



In Loving Memory of
Richard O. Eastridge

67

August 20, 1943

July 16, 2011

FUNERAL SERVICE

Monday July 18, 2011

1:00 P.M.

Denbo Funeral Home

OFFICIATING CLERGY

Rev. Al Madden

FINAL RESTING PLACE

Taswell Cemetery

Taswell, IN

Richard O. Eastridge

Richard O. Eastridge, 67, Taswell, died Saturday, July 16, 2011, at 5:42 a.m. at Jasper Memorial Hospital.

Born Aug. 20, 1943, in Crawford County, he was the son of the late Desco Eastridge and Irene Kirchoff.

He earned a master's degree from Ball State University, was a retired teacher from Crawford County Junior-Senior High School after 36 years, was a recipient of the Sagamore of the Wabash, served many years as the Crawford County historian, was honored by the Indiana Historical Society, was a published author for his writings about Crawford County history, was a founding member of the Crawford County Historical and Genealogical Society and was a member the Crawford County library board, Taswell Christian Church and Masonic Lodge 709 in Eckerty.

Survivors include his wife, the former Priscilla Huff; two children, Mary Jo Allen and Jason Eastridge, both of Taswell; a brother, Randall Eastridge; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral: Monday, July 18, at 1 p.m. at Denbo Funeral Home in English with burial in Taswell Cemetery.

Officiant: The Rev. Al Madden.

(from *The Clarion* web site.)

Remarks by Jim Kaiser, past president, spoken at the funeral:

CRAWFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Richard O. Eastridge Memorial Service

Denbo Funeral Home

Monday, July 18, 2011.

The Crawford County Historical & Genealogical Society expresses their sympathy and condolences to the Richard Eastridge family for their loss. Richard was widely recognized as a leading historian for his knowledge of Crawford County history and genealogy.

Richard is a descendent of early pioneer settlers of Crawford County. He developed a deep appreciation of local history early in life listening to oral history from grandparents and other individuals of the community.

Richard led the effort in 1974 to reactivate the Crawford County Historical & Genealogical Society. Through his leadership, the society has continued to be a significant player in the preservation and education of local history. Richard led in the research of the history of the pre-Civil War Proctor House in Marengo given to the Society in 2006. It will soon be on the National Register of Historical Places.

Richard was appointed "Crawford County Historian" by the Indiana Historical Society in 1995 and has continued to serve our county in that voluntary capacity. Richard was also a member of the local society and chair of its Research and Publications Committee. Richard has published or re-published over 20 books on Crawford County historical topics.

Following his retirement from teaching in 1998, he has voluntarily worked nearly full time on local history and genealogy. Descendants from Crawford County families who live in other states constantly communicate with Richard to learn of their roots and history in Crawford County. Many times Richard may spend a day or more with individuals with roots in Crawford County touring significant places of interest and discussing local history.

Richard's professional career of teaching in Crawford County afforded him the opportunity to stay in the county and to acquire many historical artifacts, collect local family folk lore; and legal documents offered at public auction that would likely have left the local area.

Richard has received honors from the Indiana Historical So-

ciety by receiving its 2004 Hubert Hawkins History Award for his work on local history. In 2005, Richard received the prestige of being named an Indiana Sagamore of the Wabash, an award given by the Governor of Indiana for his volunteer service.

The Patoka Elementary School chose to develop an outdoor classroom facility on adjacent forest land owned by the school corporation. Richard led in the establishment of a pond near the wooded area, establishment of a native prairie area and a shelter house. He also located a nearby pioneer log cabin and assisted in moving it to the school and restoring it for classroom activities. The log cabin was donated to the school by local descendents of those who originally built it.

When asked where he lived, Richard would sometimes respond by saying, "Patoka Township, the upper end" rather than saying "North of Taswell." This was a typical response made by someone running for political office during the 1930's and 1940's. Patoka Township was divided into two voting precincts, one at Taswell and one at Wickliffe. Around election times, candidates would always greet someone by "how is it in the upper end" or "how is it in the lower end." This meant how my candidate is doing (is he winning or losing). The "upper end" were those who voted at Taswell, the "lower end" were those who voted at Wickliffe. Later on, I also learned from Richard that there was another difference between those who lived in the upper end or lower end. Those in the upper end ate their cornbread and milk with a spoon from a bowl. In the lower end, we eat our cornbread and milk with a spoon from a drinking glass.

On a personal note, I have had the opportunity over the past 12 years to have had a 7:00 a.m. breakfast meeting every Thursday with Richard (until December 2009 when he became unable to meet) along with other visitors at a local restaurant, to discuss Crawford County history and genealogy. This two-hour breakfast meeting was in a classroom atmosphere with note taking, research assignments and reports. Richard will be deeply missed.

Jim Kaiser — Lower End.