“romance” and “tractors” brought together in our thought processes. But they were combined in the history of the Donley family.

A chance gathering at Hugh Donley’s funeral in 1946 led to a discussion about the need of a modern, versatile, and reliable tractor for the family farm located on Irish Road, now 29 Mile Road, just east of Gratiot Avenue. The family had used a Fordson tractor, which was very difficult to start and very unreliable. They then tried a McCormick-Deering 10-20 (10 horsepower on the drawbar – equating to pulling power - and 20 horsepower on the belt pulley which was used to power stationary equipment, such as a threshing machine), an improvement, but, with its steel wheels, difficult to drive and difficult to steer. Farmers owning a 10-20 preferred to use horses for most jobs, reserving the McCormick-Deering for plowing and threshing where maneuverability was less important than power. In fact, Hugh’s son Larry remembers his dad plowing with that tractor. “I remember carrying a quart Mason jar of water out to my dad plowing with the 10-20. He would take me a couple of rounds in the field. It could pull a twobottom plow all day long. Horses could only pull a one-bottom plow and had to stop and eat every so often.”

In spite of their advantages, neither of those tractors was sufficient for their needs, nor would they allow the Donley’s to grow their business. But where would the money come from? Without a proper tractor, the farm could not produce a profit sufficient to fund a new machine.

That is the tractor side of the story.

Here is the romantic part. At that same funeral, a lady from Louisiana by the name of Inez Cantrell overheard the conversation. She had previously met another one of Hugh’s sons, Ed. The two became friends, had fallen in love, and were engaged to be married. Inez had worked during and after World War II as a secretary, carefully saving her money and accumulating a sum of $1200, significant for a young lady in that day. We are sometimes critical of people with substantial wealth, but as Margaret Thatcher once said, “If the Good Samaritan had no money, we never would have heard of him.” Acting in the role of that good man, Inez gave her entire savings to Ed for the purchase of the needed tractor. Ed, in turn, gave the money to his mother and Hugh’s widow, Francis.

Now the question became, what tractor should the Donley family buy? Francis, Ed, and his older brother, also named Hugh (who managed the farm after his father’s death), wisely chose what is the most iconic tractor of all time, the Farmall H. Produced in greater numbers than any other tractor except for possibly the Fordson, it’s trend setting design, high seating for excellent visibility, and classic red color made it attractive to farmers across the United States. With all of this in mind, the Donley’s visited the Farmall dealership on Howard Street in Richmond, and made the purchase.

To quote Larry Donley, “It was a game changer. It was a dream to operate. It was so versatile. All rubber tires, lights, battery starting, and very easy to drive and steer. We did everything with it.” The arrival of that H allowed the Donley’s to farm more land, at least 30 acres more, according to Larry and Ed’s son John. That produced an even greater profit. That 1946 Farmall H was indispensable for the next eight years, until the livestock and equipment was sold at auction on March 25, 1954 when Hugh decided to change careers, leaving the farm to start a marine business. The poster advertising that auction, including the H, is now hanging in the Donley log cabin in the Historic Village.

In September of 2019, John Donley and his family were visiting Good Old Days in Richmond, and walked through the tractor display at the south end of the grounds. John said he was impressed by the looks of several restored Farmall M’s, which were one size larger than the H, and began reminiscing about days on the farm. After a conversation with Larry, he made the decision to purchase a 1946 Farmall H, identical to the one his ancestors used on 29 Mile Road, and donate it to the Historic Village. That generous gift not only enhances the Donley story and the importance of their family farm, but also spotlights the agricultural heritage of this entire area.

Seldom, if ever, are the words "romance" and "tractors" brought together in our thought processes. But they were combined in the history of the Donley family.

1946 FARMALL H TRACTOR DONATED TO HISTORIC VILLAGE

BY DON GRAHAM

continued on page 3
President’s Corner

By the time this article arrives in your inbox we will have celebrated the first one-third of our calendar year with such events as the Annual Membership Dinner, and Historic Tea & Men’s Cookout. Right around the corner will be the local school children visiting the One Room School House, Heritage Festival, and later the first ever (for us) Fiberfest.

I can not praise the efforts of our volunteers enough. All of the planning and implementing of these events rides on the efforts of those who serve simply because they believe in the mission of RAHGS to communicate the lessons of the past days of our community. From the weekly tasks accomplished at our Thursday Workdays, Fund Raising for our Historic Filling Station Project, giving time to Docent a touring group, or researching donated items for their historicity; all the work of the Historical Society is fueled by your volunteering.

