Richmond Historic Barn Project Making Progress

Our RAHGS volunteers were all heroes on our second barn cleanout day, Saturday, March 25th. It was a miserable rainy day, but they were at the Beech Street historic barn location working together to get the job done. Volunteers helping on both barn clean out days were: Doug Logan, Norm Gibson, Mayor Tim Rix, Warren Schwark, Tom Hebel, David Waun, Richard Ren, Darryl Dettloff, Dianne Gibson, Christine Hensch, Bob Denny, Rich Weinert, City Manager Jon Moore and our new State Representative Jeff Yaroch.

We filled both a 40 yard dumpster donated by Waste Management and a 30 yard dumpster that the RAHGS Barn Fund paid for with old doors, wood, drywall and other debris.

Recently, Active Tree cleared a few trees from the future location of the barn.

The Long Term Preservation Committee met with the Amish builders from Miller Construction and Drew Davidson of Davidson Construction to discuss details of getting the construction underway. The Building Permit has been applied for from the City. Our hope it to start dismantling the barn and building the new foundation in May, weather permitting.

Thank you for all your help and support!

To donate to the Historic Richmond Barn Project: Please contact Rich Weinert: 586-484-1643, Christine Rowley: 810-392-0261 or Dr. Patrick McClellan: 586-727-3919
For more volunteer and fundraising information go to richmondhistoricalsociety.org
Ed Donley’s memorial service in Bethlehem, PA was a grand tribute to a highly respected and greatly loved man, and Tom and I were privileged to attend and to have been welcomed by the family.

Ed Donley’s life story really is the personification of the American Dream. He was born in Detroit, but during the depression the family moved back to the family cabin on Irish Road (29 Mile Road) in Lenox Township where Ed lived with his seven siblings in the one-room log cabin built in the 1850s by his great grandfather. He graduated from St. Augustine High School in 1939, worked in the CCC, and then won a scholarship to Lawrence Institute of Technology. He graduated with a mechanical engineering degree, and received an offer to work at a new company called Air Products for 70 cents an hour. He was Air Products’ 22nd employee.

The company grew quickly and manufactured 241 oxygen units by the end of WWII. Today Air Products is No 288 on the Fortune 500 and employs about 16,000 people worldwide. Through his hard work, integrity, and intellectual curiosity, Ed Donley became Vice President of Sales in 1957, President and Chief Operating Officer in 1966, Chief Executive Officer (1973-86), and Chairman of the Board (1978-86. That is the American Dream part of the story.

But most important part of the story is Ed’s generosity. He and his wife Inez were givers of their time, energy, and resources. They invested their time and financial resources supporting various literacy and early childhood programs and health care networks. For a detailed description of their accomplishments, honors, and philanthropy, a detailed obituary is available in the museum.

The Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society is fortunate to have been on the receiving end of Ed’s Donley’s generosity. His family donated their log cabin to us in 1997, and it was through a gift from the Donley Foundation that we were able to build our museum in 2009. Both of these buildings enable us to continue our mission of educating the community about our shared heritage.

The Donley log cabin stands in the Historic Village today as a reminder to us all of the immigrants who came to America in the 1800s. It is a story that we are eager to tell the cabin visitors as we realize that story is the universal story of all of us.

Christine
Logging Sled Restored

“Dashing through the snow in a one horse open sleigh…”

When we hear stories from years past about horse drawn conveyance we often dream up pictures of pink cheeked families riding in sleek sleighs. Often these visions are imagined with cheery, warm dressed riders, accompanied by jingling bells attached to sleek horses. These however miss the pictures of hard working people attached to the equivalent of modern day semi-trucks.

As a Historical society we have the task of preserving not only the lovely, sleek sleighs, but also the tough, solid work sleighs or often called “sleds.” This is something a group of our members have been diligently working on for the past few months.

A team of volunteers made up of Norman Gibson, Michael Buckert, Weldon Fealko, Sean Buckert, and Don Iveson have been diligently restoring parts of a “work sled.” This particular vehicle has evidence to have been in use sometime between the 1830’s and the 1920’s. This particular sled would have been for common usage around the Michigan farm during logging operations. Photos from our archives also show sleds like this being used in hauling grain to the Richmond elevator. From the pictures here in our newsletter and on Facebook you can see that the elements had rotted out the Runners, but much of the main body needed only cosmetic attention.

Much of the work revolved around building new sled runners. Each of these were custom cut, sized, treated, painted, and fitted with the existing hardware. As most repair projects go, the unexpected was discovered. Thus new parts had to be hand milled. The good news was that the hardware is solid and need only retreating and painting. Many of these parts were hand forged, or custom cut to be a one-of-a-kind fit.

Our team discovered that this process was not only one of repair and restoration, but also learning of skills and methods that were used in the past. In order to make it like it was “back then,” our volunteers also had to use the tools and methods from “back then” to accomplish the task.

Be watching for the roll/slide out of the work sled in the near future. A big thank you to our team of patient, diligent, and hardy volunteers.
Nearly 200 ladies gathered at Maniaci’s for RAHGS 5th Annual Historic Tea on the afternoon of March 18 to sip tea, visit with friends and family, and dine on delicious tea sandwiches and scrumptious desserts. The event was nothing short of spectacular with ladies donning beautiful as well as unique hats and lovely attire while viewing the 24 gorgeous table settings and fabulous raffle table.

Captivating the attention of everyone was the program, “Fashion Through the Decades,” a journey down memory lane showcasing how fashion was influenced by function, environment, lifestyle, and world events from the Victorian Era through the 1960’s. One lady commented, “I had intended on leaving a bit early, but just couldn’t pull myself away from the program. It was so interesting and full of bits of history I had never heard.”

Bringing the afternoon to a close was the announcement of the hat contest winners and raffle winners.

