

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 2024

HAPPY SUMMER

Number 3

▲ **July Quarterly Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held July 14, 2024 at the **Osgood Historical Museum**, 128 S. Buckeye Street, Osgood, IN. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm. Refreshments will served by Center Township. Mike Stephens will continue introducing us to all the great finds at the Osgood Museum. 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 rchslib@gmail.com 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, Secretary 812-701-9238.



▲ **Annual Dues**

Remember to renew your membership for another year. 2024 Yearly Dues are due in January. Mail your renewal for 2024 to RCHS at P.O. Box 525, Versailles, IN 47042 Dues: Annual \$20; Life \$150.

▲ **Research**

Research is free to all members and \$10.00 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. Research is free to all members.

▲ **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), (3) in Versailles at the Ripley County Historical Society Library on the west side of the Courthouse Square (open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon from 1 to 4), or (4) NOVEL HeARTs Bookstore, 133 Tyson Street Versailles, IN. Checks should be made payable to Ripley County Historical Society. Books may be shipped for a \$7.50 shipping and handling fee.

WE REMEMBER



Sandra R. Meisberger 83 of New Marion, Indiana passed away on Monday, March 25, 2024. She was born on August 25, 1940 to the late Gaspord Ricketts and Susie Ione Hamilton in Fowler, Indiana. She graduated from Belmore High School in Parke County, Indiana.

Sandra is survived by her loving husband Melvin E. Meisberger. They were married on September 17, 1960 for 63 years and 6 months. She was blessed with 5 children: Julie (David) Underwood, Caroline (Jeff) Cumberworth, Debbie (Steve) Gloyd, Brian Meisberger, and Amy Fischmer. She had 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Sandra is also survived by her brothers Toby Ricketts (Marsha), Jack (Delores) Ricketts, a sister Diana Yoakum, and her sister-in-law Cathy Marconett. She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers Norman Ricketts and Paul David Ricketts.

Sandra and Melvin have 4 exchange student children, Diana Chaljub, Pedro Chaljub, Lily Char and Marta Pretelt, whom she loved very much.

Sandra was a school bus driver for South Ripley School Corp. for 20 years. She was a member of Saint Magdalene and Prince of Peace Catholic Churches, Ross' Run Chapter NSDAR, Ripley County Historical Society and an avid genealogist.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at St. Patrick Church in Madison, Indiana at 11 AM. Memorials may be given to St. Magdalene Cemetery through Stratton-Karsteter Funeral Home Versailles, Indiana in care of Ripley County Community Foundation.



Walter Wayne Einhaus, Husband of long time Historical Society member and volunteer Helen Einhaus, passed away June 19, 2024 just 10 days from his 94th birthday, after a brief illness.

**MRS. CATHERINE “ANN” WILLIAMS GIBBS RECOGNIZED AS THE
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
2024 WOMAN IN AMERICAN HISTORY FOR RIPLEY COUNTY**

The emphasis of Women in American History is on the role of women, past and present, in American History. DAR Chapters are encouraged to select a notable woman from their state or community to honor. March is officially “Women’s History Month,” so chapters may use this occasion to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of the woman of their choice.

This year the Ross’ Run Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is recognizing and honoring Catherine “Ann” Williams Gibbs, a former resident of Ripley County, IN, as the 2024 Ripley County Woman in American History.



Ann devoted many hours to Ripley County history and her community. She was a charter member of the Ross’ Run Chapter NSDAR and served as Regent from 1982 to 1984 and held many other offices and chairmanships in the Chapter. In July 1985 she became a certified Genealogical Record Searcher. She assisted the Ripley Co. Historical Society, many researchers and individuals who were researching their family genealogy or Ripley County history. Ann was a member of both the Indiana and Ohio Historical Societies, President of the Fort Nightly Study Club. In 1983, she was appointed by the Ripley County Historical Society Directors to be in charge of all historical and genealogy records at the archives. She worked tirelessly organizing, indexing and compiling historic records. She became a familiar figure at the courthouse gathering pre 1850 materials. She worked with the County Historian on the CRIMP program where many historic documents and old newspapers were microfilmed, and indexes of county cemeteries were also included. She spent many hours documenting and proving her five Revolutionary War Patriots as well as assisting others in their Patriot searches.

Ripley County history and genealogy are not the only accomplishments for Ann. She spent many hours restoring a historic cabin. She was a very active member of the Versailles Baptist Church where she was involved in various activities. She also worked on the project to restore the Old Michigan Road sign.

She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on Feb 15, 1920, the daughter of Guy and Hariett Dom Williams. She married David Williams and moved to Holton, Ripley County, IN. They raised sons, David, John and a daughter, Lois. Ann lost her battle with cancer at the age of 66 and died March 19, 1986, at the Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati, OH.

Thank you, Mrs. Catherine “Ann” Gibbs for researching and preserving the history of Ripley County and being such an integral part of our Ripley County community and its history.

NOTICE

Check out our Facebook page: *Ripley County Historical Society & Museum*

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Ripley-County-Historical-Society-Museum/61558493116775/>

Watch for our updated website coming soon!

