The Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society announces the

7th Annual Historic Tea
Saturday, March 16, 2019

Golden Hawk Golf and Banquet Center
9861 Meisner Rd.
Casco, MI 48064

1:00 pm: Doors Open
2:00 pm: Serving

The afternoon tea will feature traditional fare: tea, scones, sandwiches and assorted sweets.
This year’s program is “Aprons Tie Past to Present.”
Learn the history of aprons, and how they served as a billboard of the times. See approximately 100 aprons from late 1800s to the present day!

Saturday, March 16, 2019

Advance Ticket Sales Only - $35.00 each

- Lois Wagner Public Library, Richmond
- The RAHGS Museum on Thursday mornings
- Christine, phone 810-392-0261

SOCIETY BOARD
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MEMBERSHIP:
Life member: $150.00
Annual: $20.00
Newsletter subscription: $10.00
Cheers to our members and friends!

One of the things I've come to appreciate as a member of the Board of Directors and now the President is how important your support is to advancing the vital mission of RAHGS. We literally could not do what we do—educate the community at large about our local history and tell how that history shaped the area where we live—without you.

With 2019, RAHGS begins its 29th year as an organization in the community. Thanks to the help from energetic and dedicated members and friends, we have had one of the busiest and event filled years in the history of our Society.

As we continue to advance our mission to promote and preserve the rich history of the Richmond area in a variety of ways, our programs and events make that history accessible to more people each year. The following events were added to the RAHGS calendar in the past two years: the cemetery walk and "A Holiday Evening in the Village." Both of these events have been hugely successful. And in 2019 we plan to add an agricultural day to showcase the barn and local farming artifacts in the collection. Without a doubt, that will be an exciting two days for all of us.

So this is the take away: While we have accomplished quite a bit, there is so much more to do! We are grateful for what you already do to help the Society tell the story of the Richmond area. As we enter the new year, let's celebrate our success with fresh energy for our shared mission. Your help is needed now more than ever. Please stop in on a Thursday morning and ask what you can do. We have “work” for everyone—really. Nothing too strenuous, unless you want it to be!

Yes, it takes a village. So, raise a glass of your favorite beverage and toast to RAHGS in 2019!

Remember the annual dinner meeting is Friday January 18th. We have planned an entertaining, yet informative evening for you. Send in your reservations now, and bring a guest if you wish. I look forward to seeing you at this first RAHGS event of 2019.

Christine
“A Holiday Evening in the Village”
By Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan

A lovely evening with a crisp December air filled the Historic Village on December 7 when RAHGS opened its doors to visitors during Richmond’s “Coming Home for the Holidays” Christmas event. Luminaries lit the sidewalk to the Museum, School Section School, Columbus Depot, and the Donley Cabin while a firepit illuminated the area outside the barn. Warm flickering window candles welcomed guests to step inside each building and experience the history of the Richmond area. Some proclaimed our little village to be “Richmond’s Greenfield Village” saying it reminded them of being at Greenfield Village during their Christmas event.

The inviting aroma of mulled cider warmed the senses of visitors as they stepped into the school, enjoyed the warm beverage, a sweet treat, and for those so inclined, rang the school bell. Our docents, Adele Brown and Christine Rowley, spoke to visitors and shared the history of the one room school while Ursula Adamson, Chris Hensch, Karen Schwark, and Kerry Schwark served the sweetness of the treats made by Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan, Christine Rowley and Marsha Phillips.

A crackling fire warmed the Donley Cabin and docents, Kasey Wylin, Kris Nolan, and Max and Sandy Luenser shared the fascinating Donley family history and told of Christmas’ long ago. Particularly interesting to the younger visitors was stringing popcorn, cranberries and learning about the feather tree. All were amazed that a family of 7 could live in such a compact space.

Soft, warm lights strung through the beams of the barn added a sense of wonder to the 1800s sleigh carrying Christmas packages and the antique buggy transporting the family Christmas tree. Cameras and phones captured the smiling faces of many families as they positioned themselves at the sleigh to capture just the right snapshot. “This is going to be our Christmas card next year,” Commented one overjoyed mother as she scrolled through the many pictures from which to choose. Warren Schwark, David Waun, and Don Graham greeted all with a smile in spite of the cold and with pride spoke about the history of the newly finished building.

Richard Ren, David Waun, Al Collins, and Norm Gibson braved the cold in the Columbus Depot to speak about the importance of the railroad and the part the Columbus Depot played in the area’s history. Little Shirley Temple (a 1940s doll) rode an antique sled on a display table of antique toys and books lovingly organized and designed by Dianne Gibson. Dr. Pat McClellan and Jon and Marla Beard not only shared the history of objects on the table, they also walked guests through the Museum’s current display, “Richmond Then and Now.”

Many thanks to the RAHGS Board, City of Richmond, Doug Logan, Don Graham, Marsha Phillips, Chris Hensch, Dianne Gibson, Norm Gibson and event coordinator, Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan for their hours decorating and planning the evening. See you next year!
Congratulations to Richand Sue Weinert who welcomed their granddaughter Lucy Elizabeth to this world on Dec 19th. She is beautiful, and if she takes after her grandparents, she will be smart and witty as well!

We acquired a Parker Plow Co. farm sled from Deborah Ankrapp Reichenbach in the fall of 2017. At first, we did not realize that it was a Parker Plow Co. product. Later when we applied some linseed oil to the rear bolster the lettering appeared. Also, when we acquired it, it had been set up to be a logging sled. We decided that it was probably first used as a farm sled for transporting large sacks of grain to the farmers’ elevator in the winter time, so we restored it as a farm sled.

