

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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July 2022

HAPPY SUMMER

Number 3

▲ **July Quarterly Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held July 10, 2022 at the Ripley County Historical Archives. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm. The program will be about Land Patents and how to research family owned land. Refreshments will be served by Brown Township & others. This will be our annual Ice Cream Social. We look forward to seeing you in person.

▲ **Library Hours**



NOTICE: The library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 1 pm-4 pm. For those not able to visit us in person, email your requests for information to staff@rchslib.org or regular mail to P O Box 525 Versailles, IN 47042. We look forward to serving your research needs.

NOTICE: The Museum is open by appointment only. To schedule an appointment call Cheryl Welch, President 812-621-0418, Duane Drockelman, Vice President 812-852-1313 or Barbara Eades, Director at Large 812-701-9238.



▲ **Annual Dues**

Remember to renew your membership for another year. 2022 Yearly Dues are due in January. Mail your renewal for 2022 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 are looking for volunteers to donate 3 hours of their time one day a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Contact Cheryl Welch if you are interested in volunteering.

▲ **Books**

See our list of books available listed on the last page of this newsletter. The WWII War Veterans Book, titled *LEST WE FORGET* by Joan and Norris Krall 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 (3) 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). Checks should be made payable to Ripley County Historical Society. Books may be shipped for a \$7.50 shipping and handling fee.

WE REMEMBER



Ruth A. Pickett, 94, of Correct, passed from this earthly life at 7:00 p.m., Friday, May 6, 2022. She was under Hospice care at Nortons Brownsboro Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky. She was born in Ripley County on January 12, 1928, the daughter of Clarence and Della Lemen Graves. She was married to Victor Pickett on June 23, 1945, and was able to celebrate sixty years of marriage before his passing in August 2005. She was the mother of three children, Richard (Tammy) Pickett, Susan (Joe) Craig, and David (Ellen) Pickett, seven grandchildren Jeff and Bill Pickett, Jennifer Smith, Patrick and Benjamin Craig, Sam and Joe Pickett, and seven great grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, her siblings Marge (Sandifer), Marvin, Nelson, Art, and Virgil Graves, and her daughter in law, Tammy. Ruth spent her childhood in the small village of New Marion and recalled her life there with great fondness. As a young wife and mother, she moved to the family farm, spending the majority of her life there. She was known for her prodigious gardening skills. She was passionate about providing healthy food to her family, and coveted junk food was rare to her children. In addition to raising her

children with a fierce devotion, she held a strong desire to learn and expand her knowledge of the world. She was a lover of the written word, loving to read all manner of materials, including the family set of encyclopedias. She lived with a great curiosity of history, and spent many hours meticulously researching her family's lineage. She was proud to discover that several of her ancestors came to this country on the Mayflower. She enjoyed volunteering at the Ripley County Historical Society archives and was a member of the Ross Run Daughters of the American Revolution. She was a lifetime member of the Correct Homemakers, and loved socializing with her friends and meeting new people. Most of all, she loved her family, her husband, children, and grandchildren were her heart. Funeral services were held Saturday, May 14th at New Marion Baptist Church. Memorials may be made to the New Marion Baptist Church or the Ripley County Historical Society in care of Stratton-Karseter funeral home.



Catherine Agnes "Katie" Smith, 97, of Versailles passed away on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at St. Andrews Health Campus in Batesville. She was born in Aurora on April 30, 1925, the daughter of Ernest and Elsie Kenelein Borgman. Catherine was a 1943 graduate of Aurora High School. She was married to Alan F. "Smitty" Smith on July 17, 1945 and he preceded her in death on January 22, 2003. Surviving Catherine are her three children, Alan F. (Carolyn) Smith of Bloomington, Theresa (Byron) Smith of Chillicothe, Ohio, and Nancy (Jim) Lemon of Versailles; grandchildren Cassandra (Christopher) Meyer, Grant (Allison) Smith, Carrie (Ross) Cocklin, Allison Smith, and Lauren (Matthew) Daylami; 11 great-grandchildren; one brother John (Marianna) Borgman. She was also preceded in death by her parents, her grandson Derrick Smith, and her sister Donna Teaney. Catherine lived on the Courthouse Square in Versailles for 70 years and was a member of the St. John Catholic Church in Osgood. She very much enjoyed playing cards with friends, tending her beautiful backyard garden, telling stories, and filling up her house with

