



RELIVING

# The Rochester Era

May/June

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society Newsletter

2018

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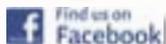
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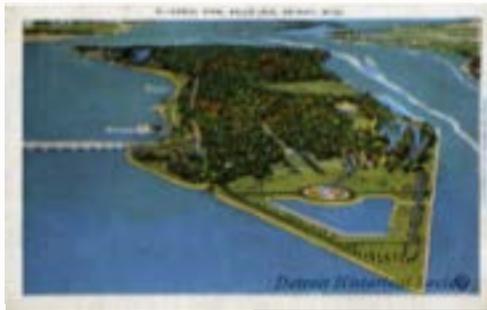


## From our town to Motown ...



**... and  
beyond!**

## RAHS and OTHS are teaming up ...



**see where we're  
headed next!**

(Details inside this issue.)



Photo credit: detroithistorical.org

## President's Message



**Brian Dunphy**  
President  
Rochester-Avon  
Historical Society

### Looking ahead, looking back

After more than four years as President of the historical society, I plan to step down at the end of my term June 30. I'm proud of what we've accomplished during my term, and I'm confident that continued success lies ahead for our organization.

We've offered many great events, such as our monthly speaker programs at the library and our annual Antique Appraisal Day. We've displayed our restored surrey in the Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade and supported Greater Rochester Heritage Days as a sponsor, as a member of the event's steering committee and through our sales and information booths. And we've participated in Downtown Rochester's Kris Kringle Market, selling RAHS merchandise to holiday shoppers.

In addition, we've offered cemetery tours in Mount Avon Cemetery, with historical reenactors portraying the Rochester notables interred there. And we won a 2015 State History Award from the Historical Society of Michigan for the Rochester Era newsletter.

More recently, we've reached out to and begun working more closely with other local historical groups, such as the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm and the Rochester Historical Commission. We've been involved in discussions with Rochester city officials around relocating and preserving the historic Rochester Elevator and creation of the city's historic districts.

With help from Alaina Campbell, President of the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce, we developed a strategic plan to guide the Historical society over the next several years.

We're now identifying another group of committed, historic-minded members to serve on the RAHS Board for the two-year term starting July 1. While some of our current Board members will remain—some in different positions—we will add some "new faces" who can help us continue our successful programs and activities and help us explore and develop new initiatives.

I'm proud to have been granted the opportunity to lead this fine organization. RAHS will remain in good hands, and the best is yet to come.

## In Memoriam 2017-2018

Our thoughts turn to fellow RAHS members we've lost throughout the year

**Ralph Barthel      Jan Heuerman      Bill Potere      Mary Lou Reilly**  
and  
**Marge Dernier**

who, along with her late husband Walter, shared with RAHS many photos of downtown Rochester and the surrounding area from their personal collection



**Carol Tough**  
Event Chair

## RAHS' Silver Anniversary Antique Appraisal Day is history

First of all, thank you to all who volunteered to work our 25th Anniversary Antique Appraisal Day. I love seeing it all come together, and that only happens because of your hard work.

Attendance numbers were down from last year —perhaps influenced by the weather, or in anticipation of the upcoming local visit by the Antiques Roadshow—however, our profit was right in line with that of recent years. A net profit this year in excess of \$1,600 will help to fund our ongoing educational and preservation efforts.

Thank you again for all your help, thanks to our very talented appraisers, and thanks to those members of the community who brought their treasures. *We treasure your support of the RAHS organization!*



Above: Some of our dedicated 2018 Antique Appraisal Day volunteers. (Standing L to R: Mary McVeigh, event chair Carol Tough, Roland Maki, Christine Pencak, Judy Sloan, Janet Potton, Barb Bates, Liz Golding, Susan Wilson, Tom Bledsoe, Holly Bledsoe, Sandy Agosta. Seated: Gary Jaracz, Roberta Maki.)



L to R: RAHS member volunteers Liz Golding, June Hopaluk, Barb Bates, Susan Wilson, Gary Jaracz, Brian Dunphy and Tiffany Stozicki.



