



Romeo Perspective

The Romeo Historical Society is a 501 (C) 3 Non-Profit Organization

Special Interest Articles:

- Current Events
- President's Letter
- Meeting Info
- Curator's Report
- Calendar

2014-15 RHS Board

- Sue Kane, President
Anna Reiz,
Vice President
Tim Billo, Treasurer
Linda Pritchard,
Secretary
- Trustees:
- Richard Beringer
 - Douglas Pritchard
 - Stuart Walters
 - Connie Connelly
 - Joann Urban

Welcome to our
New Members:

Lois Abbot

Romeo Collection Pieces on Display

The "101 People, Places and Things that made Michigan" Exhibit at the Albert L. Lorenzo Cultural Center has on display the following pieces from the Romeo Historical Society. The items on are loan are: Brabb Carriage, Rock samples, Harvey Mellen painting, and Sarah and Peter Lerrich paintings. The exhibit runs until May 9, 2015 at Macomb Community College in Clinton Twp. Be sure to stop in for a visit.



Flea n'tique

We are currently accepting donations for the upcoming fund raising sale in June. Please drop off items on Tuesday nights from 7-9 p.m. at the Archives Museums or call 586-752-4111 to make arrangements. (No clothing, please). The event date is Saturday, June 13th from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in front of the Archives Museum, 290 N. Main Street, during the Community wide Garage & Antique Sale. Please support us with your donation and/or purchase at the sale.

Donations & Contributions...

- Weeden Toy Steam Engine donated by Doug & Linda Pritchard
- Tan Arrowhead that was found in Romeo donated by Albert Jacobs
- 13 framed pictures of Frank Bowerman and a chest protector of Byron Bowerman donated by Andrew Roth
- Misc. Romeo paper items from defunct Romeo Businesses donated by Sue Kane
- Monetary Contributions from:
Tom & Lori Brubaker, Kurt Heidebreicht, Alan & Alice Longley,
Dale & Judy Lopus, Andrew Roth and Charles Turner

Membership Renewal Reminder!

Your continued support is needed. Please keep the Society going by renewing your membership or by making a contribution. We appreciate and thank you for your help!

ROMEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please mail this form with your check/money order to:
Romeo Historical Society
P.O. Box 412, Romeo, MI 48065

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership: Renewal New
 Individual \$15. Family \$20.
 Business \$25. Lifetime \$250.
 Contribution _____

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

From the President's Desk...

March came in like a lamb but sure went out like a lion. Measured 6" of snow on my deck March 31st. Hope that the end of it.

We hope you enjoyed our April program Thursday April 2nd. "Show and Tell" in Romeo. We saw some interesting items that brought back many memories.

The Historical Society is now accepting donations on Tuesday nights from 7-9 p.m. of gently used household items, (no clothing) for Saturday June 13th Flea'ntique here in the front yard at 290 N. Main. Last year we made \$600 for the Society. Let's beat that this year.

May's General Membership meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14th at 7 p.m. at the Grays Opera House. A tour of the upper levels will be done by Richard Beringer. A lot has happened in the last few months at the opera house. We hope you will be surprised.

Be sure to stop in the Graubner Library and see the displays the Historical Society has put together. April is National Glass month so I have a display of my personal Depression Glass. During May, curator Richard Beringer is doing a display of items from the Romeo Archives. Then in June we are doing a display on brides. June is also our election month. Thursday June 4 at 6:30 will be having a pot luck dinner. Society will supply hot dogs at the blacksmith shop yard. We'll have a plant exchange, horse shoes, and badminton. Please think about running for an office. We could use your help.

Thanks, Sue Kane

Mark Your Calendar...

