

**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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**October 2019**

**Number 4**

▲ **Quarterly Meeting**

The Historical Society will meet on October 13<sup>th</sup> 2019, Our program for the meeting is Jannie Garbber.

▲ **Library Hours**

The RCHS Archives Library is open for public research weekdays 1 – 4 pm, except holidays, Pumpkin Show week September 25-29, 2019, also the week before and between Christmas and New Year December 23, 2019-January 3, 2020. The Library will also be closed during inclement weather. **NOTICE:** The Museum will be open on Sunday Afternoons 2-4 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day & on Pumpkin Show Saturday Sep. 28, 2019, 8:30 am - 10:30 am. Questions call 812-689-3031.

**NOTICE: 2019 Yearly Dues are due in January 2019. Mail your renewal for 2019 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 need volunteers to donate 3 hours of their time one day a week, Monday – Friday from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. If you live in Delaware Township, please consider volunteering to be a director from your township. Contact Cheryl Welch if you are interested in filling any of these positions.

▲ **Books**

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 \$32.50. 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

▲ **Ripley County – 200 Years**

A book is being put together for the Ripley County Bi-Centennial covering 1818 – 2018. We are looking for information from each township such as: old communities no longer in existence, schools, churches, cemeteries, etc. Interesting old stories or historical events that occurred would be great as well as more recent information. Please send your stories to the Ripley County Historical Society Archives by email, [staff@rchslib.org](mailto:staff@rchslib.org), or mail, P O Box 525, Versailles, IN.

## **RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES**

The summer quarterly meeting of the Society was held at the RCHS Archives Building on July 14, 2019. 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.

Treasurer Owen Menchhofer distributed his Income and Expenses Reports for the period 1/1/2019 through 3/30/19, which reports were unanimously approved by the members in attendance.

Treasurer Menchoffer also noted that Mike Stratton had received a bid for \$4,873.00 for the needed replacement of four (4) of the many Society sponsored Historical markers throughout the County, namely those located at Ballstown; Steamboat Landing; New Marion; and the Napoleon Senior Center.

Society member Bill Gloyd noted that the Osgood Historical Museum is in possession of a watch given to Stephan S. Harding by President Abraham Lincoln!

President Welch noted that the Society's log cabin on the Museum grounds was sorely in need of repairs and that the Society was in the process of getting bids for the repairs. Additionally, the Society will seek a Tyson grant to assist in the cost of the necessary repairs of the cabin.

Members and guests in attendance were reminded of the Taste of Versailles event on the last weekend in July, during which both the Society's Museum and the log cabin would be open to the public between 11:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Attendees were informed that State road crews working on the repair and widening of Route 50 uncovered some fifty unmarked paupers' graves in the State's right-of-way. Society members Helen Einhaus and Mike Stratton are seeking to identify, if possible, these people who are buried in these grave sites.

Author Don Morrison was the featured speaker. Morrison has written three historical books about Switzerland County, Indiana in the 1840s, all of which are a very good read, and are available for sale at the Archives Building. Don additionally discussed his compelling account of the tragic 1868 collision on the Ohio River of two steamboats, "United States" and the "America."

Following the meeting, attendees greatly enjoyed the traditional Ice cream social.

The next meeting will be held October 13. Refreshments will be furnished by the Director at Large.

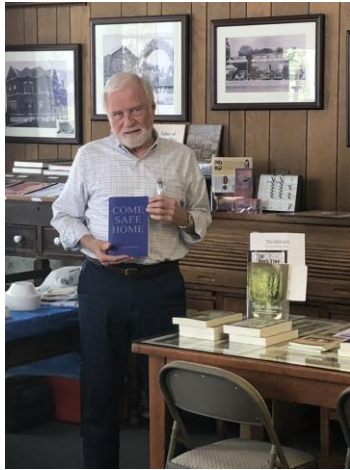
Respectfully submitted,  
Frank Keenan, Secretary

### **Recent additions to the Ripley County Historical Society**

"A History of Switzerland Copunty's Part in the World War" by Earl S Brown, published August 1919.

"Dedicated to the twenty-seven Switzerland County boys who made the supreme sacrifice."

We graciously thank Vicki Diem and Rita Moore for donating this book in memory of  
Victor and Edith Brindley.



Thank you to Don Morrison for his presentation at our July quarterly meeting. He featured his new book *Come Safe Home*, which chronicles the individual journeys of H.R. Miller, Elizabeth Hackney and Adam Coulter in the years before, during and after the American Civil War. He also talked about the first two books of this series, *Sugar Branch* and *The Dark Line* and *Passing Point*, a true story of the collision on the Ohio River of the steamers United States and America near Warsaw, Kentucky on the night of December 4, 1868. A book signing followed his presentation. Don Morrison's books are available for purchase at the Ripley County Historical Society.

