



Romeo Perspective

Volume 1, Issue 3 2012

ROMEO, MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

www.romeohistoricalsociety.org



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Updates and Info	2
President's Letter	2
Curator's Report	3
Election Results	3
Special Thanks...	3
Summer / Fall Schedule	4

RHS Board

SUE KANE, PRESIDENT
 ANNA REIZ, VICE PRESIDENT
 TIM BILLO, TREASURER
 LINDA PRITCHARD,
 SECRETARY

- Richard Beringer
- Douglas Pritchard
- Stuart Walters
- Sean McManus
- Connie Connelly
- Joann Urban
- Barb Merryfield,
Communications
Coordinator



www.romeohistoricalsociety.org

Romeo Masons Give Gift of History

The Romeo Historical Society's (RHS) collection is growing thanks to a generous gift from the Romeo Masons. The Masons have donated the tool collection that hung on the south wall of their dining room. The collection, which includes a broad axe, ice saws and several farming implements, are currently on display at our three museums.



Mason, Don Eickloldt, RHS Curator Joan Beringer and Mason, Ron Boyd with part of the

The ice harvesting tools are now in the Bancroft-Stranahan Museum's kitchen next to the icebox.

The logging "cheat stick," which is a measuring stick used to determine

the amount of lumber a log would yield, is now in the Romeo Arts and Archives Center (RAAC) next to a portrait of Romeo lumber baron, Harvey Mellon. Several other items in the collection are now located in the Clyde Craig Blacksmith Shop.

"Each donation helps to tell the Romeo story," said RHS curator Richard Beringer. "We appreciate all the local citizens do to help improve our museums' artifact inventory."

The RAAC and the Bancroft are open Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. The Clyde Craig Blacksmith Shop is now open the second

Tuesday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m.

Be sure to stop by and see these wonderful additions to our collection.

Native American Talk Sept. 6

Ever wonder what life was like for Romeo's first residents?

On Sept. 6, at 7 p.m., the Romeo Historical Society will host a talk, by Oakland University Professor Dr. Richard Stamps, about the Native Americans who lived in the area.

The free program will be held at the Romeo Arts and Archives Center. Native American artifacts will be on display and Dr. Stamps will talk about how they were used in Daily life.

Dr. Stamps will also attempt to identify, but not appraise, Native American objects belonging to audience

members. So if you have a locally found Native American artifact and would like to learn more about its history, be sure to bring it with you to the program.

For more information call the Romeo Historical Society at 586-752-4111.

Three local museums

Romeo Art & Archives Center (RAAC)

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

Bancroft-Stranahan House

132 Church St.

Clyde Craig Blacksmith Shop

301 N. Bailey St.

Did You Know...

Our membership has grown by 38 % since 2009

William Gibbs Walking Tour

Tues. Oct.9 7 p.m.
Free Tour with Richard Beringer, starts and ends at the Arts and Archives Center

Congratulations

Courtney Wood of Washington Twp.

2012

Romeo Historical Society

Scholarship Winner

The President's Letter...

Remembering Helen Starkweather

Helen Starkweather was one of Romeo's most cherished residents. For 40 years, she taught Romeo Community School students arts and drafting. When she died in 1987, she left her home on Main Street to the Romeo Historical Society and the Village to be used as an arts and culture center.

George Simcina delivered the eulogy at Starkweather's funeral on June 20,1987.

Here is a excerpt from that eulogy:

"Helen was one of two people who taught me to appreciate this village of Romeo. These things of Romeo had a past. There was significance to the structures, if one could only see or take a long careful look.

Helen was a very private person. She would share the past as she knew it, but if pressed she with too may questions, the conversation ended quickly.

It was from her I learned about the arch doorway on the south side of Starkweather Alley. In her childhood this arch was an arcade, or pass through, to West St. Clair. The horses and wagons would deliver merchandise to the shops. In fact, there is a drawing she made showing herself as a little girl in the alley. At the end of the building there was a bakery. The people in the bakery would throw little pieces of dough at her in a playful gesture. She



talked about her pony; the Five Cent Barn, where the Village park is now.

It was from Helen that I learned about the Inner Urban and its passage in the downtown area. There was a pick-up point behind her building where the farmers would take their milk cans for delivery.

Helen Guarded Starkweather Alley and the plants on both sides of the alley. You would see her working, trimming and cleaning. I can remember the time when a new tenant would move into the building on the South side of the Alley and clean up the Alley by cutting down all those weeds. They were weeds to them, but to

Helen, they were precious wildflowers. So from weeds to wildflowers was another lesson taught. There are others like Helen, these preservationists, who have kept Romeo as it is and have sensitized these newcomers to that which is special about Romeo.

