For many years the railroad baggage cart, which was donated by Joe Maranzano, stood on the platform of the depot. Often it was moved around to other areas of the Village as we needed to make room for various activities. The weathered cart was rusted, broken, very dangerous. The boards were split; the handles were splintered and the wheels were sloppy. This was definitely NOT the sort of thing that we wanted on display.

Something had to be done, and our friend Stan Newman came to the rescue with his restoration skills. When he saw the cart, he took a few pictures and eventually he took our treasure to his shop to begin the restoration process. He disassembled all of it piece by piece. He took measurements of the boards, and then he went to a mill in Glennie Michigan where he had new materials made to size. Those new boards were brought back to Stan’s shop where he hand sanded all of them.

He predrilled all new holes. All metal parts were sandblasted by Edward J. Blasting, then the metal parts were sent out for powder coating and painting which was done by Supreme Power Coat Company.

New wheelbarrow handles were modified to fit the cart. Vintage period correct hardware was purchased and used for the reconstruction. With marine grade “Spar” varnish Stan stained and sealed the wood.

Finally our cart was ready for reassembly. The job is now finished and we are very grateful to Stan Newman for all of his special attention to detail. Thank you for a great job! It is dedicated and skilled volunteers like Stan who help us carry out our mission of preserving the local history.
On the morning of February 18th we had 14 people at the work bee, which is proof that those Thursday morning sessions are gaining momentum. On that particular day we met a couple from Washington Street who were seeking information about the history of the home that they recently bought.

Jon and Norm immediately went to work. They sifted through pictures of historic homes from our collection, but unfortunately we had no picture of their home. They were pleased, however to see a picture of their neighbor’s house.

Then our team pulled out two fire maps and found the home on both of them! The plot maps in our collection also showed their lot. After sharing information and coffee with them, we directed our visitors to the County where they are sure to find what they are looking for. It was good to meet these new Richmond residents, and as this pleasant couple left the work bee they had in their hands a RAHGS brochure, a newsletter, and a membership form! As Norm exclaimed with a broad smile, “Now, this is what we are all about!”

In other news, a few days ago we received a request from David N. Wasserman (formerly David N. Phillips) asking if we could provide him with information about a house that he lived in while he was a ward of the state in this area in the 1950s. We have passed his letter around, but have come up with nothing solid to give him. Perhaps you can help.

The next big RAHGS event is the **Historic Tea on March 19th.** (The incorrect date was printed in the last newsletter. Sorry.) Our teas have become quite popular in the community and we continue to improve them every year. This year the program will be a great deal of fun as we enjoy a program about 19th Century women’s underwear. The tickets are for sale at the Richmond Flower Shop, the library, and at the museum on Thursday mornings. Please call me if you want more information. I would love to tell you more about it.

Daylight Savings Time begins March 13th!

Happy Easter and Happy Spring.

Christine
DEPOT CHIMNEY BLOCKED, OH NO!

In getting ready for the Winter Festival, we decided to have the depot open to the public. We checked to see if the potbellied stove was functional, as it had never been used in the village. When working on our squirrel problem this past summer the depot chimney appeared clear and was squirrel proofed. However, the chimney was blocked when the paper we set on fire in the stove smoked up the depot. Upon investigating, we found that the chimney was blocked with straw and a piece of masonry that had fallen into it somehow. It took Rich Weinert and Jon Beard at least an hour to remove half a leaf bag of straw. The masonry blockage will have to be removed in warmer weather when we can get to the chimney from the outside.

Facebook Posting Helps RAHGS Solve Mystery

The postcard photograph to the left shows the the Lovejoy Block in Lenox/Ridgeway. This block today has a laundramat on the south end and Trivoli’s on the north end of it.

For several years it has been a mystery as to what the building was that is peeking out on the south end of the block. Various photographs taken from both ends of the block during this time frame do not show this building since it was set back off the street.

This building was recently identified by a photograph of a home along with a newspaper article about it was posted on our Facebook site by Cathy Priestap-Rock. This was the home of her great-grandparents.

This is an exciting find and we appreciate and thank Cathy for posting this important piece of Richmond history. We hope that this will encourage others to look through their albums and submit other pieces to the Historical Society so that we can preserve it for future generations.
WINTER FESTIVAL AT THE HISTORIC VILLAGE

Donations:
David and Susan Foster
Larry Donley
Kathryn Borkowski
JW Smith
Keith and Sallie Rengert
Alane Rowley
Dale and Donna Quick
Elsie Manchester
Stanley Hirt
Gene and Sue Jakubiak
Richmond Lions Club
Lucia Marshall
Elmer Villeme
Ned and Ellyn Youatt
Mary and James Stewart
Don and Donna Cockerill
Jaime Greene

Thank you

Welcome!

