

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 12, 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 Mike Stratton on Otter Village. Ice Cream Social Refreshments will be provided by Jackson Twp. Members (Delbert Abplanalp). Bring Your Homemade Ice Cream.

▲ Research \$5.00 for non-members and all mailed requests, and \$1.00 per page copied for everyone. **VOLUNTEERS TO WORK AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS BADLY NEEDED (NO PAY). CONTACT CHERYL WELCH IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WORKING ONE DAY A WEEK FROM 1:00 TO 4:00 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.**

▲ The WWII War Veterans book, titled LEST WE FORGET, 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 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 \$30. 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 novel is available at the Ripley County Historical Society by Don Morrison named "The Dark Line" which tells a story of the perils the American Slaves in Kentucky fleeing to Indiana via the Underground Railroad. The Book sells for \$20.

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:** 2015 Yearly Dues are due in January 2015. Mail your renewal for 2016 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>The Dark Line</i> by Don Morrison	20
<i>Assorted Jefferson Proving Ground Books</i>		<i>Napoleon & Vicinity</i>	12
<i>Sugar Branch</i> by Don Morrison	16	Shipping Charges added for all books	5

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

By Frank Keenan, Secretary

The spring quarterly meeting, held at the Society's Archives Building on April 12, 2015, was called to order by President Cheryl Welch at 2:00 p.m. Cheryl led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Keenan read the minutes for the winter 2015 quarterly meeting, which were approved as read. Treasurer Owen Menchhofer reported that instead of the customary \$5000.00 payment to the Society for keeping certain County records at the Archives building for the County Commissioners, we received only \$4500.00 this year. The Treasurer's report was also approved as presented.

Cheryl Welch reported that we purchased a new laptop and a new projector with the remainder of the Tyson Fund grant. We can scan twice a week at the Courthouse. Cheryl gave a demo to the attendees of a 1934 Osgood Journal article with the projector. We can charge if researchers want articles printed.

Sandy Meisberger gave an update on cemetery records. She also said that we must get copies of the Kralls' World War II Veterans book to the schools.

Cheryl announced the slate of new directors for 2015-2018, including Duane Drockelman for Adams Township; Frank Keenan for Brown Twp.; Bill Gloyd for Center Twp.; Lois Workman for Delaware Twp.; and member at large, Sandra Meisberger. Cheryl called for nominations from the floor and none being presented, the slate was approved by attendees. Delbert Abplanalp announced that an annual event well worth attending would be held at the Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum in Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 26, 2015.

Duane Drockelman presented information on the 2016 Indiana Bicentennial Celebration. A torch will be carried 2300 miles from Corydon to every county. It will go through Ripley County on September 17, 2016. Twenty nominees for torch bearers are being sought. The Bicentennial for the state of Indiana will occur during 2016, whereas Ripley County will celebrate its Bicentennial in 2018. Suggestions were made regarding a talk on the history of Ripley County. It was proposed that we put a notice in the newspapers, in the town hall, and in the schools for volunteers. Other suggestions included doing a video of the community, and advertising on the RCHS Facebook page. It was brought up that Napoleon would celebrate its 200 year Bicentennial in 2020.

The July 12, 2015 meeting will be an ice cream social, featuring a program by Mike Stratton on Otter Village. Members are urged to bring their freezers full of their favorite ice cream. Jackson Township will supply drinks and other refreshments. After a most interesting program on Hassmer Hill presented by Connie Kelley, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Keenan, Secretary

JAMES ROBERT DUNBAR

James Robert Dunbar, age 94 of Milan, Indiana entered this life on November 7, 1920 in Delaware, Indiana. He was the son of the late Everett B. and Helen Monroe Dunbar. He married Mary Kathleen Heck on June 29, 1946 and she preceded him in death May 27, 2000. James had attended school in the Osgood area and then went on to attend Purdue University where he graduated receiving a BS degree in Electrical Engineering. He had a very prominent working career. He and his wife Katie had lived in California and there he had worked for Rockwell International in Redondo Beach and later for McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach.

Organizational Memberships:

James was a proud WWII Army Veteran. Other memberships included were the Osgood United Methodist Church; the Masonic Lodge #603 of Osgood; former member of the Eastern Star Lodge of Osgood; member of the Ripley County Historical Society; former member of the American Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers; Life member of the National Management Association; member of Clan Dunbar Association of America and member of Clan Munro Association of America and Scotland.

Jim passed away Sunday, November 30, 2014 at Ripley Crossing in Milan, Indiana.

Survivors: One Sister, Mary Ellen Ahlrich of Osgood, IN, and many nieces and nephews also survive.

Burial in the Mud Pike Cemetery, Osgood, Indiana

The Ripley County Historical Society Library, Versailles, Indiana members want to give JAMES DUNBAR AND FAMILY a HUGE THANK YOU in memory for his generous donation from his estate!

Also a BIG THANK YOU to MARY MANSHIP AND FAMILY for your generous donation in memory of your Mother and Father, LEONARD AND KATHERYN FANGMAN MANSHIP to the historical society!

THE BIRTH OF THE VERSAILLES STATE PARK BY TOM KRUMM

The history books say the Versailles State Park started in 1943 when The National Park Service transferred 5,904 acres of land to the Indiana Park Service. In reality, the park began on October 11, 1934, when 1500 acres were purchased so the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) #596 could employ approximately 200 unemployed men to build cabins to live in while they planted thousands of trees on marginal land.

One in four of the local citizens was unemployed and had no money to buy food for themselves or their families. If they joined the CORE, they were paid \$30. A month and \$25. Of this money was sent back to their homes. This was one of several programs that began to rebuild our society and helped us improve our land.

An additional 4400 acres were acquired by 1943. Alvin Busching remembers when he had to move in 1937. He lived on his grandfather's farm which was bought by the Federal Government for the CCC camp. More than 60 families gave up their land in the thirties and forties to build the present day park.

Laughery Creek runs through the park, and an earthen dam was built in 1955 to create a 230 acre lake. The Versailles Lake provides fishing, boating, and a water reservoir for the town of Versailles. Six bike trails have been built in addition to three hiking trails.

There are over 25 miles of horse trails also available for visitors who bring their horses. A 25 meter swimming pool with a 100 foot waterslide was built. Two hundred twenty six campground sites are available to rent in addition to shelter buildings. Thousands of people visit the park every year. The Versailles Park is the second largest park in the state of Indiana.

Tom Krumm



County, Indiana, Historical

Ripley



Society

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Adams Twp. - Mr. Duane Drockelman, 10238 N. Adams Church Rd, Batesville, IN 47006

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. - Mrs. Jerri Driggers, 2046 s. Co. Rd 675 E. Dillsboro, IN 47018

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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