

**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 2024

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Number 1**

▲ **January Quarterly Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held January 14, 2024 at the Ripley County Historical Archive. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm. Refreshments will served by Laughery 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 [rchslib@gmail.com](mailto:rchslib@gmail.com) 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, Secretary 812-701-9238.



▲ **Annual Dues**

Remember to renew your membership for another year. 2024 Yearly Dues are due in January. Mail your renewal for 2024 to RCHS at P.O. Box 525, Versailles, IN 47042 Dues: Annual \$20; Life \$150.

▲ **Research**

Research is free to all members and \$10.00 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. Research is free to all members.

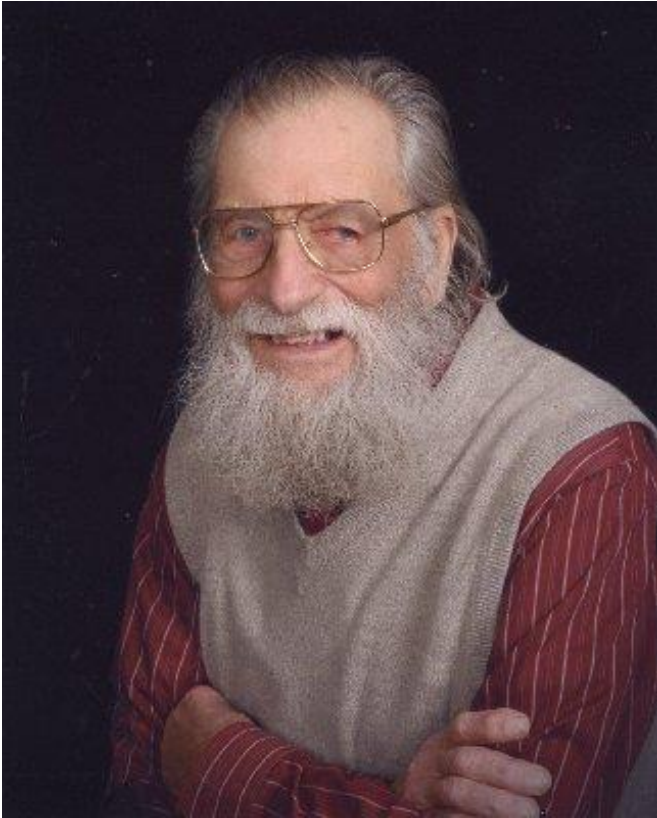
▲ **Volunteers Needed**

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 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 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.

## We Remember



**Delbert J. Abplanalp, 95, of Napoleon** passed away at 6 p.m., Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at the Margaret Mary Community Hospital in Batesville. He was born in the Happy Hollow community west of Osgood on January 17, 1928, the son of Joe and Elsie Peetz Abplanalp. He was married to Dorothy Butt on February 6, 1954 and she preceded him in death on June 24, 2021. Survivors include two sons Roger (Dee) Abplanalp of Osgood and Larry (Brenda) Abplanalp of Napoleon; one daughter Peggy Abplanalp of Indianapolis; two grandchildren Chelsea Abplanalp of Aurora and Joe (Linsey) Abplanalp of Batesville; one great-grandson Xander Abplanalp. He was also preceded in death by his parents and his brother Gilmore. Mr. Abplanalp was a 1946 graduate of Osgood High School. He was lifelong farmer and had also been employed with the Ripley County Farm Bureau, as well as doing trucking for the Napoleon Lumber Company. He was well known in the community as the local historian, the man you went to when you needed answers about happenings long ago. He had also given many presentations on the 1897 hanging at Versailles.

Delbert was an accomplished musician, playing with many different individuals through the years providing music at local dances and playing for nursing homes. He was able to play his guitar until just the last couple of months. Delbert was a member of the St. John Lutheran Church at Napoleon and had served for over 30 years as the church cemetery sexton. He was also a member and director for the Ripley County Historical Society as well as the Osgood Historical Museum. Funeral services were held on Monday, December 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the Stratton-Karsteter Funeral Home in Versailles with Doug Brougher officiating. Burial was in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery at Napoleon. Memorials may be given to the St. John Lutheran Cemetery or the Osgood Museum in care of the funeral home.

## RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

The Ripley County Historical Society held their quarterly meeting October 8, 2023 at the archives. Eleven 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.

Barbara Eades read the minutes from the last meeting. They were approved as read.

Owen Menchhofer presented the treasurer's report. It was approved as presented.

### Old Business:

- Ripley County History Book – Still waiting to hear an update on the history book.
- The Tyson Grant was approved for the replacement of the steps and a concrete landing at the museum. Work will start on this project the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November.
- There were 14 visitors at the museum prior to the Pumpkin Show Parade. The museum is open by appointment only. Please call the Historical Society to schedule your appointment.
- Reminder of dues increasing to \$20 for 2024 and research for non-members to \$10 for 2024.
- Replacing carpet was discussed again. We will apply for a grant for this project. Cheryl will make contacts for pricing and repair of floor.

