A Big Thank You to this year’s RAHGS Lawn Volunteers!

For many years the beautiful lawn at the Historic Village has been cared for by Tom Hebel and a few other volunteers. This year several more folks volunteered to help. Thank you for a great job! 

SOCIETY BOARD

President: Christine Rowley
Vice President: Jon Beard
Secretary: Kristine Nolan
Treasurer: Dianne Gibson
Director: Rich Weinert
Director: Jon Beard
Director: David Waun

FOUNDATION BOARD:

President: Ken Simmons
Director: Denny Bolen
Director: Tom Hebel
Director: Patrick McClellan
Secretary/treasurer: Sarah Foster

MEMBERSHIP:

Life member: $150.00
Annual: $20.00
Newsletter subscription: $10.00
This year has been nothing at all like what we had planned. That rings true for our personal calendars as well as for RAHGS. While the Board of Directors has been meeting via zoom and we have resumed the Thursday morning work bees, we are still in a holding pattern. The Heritage Festival, Garden Walk, Good Old Days, and The Cemetery Walk were cancelled. As of this publication, the Christmas event is still up in the air. The Annual Meeting in January and The Historic Tea in March are still to be determined. It’s anyone’s guess what 2021 will bring. Just know that as soon as the COVID pandemic subsides, and it is safe to do so, RAHGS is poised to offer our members and the community the events that everyone looks forward to so much.

As the end of the year becomes closer, membership dues must be paid. The cost has not changed: annual membership with a printed newsletter is $30.00, annual membership with an emailed newsletter is $20.00. Lifetime members who are receiving a printed Historian—please send $10.00 for the printing and postage. We will accept your payment for 2021 anytime now, but in early December you can expect the annual letter from the Board with information about the Annual Meeting and another reminder regarding dues.

It is too early to make definite plans for an Annual Meeting in January, but one of the items of business at that meeting is always the election of Board positions. We are preparing for that now. I will take this opportunity to let you know that I will be stepping away from the President’s position at the end of my term in January. I truly believe that a change in leadership is vital for the health of any organization. I have served as President since 2012, and that is enough time for one person to remain in the role. Now it is time for me to step aside and to make room for someone else to carry on. I am so proud of everything we all do, and I want to let you know that I am not going anywhere. My heart and my energy are devoted to RAHGS—always will be. I will continue to do what I can to carry on the great progress we are making. Specifically, I will maintain the membership records and serve as newsletter editor.

Also, David Waun will be leaving the Board. Dave has served as a director for six years, and we thank him for his dedication. He has always been willing to help organize many RAHGS events. Let’s hope he will continue to give his popular “rope making” demonstrations!

The nominating committee has developed a proposed slate for the 2021 Society Board positions. You will find that information on another page of this newsletter.

Stop in on a Thursday morning. Please wear a mask inside the public buildings.

Be safe.

Christine
The long-anticipated day had finally arrived! It was the first day of school in Macomb County, Michigan, and everyone was happy. Mothers were grateful that their little learners were beginning a new school year. Children were excited to meet up with familiar friends and see new faces as they ran and hugged and held hands out of sheer joy.

Parents mingled outside the one-room schoolhouse greeting each other warmly and catching up on the latest family gossip. Children chased each other trying to stay clean in their new school clothes and shiny polished shoes. All were waiting excitedly for the school bell atop the white building they gathered around, to ring in the new school year.

Inside, a newly hired young teacher smiled as she heard the muffled sounds of happy children playing outside. She was excited and nervous to meet her 25 students and their families. Would they like her? Would she like this job? Could she even do it? After all, it was by chance that she went to the special assembly earlier that year at the Junior College about the accelerated teaching program. The Michigan Board of Education promised college students if they could take some education courses that summer, they would receive a Limited Teacher Certificate. The amazing news was, with the requirements achieved, they could start teaching that fall!

The State of Michigan was experiencing a severe teacher shortage in the early 1950’s. In a publication at the time, in an attempt to attract college students to pursue a career in education, it explained the problem as a “serious situation to meet predicted demands for thousands of additional teachers as well as increased housing facilities”. In another report it was stated, “A 50% expansion of the elementary school population is underway. The task of arousing the public to aggressive action in providing an adequate supply of well-trained teachers is the responsibility of every professional worker”.

