

FRIENDS
OF THE
RAY TOWNSHIP
LIBRARY &
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

BOOKMARK
2025

Fri - Apr 25th 6:00pm

NOW & THEN EVENT

with Beverly Bishop
Ray Township Center

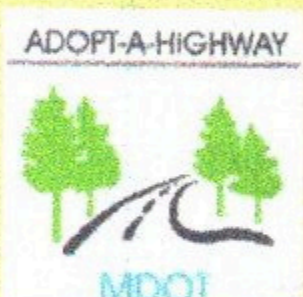
Wed - April 30th 4:00pm

Friends of the Library &
Historical Society

MEETING in the Library

Sat - May 10th 10:00am

Indian Trail Cleanup



Meet in the Library
Parking Lot

June 10th - 22nd

SILENT AUCTION

in the Library

Thurs - Aug 28th 4:00pm

Friends of the Library &
Historical Society

MEETING in the Library

Thurs - Sept 25th

NOW & THEN EVENT

with Tobin Buhk

Thurs - Nov 13th 4:00pm

Friends of the Library &
Historical Society

MEETING in the Library

The Back Shelf

RAY TOWNSHIP, MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ISSUE XIX APRIL 2025

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS: WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE

Fires continue to be a big threat to local communities. Much has changed in the past 150 years, but our regular and volunteer firefighters still answer the call when fires threaten our livelihoods.

Beverly Bishop will present the history of our area's local firefighters on **Friday, April 25th at 6:00pm** in the **Ray Township Public Library**. Many men left their farms and businesses to quench the flames engulfing structures when fires arose from wood burning stoves, matches, and even spontaneously from stored hay.

