

The Quarterly Bulletin
Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc.
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▲ The Ripley Co. Historical Society will meet **Sunday, April 8th, at 2:00P.M.** at the Archive Library on the West side of Versailles Courthouse Square. The program for our next meeting will be Duane Drockelman, about the upcoming Celebration for Ripley County 200 anniversary.

▲ Research \$7.00 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**

▲ **Ripley County Townships Historical Information**

Duane Drockelman, is making a request to gather information from all the Townships to put together as a project, for the Ripley County Bi-Centennial for 2018. Would each representative Board member for their respective Township send information, such as: old communities no longer in existence, schools, churches, cemeteries, etc. Interesting old stories or historical events that occurred would be great. Individuals who are members also feel free to send any information. Please send to the Historical Society Archives by email or mail attention Duane by April 14, 2018.

▲ **Ripley County to Celebrate Bi-Centennial with Numerous Activities**

A day to celebrate the two hundred years for Ripley County is scheduled to be held on Sunday, April 15, 2018 at the Ripley County Fairgrounds in Osgood. There are many and various activities being planned, so mark your calendars for the special event.

The Historical Society has agreed to have our museum, along with the Batesville, Milan, Osgood, and Sunman museums to be open for the two Saturday weekends prior to the celebration for special events. The Society will have the need for 3 volunteers to assist on those two Saturday 10 o'clock A.M. until 2 o'clock P.M. There will be more information as to what activities will be taking place at the museums as plans are finalized.

▲ **Library Hours**

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: 2018 Yearly Dues are due in January 2018. Mail your renewal for 2018 to RCHS at P.O. Box 525, Versailles, IN 47042 Dues: Annual \$15; Life \$150.

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

The winter quarterly meeting of the Society was held at the RCHS Archives Building on January 14, 2018. 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 fall 2017 quarterly meeting, which were approved as read. Treasurer Owen Menchhofer's report was distributed to and approved by the attendees.

President Welch noted that a component of the Archives Building's furnace recently needed to be replaced. The cost of replacement was \$500.00, plus labor for installation. The Society has not yet received the final bill.

President Welch expressed the Society's gratitude to the Tyson Fund for their generous grant of \$973.67 for the computer and monitor, hard drive plus much needed file cabinets for the many historical documents that are stored on the second floor of the Archives Building.

Vice President Drockelman put out a call for one (1) minute vignettes about the various townships in the County, such as the first settlers in the townships, or where the first schoolhouse was built, etc. Some of these may be read on radio station FM 103.9 in the coming months as part of the County's Bicentennial celebration. Cheryl noted that Society member Diane Arnold has recently volunteered to work at the Archives Building. Thank you, Diane.

The PowerPoint program, entitled 17 Yen Bay, A Tour of Duty in Vietnam, was presented by Secretary Frank Keenan, who served as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps for 4 years, including a tour of duty in Vietnam in 1967. Frank gave an often poignant, often humorous, account of his experience as a Foreign Claims Commissioner in Da Nang during the war. One such claim that Frank awarded involved a trip outside Da Nang where the Sea Bees had built a school for a small village. Also attending the presentation of the check for claimed damages was a phalanx of Marine brass: full colonels, Lt. Colonels, and Majors. Frank's interpreter, speaking Vietnamese and ostensibly trying to impress the Chief, introduced Frank as General Westmoreland's aide. Nothing was further from the truth. Frank shook in his boots at the thought of the repercussions that could occur as a result of the interpreter's mis-representation of his position, but since none of the brass had interpreters, they remained oblivious to the situation, and Frank escaped being court-marshalled. This is just one of the many incidents Frank shared with the attendees.

Refreshments for the next meeting will be furnished by: Jackson Township

Respectively submitted,
Frank Keenan, Secretary

Ripley County Centennial Celebration

The Ripley County Centennial was not celebrated in the normal way as it fell during the date that WW I was still raging. The Centennial was dubbed the Centennial plus 10 as it was finally celebrated on Monday, September 12, 1927. It was an all-day affair as the morning hours included a reception that was held by over 100 individuals representing the 11 townships in the county to welcome the over six thousand individuals attending the event. It brought people together and seemed like a giant Ripley Hoosier Homecoming. Many exhibits and displays of old household antiques, farm equipment, animals, such as oxen and horse teams, and other historical sundry items.

