

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, October 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 Jeff French on the “White Indian in the Ripley County Park”. Refreshments will be provided by Center Twp. Members.

▲ Research \$5.00 for non-members and all mailed requests, and \$1.00 per page copied for everyone.

▲ 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 book has been donated to the RCHSL by Lyle C. Bultman, Naples, Florida. The title is “From Germany to Indiana, The Ancestors and Descendants of Oliver W. Bultman and Edna B. (Hoyer) Bultman.” If anyone is interested in getting a copy can contact Lyle C. Bultman by phone: 239-682-7316, or by email: lyleaki@yahoo.com.

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:** 2014 Yearly Dues are due in January 2014. Mail your renewal for 2014 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>Assorted Jefferson Proving Ground Books</i>	
Shipping Charges added for all books	5		

ELEAZER WHEELOCK RIPLEY

By Jerry Wilson

A thank you to Tom Krumm for his recent newsletter article concerning Ripley County's namesake, Eleazer Wheelock Ripley. For the past several years I have been interested in investigating the man behind the name. Mr. Krumm's article has pushed that interest to the forefront. With the upcoming Indiana Statehood Bicentennial Commemoration (December 11, 2016) and, hopefully a Ripley County bicentennial commemoration I purpose to write a series of articles about Ripley's life.

At this time I plan to divide the articles into four parts. **Part 1** would be about his life before the War of 1812. Ripley was a native of New Hampshire, a graduate of Dartmouth College (his grandfather was the college's founder), a lawyer and state politician. **Part 2** would be about his time as a military officer in the War of 1812. Ripley was involved in several major battles in the Niagara Frontier in particular The Battle of Lundy's Lane. **Part 3** would be about his life after the war. Ripley moved to Louisiana and became involved in real estate, law and again as a politician and his possible involvement with Andrew Jackson and Jean Lafitte. **Part 4** would be a summary with possible visits to important sites related to his life.

Again, thanks to Tom Krumm, and like Tom I want to emphasize that Eleazer Ripley was never in Ripley County, nor was he ever in Indiana. I have yet to discover why the county was named for him other than it was common to name places after well known people. Look for these future articles, and if anyone has resources that I can use, please let me know.
Jerry Wilson



Duane Drockelman Giving A Donated Book "Lest We Forget"
To Steve Todd, Sunman American Legion



L-R: RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVE LIBRARY, RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM, AND THE SMITH-ENGEL CABIN, ORIGINALLY KNOWN AS THE JACOB FUNKHOUSER CABIN BUILT IN 1830's

HISTORY OF THE RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY TOM KRUMM

In September, 1880, Thomas Bagot, County Superintendent, published the first comprehensive county history with the help of information from over a dozen local people. It was slightly over 50 years since the county was formed. Mr. Bagot was also a teacher and an attorney. There are two copies of this history book in the Historical Society Library which members can read.

In 1888, Ed C. Jerman published a history and directory of Ripley County. Every male citizen in the county was listed in the directory. He and nine other contributing citizens listed events in the county from its inception to 1888 in chronological order. Information about twenty two notable county residences were also featured. Members can also read this booklet.

The Ripley County Historical Society was formally organized on July 21, 1921, and was reorganized in 1971. Quarterly meetings were held from 1921 to 1959 in numerous locations in Ripley County. Citizens attending the meetings are listed in the library. The glue that held our history together was Violet Toph who became the secretary of the society.

In 1931, the six remaining members of the Wheeler 98 GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) decided to donate their building and their memorials to the Ripley County Historical Society in return for their promise to maintain their civil war displays. Violet Toph carefully made a list of the donors and their donations. Violet was the secretary of the historical society and she died in 1956.

Meetings were not held on a regular basis from 1959 until 1970. In 1968, 150 years after Ripley County was created, another Ripley County History Book was needed and was published by the Business and Professional Women Club. In 1970, the Historical Society was reorganized and forty members paid their membership dues. Beginning in 1976, a quarterly newsletter was published and sent to members. Copies of all of these letters are kept in the latest building acquired by the Society at 425 Walnut Street. This former bank building was acquired in 1999 by the Historical Society with the help of numerous donations (including \$57,000.00 from Eli Lilly Company). The building is open from 1 to 4 pm. Monday through Friday (except on holidays and during the pumpkin show). Society dues are \$15.00 through the end of 2015 or you can pay \$150.00 for a lifetime membership. Nonmembers can also visit the library for \$5.00.

There are currently 183 active members, including 94 lifetime members. We need to increase our contacts with the kids through the schools. The Ripley County Historical Society is maintained 100% by volunteers. They are in need of more volunteers. Please contact them at the Ripley County Historical Society when they are open or contact Cheryl Welch on Monday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Historical Society phone 812-689-3031. We invite the schools to call and arrange for a class tour of our library and museum. Members can prepare their family histories and have them included in a family file in our library. This will enable future generations to learn about their history.

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES
July 13, 2014

The summer quarterly meeting, held at the Society's Archive Building on July 13, 2014, was called to order by President Cheryl Welch at 2:00 p.m. Cheryl led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Gerry Walker was among those in attendance, her first meeting since her and our beloved Henry sadly passed away. Needless to say she received a warm welcome.

Secretary Keenan read the minutes for the spring 2014 quarterly meeting, which were approved as read. In the absence of Owen Menchhofer President Welch distributed copies of Treasurer Menchhofer's quarterly financial report. Center Township Director Bill Gloyd had some questions concerning a certain matter referenced in the financial report, and Secretary Keenan withheld said Report to be re-submitted for approval at the fall meeting. President Welch thanked Tom Krumm and Sandy Meisberger for yet another bulletin for the summer quarterly report. Cheryl reported that she had ordered on the Internet an insecticide for use on the powder post beetle infestation of the Society's log cabin.

Cheryl reminded attendees that the Society's dues were again due. Cheryl additionally reported that the new printer was working well and that the Society might seek a Tyson grant for a new projector. She also noted that we ought to be thinking about some kind of surveillance system for the Archives Building and the Museum. Cheryl reported that the Society had been given the law books and papers of the County's illustrious resident, Stephen Harding. Due to space limitation at the Archives Building Director Stratton moved that the Harding books and papers be kept and maintained at the Osgood Historic Museum. Secretary Keenan seconded the motion and it passed. Cheryl announced that Dwayne Drockleman would be working at the Archives on Tuesday. Thank you, Dwayne.

The program was presented by Bill Dollman on the pioneer days and pre-park history of the Versailles State Park. Bill has been very active and instrumental in forming the "Friends of Versailles State Park," a volunteer group dedicated to the support, conservation, preservation, interpretation and enhancement of Versailles State Park. Some of the most interesting points Bill made were that daffodils in the park indicate an early homestead, as do Osage orange and black locust trees, and satellite images which reveal crop rows. Pioneer familie, such as the St. Evans, Livingstons, and Ludwicks have been discovered.

After the program, everyone enjoyed our now annual ice cream social, Center Township will be responsible for refreshments at the fall meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Keenan, Secretary

County, Indiana, Historical

Ripley



Society

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