RAHGS Welcomes Donley Family

The Village never looked better than it did on September 30 when the Donley family was in town. Naturally the gardens were looking their best, but it was the friendly, kind, and interested Donley family that completed the total picture.

The family was in Michigan for the interment of Ed Donley, and after their luncheon in New Baltimore, they came to the Historic Village to reminisce, to hear stories, and to show their ancestral cabin to the younger generation of Donleys. We celebrated Larry Donley’s birthday; we learned about the Donley family genealogy, and we enjoyed cake and cookies together.

Martha Donley Robb wrote: Everyone had a very special time. Larry was so surprised, and it was fun to have a positive uplifting event on a day that was a little sad for all of us. It is hard to say goodbye to the patriarch, my dad. It’s the end of an era. And being together in their childhood home, gathering there with a warm welcome from RAHGS made it joyful. …thank you for the lovely, lovely time we had at the log cabin.

And this is from Larry Donley: On behalf of the Donley Family please accept our sincere thanks for the wonderful day at the Historical Village. Your members made us all feel like we were “back home.” …the grounds with the vibrant flowers are just classy. The buildings are in perfect shape, not easy for structures of their vintage. I am also glad to see barn sprouts!

We thank you, Donley Family, for your continued interest in the Village and the Society. You are an important part of us.
RAHGS has a piano!

An American flag, a wood-burning stove, busts of Lincoln and Washington, the cursive alphabet above the blackboard, and of course a piano—of what do all of those things remind you? Why, a one room schoolhouse, of course!

Until recently, the piano was the only item that was missing in our school. But now, thanks to July Orris for the donation of her upright piano, and thanks to one of our members for providing the funds to move and tune the piano, RAHGS can proudly say that we have everything to make our school complete.

According to our information, the piano was given to Judy by Maybelle Kelso. Maybelle indicated that the piano was used in a silent movie theatre to play music for the movies. Maybelle’s father owned the theatre. Could this be the Majestic Theatre? We are still researching the history of this piano, and we welcome any input from our members.

Luckily, when one of our RAHGS members learned that we had the piano donation but not the funds to cover the moving costs, she immediately stepped in to make the move possible.

“My fondest memory of attending my one room schoolhouse was the music and the piano,” recalls the contributor.

“We would sing ‘America the Beautiful’ and ‘My Country ’Tis of Thee’—all verses of both songs memorized. Today, every time I sing either of these songs, it brings back memories of that time in my life. That is why I am so passionate about having a piano in our school at the Historic Village.”

The piano is a wonderful addition to our school; if you play, please stop in and “tickle the ivories.”

One more thing: Would you please mark these dates on your calendar?

- Friday January 26, 2018: RAHGS Annual Dinner Meeting, Maniaci’s Banquet Hall
- Saturday March 10, 2018: RAHGS 6th Annual Historic Tea, Golden Hawk Golf Course

If you voted for the RAHGS scarecrow, thank you very much. Go RAHGS!

Daylight Savings Time begins November 5th
And soon, Happy Thanksgiving!

Christine
January 26:
Annual Membership Dinner Meeting
Maniaci’s Banquet Hall
5:00 pm

March 10:
6th Annual Historic Tea
Golden Hawk Golf Course
If you are interested in setting a table
Call Christine @ 810.392.0261
Tickets available as Christmas presents!

Barn Raising Update

Our barn is finally taking shape. This week (October 16-20) the main framework went up. The next step is building the loft floor, and then it will be ready for the roof rafters. We expect progress to move along a little faster now, so you may want to drive by and check it out for yourself.

So far, we have received approximately $5000.00 in donations. But to cover the entire cost, $75,000.00 more is needed. We would appreciate any monetary help you could give us. Please make your check to RAHGS and send it to P.O. Box 68, Richmond, MI 48062.

New Member:
Ginny Foster, St. Clair
It. Rained. All. Day. But our first Cemetery Walk finished with great aplomb! Drenched but happy, the guests used words like “Awesome,” “Well done,” and “Spectacular!” to describe their experience.

The following actors deserve a standing ovation: Dr. Patrick McClellan as Dr. Daniel Gleason; Sarah Lee as Rebecca Perkins; Al Collins as George Perkins; Bryan Braun as Thomas Fanning; Eleanor Schmidt as Arabelle Fanning; Lucia Marshall as Ellen Kirkham; David Foster as Ira Weeks; Marc Arel as William Priestap; Mary Shepherd-Logan as Bertha Marlow.

Thank you, Richmond Community Theater, for working with us on this event. Max and Sandy Luenser lent their expertise as they gathered props and period clothing for the actors. They, along with Karen Arel and Jon Beard, were quite poised and helpful guides. Everyone knows that RCT is Richmond’s other “gem,” and together we certainly helped polish each other during this worthwhile project.

