The Richmond Area Historic and Genealogical Society proudly presents the 4th Annual Historic Cemetery Walk

Bring the family and join us for a guided tour and experience the personal stories of memorable Richmond families as local, costumed actors bring ancestors to life.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021
1:00-3:00
Walking tour is scheduled and begins every half hour. Cart transportation available for those requiring assistance. Time slots fill quickly. Reserve yours today.

Tickets: $15.00, children 5 and under free. For more information, to purchase your tickets and reserve your spot, contact:
Mary Ellen at 586-808-2953 or mlogan5477@sbcglobal.net

Inclement weather date: Sunday, Sept. 26 - Posting will be on Facebook: Richmond Area Historical & Genealogical Society
Website: www.richmondhistoricalsociety.org
Funds raised from this event support the restoration efforts of the Society.
How to Boil Eggs FYI
By Christine Rowley

I have boiled quite a few eggs, and in fact, I thought I knew quite a bit about boiling eggs—until I read about the “poke a hole in the end” method. I was skeptical at first, but I am a convert now, and would like to share my research with you—just in time for making deviled eggs for those summer get togethers.

Put a pot of water on to boil. With a tack (I used one of those with the little plastic top on them) or a needle, poke a hole in the ROUND end of the egg. It must be the ROUND end. The first hole you poke may seem a bit difficult to manage, but put a little pressure on it and I guarantee you that it will work without breaking the egg. Drop the eggs into the boiling water, and boil gently for nine minutes. Remove from the stove, and run cold water on them, shaking the pan to crack the shells. Let sit for a few minutes in the water, and then peel them. The peels will slide off easily!

But the big improvement of this method over those I used in the past is that the eggs will be, well, egg shaped! Perhaps you have noticed that boiled eggs will sometimes have a flat, ugly bottom? Poking a hole in them before dropping them in the boiling water eliminates that ugliness. And no one wants ugly eggs. Try it and let this former “egg lady” know how it worked for you.

Memorials & Donations

Heritage Festival
Shepherd Auto Sales
Family Farm and Home
RI Antique Engine

Nina Jackman Memorial
Ma Co Heritage Alliance

In honor of Christine Rowley’s RAHGS presidency
Robb, John and Martha

General Fund:
Williams, Debra
Cynowa, Linda
Burman, Loraine
Kohlhagen, Robert
Amazon Smile
ACWSA of Michigan

Welcome New Members!

Michael Muskett, Richmond

Francis and Pat Manchik, Lenox

Dennis and Sherry Pollogram, Armada

The Goetzinger Family: Audrey, Jim, Lucy, Marty, J.D.

Mary Nd Roger Hoke, Richmond. No picture available
Restored Bench Reveals a Surprise

RAHGS has recently restored an old City of Richmond bench that one of our members had purchased through our “Bench Project,” and during the restoration we learned about the rare and beautiful characteristics of Peltogyne wood, commonly known as Purple Heart wood.

The bench was disassembled and the boards were taken to one of our favorite woodworkers for sanding. It is he that identified the wood and told us of the special characteristics. After the boards were sanded, Tom applied a clear stain. “It took three coats and ten days to dry—much longer than the other benches I worked on,” Tom remarked. “It was something that I had never seen before—the longer drying time.”

The aptly named Purple Heart cannot be mistaken for any other timber, because the whole surface is a bright, clear, purple color. This is due to a remarkable natural pigment. When the heartwood is first exposed, the air causes it to turn a bright purple. But the color is only about a twentieth of an inch deep, and further cutting exposes pale surfaces, which become purple in their turn.

Growing in Central American rainforests, purpleheart is remarkably heavy, strong, and tough. In America, small quantities of Purple Heart are used for fine turning and for cabinet-work, but the main demand is for veneers and inlays.

But the question we have is this: why would Purple Heart be used to make the benches that the City bought many years ago?? Stop by and see the beautiful addition to the Village for yourself. We have placed it proudly in front of the museum.

COVID restrictions have been lifted, and after two years without a Historic Tea, we are happy to let all of our guests know that we have begun to plan for the 2022 event. The program will be “The Little Black Dress,” and tickets will go on sale in early November. More information will be available in the fall, but be sure to save that date now!
Recently I came across the valedictory address that my mom, Grace (Plagens) Leach, gave at her RHS commencement, June 10, 1943. As I read, I noticed that she spoke of issues that are relevant today: differences between generations; feelings of deprivation from a shortage of resources or restriction of activities; renewed awareness and interest in actions of our government; and in the end, hope for a better future. As those, like my parents, who were part of “the Greatest Generation” pass on, I’m glad to acknowledge their contributions, and find recognition of our common humanity in their words. In that spirit, I’d like to share these words with you. Deborah (Leach) Doyle

“Young, but Not Innocent”

Commencement Oration June 10, 1943 by Grace Plagens (abridged)

Have you noticed what the best dressed young man is wearing? Cuffs on pants have become a taboo and double-breasted suit are rapidly disappearing. The “war-time” trend in girl’s clothing is even more striking. We find girls wearing slacks for school, work, or a picnic. In fact, they wear them almost anywhere. This change in the way we dress is only one of the many obvious changes that the war has made in the lives of the youths of America.

