

FRIENDS  
OF THE  
RAY  
TOWNSHIP  
LIBRARY  
AND  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

BOOKMARK  
2021

Thurs, Feb 18 at 6:00pm

Friends of the Library &  
Historical Society  
Zoom Meeting  
ID: 882 1709 9600  
Passcode: 423538

May TBD

Adopt-A-Road Cleanup  
of Indian Trail

Thurs, May 20 at 6:00pm

Friends of the Library &  
Historical Society  
Meeting

June

Silent Auction  
in the Library

Sun, June TBD

12:00 - 4:00pm  
Ray Day in the Park

Thurs, Aug 19 at 6:00pm

Friends of the Library &  
Historical Society  
Meeting

Thurs, Nov 18 at 6:00pm

Friends of the Library &  
Historical Society  
Meeting

# The Back Shelf

RAY TOWNSHIP, MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
ISSUE XIII FEBRUARY 2021

## PROCTER: PHASE II

Benjamin and Hannah Freeman were the first to purchase land in Ray Township in 1824 and raised ten children in the first house and barn built in Ray Township on what is now 32 Mile Road. Their son, Edgar, born in 1826, was the first male child born in Ray Township. Another son, Arad, who married Catherine Jewell, built the first house and barn in section 16. Arad eventually donated a portion of his land for a schoolhouse and church which are now the Ray Township Public Library and Township Offices.

Both monuments to these early pioneers in the Procter Cemetery are in need of repair. The obelisk for Benjamin and Hannah's monument, dating from 1854, was discovered tossed down the side of a hill during the first phase of restoration in 2016. (Photo to the right)

Another 62 tablets and 14 monuments were identified in the fall of 2020 as having moderate to severe damage.

Based on 2016 costs, nearly \$26,000 would be needed to complete the restoration of all these markers.

In addition to documenting the condition of headstones, members also began removing the overgrown brush in Procter Cemetery. Our focus in 2021 will be on fundraising ideas and determining ways to prevent the brush from growing back. More information is available at [rayhistory.org](http://rayhistory.org).



## 2020: A YEAR OF SUPPORT

Society members focused on supporting our Library and three other historical societies during our unusual past year. The **Ray Township Public Library** received a **baby changing table** and **hooks** for the bathroom, a sandwich board **sign** and **plastic bags** for curbside pick-up, and **stands** to highlight new books and DVDs. Monetary donations were made to the **Greater Washington Area Historical Society** (\$250) towards its installation of a **stair lift** at the Washington Museum and two **Midland Historical Societies** (\$100 total) for necessary repairs due to flood damage. In addition, members handed out **children's books** at the Township's Tree Lighting event.





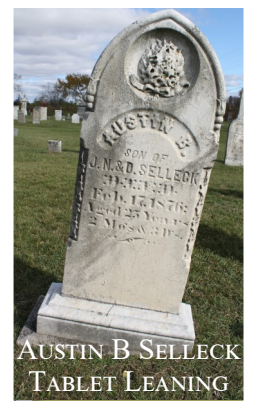
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 586-749-7130  
[www.rayhistory.org](http://www.rayhistory.org)  
[info@rayhistory.org](mailto:info@rayhistory.org)



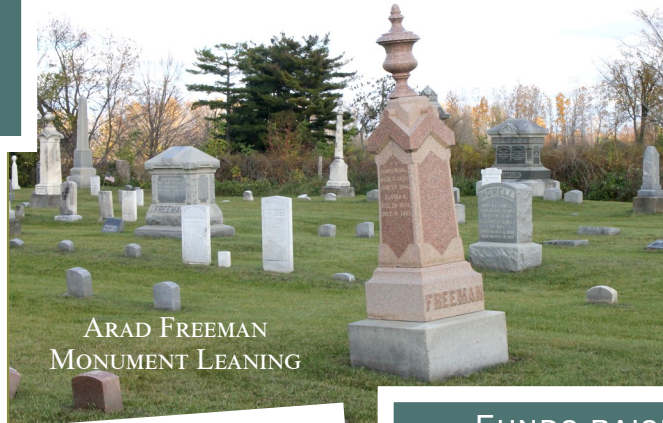
The Society was formally organized in 2005 as a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and added support of the Library in 2015. Our mission is to engage passionate individuals to enrich cultural experiences, enhance literary and educational opportunities, and enliven history.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.  
 Thank you to our members, donors, and fundraising participants.

## PROCTER CEMETERY



AUSTIN B SELLECK  
 TABLET LEANING



ARAD FREEMAN  
 MONUMENT LEANING



DANIEL B BENNETT  
 MONUMENT  
 LEANING



MARSHALL STEWARD PLOT BEFORE

FUNDS RAISED IN 2020  
 Kroger Rewards \$724.33  
 Calendar Sales \$675  
 Donations \$310  
 Fire Dept. Bottle Drive \$54.40  
 Amazon Smiles \$41.81



BOOK STANDS



MICHELLE KOURI - MARSHALL STEWARD PLOT  
 AFTER REMOVING BRUSH 2020



BABY CHANGING TABLE & HOOK



LIBRARY BAGS FOR  
 CURBSIDE PICKUP