

The Quarterly Bulletin

Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc.

Library – 125 Washington Street
Museum – Corner of Main and Water Streets
Versailles, Indiana 47042
812-689-3031

www.rchslib.org

email: rchslib@gmail.com

January 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Number 1

▲ Quarterly Meeting

Our next meeting will be held **January 11, 2026**. The meeting will be held at the Archives at 2:00 pm. Our program will be on the Civil War, Part 2, presented by Dan Goris.

▲ 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. **2026** Yearly Dues are due in January. Mail your renewal for **2026** 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 page five 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.

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

The Ripley County Historical Society held their quarterly meeting October 12, 2025 at the Ripley County Historical Society Archives. Ten members and one guest 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 Secretary Barbara Eades. Owen Menchhofer presented the treasurer's report. The minutes and treasurers' reports were approved.

Old Business:

- Ripley County History Book: We are waiting for Tracy at Winters Publishing to complete the book. Final corrections have been made. We hope to receive the books in time for Christmas giving.
- Our website still has links that do not work. This was brought to the attention of the webmaster.
- The file cabinets are moved in and in use. Thanks to Kathy Stratton for the donation.
- The Historical Society was open the first Wednesday of August, September, and October as a part of the Ripley County Board of Tourism Summer Tours.
- It was decided to not place benches in front of the Archive building.
- The windows have been replaced. Thanks to the Tyson Fund for approving our grant request.
- Mike Stratton and Owen Menchhofer have replaced nine Ripley County Historical Signs.
- July 26 will be "Taste of Versailles". The Archives will be open for this event.

New Business:

- Tara Briggs from the Health Department stated they would be starting a scanning project soon. She requested the Birth and Death records stored at the Historical Society so they could be scanned. They will be returned after the process is complete.

The meeting was adjourned to the program.

Victor Sarringhaus presented a very informative program about Barbara Fox, Inventor of the Fire Escape. Her family was well known for their yodeling. Barbara was charter member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Napoleon, IN. She is buried in an unmarked grave in St. John's cemetery. There is currently an effort to raise funds to purchase a marker.

The next meeting will be held at the RCHS Archives January 11, at 2:00 p.m. A follow up program, about the Civil War, will be presented by Dan Goris. Adams Township will provide refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Eades, Secretary

“Reflections of Ripley County Indiana”



“Reflections of Ripley County Indiana” is now available thru the Ripley County Historical Society in Versailles. This coffee table book offers a condensed version of Ripley County history. It is an easy read book to be enjoyed at leisure times.

The information for this book was provided by the many volunteers involved with the Ripley County Historical Society, Osgood Historical Museum, Ye Olde Central House, Milan '54 Hoosiers Museum, Batesville Area Historical Society and the Sunman Historical Museum.

To purchase this book for yourself, or as a special gift for family & friends who no longer live in Ripley County, please contact the archives during their business hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 1-4 pm, in person, or by phone 812-812-3031, or by email rchslib@gmail.com. The cost is \$25 and can also be purchased from any of the other groups listed above.

The county volunteers would also like to thank the many sponsors who helped defray production cost of this book from Winters Publishing, Greensburg. The sponsors include: Community sponsor, Ripley County Community Foundation; Platinum sponsors, The Gilmore & Golda Reynolds Foundation, and the Ripley County Indiana Historical Society & Museum; Gold sponsors, Batesville Tool & Die, Baxter, Friendship State Bank & Insurance, Margaret Mary Health, Napoleon State Bank, Osgood Lions Club, Power Struck, Tom Tepe Car Country, Versailles Farm & Garden, and Mirrus Corp. The Silver sponsors are: Civista Bank, and Owen & Della Menchhofer; Bronze sponsors, Crossroads Family Restaurant, German American Bank, Great Plains Communications, Jeff French & Associates Land Surveying, Osgood Grub Company, Quality Auto Mart & Service, Rheadawn Graue Metz, Ripley County Tourism, and Stratton-Karsteter Funeral Home. Friends sponsors: API Group, Brown and Kress, DDS, Chozen Designs, Dannie & Cheryl Welch, RJE Fertilizer, Schneider's Scrap Metal, Southeastern Indiana REMC, Thornton's Motorcycle Sales, and Weberding's Carving Shop.



Archive Building Window Replacement

The Ripley County Historical Society extends its gratitude to the Tyson Fund and its Directors for approving our grant request to replace the remaining two windows at the Archive building.

The new windows were successfully installed in October, marking the completion of this important preservation project.

Filing Cabinets

Many thanks to Kathy Stratton for the donation of five-drawer filing cabinets. We are now able to store and organize more documents without occupying extra floor space.



BOOKS FOR SALE

A Century of Schools	by Alan Smith	\$20.00
A Wishful Eye	by D. L. McIntyre	\$15.00
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 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
Indiana's Fascination Museums	by Paul R Wunning	\$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
Reflections of Ripley County Indiana		\$25.00
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

Check out our Facebook page: *Ripley County Historical Society & Museum*
<https://www.facebook.com/people/Ripley-County-Historical-Society-Museum/61558493116775/>

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> email: rchslib@gmail.com

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.

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. Roger Abplanalp, 2738 W. Co Rd 450 N. Osgood, IN 47037	
Delaware Twp. –	
Franklin Twp. – Mr. Fred Glover, 5611 E Co. Rd. 300 N, Milan, IN 47031	
Jackson Twp. - Mrs. Pat Hicks, 3496 W Napoleon Wilson St., Batesville, IN 47006	
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	
Shelby Twp. - Mrs. Cheryl Welch, 6453 S Co. Rd. 225 W. Versailles, IN 47042	President
Washington Twp. – Mr. Gary Johnson, 1723 S Friendship Rd. Milan IN 47031	
Director at Large – Mrs. Kay Koppel, 333 Columbus Ave. Batesville, IN 47006	
Zack Menchhofer - zachary@menchhofer.com	Web Master
Barbara Eades & Cheryl Welch	Newsletter Committee