



Romeo Perspective

Volume 1, Issue 4 2011

ROMEO, MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

www.romeohistoricalsociety.org



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

RAAC meeting	2
President's Letter	2
Donations this year	2
RAAC research	3
An Old Fashion Village	3
2011 Ornament	3
2011 Schedule	4

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Holidays in ROMEO 2011!

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We need those roof shingles\$\$\$!

Nestled on a picturesque Romeo street, the Romeo Historical Society's (RHS) *Bancroft -Stranahan Museum is a rare community asset.* Each room of the Victorian-era home is filled with donated treasures offering visitors up-close knowledge of the community's earliest residents and how they lived. *But, the museum's roof is falling apart and we need to raise \$4,000 to replace it by winter. Labor is being donated!*

Located at 132 Church Street, the museum is a collaborative effort. Donated paintings by local artists, furniture, clothing and a wide array of objects have been carefully arranged to create something truly unique. "Each donation breathes new life



into the museum," said museum curator Joan Beringer. Additional support has come from volunteers, who have worked with Beringer to arrange these items into exhibits and have helped with tours during special events. With the community's support the museum has grown into a local asset for all to enjoy, free of charge, on Tuesdays from 7p.m. to 9 p.m. "Through its support the community is not only honoring the past, it's creat-

ing something special for the future," said Beringer.

RHS, a non profit organization, owns and maintains three historic Romeo properties with your support. Many volunteer skills, resources and donations keep them in good condition and open for the public. Maintenance is ongoing.

Effective immediately, the RHS is collecting donations for a new museum roof. We do have a start!

Contributions can be mailed to the Romeo Historical Society: P.O. Box 412, Romeo, MI 48065. Please make the check payable to the Romeo Historical Society, and indicate "Roof".

Thank You!!!

Christmas Homes Tour - December 10

It's Halloween and you can hear the faint sound of sleigh bells!

Yes the famous Christmas Homes tour is in the making with some new surprises this year! Mark Saturday December 10 on your calendar and buy

tickets starting 11/1 at Kane's Town Hall Antiques, 205 N. Main St., and Connelly's Creations, 175 S. Main St. in downtown Romeo. \$15 per person.

Five spectacular homes and the historic First Congregational Church with restored

clock tower are on tour.

Don't miss it! Tickets sell out each year for both the 4:30 pm tour and the 7:00 pm tour.

The Holidays begin!!!



Three local museums

Romeo Art & Archives Center

290 N. Main Street.
(former state police building)

Bancroft-Stranahan House

132 Church St.

Clyde Craig Blacksmith Shop

301 N. Bailey St.

**RHS
Scholarship
Award**

RHS awarded a \$500 scholarship to

Jessica Isaacs

Congratulations!

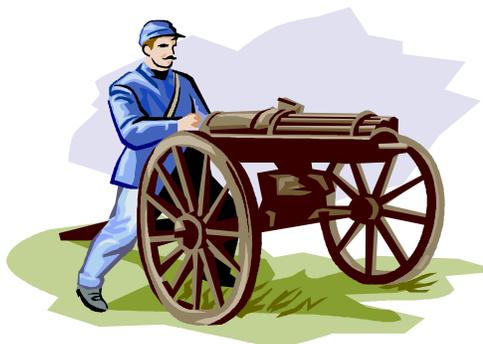
The President's Letter.....

As RHS President I wish to sincerely thank all those who helped make the historic Romeo Cemetery Tour such a success this year on a gorgeous fall Saturday afternoon.

The Washington Historical Society partnered with us this year to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and incorporated their knowledge of our Civil War veterans in the walking tour.

Fourteen veteran grave sites were represented with costumed and armed! volunteers portraying soldiers and family members.

It was quite unique as our fourth tour of the sacred grounds drew more visitors than our prior three tours. The event is part of *Romeo Harvest Days* which also was a resounding



success with many downtown visitors.

We sincerely thank Bob and Cherie Allen, Bill Grandstaff, Jean and Jim Holcomb, Tom Offer, Judy and Dale Lopus, Richard and

Virginia Kyro, Linda McClymont, Zak Fowler, Tim and Gloria Billo, Pat Hallman, Barb Merryfield, Tom Simpson and Paul Allmacher.

Paul donated the use of two authentic Civil War swords and one rifle for three of the veterans represented. It was a fitting veterans tribute.

The online version of the tour is available on WBRW Channel 6 cable TV and their associated website.

A for-sure event for next year too! *On to the Christmas Homes Tour!*

—Sue Kane, *President*

Museums benefit from improvements...

The Village of Romeo council members generously voted to appropriate CDBG funds to fix the sewer connection at the Bancroft Stranahan Museum this year. It is wonderful that the plumbing works again for our visitors!

DTE's generous donation of \$400 to RHS this year will help fund the new Bancroft Stranahan Museum roof!

Donations of furniture, clothing and hats have been expanded the home and fashions collections at the Bancroft Museum.

