

The Quarterly Bulletin of the RIPLEY COUNTY, INDIANA, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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

www.seidata.com/~rchslib

e-mail: rchslib@seidata.com

VOLUME XXV

JULY 2004

NUMBER 3

The third quarterly meeting of 2004 will be on Sunday, July 11, at RCHS Archives library on west side of the Versailles Courthouse Square, starting at 2:00. All members are urged to attend and visitors are always welcome. The program will be presented by Loraine Galle (pronounced Gaul), a genealogist from Franklin County. Several years ago Mrs. Galle discovered she had the ability to dowse graves. Included in her program will be a visit to the Cliff Hill Cemetery where she will demonstrate her talent.

Notes re: Our Staff

- ◆ The Society lost two faithful members and workers in February.
 - A Veterinarian from Milan, Dr. William Glover, died at age 88. At a meeting in 1988, he shared his experiences of serving in the Army Air Force during WWII. He was shot down and captured in Germany where he was a POW for 20 months. Dr. Glover served several years as RCHS Director from Franklin Township, retiring 1998, due of failing health.
 - Charles Roepke died at age 77. He was a farmer and business man from Sunman. Charles was a US Army veteran, serving 1945 to 1947. Charles was active in the RCHS, faithful to attend meetings and help his wife, Betty, who is the Adams Township Director, and a past President. Due to a stroke, Charles came to the meetings in a wheel chair the last couple of years.

We greatly appreciate the contributions made to RCHS by these two fine men.

- ◆ Esther Edmondson has accepted the Directorship of Franklin Township. Her maiden name was Lauber and she still lives on the farm where she was born. Lately she has been busy helping with the Milan Sesquicentennial Celebration that will be held July 1-4, 2004. We are pleased to have her on the Board.

THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE:

Ripley County History, Volume I	\$65
Ripley County History, Volume II	55
Brown Township Tales by Alan F. Smith	20
Tales of Versailles by Alan F. Smith	16
Vintage Postcards of Ripley County by Alan F. Smith	20
Brown Township Cemetery Index	10
Johnson Township Cemetery Index	10
Ripley County's Antislavery Movement	5
Flat Rock Cemetery Index	5

Flat Rock Cemetery 2003 update sheet available; send \$1 and SASE

Mailing fees added for all books shipped.

Dues:

Your membership expires on December 31 of the year shown on your mailing label. Check to make certain your dues are paid up-to-date. If not, mail your renewal to RCHS or to Beatrice Boyd, Treasurer, P.O. Box 83, Holton, IN 47023.

New memberships are \$10.00 for the first year.

*Renewals are \$5.00 per year thereafter.

Life memberships are \$100

RIPLEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY APRIL 18, 2004

The regular meeting of the Historical Society was held at the library at 2:00 PM with 32 members and guests present. The minutes were read and a correction was made on the amount given for the UGRR signs. The state gave \$1000.00 and the Historical Society gave \$1000.00. Minutes accepted.

The prices for our services have been raised. Regular size copies are: 1st 4 copies 25¢ each – each additional 10¢; legal size copies 50¢; ledger size copies \$1. The charge for copying Toph Papers is \$3 handling fee plus 35¢ for each page copied, plus postage. No requests are accepted by telephone, please make requests by e-mail or snail mail.

The Nominating Committee announced that the Directors for Jackson and Johnson Townships would remain the same. For Franklin, Esther Edmondson was named, motion moved and accepted.

The museum annex will be cleaned on Tuesday and the outside on Saturday.

We will serve refreshments at the library for the May 15 dedication services. Cookies to be furnished by RCHS.

There will be displays in the courthouse, it will be open. Someone from the state offices will be here for the dedication of the signs.

There will be maps for routes to various stops on the UGRR. Dedication at Versailles at 11:00 AM and at Flat Rock Church at 2:00 PM.

The head curator will come and give advice on the museum.

Thanks to Diane Coon for all she has done on this project, especially the articles in the Osgood Journal and all the history and pictures she has secured. Thanks also to the people who provided the history and pictures.

The Young Family Farm will receive recognition from the State for over 100 years of family ownership.

Thanks were given to the Society by Alice McCoy as President and thanks given to Alice by the Society.

Program by Roselyn McKittrick on the activities for the Milan Sesquicentennial and the 50th anniversary of the Milan State Championship. There will be activities the weekend of the Fourth of July. The community is working very hard to provide entertainment, history of the town and a museum for the ball team. Roselyn has received phone calls and letters from all over the country, so a big attendance is anticipated. She passed out fliers and is promoting a book, "*Milan Indiana, It's Storied Past.*" It was written by Darlene Gerster and Roselyn.