Thank you to this indispensable “backstage crew”: Doug Logan, Rich Weinert, Jim Klauka, and David Waun. All of these pleasant gentlemen kept things running smoothly, fetching and toting hither and yon. And Sue Jakubiak can certainly take a bow for working at the check-in table.

Finally, a special thank you to the women who did the research and organized the material necessary to make this happen: Marguerite Little, Ursula Adamson, and Mary Shepherd-Logan. This committee kept everything and everyone on track and moving forward. Applause here as well!

RAHGS member Pattie Paguga writes:
I wanted to let you and the RAHGS members know how much I enjoyed the Cemetery Walk last weekend. Those who took on the job of representing the various “deceased” did a remarkable job! It was fun and informative, despite the weather and traffic noise. I hope you will present it again next year, and we will spread the word about the professionalism of those involved.

As you are aware, RAHGS volunteers strive to preserve artifacts from the past—the things our ancestors used in daily life—but their stories are precious to us as well. If you want to share a family member’s history for a future Cemetery Walk, please contact me. All ideas are welcome.
Lucia Marshall as Ellen Kirkham; Eleanor Schmidt as Arabelle Fanning; Bryan Braun as Thomas Fanning

Ursula Adamson and Sue Jakubiak at check-in desk.

Lucia Marshall, Sandy Luenser, Al Collins, Mary Ellen Shepherd Logan, Max Luenser
Marc Arel as William Priestap

Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan as Bertha Marlow

Ursula Adamson and her fox stole
It was a mesmerizing evening on Oct. 4, when author Mike Forness shared his knowledge and stories about the Mackinac Bridge, a subject he has studied and researched for more than 25 years. In his entertaining and informative presentation, he shared with the audience the historic, tragic, and hilarious events Michigan’s five-mile wonder has seen. He made us laugh, think, and question the wonder of this bridge from the forces of nature it has withstood to the unusual crossings, babies being born, and safety measures currently in place. “The Mackinac Bridge means Michigan to so many people. Over the past 60 years there have been some pretty incredible stories that have taken place on the bridge, over it and underneath it.”

From Mr. Fornes, we heard the stories, saw the photos and learned about the people who made this engineering wonder a symbol of the state of Michigan.

It seems he liked us nearly as much as we liked him when he apologized for going longer than his usual time because, “everyone was so engaged, I just wanted to keep telling the stories.” One audience member commented, “I could listen to him speak for hours. This was one of the best programs I have attended in quite some time. Just loved it!”
It was all happening at the Historic Village during Good Old Days 2017! The Village buildings welcomed visitors through their doors to hear the stories about settlers, students, travelers, and enjoy a pictorial display of Richmond Then and Now. Families enjoyed watching rope making, corn husking, and wood carving as they strolled through the village before picking up a treasure at the “stuff” sale. Our newest addition, the Agricultural Museum, took visitors to days gone by with the display of many implements used in the fields and on local farms.

Needless to say, after all these activities, one worked up quite an appetite. What better place to satisfy the need for something sweet than at the annual Strawberry Shortcake Social. A buttermilk biscuit, luscious strawberries and a mound of creamy whip cream provided just the right reason to sit and chat with friends and family. Our Strawberry Shortcake stop also provided the perfect venue to celebrate a birthday, an anniversary (celebrated here 4 years in a row) and “I can’t leave town without stopping here” before partaking in other Good Old Days festivities. The RAHGS board thanks everyone who volunteered, attended, and donated to the success of this weekend.
2017 Good Old Days Volunteers
Make Us Beam!
Thank you, everyone!

Adamson, Ursula
Allen, Jeannie
Allen, Emily
Bartosowicz, Pat
Beard, Jon
Beard, Marla
Brown, Adele
Card, Madeline
Card, Rachel
Cichorack, Dr. Julie
Cockerill, Don
Cockerill, Donna
Collins, Al
Dolan, Kathy
Foster, David
Foster, Don
Foster, Sarah
Foster, Susan
Franz, Dee
Fryer, Clayton
Gibson, Dianne
Gibson, Norm
Gisslander, Mary
Haws, Sharlene
Hebel, Betty
Hebel, Tom
Hensch, Chris
Jakubiak, Sue
Keech, James
Klauka, Janet
Klauka, Jenny
Knoell, Sandy
Lippman, Carol
Little, Marguerite
Logan, Doug
Manchester, Elsie
Marshall, Lucia
Materazzi, Pam
McClellan, Pat
McClellan, Sandy
McHenry, Pam
McKiernan Family
Milbrand, George
Papuga, Pattie
Phillips, Marsha
Pierzynski, Charlotte
Quick, Dale
Quick, Glenn
Quick, Kerry
Ren, Richard
Rowley, Christine
Rowley, Heather
Schroeder, Rose
Schwark, Warren
Shepherd-Logan, Mary
Srugs David
Srugs, Amelia
Srugs, Lola
Varga Family
Chiropractic
Ward, Charlotte
Waterloo, Jean
Waan, David
Weeks, Rose
Weinert, Rich
Wilkins, Catherine
Wylin, Kasey
Yelenich, Penny
Rowley, Gracie
Srugs, Max