With the possibility of ignoring someone vital – let me take this to simply honor our group of Standing Volunteers:

- Audit: Dianne Gibson – Treasurer, Charlotte Ward, Kathleen Dolan, Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan
- Budget: Jon Beard, Don Graham, Norm Gibson (LTP), Dianne Gibson – Treasurer, Rich Weinert
- Membership: Christine Rowley
- Museum Curator: Norm Gibson
- Newsletter Editor: Christine Rowley
- Nominations: Marguerite Little, Doug Porrett, Doug Logan
- Research Committee: Ursula Adamson, Dianne Gibson, Pat Hendrickson
- Long Term Planning Committee: Rich Weinert, Tom Hebel, Norm Gibson, Doug Logan, Bob Kohlhagen
- Brick Sales: Chris Hensch
- Sunshine: Charlotte Ward
- Acquisitions Database Manager: Dianne Gibson
- Acquisitions: Norm Gibson, Don Graham, Doug Porrett
- Social Media Managers: Norm Gibson (FaceBook), Rich Weinert (Website), Christine Rowley (Gmail)
- Village Gardener: Marsha Phillips
- Memorials & Donations Manager: Kristine Nolan

These are a snapshot of what it takes to accomplish the many events, tasks, research, programs, and tours that make up the work of the Richmond Area Historical & Genealogical Society. May our numbers swell with many additional willing contributors to the task.

Hope to see you soon...

Jon Beard, RAHGS President

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RICHMOND BANK CHECK

One of the Society’s latest acquisitions is a check drawn on the Richmond Bank on December 7, 1887. It was found blowing down the street by Denton’s Drugstore (now Sew Together) by Bill Nichols. He states he found it in the late 1940s or early 1950s. The bank was located on the northwest corner of Monroe and Main Streets. W.H. Acker was the bank owner in 1887 and Albert Lindke was the cashier. Their names are noted on the check.
Help Please!

Our dunce hat, made by Jan Collins, has served the School Section School well for many years, but as you can see in this photo, it is quite worn and tattered. A favorite prop for taking photos in the schoolhouse, our hat needs replacing. If you or someone you know would be interested in making a new one, we would really appreciate it. This one can be used as a prototype. The school will be busy in May with visits from St. Peter’s School and from Richmond Schools, and while we discourage “dunce” behavior, it would be fun to have a replacement ready for them…just in case it is needed.

Contact Christine if you can help.

Annual Meeting Promises the Return of All RAHGS Events

Vice President Don Graham conducted the meeting and led the group through a full agenda. Reports from the following committees were heard:

- Long Term Planning Committee
- Special Task Force
- Foundation Board
- Treasurer
- Nominating Committee
- 2022 Calendar
- Membership/Newsletter Update
- Acquisitions

The “Slice of Richmond” was given by Dr. Patrick McClellan, which was followed by “The Year in Review.” The evening concluded with announcement of the raffle winners. ($410.00 for the RAHGS coffers). Everyone went home energized and inspired, and looking ahead to 2022.

When asked how the tractor, shown in the photograph, was obtained, John modestly replied, “It was a stroke of luck, really.” But luck is usually the consequence of hard work, as was the case here. He spent quite a bit of time reading the on-line Farmall forums, visiting eBay and Facebook auctions, and talking with knowledgeable people. Eventually, he saw an ad posted by a retired farmer in northern Illinois, listing a 1946 H for sale. After looking it over, he bought it in the fall of 2021 and had it delivered to Richmond in early December.

For those with an interest in old tractors, this one starts like a dream, runs extremely well, and features the unique and classic H sound. Many older people who farmed with Farmalls will say the sound of the H is their favorite tractor sound.

This gifted tractor will be prominently featured at this year’s Heritage Festival, Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26.

