

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

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The fourth quarterly meeting of 2003 will be held on Sunday, October 12, at 2:00, at the RCHS Archives Library on the West Side of the Courthouse Square in Versailles. All members are urged to attend and become involved in RCHS activities. Visitors are always welcome.

The October program will be presented by Kevin Geisler. He will speak about ways to preserve family history, photos, and genealogy by the use of computer digitalization. He will talk about ways to convert photos, family documents and other data to video and DVD's. Kevin is a sophomore at South Ripley High School and operates Eclectic Videos, a digitalization and web site creation service. He also makes Life Tribute videos that are frequently used at funerals. This promises to be an exciting program and the public is invited. Come and see some of the exciting things Kevin has done!

THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE:

Ripley County History, Volume I	\$65
Ripley County History, Volume II	55
Brown Township Tales by Alan F. Smith	20
Tales of Versailles by Alan F. Smith	16
* Vintage Postcards of Ripley County by Alan Smith	20
Brown Township Cemetery Index	10
Johnson Township Cemetery Index	10
Flat Rock Cemetery Index	5

Mailing fees added for all books shipped.

- We have just received a new supply of this popular "Best Seller".

Please check the date on your address label, if it is prior to 2003, your membership has expired and this may be the last bulletin you receive. We purge our list yearly and remove the out-of-date memberships. We greatly value all our members and hope all will soon renew by sending \$5 to Treasurer, Bea Boyd, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47037.

Dues:

New memberships are \$10.00 for the first year

Renewals are \$5.00 per year thereafter

Life memberships are \$100

The Ripley County Historical Society met at 2:00 pm at the Library Building with 26 members and guests present. The meeting was opened by introductions by all present.

The minutes were read by Henry Walker, and were approved as read.

Bea Boyd gave the treasurers report. The bill for the copier was \$2671.00 and has been paid. The sale of history books I and II has been good, we still have good supply of book I and about 30 of book II. It was moved and seconded to accept the report as given.

Alice commented on the Morgan's Raid re-enactment, it was presented well and well received. Norris made a video of it and will be shown at the end of program.

The work on the Underground Railroad has progressed very well; they must now wait for word from the State to go further.

Cheryl Welch was welcomed as Director of Shelby Township, she fills the unexpired term of her Mother, Kathleen Lane. Also Kathryn Manship and Mary Manship have resigned and we need someone from Jackson Township to fill that position.

The program was given by Kenny Tapp, from Versailles and now a senior at Oklahoma University. He gave a program on the History of Versailles State Park.

The interest of the public in Nature is growing and the Park service is responding. They now have exhibits of snakes and other things at the Nature Center, through the use of original objects and the use of illustrating Media.

The Park was started as a Federal project in 1934 and remained so until 1943 when it was turned over to the State. It originally consisted of 1700 acres but has now grown to over 6000. It was used as a Camp for the Conservation Corp and many buildings are still there were built by them. A model cabin of the kind they lived in is on exhibit. Some things they are looking for, old newspapers of the camp, a 1940 work truck, an 1800 log cabin and personal accounts of personnel.

Norris Krall said the second town platted in Ripley County was Waterford which was located near Laughery Creek in the Park area.

The next meeting will be October 12, 2003 at the RCHS Library.

Refreshments were enjoyed and provided by Alice McCoy and some delicious home made ice cream by Betty Roepke. The refreshments for the next meeting will be by Center Township.

Alice McCoy, President

Henry Walker, Secretary

Resignation of the Manships

With regret the Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Kathryn Manship as Director of Jackson Township and her daughter, Mary Manship, a certified genealogist. They have served as dedicated researchers and helped a countless number of people looking for information about ancestors. The Manships did extensive research on obituaries, the Versailles hangings in the late 1800's and the history of Ed Short, a local man who served as U.S. Marshall, investigating the Dalton Gang. Because of their hard work the Archives Library contains extensive records on these subjects and many other topics they researched. Both Kathryn and husband, Leonard are retired school teachers and have lived most of their lives in Ripley County. Kathryn has served as Director for ten years and must relinquish her position because of failing eyesight. Thank you for all your time and your work to preserve the history of Ripley County.



