

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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January 2020 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Number 1

▲ **Quarterly Meeting**

The Historical Society will meet on January 12th, 2020. Our program for the meeting is Ripley County History Trivia come and join the fun see what you can learn.

▲ **Library Hours**

The RCHS Archives Library is open for public research weekdays 1 – 4 pm, except holidays, Pumpkin Show week September 21-25, 2020, also the week before and between Christmas and New Year December 23, 2019-January 3, 2020. 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. 26, 2020, 8:30 am - 10:30 am. Questions call 812-689-3031.

We are CLOSED December 23rd 2019 thru January 3th 2020. We will open for the ne year on January 6, 2020.

▲ **Annual Dues**

Remember to renew your membership for another year. 2020 Yearly Dues are due in January. Mail your renewal for 2020 to RCHS at P.O. Box 525, Versailles, IN 47042 Dues: Annual \$15; Life \$150.

▲ **Research**

Research is free to all members and \$7.00 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.

▲ **Volunteers Needed**

We need volunteers to donate 3 hours of their time one day a week, Monday – Friday from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. If you live in Delaware Township, please consider volunteering to be a director from your township. Contact Cheryl Welch if you are interested in filling any of these positions.

▲ **Books**

See our list of books available lilsted on the last page of this newsletter. The WWII War Veterans Book, titled *LEST WE FORGET* by Joan and Norris KarlI 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 every week-day 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.

▲ **Ripley 200: A Bicentennial Project**

Anjali Fong will be showcasing *Ripley 200: A Bicentennial Project* at the local libraries in Ripley County:

- Milan Public Library Jan 13 - 17, 2020
- Tyson Library Jan 20 - 24, 2020
- Batesville Memorial Public Library Jan 27 - Feb 7, 2020

Books are available for purchase at \$138 each (including IN tax) during the exhibition at the respective libraries.

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

The Ripley County Historical Society met on October 13th 2019 for the Fall Meeting with 7 present. President Cheryl Welch opens the meeting at 2:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance and everyone inducing them self and their township.

Treasurer Owen Menchoffer was out of town and Cheryl passed out the treasurer' s report that he prepared. It was approved as presented.

At the absent of the Secretary Cheryl read the minutes of the last meeting and corrections were made as following:

Para: "Attendees were informed that when State road crews doing the construction of State Rd 46 in 1936 uncovered some 50 unmarked pauper's graves in the hwy right of way and bulldozed in a mass trench. Society member Duane Drockelman and Adam's Twp. Trustee are seeking to identify, if possible, those people that are buried there. They also found another family cemetery close by. The Adams Twp. Trustee also hired an imaging company to map out an old Methodist cemetery near Penntown Society members, Helen Einhaus, Mike Sratton and Duane are also working on identifying and finding some cemeteries in Delaware Twp." Duane

We received a grant from the Tyson Fund to help work on the cabin. Joe Stephen will be doing the work on the cabin, he is having trouble getting the log he needs for the repairs.

Thank so much to the Tyson Fund for helping with this project.

Next meeting: January 12th 2020

Adams Township in charge of Refreshments.

Acting Secterary:

Cheryl Welch



Obituary for Helen D. Decker

Helen D. Decker, age 88 of Batesville, died Thursday, October 31, 2019 at her home. Born February 8, 1931 in Forestville, Connecticut, she is the daughter of Helen (Nee: Papak) and Wassil Moros. She married Joseph Decker February 4, 1954 at Paris Island, South Carolina. Helen served in the Marines during the Korean War and following the service spent her working career as a nurse.

An avid reader, she enjoyed other hobbies as well. Quilting was a favorite and family members have pieces they'll cherish forever. Helen also liked to paint using oils and mainly painted landscape scenes. She also made crafts of all kinds. Helen was one of the individuals who started the Country Store booth for the St. Louis Church annual picnic and provided countless items sold there over the years.

Helen served as a volunteer at the Ripley County Historical Society from 2011 to 2014. Helen was the Laughery Township Director 2005 to 2017.

She is survived by daughters Teresa Huy, Susan Decker, both of Batesville; sons Paul Decker of Pinckney, Michigan, Pete Decker of Indianapolis; eight grandchildren and one great grandchild. In addition to her husband and parents, she is also preceded in death by sisters Anna Brightman, Emma Genett and brother Pete Moros.

