing. The traffic has been so heavy, that our President, Alice McCoy who lives at Olean could not get out her driveway.

1896-J. B. Holman Post met at House of Comrade James Davis. He is referred to as the "Old Blind Comrade". Everyone enjoyed the day. About 200 present. 35 comrades, wives and children.
from minutes of meeting.

DABNEY BAPTIST CHURCH'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

Dabney Baptist Church is located in the little town of Dabney in Otter Creek Township in Ripley County, Indiana, at the intersection of the Old Michigan Road and the Railroad. The town and the church were first called Poston, but the name had to be changed because it was too similar in sound and script to the next town to the west, Holton. The similarity caused confusion to the mail clerks on the mail trains and the mail was often left at the wrong place. Poston being the smaller and younger town had to change its name. The railroad picked the name of Dabney in honor of one of its officers.

The little country church nestled among the fields and woods is a picture of peace and harmony. One hundred and fifty years ago the church was organized with eight charter members from four families. The members were: James and Lucinda Hancock and daughters, Lutitia Brower and Mary Stewart; David and Elma Ferrin; and Absolom and Lucy Longfellow Harrell. During the following 150 years over 1,250 souls have joined this membership.

The Sesquicentennial Celebration includes several special services, with four former pastors as guest speakers. The final event is a Homecoming worship service on September 8, ending with a hog roast under a tent in the churchyard. Also at this time a history book of the church and community will be available for anyone interested in purchasing this information of days gone by to current times. Some of the mini sketches included are the founders of the town, "Tom the Tanner" Smith, James Lamme Yater, and Jonathan Judah. Other families included are Crew, Shook, Sheets, Dickerson, Edens, Downey, Aikins, Stevens, Barricklow, Vanosdol, Rea, Mundy, Brower, and many more. This soft cover, spiral bound book will have church history with a list of membership, community history, lots of pictures, index, and will have about 200 pages. If anyone is interested in ordering a book please send \$13 and address to Norris Krall, 4499 N. Old Michigan Road, Osgood, IN, 47037. Delivery date will be in September.

HOT OFF THE PRESS Ripley County's own prolific author, Alan F. Smith, has another "best seller". His latest endeavor "Brown Township Tales" was recently completed and is available for \$20 plus \$2 shipping. Anyone with connections to Brown Township in Ripley Co. will surely want a copy of this beautiful hard cover book with lots of pictures, index, township history, tales from the towns of Olean, Benham, Dewberry, Cross Plains, Friendship and an appendix of the cemeteries of Brown Township. To order send money and address to Ripley County Historical Society, P.O. Box 525, Versailles, IN 47042.

Mr. Smith's other books include: Tales of Versailles, A Tale of Two Townships, Dillsboro Oakdale Cemetery, and Ripley County in Vintage Postcards.

REMEMBERING OUR FREEDOM

As our nation celebrates its independence, let us remember "Why" we are still a free country. The following is an excerpt from the Memorial Day Service at the Flat Rock Church in Jackson Township given by Joan Krall.

"Almost everyone here is related to each other and to the people laid to rest in the beautiful cemetery on the hill overlooking this beautiful little church in the valley along the Flat Rock Creek. And many of us here are descendants of Charles and Perea Judd Hull. So today let us reflect on their lives. They were married in New York and at least two of their children were born there, before they started the trek west and settling in this little valley in Indiana. One of the places they lived was next to this cemetery, on the east side. Charles was a veteran of the War of 1812. Charles and Perea had 11 children and 8 were boys. In the 1860's our country was in a terrible struggle to preserve our United States as one nation and to free the slaves. Many of the local residents had very strong feelings about this and many young men from this community went to fight for the principles of our country. No family felt the terrors of war more than Charles and Perea Hull, because their 6 younger sons became soldiers in the Civil War. Can you imagine the anguish of having 6 children in the war??? One is almost more than a person can stand..... just multiply that by 6..... it seems unbearable. While the sons were fighting, Charles and a lot of his good neighbors were active on the home front in this community with the Underground Railroad, helping the slaves escape to freedom.

Four of the Hull sons, Sylvester, William, Lorenzo, and Lemuel returned home after the war, but the 2 younger ones, Daniel and Franklin did not return.

Daniel died in the army hospital at Georgetown, Missouri in 1861 at the age of 22.

The baby of the family, Joseph Franklin Hull had been a prisoner of war and had been released to come home. He boarded the riverboat **Sultana** at Vicksburg, Mississippi. The **Sultana**, which had the capacity for 376 passengers, was overloaded with 2000 Union soldiers anxious to go north, anxious to get home. In the early morning of April 27, 1865, the **Sultana's** engine exploded and the ship burned on the Mississippi River near Memphis, Tennessee, 1,547 perished. Nineteen year old Franklin Hull was among those killed, just one month short of his 20th birthday.

Neither Daniel nor Franklin made it back to Flat Rock. They do not have a gravesite here on which we can place flowers and a flag, but we remember them as part of our family and today we honor their sacrifice.

Two other veterans buried here were killed in action: Lloyd Joy Adams s/o Harry M. Adams, and Wayne Williams, s/o Wilmont & Nancy French Williams. Today we especially honor them along with all the other veterans buried in this cemetery. We honor these precious men and women for their sacrifice, given for our freedom."



Versailles, IN 47042

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County Historian

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