

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 2024

HAPPY FALL

Number 4

▲ October Quarterly Meeting

Our next meeting will be held October 13, 2024 at the **Ripley County Historical County Archives**. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm. Refreshments will be served by Washington Township. David Dreyer will give a program on what makes Laughery, Wabash, Whitewater, and other Hoosier valleys special. 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 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 \$10.00 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. 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), (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), or (4) NOVEL HeARTs Bookstore, 133 Tyson Street Versailles, IN. Checks should be made payable to Ripley County Historical Society. Books may be shipped for a \$7.50 shipping and handling fee.

WE REMEMBER

Geraldine "Jerry" Walker Obituary

Geraldine "Jerry" (Winnie) Walker, 98, of Milan passed away Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at Ripley Crossing with her loving family by her side. Jerry was born on Sunday, November 29, 1925, in Wyandotte, Oklahoma; daughter of Clarence and Gladys (Zane) Winnie. Jerry married the love of her life, Henry Walker, on May 21, 1949, and he preceded her in death on May 12, 2014. Jerry taught for 42 years, with her career beginning in Seneca, Missouri, and she later retired from Milan Community School Corporation.



Jerry was a member of the Milan United Methodist Church for 60+ years and was a member of the Methodist Women group. She was a member of Seneca Cayuga Nation Indian Tribe of Oklahoma. She was a member of the Eastern Star, Ripley County Historical Society where she served as a volunteer and a member of the Board of Directors, Ripley County Homemakers, Ripley County Retired Teachers Association, Delta Kappa Gamma, New Harmony, and Internationally Yours. Jerry enjoyed volunteering, helping at the Milan Food Pantry, and helping with the Good News Club at Milan Elementary School. She loved to travel, attend sporting events, teaching, and volunteering in any way possible.

Jerry will be missed by her sons Leslie (Julie) Walker of Melbourne, Australia and Reid (Bonnie) Walker of Milan; daughters Deborah (Donald) Myers of Milan and April Buck of Greensburg; and sister Ramona Daniel of Tahlequah, Oklahoma; grandchildren Henry (Sue) Myers, Aaron (Andrea) Myers, Ryan Myers, R.J. (Kristen) Walker, Jessica (Brandon) Hoffman, Brenna (Josh) Canterbury, Heather (Brian) McGowan, Chris (Chloe Trompetter) Walker, Alex Walker, Lauri Walker, and Travis (Alisha) Buck and Amber (Bill) Dyer; great-grandchildren Tyler (Monica) Myers, Walker, Harper, and Lincoln Hoffman, Allie McGowan, Hayden and Kinley Canterbury, and Bailey, Reid, and Rhett Walker, Dominic and Cadence Buck, Jayden Wayne Smith, Kaitlyn (Wade) Hastings, Mason Dyer, and Makhi Dyer; and great-great grandchildren Wilder and Bodie Hastings.

Jerry was preceded in death by her parents Clarence and Gladys Winnie; husband Henry Walker; son-in-law Tom Buck; brothers Joe and Roland Winnie; and sisters Sue Winnie, Betty Cassidy, and Gladys Preston.

Services were held Monday, August 26, 2024, at the Milan United Methodist Church; 306 S. Main St., Milan, IN 47031, with Pastor LaJo Dunbar officiating. Burial will follow at New Craven Cemetery. Memorials may be given in memory of Jerry to the Milan United Methodist Church, Milan Volunteer Fire Department, or Milan Dollars for Scholars.

Laws-Carr-Moore Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements: 707 S. Main St., PO Box 243, Milan, IN 47031; (812) 654-2141. Please visit our website at www.lawscarrmoore.com to share your condolences and memories of Jerry.

OCTOBER SPEAKER

David S. Dreyer has been a member of the Ripley County Historical Society since the early 1980's. His parent grew up in Sunman, but moved to Knightstown in Richmond. He has written extensively about German immigration to the Batesville vicinity and the Sunman family, and helped establish the museum in the Sunman Town Hall from his grandmother, Mayme Dreyer's collection of artifacts. He worked as a physical analyst for the Indiana General Assembly and in 2004 moved with his wife Eve to her ancestral homeland near Natchez, Mississippi, but he returns to Indiana frequently to enjoy his Hoosier birthright. His will talk will focus on what makes Laughery, Wabash, Whitewater, and other Hoosier valleys special.

NOTICE

Check out our Facebook page: *Ripley County Historical Society & Museum*
<https://www.facebook.com/people/Ripley-County-Historical-Society-Museum/61558493116775/>
Watch for our updated website coming soon!