friends and relatives during Pumpkin Show, where her kitchen overflowed with food and fun times. Services will be held at the convenience of the family with burial in the Oakdale Cemetery in Dillsboro. Memorials may be given to St. Judes Children's Research Hospital or the Ripley County Humane Society in care of the Stratton-Karsteter Funeral Home.

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

The Ripley County Historical Society held the second meeting since the beginning of Pandemic of Covid-19 on Sunday, April 10, 2022. President Cheryl Welch called the meeting to order and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

As there were no minutes of the January 2022 meeting, Cheryl proceeded to present the report of Owen Menchhofer, Treasurer, in his absence. There were no amendments or changes to the Treasurer's report. President Welch announced that the money from the REMC grant, \$1231.98, went to purchase a new dehumidifier. The Court House grant was used to pay heat and water bills.

Under new business the Society took up the election of Directors and Officers. They are as follows:

Franklin Township: Fred Glover

Jackson Township: Delbert Abplanalp

Johnson Township: Owen Menchhofer

Delaware Township: Kay Koppel

President Welch asked for nominations from the floor for the office of President. Attendees unanimously elected her.

Cheryl announced that the next meeting would be July 10, 2022, and Brown Township will provide refreshments for this traditional ice cream social.

Under old business, Victor Sarringhaus asked when we would be getting the Ripley County History book, which was due for completion and delivery in 2018. A discussion followed with no resolution as to when the book would be finished by Ripley County Historical Society and Winters Publishing Co.

A discussion was held about a means for the handicapped to enter the Society building. We have a ramp for the back door, but the front door will not accommodate a ramp. Next it was announced that Owen is retiring from his job and will be devoting his time to getting a list of military buried in township cemeteries. Sam Copeland, Trustee of Brown Township and Duane Drockelman are working on Laughery cemeteries. The VA only has records of the dead from World War I forward.

Barbara Eades presented a fascinating program on the release of the 1950 census. Some of the questions asked by census takers were unusual by our standards today, such as, "Is there a radio in the house?" and if a person was unemployed, "Is he looking for work?" Humorous questions about plumbing include: "Does your house have a flush toilet inside the structure? Outside the structure? A privy, outhouse, or chemical toilet? No toilet for this house?" Attendees thoroughly enjoyed the program and a lively discussion followed about memories of days gone by.

The Society is looking for a program for the Summer Quarterly meeting.

With that, President Welch adjourned the meeting for refreshments, which were delicious brownies and gluten free cake.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank A. Keenan, Secretary

Land Patents

Did your ancestors have a Land Patent? Land Patents offer researchers a source of information on the initial transfer of land titles from the Federal government to individuals.

The Act of April 24, 1820, authorized land to be sold for a minimum of \$1.25 per acre and tracts as small as 80 acres. Public lands initially offered for sale by District Land Offices were sold at pre-announced, scheduled public auction. If any land remained unsold, the parcels would be available for purchase at the minimum price on a first-come-first-served basis. This replaced the credit system.

1989 General Land Office Records Automation Project started in September. The Project preserves the documents by scanning them and creating an optical image. Each document is indexed to create a searchable database. Researchers have the ability to search by state, patentee's name, county, and legal land description.

