

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 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Number 1

▲ **January Quarterly Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held January 8th 2023 at the Ripley County Historical Archive. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm. Refreshments will served by Delaware Twp. We look forward to seeing you in person.

▲ **Library Hours**



NOTICE: The library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 1 pm-4 pm. For those not able to visit us in person, email your requests for information to staff@rchslib.org or regular mail to P O Box 525 Versailles, IN 47042. We look forward to serving your research needs.

NOTICE: The Museum is open by appointment only. To schedule an appointment call Cheryl Welch, President 812-621-0418, Duane Drockelman, Vice President 812-852-1313 or Barbara Eades, Director at Large 812-701-9238.



▲ **Annual Dues**

Remember to renew your membership for another year. 2023 Yearly Dues are due in January. Mail your renewal for 2023 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 are looking for volunteers to donate 3 hours of their time one day a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Contact Cheryl Welch if you are interested in volunteering.

▲ **Books**

See our list of books available listed on the last page of this newsletter. The WWII War Veterans Book, titled *LEST WE FORGET* by Joan and Norris Krall 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 COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

The Ripley County Historical Society held their quarterly meeting October 9, 2022 at the archives. Nine members were present.

President Cheryl Welch called the meeting to order and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Cheryl Welch read the minutes from the last meeting. They were approved as read.

Treasurer Owen Menchhofer presented the treasurers report. It was approved as presented.

Old Business:

- The history book was discussed. We are waiting on the last two townships. After comparing the townships received, it was decided we should have more consistency throughout the book.

New Business:

- Danny Welch reported he has treated the cabin for termites.
- There were 12 visitors at the museum Pumpkin Show morning.
- Owen Menchhofer brought us up to date on Wreaths Across Ripley County. In December 2021, Tanglewood Cemetery was the first cemetery in Ripley County to honor every veteran's grave with a wreath. The goal this year is to honor every veteran's grave in the county with a wreath. There are an estimated 4000 graves. The Ripley County Historical Society has partnered with the Ripley County Community Foundation to help raise funds. An endowment fund has been established. Wreaths are \$15 each. Donations may be made through RCCF. A ceremony will be held at the veterans memorial on the courthouse square, December 17, at noon with placement of wreaths in Cliff Hill Cemetery and Tanglewood Cemetery following the program.

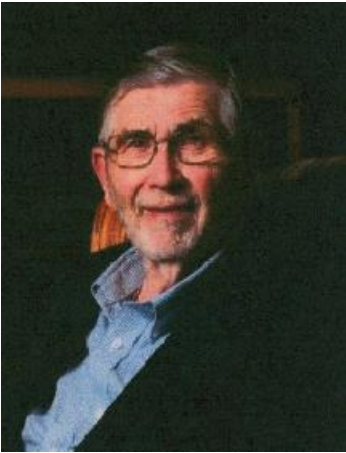
There being no further business, the meeting was closed with refreshments served by Brown Township.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Eades, Acting Secretary

NOTICE: Due to illness, Frank Keenen, has stepped down from his position as Director for Brown Township and as Secretary. These positions will remain vacant until the election at the April meeting.

WE REMEMBER



Norris E. Krall, 88, of Osgood passed away at 1:20pm, Monday, November 7, 2022 at Arbor Grove in Greensburg. He was born on Tapps Ridge in Switzerland County on February 8, 1934 the son of Elmer and Norma Whitham Krall. He was married to Mary Elizabeth Lock on June 29, 1956 and she preceded him in death on October 8, 1981. He married Gloria Joan Tucker Martin on August 14, 1982 and she preceded him in death on December 20, 2017. Survivors include three sons James Kenneth (Linda) Krall and Michael Krall both of Osgood, and Terry (Diane) Krall of Carmel; one step-son Anthony (Debra) Martin of Fairland; three step-daughters Michele "Mitzi" (Rodger) Chapelow of Zenas, Kimberly Martin of Franklin, and Candace (Danny) Robinson of Shelbyville; six grandchildren, 14 step-grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 12 step-great-grandchildren, and 2 step-great-great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his special friend Rheadawn Metz of Greensburg. Norris received his elementary education in the one room school at Mt. Hope on Tapps Ridge, where he met Mary. He was a 1951 graduate of Vevay High School and graduated from Indiana University with distinction in 1955 with a degree in Business Administration, Accounting Specialty. He was a Certified Public Accountant and was employed from 1955 until 1962 by Lybrand, Ross Bros. & Montgomery, initially on the audit staff in Louisville and later was transferred to the Management Consulting Services staff in Chicago. He served in the US Army from 1956 to 1958 as a Lieutenant in the Finance Corps at the Finance School, U. S. Army at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, as an instructor, writer of training manuals and later as Company Commander of a student detachment. In January 1963, he joined Thomas & Skinner, the oldest manufacturer of permanent magnets in the U.S., in Indianapolis as controller. He advanced from controller and served as secretary, treasurer, vice-president, and president until his retirement in 1999. He continued to serve as Chairman of the Board until age 80 in April 2014 at which time he resigned and then was named Director Emeritus for life. He was baptized in the Fredonia Baptist Church on Tapps Ridge and later belonged to the Rolling Fields Baptist Church in Jeffersonville, Park Grove Baptist Church in Beech Grove, the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church at Fairland, and had been a member of the Dabney Baptist Church since 1976 where he served as a Deacon, teacher, and treasurer. He was also a life member and former director of the Ripley County Historical Society. He and Joan had written several history books including *Lest We Forget*, a history of the WWII veterans of Ripley County, *A Look at Life*, short stories and poems by Lester Tucker, *History of the Dabney Baptist Church and Community*, volumes 1 & 2 of the *History of Ripley County*, and *Past Tense*, a history of the Holton Schools. Funeral services were held on Friday, November 11 at the Stratton-Karsteter Funeral Home in Versailles with Rev. Mark Sorrels of the Dabney Baptist Church officiating. Burial was in the Greendale Cemetery in Osgood with military rites by the Versailles American Legion. Memorials may be given to the Dabney Baptist Church or the Ripley County Historical Society in care of the funeral home.

