INTO THE VILLAGE
Saturday, July 27, 2019
10:00-Noon
The Historic Village
36045 Park Street Richmond, MI

Walk the past present and future at The Historic Village while experiencing the colorful menagerie and lovely fragrances of flowers and fauna throughout the grounds.

Village Gardener, Marsha, will be available to answer your gardening questions.

Building tours available upon request

For more information contact Marsha Phillips 586-321-8519
Good Old Days Preparations:
RAHGS is getting ready for this year’s Good Old Days Festival which is September 6-8. We are proud to have five historic buildings open with knowledgeable docents who will be ready to tell you about the history. Even if you think you have already seen everything, there are many new exhibits and artifacts waiting for you. The cabin has been restored inside and out; a new display has been set up in the museum; the collection in the school has a few new additions; the depot always holds surprises, and of course the barn houses many treasures.

Why not step up your involvement in RAHGS and volunteer to help during G.O.D? Your participation would mean a lot to the usual volunteers. To make it easier for you, we have prepared notebooks for all of the buildings that give the information you need to be a docent. And to make your presence known to the public, we now have snazzy new lanyard name badges for you to wear! If, however, you are not comfortable with a docent job, there are plenty other areas where we need help. The strawberry shortcake sale and the chrysanthemum sale are other areas where you are needed.

Many of you already know that we have eliminated the “Stuff Sale” this year. The focus for the weekend now will be on getting our history out to the public through the open buildings and the various ongoing demonstrations. Let us know if you are willing to help carry out the mission. Why not call us before we call you!

Donley Family Visit:
The Society Board, the Foundation Board, and the LTP Committee welcomed the Donley family to the Village on Saturday June 22nd. The family gathered to see the recent cabin restoration work and to hold their reunion. After the re-dedication and a ribbon cutting ceremony, John Donley announced the creation of the Donley Family Fund which will provide for future maintenance and preservation of the ancestral home. The generosity and kindness of these fine people will continue to benefit our community for many years. Thank you, Donleys!

The newly installed plaque that describes Larry Donley’s work to save the cabin reads:

Lawrence M. Donley is the great grandson of John Donley, who built this cabin in the 1850s with the help of his two Irish immigrant brothers. Larry and his siblings, Ed, Frank, Hugh, Joe, Mary Ann, and Mike, were raised in this cabin during the depression. By the late 1960s, the cabin was nearly in ruins. With the support of his siblings, Larry led a team of local craftsmen who restored the cabin so it would last into posterity.
June 22, 2019

Here’s to a wonderful summer!

Christine
First Annual Heritage Festival Welcomed Many Visitors

Under the very capable supervision of event coordinator Don Graham, the first annual Heritage Festival proved to be a grand event for RAHGS. We send a heartfelt thank you to the donors, the volunteers, and everyone who visited the Village during the weekend.

The Donors:
- Achatz Pies
- Adair Bar
- Adair Grain
- Armada Fair
- Aunt Millie’s of Marysville
- Auto Zone
- Donut Girls
- Family Farm and Home
- Fred Grande Ford
- Grobbel, Jerry and Lynn
- Hensch, Chris
- Ilowski Sausage
- Logan, Doug and Mary
- McDonald’s of Richmond
- Meijer
- Mike Rycer Drilling
- O’Reilly Auto Parts
- Papou’s Restaurant
- Richmond Meat Packers
- Richmond New Holland
- Rick Murray State Farm
- Schwark, Kerry
- Seco Tools
- Shepherd Sales and Service
- Speedway
- Knoell, Sandy
- Logan, Doug
- Luenser, Max
- Luenser, Sandy
- Manchester, Elsie
- Materazzi, Pam
- McKiernan, Kevin
- Phillips, Marsha
- Pointkowski, Walter
- Porrett, Doug
- Powley, Christine
- Saarienen, Sharon and John
- Schwark, Karen
- Schwark, Warren
- Shepherd-Logan, Mary
- Simmons, Ken
- Weinert, Rich
- Wylin, Kasey

The Volunteers:
- Adamson, Ursula
- Allington, Dick
- Beard, Jon
- Collins, Al
- Fuerstenau, Doris
- Gibson, Dianne
- Gibson, Norm
- Giorlando, Patty
- Gisslander, Mary
- Graham, Don
- Groetzinger, Audrey
- Hensch, Chris
- Knoell, Sandy
- Logan, Doug
- Luenser, Max
- Luenser, Sandy
- Manchester, Elsie
- Materazzi, Pam
- McKiernan, Kevin
- Phillips, Marsha
- Pointkowski, Walter
- Porrett, Doug
- Powley, Christine
- Saarienen, Sharon and John
- Schwark, Karen
- Schwark, Warren
- Shepherd-Logan, Mary
- Simmons, Ken
- Weinert, Rich
- Wylin, Kasey

Cemetery Walk in Planning Stages

Our Cemetery Walk is returning for a 3rd year and we are busy preparing another interesting and educational experience for everyone. While the list of those who will be portrayed is being finalized, we have a date! Mark your calendar…October 12 and join us for a walk back in history.

