

The Quarterly Bulletin
Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc.
Library – 125 Washington Street
Museum – Corner of Main and Water Streets
Versailles, Indiana 47042

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▲ The Ripley Co. Historical Society will meet Sunday, July 12, 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 Betty Roepke on Quilts. If you have a quilt you would like to show, bring it. We will have an ice cream social. Attendees will bring homemade ice cream and Jackson Township will provide other goodies and drink.

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

▲ 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 week-day 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. **NOTICE:** The Museum will be open Sunday Afternoons 2-4 p.m. starting June 3rd through Pumpkin Show Saturday Sep 29th. 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		

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SECRETARY MINUTES
April 15, 2012

The spring quarterly meeting, held at the Society's Archives Building, 125 Washington Street, Versailles, on April 15, 2012, was called to order by President Cheryl Welch at 2:00 p.m. Cheryl led those in attendance, some twenty in number, in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the winter quarterly meeting were read by Secretary Frank Keenan, and were approved as read. Treasurer Owen Menchhofer distributed and read highlights from his Income & Expenses Report for the period 1/1/2012 through 3/31/2012, and from his Account Balance as of 3/31/2012, which Reports were approved as read.

Nominating Committee Chair Jeri Walker reported that the incumbent Directors of Adams Township (Betty Roepke); Brown Township (Frank Keenan); Center Township (Charles Wm. Gloyd); Delaware Township (Lois Workman); and Director at Large (Sandra Meisberger), each expressed willingness and desire to serve another three (3) year term. Chair Jeri Walker presented the slate for approval. There being no opposition and no alternative nominations from the floor, it was deemed that the slate was approved. President Welch expressed the Society's appreciation to Fred Glover for his willingness to serve as Director for Franklin Township, filling out Esther Edmondson's term.

Cheryl expressed the Society's appreciation to Sandy Meisberger and Tom Krumm for putting out such a fine winter meeting bulletin. She reminded all that volunteers are still needed for the Archives Building and that World War II books are still available for sale. She also reported that the furnace at the Archives Building had been repaired and that a new back door had been installed. Rosalind McKittrick reported on progress regarding Milan's Basketball Museum. Successful fund raising efforts and grants have enabled going forward with putting together a first rate facility. Rosalind also reported that a blue Ray version of the classic film "Hoosiers," will soon be available.

Under "new business" Tom Krumm reported on the sorry state of the abandoned Lutheran Cemetery near his property, and suggested that the Society explore seeking a grant to restore it and other abandoned cemeteries in the County. It was suggested that the society approach County boy Scout Troops for assistance in at least tidying up these neglected cemeteries. Anyone interested in helping with such an initiative, please contact Cheryl or Tom.

The Program for the summer meeting will be on "Quilts" and will be presented by Betty Roepke. Cheryl invited folks to bring in family heirloom quilts or "new" quilts for display to demonstrate the continued interest in the uniquely American tradition of quilt making.

A consensus was reached to repeat last summer's meeting format of an "ice cream social," whereby attendees would bring homemade ice cream and Jackson Township would be responsible for other accompanying goodies and drinks. The "social" will be held in the air-conditioned Archives Building. The fall meeting will be held on Sunday, October 14, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Keenan, Secretary



THE LEMON FAMILY OF RIPLEY COUNTY

By Tom Krumm

There are 6,011 Lemon graves registered in the "Find a Grave" data base, and 436 of them are in the state of Indiana. Today, Lemon family members fill Key positions in The Friendship State Bank headquartered in Friendship, Indiana. The Friendship Bank is the largest bank in Ripley County and one of only two locally managed banks left in the county.

According to "Genealogy.com", Hugh Lemmon (later spelled Lemon) born in 1754 came from Ulster in Northern Ireland in 1771 to Allegheny County, New York. Tradition has it that he was sponsored by an uncle who was already in America. Hugh was a scout in a Philadelphia military artillery unit during the Revolutionary War.

He married Martha McHenry in 1797 in Livingston, Allegheny County, New York. They settled in Northumberland County in Pennsylvania and had a family of 12 children. Hugh was listed in the 1790 census in Northumberland County, PA. At that time there were three males and 3 females in the family. They did not require names be listed for kids and we assume one of them was William. Hugh and his wife moved to the Livonia, New York area. Both of them died in 1824.

Their son William was born on February 23, 1782; he moved west and ended up near Dillsboro, Indiana. William married Abigail Tower in 1804 and they had 14 children. Number 9, Willis, was born on January 30, 1819. William served as a justice of the peace in Dearborn County from 1829 to 1838. His wife died in 1844 and is buried in Cole Chapel Cemetery in Farmers Retreat, Indiana. William moved in with Willis and died near Olean, Indiana. We don't know where he is buried.

Our ancestors made a practice of producing their own agriculture work force and the Lemons were no exception. When the kids grew up and were ready to produce their own workforce, they left home and acquired a farm at a different location so they could provide the work force they needed.

Willis married Mary Shields in 1841 and they had 5 children. Their first child was James W. Lemon who was born in 1843. In 1850, the value of Willis's farm was \$400. In the mid 1850's, they moved to Clinton County, Iowa. They apparently decided Ripley County, Indiana was better because they were back in Ripley County in 1860. In 1863, Willis paid \$10 to the state of Indiana for a license as a stallion keeper. In 1870, he lived on the second floor of the jail in Versailles, and he was the jailor. In 1870, Willis listed the names of two prisoners on the US Census form. By 1880, Willis had gone back to farming.

James W. Lemon's first wife Matilda died in Shelby Township, and Jim married Caroline Florence Smith near Lincolnville. Their first son, Wilkie, was born in 1889. Jim became sheriff of Ripley County, in 1892, and subsequently became a fulltime farmer. Both he and his wife are buried in the Benham Methodist Cemetery. He died in 1918.

In 1912, a group of local farmers decided to start a bank in Friendship. Wilkie hadn't completed the eighth grade but was known as a sharp horse trader. His neighbors picked him to start the bank. He went to the Osgood Bank for six months training without pay. In October, 1912, the Friendship Bank opened with Wilkie as the head cashier. He moved to Friendship and married Edna Elrod on November 30, 1916. Over the years, Wilkie served the bank in numerous positions. His sister Elsie became a teller at the bank. On February 27, 1926, Wilkie and his wife had a son James W. Lemon. Wilkie joined the Bear Creek Baptist Church and served as a deacon for many years. He spent 12 years serving as president of the Ripley County tuberculosis Association. He became a director of the NMLRA, and served in several banking organizations in Indiana. At the time Wilkie died in 1957, he was the president of the bank. Wilkie and his wife are also buried at the Benham Methodist Cemetery.

James W. Lemon went to the Friendship grade school. Besides going to school, Jim would mow lawns in town for 10 cents. He went to Cross Plains High School and was a good Basketball player. He helped the team win a regional title. He enjoyed farming with his dad, and was hoping to make this his career. World War II came and Jim went in the infantry as an ammunition carrier.

When he got out of the service in 1946, Jim worked at the bank doing whatever was needed. There were only three employees at the time he started. Today, there are 100 employees working at six locations. His oldest son, James William Lemon is currently president and his brother Tracy is one of the branch managers. Some of his grandkids work at the bank.

The Lemon family generated one of the largest businesses in our county through their dedication to our communities. They did this through hard work and a willingness to start at the bottom.

County, Indiana, Historical

Ripley



Society

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

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Director at Large - Mrs. Sandra Meisberger, 4662 W. Co. Rd. 450 S. Versailles, IN 47042	
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