RHS accepted a most generous donation from the Forrestal family, descendants of Dr. Douglas. They drove the furniture and personal items to Romeo from Texas!

Barb Merryfield's twin daughters Rachel and

Victoria have created a searchable database of Romeo weddings of the past and now are working on cemetery burials. Their donated skills improve research services.

RHS sincerely thanks all donors for their generosity this year!

We continue to move forward thanks to you!

RAAC research center..

Local archives grow!

Looking for family information? Think your family has a connection to some interesting Romeo people who lived in the past?

You have to visit the Romeo Arts and Archives Center at 290 N. Main Street and find out. The RHS collections of information, photos, memorabilia, and artifacts continues to grow, and has become even easier to use and research.

Curator Richard Beringer has organized and catalogued a huge amount of material for easy access. Barb Merryfield, RHS Administrative Assistant has created searchable files online to find information faster and easier than ever before.

The Romeo Observer issues including the Centennial issue, Macomb County histo-

ries, maps, photo and postcard collections, files on schools, churches, families, businesses and organizations are all available. We can help you find all kinds of detail information.

Our displays cover the Underground Railroad, automotive history, state police post history and the Civil War as it pertains to Romeo. Gift shop too!

Find it here!

Romeo has a rich history that includes an ever-changing array of businesses serving those who lived in the area. On *Thursday, November 3, Curator Richard Beringer will host an interactive presentation about Romeo's business community over 140 years ago.*

The free presentation will be held at the RAAC at 290 North Main Street, at 7 p.m. Beringer will work with the audience to map out the 124 Romeo businesses listed in an 1870 business directory. So join us as we discover all Romeo's business community had to offer.

2011 Ornament is...?

What historic building is captured in the 2011 Christmas Ornament?

It's a secret... Traditionally RHS does not reveal the ornament subject until the ornaments are ready and put on sale in downtown each November.

We have no clue as of this printing but...

Prepare to purchase the 2011 Christmas ornament for the same price, \$20.00 each, at several locations downtown. It is the perfect Romeo holiday gift!

RAAC, 290 N. Main Street during museum hours.

Kane's Town Hall Antiques, at 205 N. Main Street.

Connelly's Creations at 175 S. Main Street. A holiday fantasy store.

Watch for them soon!



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 3

7:00 p.m.

Romeo Arts and Archive Center

290 N. Main

Romeo in 1870

When Romeo drew 5,000 people downtown on Saturday nights!

Light refreshments will be served.

Be there!



An old-fashioned Christmas in the Village

The Romeo MRP Association plans an Old Fashioned Christmas in the Village on Santa Parade night Thursday, December 1. That's in downtown Romeo to celebrate and shop!

RWB Parks and Recreation's ever growing Santa's Parade makes it way downtown starting at 7pm

to host Santa Claus in Village Park for visitors young and old. Downtown historic Romeo and Village Park all decorated in lights are the perfect atmosphere and setting for holiday celebration and shopping after the Parade. Be sure to bring your gift list! RHS will open the Bancroft Stranahan House trimmed Victo-

rian style for the holidays for guests to tour. New displays are ready.

Check out the new Christmas Ornament 2011 on sale along with prior year ornaments. Give 'Romeo' gifts this season! Tell Santa Claus that's what you want for Christmas too!

Romeo Historical Society

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ADDRESS LABEL

Romeohistoricalsociety.org

Preserve our Heritage!



EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT

7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Archives and House

Museums are OPEN!

**Except when schools close
for bad weather!**

**Send suggestions,
ideas and photos!**

Email addresses....

We need your email address to add to our membership files! Please, please send us a message with your email address to info@romeohistoricalsociety.org or make sure you write it on your membership renewal.

Thank you!

**Thanks to our newsletter
editor and RHS reporter,
Janine Saputo!**



2011 program plans... we are busy!

Save this page!

Nov 3 - Membership meeting at RAAC, 7pm. Romeo in 1870..a look back at downtown Romeo with curator Richard Beringer. Interactive and informative!

Dec 1 - Santa Parade in downtown Romeo at 7pm in the evening. RHS will participate this year. Bancroft Museum ,decorated for the holiday in Victorian style, is open for tours. 7 pm to 9pm.

Dec. 10— Christmas Homes Tour, Tour times at 4:30pm and 7pm. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. Available at Kanes Town Hall Antiques at 205 N. Main Street, Romeo, MI 48065 Sells out!

Call to reserve!

Join us and participate in some great events coming up! We need YOU!

—RHS Board members.

Bancroft Stranahan Museum Roof!

Please help replace the roof on the museum before winter weather sets in!

We thank Romeo Kiwanis for a \$500.00 donation towards the new shingles and a jumpstart on our goal of \$4,000.00!

Contribution\$ to RHS at
POB 412, Romeo, Michigan 48065

**Happy Holidays 2011!
Happy New Year 2012!**