- 4/2/15 Membership Meeting: Show & Tell, 7 p.m. Archives Museum
- 4/21/15 Walking or Biking History Tour 7 p.m. Sharp! Meet at Bancroft-Stranahan Museum, 132 Church St.
- 5/14/15 Membership Meeting: Gray's Opera House Tour. Meet at Masonic Temple on Main Street. Free, but donations can be made to the Friends of Gray's Opera House.
- 5/16/15 Flower Day in Downtown Romeo, 9am-1pm
- 5/19/15 Walking or Biking History Tour 7 p.m. Sharp! Meet at Bancroft-Stranahan Museum, 132 Church St.
- 6/4/15 Potluck Dinner & Elections, 6:30 p.m. at the Blacksmith Shop yard. Plant exchange, Horseshoes and badminton.
- 6/20/15 Flea-n-Tique Sale at Archives Museum 9a-3p
- 6/16/15 Walking or Biking History Tour 7 p.m. Sharp! Meet at Bancroft-Stranahan Museum, 132 Church St.
- 6/16 Walking or Biking History Tour 7 p.m. Sharp! Meet at Bancroft-Stranahan Museum, 132 Church St.
- 8/1/15 Tickets on sale for Barn Tour
- 9/20/15 Barn Tour
- 10/1/15 Membership Meeting:TBA
- 10/17/15 Cemetery Tour 1-4pm
- 10/20/15 Christmas Ornament Sale
- 11/1/15 Tickets on Sale for Christmas Home Tour
- 11/5/15 Membership Meeting: History of the Romeo Monday Club, Archives Museum 7 pm
- 12/5/15 Christmas Home Tour

House Plaques Available

Would you like to display the year your home was built? We can order a Historic Date Plaque for you at the cost of only \$100.

To place your order, please come to the Romeo Historical Society at 290 N. Main (the old State Police Post) to complete an application. We are open from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. each Tuesday evening. Once your application has been approved by the Romeo Historical Society Executive Board, you should have your plaque within 3-4- weeks.

Also if you need more information about your home in Romeo, we may be able to look up information for you, so come and see us on Tuesday evenings.

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Romeo Historical Society Plaque Policy

Purpose:

To document the structures within the Romeo Historical District and the surrounding area.

Eligible Structures:

- Any Structure within the Romeo Historic District.
- Any other structure in the Romeo area that is of historic significance (as determined by the Historical Society)
- A structure may have more than one plaque to document several different phases of construction.

Date:

- The earliest year for which the existence of the structure can be verified beyond serious doubt: In general, however, a plaque will not be issued if there is suspicion that the structure was in existence more than 5 years before the verified date.
- If construction should span several years, the date on the plaque shall be the date construction began.
- If at a later time further evidence becomes available, the original plaque will be exchanged for one with the more appropriate date.

Documentation:

- An application must be completed and submitted to the Society.
- The applicant must provide the necessary documentation to substantiate the requested plaque date to the satisfaction of the society.

Review and Approval:

- The plaque committee will review all applications and present their recommendations to the Society's Executive Board for action.
- Board action concerning plaque applications will be noted in the next Society Newsletter and will become final after the regular Society meeting following such notice.

Cost and Payment:

- Society members – Cost of the plaque
- Non-members- cost of plaque plus 10%
- Payment must be made before the order is placed but after the plaque is approved.

Ordering and Delivery:

Delivery should be 4-6 weeks after the order is placed.

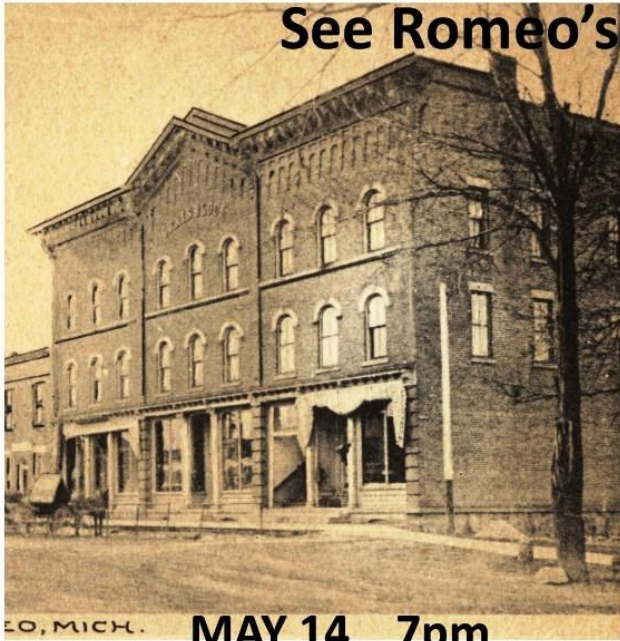
Placement:

The plaque must be placed on that portion of the structure to which the date on the plaque corresponds, unless a variance is requested and approved by the society.

