The 8th ANNUAL HISTORIC TEA FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022
Solitude Links Golf Course & Banquet Center
(formerly Fore Lakes)
5810 Flinchbaugh Rd, Kimball, MI 48074
2:00pm – 4:00 pm
(Doors open at 1:00pm for table viewing)

This year’s program
“Wedding Gowns Through The Ages”
Featuring gowns dating back to the 1800s
Presented by Beth Turza
*Hat Contest * Raffle * Silent Auction *

ADVANCE TICKET SALES ONLY
$45.00
To purchase tickets please contact:
Christine Rowley phone: 810.392.0261; email: crowley50@comcast.net
or Sue Jakubiak phone: 810.305.6338; email: ejakubiak99@comcast.net

*In the event Tea is cancelled, ticket refunds will be available.*

Proceeds support the continuing work of the Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society
President’s Corner

Looking out from my house on a main thoroughfare in Richmond, I notice that it will soon be time to rake leaves, cover faucets and prepare for Winter weather. I am not trying to hurry things along to end the year. This is simply my reaction to having spent the last few days calendaring, planning, and promoting items in my life that will be dated 2022.

Yes, this year is hurrying along. Considering what we have experienced over the past year here at the Historical Society we have been able to accomplish some of the major projects that identifies who we are, what we do and why we do it. Gathering our community and our constituency to experience our agriculture heritage has been accomplished with our Heritage Days and Good Old Days. Bringing back family gatherings of folks with Richmond area roots has been rewarding to us and to those reunited families. Kudos go to all our volunteers who make our footprint on the corner of Park & Beebe such an attraction and magnet for the folks in the community.

Acquisitions are at an all time high – as our community neighbors continue to identify the connecting stories of their family’s effects to the big narrative of Richmond history. Speaking of family stories, we are still hearing the praises from those who attended our Cemetery Walk. RAHGS as a venue for historical information continues to be promoted even as we try to be judicious with our gatherings due to health concerns.

We cannot accomplish even the limited activities of this COVID limited year without you, our members. To complete the events of this year and those planned for 2022 we will continue to depend on the existing and new member volunteers. Our hope and expectation for the coming year as that we will share in more varied and enriching events that continue to build on the rich history of those who came to this corner of Michigan long before us.

As your newly branded President, I welcome your communication, encouragement, and participation.

Jon Beard, RAHGS President

RAHGS Welcomes Doug Rasmussen

By: Christine Rowley

Question: In the 1960s, where would a respectable, non-drinking woman go to purchase whiskey for her Christmas fruitcakes? Answer: To Rasmussen’s Pharmacy, of course, where Ken “Ras” would sell it to her without passing judgement. She knew she would be comfortable buying her special baking ingredient from him.

Ken’s son Doug Rasmussen came back to his hometown to present a program to RAHGS about his mother’s Fletcher ancestors. His stories about the Fletcher greenhouses and the genealogy that goes back many centuries entertained the crowd, but many folks in the audience also fondly remembered the drug store his father owned for many years.

Doug’s book, “Muskets, Crowns, & Liberty: A Journey Through a 40-Generation Ancestral Family Line and Discovering Its Legacy, is a collection of vignettes—the many stories of his family throughout the years. A successful lawyer, Doug began his genealogy search in his retirement. He and his wife Andrea traveled to many places to research in libraries, clerk’s offices, and historical societies.

During his presentation, Doug gave a shout out to his high school speech teacher, Lucia Marshall, who happened to be in the audience. At the end of the evening, she happily gave him a well-deserved A+ for his delivery. Copies of his book are available for purchase at the museum on Thursday mornings. Cost is $15.00 for a softcover; $20.00 for a hardcover.
Thank You to Heritage Festival Donors
By Don Graham

It is quite impossible for a non-profit organization to host an event as extensive as the Heritage Festival without the interest and charitable support of generous donors. The contributions given for this year’s event remarkable. Sales and profits of so many small businesses suffered due to reduced customer traffic, and yet several local companies recognized the value of a community event like ours and contributed. For that reason alone, we have no hesitation in recommending that you support these businesses. And when you do, please thank them on behalf of RAHGS for their generosity.

