

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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▲ The Ripley Co. Historical Society will meet **Sunday, January 10, 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 Warren Bruns from NOAA Weather, on National Weather Service, "The History of Weather Forecasting". Refreshments will be provided by Johnson Twp. Members (Owen Menchhofer).

▲ Research \$5.00 for non-members and all mailed requests, and \$1.00 per page copied for everyone. **VOLUNTEERS TO WORK AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS 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. **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. There is also a new book available "Indiana at 200", A Celebration of the Hoosier State, by Indiana Bicentennial Commission. The Book sells for \$39.95.

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:** 2015 Yearly Dues are due in January 2015. Mail your renewal for 2016 to RCHS at P.O. Box 525, Versailles, IN 47042 Dues: Annual \$15; Life \$150.

THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE:

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|--|------|--|-------|
| <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 |
| <i>Sugar Branch</i> by Don Morrison | 16 | Shipping Charges added for all books | 5 |

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

By Frank Keenan, Secretary

The fall quarterly meeting was held at the Society's Archives Building on October 11, 2015. The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Welch at 2:00 p.m. and attendees were led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Frank Keenan read the minutes for the summer 2015 quarterly meeting, which were approved as read. In the absence of Treasurer, Owen Menchhofer, the Treasurer's report was distributed by Cheryl Welch, and was approved as presented.

Cheryl reported that Tom Crum had fallen and is in rehab, and the Jerry Wilson would be writing an article for the newsletter. Cheryl reported that the Society has now scanned all of the Osgood Journals from 1927 to 1957 to a flash drive and all marriage records. Tyson Library gave a book concerning General Marshall's WWII Victory Report, an account of Germany's surrender, and an account of Japan's surrender to the Historical Society. Cheryl reported that the Society has received a grant from the Tyson Fund to cover the expense of security cameras for the Archives Building. Amanda Becher has made available a book on the state's bicentennial that contains color photos from every county in the state, as well as short stories by fifteen Hoosier writers. The book will be available for sale on consignment at the Archives for \$40.00. The Society will receive 20% of the sale price. Fred Glover reported that he had furnished copies of the Kralls' WWII book to the VFW and the Milan Library. Duane Drockelman delivered copies to East Central High School in Dearborn County. Delbert Abplanalp reported that the Osgood Museum had received a \$2000.00 grant for 10 projects in Center Township. For example, one project concerns the four-arch stone bridge in Center Township, and another is a YouTube video on the history of Ripley County, and best of all, witching graves. For the unenlightened, witching graves is similar to witching for water, only the witching rod reveals whether a male or female is buried in the grave.

Following the meeting, Duane presented an interesting program on his family's roots to Lengerich, Germany in Westphalia, the ancestral village of the Drockelmans, established in 900 AD. This was an area persistently and heavily bombed by the Allies during WWII. Duane and his family were warmly welcomed by their relatives. Duane did an excellent job of expressing the fulfillment that can be derived by visiting their ancestral roots.

After the program Shelby Township provided refreshments. Duane has arranged for Warren Bruns from NOAA Weather to be our speaker for the January 10, 2016 meeting. Johnson Township will be responsible for refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Keenan, Secretary

GRANDMA'S INDIAN STORY BY BEA BOYD

My Grandmother Beach was born in Otter Creek Township, on what we called the "old 40". The old forty joined our farm, but by 1934 all traces of the pioneer homes that had been there in the 1850's were gone, except for a few foundation stones. Nearby Otter Creek meandered its way from North of the old 40 Southwesterly, passed where the Holton Covered Bridge now crosses, on toward Jennings County draining into the Muscatatuck River.

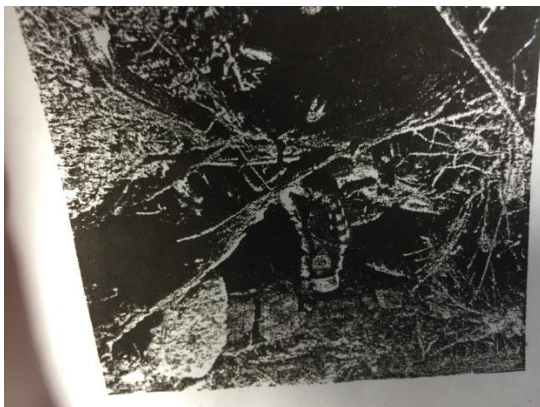
Grandma told me that when the Indians were forced to move west as the settlers took over, they buried some treasures before moving. The place where they buried the treasure was designated by a large rock in a hillside close to the creek. It had an outline of a man's head on one side and a horse's hoof on the other side. She also said that later some young Indian braves came back looking for the buried treasure. They looked all along the banks of Otter Creek, but could not find the rock.

As a child, with this story in mind, I kept checking out the rocks that look different than the others. Finally I came across what I believed was the one. Moss had covered part of the side that had an indentation resembling a horse's hoof, the other side was partially broken off but there were some marks on it that looked like they had been carved. Surely they had been put there by the Indians! This was a find! So my sister, Mary and I, decided to do some digging, although our older brother, Jesse, had told us to leave the rock alone for we could cause a landslide on the hill. One day when Jess had gone to work in the field we decided this would be a good time to check out the rock. So armed with tools, a shovel, etc. we headed toward the rock. We were ready to dig when we heard, "You kids get on back to the house" which we did. Mother said, "There is probably nothing there but some beads and arrowheads."

Years later, some South Ripley School Students heard the story about the Indian Treasure Rock. They spent a lot of time, as had the Indian Braves, searching up and down the Otter Creek banks. But to this date, if there is a treasure, it remains undisturbed in its hiding place.

Grandma, Mary Elizabeth Leach, was born August 31, 1855 and married Francis Marion Beach in 1873. Her grandfather Filby came from England to S.C. He married Judy (unknown) who was born in S.C. Judy was supposedly an Indian, probably Cherokee. One of Grandma's many stories about their pioneer living included one about her uncle Richard who went to the spring near a cave on the Otter Creek bank when the Indians (believe it was Delaware Indians) caught and scalped him. He lived through the scalping but later they killed him.

Indian Artifact



County, Indiana, Historical

Ripley



Society

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Web Master

Sandra Meisberger & Cheryl Welch

Newsletter Committee

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