



The Historian

Vol. 26 No. 5

September/October 2019

The Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society

presents

Third Annual

LIVING HISTORY CEMETERY WALK

SATURDAY,

1:00-3:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 12, 2019

Put on your walking shoes and bring your family to enjoy this fascinating, outdoor theatrical program where local persons will be honored as costumed docents share the stories of our ancestors.

Walking Tour Begins: Every half hour

Where: City of Richmond Cemetery
Richmond, MI

Cart transportation available for those requiring assistance.

Advance ticket purchase suggested

\$15.00 (age 5 and under free)
(time slots fill quickly)

To Purchase Tickets: Visit us any Thursday
at The Historic Village 9:00-12:00

36045 Park St. Richmond, MI

OR

contact Dianne Gibson 586-727-7755

**For more information contact:
Mary Ellen at 586-808-2953**

The event is designed to be educational, and the Society takes every precaution to be respectful of the final resting places of Richmond residents.



SOCIETY BOARD

President:
Christine Rowley

Vice President:
Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan

Secretary:
Richard Weinert

Treasurer:
Dianne Gibson

Director:
Norman Gibson

Director:
Jon Beard

Director:
David Waun

FOUNDATION BOARD:

President:
Ken Simmons

Secretary/Treasurer:
Kasey Wylin

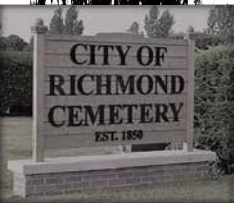
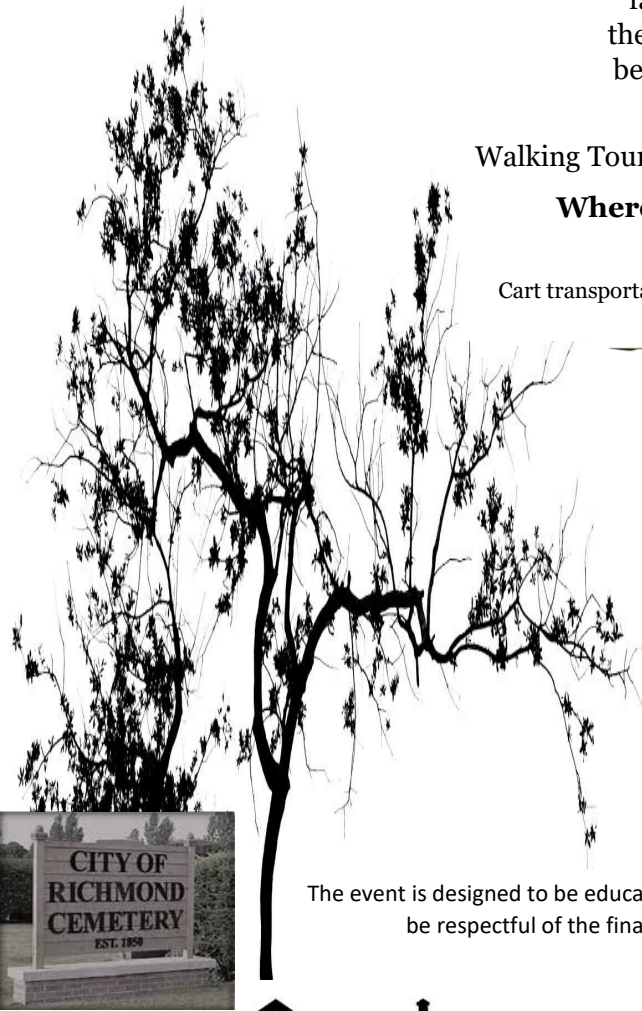
Director:
Dale Quick

Director:
Tom Hebel

Director:
Patrick McClellan

MEMBERSHIP:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Life member: | \$150.00 |
| Annual: | \$20.00 |
| Newsletter subscription: | \$10.00 |



Presented by



Sponsored by



President's Corner

When you read this newsletter, September will be here and Good Old Days (and summer!) will be behind us. We are now turning our RAHGS attention to the October 12th Cemetery Walk. Information about the event is on the front page, but if you haven't been to one of these events, I urge you to do so this year. Even though the event is in October (the Halloween month), it is NOT about ghosts and goblins and creepy things. Instead, the Walk IS about getting Richmond's history out to the community by telling the stories of our those who lived and worked in the area.

Richmond ancestors that you can expect to see portrayed this year are: Lola B. (Smith) Weeks, Fred and Wilhelmina Schwark, Maude Cooley, Jesse Burroughs, and William Gierk.