The day was highlighted during the afternoon hours by a seven act Pageant called "The Weaving of Ripley County" written and directed by local Historian, Minnie Wycoff of Batesville. 1200 individuals from every community and township with their local history participated in or assisted in the pageant presentation. There was a 50 by 50 foot four level stage constructed in front of the fairgrounds grandstand. The stage was amplified with numerous microphones so that the overflowing grandstand crowd and others seated on the grounds and edge of the track could enjoy the program. The County orchestra was the largest band ever assembled in Ripley County and accompanied the even larger chorus group.

The seven acts of the pageant were as follows: Mound Builders and of that Pre-Historic Race; Native American Period; The Pioneers; Ripley County Established Through Procession of Townships Formed; Our Defenders; Townships Historical Events; and The Future.

The pageant opened with the singing of "America The Beautiful" by the massive crowd and accompanied by the orchestra and chorus.

A group from Adams Township then presented the life of the Mound Builders, dressed in skins and coarse woven material. They brought primitive stone implements and metals that were found in the burial mounds that were disturbed in the county. They performed a memorial burial service.

The Native Indians episode was presented by several lodges of Improved Order of Red Men of the county that depicted the Woodlands Native American life found in the past. Costumed in Indian regalia and led by Shawnee Chieftain Quacowanee and his princess Sunshine, this group did a ceremonial dance, smoked the peace pipes and enacted the picturesque life of the Native Americans.

The Pioneer episode was presented by two groups from the Batesville area. The first represented the French fur traders and exploration by LaSalle. Father Marquette in the era of missionary work in the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys. The American Legion represented Col. George Rogers Clark and Gen. William Henry Harrison in defeating the British and laying the foundation of America in the Northwest Territory.

The "Spirit of Indiana" and "Spirit of Ripley County Today" of how both were organized and the formation of the townships was narrated by two ladies. They were assisted by young ladies serving as Heralds with banners of their respective townships. A group of prominent citizens along with Judge John E. Carney presented an early Ripley County court scene.

A number of presentations with features portraying the history of several of the townships was then presented:

Adams Twp. presentation was the coming in 1820 of Richard Wortman leading a horse, which rode a young wife and infant "George", becoming one of the first settlers in the township.

Brown Twp. featured the Ft. Buchanan Block House and its defenders to protect the neighboring early settlers. This was one of the 6 forts constructed in 1813 under orders of the Federal Government for protection in Southeastern Indiana and Southwestern Ohio that was built near Cross Plains. A group of old-time resident fiddlers played whose music captured the crowd.

Center Twp. contributed an early Otter Creek church service with a congregation of 70 people arriving on foot, horseback and farm wagons. The congregation sang "We will Gather by the River" and knelt in prayer while the minister asked for the blessing of this great day. The Civil War was discussed and the twelve surviving county veterans were recognized and those in attendance were called to the stage for great crowd applause.

Delaware Twp. old time pioneer harvesting was enacted, along with, spinning, weaving and a quilting party. An old-time Fiddlers contest was held and enjoyed by the crowd.

Jackson Twp. depicted an old time wedding, infare and charivari. The wedding scene was complete to passing the cake which was consumed with great gusto by the wedding party. A most realistic old fashion blacksmith shop under a Chestnut tree, was mounted on a float that was pulled by a magnificent team of Texas Long-horn cattle. The Blacksmith showed how to make a horseshoe for a pony on stage.

Johnson Twp. featured a group of 16 young people costumed in the era of 1830-1850. They presented a quadrille, the minuet and games and songs that would have been done at play parties for that period of time. They kept step to the strains of the fiddler and the caller for an old fashioned hayride. Morgan's Raiders and Gen. Hobson's Union Force was portrayed by Horsemen from throughout the county in Civil War uniforms attire. The act was narrated as though Morgan's Rebel force was on his trail in July, 1863 through the various townships within the county.

