Saturday, June 27
Sunday, June 28
10:00-4:00
RAIN OR SHINE
The Historic Village
36045 Park St. Richmond, MI

See and ride Model T and Model A
Vintage Cars

FAMILY FUN FOR EVERYONE
Celebrating History and Michigan Log Cabin Day

• Tour Historic Buildings
• See museum quality vintage tractors
• Take a horse drawn wagon ride
• Experience hands-on activities, games and demonstrations
• Feed, touch, and learn at the Children’s Petting Farm

FOOD AVAILABLE during the Festival

www.richmondhistoricalsociety.org
Facebook: Richmond Area Historical & Genealogical Society
For more information contact Don Graham
586.405.4786

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
A Last-Minute Cancellation, and Historian publication changes

Sometimes making the decision is the hardest thing to do, but once it’s done, moving forward is the best course of action. When we needed to cancel the 8th Annual Tea because of the COVID-19 threat, it was devastating to us. We had everything planned right down to the last detail, and we were ready for the party. Then, just two days before the big day we learned of the directives from the President and the Governor to cancel get-togethers of more than 100 people. The Tea Committee moved forward immediately by ensuring that all of our 230 guests were notified of the cancellation. Within one day, we made the decision to reschedule the Tea for Saturday March 13, 2021. It is the same program—“Wedding Gowns Through the Ages.” All tickets purchased for this year’s Tea will be honored at the 2021 Tea.

All of the hostesses and the guests were understanding, cooperative, and supportive. A note I received reads, “…You put so much love and effort into the Historic tea and we know this change in plans had to be sad……please know that we totally understood and are fully on board for next year! Hang in there! The Library Ladies” How fortunate we are to have such wonderful people who support RAHGS.

Did you miss receiving the Historian at the beginning of March? If you did, here is the explanation: at the December meeting the Board made the decision to publish the newsletter quarterly. To keep it interesting and motivational without being repetitive, beginning in April the newsletter will be published quarterly instead of bi-monthly. We feel confident that four Historians per year will promote the news, highlight events, and announce upcoming events in a timely manner. We will do our best to provide articles, stories, and information that our members will find valuable. If you would like to contribute an article for publication, we would welcome it. Perhaps you have an interesting story to tell about your ancestors, a building, or a picture from your past. Please share it with us!

We have a busy schedule for the remainder of the year. Look at the calendar (printed in this newsletter), and make plans to join us for the upcoming events.

Be well, and Happy Spring!

Christine
Members Enjoyed Annual Dinner Meeting

Approximately 75 RAHGS members attended the annual meeting on Friday January 24th. Year-end information was prepared for members which included the financial reports of the Foundation and the Society, the 2019 accomplishments and the 2020 goals, a list of donors, the standing committees, and the calendar. Elections were held, and the 2020 Boards are as follows:

**Society:**
- President: Christine Rowley
- V. President: Jon Beard
- Treasurer: Dianne Gibson
- Secretary: Kris Nolan
- Director: Rich Weinert
- Director: Norm Gibson
- Director: David Waun

**Foundation:**
- President: Ken Simmons
- V. Pres/Secy: Sarah Foster
- Director: Tom Hebel
- Director: Patrick McClellan
- Director: Denny Bolen

Special guests City Manager Jon Moore and State Representative Jeff Yaroch spent a few minutes updating the members, and Brian Weeks presented the evolving 100-year history of the Weeks Corporation. The 50/50 raffle was fun, and the evening concluded with the highly anticipated and appreciated “Year in Review.” Many guests lingered after adjournment to visit with old and new friends. If you would like a copy of the packet of information, contact one of the Board members.

In memory of Margaret Rhettke, by Debra Esper
In memory of Denise Garant, by Jeanne Treend
In memory of Mary Measel, by Jeanne Treend
In memory of Charles Desmedt, by Garden Grove Estates
In memory of William Kessler, by RAHGS

Cemetery Walk: Location change and Date change

Our 4th Annual Cemetery Walk will take place on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020 at St. Michael’s Cemetery in Richmond. We are excited to be working with St. Augustine Catholic Church in coordinating a memorable walk that includes the stories about the following Richmond people: Father Schrauder, Scott F. and Agnes M. (Corbat) Burke, Lois Wagner, and Dr. John Engels, as well as a special presentation at St. Augustine Church.

If you have stories or memories about any of these people that you would like to share, we would love to hear them. Please contact Mary Ellen at mlogan5477@sbcglobal.net.

Our Brick Park
Buy a brick in honor of a special event, a special person, or simply to show your support for RAHGS. Bricks are $50.00 (4” x 8”) or $100.00 (8” x 8”). If you would like a brick form, you may download it from our website, or you may contact Chris Hensch at 810.385.4391.

