

**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](http://www.rchslib.org)

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**April 2024**

**HAPPY SPRING**

**Number 2**

▲ **April Quarterly Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held April 14, 2024 at the Ripley County Historical Archive. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm. Refreshments will served by Shelby Twp. Mike Stephens from the Osgood Museum will present the program. 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 [rchslib@gmail.com](mailto:rchslib@gmail.com) 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, Secretary 812-701-9238.



▲ **Annual Dues**

Remember to renew your membership for another year. 2024 Yearly Dues are due in January. Mail your renewal for 2024 to RCHS at P.O. Box 525, Versailles, IN 47042 Dues: Annual \$20; Life \$150.

▲ **Research**

Research is free to all members and \$10.00 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. Research is free to all members.

▲ **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.



## THANK YOU

Thank you to the Versailles Osgood Delta Rho Chapter of Tri Kappa for their generous donation of \$1000. Your support and generosity is greatly appreciated. Pictured is Barbara Eades, RCHS Secretary, Cheryl Welch, RCHS President, and Kaitlyn Rork, Tri Kappa Representative.

The Ripley County Museum has a new look. The old narrow and steep back steps have been replaced with new wider steps and a concrete landing has been added. Many thanks the Tyson Fund for the grant and to Wildcat Contracting for doing the work. Make an appointment to visit the museum, 812-689-3031



## RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

**Ripley County Historical Society: Archives** – P. O. Box 525, 125 N Washington Street, Versailles, IN 47042. 812-689-3031 Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 1 pm-4 pm. **Museum** – Open by appointment only.

**Osgood Historical Museum**: 128 South Buckeye Osgood, IN 47037. 812-689-1876 Open Friday and Saturday 2 pm – 6pm, Sunday Noon – 4pm

**Batesville Area Historical Society**: 15 W George Street Batesville, IN 47006, 812-932-0999 Open Thursday & Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m.-noon.

## UP COMING EVENTS

**Eclipse** – April 8 Check your local area for events.

**Music on the Square (Holdsworth Entertainment Pavilion)** 128 N. Main Street Versailles, IN

June 5 – Renegades, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

June 22 – Mills Run; Noel, Pickett, & King; Dan Gutapfel & Ann Coleman, 2 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

July 3 – Eureka Band, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Batesville Area Historical Society**

Yesterday's Toy Exhibit March 24 through September 24.

## RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

The Ripley County Historical Society held their quarterly meeting January 13, 2024 at the archives. Nine members were present.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Delbert J. Abplanalp.

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.

Owen Menchhofer presented the treasurer's report.

Dwayne Drockelman moved to accept the reports as presented, Fred Glover seconded the motion. All approved.

### Old Business:

- Ripley County History Book – Tracy hasn't picked up the corrections/additions made.
- The Tyson Grant was approved for the replacement of the steps and a concrete landing at the museum. Work will start on this project as weather permits.
- Thank you to Owen Menchhofer for pressure washing and sealing the decking at the museum.
- In regards to the notice from Duke Energy about tree trimming. The tree in front of the museum, which may be the largest tree in town, is in the town right of way. No action has been taken.
- Wreaths Across Ripley County: Owen thanked everyone who volunteered and donated to the 2023 campaign. Over 4,300 wreaths were placed to recognize veterans in Ripley County. Three cemeteries in the Oldenburg area added another 240 wreaths. Baylor trucking presented an educational lesson on wreaths to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders at South Ripley in December.
- A thank you note was read from the Ripley County Community Foundation for our participation in this years Wreaths Across Ripley County.
- The Historical Society had over 100 visitors for the Coming Home for Christmas event sponsored by Versailles Main Street.
- New flooring for the archives was again discussed. The front part is tile the rest is wood. Options for covering was discussed.

### New Business:

- Posts at the museum have been painted. The front door will be painted in the spring. Thank you to Danny & Cheryl Welch for taking care of this.
- New roof on Archives has been completed by Regional Roofing.
- Wreaths Across Ripley County: Wreaths may be purchased for December 2024 at 2 for 1 until January 16.
- We still have a vacancy for a director for Jackson Township.
- Programs for 2024 were discussed. Mike from the Osgood Museum will present the program for the April 14 meeting.
- Directors for Adams, Brown, Center, and Delaware Townships for 2024-2026 will be voted on at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the program presented by Barbara Eades. RCHS member, Steve Watty of California, shared an AI application within My Heritage software about his maternal 2 Great Grandfather, Ernst Otto Stelzner. He was born in Germany in 1818, immigrated to Olean, Indiana in 1846, and died in 1865 in Wisconsin as a result of the tolls of the Civil War. It was a very interesting presentation with a "talking" picture of Ernst. Thank you to Steve Watty for providing the DeepStory.

Thank you to Laughery Township for serving refreshments.

The next meeting will be held April 14, 2024, 2:00 p.m. at the Ripley County Historical Archives. Refreshments will be served by Shelby Township.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Eades, Secretary

## 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
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. - Mrs. Barbara Eades, 3953 E. Olean Rd. Versailles, Indiana 47042	Secretary
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. -	
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. – Mr. Gary Johnson, 1723 S Friendship Rd. Milan IN 47031	
Director at Large – Mr. Roger Abplanalp, 2738 W. Co Rd 450 N. Osgood, IN 47037	
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