Next meeting will be July 11th, Jackson Township with refreshments.

Henry Walker, Secretary

Alice McCoy, President

MILAN CELEBRATES SESQUICENTENNIAL

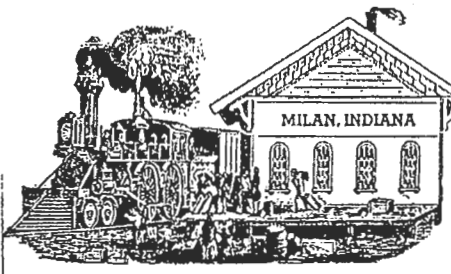
July 1, 2, 3 & 4, 2004

Gigantic Celebration includes:

Basketball Tourney, Carriage Rides,
Golf Tourney,

1954 Basketball Team History Displays,
Music in the Park, Hot-Air Balloons, Parade,
Hog Roast, Rodeo, Fireworks,
Church Services & Gospel Music,
And much more!

Check schedule at: www.milan150years.org



The History Book, *Milan Indiana, Its Storied Past*
will be on sale

STEPHEN S. HARDING ROOM OPEN AT ANNEX

The Stephen H. Harding Room opened May 15th as part of our Underground Railroad Historical Markers dedication ceremonies. The room is decked out in a lovely Chinese rug in shades of rose with touches of turquoise blue within a darker border. It is believed to have been woven about one hundred years ago. This is a gift of Mrs. Theresa Smith Smith, daughter of Alan and Katy Smith. Hanging from the ceiling is a beautiful chandelier, a gift of Charles and Jacqueline Rohlfing of Milan. The antique Victorian chandelier has a painted dome shade with prisms, brass rings, chains and blue glass parts that match the blue in the carpeting. Judge and Katherine Taul donated the Victorian lace panel covering the window.

A drawing of the first Ripley County Court House by Alan F. Smith is a gift from his family in his memory and hangs above the Harding piano. The first court house erected on the Courthouse Square, built in 1821 by George Craig, stood until 1861, and it was at this court house that Jonathan Gordon threw open the courthouse doors and Stephen S. Harding gave his antislavery speech in 1844. Portraits of Harding's anti-slavery friends, Col. James H. Cravens, his son Major John O. Cravens and Jonathan Gordon, Esq. also adorn the room.

Rosewood Square Piano The beautiful rosewood square piano of the Harding family was easily and successfully moved from the Museum to the Annex. The Lighte Newton Piano Company who manufactured the piano, No. 5046, was established in 1848 at 22 Canal Street in New York City and operated under this name until 1851 when it became Light, Newton & Bradbury, according to Dwight Newton of the University of Kentucky School of Music. Moving of the piano was accomplished through funding provided by the Friendship State Bank, so deeply appreciated by everyone.

Mrs. Ella Yater Row, daughter of Abraham and Alciene Harding Yater, maintained the Harding Homestead in Old Milan as an historical site following the Feb. 12, 1891 death of her Grandfather Harding. She worked incessantly to maintain community awareness of the historic Harding family. In later years Dr. and Mrs. Perrie A. Row's home in Osgood was filled with her grandparents' antique furnishings. When it came time to dismantle the household after the death of Dr. and Mrs. Row their daughter Elizabeth donated, on behalf of the Harding Family, the lovely old piano and piano stool, as well as Stephen Harding's black silk top hat complete with his hatbox. The top hat graces the fireplace mantel in the Harding room.

Antique Clock The lovely old clock is believed to have come to Indiana with David and Abigail Hill Harding who moved to Ripley County, from New York State in 1832. The clock always stood in the Stephen S. Harding home and was passed on to their granddaughter Ella Yater Row. Upon the death of Mrs. Row, the clock was given to her granddaughter Mary Row and now is on loan. Brass works is believed to be English, the dial and case made of wood during the Federal period, ca 1750-1780.

Eastlake Glider *On loan by Esther Lauber Edmondson.* Many hours passed while S. S. Harding, blind the last ten years of life, sat in his favorite walnut glider, rocking and composing poetry. Ownership of the rocker passed from Ella Row to Dr. Irving and Elizabeth Lauber Row of Osgood and then to their niece Esther Lauber Edmondson. Mrs. Edmondson reupholstered the rocker-glider in a deep rose plush fabric.

Two Portraits of Stephen S. Harding, family photos, and blue glass plate. Donated by Diane Perrine Coon: Courtesy of the Utah State Historical Society Photo Archives. (1)Portrait is that of Harding as a young attorney who walked from his home in Old Milan to Brookville to study law. As County Attorney, he set up his law office in the upstairs office of the old courthouse and became a firebrand antislavery orator. (2) Portrait of Hon. Stephen S. Harding, Governor of Utah Territory and later Chief Justice of the State of Colorado. Various Harding family photos have been copied and are seen throughout the room.

