

Upcoming
Events:

March 16: 7th Annual Historic Tea
April 28: Historic Barn Grand Opening

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The Historian

HISTORIC BARN GRAND OPENING

SUNDAY APRIL 28, 2019
1:00 PM - PUBLIC WELCOME

The RAHGS Board proudly announces the grand opening of the Historic Barn. This truly has been a community project as we raised funds and recruited volunteers to ensure RAHGS remains a vibrant presence in Richmond's cultural landscape.

The addition of the barn to the Historic Village enables us to more fully preserve and educate the surrounding area about our rich rural heritage.

The public is welcome to join us as we celebrate this addition to the Historic Village.



SOCIETY BOARD

President: Christine Rowley
810.392.0261

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

Secretary: Richard Weinert
586.484.1643
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: Ken Simmons
586.727.1131

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

Director: Dale Quick
586.727.4893

Director: Tom Hebel
810.392.0262

Director: Patrick McClellan
586.727.3919

MEMBERSHIP:

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



President's Corner

Chili and RAHGS Goals

For the cooks and competitors, and for those who did the tasting, it was one of the hottest events of the year on one of the coldest days! The 2019 City of Richmond Chili Cook-Off, sponsored by the Recreation Department, was at the Community Center on Saturday, February 9th.

Unfortunately, the RAHGS "Historic Chili" did not win first prize this year, but we heard many positive comments from the public. It was noted by quite a few tasters that our chili had "so much meat" in it. And it did. The venison that we used was farm raised on corn and alfalfa, so it was bound to be good.



Heather, Jim, Christine, Tom

Tom Hebel made the chili (with close supervision), and Heather Rowley and Jim Klauka served it. Thank you to the crew, and thank you everyone who voted for RAHGS Historic Chili. We are already making plans for next year's batch.

For your information, here is the list of RAHGS goals for 2019:

- Install informational plaque for depot, school, and barn
- Install plaque on the barn noting donation from VanHaverbeck family
- Put stone around barn and the barn approach
- Continue fundraising campaign for property addition
- Recruit new active members
- Record names from the 1890s quilt
- Organize the history of RAHGS
- Continue restoration of RR hand car and motor car
- Install and connect electricity in the barn
- Electrify the RR crossing signal
- Replace damaged wood on exterior of school and depot
- Reseal schoolhouse floor
- Seal or replace bottom of garage doors
- Move the donated windmill
- Fix leak in school roof
- Recruit help for yard maintenance
- Make improvements on Donley cabin
- Seek grant for implement shed construction
- Design plans for filling station/garage/storage building
- Create exhibit space in barn
- Expand the docent program
- Pick up cultipacker for barn exhibit

Yes, it is an ambitious list, but with your help, we can get it done. You know where we are. See you at the Village!

Christine



DONLEY CABIN RESTORATION PLANS

The Board has approved plans for restoration of the Donley Log Cabin. A contractor has been hired, materials will be arriving at the Village soon, and the work will begin in late April. This is quite a large undertaking, but we are confident that the job can be completed by mid-June. We are fortunate to have the support of the Donley family and the RAHGS Foundation.

Everything currently in the cabin must be moved out before the restoration. We have a lot of work to do to prepare for the clean out and to make room for storing the contents. Watch for an email announcement in March indicating when we could use your help to move the contents. After the restoration work is completed, the cabin display will be set up to reflect the way it may have looked in the 1930s when the Donley family last lived there.

Following is the work to be done:

- Remove charred roof structure (a result of arson fire in 1990s)
- Replace entire roof system
- Replace top two logs on the east wall
- Replace face logs on the front lower 2 rows, one row on side and back.
These will cover the new foundation block and green pressure treated wood framing
- Frame in loft window at the west end
- Rebuild the front and back doors
- Replace three windows with multi-pane period style
- Repair the fireplace crack



Good Old Winter Days Festival

by Dianne Gibson



Al Collins showing off his birch bark crafts

The village was open on Feb. 9 during the Good Old Winter Days Festival at the Beebe St. Park. Visitors were welcomed with hot chocolate and cookies served with a smile by Chris Hensch and Marsha Phillips. Demonstrations included a birch bark display by Al Collins and a snowflake craft by Max and Sandy Luenser. Dr. McClellan tended the “first” fire in the depot’s potbellied stove. Jon Beard, Kasey Wylin, Don Graham,

Ursula Adamson, Sandy McClelland, and Warren Schwark shared their knowledge of the village with our visitors. Norm Gibson and Rich Weinert provided the support services to keep things moving smoothly. Dianne Gibson organized the activities at the village. Our visitors enjoyed their time with us and we look forward to seeing them at future events.