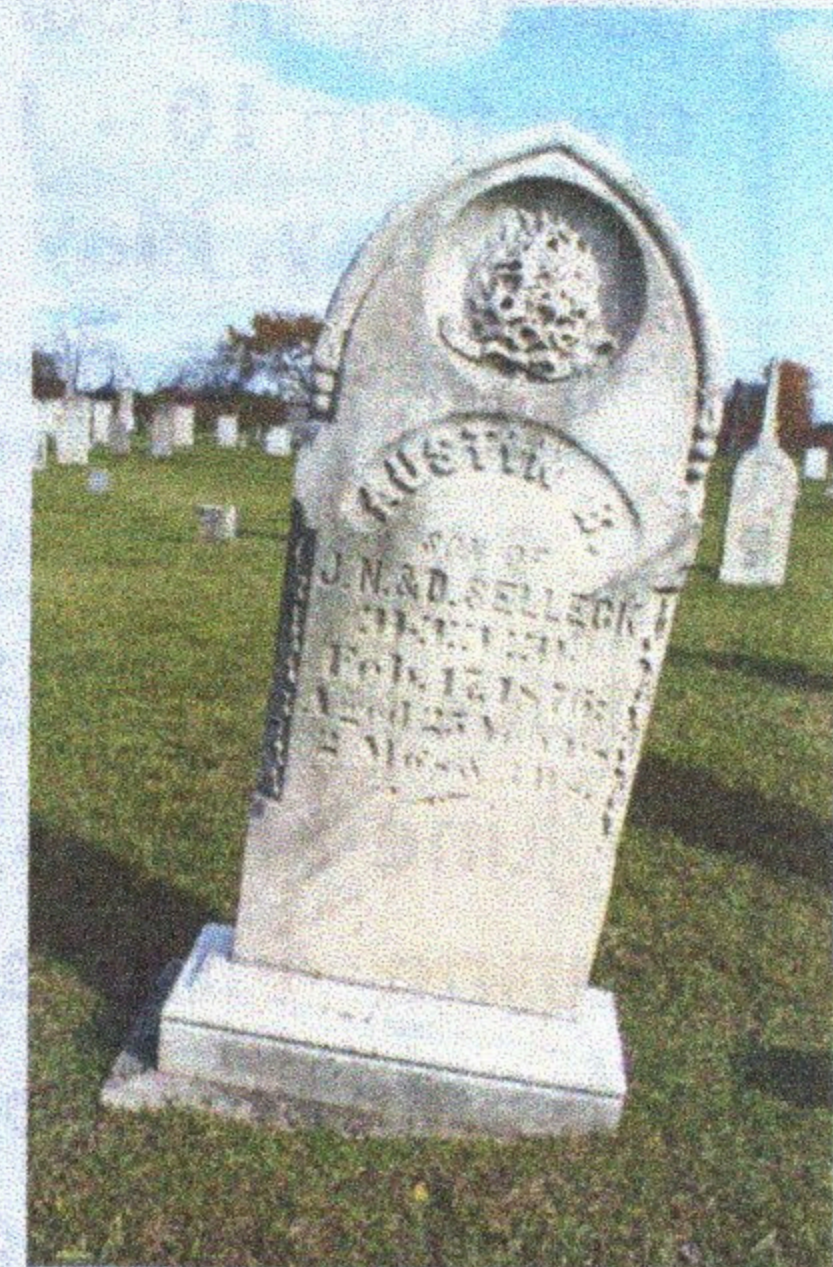


Learn about firehouses, equipment, alarm systems, insurance, and water systems used from 1880 to 2000. Register for this free hour-long event by April 21st at raylibrary.org/calendar/events.

PROCTER CEMETERY PHASE III

The second part of Phase III of the Procter Cemetery Restoration is expected to restore fifty marble headstones that are dirty and leaning at an estimated cost of \$23,000. Our Society currently has \$6,000 committed for the project thanks to our annual Calendar sales and Silent Auctions along with generous donations from the community and our members.

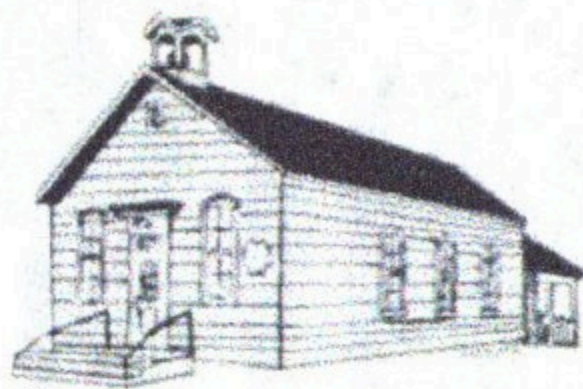
Members will survey the Cemetery this year to determine exactly which headstones are in most need of restoration. Fundraising efforts will continue with plans to apply for additional grants with a goal to complete this phase in 2026.



FRIENDS OF THE

Ray Township

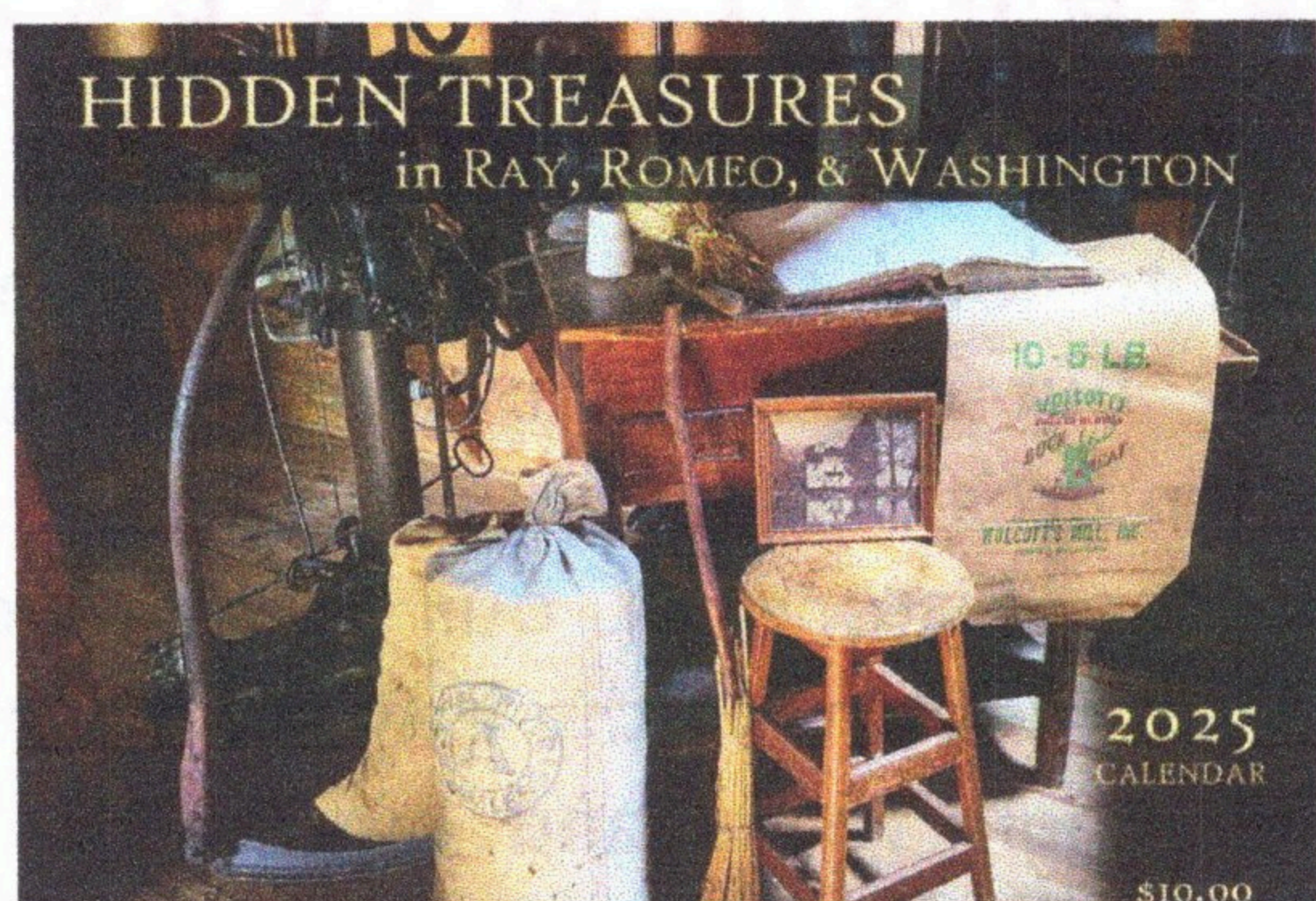
LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



