

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 11, 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 Duane Drockelman on his trip to Germany. Refreshments will be provided by Johnson Twp. Members (Owen Menchhofer).

▲ 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 IS 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. **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 novel is available at the Ripley County Historical Society by Don Morrison named “The Dark Line” which tells a story of the perils the American Slaves in Kentucky fleeing to Indiana via the Underground Railroad. The Book sells for \$20.

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:** 2015 Yearly Dues are due in January 2015. 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

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

By Frank Keenan, Secretary

The summer quarterly meeting, our traditional ice cream social, was held at the Society's Archives Building on July 12, 2015. The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Welch at 2:00 p.m. and attendees were led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Frank Keenan read the minutes for the spring 2015 quarterly meeting, which were approved as read. In the absence of Treasurer, Owen Menchhofer, the Treasurer's report was distributed by Cheryl Welch, and was approved as written.

It was reported that Helen Einhaus and Helen Kaplinger had updated the records for Greendale Cemetery. It was also reported that some of the Kralls' WWII books have been delivered to the schools. Bill Gloyd reported that he had delivered copies to the Osgood Library. Some has been delivered to Batesville Library.

The Society has been given permission to use the big book scanner at the Court House on Mondays and Fridays. With regard to that, the Society is desperate for volunteers to work at the Archives Building. If you find yourself wanting something worthwhile to do for others, come on out and lend a hand. Mr. Snyder of Madison has the old fencing that used to surround the Court House. The paintings on the windows of the Archives Building were done by Main Street Versailles artist volunteers.

The subject was raised by Cheryl that RCHS could purchase a new oversized book copier for approximately \$30,000.00. Secretary Keenan offered the alternative suggestion that perhaps we could lease a copier for considerably less money. It was noted that the Board of Directors would discuss the matter.

Mike Stratton presented an excellent and thoroughly detailed program on Otter Creek Village, a place which can barely be located or identified today, but which was once a thriving community. It was located on County Road 325 and Michigan Road, which was once a major thoroughfare of commerce to and from Madison. In 1848, there were 58 platted lots, 2 saloons, 2 blacksmith shops, a Post Office, and 21 homes. With the coming of the railroad to Osgood in 1854, the village, bypassed, began its long decline. Mike gave interesting historical facts about many of its residents, and many of the family names remain in the County today.

Members brought freezers of their favorite ice cream, and Jackson Township supplied drinks and delicious cookies. Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, October 11, 2015, and Johnson Township is responsible for refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Keenan, Secretary

ARCHIBALD LOCHRY AND ELEAZER RIPLEY

BY Jerry Wilson

I recently attended a meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage foundation in Kansas City, Missouri. There were many fine and informative programs given by very knowledgeable presenters. One program in particular was given by a gentleman who is the great, great, great grandson of William Clark, of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and the great, gret, gret grand nephew of Indiana hero, George Rogers Clark. The presenter, Peyton "Bud" Clark, has done extensive investigation into the history of the Clark family, and I have attended his talks in the past. I was pleasantly surprised when he mentioned a local name. Archibald Lochry.

Laughery Creek is a body of water that flows through Ripley County and continues onto the Ohio River with its mouth in Ohio County between Aurora and Rising Sun. The creek is named for Archibald Lochry (notice the change in spelling) because of an event that took place in the area, Lochry's Defeat or Lochry's Massacre. To make a long story short, Colonel Lochry was the commander of a Pennsylvania militia unit that was to support George Rogers Clark with an attack on British held Detroit in the American Revolution time period. Lochry's group became separated from Clark and was attacked by Indians led by Joseph Brandt with all of Lochry's men either killed (including Lochry) or captured.

Now I wish to connect Eleazer Ripley, our county's namesake, to Lochry's Defeat (Laughery Creek). Joseph Brandt was a Mohawk Indian who as a young boy was educated at Moor's Indian Charity School, the forerunner of Dartmouth College. The founder of both schools was Eleazer Wheelock (for DAR members, check your July/August issue of "American Spirit" pages 37-39). Two of the school's instructors were James Wheelock and John Wheelock. Eleazer Wheelock is the grandfather of Eleazer Wheelock Ripley. James and John Wheelock are two of Eleazer Wheelock Ripley. James and John Wheelock are two of Eleazer Wheelock Ripley's uncles. Eleazer Wheelock Ripley attended Dartmouth College, as well.

Thus, even though our county's namesake never resided in Ripley County, or any part of Indiana, and he may not even have known of the area, his family did play a role, as minor as it was, with the history of our Ripley County.

As I had written in an earlier article, I wish to continue with the history of our county's namesake so that by 2018, our county's bicentennial, all residents will know of the man.

Written and Presented by Jerry Wilson

County, Indiana, Historical

Ripley



Society

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