Donut Girls of Memphis; Achatz Pies of Armada; Ace Hardware, AutoZone, New Holland Equipment, O’Reilly’s, Papou’s Place restaurant, Sunrise Stores, and especially Family Farm and Home, all from Richmond, supported the Heritage Festival. Family Farm not only made a cash donation, but sponsored the magnets, hats, insulated cup holders, and coupons given to every exhibitor and demonstrator.

We also appreciate the generous contributions of several non-business organizations and individuals. The Richmond Antique Engine and Threshing Association not only demonstrated the antique sawmill, but also provided a substantial cash donation. Doug and Mary Ellen Logan and Graham Family Farm also provided support.

Those of you who visited the Festival saw the enthusiastic energy of kids and the passionate interest of the adults. You can’t put a value on the high-pitched laughter of a child trying to milk a cow for the first time, or the inspiration given to a lady who sees what a well-tended garden can look like, or the thrill an older person feels when they say, “I used to do that!” or “I used to drive that!” or “I remember my mother doing that.” How do you measure that kind of joy?

What we can do is support the people who made that possible.
Our Milking Cow Arrived
By: Norm Gibson

Our cow arrived just in time for the Good Old Days Festival. It is made of fiberglass and has a recirculating pump which makes it easier to use.

It was a big hit with the children that came through. I think the adults had just as much fun watching as the children milked the cow.

I believe that a major reason for the increased number of visitors was due in part to the sign that Bob Kolhagen made saying “MILK THE COW”. We had more families with children come through than ever before.

A big thanks goes to Bob Bishop of Richmond New Holland for taking the delivery of the horses and cow and loading them on a trailer for us so that we could get them to the barn at the village. The horses arrived in June.

The winners of name the horses and the cow contest are: Kat Villeme, Marquerite Little and Katie Arnold.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS
By: Norm & Dianne Gibson

Abstract for property next to Masonic Temple  Shirley Davidson
Photo of Norman Bobcean  Patti Papuga
Photo of Main Street, photo of plowing at Detroit  David Tyson
Creamery Farm  Peggy Chambers
Toaster, Iron  Ursula Adamson
Skates, antique washboard  Bob Kohlhagen
Parker Plow wrench and a Fanning Mill  Elsie Manchester
Chair with canned seat  Sally Like
Framed photo of east side of Main Street  Randy Mayer
Assorted vintage cans with labels  Lois Jackman
Genealogy books and two map books
Book- From Germany to America  Christine Rowley
Program- Maybelle Van Dance Company  Pat Hendrickson
Richmond Review Disk Set  Cherie Allen
Pension record for Cyril Hicks  Judy Koehn
Large 1910 St Augustine church photo  Don Bauman
Corn shucker hand tool  George Fealko
Richmond Centennial hat and Polewachs hat  Mary Fealko
Vintage underwear  Carol Rhein
Two quilts made by Annetta Furstenau
The summer has been busy for the LTP Committee.

**The Barn** electrical service installation has made progress. DTE has approved adding the service to the barn. We also met with a DTE Planner to move the guy wires closer to the pole so they were not so close to the doorway. A new pole will also be placed. Jeff Bolen from Supreme Electric will begin the process of bringing power to the barn by installing underground service and the meter.

**The Filling Station Project** proposal has been sent to the City for their review. David Foster has drawn up plans that show how the overhang can accommodate taller vintage gas pumps.
I can’t believe it is the end of September. The garden season seemed to go by too fast for me. I am just starting garden clean up at my home and at the Village.

We had our Mum Sale during the Good Old Days this year. I was not sure how well it would go over, so I only brought in 75 mums instead of the 100 that I normally did. We ended up selling all 75 mums!!! That was a good little fund raiser for RAHGS. Thank you to everyone who supported us by buying our mums!

Just a reminder, some people asked if the mums were hardy. Yes they are. To get them to come back in the spring, you have to plant them in the ground 6 to 8 weeks before it frosts. You should water them too after planting up until November to make sure their roots take hold. DO NOT cut them back in the fall. Wait until spring, when you see new green growth coming up you can cut off the dead from last year! (That is usually April 1st for me).