CHECK US OUT

We have a fresh new look at the Historical Society. Volunteers have been hard at work painting and doing more cleaning. Be sure to stop by and see our new look!

THANK YOU



Thank you to REMC for the Operation Round Up Grant to purchase a new computer for the archives.

Thank you to the Tyson Fund for the grant to repair a floor joist on the main floor of the archives.



RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

Ripley County Historical Society: Archives – P. O. Box 525, 125 N Washington Street, Versailles, IN 47042. 812-689-3031 Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 1 pm-4 pm. **Museum** – Open by appointment only. Website: <https://rchslib.org>

Osgood Historical Museum: 128 South Buckeye Osgood, IN 47037. 812-689-1876 Open by appointment only. Face Book: Osgood Historical Museum

Batesville Area Historical Society: 15 W George Street Batesville, IN 47006, 812-932-0999 Open Thursday & Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m.-noon. Closed January & February. Website: <https://batesvillehistoricalcenter.org>

The Sunman History Museum: Located in the Town Hall on the north side of Sunman, opposite the fire station. Open Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Milan 54 Museum: Located 201 W Carr St. P O Box 54, Milan, IN 47031. Open Wednesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Outside of these hours, an appointment can be made by contacting us via email or phone: milan54@frontier.com 812-654-2772.

UP COMING EVENTS

September 25-29

123rd Versailles Pumpkin Show – Indiana's Oldest Festival

September 27-29

Hassmer Fest Versailles State park a mountain bike festival

September 21-Oct.27

Vogt Farm Pumpkin Festival

October 1-31-

All Aboard!! Exhibit Batesville Area Historical Society Museum Oct. through Jan. 1

November 9

Tri Kappa Arts & Crafts Bazaar, held at South Ripley Elementary School 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

December 1-31

Inflatable Wonderland, 500 inflatables located on Old Michigan Road, Osgood, IN

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

The Ripley County Historical Society held their quarterly meeting July 14, 2024 at the Osgood Historical Museum. Sixteen 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.

The minutes from the last meeting were read by Barbara Eades. Owen Menchhofer moved to accept the report as presented, Duane Drockelman seconded the motion. All approved.

Owen Menchhofer presented the treasurer's report.

Veronica Menchhofer moved to accept the report as presented, Diane Arnold seconded the motion. All approved.

Old Business:

- Ripley County Board of Tourism will sponsor an Underground Railroad Tour on September 5 (Thursday) and September 7 (Saturday). Volunteers from RCHS will help fill some of the stops.
- Thank you to Mike and Karen Feder for donating three lateral file cabinets to the Historical Society.
- Mike Stratton noted the 4 Historical Markers that need to be replaced have been ordered.
- History Book: No new information.

New Business:

- Duke energy will be adding a plug to the pole by the Historical Society.
- Archive update: The wooden part of the flooring is being prepared for carpet. Fixtures are being moved back in place and extensive cleaning is being done.
- Owen Menchhofer noted the date for Wreaths Across Ripley County is December 14. Flyers were distributed. A program will be available for the county schools. Wreaths Across Ripley County has an endowment fund at the Ripley County Community Foundation. It is eligible for matching funds on the Day of Giving event in November.
- We have applied for a grant through REMC to purchase a new computer.
- We have applied for a grant through the Tyson Fund for floor joist repair.
- A date for an Open House at the Museum was discussed. It will be held prior to the October 13 meeting. [Note: This has been postponed to a later date to be determined]

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the program about the Osgood Historical Museum, Part 2 presented by Mike Stephens. Mike pointed out some of the highlights of the museum and everyone was able to tour the museum.

Thank you to Center Township for serving refreshments.

The next meeting will be held October 13, 2024, 2:00 p.m. at the Ripley County Historical Society Archives. The program will be given by David Dyer RCHS member from Natchez, Mississippi. Refreshments will be served by Washington Township.

The January meeting will be held at the Central House in Napoleon with the program being on tin types.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Eades, Secretary

BOOKS FOR SALE

A Century of Schools	by Alan Smith	\$20.00
Adams Township Cemetery Directory		\$15.00
Broken Wings	by Robert Kelly	\$20.00
Brown Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Brown Township Tales	by Alan Smith	\$20.00
Center Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Delaware Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Franklin Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
History of Adams Township	by Harold Freeland	\$20.00
Historic Travel Guide to Ripley County	by Paul R Wanning	\$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
Indiana's Fascination Museums	by Paul R Wanning	\$10.00
Jackson Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Johnson Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
Laughery Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
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	\$25.00
Ripley County History Volume I		\$65.00
Ripley County History Volume II	(Paperback)	\$25.00
Shelby Township Cemetery Records		\$15.00
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

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