THANK YOU

Thank you to Michael S. Moore, volunteer for the Clifty Creek Chapter of Indiana Society, Sons of the American Revolution (INSSAR) for donating their book containing biographies of all 31 their Patriots.

Thank you to Philip Schoff Chapter, National Society, United States Daughters of 1812, for donating *"Roster of 1812 Soldiers Buried in Indiana", Volume I* which covers 31 counties in Indiana.

Thank you to Melissa Spencer for donating a Versailles grade school picture dated September 15, 1937.

Thank you to Karen Spencer LeGrand for a copy of the poem "A Tribute to Harry Clifford May", dedicated to his Mother, Jennie Benham-May. The poem was written by Emma King Benham November 1, 1920. Mr. May was born December 21, 1887 near Cross Plains, IN. He was called into military service June 26, 1918, Versailles, IN. and sent to Camp Sherman, Ohio for training. He was assigned to Company B, 334th Infantry, 84th Division. He embarked for overseas duty September 1, 1918 and died of pneumonia October 23, 1918 at Camp Riley Hospital No. 26, Noyers, France. He is buried in Benham Cemetery, Ripley County, IN.

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

Ripley County Historical Society: Archives – P. O. Box 525, 125 N Washington Street, Versailles, IN 47042. 812-689-3031 Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 1 pm-4 pm. **Museum** – Open by appointment only. Website: <https://rchslib.org>

Osgood Historical Museum: 128 South Buckeye Osgood, IN 47037. 812-689-1876 Open by appointment only. Face Book: Osgood Historical Museum

Batesville Area Historical Society: 15 W George Street Batesville, IN 47006, 812-932-0999 Open Thursday & Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m.-noon. Closed January & February. Website: <https://batesvillehistoricalcenter.org>

UP COMING EVENTS

Music on the Square (Holdsworth Entertainment Pavilion) 128 N. Main Street Versailles, IN

July 3 – Eureka Band, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

July 5 – Ellen Mulford, Lunchtime Piano Concert, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

July 12 – Kaitlin Harrell, Lunchtime Piano Concert, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

July 19 – Allen Marple, Lunchtime Piano Concert, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

July 20 – Lacey Lane, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

July 26 – Dr. Molly Moorhead, Lunchtime Piano Concert, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

July 31 – Living Proof, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

August 2 – Jackson Bladen, Lunchtime Piano Concert, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

August 9 – Adam Vogel, Lunchtime Piano Concert, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
August 16 – Allan Marple, Lunchtime Piano Concert, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
August 17 – Fall City Boys, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
August 23 – Sandy Corfman, Lunchtime Piano Concert, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
August 24 – Phyllis Armbrrecht Memorial Concert **with Mary Rice Hopkins & puppets with a heart by Darcie Maze**, 6:00 p.m.
August 30 – Kaitlin Harrell, Lunchtime Piano Concert, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
September 6 – Crystal Welch, Lunchtime Piano Concert, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
September 7 – Black Bone Cat, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
September 13 – Adam Vogel, Lunchtime Piano Concert, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
September 20 – Allan Marple, Lunchtime Piano Concert, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Market on the Square in Versailles

Saturdays through September 21, 9 a.m. - noon

Batesville Area Historical Society

Yesterday's Toy Exhibit through September 24

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

The Ripley County Historical Society held their quarterly meeting April 14, 2024 at the archives. Twelve members were present.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Sandra Meisberger. Sandy was instrumental in DAR research and RCHS research. Many present gave reminiscences of Sandy.

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.

Barbara Eades read the minutes from the last meeting. Duane Drockelman moved to accept the report as presented, Owen Menchhofer seconded the motion. All approved.

Owen Menchhofer presented the treasurer's report.

Duane Drockelman moved to accept the report as presented, Kay Koppel seconded the motion. All approved.

Old Business:

- Ripley County History Book – Still waiting for the final proof of some townships.
- The Tyson Grant received for the replacement of the steps and a concrete landing at the museum has been completed. Many thanks to the Tyson Fund for this grant.
- Wreaths Across Ripley County: Owen mentioned Ripley County is the largest group in Indiana with over 4300 wreaths. Baylor Trucking is planning a presentation to 7th & 8th grades in each Ripley County school in conjunction with Versailles Legion Auxiliary.
- New flooring for the archives was again discussed. A discussion was held as to the best type of flooring. It was decided to use carpet squares on the wood part and remove the glue from the tiled areas so that area can be brought back to its original beauty. Duane Drockelman has enough carpet squares to cover the front room and office, valued at approximately \$1500.00, that he will contribute to the Historical Society.

- We still have a vacancy for Jackson Township Director.