Hugh and Larry Donley at the farm

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8th Annual Historic Tea Fundraiser
Solitude Links Golf and Banquet Center
Saturday March 12, 2022

Thank you to the hostesses who set the pretty tables, the sponsors for their generous monetary support, the folks who donated items to the raffle table, and to the 186 guests who purchased tickets. It was a grand event for RAHGS!

continued on next page
Raffle item: hand crocheted wedding dress for American Girl doll, by Sue Jakubiak

The hostesses:
Rachel Card, Madeline Card
Penny Yelencich, Charlotte Ward
Sue Weinert, Bev Kammer
Julianne Kammer, Marsha Phillips
Christine Rowley, Heather Rowley
Jessica DeFauw, Sue Jakubiak
Laura Campbell-Cormier
Susan Foster, Terri Hay
M.E. Shepherd-Logan
Marguerite Little
Louise Borkowski, Julie Udicki
Denise Rakic

The Raffle Donors:
Sarah Foster
Lori Nye
Marshal Phillips
Vicky Chegash
Sue Weinert
Varga Chiropractic
Sue Jakubiak
Marguerite Little
Louise Borkowski
Ozzie, Ella, and Hannah Douglass
Kris Nolan
Marguerite Little
Silent Auction Item
Donation:
Tom Hebel and Christine Rowley

The donors:
Susan Eisenhardt
Ginny Foster
Brian and Kris Howell
Victoria Reins
Meghan Schweihofner

The Committee:
Sue Jakubiak, co-chair
Christine Rowley, co-chair
Louise Borkowski
Marsha Phillips
Susan Foster
M.E. Shepherd-Logan
Dianne Gibson
Marguerite Little
Annual Heritage Festival Plans Well Underway

Planning is well underway for the 2022 Richmond Area Heritage Festival, planned for Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26, 2022. Last summer’s event was very well attended, which generated enormous publicity for RAHGS, entertained families, and fascinated children.

The Festival is a celebration of the people and machines that made this area what it is today, with special emphasis on the area’s agricultural heritage. Guests can visit popular attractions like the blacksmith tents, hosting several blacksmiths demonstrating their talents; the petting farm where people learn about the purpose and care of various farm animals; the antique tractor and car show; and the magnificently restored buildings where craftspeople will showcase their talents and products. The sawmill, corn shellers – one powered by a Model T car, shingle mill, and the huge propane fired hit and miss engine will all be operating.

New attractions this year will include the life-size milking cow, the Farmall H tractor donated by the Donley family (see related story in this Historian), new exhibits in the barn and museum, even more antique cars, and more activities for young people. Food and drink will again be available.

If you have a vintage tractor or car, we’d love to have you bring it for display. Security is provided. And if you would like to volunteer to docent, run errands, or help in a general way, we’d love to hear from you!

For more information, feel free to contact Don Graham at 586 405-4786 or dgraham5232@gmail.com.

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2022 RAHGS Historic Tea a Huge Success!
Submitted by Sue Jakubiak, Tea Co-Chair

Question: How do you improve on RAHGS annual largest fundraiser, the RAHGS Annual Historic Tea?
Answer: You add a featured Silent Auction item!

That idea was made possible with the generous donation by Christine and Tom Hebel of a 4-night Cabin Stay for up to 6 people in Lewiston, Michigan. In addition to its successful Tea Basket Raffle, RAHGS 8TH Annual Historic Tea held Saturday, March 12, 2022, offered guests the opportunity to bid on this wonderful getaway.

Shortly after last call for bids, the happy winner was announced. Guests seated with Jackie Cook applauded as she stepped up to accept her $900 prize.

Special Thanks to Christine and Tom Hebel for the donation and Congratulations to Jackie Cook from Harsens Island, RAHGS newest member and our silent auction winner!

(Pictured Jackie Cook, Silent Auction Winner and Christine Rowley, Tea Co-Chair and Donor)
Windmill Makes Its Way to the Historic Village

The men who helped move a 44-foot-tall windmill to the Village on January 15th are Rich Weinert, Norm Gibson, Bob Kohlhagen, Parker Treend, Nick Samolej, and Tom Hebel. We now have structures from the City of Richmond, and from the townships of Richmond, Columbus, Lenox, and Casco. Gary Bertossi of Bertossi Bulldozing provided the equipment for the move, and the flatbed trailer was loaned by Bob Eisenhardt, driven by Dan Hebel.

The windmill was donated by Loretta Gorr who said it was brought to Casco 40 years ago by her father from Wisconsin. This windmill is an Aermotor model 602 which was produced from 1916 to 1933 in Chicago. The company still exists with a location in Texas. This is fortunate since they are still producing parts for this model.

Work has started on restoration and preservation of the windmill. We are evaluating the condition of all the parts to see if any of them need to be replaced. We have to remove all of the old paint so that we can use a special paint that applies a zinc coating to the metal parts. We have donors who will fund most if not all of this restoration which is estimated to cost up to $4,000. When completed it will be functional and will pump water from a stock tank and back. We also hope to have an attachment that will use the power from the windmill to operate other pieces of machinery.