I do not cut back too many perennials in the winter in our Village. I will be cutting back the shasta daisies, black eyed susans, cone flowers, etc. If anyone has ANY questions please feel free to call me or email me. I love helping people with their gardens! Also, some people have asked me to share certain plants with them. Please call me or email me in March 2022. I will always dig something up for you!

For those of you who know I raise Monarchs I have released 214 as of today 9-24-2021! I still have 22 chrysalis that have not eclosed (opened) yet. I had a few that opened during the Good Old Days and was able to let some children release them there!

- Marsha
Railroad Hand Car Restoration Complete

By: Norm Gibson

The Grand Trunk Railroad hand car donated to RAHGS by Joe Maranzano has been restored by the Thursday afternoon work crew. Pictured from left to right: Sean Buckert, Joe Maranzano, Norm Gibson, Mike Buckert, and Weldon Fealko.

This hand car was used at the Smiths Creek depot where Joe was based when he started working for Grand Trunk Railroad. He said that this hand car was made around 1911. He acquired it from a collector of railroad equipment. This hand car was in an accident and Joe rebuilt it, and put it on display at his railroad museum. Railroad companies typically rebuilt hand cars about every ten years. The restoration process started last November when the hand car was moved to Norm’s shop. The hand car’s wood had weathered badly and many of the metal parts had rusted to some degree. The hand car was completely disassembled. All of the wood parts were replaced with new wood donated by Bob Kolhagen and Norm Gibson. The metal parts were sandblasted and painted by Weldon Fealko at his home. Some of the nuts and bolts were donated by Suburban Bolt. Some of hardware and the paint was provided by Norm. A few metal parts had to be remade or repaired. The whole process was delayed at times due to Covid or in some cases the weather.

Neil Bryan of Back Yard Living provided access to an abandon railroad spur behind the old farmer’s elevator. Only the rails were visible and dirt and grass had to be removed from them. We were able to make several runs on it before re-installing it in front of the Columbus Depot at the village. Several people were there and everyone that wanted to use the hand car were able to. Jason Robbins the city’s Cable Television Services.

Coordinator filmed an interview with Joe Maranzano and the running of the hand car. We will let you know when it is available for viewing.
4th Annual Cemetery Walk
is a Huge Success

By: Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan

A rainy morning on September 25 didn’t stop 65 visitors to the City of Richmond Cemetery to partake in the RAHGS 4th Annual Cemetery Walk. Mother Nature smiled on the event when the rain stopped, and the sun eventually peaked out from behind the clouds.

Upon their arrival, the walkers were greeted by RAHGS President, Jon Beard and checked in by Christine Rowley and Marla Beard. After snacking on a cookie served by Mary Gisslander and viewing the displays of the five featured families, the visitors, guided by volunteers Kris Nolan, Rich Weinert, Cheryl Almstadt, and Sandy Luenser, made their way to the five designated stops.

Listening to the life stories of Sarah Norton Hall portrayed by Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan, Carrie Hall Mills portrayed by Dianne Gibson, James Quick portrayed by Glenn Quick, Mary Lou Boldt portrayed by Lucia Marshall, Ben Boldt portrayed by Sean Misko, the Fletcher Family story told by Pat Bartosiewicz, Lois Fletcher portrayed by Marcia Fletcher Wisniewski, and Ken Rasmussen portrayed by Dr. Patrick McClellan, the audience was not only entertained by the performances but also heard the stories and history of these families in the Richmond area.

Those requesting transportation assistance was made easier when drivers for the day, Doug Logan, Tom Hebel, and Rich Weinert, picked up and delivered guests to each site on carts generously donated for the day by Mayor Tim Rix, David and Laura Varga, and Austin Bergeon.

Three Richmond High School students, Austin Bergeron, Matthew McLaughlan, and Austin Bergeron were instrumental in preparing the designated sites for visitors. These young men with respect and a great
work ethic helped pickup chairs from the village and set them up at the cemetery. After the event they returned to pick them up and deliver them back to the village. Being slightly short on chairs, Austin Bergeron voluntarily went to his home and brought back enough chairs to fill the tents. Doug Logan, working side by side with them, commented, “These young men were capable, motivated, and a pleasure to work with. They really helped make the work load much lighter. I was impressed with the way they handled themselves and the respect they had for everyone and the cemetery grounds.”