### **Local Historical Societies and Museums**

In addition to the Ripley County Historical Society, additional information may be obtained through:  
 Batesville Area Historical Society, 15 W George Street, Batesville IN 812-212-9382  
 Open Thurs & Fri 10:00 am – 2:00 pm and Sat 9:00 am – noon Closed January & February  
 and  
 Osgood Historical Museum 128 S Buckeye Street, Osgood IN 812-689-1876  
 Open Fri-Sat 2pm-6pm, Sun noon-4pm

Ripley County is bordered by seven counties. If you are stumped on your family research, try researching in one of these adjoining counties:

- Dearborn County Historical Society & Museum, 508 W High Street, Lawrenceburg IN 812-537-4075 Open Monday – Friday 1 pm – 4 pm
- Decatur County Historical Museum, 222 N Franklin Street, Greensburg IN 812-663-2764 Open Tues and Thurs 11 am – 4:00 pm All Year Sat 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Apr - Dec
- Franklin County Historical Society P O Box 342 Brookville IN
- Jefferson County Historical Society, 615 W First Street, Madison IN 812-265-2335 Open Tue – Sat 10:00 am – 4:30 pm
- Jennings County Historical Society Open Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 11 am – 4 pm
- Ohio County Historical Society, 212 S Walnut Street, Rising Sun IN 812-438-4915
- Switzerland County Historical Museum 210 E Market Street, Vevay IN 812-427-3560 Open 7 days a week Noon – 4 pm



Honoring Wayne Einhaus with a Quilt of Valor. Wayne is the husband of Helen Einhaus, former Ripley County Historian and Ripley County Historical Society volunteer. Wayne is a Korean War Veteran, serving in the Indiana National Guard from November 1947-Sep 1951 and with the United States Air Force September 1951-September 1955. Thank you for your service to our country.

Thank you to the Tyson Fund for the grant to help repair the Smith Engle cabin.



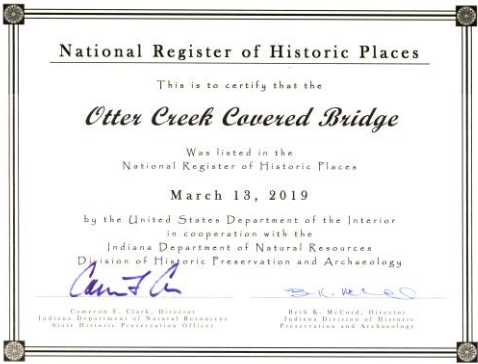
### Smithsonian Institution Exhibit at Dillsboro

The Dillsboro branch of the Aurora Public Library in Dearborn County is hosting “Crossroads: Change in Rural America” through October 20. The exhibit looks at the economic and social changes that have affected the fortunes of small towns over the past century. Visitors will get their own chance to ponder the future of Dillsboro and other small towns by strolling through the exhibit as it traces the national ups and downs of rural America from farming to industrialization to the digital age. It also features a locally generated component on Dillsboro itself.

<p><b>CROSSROADS</b> Change in Rural America</p> <p><small>*This program is made possible through a grant from Indiana Humanities in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities.*</small></p>	<p><b>Ripley County Tourism and Main Street</b> Versailles are proud to host</p> <p><b>Crossroads: Change in Rural America</b> South Ripley School Consolidation Exhibit <b>September 25th-28th</b> at the Versailles Town Hall Building during the Versailles Pumpkin Show Wednesday-Friday: 6pm-9pm; Saturday: noon-8pm Explore the past - from one room schoolhouses in four townships to today's one consolidated school system - and the impact on the community.</p> <p><b>For more information:</b> ripleycountytourism.com • 812-689-7431</p>	<p><b>117th Annual</b></p> <p><b>Versailles Pumpkin Show</b> <b>September 25th-29th</b> Family fun, rides, live entertainment, art show. Parade and giant pumpkins Saturday! <a href="http://www.versaillespumpkinshow.com">www.versaillespumpkinshow.com</a></p>
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In March 2019 the Busching Covered Bridge in Johnson Township, Otter Creek Covered Bridge in Otter Creek Township and Friendship Stone Arch Bridge in Brown Township were added to the National Register of Historic Places. There were six covered bridges in Ripley County. The Bushing Bridge and Otter Creek Bridge are the last two standing.



## 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 Reocrds		\$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 Wonning	\$20.00
In Thse 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 Reocrds		\$10.00
Lest We Forget A Tribute ro the World War II Veterans of Ripley County		
	by Norris & Joan Krall	\$25.00
Milan, Indiana: A Storied Past 1854-2004		\$16.00
Napoleon & Vinicity Sescuicentennial 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	
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

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