Proposed 3/19/81

Revised 3/17/2015

See Romeo's Finest!



MAY 14 7pm

A tour of Romeo's Gray's Opera House

**By The Friends of Gray's Opera House and
the Romeo Historical Society**

**Meet in front of this beautiful 1870 opera
house.**

**Tour is free, but donations can be made to
the Friends of Gray's Opera House.**



AT GRAYS' OPERA HOUSE, FRIDAY EV'NG, JAN. 13.

1882, will be presented by the R. D. A.,
for the first time in Romeo, the beautiful
and romantic Drama in two acts, entitled,
"THE CHARCOAL BURNER,"

OR THE
"Dropping Well of Knarasherough."

*This play abounds in fine scenic effects
and situations, beautiful costumes, etc.*

*Four new scenes and the entire costumes
have been prepared expressly for this play.*

Cast of Characters:

Sir Godfrey Harrington.....	E. B. Sutherland
Mathew Esdale (alias Gray).....	Jas. K. McFarlane
Edmond Esdale.....	Geo. Fessenden
Poynt Arden.....	G. W. Phillips, Jr.
Mr. Valentine Verdict.....	Ben Cuyler
Caleb Brown.....	L. Flowerville
Jacob Jones.....	Jas. Starkweather
Abel Cole.....	Chas. Phillips
Miss Edith Harrington.....	Miss Emma Haiser
Barbara Jones.....	Miss Dell Coykendall
Mother Gumbie.....	Miss Sarah Sawyer

At the close of "The Charcoal Burner," Miss
Milley Lyon will give her inimitable character
song, entitled, Hail! Hail!! Hail!!! Then comes

"MY PRECIOUS BETSEY"

With the following Cast:

Constantine wagon.....	Chas. Phillips
Edward Langford.....	E. B. Sutherland
Mrs. Bobtail.....	Miss Dell Coykendall
Mrs. Mary Ann Matilda Wagtail.....	Mrs. Ben Cuyler
Nancy Muddle.....	Miss Emma Haiser
Shop Boy.....	Jas. Starkweather
Nurse.....	Miss Campbell

Some fine new selections by Smith's full orchestra
will be interspersed through the play and
between acts. Every character will be taken just
as advertised.

**With New Scenes and New Cos-
tumes.**

Ticket office open at 7:30. Curtain rises at 8 sharp.

SINGLE ADMISSION, - 25 CENTS.

RESERVED SEATS, - 35 CENTS.

Tickets on Sale at C. N. Coe's.

Ben. Cuyler - - -	Stage Manager.
M. P. Owen - - -	Business Manager.
G. W. Phillips - - -	Secretary.
Cel. J. Smith - - -	Musical Director.

From Our Curators, Richard & Joan Beringer...

Please drop in to our three wonderful museums and bring your friends too. You're proud to be a member of the RHS, so share this with your friends. We have up to seven dedicated volunteers every Tuesday evening at two of the museums. The blacksmith museum will also be open by our blacksmith staff of Fred Buike, Fred Zerotti, Chris Chirco, Doug Pritchard, Stuart Walters or Richard Beringer on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6-7 pm and the third Saturday of the month from 9-11 am.

NEW PROGRAM! A walking or biking history tour will be offered by Richard Beringer. The first person to arrive at the Bancroft Stranahan Museum, 132 Church Street will get to choose the tour theme. Dates for the tours: April 21, May 19, June 16 at 7 p.m. sharp!

Possible themes are:

- Tour of history and architecture of North Main St.
- Tour of history and architecture of Church St
- Tour of history and architecture of North Bailey
- Sites of Romeo-On-Wheels{Carriages, Street Cars and Ford Foundry}
- Downtown business area{History of the business buildings}
- Gray's Opera House{Tour and history}

Chronology of Gray's opera House 1869-1870 (based on articles in the Romeo Observer)

Dec. 29, 1869-"Romeo, its growth and prosperity," article describing new buildings and residences in Romeo. Includes a physical description of GOH (Gray's Opera House).