The VILLAGE GARDENER

Marsha Phillips

I just want to remind everyone to get your flower seeds started this month! We have some left at the Village to sell. There are a lot of Zinnias. We have them in 5 colors: pink, violet/purple, red, orange, yellow, and mixed. The mixed packet has some of each color in it! Zinnias shouldn't be started until the end of March.

If you would like some of our seeds, call me and I will mail them to you. My number is 586-321-8519.

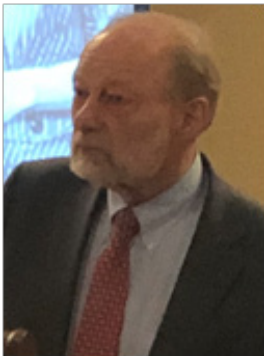
Also, I am not selling them, but I will give you some Sweet Annie seeds. You can sprinkle these around in your flower beds and they will come up! Sweet Annie is Artemisia annual, also known as sweet wormwood. It is used for drying and is very fragrant! You do not have to start it early, just scatter it around in your beds sometime in April.

Al Collins gave me a big bag of Sweet Annie so I am offering it to anyone who is interested in some of that. The Snowdrops in my yard are up a couple of inches! I can't wait for the garden season to begin!

The Village Gardener
Marsha



Members Enjoyed the Annual Dinner Meeting



Judge Denis LeDuc

Eighty RAHGS members attended the 2018 Annual Dinner Meeting held on January 18, 2019 at Maniaci's Banquet Center.

The group was entertained by Judge Denis LeDuc as he shared ways to glean information from vintage pictures. He presented five historic photos from the Macomb County area and told us interesting stories he has unearthed by analyzing the images.

Vice President, Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan presented a very entertaining and well-documented 2018 Year in Review. Her presentation was filled with great shots of people, events, programs and projects throughout the year.

Mayor Tim Rix told us his father Mayor Leroy Rix helped acquire the land for the Historic Village and Tim indicated that he is especially honored to have played a part in the new property addition to the park. Rix introduced his eldest granddaughter, Ella Lee. Ella visited the School Section Schoolhouse with her class, and she was so proud to point out her great grandfather's picture hanging on the wall. Tim reaffirmed that the City continues to support and work with the Historical Society as it grows.

City Manager Jon Moore reinforced the partnership between the City and RAHGS. He stressed that RAHGS events throughout the year attract visitors to the City. He and the Council enthusiastically support the proposal to erect a historic working windmill at the Village.



Charter Members: Ursula Adamson, Sue Jakubiak, Warren Schwark, Karen Schwark, George Fealko

Fourth Annual RAHGS Historic Weiner Roast

Saturday, March 16, 2019
1:00pm at the Historic Village
Special Guest Speaker

All RAHGS men are welcome! This event happens during the women's Historic Tea. It is a special time for the guys to get together and discuss local and world issues. Hot dogs and all the trimmings will be served to those attending.

Bring a dish or snack to share.

RSVP to this email:
richweinert@comcast.net
or call: 586-484-1643



The election results follow:

2019 RAHGS BOARDS SOCIETY

President:	Christine Rowley
Vice President:	Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan
Secretary:	Rich Weinert
Treasurer:	Dianne Gibson
Directors:	John Beard
Continuing Directors:	Norm Gibson David Waun

FOUNDATION

President:	Ken Simmons
Secretary/Treasurer:	Kasey Wylín
Director:	Tom Hebel
Continuing Directors:	Dale Quick Dr. Patrick McClellan



March 16: 7th Annual Historic Tea

Men's Historic Wiener Roast

April: Village Clean Up with Richmond Students

April 28: Barn Grand Opening

**May 6-10 : Armada Fifth Grade in the School
Section School**

**May 13-17: Richmond Fifth Grade in the School
Section School**

**May 17: Alan Naldrett program: C. Harold Wills
and the Wills St. Clair Automobile**

June 22 : Donley Family Visit

June 29 : Log Cabin Day

June 29-30 : Heritage Days

July 27 : "Into the Village," garden walk

**Sept. 6-8 : Good Old Days in the Historic
Village: Strawberry Shortcake Social, Mum Sale,
Demonstrations and all buildings open to the
public**

**Oct. 12: 3rd Annual Cemetery Walk, City of
Richmond Cemetery Nov. 1/8 TBD/Orphan Train**

**Dec. 6: City of Richmond- "Coming Home for
the Holidays" Village Buildings Open**

Recent Acquisitions

by Dianne Gibson

Thank
you



An autographed copy of “Muskets, Crowns & Liberty” by former Richmond resident, Douglas Rasmussen has been donated to the collection. The book goes back 40 generations of Doug’s mother’s side of the family, the Fletchers. Look for a program about it given by Doug in the future.