New Members:
Clayton and Carol Fryer
James and Emily Allen
Mike and Sue Misteravich
Dennis and Amy LaFore
Brian and Rachel Card
Jim and Jennifer Klauka
Stephen and Charlotte Pierzynski
RAHGS’ annual membership dinner meeting was held on January 22 at Maniaci’s Banquet Hall to an enthusiastic group of members who were informed of the state of the Society by President Rowley and saw firsthand some preliminary plans for the future of the Historic Village by Rich Weinert. After the annual “A Year In Review” presentation by Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan, Mayor Tim Rix enthusiastically addressed the crowd with the wonderful history the City of Richmond has had and continues to have with RAHGS. This symbiotic relationship continues to thrive and has proven to be one which brings the community together at events throughout the year. The lovely evening concluded with many thanks to members for attending and the unyielding support they give.
Bricks Are Us
By Christine Hensch

Now that the brick patio has been leveled after the removal of two trees, attention has turned to record keeping.

We are developing a system for locating bricks more easily, so anyone looking for a specific brick will be able to find it without having to search the entire area. This will include an alphabetical list of all the bricks that have been installed and a map to help locate them. Once spring arrives, and we can work outside comfortably, we will be working on the map and completing the list with a location key.

A new order form, with current prices, has been designed and is now available at the museum or on the RAHGS website.

We are now ordering bricks from ‘Bricks R Us’ in Florida and we have been pleased with their work and the convenience of ordering over the internet.

Anyone with questions or wanting to help with the bricks project can contact me at the museum work bees on Thursday mornings.

Chris

Note: In January 2016 Chris Hensch officially took over as chair of the brick committee, but she actually began to organize the records last spring. Since then she has put order to the bricks in the park, she has streamlined the process of ordering bricks, and she has updated the recordkeeping. Thank you Chris for stepping up with this job! Marsha Phillips and Dianne Gibson are Chris’ helpers.

Bricks Purchased

Fred and Sue Hartway in memory of Richard Hartway
Garden Grove Park in memory of Randy Raieigh
Garden Grove Park in memory of Jim Gunningham
Garden Grove Estates in memory of Josephine Wagner

Memorials:

In memory of Jane Zimmerman:
Jim and Rose Weeks
Jerry and Lynne Dunsmore
Lucia Marshall

In memory of Richard Hartway:
Bob Rowley
Tom and Christine Hebel

In memory of Grace Leach:
Dr. and Sandra McClellan
Spring is almost upon us! I noticed at the Village on Feb. 7th that the daffodils were peeking out! With this newsletter I would like to invite you to purchase some of our seed packets that we have for sale. These are all seeds that were harvested from our gardens at the Village in the fall. We have for sale this year: Cosmos, Cleome, Red Hollyhocks, Pink Hollyhocks, Nicotiana, and Tall Red Snap Dragons.

If you would like to purchase some seed packets please contact me: marshaphillips@hotmail.com or call me at 586-321-8519. I will mail them to you.

I will be starting some of these seeds the first 2 weeks in March for our gardens at the Village. Planting instructions are on the seed packets. Some of these flowers can be started right out in your flower beds in May! This is a small fundraiser for RAHGS to help offset gardening expenses. The cost of the seed packets are $2.00 each or 3 packs for $5.00.

I would like to take this time also to ASK for your help in our BIG fundraiser. 1st prize is the 2 night stay in the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. 2nd prize is the Rail Fence Quilt. The drawing for this raffle will be on Sunday during the Good Old Days. We have 7 months left to sell these tickets. I have pre-packaged envelopes with 12 tickets in them. If all of our members would take a packet and sell the tickets we could really raise A LOT of money for RAHGS!!! PLEASE contact me, Marsha Phillips, if you are interested. I will send you an envelope of tickets. If you just want one ticket contact me also. Tickets are $10.00 each or 3 tickets for $25.00.

This is a great opportunity for out of town and out of state members to become involved with a RAHGS event! I am looking forward to hearing from all of you!

Marsha

RAHGS Board Welcomes New Member

We welcome Jon Beard to the RAHGS Board with great enthusiasm. Jon and his wife Marla recently moved to Richmond in order to live beyond the hustle of the Motor Cities. They both have enjoyed their ready welcome as new residents, members of RAHGS, and the Richmond Community Choir.

Jon is the director of a Faith based nonprofit that encompasses Macomb, St. Clair, and Oakland counties. He has served as Development officer, Director, or CFO in these forms of organizations since 1991.

Marla and Jon enjoy outdoors activities, reading, history, and the arts. They are celebrating 36 years of marriage and have three grown children.

Pictured is the 2016 RAHGS Board of Directors: L to R: Rich Weinert, Christine Rowley, Dave Waun, Mary Shepherd-Logan, Norm Gibson, Dianne Gibson, Jon Beard.
Our mission statement:

- To share with others the legacy left us by our forefathers, the migrants from the East and the immigrants from Europe, who with foresight and conviction built a better future for themselves and their children, and for the generations that followed.
- To honor and remember those who cleared the land, grew the crops, educated the young, and to pay homage to those who fought in the wars and sacrificed their lives for something they believed in.
- To encourage our community leaders to preserve the few historical buildings remaining today.
- To provide assistance to those who turn to us for help in finding their roots.

The general membership meetings/programs, which are open to the public, are held throughout the year. The Historic Village is open during Winter Festival, on Log Cabin Day, during Good Old Days, Thursday morning work bees, special events, and by special appointment. Watch the newsletter, the website, and Facebook for dates, times, and program information.

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