

**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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**VOLUME XXXVI**

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**Number 2**

▲ The Ripley Co. Historical Society will meet **Sunday, April 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 Connie Kelley on the Hasmer Hill 4-H Camp. Refreshments will be provided by Franklin Twp. Members (Fred Glover).

▲ Research \$5.00 for non-members and all mailed requests, and \$1.00 per page copied for everyone.

▲ The WWII War Veterans book, titled LEST WE FORGET, is still available. It can be obtained for \$25 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 \$30. Checks should be made payable to Ripley County Historical Society. We give our heartfelt thanks to Joan and Norris Krall. **NOTE:** Ripley County History Vol. II is no longer available.

▲ **Members that are willing to receive the newsletter via email, please contact RCHSL.** The email address for sending your request is printed above.

▲ A new novel is available at the Ripley County Historical Society by Don Morrison named "The Dark Line" which tells a story of the perils the American Slaves in Kentucky fleeing to Indiana via the Underground Railroad. The Book sells for \$20.

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 on Sunday Afternoons 2-4 p.m. through Labor Day & on Pumpkin Show Saturday Sep. 28th. Questions call 812-689-3031. **NOTICE:** 2015 Yearly Dues are due in January 2015. Mail your renewal for 2016 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>	25
<i>Broken Wings</i> , By Robert Kelly	20	<i>The Dark Line</i> by Don Morrison	20
<i>Assorted Jefferson Proving Ground Books</i>		<i>Napoleon &amp; Vicinity</i>	12
<i>Sugar Branch</i> by Don Morrison	16	Shipping Charges added for all books	5

## RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

### By Frank Keenan, Secretary

The winter Quarterly meeting, held at the Society's Archive Building on Jan. 11, 2015, was called to order by President Cheryl Welch at 2:00 p.m. Cheryl led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Keenan read the minutes for the fall 2014 quarterly meeting, which were approved as read. Treasurer Own Menchofer's report was also approved.

Cheryl Welch reported that the Court House had informed her that they had received some money from three different parties who had visited the Archives Building and were assisted in their research efforts by the Society's volunteer staff. Cheryl also reported that while a new projector has been purchased for the Society, we are still looking for a laptop which will best serve the needs of our research assistance volunteers.

Bill Gloyd reported that copies of the Norris's WWII book, Lest We Forget, were presented to the American Legion in Osgood and that copies were also needed for distribution to the schools in the Osgood area. Fred Glover noted that additional copies were also needed for distribution to the Milan schools. Mike Stratton reported that the records of many of the County's cemeteries were seriously in arrears and that one cemetery had no records. It was suggested that the Society contact county youth groups and urge them to sponsor summer volunteer youth groups to assist in getting the County's cemetery records more up-to-date. Abplanalp's suggestion that the Society invest in a Ripley County Foundation investment product was taken under advisement for further discussion at the spring meeting. President Welch moved that the following candidates be approved to serve for three years as Director on behalf of their respective townships to be voted on at the April meeting: Delbert Abplanalp, Jackson Township Director; Owen Menchofer, Johnson Township Director; and Lois Workman, Delaware Township Director.

John W. Stoy presented the program. John is a 30-year veteran of the Eastman Kodak Company, where he utilized various skills in computer programming; photo specialist; scanning; and digital reproduction, in support of his assignments at Kodak. John has applied his skills in tracing his own genealogy since 1976. John's presentation demystified the technological tools and aids available for both one's own personal genealogy research and that of those who come to mind the Society's archives in search of their own families' genealogy.

Following the program, refreshments were served by Delaware Township. Franklin Township will be responsible for refreshments at the Society's spring meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frank Keenan, Secretary