The Historic Tea Committee never dreamed this event would grow to such magnitude and attract women from across the state. It has become the main fundraiser for the society generating funds necessary to maintain and preserve the Historic Village. Many thanks to all who attended. Mark your calendars for next year, March 10 at Golden Hawk.

Most Unique Hat: Barb Platz
Most Colorful Hat: Tarah Weeks
Vintage Hat: Lucia Marshall
For many years, the idea of having a Richmond Cemetery Walk has been percolating with a few of us at RAHGS, but it was just recently that we met to seriously discuss the feasibility of hosting a walk this fall. It is with a great deal of enthusiasm that this event is finally being planned.

Our cemetery walk will bring the voices of our Richmond ancestors to life as costumed actors portray individuals from the past. Their stories will illustrate the impact the early people of Richmond have had on the local history.

We are fortunate to have Marguerite Little spearhead this event. Marguerite has volunteered with FindAGrave for many years now as she walks cemeteries, takes photographs of tombstones, and posts them to the website. Ursula Adamson’s expertise, of course, is with her research of individual people from the past. Rounding out the committee are Mary Ellen and Christine.

We are thrilled that Richmond Community Theatre has agreed to work with us on this project. Their theatrical expertise is invaluable as we continue to plan for this addition to the RAHGS calendar.

So, mark your calendars for Saturday October 14th from 1-4 pm, and look for the tickets to go on sale soon. More information will be available in forthcoming newsletters, on Facebook, and on our website.
**Donations Received**

*Thank you for your support!*

**General Fund:**
- ACWSA
- Kroger Rewards
- Joe Maranzano
- School Rental

**Barn Donations:**
- Larry Donley and Kathy Gilligan
- Elsie Manchester
- Mike and Sue Misteravich
- Sue Dudgeon

**Recent Acquisitions**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Donated by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scott Burke poster</td>
<td>Jeanne Treend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richmond Toy Factory Truck</td>
<td>Jon Beard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shoemaker tools</td>
<td>Linda Haack</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quilt, wooden produce box</td>
<td>Vern Houston</td>
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**Bricks Purchased**

| Garden Grove Park | in memory of | Dorothy Zaleski |
| RAHGS | in memory of | Marilyn C. Gravlin |
| RAHGS | in memory of | Jacqueline Stephenson |
| RAHGS | in memory of | Edward Donley |

**In Memoriam**

Jackie was the daughter of Rudolph Hansen and Irene Foss Hansen. Jackie donated her time and talent as a docent for the Macomb County Historical Society, Crocker House. She was a long-time member of RAHGS, and in the past few years she volunteered as a docent in the schoolhouse with her cousin Ellyn Youatt. For a full obituary visit the Vick Funeral Home website.

**Marilyn Gravlin**  May 21, 1929—March 17, 2017.
Marilyn was born in Romeo, the daughter of James Leslie and Mary Dorothy Priestap Straith. She was employed by Elkin Travel and during her world-wide travels she loved to learn about new cultures. It was always good to chat with Marilyn about Richmond happenings when she volunteered at our events. Her full obituary can be found on the Janowiak Funeral Home site.

**Edward Donley**  1921—2017
Ed Donley, along with his siblings, donated the Donley Log Cabin to the Historical Society. The Donley Foundation also donated funds to RAHGS for building the new museum. It was always a pleasure to have Ed visit the Historic Village and tell stories of life in the log cabin.
Spring is here and I am definitely ready to start working in the flower gardens at the Village. The problem has been that every Thursday that we have had a workday it has rained!! The weather definitely dictates when we can actually start our work in the gardens.

In your own yards, it is time to clean up the flower beds, removing debris left over from last year, seeing how plants survived through the winter.

Now is the time to prune plants, such as roses and summer flowering shrubs. Avoid pruning spring flowering shrubs and plants because you would be cutting off their flower buds. (Such as lilacs, etc.)

When the leaves appear on the shrubs, trees, and perennials, that is the time to fertilize.

We also get antsy and want to plant some color for this time of year. It's too early for tender annuals, like impatiens and begonias, etc. Pansies, primroses, cabbage, and kale are ready to plant in April and can be planted directly into the ground if the soil isn't too wet, or can be planted in containers. We have planted the 2 big pots with pansies at the Village and they look great. Drive by and see what is blooming!

Mid May is usually a safe time for planting in Michigan. The soil temperature has to be above 50 degrees and the nights have to be frost free. This is the time to plant any summer flowering bulbs and tubers, such as dahlias, cannas, etc.

Spring is the perfect time to divide perennials. It is easier to do this before the plants get to large.

For those of you who purchased our Village seeds that were for sale, I hope they are growing good for you! If you weren’t successful in your seeding venture, I might have a few extra plants for you from what I have started.

I love talking about plants, if anyone has any problems or questions please give me a call, 586-321-8519!

Marsha
586-321-8519

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**Picnic Table for Sale!**

Proceeds earmarked for the Richmond Historic Barn Project

A brand new, never used pine picnic table has been donated to RAHGS. Unfortunately, we have no need for it at the Historic Village, but fortunately we have been given permission to sell it to the highest bidder.

The versatile table was invented by John Clark and was handmade in Michigan. This is a three in one table. It can be set up as two half tables with seats, two benches, or as a regular picnic table. Check out the YouTube video for “Pick a Bench.” [https://youtu.be/EaOvK6IFyvE](https://youtu.be/EaOvK6IFyvE)

If you are interested in purchasing the table, please respond on or before May 15, 2017 to Christine at 586.727.7773. We have a reserve on the table’s cost.

What a great way to kick off the picnic season and to donate to the Barn Project at the same time!
Our mission statement:

- To share with others the legacy left 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 building 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 Cain 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.