

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 13, 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 Bill Dallman on the State Park History. The Ice Cream Social: Ice Cream will be provided by Directors and Refreshments (Cookies & Drinks) will be provided by BrownTwp. Members.

▲ Research \$5.00 for non-members and all mailed requests, and \$1.00 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. **NOTE:** Ripley County History Vol. II is no longer available.

▲ **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 book has been donated to the RCHSL by Lyle C. Bultman, Naples, Florida. The title is "From Germany to Indiana, The Ancestors and Descendants of Oliver W. Bultman and Edna B. (Hoyer) Bultman." If anyone is interested in getting a copy can contact Lyle C. Bultman by phone: 239-682-7316, or by email: lyleaki@yahoo.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 Labor Day & on Pumpkin Show Saturday Sep. 28th. Questions call 812-689-3031. **NOTICE:** 2014 Yearly Dues are due in January 2014. Mail your renewal for 2014 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>Assorted Jefferson Proving Ground Books</i>	
Shipping Charges added for all books	5		

IN LOVING MEMORY OF HENRY F. WALKER

March 11 1927 - May 12, 2014

Henry F. Walker, 87 of Milan passed away at his residence Monday morning, May 12, 2014. Henry was born Friday March 11, 1927 in Milan the son of Orvil and Henrietta (Kuntz) Walker. He married Geraldine (Jerrie) on May 21, 1949 and she survives.

Henry served his country in the U.S. Air Force, and returned home to be a long life farmer. He was active in the Milan United Methodist Church and the Milan Methodist Mens Club. He was also a member of the Farm Bureau, the Gideons, Milan Masonic Lodge F & AM No. 31, Order of Eastern Star Lodge No. 333, 66 year member of the Milan American Legion Post No. 235. He was an associate member of the Ripley county Retired Teachers.

He was also a member and volunteer worker for the Ripley County Historical Society. He is greatly missed by all of us. He was a wonderful man, quiet and friendly, and easy going.

Henry enjoyed farming, gardening, reading, bowling, going to sporting events, and spending time with his family. The eulogy that was given by his children and grandchildren was amazing. One could tell that he was a very loving and active person in his children and grandchildren's lives. It was clear that they all loved him dearly and will miss him greatly. He also liked to play practical jokes on them. They had some funny tales to tell.

I know in my heart that Henry is in Heaven.



Henry F. Walker

Eleazer Wheelock Ripley



**Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
from Louisiana's 2nd district**

**In office
1835–1839**



The grave of General Eleazer W. Ripley

RIPLEY COUNTY'S NAME SAKE ELEAZER WHEELOCK RIPLEY

The state of Indiana was the 19th state in the union. It became a state in 1816. In 1818, Ripley County was organized and named in honor of brigadier General Eleazer Wheelock Ripley.

Eleazer Wheelock Ripley was born on April 15, 1782 in Hanover, New Hampshire. He was the grandson of Eleazer Wheelock, the founder of Dartmouth College. His father, Sylvanus, taught at Dartmouth in the 1780s, and Eleazer graduated from the school in 1800. After graduation, he practiced law in Kennebec County, Maine and Portland, Maine. He served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1810 and 1811. He was elected to the Massachusetts Senate in 1812.

In August, 1812, he organized the 21st United States Infantry Regiment. He was given the rank of Lieutenant-colonel by President Madison, and was promoted to Colonel in March 1813. He participated in the battles of Sackett's Harbor, Crysler's Farm, and Lundy's Lane. Eleazer was wounded and it took him several months to recover. He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1814 for his wartime service.

In 1815, he moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and left the Army in 1820 as a Brigadier General. He decided to continue his political career. He served in the US House of Representatives from Louisiana's 2nd district from 1835 to 1839. He died on March 2, 1839 at the age of 56 in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

Ripley's efforts during the War of 1812 were recognized by renaming the village of Staunton, Ohio, to Ripley, Ohio. Other places named after him were Ripley County, Indiana; Ripley County, Missouri; and the towns of Ripley, New York, and Ripley, Tennessee.