Recent Brick Orders
In memory of Margaret Rhettke, by Debra Esper
In memory of Denise Garant, by Jeanne Treend
In memory of Mary Measel, by Jeanne Treend
In memory of Charles Desmedt, by Garden Grove Estates
In memory of William Kessler, by RAHGS
President’s Yearly Report

The By-laws state that the President write a yearly report for the annual meeting. What follows is a condensed version what was given to those who attended the meeting.

Energetic and dedicated members and friends have ensured that RAHGS has had one of the busiest and event filled years in the history of the Society.

The events at the Village all were successful, thanks to the well-organized chair people.

The past year brought many significant improvements to the log cabin. Through the Donley family’s generosity, the cabin was restored and improved. To maintain the integrity of the original structure, all materials were obtained from a local saw mill that rough cut the boards and beams.

The audit committee met in early January and reviewed all of the accounts and found everything in good order. Thank you to that committee of Kathleen Dolan, Marla Beard, and Charlotte Ward. And thank you Treasurer Dianne for the meticulous work she did to get things ready for them as well as for the budget committee.

Our membership continues to grow. In 2019 we added 18 new members to the roster, which brings our total membership to 222. Thirty-two of those live out of state, and 102 of them are lifetime members.

The gardening crew, led by Marsha Phillips, continue to work to keep the gardens raked, weeded, skibbled, trimmed, and manicured: thank you, Chris Hensch, Charlotte Pierzynski, Penny Yelencich, Kris Nolan, Rich Weinert, and Tom Hebel. Because of your hard work, the Village and the beautiful gardens have become a favorite local attraction. In fact, our Village is a popular spot for photo opportunities.

This organization adds a dimension to our town that is unique. We are committed to telling the stories of long ago, of educating Richmondites about their past, and of preserving the artifacts that our ancestors once used. You can be a part of this work too. Specifically, we are looking for potential board members and volunteers and planners for events. Archive management is an on-going task. We could use help with maintaining the membership roster and coordinating the newsletter articles. Please stop by the Village on a Thursday morning and we will show you how you can assist us in doing this work. The coffee pot is always on, and on the best days we will have a plate of cookies waiting for you.

Thank you for supporting the work of the Society with your time and your donations. It is our hope that you will continue to do so. As we begin our 30th year as an organization in our community, let’s celebrate our success with fresh energy for our shared mission.

Go RAHGS!
Christine Rowley, President
January 24, 2020

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

-Marianne Moore

Recent Acquisitions

Elsie Manchester: Two-cent stamps, coffee grinder, picture frames
Mike Dilabiy: Old newspapers
Kathy Osebold: Vintage toys
Scott McKenzie: Parker plow manufactured door latches
Martin Borkowski: Hand cultivator, burlap bags
Robert Kohlhagen: Hinckfoot family schoolbooks

New Members!

Bob and Susan Eisenhardt: Richmond
Jeff and Mary Kay White: Riley
Mike Battani: Armada
In Memoriam

William Ermton Kessler (1930-2020) passed away at his Grass Lake, Michigan home on February 27th. He and his wife, Mary Ann (Donley) Kessler (d. 2008) were lifetime members who supported RAHGS and the mission. Bill served in the US Army Signal Corps, and was deployed to South Korea. He was a pioneer in nuclear power, participating in the design and installation of nuclear power systems around the world. His is survived by his seven daughters.

Accomplishments and Goals

This list of accomplishments and goals was shared with the membership at the annual meeting. Won’t you help us put a check next to the work yet to do?

2019 Accomplishments

✓ Installed plaque on the barn
✓ Put stone around barn and the barn approach (maintenance strip)
✓ Continued fundraising campaign/grant for property addition
✓ Recruited new active members
✓ Made improvements on Donley cabin
✓ Created exhibit space in barn
✓ Expanded the docent program
✓ Added Heritage Days
✓ Participated in Chili Cook-Off
✓ Held a Grand Opening for the Barn
✓ Set up a new display in the museum
✓ Restored a stone boat

2020 Goals

□ Install informational plaque for depot, school, and barn (similar to cabin plaque)
□ Record names from the 1890s quilt
□ Organize the history of RAHGS
□ Continue restoration of RR hand car and motor car
□ Install and connect electricity in the barn
□ Electrify the RR crossing signal
□ Replace damaged wood on exterior of school and depot
□ Reseal schoolhouse floor
□ Seal or replace bottom of garage doors
□ Move the donated windmill
□ Fix leak in school roof
□ Recruit help for yard maintenance
□ Design plans for filling station/garage/storage building
□ Create equipment inventory
□ Expand docent program
□ Paint exterior of museum
□ Complete cabin interior painting
□ Continue seeking grants for shed construction
□ Apply waterproofing/sealant to cedar shake roofs
□ Update RAHGS website
□ Update RAHGS brochure
□ Muddle through

