Breaking Ground!

The Mayor, City Council members, the City Manager, the Foundation Board of Directors, the Society Board of Directors, the Long Term Planning Committee, and many RAHGS friends were present for the official ground breaking for the Richmond Historic Barn Project on Tuesday June 6, 2017. On the next day the foundation was dug and blocks were placed. The beams and timbers will be moved to the site soon, and then the reconstruction will begin. We anticipate the barn will be up and ready for visitors for Good Old Days this year.
Cleaning Toilets and Inspiring poetry

Radio and television personality Art Linkletter (1912-2010) is noted for his line, “Kids say the darndest things,” and I thought of him when I overheard the school children during their visit to the Village in May.

As they were looking at the bricks in the memorial park, they noticed a brick that had this inscription on it: The Voice. Now all of us know that brick was purchased by our local newspaper, but the kids immediately thought of the TV show that seeks out new singing talent and exclaimed, “I didn’t know The Voice came to Richmond!”

When I talked about our depot and pointed it out, one of them asked, “What does that have to do with Home Depot?” “Why isn’t it orange?”

But the best was heard as I was tidying up and cleaning the bathroom. One of the children ran in for a last pit stop before the walk back to the Lee School and asked, “So what are you, the custodian?” And that comment gave me pause.

Recently I was talking with our English friend, Mervyn Smith, about the barn, the sleigh restoration, and the logging sled. Naturally I was waxing on about those projects with great pride as I updated him on a few of our more recent undertakings. A few days after, he sent the following poem to me:

**RAHGS Poem**

*Our call is to bring local history alive*
*Helping ensure that the stories survive*
*Honouring those past who gave all that they could*
*To create our new future on the ground where they stood.*
*For the sacrifice, struggle, for the way that they left*
*A footprint and legacy in which all now invest*
*Like those brave pioneers in the call to create*
*We, too, have a mission to help all relate*

*To the things that are gone yet important still*
*For they point us to hopes and dreams to fulfil*
*So we clear the land as they did of old*
*To make way for the treasures and the story they told*
*And whilst this is our vision it has to be said*
*There’s a great deal much more*
*than just sleighs, sleds and sheds*

So yes, in the broader definition of the word, we all are “custodians” of what our ancestors left for us. Our job is to be careful stewards of their legacy and the remaining artifacts.

I hope to see you around the Village this summer. Stop in and see all of the new developments!

Christine
Gearing up for Good Old Days!!!
By Mary Shepherd Logan

Our annual stuff sale will be held during Good Old Days at the Historic Village. Items can be dropped off at the village in the tented area on Thursday, Sept. 7. Please do not bring clothing, appliances, televisions, etc.

The sale will be on Friday, Sept. 8 and Saturday, Sept. 9 from 9:00-5:00 and on Sunday, Sept. 10 from 11:00-5:00.

And of course, our Strawberry Shortcake Social and village buildings will be open on Friday from 3:00 until dusk; our Saturday and Sunday hours are noon until dusk.

We will be contacting members to helping with these fun and exciting activities. If you would like to volunteer for the strawberry shortcake social, contact Mary Ellen at 586-808-2953.

Restoration of Logging Sled
By Norm Gibson

We have previously published reports on the progress towards restoring as circa 1900 logging sled. The restoration is complete and the sled has been temporarily placed next to the log cabin. Restoration crew, and members of the 1st S.C. Vol. Inf. L-R: Norm Gibson, Don Iveson, Sean Buckert, Mike Buckert, and Weldon Fealko.
Progress Report on what is happening with the garage. In the past newsletters I reported that the roof was shingled and the garage doors, soffits and fascia boards were painted.

Over the past month we have been fixing up the garage for a temporary agricultural exhibit area. Painting inside and out to seal the walls and give the garage a fresh look. A window that was covered with plywood has been fixed. Places in the floor where the cement had become rough due to salt damage where filled in, and the floor painted. We were able to do all of this current work with volunteer help and $400 of materials.

Agricultural Museum Opens Soon
By Norm Gibson

This past week we have been able to move agricultural equipment and tools from the log cabin and the depot.

Quite a few hours were spent putting two coats of paint on this building inside and out. You may be wonder why we picked yellow. It was paint that had been given to us a few years ago. It turned out to be a good color for the exhibit area.