The tail has been removed and the Thursday Afternoon Crew is in the process of removing the paint. When finished it will have the original logo painted on. You can see remnants of the original logo for the AERMOTOR Company. This tail section shows signs of having been shot at with a shotgun.
The Festival of Fibers will bring awareness and inspire curiosity in the pursuit of knowledge of the craft of fiber arts. We wish to educate the community on the history and creativity of how fiber arts were used in the past, as well as how they apply to our lives today.

Please consider joining us for: demonstrations/education, hands on kid’s craft, and local vendor fiber artist’s sale. The festival will take place in and around the RAHGS historical buildings.

Save the Date:
July 23 & July 24
2022

Key Event Info:

The Festival of Fibers
Volunteers Needed!
Demonstrators Needed!
Interested in joining the Vendor/Craft Show?
Please Contact:
Dennis Pellegrom
586-484-8729 or
Audrey Goetzinger
248-622-3393
Rich Weinert Named City of Richmond “Volunteer of the Year”

At RAHGS, Rich Weinert is a special man—kind, witty, and always helpful. He approaches all tasks positively, and his wide smile is contagious. So of course, we weren’t surprised when City Manager Jon Moore presented Rich with the “Volunteer of the Year” award. His sterling qualities are now officially recognized publicly. We were happy that the City choose our Annual Dinner Meeting to present the award to Rich. We were privileged to be a part of this special moment. Congratulations Rich, you deserve this honor many times over.

The “Volunteer of the Year” award was begun by the Pentzien family in honor of RAHGS member Doug Pentzien. So far, all of the recipients of this prestigious award have been RAHGS members: Dr. Patrick McClellan, Tom Hebel, Keith Rengert, and now Rich Weinert. Coincidence? I don’t think so. CR

In Memoriam

Nedrud (Ned) Glenn Youatt, age 89, passed away peacefully on December 19, 2021 at home with family at his side. Ned was born on March 29, 1932 in Detroit, son of Lionel and Lela (Granger). Ned married the love of his life Ellyn (Foss), November 27, 1954 at the First Evangelical Church in Richmond, 67yrs ago. Ned called Romeo home for the last 66yrs.

Ned was known for his sense of humor, and was considered by those who knew him to be a very intelligent gentlemen. He was a pharmacist and owned Donahue’s Drugstore on Main Street for over 30 years, which was an anchor business in Romeo. He was kind and generous and would never hesitate to help anyone in need, often delivering medicine after hours to those who were unable to come into the store. Ned was involved in the local community, serving as President of the Romeo Rotary Club and as a volunteer with the Historical Society in Richmond, where he grew up. He was a member of the First Congregational Church of Romeo for 60 years and was always pitching in to help in any way he could. He loved spending time on the water in his boat on Lake St. Clair and local rivers, and he especially enjoyed taking his grandchildren to swimming spots by boat during the summer. He loved cars from MGs to Mustangs, to his classic El Camino, and even owned a Gremlin! Most of all, his life was about his family. He was the best husband and father, and he adored his family and grandkids.

Ned is survived by his wife Ellyn (Foss), son David (Anne)Youatt of Redmond, WA, and daughters Jayne (David) Norton of Romeo, and Amy(Bruce)Arnold of Whitmore Lake, MI. Grandchildren, Jacqueline (Angie) Norton of Huntington Woods, Jason(Rachel) Norton of Grossepointe Woods, Emily (Kanat) Youatt of Redmond, WA., Elizabeth Youatt of Redmond, WA., and Catherine of Salt Lake City, UT. He is also survived by three great grandchildren, Aiperi, Lucille, and Grant. Ned was predeceased by his brother William and his sister-in-law Jean.
On April 1, 1950, some 150,000 census workers, armed with pencils and thick pads of census schedules, set out to visit every residence in the country. They canvassed neighborhoods on foot or by car. Their goal was to enumerate every person in the country, and that meant some would need dogsleds, canoes, and even rowboats to reach out-of-the-way citizens. It took about a month for census workers (called enumerators) to finish the tally, then additional time for the government to tabulate the results. After completing the census, federal law mandated a 72-year restriction on the records to protect individual privacy. On April 1, 2022, the 1950 U.S. Census will be released to the public, providing a snapshot of history and new insights for genealogical research.