Event coordinators, Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan and Dianne Gibson, are grateful to all of those people for their time and dedication to making this RAHGS event successful. Additionally, a huge thank you goes to the City of Richmond Officials, Jon Moore, Cemetery Personnel, and Trent Peshek of Rewalt-Peshek Funeral Home, who for four years has so graciously supported and sponsored the event. Thank you, Trent

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Memorials & Donations

**General Fund:**
William and Dorothy Waun  
Pattie Papuga  
Al Collins  
Therese Teska  
John and Michele Donley  
Kroger Rewards

**In Memory of Francis Bartell:**
Diane Schade  
Nancy Swoffer

**Cemetery Walk:**
Rewalt-Peshek Funeral Home

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Membership Dues & Annual Dinner Meeting

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. A lifetime membership is $150.00. We will accept your payment for 2022 anytime now. Please make checks payable to RAHGS, P.O. Box 68, Richmond, Michigan 48062.

The Annual meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 21, 2022 at Maniaci’s Banquet Center. Social hour begins at 5 PM and dinner will be served @ 6 PM. Cost will be $16 per person and a cash bar will be available.

In December you can expect the annual letter from the Board with more information about the Annual Meeting and another reminder regarding dues.
The Rational Dress Society and Victorian Dress Reform

By: Jenny Ashcraft

In 1881, a group of high society women gathered in London to form a new organization. They named their group the Rational Dress Society, intending to reform Victorian women’s dress. The group came up with criteria for the perfect dress. It included:

1. Freedom of Movement
2. Absence of pressure over any part of the body
3. No more weight than is necessary for warmth, and both weight and warmth evenly distributed.
4. Grace and beauty combined with comfort and convenience
5. Not departing too conspicuously from the ordinary dress of the time

Their ideas were revolutionary and controversial. Typical Victorian dress styles incorporated heavy fabrics, tight corsets, bustles, hoop skirts, and extravagant ornamentation. The women argued that dress reform would allow them to participate in activities like cycling. Bicycles had become a symbol of freedom for many women who found the sport liberating and emancipating.

A founding member of the society was Viscountess Florence Wallace Pomeroy, also known as Lady Harberton. Lady Harberton, the daughter of wealthy landowners, married James S. Pomeroy. He later became the 6th Viscount Harberton. In 1880, Lady Harberton took up the cause of dress reform. She loved to cycle, but heavy, long skirts prevented her from enjoying the activity. She championed the reformed dress, which consisted of baggy pantaloons worn underneath a knee-length skirt. She also invented the divided skirt, which initially evoked jeers on both sides of the pond. Some feared that trifling with a
The Rational Dress Society and Victorian Dress Reform (Cont.)

traditional women’s dress was a step down a path to loosening moral values.

In 1883, the Rational Dress Society sponsored an exhibition held in London. The exhibit included shorter dresses, divided skirts, “costumes for climbing for lady mountaineers, and a costume for walking.” One man reported to The Times that the women in his family discarded their corsets and found new freedom in dancing, walking, tricycling, lawn tennis, and other open-air exercises. They vowed never to return to corsets and heavy skirts. Attitudes for many women (and men) were undergoing a seismic shift. The “woman of the future” wanted freedom in her clothing – and freedom within other aspects of her life.

The struggle for rational dress came to a head after an incident in 1898. Lady Harberton went cycling in Surrey. She stopped for lunch at the Hautboy Hotel but was turned away for improper dress. Lady Harberton sued the hotel but lost the case because the hotel had offered alternative seating in the bar. Nevertheless, the case brought attention to rational dress and a victory for women who advocated for it. Lady Harberton spent decades promoting clothing that would make life easier for women. Later in her life, she also became an advocate for the women’s suffrage movement. Lady Harberton died in 1911. The Guardian eulogized her as an “enthusiastic and undaunted advocate” for dress reform.

Welcome New Member!

Doug Waun; Middletown, Delaware

Recent Brick Orders

In Memory of: Joe Baker
Given by: Judi Baker

In Memory of: Kevin Donley
Given by: John Donley

In Memory of: Carole Bryant
Given by: Al Bryant

In Memory of: Irene Hooper
Given by: Penny Yelencich

Hello Fall!
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.