Buzzing

Twenty years ago, the old Fernando G. Taylor home, built circa 1860s, in Versailles, was to be demolished to make way for Colonial Manor, a home for Senior citizens. It was purchased by John P. Schuerman of the Schuerman Law Firm and moved to where it is now situated on the SW corner of the square where the old Purdum Hotel used to be. Last month it received a new paint job, redo on the roof and chimneys. It houses the Ripley County Chamber of Commerce and the Ripley County Economic Development Team Offices. I remember the day August 23, 1983, they moved the house from the corner of Water and Main to its present location. On August 22, the house was on jacks ready to roll. This was done by the Boyer Moving company. There was a large crowd gathered on the Court House lawn to watch. Since the electric was turned off for moving there was no electric for the Court House. Being on the 3rd floor with no windows, our department and the rest of 3rd floor offices had to evacuate. The current was to be off for 1 hour-but it was longer than that. At the 1983 Pumpkin Show the house was opened and a charge of 25¢ to see. The proceeds of this was given to the Girl Scouts. Thanks, John, for preserving this old home.

On September 17th, Henry & Jerri Walker, Betty Roenke, Alice McCoy and Bea Boyd of RCHS, and Kathryn Taul, of Ripley County Tourism traveled to Friendship, Brown Twp, to meet with Buddy and Terri Townsend at the Rand House for a tour of the House. They are in the process of restoring the house to its former grandeur and making it in to a museum. At present it houses the offices of the National Muzzle Loaders Assn. It is also filled with interesting artifacts. There is a lot of history connected with the property. This is the 70th anniversary for NML's. It is worth a trip to Friendship just to see the scenery. Without a doubt it is the most beautiful in Ripley County or even Indiana.

I've been wanting to make a correction on the height of Thomas Gade, who operated a grist mill in Otter Creek Twp in the 1850's. He was 7 foot 6 inches. Also on page 126 in the Ripley County History Book Vol I Milford Paugh caught a 5 lb 4 oz large mouth Bass with a cane pole and minnows. It came out as 51. That really shows what I can do.

The 101st Pumpkin Show will be past history when you receive the newsletter. The weather was perfect for the parade in spite of the fact that rain was predicted. This is only possible by dedicated members of the Lions Club who sponsor the event.

In case you are a new member and receiving the bulletin for the first time, I have been listing the Accouches from Dr. Roberts of Holton, Account book. 1876-1879. This data is prior to information of County births which were not recorded until 1882.

1877	July 8	Dan Dermit	Sept 2	Sam Dickey
	Aug 9	J. Wooley	" 4	Ben Hobs(Hobbs)
	" 10	Johnathon Dickey	" 5	David Bishop
	" 25	George Reynolds	" 7	S. M. Hutson
	" 27	Leet Downey	" 18	James Murdock

Dan Emmett wrote the song DIXIE in 1859 when he was a member of the Bryant's Minstrels at Mechanics Hall In New York. The phrase "I wish I was in Dixie" actually came, not from the South but from Circus people in the North. When the weather got cold, this was a phrase they commonly used "I wish I was in Dixie".

I love this Fall weather. This is the first year that I have noticed so many Butterflies. They love the LiveForever Blossoms.

WHAT MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME

My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE. "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

My mother taught me RELIGION. "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL. "If you don't straighten up. I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

My mother taught me LOGIC. "Because I said so, that's why."

My mother taught me FORESIGHT. "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

My mother taught me IRONY. "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS. "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM "Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

My mother taught me about PATIENCE. "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

My mother taught me about WEATHER. "This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

My mother taught me HYPOCRISY. "If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"

My mother taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE. "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

My mother taught me about ENVY. "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."

My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION. "Just wait until we get home."

My mother taught me about RECEIVING. "You are going to get it when you get home!"

My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE. "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to freeze that way."

My mother taught me ESP. "Put your sweater on; don't you- think I know when you are cold?"

My mother taught me HUMOR. "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT. "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

My mother taught me GENETICS. "You're just like your father."

My mother taught me about my ROOTS. "Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

My mother taught me WISDOM. "When you get to be my age, you'll understand."

And my favorite: My mother taught me about JUSTICE. "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

Indiana State Historical Markers to be Updated

The Indiana Historical Bureau has asked County Historians to repaint the state historical markers. Ripley County has four state markers listed – Michigan Road at US 50 east of Holton; Morgan's Raid on the Court House Square, Berry's Trace on US 421 in Napoleon, and Kibbey's Road marker. The Michigan Road and Berry's Trace markers are in dire need of being repainted.

