



Romeo Perspective

Volume 1, Issue 1 2014



ROMEO, MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

www.romeohistoricalsociety.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CURRENT EVENTS	1
PRESIDENT'S LETTER	2
MEETING INFO	2
CURATOR'S REPORT	3
CALENDAR	4

RHS Board

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

- Richard Beringer
- Douglas Pritchard
- Stuart Walters
- Connie Connelly
- Joann Urban



www.romeohistoricalsociety.org

A Wonderful Christmas Home Tour

The weather cooperated even though the temperature was very cold. We even had a bit of afternoon sunshine to brighten the day!

It was a sell out event for the society and a wonderful tour, a perfect way to start out the Christmas season.

Our beautifully decorated homes on this years tour showcased the wonderfully diverse architecture that has made Romeo so special. Our tour included the Sabo's 1845 Greek revival upstairs apartment; The 1863 downtown building that Helen Starkweather lived; The Reizes 1872 Victorian gothic home; The Stephens 1927 Dutch colonial; and the Meissners 1968 ranch home. We are very appreciative of the homeowners for opening and decorating their homes to make this years tour so successful.

Thank you to

Brad & Collette Meissner,

Al & Jerry Sabo,

Thom & Kelley Stephens,

Paul & Anna Reiz, and the



If you haven't purchased the 17th edition Christmas ornament now is the time!

Dr. Watson Loud Residence

c. 1849

\$22.00



**January General
Membership Meeting**

**Michigan
Lumbering Talk
Presented by
Richard Beringer**

The tools will be demonstrated, the local lumber baron's stories told and the life of a lumberjack will be shared. The great fire of 1881 which resulted in the beginnings of the Red Cross will be discussed. This is Romeo's History!

Thurs., Jan 9, 2014
7 p.m. at the
Archives Museum



**February General
Membership Meeting**

**Love Entwined,
The Curious His-
tory of Hair Work**

By Gloria Billo
Thurs., Feb. 6, 2014
7pm at the
Archives Museum



The President's Letter.....

As we wind up 2013, I'd like to thank all the people who make the Romeo Historical Society possible.

My fantastic board consisting of; VP Anna Reiz, Sec. Linda Pritchard, Treasurer Tim Billo, and trustees: Richard Beringer, Doug Pritchard, Connie Connelly, Joann Urban and Stu Walters, and don't forget our research enthusiast, Fred Buike. Of course, a big thank you to their spouses for putting up with all the hours these people put in to making our Society one of the best in Macomb County.

2013 was Romeo's 175th Birthday celebration which included a prolonged program of the war of 1812 and it's connection to Romeo Peaches. Thanks to Dr Richard Daughtery for the loan of many period pieces, which made the program come alive. Other programs included the "Orphan Train" with Eileen Robertson, Guest of the Confederacy by Bob and Cherie Allen, from Washington Historical Society, Dr. McClelland from Richmond Historical Society with his great presentation about Civil War Medicine, our own Beringers put on so many programs during the year, that I've lost track but I know they were responsible for the Vintage Wed-

ding Gown program, the Architectural Bike tour, hundreds of school children being led through the museums and Blacksmith shop. And what about that first ever Barn Tour??? That was a joint effort with the Beringers and Billos taking the lead and making it a spectacular event to be continued into future years.

We continued with our "tried and true" events of Heritage Alliance with all the Macomb County Historical Societies, Flea-n-tique Sale, Harvest Days Cemetery Walk and the December Home Tour. Linda Pritchard, Anna Reiz headed the committee and found the houses for this years December Home Tour. We have all promised to start hunting for the 2014 Homes in January, so if you know of anyone or would like to volunteer your home, give us a call.

Finally our 17th Ornament hit the streets in late November, featuring the home of Dr. Watson Loud being preserved by Tom and Eileen Offer. What a beautiful addition to the other Romeo Historical home ornaments.

We've accomplished all these things with the help of our faithful members, friends, and residents. Bless you one and all...

President, Sue Kane

From Our Curators...