Come join the group to honor our veterans.

Over 4,000 wreaths to be laid.

Published in the Versailles Republican, December 15, 2022

Wanda English Burnett, EDITOR



Owen Menchhofer and Cheryl Welch of the Ripley County Historical Society were on hand to help with the project.

A ceremony unlike any other will take place Saturday, December 17 at noon on the courthouse lawn, Versailles. This is to honor all veterans buried in Ripley County with the total to date being 4040, according to Owen Menchhofer, who has diligently been collecting data for this project.

On Saturday, Ripley County Veteran Service Officer Ken Hylton will be the keynote speaker at the Veteran's Monument on the square before wreaths are ceremoniously laid on graves at the Cliff Hill Cemetery. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend the short ceremony and then go to the cemetery for the wreath laying. December 17 is National Wreaths Across America Day with the mission of the organization being: Remember those US veterans who have fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the value of freedom to our children. This is done across the United States and Ripley County is the first known county in the State to have wreaths for every buried veteran thanks to all involved.

With a handful of volunteers, the Ripley County Community Foundation, under the direction of Amy Streator and the Ripley County Historical Society, represented by Menchhofer, forged ahead to make the wreath project

happen. "We have had generous donations and appreciate each and every one," Menchhofer said. He said from donations of \$15.00 to \$12,000, the money all adds up and they are thankful they could purchase a semi-load of wreaths. The group had a short time to raise a lot of money, but the people of the county responded with donations.

The Baylor truck pulled into the Ripley County Fairgrounds Park in Osgood on Monday morning, December 12, bringing with it the pride of the county through its signage that wraps the trailer. It is complete with a photo of Veteran Bob Baylor looking over the grave of his friend, Buddy Boone, who was killed in the Pentagon in the 911 terrorist attacks. Baylor Trucking has always been a big sponsor of Wreaths Across America, donating thousands of dollars to the cause. The truck driver, Dennis Nation, has only driven for Baylor Trucking for three years, but is a veteran and volunteered his time to make the trip to bring the wreaths.

Various groups across the county have volunteered to help lay the wreaths and have already begun the massive effort. There were a lot of details that had to be worked out for such a project, but Menchhofer has spearheaded it and found the challenges nothing in comparison to the sacrifices our veterans have made. He said he was happy to coordinate and do research to pull it together.

“There is no data base for our buried veterans,” Menchhofer told The Versailles Republican when he began doing research at all the cemeteries across the county. This was in anticipation of placing wreaths on every grave before Christmas. So, he has compiled a database, as closely as it was possible. There is a list printed in today’s paper beginning with Adams Township. These names will continue to be printed in every paper until we have printed all of them, which should amount to around 4,040 names. These aren’t just names, but rather, heroes who have secured the lifestyle we enjoy today. If you do not see someone you think should be on the list, please give Menchhofer a call. And, on the other hand, if you think someone is on the list in error, he wants to know. You can reach him at 812-756-0160 where you can call or text.

To donate for next year, you can visit www.rccfonline.org or call 812-933-1098. You can also stop by the Ripley County Community Foundation’s office which is located at 13 E. George Street, Suite B, Batesville, to get more information.

**Donations made and received at the Ripley County Community Foundation
by January 12, 2023 will be eligible for a two for one wreath match for
December 2023 Wreaths Across Ripley County.**



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	by Harold Freeland	\$20.00
Historic Travel Guide to Ripley County	by Paul R Wonnig	\$20.00
In These 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 Records		\$10.00
Lest We Forget a Tribute to the World War II Veterans of Ripley County	by Norris & Joan Krall	\$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 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

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