Understanding Land Patents

Land Patents are Federal Conveyance Documents created on the initial transfer of land titles from the Federal government to individuals. In viewing these documents, the following information may be helpful for interpreting the data:

The **primary identification numbers** are located in the upper left-hand corner of the document, e.g. a document number, warrant number, serial number or patent number, Indian allotment number, mining claims, etc. Beginning in July 1908 patents were identified with a GLO Serial number, that number appears at the top or bottom of the document. These numbers were assigned consecutively and filed numerically at the opening and closing of the various land offices. Military Warrant numbers are found in the body of these patents. Homestead patents have an assigned application number, which is not required when researching in this Web site.

Patentee names are shown in various areas of the patent. In instances where the patentee was not the original purchaser of the land, the patent will state the purchaser as the Assignee, heirs, and devisees. Military warrants will have the name, rank in service, and a regiment they were affiliated with. These patents were issued in favor of the Officers and Soldiers for their service in the Military, but were often assigned to their heirs or other individuals.

Land Offices were established in the district handling the land transactions. They would frequently move and close within the States as the land within their jurisdiction began dwindling.

Legal Land Descriptions are described in numbered townships in tiers north and south of the base line and ranges east and west of the principal meridians. Townships are subdivided into thirty-six sections with typical land entries containing 40 to 320 acres. They are described into aliquot parts, i.e., NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 10, T. 2 N., R. 3 W., Fifth Principal Meridian, Arkansas.

Signature and Date will reflect the President of the United States of America in office at the time. Beginning on June 17, 1948, the authority was delegated to the Secretary of the Interior to issue patents on public lands.

Are you interested in using the Land Patent Search index to find out if one of your ancestors had a Land Patent? **Here's how you can do it.**

- Open the General Land Office Patent Search glorerecords.blm.gov
- Select any state and county
- Enter the last name of the person receiving the patent
- Enter the land description (Section, Township, Range) if known
- Click "Search Patents" at the bottom of the page
- Patent details and Patent images are available to view

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT *PRIVATE CLAIMS* **General Land Office Records**

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Search Documents

Search Documents By Type Search Documents By Location Search Documents By Identifier

Patents Surveys LSR CDI Tract Books

Search [Clear Form](#)

Location

State: County:

Names

Last Name: First Name: Middle Name:

☒ search patentees ☒ search warrantees

Land Description

Township: Range: Meridian: Section #:

Miscellaneous

Land Office: Issue Date: to

Document #: Militia:

Indian Allot. #: Tribe:

Survey #: Geo. Name/ Mining Claim:

Authority:

Search Patents

Note: This site does not cover every state, but we do have [resource links](#) for most states.

DIRECTORS

Delaware Township has an new Director, Kay Kopple. Thanks Kay for volunteering to serve as Director and working at the archives.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Owen Menchhofer, Ripley County Historical Society Treasurer and Director from Johnson Township, on his recent retirement from Osgood Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance. Owen served the community for over 27 years. Thank you to Owen for his years of hard work and dedication.



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
History of Adams Township	by Harold Freeland	\$20.00
Historic Travel Guide to Ripley County	by Paul R Wonnig	\$20.00
In These First Bright Days of Elvis Book I	by Josephine Rascoe Keenan	\$16.00
In Those Dazzling Days of Elvis Book II	by Josephine Rascoe Keenan	\$16.00
In Those Glory Days of Elvis Book III	by Josephine Rascoe Keenan	\$16.00
Jackson Township Cemetery Records		\$13.00
Johnson Township Cemetery Records		\$10.00
Lest We Forget a Tribute to the World War II Veterans of Ripley County	by Norris & Joan Krall	\$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 McDerment	\$34.00
Ripley County, 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 #1	by Don Morrison	\$16.00
The Dark Line #2	by Don Morrison	\$20.00
Come Safe Home #3	by Don Morrison	\$20.00
Tales of Versailles	by Alan Smith	\$16.00
Versailles, Indiana School Life 1818 -1966	by Alan Smith	\$20.00
Wilbur's War (Abridged)	by Hale Bradt	\$15.00

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. Kay Kopple, 1583 Co Rd 700 N, Osgood, IN 4	
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