

**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 2023**

**HAPPY FALL**

**Number 4**

▲ **October Quarterly Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held October 8, 2023 at the Ripley County Historical Archive. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm. Refreshments will served by Johnson Twp. 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 [rchslib@gmail.com](mailto:rchslib@gmail.com) 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, Secretary 812-701-9238.



▲ **Annual Dues**

Remember to renew your membership for another year. 2024 Yearly Dues are due in January. Mail your renewal for 2024 to RCHS at P.O. Box 525, Versailles, IN 47042 Dues: Annual \$20; 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. Effective January 1, 2024 research fee for non-members will increase to \$10. Research is free to all members

▲ **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 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 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**

The Ripley County Historical Society held their quarterly meeting July 9, 2023 at the archives. Twelve members were present.

President Cheryl Welch called the meeting to order and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Barbara Eades read the minutes from the last meeting. They were approved as read.

The treasurer's report was presented in paper form. It was approved as presented.

### **Old Business:**

- Ripley County History Book – Tracy Winters will be sending a copy to the printer this week. It will be 7 – 10 days before he gets it back.
- If reference to painting the archives, Danny Welch and Duane Drockelman looked under the drop ceiling. The tin is not usable. There was a discussion of how to proceed with updating the archives. A decision was made to not paint at this time. A possibility of replacing the carpet was discussed. A quote will be needed before proceeding. This was tabled until the October meeting.
- A discussion was held regarding annual fees, life memberships and research fees for non-members. After a lengthy discussion, Roger Abplanalp moved to increase annual dues to \$20, keep life membership at \$150, and increase non-member research fees to \$10 effective January 1, 2024. Penny Brinson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **New Business:**

- Gary Johnson has filled the vacancy for Washington Township Director.
- The quotes for new steps, concrete landing, and new decking for the museum have been received. A discussion was held on what is best to repair at this time. Duane Drockelman moved to replace the steps and add a concrete landing and apply for the Tyson Grant for this project. Matthew Menchhofer seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Peggy Abplanalp has assorted size binders and will donate them to the Historical Society.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m. Refreshments of various ice cream flavors and cookies were served by Franklin Township and Directors.

The next meeting will be held October 8, 2:00 p.m. at the Ripley County Historical Archives. Refreshments will be served by Johnson Township.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Eades, Secretary

## Thank You

Thank you to Penny Brinson for donating a sweeper and microwave to the Historical Society. We will be putting both to good use.

Many thanks to the Tyson Fund Trust. The grant money, accepted by Cheryl Welch, RCHS



President (left photo), will be used to replace the back steps and add a concrete landing at the Ripley County Historical Society Museum.

Over \$750,000 was distributed to 13 different organizations on September 14. Thank you Uncle Jim for taking care of your community and its citizens for the last 93 years.



## The Naming of Laughery Creek

**Laughery Creek** is an 88.6-mile-long (142.6 km) stream that begins in northwestern Ripley County southwest of Napoleon and flows northeast then southeast to Versailles, where it turns east and serves as the boundary between Dearborn and Ohio Counties. Laughery Creek enters the Ohio River 2 miles (3.2 km) south of Aurora, Indiana.

Laughery Creek was named in memory of Lochry's Defeat, a Revolutionary War skirmish that occurred at the mouth of the creek, two miles south of present-day Aurora, Indiana on August 24, 1781. Colonel Archibald Lochry and his Pennsylvania militiamen, were rafting down the Ohio River to join George Rogers Clark in an attack on the British garrison at Fort Detroit. After two days of river travel they sighted and shot an American bison at the mouth of what would come to be called Laughery Creek. While the Pennsylvanians were cooking fresh bison meat for breakfast, they were ambushed by Joseph Brant, a Mohawk military leader allied with the British. Lochry and 40 of his men were killed. The survivors were taken prisoner and marched to forts in Canada. The creek where Lochry was ambushed has been named Laughery for Colonel Lochry. The spelling mistake has been attributed by some to Roosevelt who was an avid historian and owned papers and reports of the battle.

A tale concerning the origin of the name Laughery taken from the Toph Files:

A large band of whites were chasing a small band of Indians during the flood season. The tired Indians came to a wide and rushing stream. The whites were almost upon them and they cried aloud "La Hoo Ray" which meant "How shall we get across?" The white settlers ever after called the stream in their spelling L-a-u-g-h-e-r-y.

Do you have another tale of the naming of Laughery Creek?

## Notices and events:

**November 11** – Tri Kappa Winter Wonderland Art & Crafts Bazaar, South Ripley Elementary School, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**October 4** – Music on the Square, Versailles, IN - D J Adkins

**October 21** – Music on the Square, Versailles, IN – Hippie Fingers

**October 22** - Music on the Square, Versailles, IN – Open Mic

**December 16** - Wreaths Across America - Ripley County



The Ripley County Community Foundation supports the Wreaths Across America – Ripley County initiative and the mission of the National Wreaths Across America organization to REMEMBER those US veterans who have fallen, HONOR those who serve, and TEACH the value of freedom to our children.

Ripley County will be placing wreaths on over 4000 veteran's graves December 16, 2023. Wreaths are \$17. There will be a 12 noon dedication service on the Ripley County courthouse square, east side, on that day.

Donations may be mailed to RCCF at 13 E. George Street, Suite B, Batesville, IN. 47006, or you can donate on line at [rccfonline.org](http://rccfonline.org). There is a link there to donate.

If you would like to lay a wreath on your own family member's grave, contact Owen Menchhofer prior to December 10. This may be able to be arranged at the time the various groups will be placing wreaths. Any questions can best directed by calling or texting Owen Menchhofer at 812-756-0160 or emailing [Owen.47037@gmail.com](mailto:Owen.47037@gmail.com). Any questions on whether or not a veteran is on the list, there is a database listing of all names. Please contact Owen about that also!

A big thanks to all the individuals, organizations, Legions, cemeteries and churches who have donated funds towards this project for 2023!

If your community has an upcoming event you would like mentioned in our September newsletter, contact us at [rchslib@gmail.com](mailto:rchslib@gmail.com) before December 15, 2023.

## 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 Wunning	\$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
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

## OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Adams Twp. - Mr. Duane Drockelman, 10238 N. Adams Church Rd. Batesville, IN 47006	Vice President
Brown Twp. - Mrs. Barbara Eades, 3953 E. Olean Rd. Versailles, Indiana 47042	Secretary
Center Twp. - Mr. Charles Hughes, P.O. Box 195, Osgood, IN 47037	
Delaware Twp. – Mrs. Kay Koppel, 1583 Co. Rd. 700 N, Osgood, IN 44037	
Franklin Twp. – Mr. Fred Glover, 5611 E Co. Rd. 300 N, Milan, IN 47031	
Jackson Twp. - Mr. Delbert Abplanalp, 4543 W Co. Rd. 800 N, Osgood, IN 47037	
Johnson Twp. - Mr. Owen Menchhofer, 1970 N Co. Rd. 300 W, Holton, IN 47023	Treasurer
Laughery Twp. – Mrs. Diane Arnold, 601 Washington St. Batesville, In 47006	
Otter Creek Twp. – Mr. Michael Stratton, 4300 W. U.S. 50, Holton, IN 47023	
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Honorary Director – Mrs. Sandra Meisberger, 4662 W. Co. Rd. 450 S. Versailles, Indiana 47042	
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Barbara Eades & Cheryl Welch	Newsletter Committee