

The Quarterly Bulletin
RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Library – 125 Washington Street
Museum – Corner of Main and Water Streets
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▲ **Quarterly Meeting**

The Ripley Co. Historical Society will meet **Sunday, July 14th, at 2:00 pm** at the Archive Library on the West side of Versailles Courthouse Square. The program will be by Don Morrison featuring his new book *Come Safe Home*.

"*Come Safe Home* chronicles the individual journeys of H.R. Miller, Elizabeth Hackney and Adam Coulter in the years before, during and after the American Civil War. Miller is traumatized by personal losses, and is later conscripted as a warrior for the Southern Cause. Elizabeth, after a harrowing escape to Canada on the Underground Railroad, finds herself a widow and single mother coping with abuse by her employer. Adam endures life-threatening wounds as a Union officer and the loss of the woman he loves. He finally seeks the company of her family to save himself from postwar depression. The paths of these three characters finally cross in a gripping conclusion."

A book signing will follow the presentation. This is the last of the series. *Sugar Branch* and *The Dark Line* are the first two books, and are available for purchase at the Ripley County Historical Society.

Don Morrison is a retired teacher and corporate instructor. He has taught in Indiana schools and in American schools in Korea and Germany. More recently he has worked as an international volunteer in India and Tanzania.

▲ **Library Hours**

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. Memorial Day through Labor Day & on Pumpkin Show Saturday Sep. 29th. Questions call 812-689-3031.

NOTICE: 2019 Yearly Dues are due in January 2019. Mail your renewal for 2019 to RCHS at P.O. Box 525, Versailles, IN 47042 Dues: Annual \$15; Life \$150.

▲ **Research**

Research is free to all members and \$7.00 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.

▲ **Volunteers Needed**

We need volunteers to donate 3 hours of their time one day a week, Monday – Friday from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. If you live in Delaware Township, please consider volunteering to be a director from your township. Contact Cheryl Welch if you are interested in filling any of these positions.

▲ **Books**

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 \$32.50. 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

▲ Ripley County – 200 Years

A book is being put together for the Ripley County Bi-Centennial covering 1818 – 2018. We are looking for information from each township such as: old communities no longer in existence, schools, churches, cemeteries, etc. Interesting old stories or historical events that occurred would be great as well as more recent information. Please send your stories to the Ripley County Historical Society Archives by email, staff@rchslib.org, or mail, P O Box 525, Versailles, IN.

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

The spring quarterly meeting of the Society was held at the RCHS Archives Building on April 14, 2019. The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Welch at 2:00 P.M. following which she led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Treasurer Owen Menchhofer distributed the cumulative monthly Income and Expenses Report for the period 1/1/2018 through 12/31/2018. Treasurer Menchhofer additionally read and distributed the Monthly Income and Expenses report for the period 1/1/2019 through 3/31/2019, which report was unanimously approved by the members in attendance. Treasurer Menchhofer also noted that Mike Stratton has examined the 21 historical markers sponsored and placed throughout the County by the Society and has recommended that four (4) such markers need replacing, namely the markers located at Ballstown; Steamboat Landing; New Marion; and the Napoleon Senior Center. Menchhofer also advised attendees that the Society has applied to the Ripley County Foundation for a grant of \$5,000 toward the cost of the Bi-Centennial Book being supported by the Society and others involved, such as the town of Napoleon.

Society members attending the meeting voted to approve Diane Arnold as Director for Laughery Township for the remainder of the 2019-2020 term. Accordingly, only Delaware Township directorship remains vacant.

The program, presented by President Cheryl Welch, brought to the attention of attendees Ripley County's most prominent political figure, Stephen Selwyn Harding. Born in 1808 in upstate New York, he was one of fifteen children, including the stepchildren of his father, David Harding. Ancestry.com contends that he was a third cousin, thrice removed, of U.S. President Warren G. Harding.

