

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

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The fourth quarterly meeting of 2004 will be on Sunday, October 10 at RCHS Archives Library in Versailles, starting at 2:00. All members are urged to attend and all visitors are welcome. The program will be given by Karyl Schmidt of Indianapolis. She was raised in Sunman and works as a geologist for the State of Indiana. Karyl's hobby is genealogy, especially of Adams and northern Franklin Townships. Her program will be about research of early French Ripley County Pioneers.

Activities at the Archives

► Don Hughes from the Flat Rock Community brought the first record book of the Flat Rock Church, dated 1843 to 1890's, to the Archives for us to copy. We also copied a record book from the Lock Springs sawmill, dated 1870's to 1890's. The sawmill was owned by Don's gr-grandfather, Hannibal Hughes. This information is valuable to our collection. Thanks so much, Don.

► This summer we received two large boxes containing the genealogy research of Ray Novak from Sioux Falls, SD. Mr. Novak had years of research work on several families. The main family from Ripley County is the French family that lived near Bear Branch Community. This community is located near the corner where the Ohio, Switzerland, and Ripley Counties meet. This information is in the process of being reviewed and involved families classified. Mr. Novak passed away last year and his wife Margaret sent his information to us. We greatly appreciate receiving information about our Ripley County ancestors. Thank so very much to the Novak family.

► At our July meeting, Mr. Jack C. Reed from Cincinnati presented the Historical Society with a book he had put together containing a great amount of information and pictures about the Smith-Dickey Cemetery. This small cemetery formally known as the Old Dickey Family Cemetery is located on the Versailles State Park property in Johnson Township. Thanks Mr. Reed for all your work and information, the book has been added to our cemetery records collection.

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 F. Smith	20
Brown Township Cemetery Index	10
Johnson Township Cemetery Index	10
Ripley County's Antislavery Movement	5
Flat Rock Cemetery Index	5
Flat Rock Cemetery 2003 update sheet available; send \$1 and SASE	
<u>Mailing fees added for all books shipped.</u>	

Dues:

Your membership expires on December 31 of the year shown on your mailing label. Your 2005 membership fee will be due shortly. Mail your renewal to RCHS or to Beatrice Boyd, Treasurer, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023.

New memberships are \$10.00 for the first year.

Renewals are \$5.00 per year thereafter.

Life memberships are \$100

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Red Skelton's Pledge of Allegiance

Red Skelton, a native of Vincennes, Indiana, was a very popular comedian about 40 years ago. On one of his television shows he expressed his love and appreciation for our country. Red related that one of his school teachers, Mr. Laswell, felt that the children did not appreciate the Pledge of Allegiance because they recited it as if it had no meaning to them. So Mr. Laswell explained the meaning of the pledge to his class. Red Skelton later wrote down and eventually recorded, his recollection of this lecture.

I -- me, an individual, a committee of one

PLEDGE -- dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity

ALLEGIANCE -- my love and my devotion

TO THE FLAG -- our standard, *Old Glory*, a symbol of Freedom, wherever she waves there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts Freedom is everybody's job

OF THE UNITED -- united means we have all come together

STATES OF AMERICA -- Individual communities that have united into 48 (now 50) great states with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, which is love for country.

AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS -- republic, a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people, and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

ONE NATION -- one nation, meaning 'so Blessed by God'

INDIVISIBLE -- incapable of being divided

WITH LIBERTY -- which means freedom, the right of power to live one's own life, without threats, fear, or some sort or retaliation

AND JUSTICE -- the principle or qualities of dealing fairly with others

FOR ALL -- which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine

"Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: **UNDER GOD** -- Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that phrase is a prayer and it would be eliminated from schools, too?"

Red Skelton

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Note from editor: Even as we print this newsletter, there are lawsuits in the courts requesting that the words "Under God" be eliminated from the pledge.