An Early American Drop Leaf Secretary holds copies of some of Harding's business and personal letters and poetry, as well as a Harding Memorial Plate (1856-1956) loaned by great-granddaughter Mary Row Lovins.

The Victorian three-piece parlor set of Dr. and Mrs. James Lamb, donated earlier by Dorothy English, completes the room setting.

We are deeply indebted to those who helped us bring this all together in time for the May ceremonies and those who have loaned or donated to the Harding Room. Also, those who gave of their time and efforts - Jeff and Sue French, Norris Krall, Chris Meyer, Andy Scholle, Les Stratton, Katherine Taul, and Cheryl Welch. Assisting at the Museum and Annex opening day were Helen Caplinger, Katy Smith, Judy Jordan and Cheryl Welch. It would not have happened without all this help. Our thanks to everyone!!
Helen Einhaus, County Historian

AMAZING TURNOUT FOR FREEDOM TRAILS MARKER DEDICATIONS

Although it rained, the visitors and RCHS members were not deterred from celebrating the dedication of the Harding marker on Courthouse Square at Versailles and the Union Flat Rock Church marker and the opening of the Harding Room at the RCHS museum annex on May 15. At least 100 attended the celebration at Versailles and 200 at Flat Rock.

Local newspapers – *Osgood Journal* and *Versailles Republican*, the *Batesville Herald-Tribune*, the *Lawrenceburg Press*, the *North Vernon Plain Dealer*, the *Roundabout Madison*, and the *Henry County (KY) Local* -- gave us great coverage, with several added features and photographs.

The RCHS reprint of the *Osgood Journal* series on Harding and Union Flat Rock Church, sponsored by a grant from the Ripley County Community Foundation, sold very well and is now into its second printing in time for the Milan Sesquicentennial in July.

Mrs. Petronia Belmar, superb gospel singer from Louisville, KY, highlighted the Versailles ceremonies. The choir, color guard and jazz band from Jennings County High School were brilliant at Union Flat Rock Church, and the choir from the First Baptist Church in Eminence, KY, was thrilling.

So many contributed time and talents to this momentous RCHS triumph, it's impossible to name everyone.

THIRD HERITAGE TOUR POSTS IN PLACE

In place before May 15th, were two Underground Railroad heritage tours. Boy Scout Troop 638 of Osgood and Napoleon and Marlin and Mary Hughes of Flat Rock installed the tour posts for the Versailles to Flat Rock. Jim Wysong of Sunman installed the tour posts for the Versailles to Old Milan tour. And on June 6, Boy Scout Troop 607 of Versailles installed the tour posts for the Versailles to Cross Plains route. The brochures and tour maps are completed for the first two tours – Flat Rock and Old Milan. The brochure and tour map for the Southern Route (Cross Plains) will be available shortly.

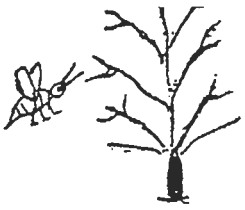
The first audio CDs produced had volume difficulties. We will record those sessions again with the cooperation of the participants, and anyone who got one of the original CDs can replace them at no cost later this summer. The script for the Cross Plains route is almost ready, and we can record that CD as well. By September, we should have the first three CDs available in quantity.

SOME LOCAL GRADUATES

1922 – Versailles Mary E. Jackson, Dova E. McCoy, Elsie Clara Marsh, Ethel Caplinger, Lowell Hunter, Russell Leroy Ent, Gayle S. Eads, Amos Jackson, FreeJInan McCoy, Florence Hilda Green, Verona Hilda McCoy, Josephine Helena Dickey, Beulan Castner, Laura Elrod, Pearl Jane Thomson, Eva Grace Pickett, Lena Konkle, R. Lee Smith, Alfred L. Hughes, Edith Helen Harper, Arthur D. Marsh, Lewis E. Sheets, Jackson Raney, Helena Ruby Jackson, and Frank Pratt.

1915 – Osgood Robert Cline, Harold Day, Durbin Schroder, Elizabeth Beldon, Leora Poppenhouse, Freda Radigan, Fred Wilke, Anthony Young, Marjorie McCoy, Charles Corson, Freda Stutie.

1925 – Sunman John Hohman, Lucille Brinkman Geyer, Orville Ahring, Wayne Lang, Romilda Wipple, Lorraine Nedderman Wulber, Ralph Cook, Ivan Heavey, Helen Kromer Warburg, Ralph Dreyer, William Geyer, John Fritsch.



