JOIN US MAY 4TH, 7:00 PM

Looking for Laura: Place, History, and the Authentic "Little House"

For generations of readers in the United States and around the world, Laura Ingalls Wilder, at once the spunky young heroine and the author of the beloved “Little House” books, defined the American pioneer experience.

Michelle McClellan, assistant professor in the Department of History & the Residential College at the University of Michigan, will take us on a journey that explores the complex connections among fiction, history, and landscape that fans encounter when they go looking for Laura.

May 4, 2016
7:00 PM
School Section School at the Historic Village
36045 Park St. Richmond, MI

For more information: 586-808-2953
Our website has been updated with a new look and added content! Recently Rich Weinert stepped forward to volunteer his expertise as the new webmaster, and I am thrilled to welcome him to the job! After meeting with David Waun and Mary Shepherd-Logan, Rich designed this new version using Wordpress; he presented his design to the Board, and at the April meeting it was approved to go live.

Our initial website was begun by then Board member Sue Drysdale, and most recently it has been maintained by Lori Nye. Thank you both for your work on this RAHGS project. Now the task is in Rich’s capable and creative hands. Thank you Rich!

Check out the new page at: http://richmondhistoricalsoociety.org/

In other news, we are preparing for May visits from the Armada and the Richmond Fifth Grade classes. For nine days the School Section School will be bustling with activity as these students enjoy the one room schoolhouse experience firsthand. This event is always fun to see.

And of course we are looking forward to the “Little House” program on May 4th. We are proud to welcome hometown girl Michelle McClellan to the Village. I hope to see you there.

Christine
LIFT HANDLE REPLACEMENT ON DEPOT MOTOR CAR.

The wood lift handles on the railroad motor car at our Train Depot have weathered to the point that they need to be replaced. They were removed and replaced with new ones made of white oak. These handles are over six foot long, and tapered. A long metal strap is screwed to the bottoms of the handles. There is also a stop pin in the middle of each handle to keep them from being pulled too far out or removed.

Replacing brackets and handles required workers on the inside and outside of the motor car.

RAHGS Board members, Rich Weinert, Dave Waun, and Jon Beard show how the handles would be used to lift the motor car off the tracks to make way for a train. Further work on the motor car is planned that will help preserve it.

DEPOT WHEELCHAIR REPAIR

In the Train Depot we have an old wheelchair. Unfortunately over time the rubber tires had deteriorated to the point where the wheelchair would not function properly.

The small, damaged wheels were removed from the wheelchair and the tires were taken off. New tires were ordered this past October and finally arrived in April.

The wheels with the new tires were installed at our Thursday, April 21st work bee.

We now have a functional vintage wheelchair that has always been a part of our depot.
**A LOVELY AFTERNOON FOR A TEA**

What a delightful afternoon it was on Saturday March 19th as 165 women gathered to enjoy the 4th Annual Historic Tea. Presenter Kim Parr captivated the audience with her lively presentation of “Mentioning the Unmentionables.” As the guests arrived, they strolled around the room to view the beautiful china and table settings and chatted with the hostesses. The main attraction was the beautiful table of auction items for the raffle.

Treasurer Dianne Gibson provided this financial information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ticket sales:</th>
<th>$3950.00</th>
<th>Expenses:</th>
<th>$1990.29</th>
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<tr>
<td>Raffle tickets:</td>
<td>$1346.00</td>
<td>Total profit:</td>
<td>$3303.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income:</td>
<td>$5296.00</td>
<td></td>
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The following people made this a most successful fundraiser. Thank you all very much!

Carol Lippman  
Susan Dudgeon  
Marsha Phillips  
Chris Hensch  
Marguerite Little  
LWM Library  
Jennifer Foor  
Dianna Marsoupin  
Rose Weeks  
Susan Foster  
Phyllis Gabler

Kris Howell  
Dianne Gibson  
Nadine Ballard  
Kasey Wylin  
Christine Rowley  
Sandy Goguen  
Judy Murphy  
Sandy McClellan  
Marla Beard  
Mary Gisslander  
RHS Key Club

Amelia Srugis  
Jenny Klauka  
Janice Rowley  
Sarah Foster  
Gail Lee  
Mary Shepherd-Logan  
Amy Foster  
Doris Fuerstenau  
Sharon May  
Pam Materazzi

And even the men were coerced into service. After they held their own “tea” (hot dogs and chips) at the Historic Village, they stopped by the banquet center to help clean up. Thank you for your help, guys.
Annual Log Cabin Day Preparations Are Underway

Every year the last Sunday in June is the statewide Log Cabin Day, and the co-chairs of our event, Dave Waun and Marsha Phillips, are busy making contacts and planning for the fun day.

The Historic Village will be open from noon until 4:00pm, with docents in all of the buildings. Demonstrations will include candle making, lace making, wood carving, rope making, and spinning. Our master gardener Marsha has created a living wreath for a raffle, and of course you can pick up your coveted raffle ticket for the Mackinac Island trip as well. More fun will be around the corner in adjacent Beebe Street Park as the Richmond Bees will be hosting a vintage base ball game.