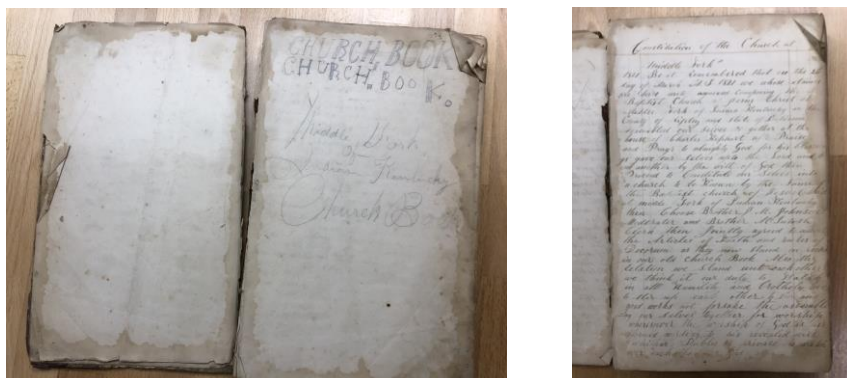
Two of Cheryl's sources for her presentation included an excellent excerpt from a 1921 edition of a Milan Newspaper, and an account of Stephen S. Harding's life prepared by Tom Krumm for the RCHS Report of 3/5/2004. His father, David, served in the War of 1812 against the British and was captured by an Indian tribe that was fighting alongside the British. After the War of 1812, Stephen's father built a crude raft in 1820 and came down the Ohio River, disembarking in Aurora, Indiana. Stephen studied law, and at age 19 he passed the bar exam and opened an office in Richmond, IN. A year later he opened a law office in New Orleans, LA, but after several months of exposure to the slave trade, he returned north, first to New York state, and then back to Ripley County, IN to pursue law. In July of 1830 Stephen S. Harding was appointed as the Ripley County Attorney representing the County in all manner of legal matters. In 1833, he purchased 80 acres on old Milan Road, where he built a beautiful two-story home, which, with some modifications still stands. This house became Station No 7 on the Underground Railroad. By 1840 Stephen had acquired 500 additional acres in Franklin Township; started a wheat mill and a saw mill, along with continuing to practice law.

Worried that some of the western territories would become pro-slavery, President Lincoln appointed Stephen as the 2nd Governor of the Utah Territory from 1872 to 1865, whereupon he returned to Milan. He died in 1891 and is buried in Greendale Cemetery in Dearborn County.

Refreshments were served by Cheryl Welch of Shelby Township. The next meeting will be held July 14 at the archives building. Washington Township is in charge of refreshments which will include our traditional ice cream social.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Keenan, Secretary

Recent additions to the Ripley County Historical Society

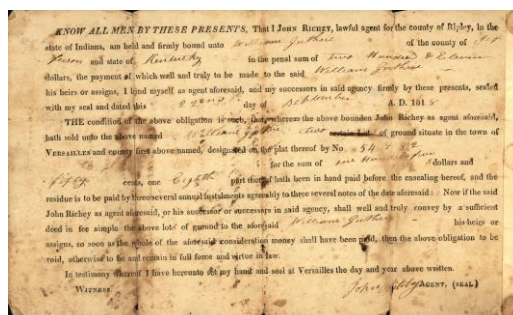


Middle Fork of Indian Kentucky Church Book

This tattered and worn book contains the Constitution of the Church, dated 24 March 1821 and lists the members comprising the constitution; male – John M Johnson, Joseph McIntosh, Roger Elless, John Oneel, Wm Bassett and female – Phebe Oneel, Susanah Elless and Rachel Kephart. James and Mary Benham deeded 1 acre of land in the SE ¼ Section 12 Township 6N Range 11E in Brown Township, Ripley County on 6 May 1826 (Ripley County Deed Book A, page 270-271 and is also recorded in the church book) to the deacons, John Oneal and John Bassett. The deed states “to include a spring near the meeting house”, indicating there was already a building present. The book also contains “Articles of Faith”, “Rules of Decorum”, names of members and minuets of meetings dated from the “fourth Saturday in April 1821 thru the last book entry dated “the 3rd Saturday in August 1873”.

This record book may give insight to researchers with ancestors from this area.

We graciously thank the Jefferson County Historical Society, Madison, IN for the recent donation of this record for our files.



Inserted in the above book was a document recording the sale of two lots of ground in the town of Versailles, designated on the plat thereof my No. 54 & 82 to William Guthrie dated 22 September 1818.

Zu Auswanderung aus dem Kirchspiel Engter (Emigration from the Church Engter)

A listing of 1170 names of emigrations from the parish of Engter. Information included in part: name, maiden name, birth date, birth place or last residence, destination, occupation, emigration date, ship name, relationships, and sources.

