

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, April 2, 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 Jim Newhart of Osgood Indiana, he is a member of the 32nd Indiana Infantry. Refreshments will be provided by Brown Twp.

▲ Research \$5.00 for non-members and all mailed requests, and \$1.00 per page copied for everyone. **VOLUNTEERS TO WORK AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE BADLY NEEDED (NO PAY). CONTACT CHERYL WELCH IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WORKING ONE DAY A WEEK FROM 1:00 TO 4:00 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.**

▲ 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. **We are now printing the Ripley County History Book Vol. II**

▲ We would like to thank the REMC's Operation Roundup program for the grant to purchase a new computer to help with saving our records and old newspapers.

▲ Fran Campbell has donated several books on genealogy. She also gave two new history books.

▲ Ross' Run DAR purchased a new American Flag for the Archives, they hold their meeting here.

▲ **Wilber's War**, a three book series, on The American experience in wartime, captured by a son who visited the battlefields where his father fought, met those his father knew (both friend and former foe), and struggled to untangle the threads of his family's wartime legacy. The Book Can Be Bought at Amazon. He will be at South Ripley High School on April 6, 2017, evening for the community. The time is not yet established.

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. Memorial Day through Labor Day & on Pumpkin Show Saturday Sep. 23rd. Questions call 812-689-3031.

NOTICE: 2017 Yearly Dues are due in January 2017. Mail your renewal for 2017 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 & Vicinity</i>	12
<i>Sugar Branch</i> by Don Morrison	16	Shipping Charges added for all books	5
<i>Ripley County History Vol. II</i>	25		

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

The winter quarterly meeting of the Society was held at the RCHS Archives Building on January 8, 2017. The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Welch at 2:00 P.M. following which she led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Frank Keenan read the minutes for the autumn 2016 quarterly meeting, which were approved as read. Treasurer Owen Menchhofer's Report was distributed and approved by the attendees. Owen pointed out that his report reflects the Society's water and sewer costs have recently increased. On the other hand, noted Owen, since the Society's switch from Frontier to Straight Talk Wireless Home Phone system, the Society's telephone costs have gone from about \$96.00 per month to \$17.00 per month. Owen additionally noted that the Society member Dannie Welch recently undertook the tedious task of scanning a decade's worth of County newspapers at the Court House, thereby making hard copies of these local newspapers available for research at the Archives Building. Thank you, Dannie.

We have setup an account with Amazon Smile. If you change your Amazon account to an Amazon Smile account and select **Ripley County Indiana Historical Society**. We receive a donation from Amazon when you make a purchase. It cost you nothing and you use your same user name and password.

President Welch noted that the Society's Nominating Committee, composed of herself, as Director of Shelby Township; Duane Drockelman, Director of Adams Township; and Barb Eades, Archives Volunteer, will put forth a slate of proposed Directors for upcoming vacancies, to be voted on by attendees at the April 2017 meeting of the Society.

As of the Spring meeting there are/will be five (5) Director vacancies, namely, the directorship for the following Townships: Delaware; Laughery; Otter Creek; Shelby and Washington.

With respect to the Spring 2017 meeting, Cheryl pointed out that unless changed, the Spring meeting falls on Palm Sunday. Cheryl suggested that, accordingly, we ought to change the date for the Society's Spring meeting. Treasurer Menchhofer moved that the Spring meeting be **rescheduled for Sunday, April 2, 2017**. Secretary Keenan seconded the motion which was approved unanimously by all members in attendance.

Cheryl also noted that with but five (5) volunteers at the Archives Building, the need for additional volunteers remains.

The program was presented by Teresa Carmichael, a stained-glass artisan. Teresa took us through the fourteen (14) challenging steps that she goes through to create a finished stain glass product, starting with the drafting of a pattern of the object to be made. Several attendees purchased available pieces of her work.

Brown Township will provide refreshments for the April meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Keenan, Secretary

NEW COPIER



The Directors of Ripley County Historical Society would like to Thank the Tyson Fund Directors for our new copier. Picture shows Duane Drockelman making good use of it.



The Ripley County Historical Society would like to Thank the Southeastern Indiana REMC's Operation Roundup program for the Grant Money to buy a new computer and hard drives to save old records and newspapers at the Historical Society.

Pictured receiving the check President Cheryl Welch, Volunteer Barbara Eades and Owen Menchhofer, Treasurer.

REMC Board Members; Owen Menchhofer, Steve Black, Jerry Lamb, Keith Mathews, General Manager of REMC Osgood.

Judy Copeland, Barry Lauber, office manager REMC Osgood, Carla Elston.



THE PRICE THEY PAID

*Have you ever wondered
what happened to those men who signed the
Declaration of Independence?*

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Continental Army. Another had two sons captured. Nine of the fifty-six signers fought and died from wounds or the hardships of the American Revolution.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-five were lawyers or jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers or large plantation owners. These were men of means and education. Yet they signed the Declaration of Independence, knowing full well that the penalty could be death if they were captured.

When these courageous men signed, they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the cause of freedom and independence.

Carter Braxton was a wealthy planter and trader. One by one his ships were captured by the British navy. He was forced to sell his plantations and mortgage his properties to pay his mounting debts. His remaining estate was finally seized by his creditors.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he had to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Continental Congress without pay, and kept his family in hiding.

Vandals or soldiers or both looted the properties of Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the Battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the family home for his headquarters. Nelson urged General George Washington to open fire on his own home. This was done, and the home was destroyed. Nelson later died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis also had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

"Honest John" Hart was driven from his wife's bedside when she was near death. Their thirteen children fled for their lives. Hart's fields and his grist mill were laid waste. While eluding capture, he never knew where his bed would be the next night. He often slept in forests and caves. When he returned home in December of 1777, he found that his wife had died, and his children had vanished.

Such are the stories and sacrifices typical of those who risked everything to sign The Declaration of Independence. These men were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave us our Liberty.



Can we keep it?

County, Indiana, Historical



OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Adams Twp. - Mr. Duane Drockelman, 10238 N. Adams Church Rd, Batesville, IN 47006		
Brown Twp. - Mr. Frank Keenan, 3241 E State Rd 62, Cross Plains, IN 47017		Vice President
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