Many thanks to Jim and Berta Cassell for sharing items from their extensive collections of trench art and pressing irons respectively.



Video of the trench art collection exhibited that day can be viewed on YouTube. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Nuv5Gdubyw>)



Some of our talented and knowledgeable 2018 Antique Appraisal Day appraisers. (L to R: Greg Zemsta, Kelly Knoll, Darlene Hines, Michael Wolk-Laniewski and Jere Rush.)

**Meerschaum pipe**



Appraiser Paul Haig



## Upcoming Programs

### Library Lecture

**Thursday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m.**

Rochester Hills Public Library  
500 Olde Town Road

## “100 Years of Service at Selfridge Air National Guard Base”

**FREE AND OPEN  
TO THE PUBLIC**

From World War I flying machines to today’s battle-tested 21<sup>st</sup> century aircraft, Selfridge Air National Guard Base has been home to America’s military heroes for more than 100 years. Veteran Dan Heaton will offer some of the more interesting accounts of that history, touching on the Tuskegee Airmen, the events of September 11, 2001, and a secret departure of dozens of Selfridge pilots on the eve of World War II.



Dan Heaton

After initially serving on active duty in the Air Force, Heaton worked for more than 20 years as a news reporter and editor in both newspapers and radio. Currently, he is on active duty once again, serving as a public affairs specialist at Selfridge.

This military historian has written three books: *“Forgotten Aviator: The Bryon Q. Jones Story”*, *“Selfridge & Collins: The Life & Times of Military Aviation Pioneers Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge and Capt. Phelps Collins”*, and *“Forts & Fields: A History of Michigan’s Military Places.”* A fourth book *“Selfridge Field: A Centennial History”* has been written but not published yet.

Selfridge is named after 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Thomas E. Selfridge, who was killed in 1908 while flying as a passenger with Orville Wright at Fort Myer, Virginia. He was the first person to be killed in a crash of a powered aircraft. In 1917, the



All images courtesy of Dan Heaton

U.S. government announced that the original Joy Aviation Field would become a training camp as part of the expansion of the Air Service. The new Selfridge base became one of only nine military airfields in the country.



A veteran of both the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy, Dan Heaton has long been fascinated by learning how things came to be as they are today. The study of history—of his hometown region of Detroit, of its auto industry, and of the military services in which he proudly served—has been a part of his life since he was a young man.

Heaton serves as an assistant to the pastors at his church, First Presbyterian Church of Mount Clemens, and works part time as a chaplain in a Detroit hospital. He serves as a member of the board of directors of a homeless shelter program in Macomb County.

**Wednesday, June 6 at 6:00 p.m.**

Rochester Community House  
816 Ludlow Street



**RAHS  
MEMBERS  
ONLY**

### Annual Picnic Potluck

- Volunteer Awards

- Election of New Board of Directors

*Watch for further details  
regarding this event!  
Members will receive  
communications  
via email and post card.*

On Feb. 24, 2018, RAHS Board members Tiffany Stozicki and Mary Howarth served as district-level judges for the Historical Society of Michigan's Michigan History Day competition.

## Judging "Conflict & Compromise in History"

By Mary Howarth



Mary Howarth

What? *Me* judge at the district Michigan History Day? I wasn't even certain what it was. I discovered it was a year-long educational program of the Historical Society of Michigan that encourages students to explore local, state, national and world history. Winners of the state level Michigan History Day competition in the Junior and Senior categories move on to compete in National History Day in College Park, Md.

After selecting a historical topic that related to this year's annual theme, which is "Conflict & Compromise in History," students conduct extensive research by using libraries, archives, museums and oral history interviews. They analyze and interpret their findings, draw conclusions about their topics' significance in history, and create final projects in one of five categories: paper, exhibit, documentary, website or performance.

