

# 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

July 2026

**HAPPY SUMMER**

**Number 3**

### ▲ Quarterly Meeting

Our next meeting will be held **July 12, 2026**. The meeting will be held at the Archives at 2:00 pm. Join us for an ice cream social following the meeting. Cookies will be provided by Center Township.

### ▲ 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. **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 April 19, 2026 at the Ripley County Historical Society Archives. Sixteen 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:

- Waiting to hear from Tara Briggs regarding training on the scanned Health Department records.
- Our website legacy site is still not working. Please be patient with us as we work with our webmaster.

### New Business:

- A new Epson printer has been purchased for the Historical Society. Our old printer is available for anyone interested. It still works, but needs cartridges.
- The following directors were elected for the 2027-2030 term: Laughery Township – Diane Arnold; Otter Creek Township – Mike Stratton; Shelby Township – Cheryl Welch; Washington Township – Gary Johnson; Director At Large – Kay Koppel.
- We still need a Director for Delaware Township.
- Benches have been placed in front of the Historical Society by Main Street Versailles. They were placed close to the front edge of the step, making it hard for some to use. Main Street Versailles will move them against the building. The town of Versailles will cover liability for the benches.
- The bronze Revolutionary War plaque, formerly in the Courthouse, was discussed. The commissioners wanted to place it outside the courthouse. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to ask to meet with the commissioners to see if it could be placed inside the Annex building instead of outside on the courthouse.
- Recently donated items were shared with members. A Copper tea kettle hand made by Karl Friedrich Thum, donated by Robert J. Thum, and a pair of wooden shoes used by Harmon Hillig in the late 1800's in southern Ripley County, donated by Dewain Rahe.
- A thank you was given to Bob Schlegel for filling in the holes in the tile floor.
- The March 2026 *Muzzle Blast* mentioned the Historical Society for their help researching the article about the Rand House in Friendship written by Historical Society member Bob Schlegel. The April 2026 *Muzzle Blast* included an article about the "Brothers Johnson and the Black Powder Toms" written by Historical Society Director Gary Johnson. Both of these issues are available to read at the Society.
- Ross' Run Chapter DAR will dedicate a marker honoring 52 Patriots buried in Ripley County on June 6, 2026.
- The Society has a new addition to their books for purchase, "Indiana's Lost Michigan Road" by W. C. Madden. The cost is \$25.00 and is available to pick up in person or by mail.
- A motion was made and approved to accept the offer for the donation of 2 local barn paintings by Gwen Gutwein Art.

The meeting was adjourned to the program. Dan Goris presented a very interesting Civil War, on the Indiana 3<sup>rd</sup> Calvary.

Following the meeting an executive session was held to elect officers. Officers for 2027 are President - Cheryl Welch, Vice President – Duane Drockelman, Secretary – Barbara Eades, Treasurer – Owen Menchhofer.

Refreshments were served by Brown Township Director.

The next meeting will be held at the RCHS Archives July 12, at 2:00 p.m. This will be our annual ice cream social. Center Township will provide cookies.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Eades, Secretary

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

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 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary United States of America**

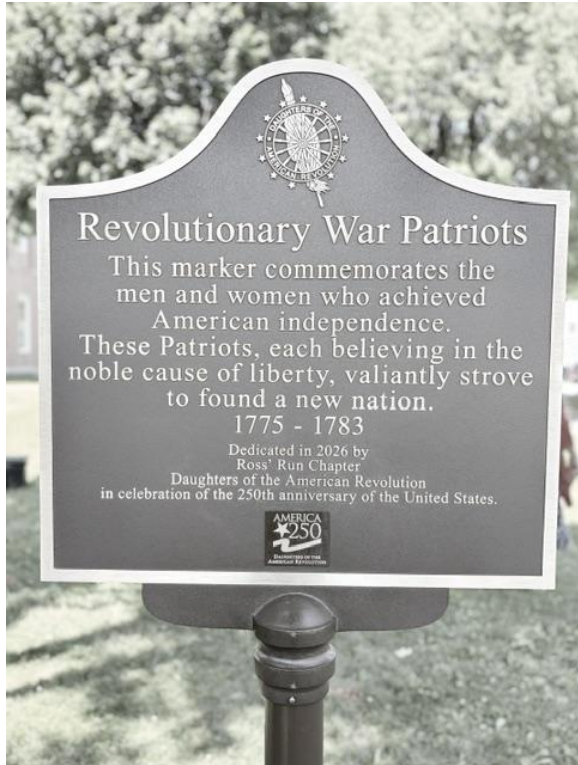
**Saturday, July 4, 2026**

**12:30 p.m.**

### **Holdsworth Entertainment Pavilion**

- *Tribute to America piano concert by Ellen Mulford*
  - *\*Patriotic Melody be a Community Choir*
- *Reading of the names of 26 Patriots buried in Ripley*
  - *County by Ross' Run DAR*
- *Reading of the Declaration of Independence by Jeff French and Marsha Bultman*

## Revolutionary War Patriots Marker Dedicated



The Ross' Run Chapter DAR dedicated a marker commemorating the men and women who achieved American Independence, 1775 – 1783. The marker is located on the northeast corner of the Ripley County Courthouse.

Check out the new location for the Revolutionary War Plaque at the Ripley County Courthouse Annex.



## 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       |
| Indiana's Lost Michigan Road                                                                     | by W.C. Madden                 | \$25.00       |
| Jackson Township Cemetery Records                                                                |                                | \$15.00       |
| John Hunt Morgan Heritage Trail in Indiana                                                       | by Lora Schmidt Cahill         | \$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       |

Most books listed above are also available for purchase at Novel HeArts Book Store, 133 Tyson Street, Versailles, IN

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 - <a href="mailto:zachary@menchhofer.com">zachary@menchhofer.com</a> | Web Master           |
| Barbara Eades & Cheryl Welch                                                         | Newsletter Committee |