

The Quarterly Bulletin
RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Library – 125 Washington Street
Museum – Corner of Main and Water Streets
Versailles, Indiana 47042

www.rchslib.org

e-mail: staff@rchslib.org

April 2021

HAPPY SPRING!!

Number 2

▲ **April Quarterly Meeting Canceled**

The Historical Society meeting for April 11, 2021 has been canceled. Our next meeting will be held July 11, 2021. More information will be available in the July newsletter.

▲ **Library Hours**



NOTICE: The library is now open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 1 pm-4 pm. For those not able to visit us in person, email your requests for information to staff@rchslib.org or regular mail to P O Box 525 Versailles, IN 47042. We look forward to serving your research needs.

NOTICE: The Museum will be open by appointment only. To schedule an appointment call Cheryl Welch, President 812-621-0418, Duane Drockelman, Vice President 812-852-1313 or Barbara Eades, Director at Large 812-701-9238.



▲ **Annual Dues**

Remember to renew your membership for another year. 2021 Yearly Dues are due in January. Mail your renewal for 2021 to RCHS at P.O. Box 525, Versailles, IN 47042 Dues: Annual \$15; Life \$150.

▲ **Research**

Research is free to all members and \$7.00 for non-members. Copies/scans are \$1.00 per page for everyone and can be sent via email or in paper form. To take pictures of copies a \$2.00 charge will be taken. Please make your research requests via email or regular mail.

▲ **Volunteers Needed**

We are looking for volunteers to donate 3 hours of their time one day a week, Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. If you live in Delaware Township, please consider volunteering to be a director from your township. Contact Cheryl Welch if you are interested in filling any of these positions.

▲ **Books**

See our list of books available listed on the last page of this newsletter. The WWII War Veterans Book, titled *LEST WE FORGET* by Joan and Norris Krall 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 (3) 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). Checks should be made payable to Ripley County Historical Society. Books may be shipped for a \$7.50 shipping and handling fee.

WE PAY TRIBUTE



Helen Cornelia (Vayhinger) Caplinger, 100, of Osgood passed away at 7:45pm, Thursday, December 31, 2020 at the Manderley Health Care Center in Osgood. She was born in Osgood on September 5, 1920 the daughter of Vernon and Alice Knowlton Vayhinger and spent her entire life there. She was married to Norman Caplinger in Bedford, Kentucky on October 19, 1940 and he preceded her in death on April 11, 1994. Survivors include two sons Terry (Cathy Matz) Caplinger of Osgood and Tom (Kathy Braley) Caplinger of Fairland; three grandchildren Mike Caplinger and Bob (Teresa) Caplinger of Thorntown, and Susan (Jason) Luby of Monroe, Georgia, and several great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by her parents, and her brother Albert Vayhinger and his wife Kathlyn. Mrs. Caplinger was a 1938 graduate of Osgood High School. During her past 100 years she worked and volunteered at several places. She worked in her dad's law office in Osgood, in the Ripley County Courthouse, and retired from the Southeastern Indiana REMC. She also volunteered at the Ripley County Historical Society and contributed to both volumes of the Ripley County history books. She

also volunteered at the Osgood Library, Osgood Museum, and food pantry. Helen was a lifetime member of the Osgood United Methodist Church where she taught Sunday school, was a leader on several committees, and helped with their many dinners and rummage sales. She loved people and loved helping others. Her immediate family, her church family and her community were very dear to her heart and she enjoyed the annual family vacations in Wisconsin. She had a smile for everyone she met. Her family would always chuckle when she said liked to read to the "old people" at Manderley, she being in her 80s at the time. Her life was very full and she'll be missed by many. Her family loved her very much and will miss her sweet smile and warm hug.



Helen Caplinger on her 100th Birthday

DIRECTORS

Directors terms expiring in April 2021 have all been contacted and will serve through 2024. Delaware Township has an open position for Director. If you are interested in serving your community through the Historical Society, please contact Cheryl Welch, President.

THANK YOU



Thank you to the Southeastern Indiana REMC for approving our grant request to purchase a new book edge scanner, hard drive and memory. The book scanner will help in serving the community with their research needs and the hard drive and memory will allow more items saved. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Pictured are volunteers Cheryl Welch, President and Duane Drockelman, Vice President of Ripely County Historical Society.

Thank you to the Tyson Fund for approving the grant for our new book binder. This binder is capable of both coil and comb bindings and will be used for our in house publications. We appreciate the generosity of the Tyson Funds. Pictures is volunteer Barbara Eades, Director at Large of Ripley County Historical Society.



Historical Society Dedicated Marker at New Marion

Sunday, September 17, 1922

Copied from *Versailles Republican & Osgood Journal* Sept 20, 1922



The unveiling of the marker erected by the Ripley County Historical Society to mark the site of the first seat of justice in this county drew about a thousand people in New Marion Sunday and was made the occasion of an impressive dedicatory service. The marker is located on the east side of the road at the top of the hill leading up from Big Graham Creek. It is made of Bedford stone and is the gift of Joseph Hassmer. The work was done by Jenkins & Holman. It served as a double purpose, that of marking the site of the first court held in Ripley County, and is also a road marker.

The forenoon program was conducted from a platform near the marker. The Rev. Gains, pastor of the New Marion Baptist congregation delivered the address of welcome and conducted a brief devotional service from the text "where there is no vision the people perish".