The event has limited ADA access, but we will have a golf cart or two available for those who need to have a ride to the grave sites. This is the 3rd year of the RAHGS Cemetery Walk with Mary Shepherd-Logan as the chair. She and Sandy Luenser from the Community Theatre are working together, and with their careful planning, it is bound to be successful and fun. Thank you, Trent Peshek of Rewalt Peshek Funeral Home in Richmond for sponsoring this important event.

The November RAHGS event will be a program by Judge Denis LeDuc who will be back with a story or two to tell using photographs from the past. Many of you may recognize Judge LeDuc from his article on the back page of Macomb Now magazine; or perhaps you were entertained by him at our last Annual Dinner Meeting where he gave us his insights into a few vintage photographs. This promises to be a well-documented and entertaining program. Mark the date on your calendar and you might even ask a friend to attend with you.



Lola B. (Smith) Weeks

*Great Good Old Days and a Fine Fall to all of our
RAHGS members and friends.*

Christine



The VILLAGE GARDENER

Marsha Phillips

This has been a stressful gardening summer for me. I feel I am getting too old to keep up this pace in the great outdoors.

I feel personally that we are going to have an early fall. My hummingbirds are going crazy in my yard stocking up on nectar for their journey south and also the orioles are back early, nectaring up for their journey. I don't know for sure whether we will have an early fall or not but it sure seems like it to me.

A very big THANK YOU to Chris Hensch and Penny Yelencich for faithfully watering and keeping the flower beds looking great! I was gone quite a bit and they kept the Village beds alive!!

I am raising monarchs from eggs this year and have released 47 monarchs as of today. Two of the monarchs I released were from the Village Milkweed and I rescued them as eggs and raised them with mine!!

We will be selling MUMS again this year during the Good Old Days in front of the Train Depot! Don't forget to come by and purchase some. It is not a huge fund raiser but it helps!! Mums will cost: \$7.00 each or 3 for \$20.00

I am thinking about the Scarecrow contest that Richmond Chamber of Commerce sponsors. RAHGS always has fun with the entry, so if you have any suggestions or want to help, let me know soon!

Marsha



“Storytelling with Photographs”



Back by popular demand, Judge Denis LeDuc will present his program, “Storytelling with Photographs” on Friday, November 8, 2019, @ 7:00 pm at the Richmond Community Center. Every picture tells a story and Denis will share his knowledge of what pictures can tell us and how we can find the story in each one.

Wouldn't you just love to hear the story behind this old photograph?

Richmond Buried Treasure

By Jon Beard

You never know what you will discover by simply digging in your backyard. Joe and Gloria Zimny proved that assertion when they discovered a Civil War era artifact in their back yard.

Previously they had unearthed a garbage pit that yielded medicine bottles from the mid 1800's, and RAHGS is grateful to the family for donating these artifacts which are currently on display in the museum.

The most intriguing and informative item unearthed by the Zimnys is a Federal Cartridge Box Plate. This plate would only have been



on leather ammunition boxes carried by Union soldiers during the Civil War. What has come to light from this discovered treasure is that a farmer, William D. Walton and his wife Lucretia Ogden Walton, lived in the Zimny house on Parker Street in the 1860s until their deaths in the early 1880s.

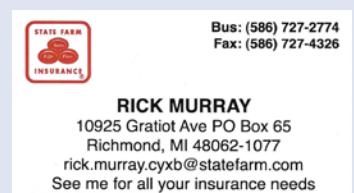
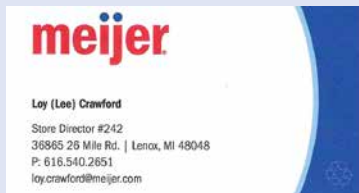
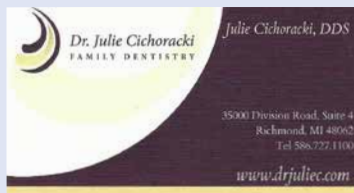
Information found in census and military records show that Rhode Island native Mr. Walton had been living in Richmond since the 1850s. On July 1, 1863, he was drafted into the Federal Army and was attached to the 16th Michigan Infantry, Company G, entering as a Private. He served through July 8, 1865. Although there have been no diaries or records discovered from the hand of William or Lucretia Walton, we do know that the 16th Michigan was a part of the Army of the Potomac.

Walton's unit's most famous engagement at Gettysburg, PA was previous to Mr. Walton's draft into the unit. Due to heavy losses by the Federal Army, President Lincoln's administration enacted major conscription into the Army. This new effort worked to fill the gaps that were formed by the loss of life in subsequent Battles in Virginia and the western front along the Mississippi, Cumberland, and later in Sherman's push through Georgia and the Carolinas. William Walton was one of many thousands who left farm and industry to strap on a cartridge box and carry a rifle.

