

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 XXXX**

**January 2017**

**Number 1**

▲ The Ripley Co. Historical Society will meet **Sunday, January 8, 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 Theresa Carmichael on Stained Glass. Refreshments will be provided by Adams Twp.

▲ 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 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**

▲ **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 will available at the Ripley County Historical Society by Josephine Keenan named "THOSE FIRST BRIGHT DAYS OF ELVIS", will be released on May 2, 2016, which weaves a story of human anguish and betrayal, love and loss, recrimination and regret, and shows how choices, once made, can change one's life forever. Books Cost: 6" x 9" Perfect Bound List price: \$24.95; Hardcover price: \$14.97; Softcover: \$4.97 Ebook.

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:** 2016 Yearly Dues are due in January 2016. 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:**

<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 &amp; Vicinity</i>	12
<i>Sugar Branch</i> by Don Morrison	16	Shipping Charges added for all books	5
<i>Ripley County History Vol. II</i>	25		

## RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

The autumn quarterly meeting of the Society was held at the RCHS Archives Building on October 10, 2016. 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 summer 2016 quarterly meeting, which were approved as read. Treasurer Owen Menchhofer's Report was distributed and approved by the attendees. Owen reported that the society had received a donation of \$1,000.00 from the Copeland Charitable Trust, and Owen will send him a thank you note on behalf of the Society. Owen further reported that the cost of repairs and refurbishing of the Society-sponsored County Historical Markers was \$1,847.47, some \$253.53 less than anticipated. Owen also reported that the Tyson grant for a new copier at the Archives has been received. Those in attendance were agreed that the seller could take and dispose of the old copier.

Cheryl noted that with Lois Workman's passing the Delaware Township Director's position needed to be filled. She also noted that valued Society member Tom Krum and his wife Mary has sold their Ripley County Residence and have moved to Cincinnati. We will all miss Tom's staunch support of the Society and the man interesting County history articles Tom authored for the Quarterly Bulletin over the years.

President Welch also noted that the DAR's new plaque commemorating the (3) County's Revolutionary War Soldiers, will list ninety (90) County resident soldiers. Cheryl also noted that Otter Creek Township Director Mike Stratton recently contributed two articles for Bicentennial Commission Sponsored publications. One such article focuses on Stephen Harding, a staunch abolitionist, and the other article focuses on three companies that have long been doing business in the County, namely: Weberding Carvings; Baglon Treating; and Hill Rom.

An excellent, detailed program was given by Adams Township Director and RCHS Vice President Duane Drockelman, who traced the varying boundaries of first the Indiana Territory and then the boundaries of the State of Indiana some highlights are set forth below.

Duane noted at the outset that, prior to 1780, all lands west of the Appalachian Mountains were known as the Northwest Territory. Then, in 1785 the Northwest Territory was split into the "Ohio Territory: and the "Indiana Territory". In 1795 the Greenville Treaty established that the land east of the Greenville Treaty line was part of the Ohio Territory; all land west of said line was known as the Indiana Territory. When, in 1803, Ohio became a state, Ohio sought a straight line boundary between the state of Ohio and the Indiana Territory. In order to do so, Ohio ceded Dearborn County, then part of Ohio, to Indiana.

Following Indiana becoming a state in 1806, the first map of the state was sent to congress, but congress did not publish it.

The program for the January 8, 2017 meeting will be presented by Theresa Carmichael. Refreshments will be provided by Adams Township.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frank Keenan, Secretary

## THE START OF RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

The Northwest Territory was formed in 1781. The Greenville Treaty was signed in 1795. Its western border was a line beginning at the mouth of the Kentucky River running northeast to Ft. Recovery, Ohio. This line is the eastern boundary of Ripley County. A triangular parcel of land with its southern border on the Ohio River, the Greenville Treaty line on the west and the present Indiana-Ohio line on the east, formed what was known as the "Gore" on the early maps.