There have been changes that aren’t as noticeable also. There is a definite seriousness brought into being by the responsibility the war has forced on us. We feel it is our duty to help win the war and build a lasting peace.

Our way of spending our leisure time has been changed and some of us don’t like it. We don’t like the idea of not being able to go where, when, or as far as we want to. We gripe because we are rationed on gasoline, tires, and food. Just imagine how much better we would feel if, instead, we would consider ourselves lucky to have the privilege of griping, to be able to think and speak as we please.

Five years ago, you and I didn’t bother about what our government was doing. We left such things to our elders. The bills that Congress passed—Who our representatives in Congress were—Where the president was—We had little concern for such things. This wasn’t our job. Not long-ago Congress passed a bill, a bill for drafting fellows eighteen and nineteen years old into the armed services. You can bet our youth was concerned with government then. A law was passed for rationing sugar. Instead of that batch of fudge, we may pop some popcorn. There will be other laws rationing other things, but we’ll know about those laws because the youth of today is becoming more government-conscious. It does concern us.

Our elders criticize us, some wonder what the younger generation is coming to. They say we think of our rights first and our duties afterward. Our parents are bewildered by some of the slang we use. When they hear us say something like, “Glad to meet cha’, Press the flesh”, they’re sure we’re going to our ruination. If they recall, when they were young, they probably used similar expressions which, likewise, shocked their elders. Some of the things we say may sound vulgar to older people, if they do, we have accomplished our purpose. We like to shock our elders. Parents probably don’t realize that while they worry and fret over us, we’re thinking that we’re only young once and want to make the most of it.

MacArthur is a typical leader of today. Hitler is another leader. We don’t like his method of leading, but nevertheless he is a leader. These are leaders in a world at war. Wars have come every generation proving that we have to create a democracy, it cannot be inherited. Today we fight to rid the world of the axis nations. Tomorrow we will have to help the people of those countries survive.

The youth under the Nazis are not taught to lead but to follow. They believe that all people should be dominated by the Germans, all Germans by the toughest gang of Germans, and the toughest gang should be dominated by the biggest toughie of them all.

While we work to break down prejudice among our youth, the Nazis try to build up such prejudice. They classify all people in two groups, the Germanic and the Non-Germanic. Those who are not German are educated to be slave workers, not to think for themselves, but to follow orders. Those of German blood are educated not to be a slave to a certain people but to their country. They pledge their very lives to the state.

We don’t pledge our lives to our country, but in times of war some of our youths have to give up most of their normal daily life to make it possible for the rest of us to keep our privileges and freedoms. The men in the services sacrifice their
home life. Instead of having a nice comfortable home heated at sixty-five degrees, some of them are on the battlefields of war-
torn countries. Even those left in the United State have to give up the freedom of going and coming as they please. We’ll try
to compensate for this sacrifice by giving up some of our comforts and good times and by making our leisure and work go as
far as possible to help on the home front.

The youth of today is living in a changing world. We hope it will soon be changed into the kind of world we want
to live in. In the meantime, we will try to keep a bright outlook on life by using our criticisms constructively and taking our
opportunities for advancement when they come. We may or may not plan for the future, but first we’re going to win this war
or at least do everything in our power to prevent the enemies from winning.

Made in Michigan: The one-room
schoolhouse, beginning years

By Tili

On a recent visit to our historic school house, I wondered about the school structures that made up America’s early
years of education. I’ve been lucky to have had the opportunity to visit a couple of one room schools while travelling. And,
like many of us, have viewed them from the car window while driving through the rural towns and farm lands of Michigan.

The School Section School at RAHGS Historical Park is rather typical of a “modern” day 1800s schoolhouse. It is a
rectangular building approximately 24’ x 38’. It is painted white with green trim and shutters and has a bell tower. So, what
about the little red schoolhouse you read about in the pages of history? If you are a romantic like me, you might think of a
1800’s schoolhouse as a pretty little red building nestled in a field of beautiful wildflowers with children skipping around
playing. While there were a few schools on the great frontier that were actually red in color, most were not. Resources like
paint were not easy to come by and were costly. Sometimes, in the beginning years of building a school, as community
members were seeking resources available for their school, paint was not even a consideration. Neither was a bell tower

America’s early country school houses reflected the resources available to the community. In an area just being
settled, supplies were particularly scarce. In the 1800s, homesteaders throughout America usually struggled to get a school
building erected. A community school would be built with whatever could be gathered. If parents could not get enough logs
and shingles for the roof, for example, they used poles, soil and brush. If they could not purchase a door, they constructed one
using deer hide and poles. Often, school members’ families were required to provide a contribution of resources like hewn
logs, sod blocks, or cut stone to the schoolhouse site.

If the schoolhouse was to be painted, chances are it was going to be white. Some schools could be found with small
amounts of color like green, brown, red or blue on the trim boards, like the be found with small amounts of color like green,
brown, red or blue on the trim boards, like the all. In fact, sometimes schools were so crudely built that a passerby might think
the building was actually an outbuilding for farm equipment or animals!

Most one-room schoolhouses were rectangular but some were square- or octagon- shaped. Interestingly, the
building size was very important, more so than the shape. One-room schools tended to be roughly about the same size. The
determination as to the length and width was based on the carrying distance of the human voice. Teachers needed to be
heard and so did the students. Common sizes of schools were around 24’ x 36’, 20’ x 30’, and 18’ x 32’. A building this size
provided the best acoustics. It could also accommodate as many as 40 students.

Typically, a rectangular or square schoolhouse had three or four widely spaced windows along each side. The first
schools had deer hide or wooden shutters to cover the windows. Most early schools tended to be dark, crowded and cold.
In an 1859 architectural plan book for schools, the author commented on rural schoolhouses. He states: “They are the most
unsightly buildings. Their style is nondescript, being too small for a barn and too deficient...for a dwelling, too lonely and too
much neglected for the outbuilding of a farm, and in short, too repulsive in all respects…”

As more people immigrated to America’s frontier, schools became sources of pride in the community. Eventually,
newer more modern buildings were constructed as materials became available. A community with a school was a community
with a future. Parents valued education. The communal efforts of our ancestors to provide the best they could for their children,
still stands in some places to this day.

The Long Term Preservation Committee is planning the transformation of the old 2-car garage in our village into a historic looking filling station. The Committee plans to use the inspiration of several of the former gas stations that existed around town. We welcome your support for this endeavor as the concept unfolds into reality.

RAHGS Board Meetings
Following are the dates for the RAHGS Board Meetings for the remainder of 2021:

Monday, August 2
Monday, October 4
Monday, November 1
Monday, December 6

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in the schoolhouse, and are open to the membership.
Recent Additions to the Village

RAHGS has acquired two fiberglass horses that will help us show how harness was used to hitch horses to vehicles such as our democrat wagon, greatly enhancing our exhibits in the barn. We have also ordered a fiberglass milking cow that will be arriving later this summer. During the 2019 Heritage Day Festival a plywood milking cow that we borrowed was a big hit with the children that came through.

We will be running fund raisers to help pay for them. If you want to help support this effort, please make a donation towards this project.

New Addition to the Donley Clan

A reproduction of a dining table believed to be a wedding gift to Thomas Donley and Catherine Sullivan Donley in 1886 has been installed in the cabin. It was made by Thomas and Catherine’s great-great-grandson Andrew Donley Robb. This reproduction was copied from the original that is still in the possession of the Donley family. The original table was saved when the Donley’s farmhouse on 29 Mile burned. The family moved into the cabin until their farmhouse could be rebuilt. The table was also used by the children when they did their school work. Andrew is shown in the photo.

New Museum Exhibit

A new museum exhibit has been installed. A variety of artifacts from our collection have been put on display. Many of these items are rather unique. Another interesting part of the exhibit features reproduction Native American items that were produced by member Al Collins. With this exhibit we are acknowledging who the residents of this area were to begin with.

We hope that you will be able to stop by and check out this new exhibit. We are open Thursday mornings from 9:00-12:00.

Railroad Pump Car Restoration

All of the wood parts for the pump car have been cut and fitted together then taken apart to be painted. The framework is being painted yellow and the deck boards are being painted black. Currently the metal parts are being sandblasted in preparation of being painted. This whole process is taking longer than we thought.
Dick Dittman’s Gas Station

Richard “Dick” Dittman’s first gas station was one he leased in 1928 and was located at his present location on the corner of M-19 and Gratiot. He operated there for about four years and later started a station at the location of the present Schwark’s across the street where he continued for 10 years. In 1942 he bought his first location first and present location from the Bauman estate and has sold gasoline there ever since.

Taken from The Review, 14 June 1951
Thank you to Beth Dittman Diegues and Mark Dittman for their contributions to this article.
Today is June 21st. I can’t believe how fast the summer is going.

At the Village we are still working in the beds trying to get them ready for Heritage Days!

Special thanks to all of the “GARDENEERS”! I have a new helper this year, my husband Steve Phillips! He retired and is helping me in the Village when needed! :)

I want to talk about pruning evergreens. Yews, boxwoods, arborvitae, etc. Once the flush of new growth has hardened off or stopped is when they should be pruned.

For us at the Village that is usually mid to late June.

Also, REMEMBER, when you plant in pots, whether it be flowers, plants, or veggies, the pots should ALWAYS have drainage holes in them and you should use potting mix or soil in them. Topsoil or garden soil is too heavy to put in the pots. The plants will not grow good at all.

Happy Gardening!

Marsha

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**In Memoriam**

**Marjorie Elsie Pentzien**, 99, of Richmond, passed away Sunday, April 4, 2021 at Shore Point Heath and Rehabilitation Center. Marjorie was born September 6, 1921 to the late Joseph and Grace Pentzien. Loving wife of the late Charles Pentzien; caring mother of Dennis (Jackie) Pentzien, Don (Cheri) Pentzien and Deborah (Pat) Cooper; special grandmother of Jeff (Kim) Pentzien, Michael and Matthew (Karen) Schulman; great grandmother of Cassie (Scott), Tyler, Jake and Sara. Preceded in death by her son, Doug Pentzien. Marjorie had been Miss Richmond back in the 1930’s. To Marjorie her most important job was being a wife and mother. She enjoyed housekeeping, cooking and baking and bird watching.

**Michael Anthony “Mike” Donley** of Oxford, Michigan died on March 30, 2021 at his winter home in Florida. Mike was born in 1937 and raised on the Donley farm on 29 Mile Road in Lenox Township. When a fire destroyed the farmhouse in 1940, Mike, six siblings and his parents lived for two years in the nearby one-room log cabin built in the 1850s by Mike’s great-grandfather John Donley, an Irish immigrant.

In 1951, the Donleys moved to New Baltimore, where Mike graduated from St. Mary’s High School. After earning a certificate in industrial machinery repair at New York University, Mike was hired by J.L. Hudson department store in Detroit as a technician, then moved into sales, where he became Hudson’s top salesperson and manager over several decades.

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**Recent Acquisitions**

- **Elsie Manchester:** Russian nesting doll
- **Tom Hebel:** WWII ration books, 1959 District champion photo, 1946 Southern Division Champions photo
- **Al Collins:** American Legion awards poster, Photo of Main Street
- **Mike Muskett:** Cement “SC” from old RI High School
- **Barb Busch Holzworth:** Milk bottle, 1944 RHS Echo
- **Karen Donley:** Small replica FarmAll tractor
- **Mike Battani:** Corn grinder
A Successful Heritage Festival Signals
RAHGS is Back in Business

It’s nice to be back! On behalf of the planning committee, thanks to all who helped every step of the way. The success of any endeavor depends entirely on the contributions of the people involved. Based on the overall community participation, happiness of the kids, and the enthusiasm of the exhibitors, this year’s Heritage Festival was very successful and every effort is appreciated.
UPCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

Into the Village
July 24, 2021
10:00-12:00

Enjoy a beautiful stroll through the Historic Village viewing the lovely gardens, walking our honorary and memorial brick walkways, and taking a moment for a cool beverage and sweet treat.

Tours of the historic buildings will be available.

Good Old Days
WE ARE BACK!

Visit us during Good Old Days and experience some historic days of old.

* Antique buggies
* Antique sleighs
* Hands-on activities
* Our famous Mum sale
* Buildings open with docents
* New Museum Display

Saturday, Sept. 11
Sunday, Sept. 12

An Ancestral Journey
Doug Rasmussen

Doug and his parents are all graduates of Richmond High School and he is a grandson of John Guy Fletcher. Doug went on to attend the University of Michigan and practice law before starting his journey into family history and writing his book.

Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021
7:00 pm

Richmond Community Center
36164 Festival Drive
Richmond, MI

Signed author copies will be available with proceeds donated to RAHGS.
Free and open to the public.

Historic Cemeteries Walk
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021
1:00-3:00

Bring the family and join us for a guided tour and experience the personal stories of memorable Richmond families as local, costumed actors bring ancestors to life.

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Time slots fill quickly. Reserve yours today.

Tickets: $15.00, children 5 and under free. For more information, to purchase your tickets and reserve your spot, contact:

Mary Ellen at 586-808-2953 or mlogan5477@sbcglobal.net

Inclement weather: Sunday, Sept. 26
Location: City of Richmond Cemetery

Cart transportation available for those requiring assistance.

Facebook: Richmond Area Historical & Genealogical Society
Website: www.richmondhistoricalsociety.org
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.