

The Quarterly Bulletin
RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Library – 125 Washington Street
Museum – Corner of Main and Water Streets
Versailles, Indiana 47042

www.rchslib.org

e-mail: rchslib@gmail.com

October 2022

HAPPY FALL

Number 4

▲ **October Quarterly Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held October 9th, 2022 at the Ripley County Historical Archive. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm. The program will be about Land Patents and how to research family owned land. Refreshments will be served by Brown Township. 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 staff@rchslib.org 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, Director at Large 812-701-9238.



▲ **Annual Dues**

Remember to renew your membership for another year. 2022 Yearly Dues were due in January. Mail your renewal for 2022 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 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.

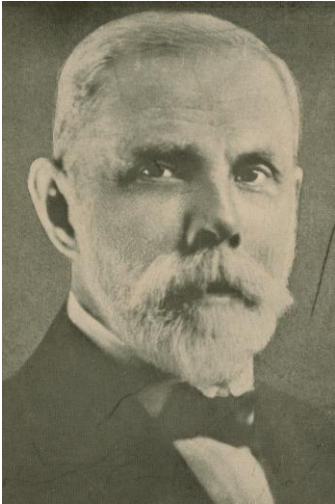
▲ **Books**

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) or (3) 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). Checks should be made payable to Ripley County Historical Society. Books may be shipped for a \$7.50 shipping and handling fee.

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

No Meeting in July

CELEBRATING “UNCLE JIM” TYSON’S 166TH BIRTHDAY



September 14, the Tyson Fund celebrated the birthday of Jim Tyson with a party and the distribution of \$739,105 to various organizations within the town of Versailles.

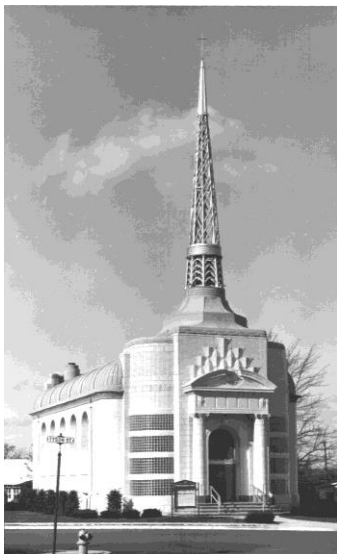
James Tyson was born on September 14, 1856 in the old brick house on Lot #3 on the east side of the square in Versailles, IN, which still stands.

James learned the printing trade at the *Ripley County Index* and later worked at the *Denver Post* and Chicago papers. While in Chicago he became associated with Charles Walgreen working as treasurer for the growing drug chain.

In later years, wishing to honor his home town, “Uncle Jim”, as he was called, built a church in memory of his mother, Eliza, who was a charter member of the Versailles Methodist Church. Tyson wished the church to have a steel and aluminum spine and not to contain wood. He also built the library and gave money for a modern water and sewage plant, a new school in memory of his father, William, and a new school auditorium among other projects.

Jim Tyson donated 18,000 shares of Walgreen Drug stock with a value of about \$74,000, and established a special Tyson Fund in 1930. The dividends are to be used on projects yearly for the betterment of the town. Since 1930 the fund has distributed over \$24 million in the Versailles community and is worth over \$18 million today.

James H Tyson died November 1, 1941 and is buried in Cliff Hill Cemetery by his parents. Tyson’s legacy lives on for his hometown and it’s citizens. Thank you, Uncle Jim!



Tyson Methodist Church built 1936



Tyson Library built 1941



Versailles School built 1938
Auditorium built 1950

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 Records		\$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 Wonnig	\$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
Jackson Township Cemetery Records		\$13.00
Johnson Township Cemetery Records		\$10.00
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	\$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	\$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

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