

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, July 14, at 2:00 for the ice cream social at the Archive Library on the west side of Versailles Courthouse Square. The program for our next meeting will be given by Delbert Abplanalp, on the Hanging Tree. Beverages & Accompaniments for the ice cream will be provided by Shelby Twp. members.

▲ Research \$5.00 for non-members and all mailed requests, and \$.50 per page copied for everyone.

▲ The WWII War Veterans book, titled LEST WE FORGET, is still available. It can be obtained for \$35 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 \$40. Checks should be made payable to Ripley County Historical Society. We give our heartfelt thanks to Joan and Norris Krall.

▲ Members that are willing to receive the newsletter via email instead of postal mailing can do so by emailing RCHS with your request along with your email address. The email for sending your request is printed above.

▲ New book is available! "Revolutionary Soldiers and the Wives of Soldiers with ties to Switzerland County, Indiana", Compiled and Edited by Marlene Jan McDerment. If you have ties to Switzerland County, you may be very interested in this book. The price is \$41.00 and can be ordered by mail. Send your name, address, phone No., Credit card info, or check payable to Switzerland County Historical Society, 210 East Market St., Vevay, IN 47043; Phone: 812-427-3560; Email: swcomuseums@embarqmail.com

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 Pumpkin Show Saturday Sep. 28th. Questions call 812-689-3031.

NOTICE: 2013 Yearly Dues are due in January 2013. Mail your renewal for 2013 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>	35
<i>Broken Wings</i> , By Robert Kelly	20	<i>Assorted Jefferson Proving Ground Books</i>	
Shipping Charges added for all books	5		

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

April 14, 2013

The Society's spring quarterly meeting was held at the Archives Building on April 14, 2013, and was called to order by President Cheryl Welch at 2:00 p.m. Cheryl led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of the Winter Quarterly Meeting were read by Secretary Frank Keenan and approved as read. Treasurer Owen Menchhofer distributed and read highlights from his Income and Expenses Report. It was approved as written.

President Welch reported that, with one exception, the County Commissioners have decided to continue to store certain county records with the Society and to continue its annual \$5000.00 stipend to the Society. The one "exception" concerns the Commissioners' proceedings with the Society, preferring to store those documents at the new Court House Annex.

Cheryl advised attendees that the Franklin and Johnson Township Directors and the office of Treasurer opened up for 3 year term. Each incumbent agreed to serve again: Owen Menchhofer, Treasurer; Fred Glover, Franklin Township Director; and Delbert Abplanalp, Jackson Township Director.

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D is sponsoring a CD narrated tour on July 13th of Confederate John Hunt Morgan's raid through Ripley County during the Civil War. Details are available from the USDA Service Center in Versailles.

The F.A.R.M. Club's annual shindig is booked at the County Fairgrounds from and including Thursday June 27, through and including Sunday, June 30.

Cheryl noted that volunteers continue to be needed at the Archives Building during the hours of 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Attendees unanimously endorsed President Welch's suggestion that following the summer business meeting we repeat the format of an ice cream social. Shelby Township will be responsible for beverages and accompaniments for the ice cream.

The program will be presented by some recently retired teachers who will discuss with us the many challenges facing teachers in today's classrooms. Additionally, Delbert Abplanalp will fill us in on the "Osgood Connections" to and with the County's infamous Hanging Tree incident.

The program was presented by former County resident David Dryer, who set forth the history of Indiana's 83rd Infantry Battalion, and its principle roles in the Civil War. The 83rd was put together about one year into the War, and was in large part made up of men from the Dabney, Osgood, and Holton areas. Men with familiar county names such as Norris, Overleaf, Stolz, Abplanalp, and Sebring filled its ranks. A daily Civil War Diary of a Lt. Sebring from Sunman is available in the Society's archives. Mr. Dryer delved deeply into the complexities of the situation of the natural bastion that was Vicksburg and the challenges it presented before the Union's 83rd finally took it.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Keenan, Secretary



Buchanan Station Marker
Brown Township, Ripley County

JOHN BUCHANAN
FIRST WHITE LANDOWNER IN RIPLEY COUNTY

By Tom Krumm

In 1809, the first white landowner in Ripley County was John Buchanan, son of George Buchanan. Indiana wasn't a state until 1816. Ripley County was not formed until 1818. John owned land in what is now Switzerland and Jefferson counties in 1804. During his lifetime, he purchased over 1600 acres including some in Decatur County. Most of the land was on the Southern border of Ripley County or the Northern section of Jefferson County.

George Buchanan, John's father, was originally from the County of Donegal, Ireland. He immigrated to the colonies prior to the Revolutionary War. George was born in 1715 in Ireland. According to the Daughters of American Revolution, George and his son-in-law George Benefiel, both served in the PA Revolutionary Army.

The Buchanan's have many descendants. The family members owned the land in Section 34 until 1970. There are 31 Buchanan's in the SEI Phone Directory. So far, there have been 1,683 Buchanan's buried in Indiana. There have been 31,638 Buchanan registered burials in the U.S., including 534 George's.

One of George's distant relatives was the fifteenth President of the U.S., President James Buchanan. Another relative went back to Ireland and founded the Buchanan Scotch Whiskey Company and it is still being produced and sold worldwide at a very high price.

John Buchanan was on the first jury in Ripley County in 1816. Rumor has it that a Buchanan helped kill the Chief White Eyes who died near Canaan. (There was another Chief White Eyes in Northern Indiana earlier.)

There is a Buchanan Cemetery in Section 34 of our county. It is near the Fort Buchanan block house that John and three of his brothers built around 1813. The fort was built to provide early settlers with a safe haven from the Indiana warriors who were still active in our county. It was approximately 20 miles North of Madison, near the Southern border of Ripley County.

There is still plenty of opportunity for Buchanan's to contribute to our wellbeing.

Tom Krumm

County, Indiana, Historical

Ripley



Society

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

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