Mar. 2, 1870-A description of the plans for the dedication of GOH. Includes a list of all the performers and entertainments.

Mar. 9, Tues. 1870-First dedication night. 500-600 persons.

Mar.16, Wed. 1870-Second dedication night. Article says the entertainment was more successful than the first night. 600-700 persons.

Mar 30, Thur. 1870-The Romeo Union School gave "exhibitions" to the audience. Music was involved part of the time.

May 5, Mon. and every evening of the week.1870-Prof. Owen the famous glass blower demonstrated his glass blowing skills every night of the week at GOH.

June 8, Mon & Tues. 1870-Juvenile concert under Mr. O. Blakley, their teacher.

June 30 & July 1, 1870-Young Ladies' Congregational Society presented a patriotic program entitled "America." There were 60-70 performers.

July 4, Mon 1870-A social dance costing \$1.50 with a six piece orchestra.

Aug. 24 & 25, Wed. & Thur. 1870-Fireman's Concert First night half- filled auditorium, second night a crowd. They earned \$263.70.

Oct 5, 1870-Pixley and Grannis were two male singers who entertained at the GOH. Cost 25 cents.

Oct 28, Fri. 1870-Capt. Burrows political campaign speech. Seating for 600 and many were standing.

Nov 2, Thur. 1870-Felix Vincent comedian and Nellie Sanford gave a theatrical performance in two acts entitled "The Maniac Lover" and a play called "Irish Assurance and Yankee Modesty."

Nov 3, Fri. 1870-Vincent and Sanford a play called "The Serious Family" in three acts and the play "The Dumb Belle."

Nov. 4, Sat. 1870-Vincent and Sanford performed "The Hidden Hand."

Nov. 24, Thur. 1870-Concert by the Romeo Orchestra Band cost 25c. followed by a social hop (dance) cost \$1.

Dec. 2, 3, & 5th, Fri, Sat, Mon. 1870- Maud Stanley concerts.

Dec 13, 1870-The B. F. M. ladies society held a fair and supper at GOH.

Jan 4, 1871-The Hutchison Family singers entertained under the sponsorship of the Y. M. L. A. (Young Men's Literary Association) at the GOH.

Collected by Richard Beringer Jan 19, 2015

Volunteer Needed...

Looking for a volunteer(s) to do some scraping and painting on the Bancroft Stranahan Museum at 132 Church Street. We have some areas where the paint is bubbling on the house. Anyone who can help us out would be much appreciated. Please contact Sue Kane at 586-337-4610.

Romeo Historical Society

Street Address
290 N. Main Street
Romeo, MI 48065

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 412
Romeo, MI 48065

PHONE:
(586) 752-4111

FAX:
(586) 752-5414

E-MAIL:
rhs@romeohistoricalsociety.org



We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.romeohistoricalsociety.org

Also like us on Facebook!

Three Local Museums to Visit..

Romeo Art & Archives Center
290 N. Main Street.
(Former state police building)
Open Tuesday Nights 7-9 p.m.

Bancroft-Stranahan House Museum
132 Church St.
Open Tuesday Nights 7-9 p.m.
Archives and House Museum will be closed
during inclement weather.

Clyde Craig Blacksmith Shop
301 N. Bailey St.

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

And on 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

About Our Organization...

The Romeo Historical Society has run continuously since 1961, but was originally formed in the 1800's. We are a volunteer organization totally funded through our memberships, donations, grants and the events we hold throughout the year. We maintain and operate two museums and an Arts & Archive Center. These buildings are part of our area history where you can learn about our past through exhibits and artifacts. We would love to have your support and participation in our events. As always, volunteers are welcome.

Our Mission

Is to preserve, document and promote the history and heritage
of the Village of Romeo and its surrounding areas.

Romeo Historical
Society
P.O. Box 412
Romeo, MI 48065