This is a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with children and grandchildren and friends. Why not put the date on your calendar and take a step back in time as you wander through the log cabin, the school, the depot, and the museum?

Our well tended gardens will be at their showy best, and we will be ready to show you treasures from the RAHGS collection. See you on June 26th!

NEW PROGRAM AT RAHGS SET FOR THIS SUMMER
HISTORIC VILLAGE SCIENCE EXPLORERS
BY CAROL LIPPMAN

On Thursdays June 23rd and 30th from 10:00 to 11:30am we will be holding two classes at the School Section One Room School House. This program is for children 8 to 10 years old. Using hands-on activities and demonstrations students can explore how science has changed life for the people in Richmond and how it may be used in the future. They may learn that science is a field they might like to study get into when they get older.

The cost is $10 for both classes. The classes support STEM Education. For more information, please contact Carol at 586.231.6179.
Richmond City residents will soon be able to enjoy an expansion of Bailey Park with help from a Blight Elimination Program grant awarded by the Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority.

Richmond plans to use the $40,000 grant to demolish three residential homes directly to the south of Bailey Park, home to the Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society's Historic Village.

The City intends to work with the Historical Society to redevelop all three parcels into an expansion of Bailey Park that will include additional buildings and amenities with the Historical Village.

The RAHGS Long Term Preservation Committee is working on plans for the property while waiting for the City to finalize the details of the grant award. The hope is that the structures will be removed before the end of summer.

For full article about the grant award, go to:
http://www.michigan.gov/som/0,4669,7-192-47796-378795--,00.html

Other RAHGS Long Term Preservation projects: The team will be working on repairing the louvers on the Schoolhouse Bell Tower so the squirrels don’t get in and leak proofing the Tower floor so rain doesn’t leak down into the school. Additionally the chimney on the Depot will be cleared of some debris that is blocking it. Watch our Facebook page and webpage for Work Bee and project dates.
Spring Is Blooming At The Village!!

If you haven’t done so, please take a walk behind the little carriage house (between the museum and the school). That is the prettiest part of the Village Gardens. The blue scilla, primroses, vinca, creeping speedwell, and hyacinths are all in bloom at the same time! Also, the daffodils in front of the schoolhouse! Sometimes spring doesn’t work out for everything to bloom at the same time! How fortunate for us that it worked out that way.

We have already fertilized all beds with 12-12-12. We just broadcast it over everything. The beds that have our bulbs blooming have been cleaned. It is time to turn on the water and connect the hoses. All of the perennials that needed to be cut back have been cut. April is very unpredictable so you should use caution when removing your winter protection on certain plants. I did cut the butterfly bush, hopefully not too soon.

If you have removed leaves, mulch, etc. from your perennials, make sure you leave some protection on the crowns of your plants in case we get some hard frosts. When the forsythia popped open was the right time for your first fertilization on everything, including your lawns. Also, it is the right time to prune your roses. Cut out the dead canes or anything that doesn’t look healthy, also canes that cross each other.

Early spring was the time to prune back any shrubs that you need too. Taking 1/3 of the plant off is OKAY. This includes clematis vines and trumpet vines. I have cut 1/3 to 1/2 from mine which is a sweet autumn clematis.

The pansies were planted in our two large pots outside the museum and the schoolhouse. I hesitate to put pansies in the ground beds because the bunnies like them. We will be changing out the pots with other annuals at the end of May. Pansies are a cool weather flower and don’t do well in the summer heat.

May and June will be busy for us weeding the beds and getting them ready for planting our annuals. I started seeds for the Village from what we collected! I am anxious to plant them. If anyone purchased seeds and had a problem, let me know. I will be glad to talk to you about it! We did great on the seed packet fund raiser!! Thank you to everyone who purchased seeds!

Marsha

Bricks Purchased

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>For</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sherry Gavin</td>
<td>Darryl and Dallas Kuester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeanne’s Card Club Family</td>
<td>Jay Finn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeanne’s Card Club Family</td>
<td>Jack Treend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred and Sue Hartway</td>
<td>Richard E. Spangler</td>
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<td>Fred and Sue Hartway</td>
<td>Richard Hartway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandy Knoell</td>
<td>Josephine Schomburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary and Doug Logan</td>
<td>Lillian Logan Sitko</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Welcome

New Members:
Robert Hartway, Richmond
Bill and Heather Rowley, Richmond

Memorials:
In memory of Bob Rowley:
Gene and Sue Jakubiak

In Memoriam

John “JW” Smith, 76, passed away on April 25, 2016. John formerly served on the Board of Directors, and he was a RAHGS lifetime member. He is survived by his two sons, Steve and Nick. The full obituary can be found at the Kaatz Funeral Home website.
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 Cain 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.