



Romeo Perspective

Volume 1, Issue 4 2012

ROMEO, MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

www.romeohistoricalsociety.org



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Christmas Homes Tour Dec. 8

Most of the leaves have fallen from the trees and there's an excitement that's filling the air in Romeo as the holiday season approaches.

That's because it's time once again for the Romeo Historical Society's Christmas Homes Tour. This year's tour, which will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8, will feature five exquisite homes decorated in all their holiday splendor.

Planners have added a tour to the popular event and this year's tour times are 1 p.m.,



4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now for \$20 each and can be purchased at the

following locations:

- Kane's Town Hall Antiques, 205 N. Main St.
- Connelly's Creations, 175 S. Main St.
- The Romeo Arts and Archives Center, 290 N. Main St.

Tickets are limited, so get yours before they're sold out!

To learn more about this year's tour or to see pictures from last year go to: romeohistoricalscociety.org.

Students Make Donation to RHS

Over the years, the Romeo Historical Society (RHS) has hosted thousands of grade school students at its three museums. On Oct. 8, RHS curators, Joan and Richard Beringer hosted 100 students from Morgan Elementary in Shelby Twp.

The group of second graders were treated to a day of old fashioned fun. They went to the Clyde Craig Blacksmith shop, where they learned its history and

were treated to a black-smithing demonstration. Next they made their way to the Romeo Arts and Archives building and put together a timeline of Romeo and American history. Then, the teachers took the group on an architectural tour of the village that was based on information provided to them by Richard Beringer. Finally, the students went to the Bancroft-Stranahan museum, where

they stepped back in time and had a hands-on lesson about the life of children during Victorian times.

After an exciting day of historic adventure, the group presented the Beringers with a \$205 donation. The money will be added to the RHS general fund and will help us continue to provide quality programs to the community.

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.

2012 Ornament on sale now

The latest Romeo Historical Society ornament is now on sale. The ornament, which is the 16th in the popular series, depicts the Greek Revival home of Alvan B. Ayer.

The ornament costs \$22 and is available at the following locations:

Kane's Town Hall Antiques, 205 N. Main St.

Connelly's Creations, 175 S. Main St.
The Urban Merchant, 164 S. Main St.
Romeo Arts and Archives Center

The President's Letter.....

As RHS President I wish to sincerely thank all those who helped with this year's Romeo Cemetery Tour.

Although the weather proved to be challenging our group of dedicated volunteers came together for a unique experience.

The Washington Historical Society partnered with us once again to help tell the stories of our shared communities.

Professional re-enactor, Joe Toth was on hand to help us commemorate the War of 1812 and the two veterans buried in the Cemetery: Suel and Gurdeon Hovey.

Toth explained in great

detail the life of a War of 1812 soldier. From their uniform, weapons, gear and food it was an impressive display and talk



that gave us a glimpse into what life may have been like for the Hovey brothers.

Joan Beringer told the story of Albert Leete, a young soldier who died before making it to battle in the Civil War, and Barb Merryfield

story of Joseph Goodwin, a Revolutionary War soldier who crossed the Delaware with George Washington.

We sincerely thank Bob and Cherie Allen, Bill Grandstaff, Jean and Jim Holcomb, Tom Offer, Gloria Billo, Pat Hallman, Anna and Paul Reiz, Al Sabo, Shelly and Dana Lupher, Richard and Joan Beringer, Barb Merryfield and Fred Buike.

—Sue Kane, *President*

Final 2012 'First Tuesday' Talk Big Hit

The Romeo Historical Society's (RHS) final "First Tuesday" program of 2012 was held on Nov. 6 at the Romeo Arts and Archives center.

RHS curator Richard Beringer gave a fascinating talk titled, **"Innovation and Invention Change a 19th Century Village."** Beringer discussed how



Victorian era industries such as lumber, transportation and manufacturing influenced the historic Romeo we see today. He also discussed the

relationship among, the homes, churches and the buildings that line Main Street to the innovation and industry of the 19th century.