We thank David Dreyer for donating this record to our files.

Cabin Problems



As you can see we have some major problems with the cabin.

We have someone working on an estimate to repair the damage to the logs. We have several logs that need help.

We may look into a Grant to help with the cost.

Just want you to know what is going on here at the RCHS.



FURNACE TROUBLE

We have had some major problems with the furnace this winter. We have spent almost \$3000.00 this past winter for repairs and we are looking in what is the best thing for us to do. We don't have much heat in the back of the building in winter.



Honoring Helen Decker

Helen Decker, one of our retired volunteers and former Director was honored with a Quilt of Valor from the Hoosier Hills Quilts of Valor Chapter in honor of her Service to our Country. Helen served in the Marines for two years beginning 1951. Helen was an instructor, teaching behavior and courtesy. While serving, Helen met her husband Joe Decker from Batesville where she still resides. Thank you for your service.

In Memory of Roselyn McKittrick AUGUST 22, 1934 ~ MARCH 16, 2019

Roselyn V. McKittrick 84, long time resident of Milan, IN passed away peacefully surrounded by her children at the Ripley Crossing Nursing Home on Saturday March 16 after a short illness. Born in 1934 in Forrest City Iowa, the child of Gladys and Melvin Knutson. Roselyn had a memorable childhood growing up on an Iowa farm with her four brothers and sisters. Upon graduating high school Roselyn left the farm and moved to Minneapolis before securing a job with TWA Airlines in Chicago. She then lived and worked in Washington D.C. where she met her future husband. Married in 1955, Roselyn and John and moved to Milan where they raised three children Dennis, Rhonda and Tom.

Roselyn will be remembered as a dedicated advocate for her adopted home town of Milan. Her multiple contributions to Milan included resurrecting the historic King Hotel and transforming it into the highly successful Rail Road Inn. Through her tireless efforts Roselyn transformed the decaying hotel into a thriving and highly popular restaurant which is fondly remembered by many.



Roselyn's legacy is most tied to her founding of the Milan 1954 Museum celebrating Milan's David and Goliath victory in the 1954 State Basketball Championship. The museum's humble beginnings began in a corner of Roselyn's antique store, Milan Station Antiques on Carr Street. Roselyn worked tirelessly to ensure the story of the Mighty Men of Milan was preserved and shared with younger generations. Her efforts led to the development of the Milan 54 Museum located in the fully renovated former bank building. The museum has welcomed visitors from dozens of countries and thousands of basketball fans from throughout the US. One of Roselyn's greatest joys was retelling the tales of Milan's epic 1954 Championship, the story that inspired the 1986 movie Hoosiers. Roselyn shied away from recognition however her tireless efforts in preserving the story of the Milan Miracle was featured in hundreds of articles and news reports.

Roselyn will be remembered by many for many things including as: a 34-year breast cancer survivor; long time member of the St Paul Lutheran Church; unofficial town historian; and supporting multiple causes and programs within the community.

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
Historic Travel Guide to Ripley County	by Paul R Wunning	\$23.00
History of Adams Township 1950	by Harold Freeland	\$20.00
Jackson Township Cemetery Records		\$13.00
Johnson Township Cemetery Records		\$10.00
Lest We Forget WWII	by RCHS	\$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 McDermert	\$34.00
Ripley Country, In Vintage Post Cards	by Alan Smith	\$20.00
Ripley County History, Volume I		\$65.00
Ripley County History, Volume II	(Paperback)	\$25.00
Passing Point	by Don Morrison	\$8.00
Story of the Bradt Fund, the F. Hale Bradt Family and their Versailles, Indiana Farm 1906-2001		n/c
Sugar Branch	by Don Morrison	\$16.00
Take The River	DVD PBS Presentation	\$25.00
Tales of Versailles	by Alan Smith	\$16.00
The Dark Line	by Don Morrison	\$20.00
Those First Bright Days of Elvis	by Josephine Rascoe Keenan	\$14.00
In Those Dazzling Days of Elvis	by Josephine Rascoe Keenan	\$14.00
Versailles, Indiana School Life 1818-1966	by Alan Smith	\$20.00
Wilbur's War (Abridged)	by Hale Bradt	\$15.00

Ripley County, Indiana, Historical



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