

The Quarterly Bulletin
Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc.
Library – 125 Washington Street
Museum – Corner of Main and Water Streets
Versailles, Indiana 47042

www.rchslib.org

e-mail: staff@rchslib.org

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▲ The Ripley Co. Historical Society will meet **Sunday, July 10, 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 Josephine Rascoe Keenan. Ice Cream Social Refreshments will be provided by Otter Creek Twp. Members, (Mike Stratton). 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 ARE 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. **We are now printing the Ripley County History Book Vol. II**

▲ **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 will available at the Ripley County Historical Society by Josephine Keenan named "THOSE FIRST BRIGHT DAYS OF ELVIS", will be released on May 2, 2016, which weaves a story of human anguish and betrayal, love and loss, recrimination and regret, and shows how choices, once made, can change one's life forever. Books Cost: 6" x 9" Perfect Bound List price: \$24.95; Hardcover price: \$14.97; Softcover: \$4.97 ebook.

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:** 2016 Yearly Dues are due in January 2016. 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
<i>Ripley County History Vol. II</i>	25		

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

By Duane Drockelman, for Secretary Frank Keenan

The spring quarterly meeting was held at the Society's Archives Building on April 10, 2016. The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Welch at 2:00 p.m. with 20 attendees. After introductions, the President led the Pledge of Allegiance. Duane Drockelman, in absence of Secretary Frank Keenan read the minutes for the January 2016 quarterly meeting. After the correction in the minutes of Counties Newspaper being scanned, it was corrected to the Osgood Journal copies dated 1927-1957, and minutes were then approved. He mentioned that the Society has received the \$4500.00 stipend from the County Auditor's Office. Treasurer, Owen Menchhofer, distributed the treasurer's report and it was approved by attendees. He noted that the Society has received the \$4500.00 Stipend from the County Auditors Office.

President Welch announced that this coming week is the National Volunteer week and the necessity that the Society could use additional Volunteers assistance. She asked that if anyone would like to write an article, such as Connie Kelley's, for the next newsletter, it would be welcomed. Tom Krumm is still having illness issues and is missed for his contributions.

President Welch reported that the Society donated a copy of the "Lest We Forget" book, along with a copy of the "The Dark Line" to the Tyson Library. The Author, Don Morrison donated 4 copies each of "The Dark Line" and "Sugar Branch" to the Society for use.

President Welch also reported that the Society had received a request from the Indiana Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), for any information from all Indiana Counties Historical Societies about the last Civil War Veteran Soldiers Project. This project is for the Indiana Bicentennial/Legacy Project. Duane Drockelman volunteered to do this as he thought his Great-Grandfather, William Drockelman, who died February 18, 1937, was the last GAR soldier in Ripley County. The Bicentennial activities for Ripley County is scheduled for September 17, 2016. President Welch feels that the Society's Archives should be open during the festivities taking place in Versailles on that day. She asked for Volunteers, and possibly have period's clothes for the occasion. More information will be discussed at the July Summer meeting.

Nominations for the following Townships were presented by the committee for approval: Franklin: Fred Glover; Jackson: Delbert Abplanalp; Johnson: Owen Menchoffer, and officially for Bill Gloyds' appointment, Center: Charles Hughes. All were approved at the meeting.

Other business included: Duane will be presenting a talk on Indiana, Ripley County and Adams Twp. History at a public meeting in Sunman at the request of their Bicentennial Committee. Delbert announced that the annual Spring Grove Cemetery tour will be held on Sunday, April 17th, the July meeting speaker scheduled is Josephine Roscoe Keenan discussing her book "In Those First Bright Days of Elvis" The October meeting speaker scheduled is Theresa Carmichael discussing "Stained Glass".

The program was presented by Jim Waldo, representing the Ripley County American Youth Unlimited Organization. He discussed that the organization works with disadvantaged local youth and takes the kids for either a summer or winter excursion to Yellowstone National Park. The organization is 9 years old and takes the kids, along with adult supervision, on a 10-12 days trip. Because of low income, this is sometimes the only trip, of this type, that the kids will have an opportunity to experience. Jim showed photos of these trips with beautiful topography scenes and native animals to that area.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Drockelman

CROSS PLAINS WOMAN'S BOOK TO BE PUBLISHED

Josephine Rascoe Keenan of Cross Plains is excited for the release of her debut book, "In Those First Bright Days of Elvis." The young-adult novel will be released on May 2 by Pen-L Publishing, a small publishing firm based in Arkansas.

Keenan weaves a story of human anguish and betrayal, love and loss, recrimination and regret, and it shows how choices, once made, can change one's life forever. The story is not about Elvis, she told Ripley Publishing, but of a 15-year-old girl in El Dorado, Ark., who attends an amateur rock concert at a football stadium and encounters three strangers: a look-alike, who could pass for her twin; a college boy, who will be the love of her life; and Elvis Presley, just before his meteoric rise to fame. She catches a ride in his pink Cadillac, and sets in motion a series of events that will change her life forever.

I grew up in the '50s and had a wonderful time and I wanted to share it. "America was terrific and in a very good place," Keenan said. She said the setting is her hometown, but it reminds her of Cross Plains, which is partly why she and her husband Frank bought property here several years ago.

While they also have a home in Cincinnati, they have become involved in the local community. Josephine's husband Frank is the secretary of the Ripley County Historical Society and is a director representing Brown Township. For the summer quarterly meeting on Sunday, July 10, the historical society will feature a presentation from Keenan and a book signing.

The book will also be available at the Bookshelf in Batesville, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, online at www.Pen-L.com/InThoseFirstBrightdays.html or contact her at fjkeenan@fuse.net. It's categorized as young adult, but it's a crossover that would appeal to adults as well, she said.

It took her about five years to write and find a publisher for this book, but it is not the first time she's been published. Her short story "The Petticoat Skipper" was featured in the March 2016 issue of Cricket Magazine and she had another one published in 2007. Three of her plays have been produced in regional theatres. One of them, "Center of the Universe" was chosen as a winner of Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati's New Play Contest.

The author has worked in theater as a director and professional actor doing plays, TV commercials and featured roles in films. She is currently working on book two in "The Days of Elvis" series.

When Keenan is not writing, she enjoys gardening and country walks, oil painting, square dancing and southern cooking.

The Versailles Republican

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

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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