New Business:

- New lighting has been purchased and is partially installed. Thanks to Dannie Welch for taking care of this project.
- Dues are \$20 payable through December 2024.
- Two Ripley County Historical Shirts are available for purchase; 1 Men's size Large; 1 Women's size Large.
- Nominations for Directors for 2024-2026 were Adams – Duane Drockelman, Brown – Barbara Eades, Center – Roger Abplanalp, Delaware – vacant, and Director at Large – Kay Koppel. Barbara Eades moved to close the nominations, Owen Menchhofer seconded the motion. All approved.
- Roger Abplanalp moved to keep the officers the same as last year. Owen Menchhofer seconded the motion. Offices were filled by acclamation.
- Ripley County Board of Tourism will sponsor an Underground Railroad Tour on September 5 (Thursday) and September 7 (Saturday). Volunteers from RCHS will help fill some of the stops.
- A discussion was held regarding a Facebook page for the Historical Society. Monica Hansen and Veronica Menchhofer will set this up. The Facebook page is Ripley County Historical Society & Museum.
- Cheryl Welch brought in a copy of an article about the Ripley County Courthouse History that was in The Beacon May 2024.
- Mike Stratton let us know there were 4 Historical Markers that need to be replaced. Sixteen years ago, Helen Einhaus and Mike Stratton were instrumental in placing 42 markers throughout Ripley County. Barbara Eades moved for the Historical Society to cover the cost for replacement markers. Monica Menchhofer seconded the motion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the program presented by Mike Stephens, Board President of the Osgood Historical Museum. The Museum began in 2004, funded by a grant from the Gilmore & Golda Reynolds Foundation. It is located in the heart of the Historic District that includes the famous Damm Theatre, the historic brick street, the Freeman block of buildings, The Carnegie Library, the famous Triplett's Drug Store (over 100 years old and featured on "Pickers" TV show on the History channel), and the Freeman Opera House. The museum does not have regular hours at this time. Give them a call at 812-689-1876 to schedule a visit. A few interesting items to see are Steven Harding's pocket watch presented to him by President Abraham Lincoln and the King Steam Car. In 1897 Henry P. King, the owner of the Osgood Foundry and Machine Shop, started to plan and build the King Steam Car along with his helper, James Humphrey. The car was designed by Mr. King and the metal parts were formed and made in his shop. The car was completed and running in 1898. To hear more interesting facts about the Osgood Historical Museum, join us there on July 14, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. for the RCHS quarterly meeting.

Thank you to Shelby Township for serving refreshments.

The next meeting will be held July 14, 2024, 2:00 p.m. at the Osgood Historical Museum. Refreshments will be served by Center Township.

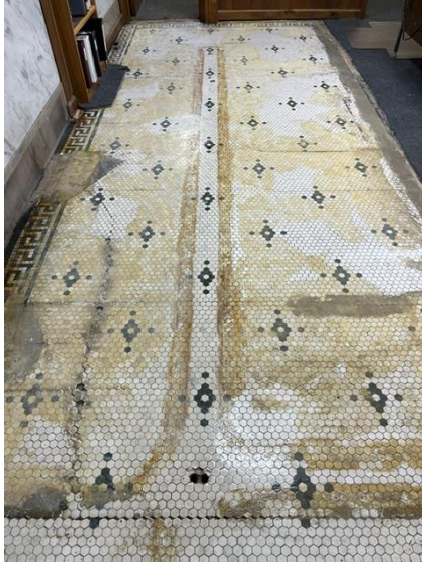
Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Eades, Secretary

BOOKS FOR SALE

A Century of Schools	by Alan Smith	\$20.00
Adams Township Cemetery Directory		\$15.00
Broken Wings	by Robert Kelly	\$20.00
Brown Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Brown Township Tales	by Alan Smith	\$20.00
Center Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Delaware Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Franklin Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
History of Adams Township	by Harold Freeland	\$20.00
Historic Travel Guide to Ripley County	by Paul R Wanning	\$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
Indiana's Fascination Museums	by Paul R Wanning	\$10.00
Jackson Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Johnson Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Laughery Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
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	\$25.00
Ripley County History Volume I		\$65.00
Ripley County History Volume II	(Paperback)	\$25.00
Shelby Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
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

CHECK US OUT

Volunteers have been hard at work cleaning the re-discovered tile flooring at the Historical Society. The carpet will be installed soon. Be sure to stop by and see our new look!



Before



After

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Adams Twp. - Mr. Duane Drockelman, 10238 N. Adams Church Rd. Batesville, IN 47006	Vice President
Brown Twp. - Mrs. Barbara Eades, 3953 E. Olean Rd. Versailles, Indiana 47042	Secretary
Center Twp. - Mr. Roger Abplanalp, 2738 W. Co Rd 450 N. Osgood, IN 47037	
Delaware Twp. -	
Franklin Twp. - Mr. Fred Glover, 5611 E Co. Rd. 300 N, Milan, IN 47031	
Jackson Twp. -	
Johnson Twp. - Mr. Owen Menchhofer, 1970 N Co. Rd. 300 W, Holton, IN 47023	Treasurer
Laughery Twp. - Mrs. Diane Arnold, 601 Washington St. 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. Gary Johnson, 1723 S Friendship Rd. Milan IN 47031	
Director at Large - Mrs. Kay Koppel, 333 Columbus Ave. Batesville, IN 47006	
Lori Hoffman, 5565 E. Lower Dry Fork Rd. Madison, IN 47250	Web Master
Barbara Eades & Cheryl Welch	Newsletter Committee