

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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VOLUME XXXVI

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Number 1

▲ The Ripley Co. Historical Society will meet **Sunday, January 11, 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 John Stoy on the “Photography, Computer Applications, and Genealogy. It will be “How To” information. Refreshments will be provided by Delaware Twp. Members.

▲ Research \$5.00 for non-members and all mailed requests, and \$1.00 per page copied for everyone.

▲ 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. **NOTE:** Ripley County History Vol. II is no longer available.

▲ **Members that are willing to receive the newsletter via email, please contact RCHSL.** The email address for sending your request is printed above.

▲ A new novel is available at the Ripley County Historical Society by Don Morrison named “The Dark Line” which tells a story of the perils the American Slaves in Kentucky fleeing to Indiana via the Underground Railroad. The Book sells for \$20.

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. through Labor Day & on Pumpkin Show Saturday Sep. 28th. Questions call 812-689-3031. **NOTICE:** 2014 Yearly Dues are due in January 2014. Mail your renewal for 2014 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
Shipping Charges added for all books	5		

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

By Frank Keenan, Secretary

The fall quarterly meeting, held at the Society's Archive Building on Oct. 12, 2014, was called to order by President Cheryl Welch at 2:00 p.m. Cheryl led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cheryl noted that the word "projector" in the third line of the second paragraph of the Society's minutes for the summer meeting of 7/13/14 should be changed to "scanner". The minutes for the summer meeting are so amended.

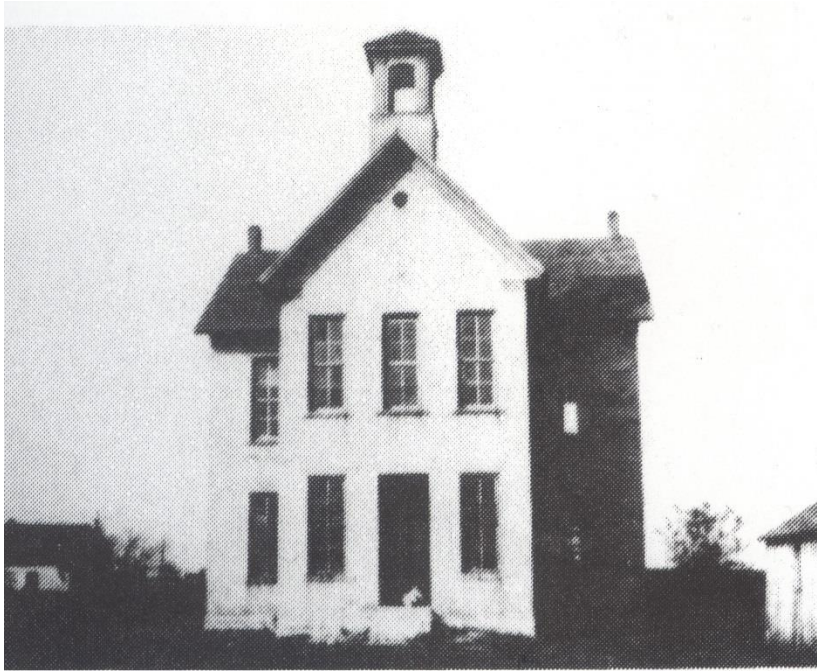
In the absence of Treasurer Owen Menchhofer, Cheryl distributed the Treasurer's Report. Delbert Abplanalp moved that it be approved. The motion was seconded and passed. Delbert suggested that Owen look into the feasibility of the Society's making a "minimum unit investment" in the Ripley County Foundation. Cheryl thanked Tom Krumm for his interesting article on the waning and waxing of the County's deer population from pioneer times to the present. As Tom succinctly concluded: "I'm sure glad someone was smart enough to re-establish the deer population in Ripley County." Cheryl reported that she and Dannie treated the powder post beetle infestation of the Society's Funkhauser-Engle log cabin, noting that until summer we won't know if said treatment worked. Cheryl noted that a four part story by J. Wilson will be included in future Society newsletters. She pointed out that a recent edition of "Country Roads" contains an article on RCHS.

Cheryl moved to have Duane Brochelman serve the remainder of Betty Roepke's term as Director for Adams Township. Secretary Keenan seconded the motion, and it passed. Owen needs volunteers to assist him with chores related to the State's upcoming bicentennial events. Those interested should contact Owen directly. Director Stratton noted that many of the County's cemetery records are 40 years behind. He also noted that the Indiana Historical Society gives guidelines and lessons on grave stone restoration techniques, such as using shaving cream, spatulas, water, and brushes to restore surfaces. Cheryl noted that Don Morrison, former Switzerland County resident, has authored another historical novel titled "**The Dark Line**" which chronicles the adventures of three women who lived in the turbulent border lands of Northern Kentucky and Southern Indiana just prior to the Civil War. The last chapter focuses on events in Cross Plains.

The excellent program was presented by County Surveyor, Jeff French, who laid out a convincing case establishing the arrival of Welch explorers in the late 1100's into today's Mobile Bay in Alabama, under the leadership of Princes Madoc Gwynard. Madoc and his party were assimilated by Native Americans, such as the Mandan and became known as "the blue-eyed Indians." The descendants of Madoc eventually made their way up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers to the Falls-of-the-Ohio between Clark County, IN and Louisville, KY. Native peoples related to George Rodgers Clark said there was a fierce battle between them and "the blue-eyed Indians" in the region of the Falls-of-the-Ohio, and that the "blue-eyed Indians" were defeated and dispersed. In the late 1800's bronze breast plates, Roman coins, 6 to 6 ½ foot skeletons were unearthed in the Clarksville, IN region.

