

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, Oct. 9, 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 speaking on Quilts. Refreshments will be provided by Delaware Township.

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

▲ RCHSL extends condolences and prayers to the family of Robert Damm, deceased. Robert was a well-known upstanding resident of Osgood.

▲ 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

Mail your renewal for 2011 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>Come Visit</i> by Jean McClellan	25
<i>Vintage Postcards</i> by Alan Smith	20	<i>Jackson Township Cemetery Index</i>	13
<i>Brown Township Cemetery Index</i>	10	<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 MINUTES

July 10, 2011

The summer quarterly meeting was conducted on the north lawn of the County Court House, Versailles. The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Welch at 2:00 p.m. Those in attendance proceeded to the County Veterans Memorial on the east side of the Court House and Cheryl led them in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Frank Keenan read the minutes of the spring quarterly meeting, which were approved as read. Treasurer Owen Menchhofer circulated and read his monthly Income and Expenses Report for the period 1/11/2011 through 6/30/11, which report was accepted as presented. Cheryl reported that some sixty-four (64) Society members remained in arrears with their 2011 dues.

Cheryl also reported that some six (6) visitors stopped in at the Museum the Sunday he held it open. Except for Pumpkin show weeks, this number of visitors is one of the best in a very long time.

Cheryl pointed out that the RCHS Directorship for Franklin Township remains vacant. President Welch also noted that Mike Stratton, who had fronted the expenses of the Historic Markers project has been reimbursed from the Historical Markers Fund Grant monies.

President Welch also related as to how a recent visitor's visit to the Archive building served as yet another reminder of Uncle Jim Tyson's generous contributions to Versailles and the Ripley county community, namely, a Steelworker from Georgia who stopped by and proudly made it known that he had worked on the construction of the Tyson Temple, the most unique building in the County and, indeed, in the state. (Eat your heart out, Columbus!)

Following the business meeting, and in lieu of a program, the Society had an ice cream social. Various flavors of homemade ice cream were brought by many of those in attendance, as well as brownies provided by Brown Township, whose turn it was to provide refreshments. Other attendees also brought sweets to accompany the ice cream. Needless to say, it was a dieter's nemesis, but oh so good! Special thanks to Cheryl for suggesting the idea of an ice cream social, and special thanks to all who contributed to the fun and enjoyment.

The fall meeting will be conducted at the Archives Building on October 9, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Keenan, Secretary

HOW RIPLEY COUNTY TOWNS GOT THEIR NAME

By Tom Krumm

There are 25 names of towns printed on the latest map of Ripley county Indiana from the Tourist Bureau. Seven of these towns have been incorporated, and the remaining are informal towns. There were also dozens of additional communities in our past, which began on April 10, 1818. The first legal white land owner in our county arrived in 1809. On April 18, 1818, Ripley County was formed from parts of Dearborn and Jefferson Counties. Three men were paid \$3.00 per day to select the location of our county seat later in 1818. John Paul (who came over from France with the name Jean DePaul) donated the land for our county seat because he was smart enough to know he could make a lot of money selling the additional land he owned.

Listed below are the seven incorporated towns with the year they were started and the source of their name.

1. 1819 **Versailles** The citizens were grateful to Jean DePaul for donating the land for Versailles, a French city where Jean DePaul originated.
2. 1820 **Napoleon** The first citizens admired the French General Napoleon.
3. 1836 **Milan** Named after Milan, Italy due to similar wine terrain.
4. 1852 **Batesville** The town named after either Joshua or Henry Bates.
5. 1854 **Holton** The town name came from the combination of Holman (Jesse S. Holman) and the word town (with the w removed).
6. 1855 **Sunman** The town was named after Thomas W. Sunman.

1855 **Osgood** The town was named after A. L. Osgood who was in charge of the survey for the railroad route through the town formerly named Claytown.

Listed below are the 18 informal towns printed on the current Ripley County Map.

1. 1820 **Cross Plains** The town was laid out at a crossroad that was on level ground.
2. 1820 **Benham** The town was named after the founder of a machine shop. The town was formerly named Lincolnville.
3. 1832 **New Marion** The town was named after General Francis Marion, "The Swamp Fox". They originally named the town Marion but had to change it due to the fact, there was another Indiana town named Marion.
4. 1836 **Old Milan** The original town north of the railroad line, formerly South Milan and Brooklin.
5. 1837 **Otter Village** Named after Otter Creek where Otters swam at one time.
6. 1837 **Penntown** The first settlers came from Pennsylvania. The town was formerly called Pennsylvaniaburg.

7. 1846 **Ballstown** The town was named for Samuel Ball, the first settler.
8. 1846 **Dewberry** The town was named after the berry patch in the area.
9. 1846 **Elrod** The town was named after George Washington Elrod, formerly spelled Eldred.
10. 1849 **Friendship** The town was named after the Masonic Lodge F. & A.M. #68, the Friendship Lodge. The town was formerly named Hartsmill.
11. 185? **Rexville** The town was named after the Rex family.
12. 1855 **Spades** The town was named after Anthony Spade.
13. 1855 **Dabney** The town was formerly named Poston where houses had to be built on posts. Many people became confused with Poston and Holton after the railroad came through. It was decided to change the name and since Mr. Dabney was the Poston Minister, so it was named after him.
14. 1858 **Morris** The town was named after James Morris.
15. 1858 **Olean** The early settlers to the town came from Olean, New York.
16. 1860 **Pierceville** The town was named after the Pierce family.
17. 1869 **Delaware** The town was named after the largest Indian tribe in the area.
18. 1881 **Correct** The town requested the name of Comet but on the application for the name was unreadable, so the person in charge was contacted. They asked if Comet was the name they chose. The person answered with the word correct. They thought he meant Correct was the name of the town and so it came to be Correct.

In earlier times, there were other villages in our county that no longer exist but were meeting centers for our residences. Beach Corner, Benville, Brooklyn, Buchanan, Cross Roads, Delaware Station, Finks Corner, Haney's Corner, Harding, Marble Corner, Store, Haven, Hopewell, Hunsicher, Johnsville, Kingwood, Lookout, Lockspring, Lynville, Mud Pike, Polecat Corner, Prattsburg, Salem, Springdale, Steamboat Landing, St. Magdalene, Stumpkes Corner, Tanglewood, Titusville, and Westover. These places are not considered towns now, but the areas are still known by the names. The local folks needed names for nearly every crossroads as there was no street signs on the roads.

County, Indiana, Historical

Ripley



Society

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