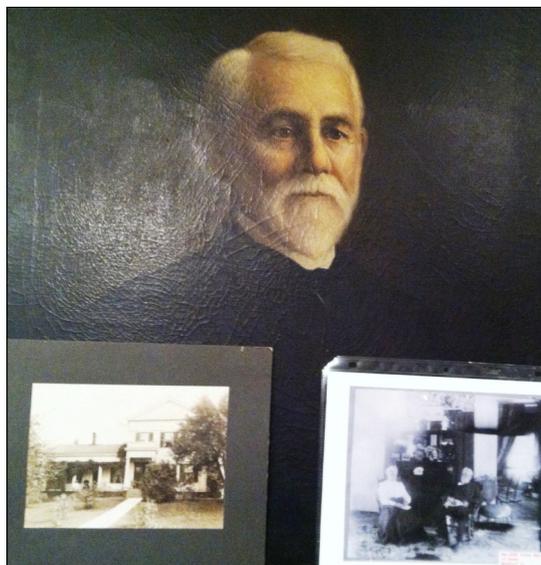
The talk was a wonderful end to the 2012 "First Tuesday" program series, which are scheduled to resume again in 2013.

News from our Curators

Our monthly "first Tuesday" programs have been very successful. The August bike ride, with 25 riders, was along Bailey and North Main. It started at the Archives with a discussion of eight architectural styles found in Romeo and was followed with a short bike ride to see these homes near the Archives. The ride was short and easy. The September "First Tuesday" was a walk along Church Street. The October program was a talk by Joan Beringer on artist William Gibbs.

We had a 32" LED flat screen TV donated that allows speakers to present with Power Point. As a result the November 6, "First Tuesday" will be a presentation entitled "Innovation and Invention Change a 19th Century Village," (Romeo.) The Talk is at 7p.m. in the Archives building.

The Clyde Craig Blacksmith shop will stop operations sometime in November because of the cold



Painting of John A. Brewer and photos donated by Fred Buike

weather. We will resume schedule in the early spring. Finally, have you met Fred Buike? If you haven't, you might want to stop by and meet him sometime. Fred joined the RHS as a *Lifetime Member* in 2012 and is at our Archives building almost every Tuesday night.

Fred is related to many of Romeo's earliest residents and has donated several items from his personal collection to the RHS including postcards, news articles, photos, certificates business records and maps. Some of his most notable donations include an oil painting of his ancestor John A. Brewer and a Union Civil War sword. Both are on display at Archives building. Fred has also been writing a fascinating account of his memories growing up in Romeo during the 1950's.

This week, Fred brought sound back to our spring-wound record player by fixing the needle arm. It was wonderful hearing sound come from that player once again. Be sure to come on in and have Fred tell you some stories about his family history, memories of Romeo and play some music for you.

-Joan and Richard Beringer: RHS curators

Special Thanks to...

- Dr. Richard Stamps for his wonderful presentation about the Native Americans who lived in this area.
- The Indian Village Romeo Questers for donating the money to purchase an automatic watering system for the flower garden at the Bancroft-Stranahan Museum
- Richard Dugger for installing the watering system at the museum

General Membership Meeting

Join us for a General Membership Meeting at or Arts and Archives Center on Thursday, Jan. 3 at 7 p.m. Author Robert Allen, who wrote **A "Guest" of the Confederacy.** Allen will talk about his book, which recounts the story of a local Union Army officer, Alonzo M. Keeler, who was captured by the Confederacy during the Civil war.

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,
Barb Merryfield**



**Mark your
Calendars...**

Nov 1- General Membership Meeting Tour of Washington Historical Society Museum at 7 p.m.

Nov 6 - "Innovation and Invention Change a 19th Century Village," talk by RHS curator Richard Beringer at RAAC at 7 p.m.

Dec. 8— Christmas Homes Tour, Tour times at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7p.m. Tickets are \$20.00 per person. Available at Kane's Town Hall Antiques, Connelly's Creations and The Romeo Arts and Archives Center.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

—RHS Board members.

Membership Renewal
*Your support is greatly appreciated. Please complete the form below and sent it to:
P.O. Box 412, Romeo, MI 48065*

I wish to help the
Romeo Historical Society
continue its preservation projects in the following tax deductible manner:

Membership (Annual)

Contribution \$ _____

Individual \$15.00 \$ _____

Family \$20.00 \$ _____

Business \$25.00 Total \$ _____

Lifetime \$250.00 per individual

The Romeo Historical Society is a Michigan Non-Profit 501(c)3 organization.

Please indicate activity you are willing to help with:

Archives Docent

Christmas Walk Bancroft-Stranahan Museum

Victorian Festival (May) Clyde Craig Blacksmith Shop

Program Planning Romeo Arts & Archives Center

Other _____

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address _____