Following the program refreshments were served by Center Township. Delaware Township will be responsible for refreshments at the Society's winter meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Keenan, Secretary



1881-1924 NEW MARION SCHOOL



1908-1910 MALOTTE SCHOOL

HISTORY OF THE RIPLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

BY TOM KRUMM

Ripley became a county in 1818. The first two schools were built in 1820, one in Shelby Township and one in Franklin Township. The first compulsory educational law wasn't passed until 1897. Prior to that schools were built by local citizens when the local populations felt they were necessary.

Over one hundred years ago, there were over 115 one room schools built in Ripley County. They were located every couple miles so the students could walk to school.

Today, there are only 10 public schools in the county managed by 5 school districts (Milan, Sunman, South Ripley, Batesville, and Jac-Cen-Del). Batesville and Sunman are two of the school districts that also cover areas outside our county, where some of the schools are located in adjacent counties. The use of school buses greatly reduced the need for schools in our county.

In the Beginning, teachers were paid as little as \$8.00 per month. Most of the teachers taught several grades at one time. Many of the original schools were made out of logs harvested locally. Many of these schools still exist today. Some of them have been converted into homes or apartments. Others have been torn down. A list of school names that existed are as follows:

Adams Township (9): Morris, St. Paul, Sharps Corner, Bumpter Hill, Spades, Timpke, Kammeyer, and Penntown.

Brown Township (12): Hyatt, Blackkwell, Jarvis, Olean, Benham, Cedar Creek, Dewberry, Jolly, Buzzard Roost, Friendship, Locust Grove, and Whitehall.

Center Township (8): Perseverance, Gray Lane, Albaugh, Taylor, Beach Grove, Ruby, Straber, and Brick.

Delaware Township (11): Mud Pike, Kelley, Baylor, Feather, Stuart, Rounds, Pierceville, Lookout, Bodenburg, Delaware, and Laughery Bridge.

Franklin Township (12): Shockley, Stumpke Corner, Franklin, Clinton, St. Paul, Old Milan, St. Pius, Cutter, Prattsburg, Pierceville, and Lynville.

Jackson Township (87): Shafer, Lamb, Brunner, Newman, Vankirk, Fowl, Napoleon, and Hogan.

Johnson Township (12): Boswell, Splashville, Cedar Creek, Correct, Curran Ridge, Fligo, Tanglewood, Waterloo, Wilson, Union, and Sligo.

Laughery Township (9): Lipps, Mang, Henneke, Cory, Hunsicker, Hayti, Hoyer, Strang, and Ballstown.

Otter Township (14): Little, Norfolk, Brown, Conover, Holton, Dabney, Nip and Tuck, Bethel, Birk Corner, Cedar Creek, Stratton, North Ridge, Kingwood, and North Fork.

Shelby Township (16): Perkins, Haney's Corner, St. Magdalen, Malotte, Spears, Bagot, White Hall, Kingwood, Maple Grove, Rexville, West Fork, Antioch, Marble Corner, Bethel, New Marion, and Titusville.

Washington Township (7): Elrod, Conn, Caesar Creek, Ent, Beall, Smith, and Stringtown.

Today, there are 4,345 students in the Ripley County public schools, and the number of school kids is decreasing. The total population in the county is estimated to be 28,419. The number of citizens over 65 years is now about the same as the number of school age kids (5 to

18). Kids can now be home schooled if the parents approve. There are also 3 private schools where kids can meet their educational needs.

The biggest reduction in public schools occurred in 1941 in Shelby Township when the US government created the Jefferson Proving Grounds. All of the Shelby township schools were consolidated into the New Marion School. Most of the remaining schools were closed over a period of time and the students were sent to consolidated public schools.

To my knowledge, there is no school history book or chapter in our county. Some of the history is in the Ripley County History book published in 1988. It would be great if we created a Ripley County School History book. To do this, we need your help. Please send us what you know about the 115+ one room schools. I have attached a suggested data outline form.

I live in a house about two miles from the Locust Grove School on Cave Hill Road. It is still standing empty but I haven't run across any former students. The school is close to a locust grove of trees, which was the source of its name.

The Friendship School was in three different buildings (a log house no longer standing); a brick building currently being used as a house at the intersection of Route 62 and Friendship Road; and a two story wood sided building on the west side of Friendship being used as two apartments. It was closed in 1961 and the students were transferred to Cross Plain schools. These schools were consolidated into the South Ripley schools.

Please send what you know about the schools listed above so we can pass on this history to future generations. Send it to Tom Krumm at 125 Washington Street, Versailles, IN 47042(tbkrumm@hotmail.com).

Tom Krumm, 12/10/14

Send to 125 Washington St., Versailles, IN 47042

School Data Form from _____

Name of school _____

Location of school _____

Section No. _____

Year started _____ Year closed _____

Building demolished? _____ Building still standing and used as a ? _____

Teacher(s) name _____

Student Names _____

Source of Information _____

Comments about the school history _____

County, Indiana, Historical

Ripley



Society

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Adams Twp. - Mr. Duane Drockelman, 10238 N. Adams Church Rd, Batesville, IN 47006

Vice President

Brown Twp. - Mr. Frank Keenan, 3241 E State Rd 62, Cross Plains, IN 47017

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Center Twp. - Mr. Charles Wm. Gloyd, P.O. Box 195, Osgood, IN 47037

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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

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Laughery Twp. - Mrs. Helen Decker; 314 Crestview Lane, 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. Jerri Driggers, 2046 s. Co. Rd 675 E. Dillsboro, IN 47018

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Lori Hoffman; 5565 E. Lower Dry Fork Rd. Madison, IN 47250

Web Master

Sandra Meisberger & Cheryl Welch

Newsletter Committee

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