Ripley County, Indiana, took the name Ripley in 1817. Eleazer never visited the county. He married his first spouse, Love Allen, in Massachusetts and had one son and one daughter. He also had a daughter with his second spouse Aurella Smith Davis. He is buried in Locust Grove Cemetery in St. Francisville, Louisiana.

We will soon be celebrating our County's 200th birthday. Maybe it's time to honor him as well.

Tom Krumm

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES
March 30, 2014

The Spring Quarterly meeting, held at the Society's Archives Building on March 30, 2014, was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Secretary Frank Keenan in the absence of President Cheryl Welch. Secretary Keenan led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. The revised minutes of the October 13, 2013 meeting were read and approved, followed by the reading of the minutes of the January 12, 2014 meeting, which were also approved as read. Treasurer Owen Menchhofer presented the Treasurer's Report, which was approved by the attendees.

Sandra Meisberger reported that the society is no longer able to get the bulk rate for mailing the quarterly newsletter. USPS now requires a minimum of 200 copies for the bulk rate. Accordingly, those who have email might consider receiving the newsletter by email only. Members were reminded that 2014 dues are due. In turn it was noted that membership is down. Any ideas for increasing the Society's membership would be appreciated. A representative of the Batesville Historical Society requested and was granted permission to address the attendees. He noted that their dues are \$15.00 and that membership in their Society carries no obligation for volunteer work. He suggested that in the future RCHS and the Batesville Historical Society could get together for joint programs.

Sandy Meisberger noted that the Society received a grant to purchase a scanner and it is presently up and running.

Following the business meeting the program was presented by Laughery Township Director Helen Decker, who shared with us her lovely collection of eggs. Helen also displayed a book containing pictures of some of the Faberge eggs made for the Russian Tsar Nicholas II and the Tsarina Alexandra. This program was particularly enjoyable given the approach of the Easter season. Refreshments were provided by Betty Roepke, Adams Township Director. It will be recalled that President Welch announced that Bill Dillman, Versailles State Park historian and chair of the "Friends of the Park", will be the speaker at the July meeting. He will discuss the first homesteading families in the acres which now comprise the park. Members are reminded that following the summer business meeting we will be repeating our much enjoyed ice cream social of the past two years. Members are encouraged to bring their favorite homemade ice cream to share. Brown Township will be responsible for other refreshments, such as cookies and drinks.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Keenan, Secretary

County, Indiana, Historical

Ripley



Society

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Adams Twp. – Mrs. Betty Roepke; 9644 E Co Rd 1300 N, Sunman, IN 47041	Vice President
Brown Twp. - Mr. Frank Keenan, 3241 E State Rd 62, Cross Plains, IN 47017	Secretary
Center Twp. - Mr. Charles Wm. Gloyd, P.O. Box 195, Osgood, IN 47037	
Delaware Twp. - Mrs. Lois Workman; 4823 N Co Rd 350 E, Osgood, IN 47037	
Franklin Twp. – Mr. Fred Glover, 5611 E Co Rd 300 N, Milan, IN 47031	
Jackson Twp. - Mr. Delbert Abplanalp; 4543 W Co Rd 800 N, Osgood, IN 47037	
Johnson Twp. - Mr. Owen Menchhofer, 1970 N Co Rd 300 W, Holton, IN 47023	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	President
Washington Twp. - Mr. Henry Walker; 1721 N Co Rd 575 E, Milan, IN 47031	
Director at Large - Mrs. Sandra Meisberger, 4662 W. Co. Rd. 450 S. Versailles, IN 47042	
Lori Hoffman; 5565 E. Lower Dry Fork Rd. Madison, IN 47250	Web Master
Sandra Meisberger & Cheryl Welch	Newsletter Committee

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