I was apprehensive that my background would not be adequate enough to "judge" an important event in the lives of youth and teens. I quickly discovered that the students are the experts and we, as "judges," are just curious participants who simply guide them to present their information in whatever category they compete. We just ask questions for them to express themselves, thus they learn. So did I.

As a judge, and I would prefer to have been called an "evaluator," I benefited from the students, their quest for knowledge, and their desire to infectiously share it. By learning to create a connection to the people of the past, students see history as a grand story, woven together by the actions of people like themselves.

I judged in the exhibits division and saw the progression of expertise from students experiencing their first History Day to those who have participated for many years. The level of presentation effect varied greatly, but the knowledge was at a high level among all the students. Some "went it alone," while others worked in groups. Either way, they had much to share with those of us acting as judges.

I shall do this again next year, and I only regret that I am not available to participate in the judging at the state level.

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society (RAHS) was founded in 1969 to help preserve, collect and interpret the history of the greater Rochester area for present and future generations.

For more information, including a list of upcoming events, visit online at:

[www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org)

## RAHS member honored for historic preservation efforts



John Dziurman

Rochester-Avon Historical Society member John Dziurman, president of John Dziurman Architects Ltd., has been selected to receive a Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN) 2018 Community Award for his firm's work on the restoration of the Greensky Hill Historic Indian Mission United Methodist Church in Charlevoix, Mich.

The award honors community groups that have engaged in comprehensive plans for historic preservation-related projects.

**Don't miss these upcoming events**  
**Be sure to mark your calendar now!**



MAY						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**RAHS Evening Program**  
 @ Library  
 "100 Years of Service at  
 Selfridge Air  
 National Guard Base"  
 Presented by Dan Heaton  
**Thursday, May 3**  
 7:00 p.m.

**OTHS and RAHS "Members Only"**  
**Belle Isle Field Trip and Lunch**

**Saturday, May 12**

Bus departure time 9:00 a.m.  
 Return to Rochester approx. 3:00 p.m.

**Bus is sold out!**

**RAHS and OTHS Booths at Heritage Days**

**Saturday, May 19** - 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
**Sunday, May 20** - 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Oakland Township Historic  
 District Commission's  
 Square Dance at  
 Cranberry Lake Farm**

**Saturday, June 2**  
 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Free and  
 open to the public!

JUNE						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**RAHS "Members Only"**  
**Annual Picnic and Board of Director Elections**  
 @ Rochester Community House

**Wednesday, June 6**  
 Starts at 6:00 p.m.

**RAHS Historic Downtown Walking Tour**

**Monday, June 11**  
 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Departs from northeast corner of Western Knitting Mills building  
 at Water and Fourth Streets

Rain or shine

## RAHS and OTHS "Members Only" Belle Isle Field Trip and Lunch

Join us for a shared group excursion to Belle Isle and  
 Pewabic Pottery on **Saturday, May 12.**

RAHS has arranged bus transportation departing promptly at 9:00 a.m. from the Kmart parking lot (southwest corner of Rochester and Avon Roads). We'll visit **three venues on Belle Isle: the Aquarium, the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.** We'll then be transported to **Sindbad's** restaurant for lunch,\* after which we'll travel to **Pewabic Pottery** for a short tour and a chance to shop! Finally, we'll board our bus and arrive back in Rochester around 3:00 p.m.



Pewabic tile image credit:  
[pewabicstore.org](http://pewabicstore.org)

The cost of this event is \$20 per person, which covers round trip bus transportation for the day's activities. (Note: Lunch is at your own expense and is not included in the event price.) For additional information, call Colleen Barkham at 248-652-0712 or Carol Tough at 248-375-0084.

**This bus is currently sold out!** If you'd like to be placed on a waitlist, email [rahsupdates@gmail.com](mailto:rahsupdates@gmail.com), or leave a voicemail message at 248-266-5440 advising your name and phone number. We'll follow up with you by phone to let you know if seats become available. Once you receive acknowledgement of space availability, we'll need your \$20 check, payable to "RAHS" noting "Belle Isle" on check memo line, to finalize your reservation.

