



Romeo Perspective

Volume 2, Issue 2 2014



ROME0, MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

www.romeohistoricalsociety.org

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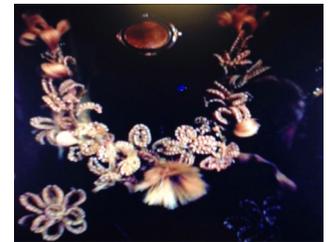
- Richard Beringer
- Douglas Pritchard
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The Romeo Historical Society is a
 501 (C) 3 Non-Profit
 Organization

Wonderful Presentations!

In February Gloria Billo gave a presentation on "Love Entwined: The History of Hair Weaving". She explained the how and why behind these works of art and showed us many beautiful pieces in her collection.



Then in March, Sue Kane gave a presentation at Town Hall Antiques Mall & Cafe on Depression Glass. Sue explained the difference between depression glass and fancy glass along with the different patterns. She had many of her collection pieces on display.



Our presentations are now on CD's, so please stop by the Archives Museum to see them if you couldn't

Alice McIntosh Grimm

We have received a request from a family that is researching the history of their grandmother, Alice McIntosh Grimm. She lived with her family in Romeo in the mid-1900's. They have asked if we could help identify the location and approximate date that each photo was taken. Can anyone help us do that? Please call or email the historical society if you can help date them and/or give us any background information on the photos that we can pass on to the family. Thank you!





**General
Membership
Potluck Dinner**
on Thurs., June 5th
6 p.m. at the
Blacksmith Shop.
We will have our
annual potluck,
plant exchange,
horseshoes and
elections. We hope
to see you there
and please bring a
dish to pass!



**Flea-n-Tique Sale
on Sat., June 14
From 9 am-3 pm**
on the front lawn
at the
Archives Museum.
Donations are
currently being
accepted until
May 31st.

The President's Letter....



The president got a total new knee March 27th. I didn't do much before surgery and have done less since that time. The society runs just fine without me, it's like a fine tuned machine. Winter was brutal on all of us, and didn't allow the museums to be open much. Hopefully we are back in the swing with our spring events. Thanks for the winter presentations done by Gloria Billo, myself and Mary Walters. If you missed them they are available on CD or at WBRW. Maybe we will have a night and show all three!

Welcome back to all the snow birds, lets see what we can accomplish this year with our merry band of volunteers.

Have you paid your 2014 Dues. It's a small amount that does so much.

President, Sue Kane

Thank You To:

...**Gary Miller & Larry Hempsted** for shoveling all the snow at the museums this year!

...**Romeo Questors** who are planning to put in a handicap access path for the Blacksmith Shop with funds from their gift basket sales.

...**Gloria Billo** for spring gardening.

Seeking Donations Or Help

For the Archives Room:

Old Romeo High School Yearbooks.

At the Bancroft Stranahan Museum:

Old style carpet or rugs to use in the Bancroft-Stranahan Museum.

Period ceiling light fixture for the Bancroft-Stranahan Museum.

Getting bids on replacing siding.

Need to clean rugs.

Porch and ramp need to be repainted.

Banister in back stairway needs to be stained.

Dusting help.

Blinds at top of steps.

Donations for dry cleaning artifacts.

Edging yard.

Please contact us if you can help us out with any of these items or projects. 586-752-4111.

We are a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization.

From Our Curators...

Curator's Romeo Time Line:

Before 1822-Many Indian villages and Indian formations were in the immediate area. French settlers were living here. The French saw mill was on 33 Mile and Lassier Rd.

1822-First permanent residents arrived in January. Ashael, Cynthia and infant Bailey buy a cabin from Jeremiah Allen for \$50. This cabin was located on what is now N. Bailey St. Allen wanted out of the Indian Village (Romeo) area.

1822-Soon after — The Taylors, Hoxies and others arrived. Many of these had traveled from New York area. The town was named Romeo.

The new settlers were educated, ambitious people. They started businesses, stores, formed foundries, built mills, established schools and academies, surveyed the land, harvested the timber to build homes and for sale to other towns.

186- Greek Revival homes had been built 1840-1860's [from the Romeo Observer]

6- Gothic Revival homes had been built 1850's

39- Italianate homes had been built 1850-1870's

1859-Romeo was the second largest village in Macomb County. Manufactured 8 times more than the largest city, Mt. Clemens. Physicians, lawyers, teachers, surveyors, wealthy farmers, lumber barons and the wealthy business owners all lived here.

These inventors and businessmen produced products and services needed elsewhere.

1870-The village listed 124 businesses in its directory. The Michigan Airline Rail Road went through Romeo bringing in raw materials and shipping out produce and manufactured products.

7-Second Empire homes had been built 1870's

1875- Other towns in the area had caught up economically and in growth with Romeo.

96- Victorian Gothic homes had been built 1870-1880's

Artist William Woodruff Gibbs was painting people and landscapes of the area in oil.

64- Queen Anne homes were built 1890's

4 Carriage manufactories were building carriages and shipping them all over the country.

1898-The D.U.R. street cars arrived in Romeo carrying passengers and freight to Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapids.

1899- The Grand Trunk Rail Road between Montreal and Chicago arrived.

1907-The local foundry was casting cylinder jugs for Henry Ford's Model-N car.

1908-1910 Henry Ford's Romeo foundry of West Lafayette St. was the exclusive source of Model-T engine castings,

23,000-30,000.

1910- Every Saturday night 1,000 people would shop the stores in downtown Romeo. Men's, women's and children's clothes in the latest New York styles, pianos, organs, sewing machines, hardware, furniture made in Romeo, farm equipment, cars were all available. Most Saturday nights there was a band in the park and a sock hop at the opera house.

Joan & Richard Beringer



Cowboy Caviar

1 can black beans, drained & rinsed

1 can pinto beans, drained & rinsed

1 can black eyed peas, drained & rinsed

1 can of corn, drained or if using fresh, cook & cut from cob

1 red bell pepper, finely chopped

1 orange bell pepper, finely chopped

1 yellow bell pepper, finely chopped

1 green bell pepper, finely chopped

1/3 cup red wine vinegar

1/4 cup olive oil

In large bowl, combine beans, corn and peppers until evenly mixed. Mix together vinegar and olive oil, then pour over mixture until evenly coated.

Serve with tortilla chips.

Romeo Historical Society

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ADDRESS LABEL

Romeohistoricalsociety.org

Preserve our Heritage!



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.

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT
7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Archives and House
Museums are OPEN!

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

The Blacksmith Shop is open
the 2nd Tuesday of the month
from 6-7 p.m. No forge.

And the 3rd Saturday of the
month from 9-11 a.m.

Dates are subject to change so
please check the sign in front
of the Archives Museum.

Please

Like Us

On Facebook!

Please don't forget to renew your membership.

Mark your Calendars...

2/22-5/4/14 The Roaring Twenties: From Riches to Rags at the Albert Lorenzo Cultural Center. Some of our museum artifacts are on display.

5/1/14 - Historical Walking Tour of the Business District. Meet at 7pm in front of the Masonic Temple on Main St.

5/10/14 Metamora Astronomy Day Bash Noon until 10ish. Tickets \$10.00 at Historic Old Town Hall, 26 E. High St, Metamora

5/17/14 - Village Flower Sale 9am-1pm & Sidewalk Sale 9am-5pm

6/5/14 - 7pm General Membership Potluck, Plant Exchange, Horseshoes & Elections.

6/14/14 - Flea-n-Tique at Archives Museum 9am-3pm

6/15/14 - Washington Historical Society Lock, Stock & Barrel Sale. Spaces are \$20 contact Pat Hallman 586-781-2963

7/26/14 - Wisner House Ice Cream Social, Pontiac

8/26/14 - Presentation on War of 1812 & Peach Festival at Kezar Library

9/9/14 - Innovations & Inventions Presentation at Kezar Library

9/20/14 - Barn Tour Tickets will go on sale Aug 1

Oct-Cemetery Tour 1-4pm

Dec-Christmas Ornament Sale

12/6/14 - Christmas Home Tour



Welcome New Members
Fred & Bonnie Zirotte