The following criteria are used when considering acquisitions for acceptance:

1. Relevance to the Richmond area, was it used by a Richmond area resident, or business.
2. Relevance to what we are portraying, such as school, cabin, agriculture, Richmond life.
3. Space available to store or exhibit the artifact.

Recent Donations

Jim and Rose Weeks

Elmer Villeme

Lucia Marshall

Dennis and Amy LaFore

David and Susan Foster

Mike and Sue Misteravich

Richmond Lions Club

Stanley Hirt

Marty and Louise Borkowski

Keith and Sally Rengert

Ken and Barbara Kohlmann

Kathryn Borkowski

First SC Volunteer Infantry

Kroger Rewards



New Members!

Don and Linda Priestap: Davison, MI

Lynda Marth: Chesterfield, MI

Denis LeDuc: Washington, MI

Recent Brick Orders

Garden Grove Park
in memory of Henry “Hank” Daniel

Sherry Gavin
in memory of Aileen Spicer

Sherry Gavin
in memory of Jeff Davidson

John Donley
in memory of
Andrew Patrick Donley

Did you forget to pay your 2019 RAHGS Dues?

If you did, it is not too late to catch up! Send us your check soon and we will keep you on the membership roster for the coming year.

Annual membership with a printed and mailed newsletter: \$30.00

Annual membership with an electronic newsletter sent via email: \$20.00

Lifetime membership: \$150.00

If you have questions regarding your membership status, contact Christine at 810.392.0261

RAHGS Plans Heritage Festival

by Don Graham



One of the finest hands-on family activities of the summer will be held this June 29 and 30 when the Richmond Historical and Genealogical Society (RAHGS) hosts the Richmond Heritage Festival. This event combines creative fun and education while featuring the Donley log cabin and the newly renovated barn. As a tribute to the innovative local farmers of years past, the weekend will offer a wide variety of activities for people of all ages.

June 30 is National Log Cabin Day, making that weekend a logical choice for the Heritage Festival. Few communities boast a cultural asset like the Donley cabin. It is a favorite field trip destination for local elementary classes and appreciated by all who

visit. Boasting a fully restored stone fireplace, period furniture and a sleeping loft, the one room structure accurately depicts what life was like in those early, difficult years. If nothing else, it certainly stimulates appreciation for the many conveniences we enjoy today.

The barn highlights the importance of agriculture to Richmond's history. The impact agriculture has had on the city is indisputable. Driving in and around the city one sees several farm related businesses. Venturing outside the city limits you can't help but see a patchwork quilt of corn, wheat, hay and soybean fields. We're amazed at the size and complexity of the machinery that tills, plants, and harvests those crops and we're amazed at the productivity of those fields. Barns that house the modern equipment are immense.

It wasn't always that way. For many early farmers, including the Donley family, life and hardship and struggle were interchangeable concepts. Heavy clay ground was difficult to till, yields were meager, and to make a living utilizing human and animal labor required work that was unrelenting and often unrewarding. The land to the south of current Richmond was so unproductive that it became known as Muttonville, because the only thing that could be profitably grown there was sheep. And yet, through sheer determination, clever management, and hard work, success was achieved.

The rustic tools and clever techniques the early farmers used will be on display during the June event. Vintage tractors, many of museum quality, from the early 1920's to the 1970's will be available for inspection. Visitors will see an antique sawmill convert logs to the rough sawn lumber used to build houses and barns and learn how hay was moved from the field to the top of the barn. Kids can get up close to farm animals on Saturday and Sunday afternoons when the Children's Farm will be open and participate in hundred-year-old games and activities. And the highlight of the weekend will be the barn which will be open and filled with exhibits including a horse drawn sleigh, wagon, and plow. All other buildings in the Historic Village will be open as well, including the train depot, one room school house, and the museum. This weekend will be a chance to stimulate your mechanical engineering spirit as you see first-hand the ingenuity these old-time farmers had. Kids can put their brains and hands in motion as they learn what it's like to make rope, milk a cow, learn the mechanical advantages associated with pulleys, and see how old tractors work.



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.



**RICHMOND AREA HISTORICAL
AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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

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