Donations

General:
- Armada Schools
- Richmond Schools
- Wills Sainte Claire Program
- Richmond Lions Club

In Memory of Margaret Gibson:
- Mary Ellen and Doug Logan
- David and Susan Foster
- Joe Maranzano
- George and Mary Fealkp
- Jim Shepherd
- Dave Villeme

Thank you

Barn Donations:
Dr. and Mrs. Pat McClellan

Heritage Festival:
- Meijer
- Family Farm and Home
- Shepherd Sales and Service
- Rick Murray State Farm Ins
- Grande Ford
- Kerry Schwark
Busy Times at The Village

April:
Clean Up Day with the RMS Student Council

May:
Donley Visit  Larry, John and Brandon checking out the progress on the cabin.

School Visits  Richmond and Armada Schools toured the village and spent the day in the School Section School

June:
Docent In-Service  Dianne Gibson and Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan organized a morning gathering of people interested in learning about the buildings and being a docent.

The Barn Dedication  Rich Weinert showing the Van Haverbeck family the plaque honoring their donation to RAHGS.

Clean Up Day  with the RMS Student Council

Docent In-Service  Dianne Gibson and Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan organized a morning gathering of people interested in learning about the buildings and being a docent.

School Visits  Richmond and Armada Schools toured the village and spent the day in the School Section School

Wills Sainte Claire Program  RAHGS hosted a special event at the Wills Sainte Claire Museum in Marysville, MI with author, Alan Naldrett.

New Member!  Richard Allington, China, MI
Well, it is near the end of June and we still haven’t weeded all of the beds at the Village yet! This year was really hard for us. Usually, I clean the beds and then plant the annual plants. Not this year!!! We ended up just cleaning the area we were going to plant the annuals in, and then going back now and cleaning the beds.

All the rain we have had has really made it difficult to get out there and plant. I am feeling very sad for the farmers this year. The beds and fields were just too WET!!!!

I am concentrating on making our Historical Village Gardens a Monarch Butterfly Habitat!! We are on the right track! There is common milkweed in the boxwood bed behind the museum. There is also a swamp milkweed in the Liberty Bell bed. That is the only plant that the monarchs will lay their eggs on.

Last year we found one monarch caterpillar chewing the leaves of our milkweed. The flowers that we have planted are also good nectar for all the varieties of butterflies: zinnias, butterfly bush, cosmos, bee balm, nepeta, purple cone flowers, etc. Check out the bed behind the Log Cabin. That has Tithonia (Mexican Sun Flower) in it. It is bright orange and the butterflies absolutely love it!!

A BIG “Thank you” to all of the people who have helped in the garden beds, and with hedging the shrubs, and cleaning the brick pavers!!

Marsha
Sixty-two members of the Donley family gathered in Richmond June 22 to celebrate RAHGS’ restoration of the log cabin this spring. This restoration—the fourth since the 1850s—insures that the cabin will remain the “mother ship” of the Donley family for generations to come. Here’s a look back at the cabin’s history.

**Original Construction in the 1850s.** The 16-by-22-foot cabin was built during the Irish potato famine to save the Donley family of Tipperary from starvation. In 1848, the family sent 23-year-old John to New York, where a land agent rented him a 160-acre plot on 29 Mile Road just east of Gratiot. Along with two brothers who soon followed, John cleared the land, purchased it outright for $465 in 1858, and built the cabin. In his spare time, John became a U.S. citizen in 1852, married Irish immigrant Mary Barry at St. Peter’s Church in Mt. Clemens in 1853, and started a family with the birth of son Thomas in 1855 and daughter Mary in 1857. After mother Mary died in 1860, John married Ellen Hickey; they had two more children. John died in 1885 and was buried in New Baltimore.

In 1886, Thomas Donley married Catherine “Kate” Sullivan, the daughter of Humphrey Sullivan and Mary Crowley (Irish immigrants on 28 Mile Road). Tom and Kate built a farmhouse, barn and grainery on an 80-acre plot that Tom’s father John had acquired in the 1870s just south of the cabin. Tom and Kate had son Hugh in 1890 and daughter Mary in 1893, and acquired more land as their farm prospered.

In 1896, a plow horse kicked Tom in the stomach; he died 3 days later. Kate ran the farm as a single mother for the next 36 years, mainly using hired hands. Her son Hugh graduated from Richmond High School in 1908, then graduated from Hatheway School (a normal school in New Baltimore), taught school, worked the farm, got married to Frances Gavin of Columbus Township in 1920 and moved to Detroit where he worked as a buyer for James Motor Valve Co. Kate’s daughter, Mary, graduated from what is now Eastern Michigan University and taught school in Detroit before dying of cancer in 1929, at age 36.

