

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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April 2023

HAPPY EASTER

Number 2

▲ **April Quarterly Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held March 26, 2023 at the Ripley County Historical Archive. Note the change of date due to the regular meeting date being Easter Sunday. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm. Refreshments will be served by Franklin Twp. We look forward to seeing you in person.

▲ **Library Hours**



NOTICE: The library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 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 is 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. 2023 Yearly Dues are due in January. Mail your renewal for 2023 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, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Contact Cheryl Welch if you are interested in volunteering.

▲ **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 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 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.

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

The Ripley County Historical Society held their quarterly meeting January 8, 2023 at the archives. Six members were present.

President Cheryl Welch called the meeting to order and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Barbara Eades read the minutes from the last meeting. They were approved as read.

Cheryl Welch presented the treasurers report in the absence of Owen Menchhofer. It was approved as presented.

Old Business:

- The history book was discussed. We should be receiving a digital proof later in January and a proof book in February.

New Business:

- Wreaths Across Ripley County: Donations made and received at the Ripley County Community Foundation by January 12, 2023 will be eligible for a two for one wreath match for December 2023 Wreaths Across Ripley County. A discussion was held regarding a donation from the Historical Society. Fred Glover moved to donate \$1000. Penny Brinson seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.
- Election of Officers will be held at our next meeting. Directors will be elected for a 3 year term for Laughery, Otter Creek, Shelby, and Washington and for the remaining term for Brown Township. President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be elected for a one year term.
- Barbara Eades is serving as interim secretary.
- The date for the next meeting was discussed as the regular date falls on Easter Sunday. We decided to meet April 16.

The floor was opened up to questions:

- A discussion was held as to how to increase attendance at the quarterly meetings. A suggestion was made to meet at various places throughout the county each quarter. Some places mentioned were Osgood Museum, Batesville Museum, Versailles State Park, Sunman Museum, Milan 54 Museum, and Central House.

Other items brought up for discussion:

- Replacing carpet and painting.
- Replacing the museum steps. Barbara Eades will get a quote for painting and steps.
- Do we qualify for a historical landmark?

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m. Refreshments were served by Delaware Township.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Eades, Acting Secretary

Note: The 2nd quarterly meeting date has been changed to March 26.

WE REMEMBER



Francis Arthur Keenan, Jr. (Frank) was born November 24, 1939, in Stoneham, MA. He is preceded in death by his mother, Esther MacKenzie Keenan and his father, Francis Arthur Keenan, Sr. He graduated from Malden Catholic High School in 1957 and received an A.B. degree in Economics from Boston College in 1961. Frank then earned his law degree from Boston University School of Law. Frank was then commissioned as an officer in the United States Army, serving four years as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corp. He was stationed in the Pentagon in Washington D.C. and in 1967 he did a tour of duty in Vietnam as a foreign claims commissioner. He received The Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. On December 14, 1968, Frank married the love of his life, Josephine Rascoe of El Dorado, Arkansas. The couple moved to Cincinnati, OH in 1969 where Frank was a trial specialist for the National Labor Relations Board until 1979, when he became an arbitrator and a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators. Frank belonged to the MacDowell Society of Cincinnati, The Ohio Society, Frontier Squares, and The Metallic Club where he presented a program entitled A Lawyer's Tour of Duty in Vietnam. He received the Crystal Owl Award from the American Arbitration Association for his work as an arbitrator. Frank was happiest when spending time communing with nature on the couple's eighty acres in Cross Plains, IN. He is survived by his wife, Josephine, of 54 years. He will be remembered for his infectious smile, his kind, forgiving nature, his wonderful stories, and the love he had for friends, family, and God's beautiful world. A funeral Service was held on Saturday, January 28, 2023, at 11:00 am at The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 2944 Erie Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45208, followed by a luncheon reception at the church. In lieu of flowers, please donate in Frank's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. www.springgrove.org

Frank served on the Ripley County Historical Society Board of Directors for Brown Township since 2007 and served as Secretary since April 2008.