So, Michigan teachers were desperately needed. Whether the new teacher was ready for the job ahead or not, it was time for school to begin. A happy cheer was heard outside as the school bell echoed across the fields announcing the start of the school day. With a deep breath and a quick prayer, the teacher swung the big door open. As she stood in the doorway children stepped in and greeted her. They told their names and ages with big grins and shy smiles. Some parents accompanied their children into the schoolhouse and introduced themselves, happy to meet their new educator.

Finally, it was time to begin their first school day together. Attendance taken, they stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and sang an enthusiastic “God Bless America”. The teacher then picked up the Bible and read a chapter aloud to the students. As she looked around at her young audience, she realized that this was exactly where she wanted to be.

Sources
Photo credit: Arleen Rowley circa 1942

The Museum Gets New Paint
The museum has been repainted. It was power washed, caulked, and repairs made to trim work and siding in preparation to being painted. As you can see the new finish is darker than the old. It really looks nice. The work was hired out to Mike and Sean Buckert. When you get a chance come by and take a look.
One of the New Exhibits in the Barn Loft

By Norm Gibson

Cream separator donated by Bob Kolhagen. Milk was put in it and after some time the cream would rise to the top. This cream would be used to make butter.

Different churns from wood and crockery plunger types to the Dazeyglass jar and rotary churns. They work by churning the cream to the point where it divides into butter and buttermilk.

The butter and buttermilk are poured through a cheese cloth to separate the butter and buttermilk. The butter is rinsed to help remove any buttermilk still in the butter.

Lever butter worker on the left was donated by Al Collins. Butter is squeezed with a roller on the butter table to remove the last of the buttermilk. The butter is then shaped with wooden butter spoons or paddles. This one could handle up to 25 lbs. of butter at a time.

Stop by any Thursday morning and tour the barn exhibits.

Acquisitions

June - September

Nick Englebrink: Various vintage farm scales
Jim and Carolyn Prior: Spools of thread
Dave Villeme: Vintage domino and checkers set
Pat Bartosiewicz: Abstract for 70007 Main St. (Fletcher Greenhouse)
Jeannete Porrett: Spoke shave, fly sprayer, corn husker, cheese grate, wood scraper
Sally Like: Abstract for Marcile’s building
Judy Drompp: Linoleum blocks caved by Mary Lou Boldt
Al Collins: Wooden tap handle wrench, woodworker’s vise, butter workers table
Doug Porrett: Fucomo gloating churning thermometer
Stone’s Ace Richmond: Boxes of new miscellaneous nails and screws
Bob Kohlhagen: Pit saw, 4 pitchforks, manure fork, cream separator
Pattie Papuga: Dishes from Cora Weeks Heath and Marjorie Bingham Heath Beauvais genealogy
In Memoriam

Richard Jeffery Platz: October 25, 1946 - April 18, 2020:
Richard proudly served his country in the United States Army. He was active in fundraising for “Just for Kids” while he was a Special Education Consultant at Sterling Heights High School. He was a director for Friends of Macomb Orchard Trail. Richard also sponsored individual children worldwide for over 30 years, providing food, education, and medical care through Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. He is survived by his wife Barbara and children Jeffrey, Christopher, Paulette, and Jonathan.

Larry Erwin Haselhuhn: June 5, 1941 - April 30, 2020:
Larry was a longtime RAHGS member, having served on the Foundation Board. Larry owned and operated the Richmond Paint Shop from 1960—1992. He served in the National Guard, and was an active member of the Richmond Lions Club. He was known for his ready smile and great sense of humor. Larry will be missed by everyone who know him. He is survived by his wife Karen, daughter Kimberly, and son Keith.

Doris Krause Fuerstenau: May 7, 1921 - May 7, 2020:
RAHGS charter member Doris was born on a farm in Lenox. She died on her 99th birthday. Doris will be remembered for her kindness, warmth, integrity, and genuine goodness. Everyone who visited with her in her home was welcomed with a peaceful place to have conversations about issues that mattered. She was predeceased by her son Joel and her husband Charles. She is survived by her son Mark (Donnajean), daughter-in-law Debbie, five grandchildren, seventeen great grandchildren, and many great -great grandchildren.