**The 1931 Rebuild by Hugh Donley.** In a 15-month period in 1929-30, Hugh’s sister Mary, Hugh and Frances’ newborn baby Thomas, and Hugh’s mother Kate all died. Making matters worse, Hugh was about to lose his job due to the Depression. The farmhouse was already rented out under a long-term lease, so in 1931 Hugh rebuilt the cabin as a sanctuary the family (which would grow to seven children by 1937) could live in during the Depression. As reported in a 1931 Mt. Clemens Monitor-Leader article: “Each night sees him there, like [his grandfather] John Donley, garbed in overalls and perspiring with honest labor. The cabin logs touching the ground were slightly rotted. Those higher are perfect. He raised the cabin about four feet, inserted new oak logs, and encased the foundation in good cement. This will last indefinitely.”

The Donley family moved back into the cabin in 1934, before relocating to the more modern farmhouse across the road a few years later. The cabin was used to house hired men through the 1940s, and from time to time for storage. By the 1960s, it sat idle. Wind, rain and snow breached the roof and windows, and the building was near collapse.

**1968-70 Rebuild.** In 1968, Hugh’s son Larry Donley became determined to save the cabin. Larry was a 36-year-old sales manager for Owens-Illinois in Toledo with two young children, but came to Lenox Township on weekends for the next two years to restore the cabin. Larry convinced sawmill operator Walter Young to custom-cut oak logs to replace old, rotted ones, then worked with cousins David and Elmer Schweiger of Casco to take down the logs one-by-one, build a new foundation, replace the logs, and install a new roof. The work was completed in 1970.

**The Move to Richmond.** In 1996, vandals set an arson fire in the cabin. Volunteer firefighters put out the blaze quickly—literally, as the fire crew included current RAHGS volunteer Dale Quick—but interior damage was extensive. After meeting George Fealko and Al Collins, the Donley family donated the cabin to RAHGS. On August 27, 1997, specialty movers raised the cabin onto a truck and drove it to the historical village in Richmond. As Larry said to his younger brother Mike during the move: “We’ve hauled everything into this town, Mike: wheat, oats, cattle … now, cabins.” As Mike said a few moments later, while the movers were “setting her down” in the current spot: “They’ve got her set the same way she sat on the farm. She’s looking south … and the back is still pointing north. So that’s just about the same direction she sat on the farm.”
The 2019 Restoration. Under the leadership of Christine Rowley and Rich Weinert, and with financial support from the Donley family, in the spring of 2019 RAHGS completed a major restoration addressing damage that remained from the 1996 fire. A crew of carpenters led by Pat Schweiger—the nephew of Elmer and David, who had done the 1968-70 restoration—replaced rotted wood, installed new rafters and a new cedar shake shingle roof, and replaced doors, windows and hardware to match the cabin’s historical look. On June 21, a family “work bee” of Tom, Dan, Mark and Diane Donley, Allen and Megan Roden, and Martha and John Robb finished the job by scraping and painting fire-damaged logs in the loft.

At the June 22 ribbon cutting and re-dedication ceremony, John Donley—great grandson of the original John—presented the RAHGS Foundation with a $75,000 check from the Donley family to cover long-term maintenance and expressed the family’s gratitude for the restoration, which will “make sure the mother ship stands proudly for at least another 160 years.”

SIX NEW “MEMBERS” HAVE JOINED THE MUSEUM

by Norm Gibson

We have acquired six new mannequins for our new museum exhibit, “Those Who Serve Richmond”. The exhibit was put together by the Richmond Police Dept., Richmond Volunteer Fire Dept., Richmond EMS, the James Coleman VFW Post, and the Richmond Good Old Days committee. Each group has put up a display which also includes a mannequin. There currently is a competition between the groups as to which is the most popular display. Visitors can vote for their favorite display. Each vote cast cost a dollar, and you can vote as much as you want. The money collected will be split 50/50 between RAHGS and each of the organizations. The winning group will be announced after the Good Old Days Festival.

The photo to the left shows VFW, Police, and EMS. On the right is Good Old Days and Vol. Fire Dept. Each group also has artifacts setup in display cabinets.

Recent Acquisitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holly Wendt:</th>
<th>Kerosene parlor lamp, Anchor bench wringer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rob Schweiger:</td>
<td>Car brochures, RHS Echo Yearbooks, Melvin Bandlow items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VanHaverbeck Family:</td>
<td>Documents from safe at Priestap Lumber Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Phelan:</td>
<td>Offset printing plates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doris Fuerstenau:</td>
<td>“Ashes and Soot” autobiography; images of Robert Ward sawmill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Fealko:</td>
<td>Medicine bottles, local business items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Collins:</td>
<td>Stiener Dairy milk bottle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marty Borkowski:</td>
<td>Vintage tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinckfoot Collection:</td>
<td>Cultipacker, made by Parker Plow Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betty Green:</td>
<td>Model ship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RAHGS Calendar of Events

July 27: “Into the Village” Garden Walk
Sept. 6-8: Good Old Days at the Historic Village
Oct. 12: Cemetery Walk
Nov. 8: “Storytelling with Photographs” program
Dec. 7: “A Holiday Evening in the Village”
Mar 14: Historic Tea
Our mission statement:

- To share with others the legacy left to 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.