4
Z
Z
Z
Z
4

BUZZING' ROUND
your
FAMILY TREE
by
Bea

Z
Z
Z
Z
Z
Z

Accouches from Dr Jeremiah Roberts account book continued The book lists the father of the child that was born. Prior to 1882 when births were required to be registered, this would be the only birth certificate available. Dr. Roberts was a Holton Doctor.

May 27, 1878	Vit Moore	August 12, 1678	Port Skeen
June 23, 1878	Orval Salyers	Sept 30, 1878	William Warren
July 17, 1878	Lawrence Salyers	Oct 3, 1878	Holman Yater
July 21, 1878	Billie Blevins	Oct 21, 1878	Tom Reynolds
August 8, 1878	J. H. Roach	Oct 18, 1878	John Burton

888888888888888888888888888888888888

Not to be left out Ripley County received their portion of the heavy storms and winds on June 3, 2004 taking out powerlines, trees and doing damage to the South Ripley Jr-Sr high school on Benham Road near Versailles. Portions of the roof at the main entrance were torn off and damage to all adminstrations offices, locker area and several classrooms. The fireman from Versailles, Osgood, Holton and Friendship were praised for their work in clearing the rooms of furniture and computers. Everything should be in tip-top condition for school to start this fall. This brings to mind that it was June 2, 1990 when another tornado swept through Ripley County and the date that the Hopewell Baptist Church, NW of Holton was destroyed.

888888888888888888888888888888888888

The dictionary calls them cicadas, but it seems to me that they were always called the 17-year locusts. The first bunch I rememb~~er~~ came in 1936. My sister called them cicadas when everyone was calling them locusts. They acted like she did not know what she was talking about. Call them what you want to. They will be back in 17 years to serenade you. They were very much in attendance at the Memorial Day celebration on the Court House square. The Armed Forces were honored with a good crowd, who just brushed off the cicadas.

888888888888888888888888888888888888

Clarence and Margaret English started the Englishes Small engine meet in 1980 the 3rd Saturday in August at their home on U. S. 50, west of Holton. The next year it was moved to the Town of Holton for several years and then back to the acreage on their farm bordering Jefferson Proving Ground. This was Clarences way to honor the men and women who served in the arm forces.(He was a WWII Veteran) The program would start with the flag raising. The flag each year was the flag of a deceased veteran. My husbands flag was used in 1984. Every year the event became larger than the previous year. I was saddened to hear that they are discontinuing the event after all these years, happy for the years they had it for it was a wonderful reunion for folks. I am so pleased that the Ripley Flywheelers will be remembered as it is on the History Tree in theCourt House at Versailles.

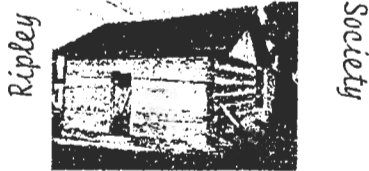
888888888888888888888888888888888888

The funeral of Ronald Reagon was certainly a bit of History. I had a ringside seat for the event at Washington D. C. and also for the services at the Library in California.

Isn't television a wonderful thing.?

Have a wonderful-summer.

County Historical



Versailles, IN 47042

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Adams Twp. - Mrs Betty Roepke; 9644 E Co Rd 1300 N, Sunman, IN 47041
Brown Twp. - Mrs. Alice McCoy; 5616 S St Rd 129, Versailles, IN 47042
Center Twp. - Mr. Norris Krall; 4499 N Old Michigan Rd, Osgood, IN 47037
Delaware Twp. - Mrs. Lois Workman; 4823 N Co Rd 350 E, Osgood, IN 47037
Franklin Twp. - Mrs. Esther Edmondson 7653 E Co Rd 800 N, Sunman, IN 47041
Jackson Twp. - Mr. Andrew Scholle; 5448 W Co Rd 800 N, Osgood, IN 47037
Johnson Twp. - Mr. Christopher Meyer; 3854 S SR 129, Versailles 47042
Laughery Twp. -
Otter Creek Twp. - Mrs. Beatrice Boyd; P.O.Box 83 Holton, IN 47023
Shelby Twp. - Mrs. Cheryl Welch; 6453 S Co Rd 225 W, Versailles, IN 47042
Washington Twp. - Mr. Henry Walker; 5793 E Co Rd 200 N, Milan, IN 47031

Mrs. Helen Einhaus; 610 N Buckeye St., Osgood <hteinhau@seidata.com>
Lori Hoffman; 5565 E. Lower Dry Fork Rd. Madison, IN 47250
Alice McCoy, Bea Boyd, Henry & Jerry Walker, and Norris & JoAn Krall

V. President
President

Treasurer
Museum Curator
Secretary

County Historian
Web Master
Newsletter Committee