WE REMEMBER



Gordon L. Arnold IV, age 40 of Batesville, died Thursday, March 2, 2023 at his home. Born September 28, 1982 in Miami, Florida, he is the son Diane (Nee: Decker) and Gordon Arnold III. He was brick mason for Steven Gartenman Masonry.

Gordy as he was known to friends, was an avid fan of many sports. He enjoyed watching soccer, golf, football and baseball. A die hard Miami Hurricanes fan, he would later become just as passionate about the Cincinnati Reds, not missing an opening day game for the last 20 plus years. He also was a long time participant in fantasy baseball. Gordy like keeping current with world events, had a wonderful sense of humor and was described by his family as an adventurous eater.

He is survived by his mother Diane Arnold of Batesville; aunts Kay Koppel, Cynthia Decker, Marty (Teck) Tekulve; uncle Thomas Travis and cousins Thomas Travis, Michelle Pitstick, Todd Tekulve, Melissa Garver, Ted Tekulve, Kata Koppel and Thomas Koppel. In addition to his father, he is also preceded in death by his aunt Cathy Travis and grandparents Mae and Gilbert Decker and Helen and Gordon Arnold Jr.

Funeral services are 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 8th at St. Louis Church. Following services Gordy will be cremated and a private interment will be held. The family requests memorials to the Batesville Food Pantry.

High School Year Books

High school yearbooks can be a good source of information when working on genealogy. Not only will you find the graduating senior photos, for most books, you will find photos of under classmen.

The Ripley County Historical Society has the following year books from county schools, available for you to view:

Batesville High School - 1921

Cross Plains High School – 1948, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, and 1959

Milan High School – 1925

Sunman High School – 1952

South Ripley High School – 1971, 1973, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984

We will gladly accept past Ripley County High School yearbooks for our archives.

Other School related books:

A Century of Schools, A History of Caesar Creek and Clay Township Schools by Alan F. Smith
(available for purchase \$20)

Holton School Past Tense 1852-1991

New Marion Memories, A History of Shelby Township and New Marion Schools 1828-1966

Versailles, Indiana School Life 1818-1966 by Alan F. Smith Jr. (available for purchase \$20)

We also have school senior composite pictures from Cross Plains High School 1938-1966, Holton High School 1927-1969, New Marion High School 1938-1966, and Versailles High School 1929-1966.

Thank you to Cheryll Obendorf for donating South Ripley High School Year Book for 1973 in memory of her sister Marla Black Robles.

Thanks to the Family of Jean Adkins for donating the South Ripley High School Year Books for 1976, 1977, 1978, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1998

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 Wonnig	\$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 McDerment	\$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 Bradt 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

Adams Twp. - Mr. Duane Drockelman, 10238 N. Adams Church Rd, Batesville, IN 47006 Vice President
Brown Twp. -
Center Twp. - Mr. Charles Hughes, P.O. Box 195, Osgood, IN 47037
Delaware Twp. – Mrs. Kay Koppel, 1583 Co Rd 700 N, Osgood, IN 44037
Franklin Twp. – Mr. Fred Glover, 5611 E Co Rd 300 N, Milan, IN 47031
Jackson Twp. - Mr. Delbert Abplanalp, 4543 W Co Rd 800 N, Osgood, IN 47037
Johnson Twp. - Mr. Owen Menchhofer, 1970 N Co Rd 300 W, Holton, IN 47023 Treasurer
Laughery Twp. – Mrs. Diane Arnold 601 Washington St. Batesville, In 47006
Otter Creek Twp. – Mr. Michael Stratton, 4300 W. U.S. 50, Holton, IN 47023
Shelby Twp. - Mrs. Cheryl Welch, 6453 S Co Rd 225 W, Versailles, IN 47042 President
Washington Twp. – Mrs. Jeri Walker, 1721 N. Co. Rd. 575 E Milan, Indiana 47031
Director at Large – Mrs. Barbara Eades 3953 E. Olean Rd. Versailles, Indiana 47042
Honorary Director – Mrs. Sandra Meisberger 4662 W. Co. Rd. 450 S. Versailles, Indiana 47042
Lori Hoffman, 5565 E. Lower Dry Fork Rd. Madison, IN 47250 Web Master
Barbara Eades & Cheryl Welch Newsletter Committee