64255 Wolcott | Ray Township | Michigan 48096

RayLibrary.org/RayHistory | info@rayhistory.org | 586.749.7130

The Society was formally organized in 2005 as a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and added support of the Library in 2015. Our mission is to engage passionate individuals to enrich cultural experiences, enhance literary and educational opportunities, and enliven history.



A few copies our 2025 Calendar, **HIDDEN TREASURES**, can still be purchased for just **\$5** at the Ray Township Public Library.

We are also looking for images for our future calendars. Military or service photos and images celebrating Ray Township are needed for the 2026 & 2027 issues.

ADOPT-A-ROAD

Society members have cleaned **Indian Trail** as part of the **Adopt-A-Road** program for many years. Due to dwindling participation, the Society may discontinue this service. Please consider donating an hour of your time from **10 - 11am** on **Saturday, May 10th**.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



VOLUNTEER

If you have a couple hours available, we could always use a hand with our upcoming activities. Volunteers can assist with setting up refreshments at our next presentation on April 25th or help put baskets together for our silent auction in early June. If you are creative and/or tech savvy, we could use help with our website, flyers, and calendars. This can be done at your convenience.

DONATIONS

Our annual Silent Auction is a major fundraiser for the Society. We could use baskets of all sizes. If you have any unwanted gift cards or know of a business who will donate a gift card or item, consider donating as they make great additions to our baskets. Monetary donations are always welcome. For those over 70, a qualified charitable distribution can benefit our charity and possibly lower your taxable income.

JOIN

It's time for our membership drive. Forms to renew or become a new member are available at the Library and online at RayLibrary.org/RayHistory. Annual membership levels start at just \$10.

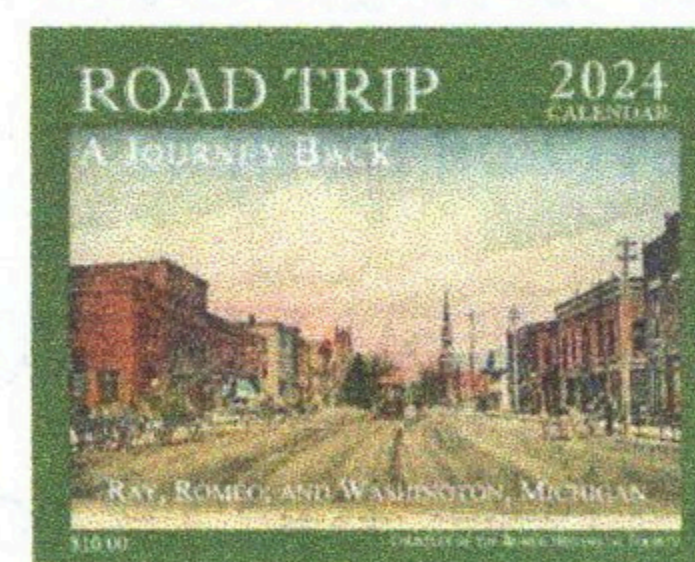
In 2024, our Society raised over \$5,000, including \$2,139 from our Silent Auction in June and \$520 from our Silent Auction during Holiday DeLights in December. Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising activities.



Kroger Rewards
\$769.91



Bottle Returns
\$171.40



2024 Calendar
\$1,205.00