The Village Gardener

It has been very different gardening at the Village this year. At first, it was very scary because of the COVID. I figured because we were working outside it would be okay and it was!! We didn’t have any deadlines to get the beds planted because everything was cancelled so that made it easier to take our time planting the beds and cleaning them.

I have to thank the following people who helped out this year because it has been a tough one for me. I have had back issues and I AM GETTING OLD!!! I am realizing sometimes I can’t do as much as I used to. LOL. Here is my BIG THANK YOU to:

- Chris Hensch
- Kris Nolan
- Charlotte Pierzynski
- Penny Yelencich
- Charlotte Ward
- Mary Gisslander
- Dianne Gibson
- Mike Battani
- Don Graham
- Rich Weinert
- Bob Kohlhagen
- Norm Gibson
- Warren Schwark

Chris Hensch and Charlotte Pierzynski are the 2 main garden girls!! They come out an extra day beside Thursdays and water faithfully!! Thank you so much! :)

But everyone helped in some way, whether it was watering, deadheading, weeding, bagging up yard debri, trimming hedges, shrubs, putting bags of compost out to the road for garbage pickup, etc.

We had a very hot summer and it was hard to keep the beds watered, but I think they looked beautiful! My favorite for this year was the 2 raised beds in front of the Donley Cabin. The flowers did beautiful. We used seed geraniums instead of zonal geraniums and they just flourished! There was also tall rocket snapdragons and the Victoria bluesalvia planted behind the geraniums.

I hope everyone has had a chance to drive by and see how pretty all the flower beds and buildings looked!

Marsha
The RAHGS Nominating Committee is pleased to share its Proposed 2021 RAHGS Society Board. Committee members Chris Hensch, Doug Porrett, and Sue Jakubiak met during September 2020 to discuss and contact prospective candidates. The election takes place in January 2021 at the Annual General Membership Business Meeting. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted at that time. The Nominating Committee wishes to thank the proposed candidates for their willingness to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
RAHGS Nominating Committee
Chris Hensch
Doug Porrett
Sue Jakubiak

Dear RAHGS Members

It has been a long time since I have been a contributor to this newsletter but “for such a time as this” I wanted to share an easy way for each of us – local members and long-distance members – to help this wonderful society.

Fundraising this year has been tough for all non-profits. RAHGS has had to cancel the Historic Tea, the Village open during Good Old Days (my mouth still waters at the thought of Strawberry Shortcake), and the upcoming Cemetery Walk. Several have said we should just put up our Christmas trees and say good-bye to 2020.

However, individually, through Amazon’s Smile campaign, RAHGS can be selected as your charity and every time you shop – and who doesn’t shop online these days? – Amazon will donate to RAHGS. I knew I had selected RAHGS, but I didn’t know how much the organization had received.

Recently I found information on my account:
“Every little bit counts. When millions of supporters shop with AmazonSmile, charitable donations quickly add up. Richmond Area Historical & Genealogical Society Foundation Inc has received as of August 2020: $90.68.”

And all I did was shop!

So, as we approach the giving season and the COVID keeps us from shopping like we have in the past, now is the time to make sure you are a RAHGS supporter by linking your Amazon account to RAHGS.

Just follow this link: smile.amazon.com/ch/02-0661717

And now you, too, can contribute to our favorite non-profit just by shopping. Have fun!
Pat Hendrickson,
Sparks, NV
Former Editor of the RAHGS Newsletter
Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society acknowledges the following local businesses who generously sponsored recent events.

Thank you!

Recent Brick Orders

In Memory of:
Fletcher Greenhouses
Mark Scott Hondzinski
Joann Pierzynski
Allen Fleck
Clara Weinert Kethe
Paul Carl Weinert
Larry Haselhuhn
Doris Fuerstenau
Jane M. Cripe
James G. Gavin
Mary Rosati & Sammy

Given by:
Pat Bartosiewicz
Garden Grove Park
Garden Grove Park
Garden Grove Park
Allyn Weinert
Allyn Weinert
RAHGS
RAHGS
Sherry Gavin
Sherry Gavin
Garden Grove Estates
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.