We had to remove all of the metal parts so that they could be cleaned and repainted. In some cases, this meant that we had to cut nuts and bolts to remove those parts. One of the wood runners had to be replaced. Other runners had to have damaged wood repaired or replaced. We also replaced the broken drawbar that connects the front runner assembly to the back one. We had to make nails, rivets, nuts and bolts to replace those that were cut or that were too rusty to be reused. We had to make these items because they are no longer available in the size and shapes needed. We checked historical photos and designed an oak box that was installed on top of the bolsters. All of the metal parts were primed and painted a gloss black, and the wood parts were painted a semi-gloss barn red except the upper bolsters and the wood box which were coated with a wood preservative. Eric Gordon from Print-All re-created the lettering for the rear bolster for us.

This project was completed this November when we assembled the completed project at the village. The men who worked on this project were: (L-R above) Sean Buckert, Mike Buckert, Weldon Fealko, and Norm Gibson. Not pictured, Don Iveson.

Recent Brick Orders

Garden Grove Estates: in memory of Carol Elliott
Garden Grove Park: in memory of Cheryl Kuczewski
RHS Class of 1968: in honor of RAHGS
RAHGS: in memory of Anna Burkacki

PARKER PLOW CO. FARMSLED RESTORATION
by Norm Gibson

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I am getting the Village Seeds ready to sell at the annual dinner meeting on January 18th. If you will not be attending the meeting, but are interested in purchasing a packet or two, just call me and order them. My number is 586.321.8519. I would be glad to send them to you. And for our long-distance members—we would love to have you scatter these seeds in your yards!

There will be Zinnia, Cleome, Nicotiana, Cosmos, Hollyhocks, and Columbine, all from the Village. I am also offering some beautiful Poppies, and some Swamp Milkweed seeds from my personal garden. In follow-up to the last article, I bought some persimmons to see what their prediction on snowfall would be. They turned out to be seedless! I researched it further and according to the persimmons that had seeds (from the Farmers Almanac) they were all spoons which means that we will be shoveling a lot of snow this winter. That is the same prediction that the wooly bear caterpillars showed. Their band was narrow, which means a snowy winter!!

I received a gift that had a beautiful quote on it and I would like to share it with you:

*Cultivate lasting friendships…
Sow seeds of kindness…
Listen to sage advice…
Don’t let the little things bug you…
Be outstanding in your field…
Take thyme for yourself…
No vining!!*

I am looking forward to and getting impatient for the 2019 gardening season!!
Hope to see everyone at the business meeting!

The Village Gardener
Marsha
Winter Festival 2018

Saturday, February 9th
11am-2pm

The Richmond Area Good Old Days is sponsoring the 2019 Winter Festival. RAHGS will be participating by opening all of the buildings. We will also enter the chili cook off competition. In 2012 we took 3rd place with our “historic chili,” and now we are getting ready to take on the challenge once again. Please stop by the community center and vote for us, and visit the village to see the additions and improvements we have made. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

RAHGS 2019 Calendar of Events

January 18: Annual Membership Dinner
February 9: Winter Festival, Buildings Open
March 16: 7th Annual Historic Tea
   Men’s Historic Wiener Roast
April: Village Clean Up with Richmond Students
   April 28: Barn Grand Opening
May 6-10: Armada Fifth Grade in the School Section School
May 13-17: Richmond Fifth Grade in the School Section School
May 17: Alan Naldrett program: C. Harold Wills and the Wills St. Clair Automobile
   June 22: Donley Family Visit
   June 23: Log Cabin Day
July 27: “Into the Village,” garden walk
Sept. 6-8: Good Old Days in the Historic Village: Strawberry Shortcake Social, Mum Sale, Demonstrations and all buildings open to the public
Oct. 12: 3rd Annual Cemetery Walk, City of Richmond Cemetery Nov. 1/8 TBD/Orphan Train
Dec. 6: City of Richmond- “Coming Home for the Holidays” Village Buildings Open
   TBD Heritage Days
Board Approved: November 5, 2018
Recent Acquisitions
By Dianne Gibson

Texaco match folder - C.F. Witty’s station - Scott Stoops
Various vintage tools, early 1900s - Norm Gibson
Horse accoutrements (harness) - Marty Borkowski
Oil fill bottle – Schwarks Bus Station - Don Cockerill
Wooden block molding plane, late 1800s - Patrick McClellan
Vintage photo albums with photos of
Richmond residents, circa 1900 - Pattie Papuga

The following criteria are used when considering acquisitions for acceptance:
1. Relevance to the Richmond area, was it used by a Richmond area resident, or business.
2. Relevance to what we are portraying, such as school, cabin, agriculture, Richmond life.
3. Space available to store or exhibit the artifact.

Recent Donations

Sarah Dickenson, general fund - Elsie Manchester,
general fund - Marion and John Brenner,
in memory of Aleta Schneider - Dale and Donna Quick, barn donation
Christine Hensch, barn donation

In Memoriam
Anna Adriana Burkacki passed away on November 3, 2018 at the age of 95. She was born in Limburg, Netherlands; married Leonard Burkacki in 1945, and was sent alone on a military transport ship to America. Anna served on the RAHGS Board of Directors for many years and she will be greatly missed by all of us. For a full obituary, go to Kaatz Funeral Directors 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 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.

Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society
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