The Bancroft/Stranahan Museum is open every Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. If you haven't been in the museum in the last year, you haven't been in the museum. Both floors are open to visitors. New acquisitions are constantly being added. Have you seen the "Undies of Romeo" room? Would you like to help give tours of the museum? Do you have something that you think would look great in the museum? Remember, donations to the museum (a 501c(3) charity) can be applied to your income tax.

Probably 700 school children toured the Church Street museum this school year. The students actively take part in old time chores such a fire wood gathering, laundry, ironing, polishing silver and old games.

Anna Reiz donated a wool filled ticking, she is sewing a cover for this. It will be used on the 1845 rope bed in the upstairs bed room. Anna has

been serving as a guide on Tuesday evenings with Joan Beringer. We are looking for members who would like to keep the Bancroft Stranahan museum open during the months of February and March while Joan can't be there.

Bev Benczik loaned a desk that was Grace Gookins. It was purchased from the Gookin auction on Church Street and Rawles Street.

Feel free to shovel snow at the museums during February and March so we don't get into trouble with the village.

The 2014 Barn Tour will be held September 20. The committee (Billos and Beringers) has already secured 6-7 sites including an 1840's Greek revival, a barn that was converted into a house, a carriage barn, a bow barn and more barns. This should be a great tour like last years. Last year 265 people went on the barn tour. We earned \$2,000 for the museums. Hopefully the 2014 tour will be even better!

Fred Buike, Richard Beringer and Sue Kane can usually be found every Tuesday from 7-9p.m. at

the Romeo Archives Museum. You will find Sue upstairs in the office answering phone call messages, counting money, paying bills, or talking to a visitor in our research library. Down stairs Fred and Richard are doing research, giving a tour about Michigan Lumbering or answering a visitor's questions. Fred always brings his briefcase full of his last week's "new discoveries about old stuff." Come and talk with Fred about growing up in Romeo. You might say he's "full of it." He can tell you which kid got beat up on which corner. He knows where the water works was and where the band practiced at the old high school. But don't get him started talking about the local trains. He loves those stories.

The Craig Museum has been open twice a month from April till November (14-16 times) along with school children (400-500) since last January. Stuart Walters & Richard Beringer gave the school tours. Fred Buike was in the shop many of the times working at the forge. Doug Pritchard and Fred Buike operated the shop during the Barn Tour inviting over 200 visitors. Grand Total (estimated) 700 visitors. NOT BAD!

Joan & Richard Beringer

White Bean Chili	2 cloves garlic, minced	Cook chicken breast (cut up) in 1 tbsp. oil, add garlic and onion. Add rest, bring to boil, then simmer 30 minutes or longer. Add Monterey Jack cheese on top when served.
3 cans of northern beans	1 onion chopped	
2 cans of white shoepeg corn	2 tbsps. Cumin	
1 can green chilies	1/2 tsp. oregano	
2 boneless chicken breasts	32 oz. chicken broth	
	1 cup hot water	

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!



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!



Please
Like Us
On Facebook!

Please don't forget to renew your membership.

Mark your Calendars...

Thank You To

1/9/14– 7pm General
Membership Meeting:
Michigan Lumbering Talk
by Richard Beringer at the
Archives Museum

2/6/14– 7pm General
Membership Meeting: *Love
Entwined* by Gloria Billo
at the Archives Museum

3/6/14 - 7pm *Depression
Glass* by Sue Kane at the
Archives Museum

4/3/14 — 7 pm *Washday
Blues: History of Irons* by
Mary Walters at the Ar-
chives Museum

6/5/14 - 7pm General
Membership Meeting,
Elections, Potluck

June Flea-n-Tique Sale at
Archives Museum 9a-3p

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

Oct-Cemetery Tour 1-4pm

Dec-Christmas Ornament
Sale

12/6/14 - Christmas Home
Tour

...Joan & Richard
Beringer for clean-
ing, painting & re-
decorating the
bathrooms in the
Archives Museum.

...Kevin Parkhurst
for donating a rib-
bon commemorat-
ing the 1885 reun-
ion, held August
27th & 28, of the
Macomb and St.

Clair Civil War vets
(4th and 22nd
Michigan Infantry).

Welcome

New Members

Brad & Collette
Meissner

Al & Jeremy Sabo