Good Old Days Financial Report

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Dave Varga with sons Josh and Kaleb. RAHGS appreciates use of side by side
**Recent Acquisitions**

**Field Cradle**

This field cradle, donated by Chuck and Dorothy Mabley, is a wonderful addition to our collection. There are different names for this style of cradle. Some are based on the assumption that this device was in use during the days of slavery in the United States. Some even call this a “slave cradle” because it is thought that African-American women put their babies in this contraption and took it out into the fields while they worked. Other people refer to this as a “Mammy’s harvest cradle,” which is based on the same supposition. But, it could also mean that a “Mammy” put an infant in her charge in the cradle and rolled the child around the house while performing her daily chores. Both terms and points of view are probably incorrect because this cradle was not made until the 1870s.

Most likely this is called a “field cradle,” and was used by agricultural workers who took their young children with them into the fields. Some field cradles had a pair of wheels on one end so that they could be moved more easily. Many of these but not all are marked with a stencil, “Ford & Johnson Company, Michigan City, Indiana” and “Patented Oct 17, 76” for 1876. This date is long after slavery was abolished in the United States.

**Haylift**

We were very happy to accept a vintage hay lift that was recently donated to us by Judy Orris. We are currently restoring it to working condition, and eventually we hope to have it installed in the new barn. The goal is to be able to demonstrate how it was used. This photo shows the carrier which will roll along a 4x4 at the peak of the loft.

You can see how the hay lift worked on the following YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UE8rHwD9eQ0

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**Donations Received**

*Thank you for your support!*

**General Fund:**
- Kroger Rewards
- David and Susan Foster
- Alpha Delta Kappa
- Martha (Donley) Robb
- Barry and Patricia (Donley) Klein

**Barn Donations:**
- Sarah (Kessler/Donley) Roden
- Jim McKiernan

**Bricks Purchased**

The Robb Family in memory of Edward Donley
Liz Lindberg in memory of The Hecox Family
The scarecrows are up and looking great at the Village. Make sure to drive by and see them. Our Train Engineer is in the orange train car in front of the depot and we used last year’s scarecrow in the Liberty Bell flower bed. Our main scarecrow “Sarah Plain and Tall.” She is in front of the light post by the town clock on Main Street.

Special thanks to the people who helped make them and put them up: Sue Jakubiak, Chris Hensch, Charlotte Pierzynski, and Norm and Dianne Gibson.

It is time to put the gardens to bed and there is a lot to do. After the first hard frost, we will be digging out the dahlias and storing them for the winter. All of the beds will be weeded and we will be pulling out all of the annuals. If you have any perennials that need dividing, now is a good time to do that.

We are going to move a couple of day lilies, so if anyone is interested in some red ones, let me know. Remember, don’t prune your roses in the fall; wait until spring.

Also, wait until spring to cut back lavender, clematis, and hydrangeas.

The seeds were harvested today for our spring sale. They will be ready for our January business meeting. There will be the usual annuals, nicotiana, cleome, cosmos, and pink hollyhocks. I am experimenting with drying our tall zinnias. Hopefully, they will grow!

Our weekly watering is now done and I want to say “Thank you” to Chris Hensch for watering EVERY Sunday and Charlotte Pierzynski, for watering EVERY Tuesday!!! Our flowerbeds would have been a disaster without their faithful watering.

From now until frost is the perfect time to plant spring bulbs. We will be planting tulips and crocus in front of the school and train depot! If you see chicken wire in the beds that is where they are planted! This will keep the critters out!

Well, now I am really looking forward to SPRING!!!

Marsha
586-321-8519

NEW STEPS AND SIDEWALK FOR THE RAILROAD DEPOT.

After much discussion and planning by Warren Schwark, Norm Gibson, and Rich Weinert, a work crew was put together and to remove the old steps and build new ones. The new steps are easier and safer to use. The work crew consisted of Dave Waun, Tom Hebel, Rich Weinert, and Norm Gibson. This photo shows the finished project. This sidewalk had been on our list of improvements for a long time.

We had to hire this project out since it required equipment and expertise that we didn’t have. It is a handsome addition to the village that will make access easier.
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.

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