The first decennial census took place in 1790, and the population was nearly 4 million. By the time the 1950 Census rolled around, the population ballooned to more than 151 million. The Framers of the Constitution wanted population, not wealth, to be the basis for sharing political power, and censuses helped apportion Congressional seats. Over the years, it became evident that gathering additional data while enumerating citizens was useful. It could help community leaders allocate funding for transportation, education, health care, and more. Each census has asked slightly different questions. The 1940 standard census forms had lines for 40 persons. In 1950, this was reduced to 30 lines, allowing enumerators space to take notes on additional sample questions answered by every fifth person.

To prepare for the 1950 Census, the government created detailed aerial maps to identify every dwelling. In January 1950, the call went out for census workers. Requirements included a high school education and the ability to fill out complex census schedules with efficiency and courtesy. Applicants needed to be between 21 and 65 years old, and veterans received preference. Census workers interviewed about 30 families each day, enumerating about 1,110 persons in total. They earned 7 cents for each line of information filled out – or about $8 a day. At the time, the average family income was $3,300. Each interview took about 10 minutes, and the job sometimes presented challenges. One census worker reported being hit over the head with a frying pan when the interviewee didn’t like her questions. Others reported being bitten by dogs or chased by a swarm of bees. One census worker climbed a 60-foot flagpole to enumerate an ex-paratrooper trying to set a new world record as a flagpole sitter. Sometimes residents hid from census workers or slammed the door in their face. This behavior was illegal and could result in a fine or jail time.

The 1950 U.S. Census will provide insights into the post-WWII boom era, including the baby boom, the housing boom, and booming suburbs. Census schedules will also show segregated neighborhoods and separate and “inherently unequal” circumstances that led to the Civil Rights Movement. Using new, proprietary Artificial Intelligence (AI) handwriting recognition technology, Ancestry® announced that it will deliver a searchable index of the 1950 Census faster than ever before. Volunteers will evaluate census extraction records to ensure accurate results. We anticipate the 1950 U.S. Census will be fully indexed and available to search online this summer. To learn more about the 1950 U.S. Census, search Newspapers.com™ today!
Right now, is a great time to start seeds indoors if you haven’t done so. You can also plant cold weather annuals, like pansies, outside in the ground or pots. I definitely have Spring Fever, my heart aches for planting!! At the Village the daffodils, crocus, and scilla are coming up! I am excited to do Spring Cleanup in April.

Fruit trees can be safely pruned until the spring buds swell. “Bleeders” such as maple and birch trees, should not be pruned until they leaf out. Do not prune any spring-flowering trees until AFTER they have bloomed, or this spring’s flowers will be pruned off.

Roses can be pruned now, I do mine April 1st. Actually, when the forsythia bushes start to bloom is time to start caring for roses. Trim and spray if you need to for disease and clean out all debris and leaves around your roses.

Remember to start your lawn fertilizing when the forsythia blooms also. You should do the pre-emergent and first fertilizing at this time. The 4 step programs are pretty good for the homeowners.

I have a Farmer’s Almanac Calendar that I tear a page off every day. A couple of interesting sayings were: “March snow is as good as manure” and “According to folklore, planting hot peppers when you are angry will improve their heat!”

Have a Happy Spring and looking forward to seeing all of the helpers (Gardeneers) in the gardens at the Village!

Upcoming RAHGS Events:

**Mon-Fri, May 16-20:**
Richmond and St. Peter’s schools visit Village

**Fri-Sat, Jun 25-26:**
Richmond Area Heritage Festival and Michigan Log Cabin Day

**Fri-Sun, July 22-24:**
Festival of Fibers and Into the Village Garden Walk

**Fri-Sun, Sep 9-11:**
Good Old Days at the Historic Village

**Sat., Sept. 24:**
5th Annual Cemetery Walk

**Sat., Dec 3:**
Holiday Evening in the Village

Recent Brick Orders

In memory of:
Sharlene Haws
Sharlene Haws
John Kreiter Garden
Meg
Russell Roland Jr
Virginia Schaible
Ned Youatt

Given by:
RAHGS
Sherry Gavin
Grove Park
Anita Calomeni
Garden Grove Park
Garden Grove Estates
RAHGS

Recent Acquisitions

Rasmussen Pharmacist jacket
Forty-foot Aermotor Windmill
Richmond Bank Check 1887
Green mixing bowl and Salutaris Sarsaparilla bottle

Rasmussen Family
Loretta Gorr
Bill Nichols
Elsie Manchester
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.