Funeral services were held Friday, October 8th at St. Louis Church with burial in the church cemetery. Military graveside rites were conducted by the Prell-Bland American Legion Post #271 and the Ripley County V.F.W. Post #3183. The family requests memorials to the Srs. of St. Francis or the Ripley County Historical Society.

"October: Family History Month"

October, Family History Monty was the theme of the October 13 presentation by speaker Jan Garbett of Johnson Township. A retired teacher and avid genealogist, Jan discussed the most common reasons for researching family history and ways to apply that research through recipe collections, audio and video memories, and Christmas crafts. Jan offered a variety of genealogical resources. Thank you Jan for a most interesting presentation.

Main Street Versailles 1st Annual Christmas Tree Decorating Contest



Ripley County Historical Society



Ross' Run Chapter DAR

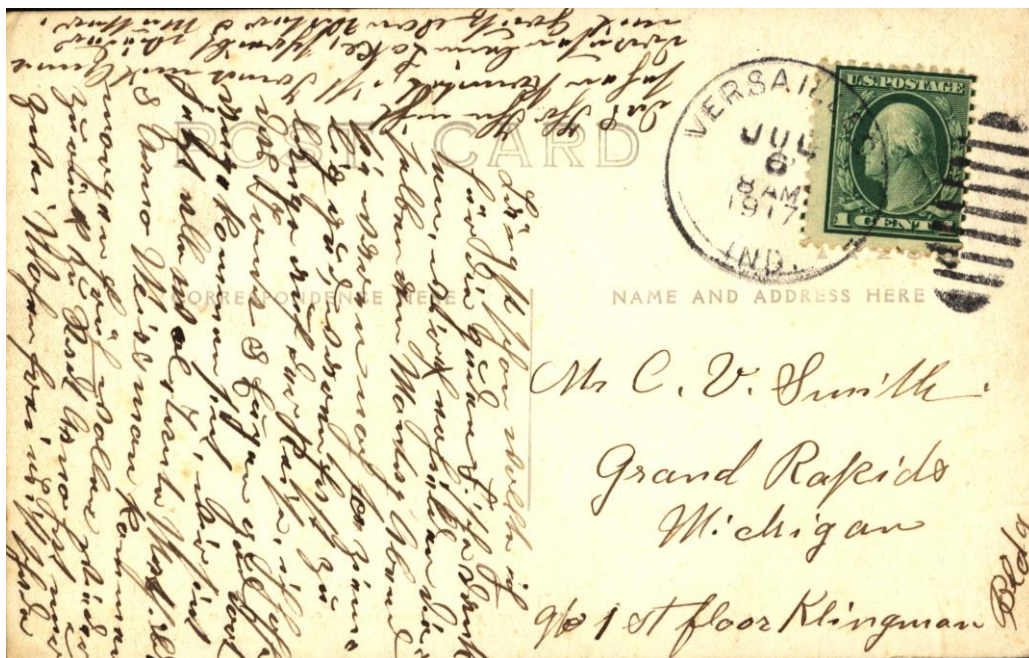
The Ripley County Historical Society and Ross' Run Chapter DAR entered their trees in the 1st Annual Versailles Main Street Christmas Tree Decorating contest. The square was lit up with twenty decorated trees by area businesses and organizations.

Thank You!

Thank you to Diane Weber for the donation to the Historical Society in honor of her Weber and Bohannon families. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

New Additions to the Historical Society

Danny Armbrecht donated a book *Tragedy and Bread Lines, Ripley County Editon Indiana*. This book was printed by The Milan Book & Novelty Co. Milan, Indiana in 1932. The back of the book lists county and township information. Danny also donated this picture of the Ripley County Courthouse, postmarked 1917. Can you translate the message? Thanks to Danny for the donation.



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 Reocrds		\$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 Wonning	\$20.00
In Thse 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 Reocrds		\$10.00
Lest We Forget A Tribute ro the World War II Veterans of Ripley County		
	by Norris & Joan Krall	\$25.00
Milan, Indiana: A Storied Past 1854-2004		\$16.00
Napoleon & Vinicity Sescuicentennial 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
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 #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

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Brown Twp. - Mr. Frank Keenan, 3241 E State Rd 62, Cross Plains, IN 47017	Secretary
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Otter Creek Twp. – Mr. Michael Stratton, 4300 W. U.S. 50, Holton, IN 47023	
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