This long-forgotten Richmond native was a part of a great body that fought for the Union in Battles across Virginia. It is a great probability that he saw action at the Battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Courthouse, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and the final action to encircle Robert E. Lee's army and force the surrender of a portion of the Confederate Army's on April 9, 1865. Little is known of Mr. Walton's participation in the surrender; however, further records show his discharge as a Private, his returning to Lucretia at their residence in Richmond, and the birth of four boys and four girls. He was a local farmer who died in 1880 at 48 years old. His children continued to reside in the home for many years.

All of this discovery was triggered by the unearthing of a small (2 inches by 3 inches) piece of metal with the letters "U.S." stamped on its front. RAHGS is proud to have this artifact in the collection. Remember this: we live and walk where others have trod before us, and their stories are engaging and inspiring. Go dig in your back yard!

Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society acknowledges the following local businesses who generously sponsored recent events.



Thank you!

In Memoriam

Robert Wendt:
November 17, 1937—June 7, 2019

Richard Allington:
May 15, 1935—July 14, 2019

Betty Green:
November 25, 1930—August 8, 2019



Recent Brick Orders

Garden Grove Estates:
in memory of Nancy Collins
in memory of Margaret Rettke
in memory of Richard Salchow

Sherry Gavin:
in memory of Jimmy Gavin

RAHGS:
in memory of Betty Green
in memory of Richard Allington
in memory of Robert Wendt

Wrapping up the Donley Cabin Renovation Project

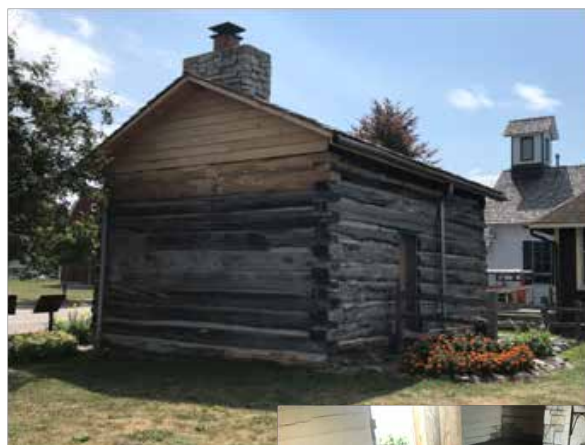


The new Donley Cabin roof system of new rafters, roof boards and cedar shake shingles was completed in June.

Also, two logs were replaced on the east end. Daubing and chinking the gaps between the new cabin logs and repairing old loose and missing daubing was finished in early August. Thank you to Norm Gibson, Don Graham and Rich Weinert for their work.



Sanding and refinishing the cabin floor was done to restore the historic look and feel. Fred Lamb of Lambcraft Wood floors generously donated this work.



Scraping and priming of the scorched logs up in the loft was done by several Donley Family Volunteers just prior to their reunion here in June. Rich Weinert recently put the last coat of paint on to match the rest of the cabin interior.



The Donley Family has created a special fund to support the perpetual care of the cabin for years to come. And the RAHGS family of volunteers will do their best to take care of the cabin because it is the jewel of the Historic Village. Thank you for your supports.



New Members!

Doreen and David Newton: [Richmond](#)
 Richard and Charlene Allemon: [Lenox](#)
 Deni Witte: [Richmond](#)
 Vicky Ann Chegash: [Richmond](#)

NEW WINDOWS FOR THE DONLEY CABIN

By Norm Gibson



The newly constructed windows for the cabin have been installed. They were built and installed by the Thursday Afternoon Work Crew, who reproduced the windows in the same style as the one shown in a Donley Family photo.



Sept. 6-8: Good Old Days at the Historic Village

Saturday Oct. 12: Third Annual Cemetery Walk

**Friday Nov. 8: "Story Telling with Photographs,"
by Denis LeDuc**

Saturday Dec. 7: A Holiday Evening in the Village

Friday Jan. 24: RAHGS Annual Meeting

Saturday March 4: Historic Tea

Recent Acquisitions

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Donley Family: | The History of Detroit, A Dictionary |
| The Donley Log Cabin: | An Oral History |
| Ted and Bill Johns: | A 1915 photo of Johns home at 69357 Grove St. |
| George Fealko: | Merchant items |
| Gladys Schmidt: | Hay hook, bamboo cane, axe handle |
| Doug Porrett: | Porrett School Records |



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.

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