Moving the fanning mill from the depot to the agricultural exhibit in the garage.

Inspecting the fanning mill in the new agricultural exhibit. This exhibit is a work in progress.
Barn Project
You can now support Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society just by shopping! When you shop smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases directly to RAHGS! This link will take you directly to smile.amazon.com in support of Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society. https://smile.amazon.com/ch/02-0661717. Remember, for all future Amazon shopping, always start at smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com.

Donations Received
Thank you for your support!

General Fund:
Armada Schools
Richmond Schools
Amazon smile
Donation jar

Barn Donations:
Betty Hebel
Picnic table proceeds from Jerry and Pattie Papuga

Recent Acquisitions
Donated by:
Richmond DPW:
Charlotte Ward:
Robert Wendt:
Joe and Gloria Zimmy:

Item:
scythe
postcards
Jointed doll
E.G. Gleason medicine bottle
Whiskey bottle
Toothpick holder
Mustache cup
Books

Cemetery Walk Update
By Ursula Adamson

The Richmond cemetery is just one of several historical resources in our community. Rich, poor, famous, infamous, loved or forgotten alike, they’re all buried here in this century old cemetery.

Our cemetery walk in October will bring the voices of our ancestors to life as costumed actors from the Richmond Community Theatre portray pioneers from different walks of life.

The Cemetery Walk Committee has chosen the following individuals:

Dr. Daniel Gleason | Ira Weeks
Mrs. Marlow | George Perkins
Ellen Kirkham | Thomas Fanning
Albert W. Priestap | Cudworth

And more details will be forthcoming in our next newsletter.

Bricks Purchased
Our brick caretaker Chris Hensch reports that 12 bricks have been placed in the garden.
The newest orders are:

Marie’s Card Club in memory of Robert Bertossi
Marie’s Card Club in memory of Aggie Esper
The gardens at the Village are BEAUTIFUL!! I think I am a little prejudice on this matter. This is my 4th year working in the gardens and I am happy this year with how they have progressed. I am very thankful for all of the help Chris Hensch and I have had this year. I want to say a special “Thank You” to the regular helpers: Tom Hebel, Rich Weinert, Dave Waun, Marguerite Little (she plants our Herb Garden), and our two new gardeners, Charlotte Pierzynski, and Penny Yelencich!! Thank you so much!

Our gardens have been fertilized 2 times so far this year. There is a vegetable garden behind the cabin this year. I used a new fertilizer called Jack’s for the plants.

I used it at my home last year and liked the results.

The veggie garden outside of the cabin is called a “Potager”. It is a French word for a style of gardening. It uses vegetables in a formal design, mixed with flowers, fruit, or whatever to make them look decorative as well as useful. Ours isn’t very formal, but it is our little Potager garden.

This year we extended the flower bed by the Brick Paver bed with the Bell in it. Perennials will be planted there next spring hopefully. It wasn’t ready until late so I threw in annuals this year: tall zinnias, cleome, nicotiana, and cosmos and hollyhocks.

I want to give a SPECIAL THANKS to Weigands Nursery. They donated 3 yards of the best soil/mulch to amend our beds. I can’t believe how great it made all of our beds look. That truly made me happy, and it fulfilled my final plans that I had for the beds. THANK YOU!!

Check out the Cosmos that has reseeded again this year in front of the shed where the RAHGS sign is, it is beautiful! Also, there are 2 hollyhocks that came back behind the cabin and they are grand!

We are having a garden walk again this year that will coincide with the Garage Sales that are happening in the city of Richmond. This will be on Saturday, July 29th. The Village buildings and the Gardens will be open from 10 am until noon. I will be there to answer any questions and talk about our gardens. Hopefully, you will be able to come out and visit with us that day. We will have refreshments and cookies.

Looking forward to seeing you!
Marsha
586-321-8519

A NEW MATTRESS FOR AN OLD BED by Norm Gibson

You may remember this rope bed from a 2015 article in the Historian. It was donated by Don Bauman and had originally belong to Jake Gilbert. We restored it that year and installed in the log cabin.

This year Marsha Phillips made a mattress which she and Christine Hensch stuffed. We now have a rope bed with an authentic mattress. I think I might take a nap on it at the next work bee. You know just to be sure that it “sleeps tight and the bed bugs don’t bite”.

Marsha Phillips
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 building 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.