Franklin, Laughery, Otter Creek, Washington, and Shelby Twp. contributed many ways throughout the pageant to assist other township's presentations.

The Episode of "The Veterans of the County" were further recognized and as the khaki wearing uniform soldiers of WWI were introduced, the crowd rose and gave a long standing ovation.

The final Episode was "The Future Pledge" sung by a group of young school children fittingly closed the program. There were approximately 2,000 school age children present for the pageant to learn the history of Ripley County.

This article by Duane Drockelman was written from the Versailles Republican, Osgood Journal, and the Batesville Herald Tribune news articles published shortly following the Pageant on September, 1927. Minnie Wycoff also made reference to the Pageant in Volume 1 of the "The Builders of Batesville" Historical Publication written by her.

2018 Ripley County Bicentennial Celebration

The Ripley Bicentennial Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, April 15, 1:00 to 5:00 at the Ripley County Fairgrounds Park in Osgood. The event is planned to include activities and interest for all ages as a family affair. There will be a number of Ripley County local restaurant food vendors available preparing "Tastes of Ripley County" along with local beer brewers and wineries.

There will be a Ripley County Artisan Gallery display that will show local paintings and pieces of art created from past and present artists. County Homemaker clubs will have plenty of items on display. The Farm Bureau is planning on having an exhibit showing the names of the Centennial, Sesquicentennial and Bicentennial Farms within the county that have been recognized by the State of Indiana. The F.A.R.M Club will have some old and newer farm equipment on display. Attendees may try out corn shelling and other pioneer activities by the Batesville Memorial Library. The two kids Discovery Factory from Batesville will have activities.

Vendor booths will be set up to allow local individuals or groups to display handmade projects to view and sell. The wood turners group, artists, bee keepers, sorghum production, etc., to name a few.

Live music will be presented by all five county school systems throughout the afternoon on the fairgrounds stage. There will be an opening ceremony, which will be featuring a patriotic movement. Fourth grade art and history students, throughout the county, are decorating the shape of their respective township on a 4 by 8 sheet of plywood. These will be displayed at one of their local community museums, libraries and other local attractions prior to the Celebration event . They will also be shown at the celebration and voted on by the Peoples Choice Award by those present for a grand prize.

Ripley County "Pieces of The Past Contest" will be held for the two preceding Saturdays prior to the April 15th Celebration. This is for individuals to learn about local history and receive a stamp recognition on a paper puzzle for traveling to 11 county locations. The locations are: Batesville Historical Center and Library, Tyson Library and Ripley County Historical Society, Osgood Historical Society and Library, Sunman Museum, Milan Library, Central House, Pat's Bulk Foods in Shelby Twp and Friendship Grocery in Brown Twp. The drawing prize winner of the contest at the Celebration will receive a handmade, handsome, wooden Ripley County 1878 Map made by Weberding Carving Shop of Batesville.

An Artist Gallery, featuring local artists, will be on exhibit at the Central House in Napoleon for the month prior to the Celebration on Saturday afternoons and then later moved to the fairgrounds for the April 15th Celebration.

Versailles photographer, Anjali Fong, is working on a book project to photograph and feature stories of 200 families or individuals within the county. The project is to show richness of heritage, diversity of residents and faces behind places, inventors, centenarians, historic achievements and everyday heroes making up Ripley County. This book will be donated to all county libraries and historical societies.

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 1950	by Harold Freeland	\$20.00
Jackson Township Cemetery Records		\$13.00
Johnson Township Cemetery Records		\$10.00
Lest We Forget WWII	by RCHS	\$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 Country, 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	by Don Morrison	\$16.00
Take The River	DVD PBS Presentation	\$25.00
Tales of Versailles	by Alan Smith	\$16.00
The Dark Line	by Don Morrison	\$20.00
Those First Bright Days of Elvisby Josephine Rascoe Keenan		\$14.00
In Those Dazzling Days of Elvis By Josephine Rascoe Keenan		\$14.00
Versailles, Indiana School Life 1818-1966 by Alan Smith		\$20.00
Wilbur's War (Abridged) by Hale Bradt		\$15.00

Ripley County, Indiana, Historical



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