

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

April 2026

HAPPY SPRING

Number 2

▲ Quarterly Meeting

Our next meeting will be held **April 19, 2026**. The meeting will be held at the Archives at 2:00 pm. Dan Goris will continue sharing history of the Civil War for our program.

▲ 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 January 11, 2026 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:

- The Ripley County History Book has finally arrived and is available for sale. The cost of the book is \$25.

It is available for purchase at the Ripley County Historical Society, Osgood Historical Museum, Ye Olde Central House, Milan '54 Hoosiers Museum, Batesville Area Historical Society, Sunman Historical Museum, and Novel HeARTs Book Store in Versailles.

- Our website legacy site is still not working. Please be patient with us as we work with our webmaster.

New Business:

- The cost of heating the museum was discussed. Owen will look into budget billing.
- Thanks to REMC for approving our grant request for a new copier. The Office Shop will remove the old one.
- Tara Briggs from the Health Department stated there would be a training on using the scanned birth and death records. It could either be held here or in Indianapolis. The books along with records through 1923 have been returned since that project has been completed.
- Officers will be elected at the April meeting.
- We need a Director for Delaware Township.
- Bob Schlegel brought in the Historical Marker from the Rand House in Friendship. It has faded and needs replaced. Donna Linville moved to replace the sign and others that need replacement. Diane Arnold seconded the motion. All approved. Mike Stratton will take care of ordering the new sign.

The meeting was adjourned to the program. Dan Goris presented a very interesting Civil War, part 2 program including Ripley County recipients of the Vicksburg Medal of Honor. (See story on page 3)

Refreshments were served by Shelby Township Director.

The next meeting will be held at the RCHS Archives April 12, at 2:00 p.m. A follow up program, about the Civil War, will be presented by Dan Goris. Brown Township will provide refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Eades, Secretary

Note: The 2nd quarter meeting, originally scheduled for April 12 had been changed to **April 19, 2026**, 2:00 p.m. at the Archives.



Vicksburg Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is the highest and most prestigious personal military decoration that a service member can earn. The medal is usually awarded by the President of the United States in the name of the United States Congress to service men and women who distinguished themselves by acts of valor.

The Medal of Honor was created by the US Navy in 1861 and named the "Medal of Valor." The US Army began issuing a Medal of Honor in 1862 to men who distinguished themselves "conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity" in combat with enemies of the United States.

The Medal of Honor is the oldest continuously issued combat decoration of the United States Armed Forces. To date, over 3,500 Medal of Honors have been awarded- less than half were awarded during the Civil War, and there were an astounding 120 Medal of Honor recipients due to actions during the

siege of Vicksburg. Ripley County recipients include:

FRANTZ, JOSEPH: Rank and organization: Private, Company E, 83d Indiana Infantry. Place and date: At Vicksburg, Miss., 2,2 May 1863. Entered service at: Osgood, Ind. Birth: France. Date of issue: 13 August 1894. Citation. Gallantry in the charge of the "volunteer storming party."

OVERTURF, JACOB H.: Rank and organization: Private, Company K, 83d Indiana Infantry. Place and date: at Vicksburg, Miss., 22 May 1863. Entered service at: Holton, Ind. Birth: Jefferson County, Ind. Date of issue: 13 August 1894. Citation: Gallantry in the charge of the "volunteer storming party."

SMALLEY, REUBEN: Rank and organization: Private, Company F, 83d Indiana Infantry. Place and date: At Vicksburg, Miss., 22 May 1863. Entered service at: Poston, Ind. Birth: Redding, N.Y. Date of issue: 9 July 1894. Citation: Gallantry in the charge of the "volunteer storming party."

STEINMETZ, WILLIAM: Rank and organization: Private, Company G, 83d Indiana Infantry. Place and date: At Vicksburg, Miss., 22 May 1863. Entered service at: Sunman, Ind. Birth: Newport, Ky. Date of issue: 12 July 1894. Citation: Gallantry in the charge of the "volunteer storming party."

STOLZ, FRANK: Rank and organization: Private, Company G, 83d Indiana Infantry. Place and date: At Vicksburg, Miss., 22 May 1863. Entered service at: Sunman, Ind. Birth: Dearborn County, Ind. Date of issue: 9 July 1894. Citation: Gallantry in the charge of the "volunteer storming party."

THANK YOU

NEW COPIER

The Ripley County Historical Society extends its gratitude to REMC and its Directors for approving our grant request to replace our copier. The new copier was installed March 9.



COMPUTER

Many thanks to Dannie and Cheryl Welch for donating an updated computer. This computer will mainly be used for newspaper research and has much faster speed than our old one.



***“Reflections of Ripley County, Indiana”* History Book**

is available for purchase at the Ripley County Historical Society, Osgood Historical Museum, Ye Olde Central House, Milan '54 Hoosiers Museum, Batesville Area Historical Society, Sunman Historical Museum, and Novel HeARTs Book Store in Versailles. The cost of the book is \$25.

Celebrate 250th Anniversary United States of America

Join Ross' Run DAR Chapter for the dedication of the America 250 Patriot's Marker

Where: NE Corner of the Ripley County Court House Square

When: Saturday, June 6, 2026

Time: 11:00 a.m.

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	REDUCED PRICE was \$65.00 , now	\$45.00
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	
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Zack Menchhofer - zachary@menchhofer.com	Web Master
Barbara Eades & Cheryl Welch	Newsletter Committee