Judge F. M. Thompson delivered the address in behalf of the Historical Society. He said that one hundred four years ago last July [July 23, 1818] the first circuit court held in this county was convened in the house of Benjamin Brown, which crowned the eminence just east of where the marker stands, by the side of historic Michigan Road.

This was then the third judicial circuit of Indiana and was presided over by Judge Test. Judge Thompson expressed the hope that the marker would serve to remind this and future generations of the hardships and privations endured by our sturdy forefathers and of their early desire to establish justice and to live under constructed law in place of the mob. He made eloquent plea for renewed devotion to the Constitution of the founders of our State and Nation and for increased respect for obedience to the laws of God and man.

At the close of the exercises at the marker a group photograph was taken. A long table had been prepared on the church lawn and at the noon hour this heaped with mounds of delicious fried chicken, pie, cake and many other edibles prepared and served by the good women of Shelby township who are famed for their culinary skill and hospitality. To this feast all were invited and if any of the multitude departed hungry it was their own fault.



The afternoon exercise was conducted in the Baptist Church which had been artistically decorated for the occasion. This program was lengthy and contained so many good features that only a bare mention can be made of any one of them. Suffice to say that Rev. Rolla Beach and Prof. Arie Taylor came "back home" to talk to their old neighbors and friends who greatly enjoyed their happy reminiscences. The Rev. Scheidler, pastor of the Catholic congregation at St. Magdalene, read a brief history of that congregation and made a plea for closer relations between Catholics and non-Catholics.

Mrs. Emma King Benham read a poem appropriate to the occasion and which she had composed especially for the event. William E Ryker gave a history of the New Marion Baptist church which was organized in 1835. Mr. Chas. S Royce read a very interesting historical sketch of Shelby Township. Prof. Harry Dannecker read a poem written by his wife, Hazel Donovan Dannecker especially for the occasion.

Letters were read from Judge Charles K Bagot, Rev. Frank Klotscher and Kennie E Rea, former Shelby Township citizens now residing elsewhere, each expressing keen regret at his inability to attend the home-coming and conveying best wishes to old friends.

Brief talks were made by Dr. Frank Welch, Dr. Fred Daubtnheyer, Mr. Will P. Castner, Mr. Brainard L. Vawter, Mrs. Lizzie Myers Ellerman, Dr. John N Hess, all of whom expressed their joy at meeting so many old friends and recalling the events of by-gone days.

The music for the day was furnished by local talent under the direction of Mrs. Gertrude Bovard and Mrs. Emma Creath. The biggest event of the day however was the opportunity offered for meeting old friends and renewing old acquaintances.

The historical Society of Ripley County had a big program mapped out. Ripley County is rich in historical material and it is the purpose of the society to collect this material now before those who helped make Ripley County have passed away. History is the record of what had been done by the people whether it is in a nation, state, county or community and it is the history of individual communities that makes the history of the nation.

Everybody should belong to the Historical Society of Ripley County. The dues are only 50¢ per year and the society needs some money to carry on its work. If you cannot participate actively in the work of the society, you can spare 50¢ to help carry on the work. Mrs. Clara Jones of Osgood will accept your money and enroll you as a member of the society.

In conclusion of the very enjoyable and profitable day's events, W.D. Robinson, representing the Ripley County Historical Society, urging the importance of preserving the ancient land-marks and collecting data for a reliable history of Ripley County before descendants of the Pioneers have all passed away.

BOOKS FOR SALE

A Century of Schools	by Alan Smith	\$20.00
Adams Township Cemetery Directory		\$10.00
Broken Wings	by Robert Kelly	\$20.00
Brown Township Cemetery Records		\$10.00
Brown Township Tales	by Alan Smith	\$20.00
History of Adams Township	by Harold Freeland	\$20.00
Historic Travel Guide to Ripley County	by Paul R Wanning	\$20.00
In These First Bright Days of Elvis Book I	by Josephine Rascoe Keenan	\$16.00
In Those Dazzling Days of Elvis Book II	by Josephine Rascoe Keenan	\$16.00
In Those Glory Days of Elvis Book III	by Josephine Rascoe Keenan	\$16.00
Jackson Township Cemetery Records		\$13.00
Johnson Township Cemetery Records		\$10.00
Lest We Forget a Tribute to the World War II Veterans of Ripley County	by Norris & Joan Krall	\$25.00
Milan, Indiana: A Storied Past 1854-2004		\$16.00
Napoleon & Vicinity Sesquicentennial 1820-1970		\$12.00
Old Timbers	by Chilton Thompson	\$23.00
Osgood Indiana Sesquicentennial 1856-2006		\$17.00
Passing Point	by Don Morrison	\$ 8.00
Revolutionary War Soldiers and Patriots with Ties to Ripley County Indiana	by Marlene Jan McDermert	\$34.00
Ripley County, IN Vintage Post Cards	by Alan Smith	\$20.00
Ripley County History Volume I		\$65.00
Ripley County History Volume II	(Paperback)	\$25.00
Passing Point	by Don Morrison	\$ 8.00
Story of the Bra Fund, the F. Hale Bradt		
Family and their Versailles, Indiana Farm		
1906 – 2001		n/c
Sugar Branch #1	by Don Morrison	\$16.00
The Dark Line #2	by Don Morrison	\$20.00
Come Safe Home #3	by Don Morrison	\$20.00
Tales of Versailles	by Alan Smith	\$16.00
Versailles, Indiana School Life 1818 -1966	by Alan Smith	\$20.00
Wilbur's War (Abridged)	by Hale Bradt	\$15.00

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

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