Because of the lessons that Helen would teach, many of us gained an appreciation of Romeo and its history. Helen was the conscience of this Village, especially the downtown area because of her high visibility on Main Street. Many of us have been able to enjoy a walk through the village because the past has been saved. Our lessons can be passed on to others."

Museum Reports: News from our Curators

August Curator's Report:

The Romeo Historical Society has worked with over 800 school children, and our museums have had 1,000 school children visits so far this year. We have worked with seven different schools and have hosted many adult groups. This includes a tour group from the Southfield Senior Center.

Our "First Tuesday" programs have been very successful. We have hosted talks at the Romeo Arts and Archives Center (RAAC) on the Underground Railroad and lumbering in Romeo. During the nice weather, we hit the



road and took our tours/ programs with bike and walking tours throughout the village. In June, our "History Bike Ride" had 25 participants exploring Romeo's unique past.

Next month's tour will be "A Walking Tour of Church Street," and has been moved to the second Tuesday, Sept. 11, due to the Labor Day Holiday. The tour will start at the RAAC at 7 p.m. and will last for approximately 90 minutes. The program will cover topics such as Romeo abolitionist, Robert McKay, Greek Revival architecture and social ways of the past.

For the first time ever, all three RHS museums have regular hours. In addition to the regular Tuesday evening 7-9 p.m. hours of the RAAC and Church Street Museum, the Craig shop joins in. The Craig shop is open the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 6-7 p.m. Come in and try your hand at some of the tools and displays. Drill a hole in some

steel with the post drill, sharpen a tool on the foot powered grinder or change the wheels on the Brabb Road Cart. The forge will not be working this evening.

On the 3rd Saturday of the month, the Craig shop will be open from 9-11 a.m. The forge will be working for blacksmithing demonstrations. Come and hear the history of our very special shop. Tinsmithing, upholstering, auto repair, blacksmithing, animal vet, farrier work, wheel wright were all tasks performed in our shop. Come and see us.

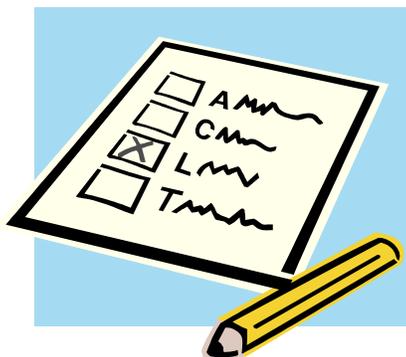
Joan and Richard Beringer-RHS curators

Election Results

On June 7, the Romeo Historical Society held its election during the general membership meeting, which also included a potluck and plant exchange, at the Clyde Craig Blacksmith shop. The results are as follows:

- President: Sue Kane
- Vice President: Anna Reiz
- Treasurer: Tim Billo
- Secretary: Linda Pritchard

We also added Connie Connelly and JoAnn Urban as new trustees. Both, have been very active in the community and will be valuable additions to our board. Welcome!



Special Thanks.....

Marlette Historical Society President, Pat Ross for the tour of her beautiful Queen Anne home and the Train Depot Museum.

Bill Miller, Bob and Cherrie Allen for volunteering at the Church Street Museum during the Village Sidewalk Sale and Street Festival.

Romeo Historical Society

POB 412
Romeo, Michigan

Phone: 586-752-4111
Fax: 586-752-5414

E-mail:
rhs@romeohistoricalsociety.org

ADDRESS LABEL

Romeohistoricalsociety.org

Preserve our Heritage!



EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT

7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Archives and House

Museums are OPEN!

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.

**RHS Editor and Reporter,
Barbara Merryfield**

Upcoming Events:

Thurs. Aug. 30 - Mon. Sept 3

It's time once again for Romeo's Annual Peach Festival. The five-day, family friendly event will feature food, fun and a parade with chickens. For more information go to www.peachfestromeo.com

Thurs. Sept. 6 - Oakland University professor, Dr. Richard Stamps is coming to the RAAC for an informative talk about Native American Artifacts. Dr. Stamps will also attempt to identify the Native American artifacts of audience members. The talk will begin at 7 p.m. Note: Dr. Stamps will not be giving appraisals.

Tues. Sept. 11 - RHS Curators Richard and Joan Beringer will be hosting a free walking tour of Church Street. The tour begins at the RAAC at 7 p.m.

Tues. Oct. 1 - Join RHS Curators Richard and Joan Beringer for a William Gibbs Walking Tour. The free tour will begin at the RAAC at 7 p.m.

Romeo Cemetery Walk Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012

1 - 4 p.m.

Learn about Romeo's
founders, War of 1812
and Civil War veterans

See RHS President Sue Kane

on

WBRW

in

"What's Collectible Now?"