RAHGS Calendar of Events

April 30: Village Clean Up
April 30: Program: “Muskets, Crown, and Liberty,” D. Rasmussen
May 4-8: Armada Fifth Grade in SSS
May 11-15: Richmond Fifth Grade in SSS
May 19: Richmond Second Grade Visit to Village
June 27-28: Heritage Festival
June 28: State-wide Log Cabin Day
July 25: Village and Gardens Open
Sept. 11-13: Good Old Days at the Historic Village
Sept 27: 4th Annual Cemetery Walk
Nov. 12: Program: “The Orphan Train Era”
Dec 5: “A Holiday Evening in the Village”

Regular Board Meetings:
February 3; March 2; April 6; May 4; June 1; August 3; October 5; November 2; December 7
An Ancestral Journey
with
Doug Rasmussen

This presentation and book is more than a simple genealogical recitation of the past; it becomes a useful model for any reader to discover the “knowledge legacy” from past ancestors and how to preserve the discovered stories as a legacy to future generations.

Doug will be sharing his book on **Thursday, April 30, 2020  7:00 P.M.**

At the Richmond Community Center
36164 Festival Drive
Richmond, MI

Signed author copies will be available for purchase with donation of profit to RAHGS
This program is free of charge and open to the public.

For more information contact Jon Beard 360.710.1967

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A Holiday Evening in the Village

By Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan

A Holiday Evening in the Village on Dec. 7 was filled with music, treats, laughs, Christmas wishes, and a roaring fire in the Donley Cabin.

Greeting guests in the museum was Pam Materazzi, Norm Gibson, and Dianne Gibson. They shared the current exhibit, “Those Who Serve,” and spoke about the vintage toys on display. Kathy Osebold, owner of Mi Junktiques located on Main St. in Richmond, generously contributed toys for the display which caused many adults to reminisce their childhoods. Some interesting stories, indeed!

With a kind and loving voice, Mrs. Claus (Sandy Luenser) welcomed children to join her in the RAHGS Vis-à-vis sleigh where they asked her questions about the North Pole, Santa, and shared their Christmas dreams. Mrs. Claus’ helper, Max Luenser, provided just the right amount of support getting little ones in and out of the sleigh and made sure each received a special home baked cookie. Docents, Bob Kohlhagen, Don Graham, Doug Porrett, and Warren Schwark escorted the visitors around the barn showing and explaining the many artifacts on display.

Jingle bells at the Depot and a hearty, “All Aboard,” from docents Al Collins and Jon Beard provided the first hint of a Polar Express train ride which took them to the Donley Cabin where children sat on blankets in front of the fire place as Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan read the book, *The Polar Express*, to them. Marla Beard shared the history of the cabin before and after it made its home to the Historic Village.

Before leaving the candlelit walkways of the village, beautiful music coming from the School Section School enticed everyone to enter and enjoy a sweet treat, drink some hot cocoa, build a candy train and design an ornament. Marsha Phillips, Penny Hooper, Chris Hensch, and Ursula Adamson oversaw these activities making sure everyone had a chance to participate.

The Festive Christmas piano music that filled the air of the village throughout the evening was made possible through the hard work of Shawn Graham and her students, Catherine Bunto, Nadeen Casey, Trevor Thompson, Sarah, Justin and Jason Wegner, Cominic Hetrick, Golde Duhaylungsod, and Mary Ellen Tito. Shawn and these young people really made the evening especially special.

Behind the scenes, Rich Weinert, Dave Waun, Tom Hebel, Doug Logan, Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan, Dianne Gibson, and Norm Gibson were instrumental in keeping it all together.

We look forward to our 3rd annual event in Dec. 2020.
With confining myself home because of the Covid-19 virus pandemic, I have used this time to work in my flower beds. We have had some beautiful sunny days and it felt wonderful to be out and cutting back plants and cleaning my beds. It is a very good way to relieve stress and worry!!

With all that is happening in our world right now, I have a poem to share with you:

**He’s Everywhere I Go - The True Master Gardener**
By Dee Gaskin

The smallest flower, the tallest trees
The softest breezes that blow,
His gentle hand has made all these,
He’s everywhere I go.
His feet have trod the mountains high,
And walked the valley’s low,
Still He’s concerned for such as I,
He’s everywhere I go.
He speaks and makes the lightening flash,
The sky His hands control.
All Heaven and Earth obey His Voice,
He’s everywhere I go.
And then one day He spoke to me,
And oh, I love Him so!
My destiny is in His hands;
He’s everywhere I go! (Our True Master Gardener)

I hope this finds everyone healthy and that you are all keeping busy. I just wanted to remind everyone that God is in control.

Marsha
Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society
36045 Park Street
P.O. Box 68
Richmond, Michigan 48062
Website: www.richmondhistoricalsociety.org
Email: richmondareahistoricalsociety@gmail.com
Facebook.com

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.