## GENEALOGY QUIZ

1. Your Second Cousin's Son would be your?  
Nephew ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Cousin ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Cousin ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Cousin Once Removed ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin Once Removed
2. Your Aunt's Granddaughter would be your?  
Niece ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Cousin Once Removed ~ Grand Niece ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin Once Removed
3. Your Granduncle's Grandson would be your?  
1<sup>st</sup> Cousin ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Cousin ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Cousin ~ 5<sup>th</sup> Cousin
4. Your Father's Brother would be your?  
Cousin ~ Nephew ~ Uncle ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Cousin
5. Your Brother's Sister-in-Law would be your?  
1<sup>st</sup> Cousin ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin ~ Aunt ~ Sister-in-Law ~ Not Related
6. Your Grandfather's Sister would be your?  
Niece ~ Aunt ~ Grand Aunt ~ Cousin ~ Not Related
7. Your Brother's Daughter would be your?  
1<sup>st</sup> Cousin ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin ~ Niece ~ Grand Niece ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin Once Removed
8. Your Father's Mother's Mother would be your?  
Grandmother ~ GGrandmother ~ GGGGrandmother ~ Mother ~ GGGGrandmother
9. Your Uncle's Great Grandson would be your?  
1<sup>st</sup> Cousin ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Cousin Once Removed ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin Twice Removed ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Cousin Twice Removed ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin Once Removed
10. Your Brother's Grandson would be your?  
Nephew ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Cousin ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Cousin ~ Grandnephew
11. Your Aunt's Daughter would be your?  
1<sup>st</sup> Cousin ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Cousin ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Cousin ~ 5<sup>th</sup> Cousin
12. Your Father's First Cousin's Son would be your?  
1<sup>st</sup> Cousin ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Cousin ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Cousin ~ 5<sup>th</sup> Cousin
13. Your Father's Mother's Uncle would be your?  
Uncle Granduncle ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Cousin Once Removed ~ Great Granduncle ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin Once Removed

(Answers will be on Page 5)

# **HISTORY OF OLD MICHIGAN ROAD IN RIPLEY COUNTY**

**BY TOM KRUMM**

In 1810, there were 24,520 people in the Indiana territory. To become a state, a territory population had to exceed 60,000. Indiana had 63,897 people and became the 19<sup>th</sup> state in our country on December 11, 1816. The largest community in the state was the town of Madison on the Ohio River. Indiana's population in 1820 exploded to 147,178, and was concentrated on the shores of the few rivers in the State. Railroad lines didn't exist and there were only two water routes inside the state that were large enough to transport large quantities of supplies. The legislature knew this and started to recommend a north/south road across the entire length of the state.

In 1828, a treaty was signed with the Potawatomi Indians to allow a 100 foot wide road to be built beginning in Madison and ending at Michigan City, which was on the shore of Lake Michigan. Beginning in 1829, the southern part of Indiana was surveyed for a road system that was needed to develop a route to the northern part of the state. The road began in downtown Madison where it was easy to get supplies brought there on the Ohio River. In 1830, it took a full year to build the first fifteen miles. Money was scarce. The proceeds from sale of 170,580 acres (\$242,000) of Indian land were used to pay for the Michigan Road. It took until 1834 before anyone could travel on the entire length of the road (when it was dry). The road wasn't completed until 1837.

Corydon was the first capital of the state. In 1825, Indianapolis became the second state capital. This gave the road builders more reason to concentrate on the Michigan Road. Unlike most of the roads in the state, the focus was the need to make it easy to get to the new capital and to make it easy for new settlers to transport their furnishings and supplies to destinations in the northwestern part of Indiana. The road went through Ripley County and passed through New Marion, Dabney, and Napoleon. The black slaves from the south were anxious to get to Canada because slavery was illegal in Canada. Several of the safe houses on the Underground Railroad were on Michigan Road. You can travel all 270 miles of the historic Michigan Road today. (Part of the original road inside the Jefferson Proving Grounds has been detoured to the eastern side of the Proving Grounds). In 1828, the mail carrier took 3 days and 9 hours to travel to portion from Madison to the new capital, Indianapolis.

Ripley County can take pride in how well the road has been maintained for 185 years.

Tom Krumm  
3/18/2015

## **DO YOU KNOW WATERFORD**

Located less than one mile north of Versailles along Laughery Creek. Platted August 23, 1819, by Ira Webb, Deed book A page 17. This would have been the second town platted in Ripley County. Located in Section 1, T7N, R11E, in land which is now a part of the Versailles State Park. There was a grist mill on one side of Laughery Creek and a sawmill on the other. This was probably the site of the first (only?) water powered grist mill in the county. There were three streets in the town. These were Main, Market, and Delaware. The writer believes that at this point (perhaps using the mill dam) one could ford Laughery Creek and follow Delaware Street (Road) to the Delaware area. The town had been substantially vacated by 1876.

## **QUIZ ANSWERS**

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin Once Removed
2. 1<sup>st</sup> Cousin Once Removed
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin
4. Uncle
5. Not Related
6. Grand Aunt
7. Niece
8. GGrandmother
9. 1<sup>st</sup> Cousin Twice Removed
10. Grandnephew
11. 1<sup>st</sup> Cousin
12. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin
13. Great Granduncle

## County, Indiana, Historical

Ripley



Society

### OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

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Brown Twp. - Mr. Frank Keenan, 3241 E State Rd 62, Cross Plains, IN 47017

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Sandra Meisberger & Cheryl Welch

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