Mike Stratton has offered to monitor the markers, see that any needed work is done and also check the Ripley County markers. He will contact persons agreeable to doing the painting. The Osgood-Napoleon Scout Troop No. 638 Leader Phil Abrams is in the process of painting the Berry's Trace marker. The RCHS appreciates so much the efforts of those who have agreed to help on this maintenance project.

Ripley County Underground Railroad (UGRR) Project Update

Diane Coon, UGRR Project Director, addressed the Ripley County Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner September 18th at the JCD Elementary School. She advised that, of the six underground marker applications submitted to the Indiana Historical Bureau, three applications are currently being reviewed by the first committee and a decision will be reached by October 31st. Assuming that these three are passed by this committee, they will then go to the final committee who has a December 31st deadline.

Several persons were very interested in her presentation, especially the teachers, as they learned of an educational package being put together, and learned of a story that Diane has written concerning the two horses of Ripley County, Tartar and King William, that were much involved in the UGRR activity. This story will be evaluated by some of the teachers to see that it is appropriate for the fourth-grade level students.

MY VISIT TO RIPLEY COUNTY

I would like to express my sincerest appreciation for the outstanding assistance given me during my visit to the Ripley County Historical Society on July 23, 2003. My grandson Brent from California but now residing in North Carolina accompanied me on this two-week venture which took us through Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. The purpose of my visit to Versailles was to gather as much confirming information as possible on my direct line ancestors of the



Myers family that included Henry, Lewis and Caleb. With a tremendous amount of help from the ladies working that day, I was able to obtain copies of a great deal of information concerning the above three individuals. I also purchased three historical publications on Ripley County and enrolled as a



member of the Society. I guess I might now be known as a "Card Carrying Member," one who as a Myers descendant has had the opportunity to walk on some of the same ground walked by my ancestors.

The second stop in Ripley County was in an effort to find the Lewis Myers Family Cemetery that was created on the original farm of Lewis Myers during the early to mid 1800s. Even tho Brent and I later discovered we were almost within "spittin" distance we did not have the opportunity to actually view this cemetery. During the course of our search we did, however, come in contact with three delightful area individuals as we sought directions to the site.

Several important aspects concerning the Cemetery have surfaced since returning to my home in Florida. It seems that just a couple of weeks after my visit to Ripley County, three other people from the Myers Clan did make a visit to the cemetery and found that it was totally open (no fence or other protective enclosure) around it and the live stock had complete access to the site. These three men spent a great deal of time cleaning the area and installing a temporary fence around the cemetery. They also discovered all 18 grave stones but being made of sandstone the engravings were totally obliterated except for the stone erected in memory of Revolutionary War Veteran Henry Myers by the Ripley County Historical Society. It too is beginning to show aging. Additional work is planned by these same three men, Bob & Elaine Myers, Mike Myers and Ken Hall and some discussion is being conducted among the four of us as to how to better memorialize and restore the names of those who are resting there. Currently the cost of this activity is being borne by these family members on a voluntary basis but could certainly use funding support from any local agencies or individuals who are interested in this type of historical restoration.

The other supportive person with whom I've spoken since my visit was Bea Boyd of the Society. She too is a descendant of our Myers Family and I certainly hope that she can be a guiding light to her fellow Myers' who are undertaking their very important family research in Ripley County. I also joined the neighboring historical society in Switzerland County since my great grandmother Mary Seaver resided there. She and great grandfather Caleb Myers were married in that county. I really believe deeply that if one is going to be involved in family research they should take at least a financial interest in these communities and counties by becoming a member of pertinent local organizations.

Once again, my sincerest thanks to everyone for their special support of me, both during my visit and after my return to Florida. My best wishes that each member of the society enjoy a future filled with much continued success, happiness and good health. My e-mail: lewis32n@aol.com.

With warmest regards,

Norman Lewis Myers, Winter Park, Florida and a descendant of Henry, Lewis and Caleb Myers
Bob Myers, Tulsa, OK. E-mail: E24RLMOK@aol.com

County Historical

Ripley



Society

Versailles, IN 47042

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

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Alice McCoy, Bea Boyd, Henry & Jerry Walker, and Norris & JoAn Krall	<u>Newsletter Committee</u>

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