Admission to all venues is free; those interested can make a donation to benefit their restoration projects.

\*The cost of lunch is not included in the event price.  
 Please be sure to bring cash as each table will receive only one tab!

## Renew Anew!



Janet Potton

**Fellow history lovers, the time may be approaching to renew your membership in the Rochester-Avon Historical Society.** As you know, our fiscal year begins on July 1. If you typically renew each year, your dues are payable by that date. It's worth noting that some members renew on a multi-year basis, avoiding the the need to issue multiple payments while providing capital for our events, programs and communications. As always, your dues help to mitigate the costs of presenting programs, mailings to members, newsletter costs, community education and historic preservation. Dues remain at the low cost of \$20 per individual, \$35 family, \$50 contributing and \$250 patron per year. The membership application appears directly below and includes our mailing address.

I will be changing board positions this year, so someone new will be taking over the membership position. It will be very helpful for them if the majority of members are fully paid before the new membership director takes over on July 1. *We are requesting that you help prevent our hardworking volunteers from being overwhelmed in bookkeeping tasks and renew your dues early.* Payment can be made by check, by PayPal online via our website ([www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org)), or simply by handing it to a board member at a meeting or at the June 6 annual picnic.

Thank you so much for your help in making this job easier for me and for our new membership director by renewing early. It goes without saying that we also rely on you to be goodwill ambassadors for the historical society by promoting membership in our organization with any of your historically minded family members, friends and acquaintances. Without the support and volunteerism of our members, we wouldn't be the vibrant and involved organization we are today.

### Join the Rochester-Avon Historical Society Today! Membership Application

- |                                  |                                            |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New     | \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> Student      |
|                                  | \$20 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | \$35 <input type="checkbox"/> Family       |
|                                  | \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing |
|                                  | \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Business    |
|                                  | \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> Patron      |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### How would you like to participate?

- Annual Picnic
- Antique Appraisal Day
- Historic Research
- Historic Walking Tour Guide/Assistant
- Fundraising
- Genealogy Research
- Heritage Days
- Oral History
- Photography/Videography
- Publications
- Refreshments at Meetings
- Special Project Volunteer
- Website/Social Media



Mail completed form with check payable to:

**RAHS**  
P.O. Box 80783  
Rochester, MI 48308-0783

*Questions? Call us at 248-266-5440*

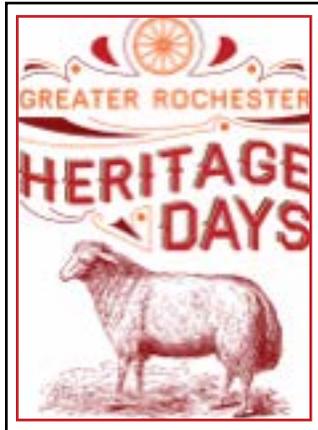
## Calling all Member Volunteers for Heritage Days!

Saturday, May 19 - Sunday, May 20

*Help staff the RAHS merchandise or historic photo sales booths that help to fund informative and entertaining programs and activities throughout the year.*

Call 248-266-5440, email [rahsupdates@gmail.com](mailto:rahsupdates@gmail.com), or click the following link to sign up online:

[Greater Rochester Heritage Days 2018 - RAHS Booths Sign Up](#)



Rochester Municipal Park

Other events and activities to enjoy during the festival include:

- Pancake breakfast at the Community House (nominal cost)
  - Rochester Lions Club Car Show
    - Saturday: Heritage Rod and Custom Cars
    - Sunday: Annual Festival of Cars
  - Great Lakes Log Rollers perform both days
    - Michigan 10th Volunteer Infantry  
(Served in American Civil War and Brooks Marine War of 1812)
    - Children's Pioneer Playground
      - Crafting Demonstrations
    - OTHS Booth and Heritage Plant Sale
- Rochester Grangers Base Ball at Halbach Field

Plenty of music, food and fun!

“Pride in Preserving the Past”



P O Box 80783  
Rochester, MI 48308-0783



A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization