



The Historian

Good Old Days *at* The Historic Village



Please join us at our annual

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE SOCIAL

Serving delicious shortcake daily Noon until Dusk

THE "STUFF" SALE VINTAGE AND MORE

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ONLY 9:00-4:00

THE MUM SALE

Gorgeous Fall Colors and only \$7.00 each or
3 for \$20.00

Win a trip to MACKINAC ISLAND

All expense paid trip and a \$150.00 pre-paid Visa Card!

TICKETS AVAILABLE UNTIL THE DRAWING AT 3:30 ON SUNDAY

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

DAILY DEMONSTRATIONS: Woodcarving, Lace Making,

Candle Making, Rope Making, Woodcarving, Corn Husking

All historic building will be open with docents

It's all fun at the Village!

Vol. 23 No. 5

September/October 2016



SOCIETY BOARD

President: Christine Rowley

586.727.7773 crowley50@comcast.net

Vice President: Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan
mlogan5477@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Richard Weinert
richweinert@comcast.net

Treasurer: Dianne Gibson
nhdlgibson@comcast.net

Director: Norman Gibson
nhdlgibson@comcast.net

Director: Jon Beard
Jon@mcmba.net

Director: David Waun
dwaun54@comcast.net

FOUNDATION BOARD:

President: Patrick McClellan
586.727.3919

Secretary/Treasurer: Kasey Wylin
586.625.2798, kcwylin@gmail.com

Director: Dale Quick
586.727.4893

Director: Tom Hebel
810.392.0262

Director: Ken Simmons
586.727.1131

MEMBERSHIP:

Life member: \$150.00

Annual: \$20.00

Newsletter subscription: \$7.00



President's Corner



By law revision: Revising the by-laws and the constitution of the Society has been on the “to do” list for a few years now, but I am happy to report that soon we will be able to mark that job “completed.” RAHGS has evolved over the past 26 years and the current Board of Directors felt that our governing documents should reflect the changes that have taken place.

We met in June and went over the documents section by section and sentence by sentence and we discussed the relevance of every word. We made revisions. Then we looked at it all a second time and made more changes. We now have an updated document.

The next step is to present the changes to the general membership for input. This is the plan: at the beginning of November we will email the changes to our members who use email. For those of you who do not use email, we will send a copy of the changes through the U.S. Mail if you wish us to do so. Or, if you are able to stop by on a Thursday morning in November we will give you a copy then.

During November you will have an opportunity to give us feedback and then we will be ready to vote when we meet on January 20th at the Annual Meeting. If you have any questions at this time, please contact one of the Board members.

Good Old Days: Just in case you are still basking in the good old summertime, I want to gently remind you that Good Old Days Festival weekend is almost here. It truly is the busiest weekend on the RAHGS calendar, and it is a great time for you to show your pride in RAHGS membership by stopping in to visit with everyone.

You really don't have to work—we would appreciate just seeing you hang around the Historic Village—but if you could donate one or two hours of your time, we would appreciate it. Susan Foster is heading up the “Stuff Sale;” Mary Shepherd-Logan is taking charge of the Shortcake Sale; Marsha Phillips is organizing the Mum Sale and the demonstrations; and I am calling docents. Set up is Thursday Sept. 8th at 9am. Tear down is Sunday Sept 11th at 5pm. We could use many hands for these jobs. Either call us or just show up. Parking will be available across the street for RAHGS volunteers. Now that really is a perk and a convenience!

Kroger Rewards: For your information, our 11 households that are registered with the Kroger Rewards Program generated \$137.17 for RAHGS during the past three months. Thank you!

Christine





Grand Hotel/Quilt Raffle Time to Purchase Tickets is Running Out!

The drawing for the raffle is Sunday September 11 at 3:30 at the Historic Village. You do not have to be present to win, but you DO have to purchase a ticket if you want to win! We have them for sale at the weekly work bees on Thursday mornings, or you can purchase one at the Village during G.O.D. weekend.

First prize is a two night stay at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island which includes a prepaid VISA gift card to help defray any additional expenses you may have. Second prize is a homemade rail fence quilt, made with reproduction Civil War fabric.

For more information contact raffle Chairwoman Marsha Phillips at 586.716.4130

GARAGE SPRUCE UP PROJECT

By Rich Weinert

The RAHGS Long Term Preservation Committee and the RAHGS Board put together a plan to spruce up the garage building that is still standing on the new property on the south side of Park Street. We shared the plan with the City Office and now have approval to proceed.



We have contracted John Czarnecki to re-roof the garage and replace the fascia boards. Our volunteers will be painting the fascia and soffits white. Also we will paint around the garage doors and clean up anything else that we can to make the building more presentable. Our hope is to try and get the work done before Good Old Days. For now we are using the garage to store stuff for the "Stuff Sale" and other items.

The future plans for the garage are still in being developed. The idea of converting it into a replica of a 50's era filling station has been very popular.

In a town with a history of gas stations with names like "Whitey's," "Stan's," "Foster's," "Woody's," and "Ken's," how could we not pay tribute to that time? Imagine the filling station as a gathering place for classic car shows and other memorabilia.

We will be continuing to work with the City to plan for how the property will be used.

Grandfather's Attic

By Jon Beard

If you were to pass a family heirloom on to the next generation, what would that look like? We often receive items when someone cleans out parent's and grandparent's residences. Those usually make up a few dated items and unidentified photos. Often they do not give a connection to the Richmond resident or anything pertinent to their life and its contribution to the community. Those are appreciated but are not able to assist us in passing a legacy to the community of the history of the people who have made Richmond this great place to live.



Recently one of our Richmond families sent a box of "Grandpa's things" to RAHGS. What a treasure it turned out to be. The value was not the worth of the items, but in the connection of the history of the person and what he was able to pass onto Richmond as a legacy.

George Mecke resided in Richmond from 1935 until his death in 1950. Census records show a family man married to his devoted "Miss Lucy." Two children were raised in Richmond – daughter, Helen (Chartrand), and son, Loren. George and his wife lay at rest in Richmond Cemetery.

What the contents of the box show by there contents is that he served his country in World War 1 as a "Doughboy" with the 89th "Middle West" Division. This Division was made up of farm boys from the states of Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, and New Mexico. After training at Fort Riley, Kansas they were sent to France in June of 1918. George was a Medical Corpsman. He saw a lot of action due to almost a third of his Division becoming casualties of war. Mr. Mecke served in France as the Allies pushed the German Army through northeast France. Following the Armistice of November 11, 1918 the occupation of Germany took Private Mecke to the land of his ancestors. The new year 1919 saw Private George Mecke returning to the USA where he was reunited with his extensive family in Nebraska. Eventually he followed siblings to Detroit where he married Lucy Fulton in 1925.

The legacy in a box that George Mecke is more than a Doughboy's helmet, trench brogans, and an army tunic that has feed generations of moths. The personal effects of a Soldier in the Great War ties a history of a man who left home, family, and security – served his country and returned to sink his roots in the soil of Richmond, Michigan. We at RAHGS have received a reminder that we can pass to future generations of a true hero of World War 1. Great is the man who serves, returns, and gives the best years of his life to his family and community.

What historical things do you have in Grandpa's Attic?

(Special appreciation to the Chartrand family for sharing the effects of George Mecke. A special thanks to Colleen Kelley and the staff at the Lois Wagner Library for research assistance.)



Bricks Purchased

By Chris Hensch

Debbi Williams in honor of Robert C. Hartway

Garden Grove Park I in memory of Richard Zimmer

Loose Thread Guild in memory of Jan Collins

RAHGS in memory of Jan Collins

A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN WALK IN JULY

By Mary Shepherd-Logan

It was a beautiful day in the garden for those who visited the Historic Village on Saturday, July 23. Chris Hensch and Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan served ice cold lemonade and homemade cookies while Marsha Phillips proudly talked about the lovely gardens and walked visitors through the village. The buildings were open and proudly presented by Rich Weinert, David Waun, Norm and Dianne Gibson, Jon Beard, and Kasey Wylm.

Special guests were members of the DAR chapter who visited after their picnic lunch at the Community Center. Many showed great interest in our Village and one woman was very pleased when Norm pulled information about her ancestors from our genealogy records.

This was the second year for a garden walk and plans are in place to do it again next year in July.



In Memoriam:

RAHGS is saddened by the passing of long time member Jan Collins. Jan was instrumental in planning and planting the initial gardens at the Historic Village, where she continued to weed and water for many years. It was Jan who began the Strawberry Shortcake Social which remains one of our best fundraisers. Jan will be greatly missed by her many friends—especially those who knitted and quilted and crafted and gardened with her. Her obituary can be found on the Rewalt- Pesek Funeral Home website.

DEMOLITION OF THE THREE HOUSES ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE VILLAGE.

By Norm Gibson

House on the corner of Park and Stone Streets. Cinder block construction that had been sided with aluminum. This was the first one of the three structures to be built. Not shown in these photos is the separate garage that was also demolished.



The first house to be demolished was the duplex on the corner of Park and Beebe Streets. The demolition started early in the morning before we knew that they were at work. This is the only one of the three structures to have water in the basement. All the concrete from each of the houses was removed before the basements were backfilled.



This house was moved to this site from Park and Parker Streets. It was covered with asbestos siding which had to be removed before the house could be taken down. This last house was taken down before we could get there and take some photos of the process.



Continued on page 7

Before and After Demolition



The **VILLAGE** **GARDENER** *Marsha Phillips*

It has been super hot this past couple of months and very challenging keeping the flower beds watered!! The rain we had last week has helped, but there are areas in the beds that still get missed by the rain. Especially the 2 pots in front of the school and the museum. Sometimes the plants work like an umbrella and not much rain gets into the pot! We have had to water extra this year!

Staking of the plants has been very challenging too. If you look close the cosmos in front of the carriage house (shed), are all tied and secured to support them. Staking is very important for plants to look their best. The dahlias in front of the log cabin also have been staked and restaked! I can understand why people only grow plants that are low maintenance! We invested in some rebar stakes that are excellent. We need to purchase more.

We will be fertilizing once more at the end of August and that will be it. The Japanese beetles were bad this year. If you noticed the dahlia flowers are totally eaten by them. I did spray a couple of times but I don't like to use poison. The grass beds were fertilized and treated for the first time this year and I will say, we had far less Japanese beetles this year than last year. It did help.

If you haven't noticed, the mums are already out in the stores!!! It is that time of year. Outside the evenings sound like fall too. I can't believe how fast this gardening season is going. A reminder here that we will be selling MUMS for a fund-raiser during the Good Old Days!

It is time to think of what bulbs you will be planting for your garden right now. I am thinking about what to do at the Village gardens. If you have any suggestions I would love to hear from you!

Marsha





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 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.

Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society

36045 Park Street

P.O. Box 68

Richmond, Michigan 48062

Website: www.richmondhistoricalsociety.org

Email: richmondareahistoricalsgociety@gmail.com

Facebook.com