

Remus Area Historical Society (RAHS)

a nonprofit tax exempt organization

324 S. Sheridan, P. O. Box 71, Remus, MI 49340

“Our Past, Your Future”

September 2026 Newsletter

A Nation Within Itself As an America250MI History Grant Program Tier 2 state grant awardee, Remus Area Historical Society (RAHS), led a community wide effort celebrating our nation’s 250th anniversary of Declaration of Independence in partnership with the Remus-Mecosta Area America250MI Committee, with a project called Preserving and exploring lessons learned from “A Nation Within Itself.”

Our goal was to bring awareness to our unique melting-pot community. The story begins with Isaac Berry, Sr., born into slavery in Missouri, 1831. While working in his master’s fields, Isaac met a neighboring Mormon girl named Lucy. As Jim Cross, great-grandson of Isaac and Lucy Berry, said, “Lucy and Isaac fell in love.” At the age of 27, Isaac escaped slavery on foot, eventually reaching freedom in Canada and marrying Lucy. Years later, Isaac and Lucy homesteaded in Mecosta County, Michigan, becoming part of a growing settlement community. By the turn of the century, Berry and fellow settlers realized that the presence of 10 families with children living within a four-square-mile area qualified them to establish a new school district. Berry donated two acres in Section 16, known as the “*school section*,” for the construction of a new clapboard school named after the Berry family’s Canadian home community. **Built in 1905, Little River School served multi-racial children until 1935 and still stands in its original location today. The integrated community functioned as “a nation within itself,” where neighbors worked side by side and relied on one another to succeed. (See photos on page 3)** To view the story, search for The Mecosta-Morton Video Tour on YouTube.

Remus Area Historical Society, in collaboration with the Remus-Mecosta Area America250MI Committee, is thankful for these partners in helping to celebrate 250 years of independence:

America250MI grant via the Michigan History Center & Michigan Department of Natural Resources

- Albert Schiffer VFW Post 2335
- General Federation of Women Clubs -Mecosta, “Heart of the Lakes”
- Little River Schoolhouse Volunteer Group
- Mecosta County Optimist Club
- Old Settlers Reunion Website
- Remus Downtown Development Authority (DDA)
- Russell Kirk Center
- Wheatland Music Organization

In-kind supporters:

- Fate’s Market
- Ferris State University
- Hearty Harvest
- Hixson’s Family Market
- Mecosta County Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Mecosta Chapter Daughters of American Revolution
- Mecosta County Park Commission
- Morton Township Library
- New Hope GMC Church
- Wheatland Township
- Village of Mecosta

State and local funds were combined to host presenters at the Remus Museum, Morton Township Library, Bromley Park in Mecosta, the Little River Schoolhouse at School Section Lake Veteran’s Park, Wheatland Township Library, New Hope GMC Church, and, Little Bear Artisan & Maker’s Fair downtown Mecosta.

The funds also helped to produce new educational materials, signage, **restore the 1905 Little River Schoolhouse** with new windows, and, offer a unique **Colonial Social Gathering** that revisited history and highlighted freedom, democracy and equity. To learn more, visit America250MI.org

Fall 2026 Genealogy Series *with*

Mary Ann Stickler in partnership with The Morton Township Library & Remus Area Historical Society

Wednesday mornings from 10AM – Noon

October 7th, October 14th, October 21st & October 28th

Classes will take place at the **Morton Township Library** a **fully accessible facility** located at: [110 S. James Street](#) in downtown Mecosta, Michigan. **Participants will work on:**

- Beginning and building your family tree
- Evaluating and corroborating the evidence you collect
- Creating a record future generations can further verify and understand
- Finding and using reliable sources
- Exploring the value of using artificial intelligence in your quest
- Utilizing free online records
- Discussing local resources available to researchers
- Comparing and utilizing free family tree sites, paid sites and family tree software for your home computer
- Exploring old newspapers and the interesting details you may find to better understand the life and times of your ancestors.

The **class limit will be 12 participants**. Some laptops are available and detailed handouts provided.

Registration Deadline, Wednesday, September 23, 2026. Class registration fee: \$20 for all four sessions. **To register, or, for questions, email:** maryannstickler@hotmail.com.

Upcoming activities!

- September 23rd, Museum open 11—3
- September 30th, Museum open 11—3
- Fall 2026 Genealogy Series Wednesday 10AM – Noon, October 7th, 14th, 21st and October 28th
- October 7th, 14th, 21, & 28th, Museum open 11—3
- October 21st, RAHS 4:30 board meeting
- **November 18, RAHS 4:30 board and Annual meeting**
- April 2027 Trivia fundraiser
- 2027 Speaker/Forum - PBB disaster in central Michigan
- 2027— 150th anniversary of Remus! Help produce a tour schedule and map of 100 year old sites in the Remus, Mecosta, Millbrook, Blanchard areas. Want to work on this activity?

Yes, I wish to support the Remus Area Historical Society (RAHS) and Museum.

Contact Name (s) _____

Would you rather remain anonymous? ____ yes ____ no

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Enclosed is \$____ for **RAHS membership**. (*\$35-individual, \$50-family, \$100-business or group, \$500 – supporting member/group.*)

Gifts are being made in memory/honor of: _____ Please mail an acknowledgement to _____ (name) _____ (address) _____ city/state/zip.

\$_____ **TOTAL** enclosed.

Please make check made payable to **rahS**; mail to: **Remus Area Historical Society (RAHS), Inc., P.O. Box 71, Remus, Michigan 49340. Donations can also be sent via PayPal.**