

Alexander Macomb Historical Award  
**Individual**



**Year Award Given:** 2011

**Awarded to:** Dr. Richard Daugherty – Romeo, Macomb, MI

**Nominated by:** Romeo Historical Society

**Presented Where:** MCHA Annual Meeting – Chesterfield Township Senior Center, Chesterfield Township, MI – April 30, 2011

**Presented By:** Macomb County Heritage Alliance

In their nomination of Richard, the Romeo Historical Society states that there is no one who has done more to preserve Romeo's historic community than Dr. Richard Daugherty.

The preservation of Romeo's many well cared for homes is due to the pride the owners take in their homes and the knowledge that their homes are historically important. The Romeo Historical Society feels that there would not be as much pride, if Richard's research and interaction with state officials had not enabled Romeo to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970, allowing the community to designate a historic district that contains approximately 100 well-preserved historic structures, constructed in a variety of architectural styles. This honor came as a result of three years of study - 1967 to 1970 - and Richard's filing of considerable amounts of paper work and discussion with State of Michigan officials. Richard's work also included providing an architectural survey - free of charge - documenting hundreds of Romeo area buildings. The survey is housed in

the Village of Romeo Municipal Hall for community members, the Romeo Historic District Commission, and the Romeo Village Council to use a valuable reference tool. The Romeo Historic District Commission often relies on Richard's research to make decisions on how houses should be restored to their original condition. Richard and his family once owned and lovely cared for a historic Romeo home – the Wellington Jersey residence - for nine years.

Richard also authored a wonderful educational booklet entitled, *A Tour of Historic Romeo* -copyrighted in 1970. The booklet has been used by many, many historic home owners, as guide for visitors to the community, and as a research document of the Romeo Historical Society. The booklet still serves as a continual source of information in determining the ownership, age, style, and unique characteristics of Romeo's historic properties. Richard generously gifted his publication to the Romeo Historical Society to use as a means of fundraising to help support their three museums: The Romeo Arts and Archives Museum, the Clyde Craig Blacksmith Museum and the Bancroft- Stranahan House Museum.

Over the years, Richard has been a constant researcher for the history of the businesses in Romeo, documenting dates, determining building architectural styles, and providing the history of past owners including their activities in the local community. He has a great understanding of past people of Romeo and willingly shares sources and biographical sketches of them. For many years, Richard has also used his vast knowledge and unending enthusiasm to educate the community by leading walking tours throughout Romeo. This is in addition to the abundant history and preservation goodwill that he fostered through educating thousands of students who have taken his classes at Macomb Community College throughout his 53-year career in education.

Richard has also been a very valuable source of information in discovering the history and provenance of many of the artifacts in the Bancroft-Stranahan Museum – a place that Richard had much to do with establishing for the community. He has supported it for over 40 years. His generosity as a donor over the years has been unparalleled. His donations of paintings, furniture, household items and most importantly, the sharing of his expertise, has been invaluable without measure. He has counseled museum curators for hours and hours,

enabling them to create a guide book for docents and patrons use. Due to his guidance, the museum is true to the life of the period rather than just a collection of donated items. This has made the museum much more valuable and interesting in showing the community the roots of their town.

Other communities have also benefited by Richard's work. In the early 1970's, Richard documented the architecture of homes and buildings on Harsen's Island. He is also an accomplished author of numerous publications about architecture and history.

Richard's love for his community has been shown by his consistent and unselfish sharing of himself for the good of "Romeo, the best little town on earth" as it was referred to by the locals, 100 years ago. For the many reasons noted, it is with pleasure that the Macomb County Heritage Alliance honors Richard with the 2011 Alexander Macomb Historical Award for an individual.

Source: Richard Beringer, September 2016.