

**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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**VOLUME XXXVIII**

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▲ The Ripley Co. Historical Society will meet **Sunday, October 9, 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 Theresa Carmichael on Stained Glass. Refreshments will be provided by Director at large, Sandra Meisberger.

▲ 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 ARE 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. **We are now printing the Ripley County History Book Vol. II**

▲ **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 will available at the Ripley County Historical Society by Josephine Keenan named "THOSE FIRST BRIGHT DAYS OF ELVIS", will be released on May 2, 2016, which weaves a story of human anguish and betrayal, love and loss, recrimination and regret, and shows how choices, once made, can change one's life forever. Books Cost: 6" x 9" Perfect Bound List price: \$24.95; Hardcover price: \$14.97; Softcover: \$4.97 ebook.

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:** 2016 Yearly Dues are due in January 2016. 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 &amp; Vicinity</i>	12
<i>Sugar Branch</i> by Don Morrison	16	Shipping Charges added for all books	5
<i>Ripley County History Vol. II</i>	25		

## RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

The summer quarterly meeting was held at the Society's Archives Building on July 10, 2016. 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. Secretary Frank Keenan read the minutes for the spring 2016 quarterly meeting, which were prepared by Adams Township Director Duane Drockelman, as Frank was unable to attend the spring meeting. Thank you, Duane. The minutes were approved as read. Owen Menchhofer's Treasurer's Report was distributed and approved by the attendees.

President Welch advised that the DAR is in the process of updating their 1928 plaque commemorating the County's Revolutionary War veterans and some of their wives. The new plaque will add other honored names, and will be made of wood in the shape of Ripley County. Cheryl also noted that grant submissions to the Tyson fund were due in September and suggested that we apply for a new and more efficient copier at the Archives which would be a great help for our archives' volunteers.

Cheryl announced that RCHS Treasurer Owen Menchhofer has been selected to be a torch bearer for the Bicentennial Celebration Parade in Versailles on September 17, 2016.

Otter Creek Director Mike Stratton noted that of the 40 historical markers placed throughout the county by the society, 2 have been destroyed and 8 to 13 need repairs/rejuvenation. Mike estimated that the maximum cost of the repairs could reach as much as \$2000.00. Adams Township Director Drockelman moved to withdraw \$2000.00 from the Society's savings account to cover the cost, which motion was seconded by Barb Eades. The motion passed unanimously.

The program was presented by Josephine Keenan, whose debut book, **In Those First Bright Days of Elvis**, Book I of the series, **The Days of Elvis**, was launched on May 2, 2016, by Pen-L Publishing, headquartered in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Although the book bears his name, Elvin Presley appears only as a secondary character who, after a Hillbilly Amateur concert before his meteoric rise to fame, strikes up an unlikely friendship with a young girl who is struggling with the after-effects of her broken home. Having attended the concert on a whim, the night proves to be a turning point in her life, when she encounters a lookalike, sees for the first time the boy who will be the love of her life, and meets Elvis, whose casual comment about a light bulb becomes a driving force in her pursuit of self-worth.

Unaware that her longing to feel loved and valued stems from her need to have her father in her life, Julie goes down the wrong path, seeking popularity and an older boy's affection as substitutes for her missing father's guidance and support.

**In Those First Bright Days of Elvis** weaves a story of human anguish and betrayal; it recreates the "golden days" of drive-in movies, screen wire petticoats, and flashy American cars, when the world seemed brighter and more innocent than today. The book can be purchased on Amazon, or at Village Lights Bookstore in Madison, IN on September 24, where Josephine will also be signing copies. Look for Book II in the spring of 2017.

The program for the October 9, 2016 on the subject of stained glass, will be presented by Theresa Carmichael. Refreshments will be provided by Director at large Sandra Meisberger.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frank Keenan, Secretary

Peoples History of Ripley County, Indiana  
Facts and Fancies Concerning "Old Timbers"  
By Violet E. Toph

(This is continued from the October issue which contained the first part of the story. Violet walked many miles to get material for her Peoples History. Sometimes someone would take her in a buggy, and later in an auto. She should have had a horse. bb)

The keynote of this Estate seems to be comfort and sports, which enable the world weary Millionaire to relax and imagine he is "just a man". Everywhere the sports idea is suggested and reminders of former scenes of pleasure deck the Lodge. Some are quite startling. The Stroller started back in dismay at the sight of "Old Tige" sprawled at the entrance of the regular living room. As he failed to bark or growl, she decided he was not a watch dog but a very real imitation of "man's loved companion". Each door suggests varieties of "Huskies" but what would an Alaskan native say to "my Lady's Pomeranian"? The stroller was very glad that the numerous bear skins and the mountain lion skin with open mouths filled with cruel looking teeth were the reminders of the Proprietor's cause instead of the bears and panthers which used to roam up and down Big Graham. The elk and moose heads also recall scenes of interest to the owner and his family, but they suggested to the Stroller the days of "Auld lang syne" when herds of deer roamed over the hills of old Shelby Township. Fishing on Big Graham must seem tame to the present owner after fishing in the Everglades, Columbia River, etc. as suggested by "the Big Fish". Is it a Tarpon? Anyway it is "a whale of a fish". Fishing in Big Graham was sport and meat too for the Pioneers of Shelby Township, and the dug out canoe of the dusky savage floated down after the finny tribe and the scalps of the white man. Two kinds of sports, yes, different indeed".

Two enormous fireplaces, one at each end of the room, with andirons, tongs and old fireplace cooking utensils unobtrusively supplemented by several pieces of modern culinary art enables the Thomsons to amuse themselves and guests by making a pot of soup, frying a dish of flapjacks, roasting a haunch of venison (if it's ordered from the west or Canada), roasting apples, popping corn, baking a pot of beans, a corn pone, etc. If either doesn't turn out right no difference for there is a competent cook with a modern range and cooking utensils in the kitchen. Not so in the one room log cabin of the pioneer.

The upstairs and downstairs bedrooms show preparations for the comfortable lodging of many guests. The ladies' bedroom contains a huge four poster bed covered with a patchwork quilt which look as if great grandmother had fashioned "a bone of contention" for the for the Superintendent said that the ladies quarreled for the privilege of sleeping in the four poster. The other beds in this room and in the boys' room were single modern beds made at Berea College and furnished with spreads and mattresses also the handiwork of Berea students. Again the old and new hob-nob with but a tiny clash. Comfort galore but do millionaires" guests ever snore? If so imagine the music issuing from these rooms during the "wee sam" hours of the night. Occasionally a book, a bedroom slipper, a bit of dainty longerie or a tie flung on a dresser, bed, table or chair gave a homelike atmosphere to the upstairs rooms.

## *County, Indiana, Historical*

**Ripley**



**Society**

### **OFFICERS and DIRECTORS**

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Johnson Twp. - Mr. Owen Menchhofer, 1970 N Co Rd 300 W, Holton, IN 47023

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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. - Mrs. Jerri Driggers, 2046 s. Co. Rd 675 E. Dillsboro, IN 47018

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Web Master

Sandra Meisberger & Cheryl Welch

Newsletter Committee