### New Business:

- Additional work needed at the museum was discussed. Owen Menchhofer will look into pressure washing and sealing the existing deck. Posts and columns need painted. The front door frame at the archives also needs painted.
- Roof on Archives: Tyler Bond has been contacted to replace the archive roof. Shingle color has been chosen. Work will start when the shingles arrive. Payment will be made from the general treasury.
- Ripley County Community Foundation Day of Giving is November 3, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Gifts made on November 3<sup>rd</sup> will be eligible to receive a 50% Match. Gifts may be mailed or made online at [www.rccfonline.org](http://www.rccfonline.org). Wreaths Across Ripley County has an endowment fund.
- Wreath Across Ripley County: Wreaths will arrive December 10-16. Any group or organization interested in placing wreaths should contact Owen Menchhofer.
- Notice cards regarding tree trimming by Duke Energy were left at the Museum and the Archives. Owen Menchhofer will contact Duke Energy for more information regarding this.
- Duane Drockelman mentioned a grant available through the Rising Sun Regional Foundation for up to \$10,000. for work that needs to be done at the museum. The next application due date is January 15, 2024.
- December 2, 2024, Versailles Main Street is sponsoring Coming Home for Christmas. The Historical Society has been asked to be open for this event.

Thank you to Penny Brinson for donating a sweeper and microwave to the Historical Society.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m. to the program presented by Della Menchhofer on Operation Christmas Child.

Thank you to Johnson Township for serving refreshments.

The next meeting will be held January 14, 2024, 2:00 p.m. at the Ripley County Historical Archives. Refreshments will be served by Laughery Township.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Eades, Secretary

Note: We will be electing a director for Jackson Township at our January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please contact the Historical Society if you are willing to serve.



## December 16 - Wreaths Across America - Ripley County



Ripley County placed wreaths on over 4400 veteran's graves December 16, 2023. A dedication service was held on the Ripley County courthouse square. Wreaths were placed at 72 cemeteries along with 37 wreaths placed around the courthouse representing inactive/inaccessible cemeteries and 6 wreaths representing the unknown location of over 130 veterans from the Batesville, Holton, Milan, Osgood, Sunman, and Versailles area,

To donate for next year, you can visit [www.rccfonline.org](http://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, IN to get more information.

**Donations made and received at the Ripley County Community Foundation by January 15, 2024 will be eligible for a two for one wreath match for December 2024 Wreaths Across Ripley County.**

A big thank you to all the individuals, organizations, Legions, cemeteries and churches who have donated funds towards this project for 2023!



The oldest veteran grave in Ripley County is located in Brown Township at Buchanan Cemetery, Barbersville Road.

**George Buchanan**  
Born 1721 Died 1815

George served in the Revolutionary War, 4th Pennsylvania Continental Line as a private, from 1777 to 1781.

## **Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Book**

The Ross' Run Chapter of The Daughters of the American Revolution has a book "Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration A Time to Honor", Stories of Service, Duty, and Service. Any veteran (1955-1975) interested in receiving a book, Contact Cheryl Welch 812-621-0418. A limited number of books are available.

If your community has an upcoming event you would like mentioned in our September newsletter, contact us at [rchslib@gmail.com](mailto:rchslib@gmail.com) before March 15, 2024.



Ripley County Courthouse Note Cards  
Available for purchase  
10/\$5

## 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 |
| 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

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Adams Twp. - Mr. Duane Drockelman, 10238 N. Adams Church Rd. Batesville, IN 47006            | Vice President       |
| Brown Twp. - Mrs. Barbara Eades, 3953 E. Olean Rd. Versailles, Indiana 47042                 | Secretary            |
| Center Twp. - Mr. Charles Hughes, P.O. Box 195, Osgood, IN 47037                             |                      |
| Delaware Twp. – Mrs. Kay Koppel, 1583 Co. Rd. 700 N, Osgood, IN 44037                        |                      |
| Franklin Twp. – Mr. Fred Glover, 5611 E Co. Rd. 300 N, Milan, IN 47031                       |                      |
| Jackson Twp. -   |                      |
| Johnson Twp. - Mr. Owen Menchhofer, 1970 N Co. Rd. 300 W, Holton, IN 47023                   | Treasurer            |
| Laughery Twp. – Mrs. Diane Arnold, 601 Washington St. 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. – Mr. Gary Johnson, 1723 S Friendship Rd. Milan IN 47031                     |                      |
| Director at Large – Mr. Roger Abplanalp, 2738 W. Co Rd 450 N. Osgood, IN 47037               |                      |
| Honorary Director – Mrs. Sandra Meisberger, 4662 W. Co. Rd. 450 S. Versailles, Indiana 47042 |                      |
| Lori Hoffman, 5565 E. Lower Dry Fork Rd. Madison, IN 47250                                   | Web Master           |
| Barbara Eades & Cheryl Welch   | Newsletter Committee |