During 1798-99, Benjamin Chambers and Stephen Ludlow made surveys as far north as Olean for Ross Township, Switzerland County, following an old Indian trail. Then in 1807, Stephen Ludlow along with Jon Brownson and Emmanuel Voretrees again surveyed this area.

In 1816 the State of Indiana proposed organization for a new county. The boundaries were thus described: All that part of Jefferson County lying north of the line dividing Townships 5 and 6 North and East of the line beginning at the Southeast corner of Section 31, township 6, North Range 10 East, thence North with the sectional line to the Indiana boundary. Also all that part of Dearborn County West of the old boundary line.

The boundaries of Ripley County as it was later named, were thus laid out in the law forming Jennings County, with the provisions that all that part of Ripley County, which was formerly Dearborn County, remain attached to Dearborn County until Ripley County could be organized. Alteration by statute attaching part of Switzerland County to that of Ripley on March 1, 1822. The new county was named for General Eleazer Wheelock Ripley, a hero of the War of 1812.

January 7, 1818, by an act of the General Assembly, John DePauw from Washington County, Charles Beggs of Franklin County, and W. H. Eads of Jennings County were appointed to select a site for the new County seat. They were given \$3.00 a day for this task. They settled on a hundred acre tract in Section 12 Township 7 Range 11 East. John Paul, of Madison, Jefferson County, IN donated the land. John Paul laid out several towns and was a land speculator.

In May, 1818, the Commissioners divided the new county into three townships. Graham, Laughery, and Perry became the oldest townships. A Circuit Court was held at the residence of Benjamin Brown near the present town of New Marion, on July 20, 1818. Conrad Overturf was appointed Clerk and John Richey the first judge.

The county was divided into five townships in November, 1819 namely, Ripley, Hogan, Graham, Perry, and Laughery. (Ross, a short-lived fractional township previously forming the "horn" of northwestern-most neighboring Switzerland County was transferred on March 1, 1822 to Ripley County, afterwards being incorporated into and becoming the southeastern-most corner of Brown Township. G. Pence and N. C. Armstrong (1933:768), citing, "Laws of Indiana, 1821-22," p. 127: dated 31 Dec 1821; effective 1 Mar 1822.) Then in 1823 another division was made. Eight townships were named, Jackson, Shelby, Delaware, Franklin, Johnson, Brown, Henry and Washington. Again on June 13, 1858 the present day townships were named: Jackson, Otter Creek, Shelby, Center, Laughery, Delaware, Johnson, Brown, Adams, Franklin, and Washington. On September 22, 1819 the county seat was laid out by John Richey.

Napoleon was platted 1820, and was the second town. It was centrally located as roads came through from the north, south, east, and west. Other towns soon followed. Cross Plains, 1825; New Marion, 1832 (had to change name as Marion already had a post office); Milan, 1836; Otter Village, 1837; Pennsylvaniaburg, 1837; Ballstown, 1846; Friendship (Hart's Mill), 1850; Batesville, 1852; Holton, 1854; Brooklyn, adjacent to South Milan, just before South Milan, 1854; spades, 1855; Dabney (Poston), 1855; Sunman and Osgood, 1856; Morris and Olean, 1858; Pierceville, 1860; Delaware, 1869. Any community where a store was in existence could get the customers to sign a petition asking for a post office and one would be established. Included were Tanglewood, Elrod, Correct, Kingwood, Locksprings and many, many others. The population in 1870 was 17,573 native born and 3,404 foreign born.

## *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

Secretary

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

Delaware Twp. -

Franklin Twp. - Mr. Fred Glover, 5611 E Co Rd 300 N, Milan, IN 47031

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Treasurer

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

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Washington Twp. - Mrs. Jerri Driggers, 2046 s. Co. Rd 675 E. Dillsboro, IN 47018

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Web Master

Sandra Meisberger & Cheryl Welch

Newsletter Committee