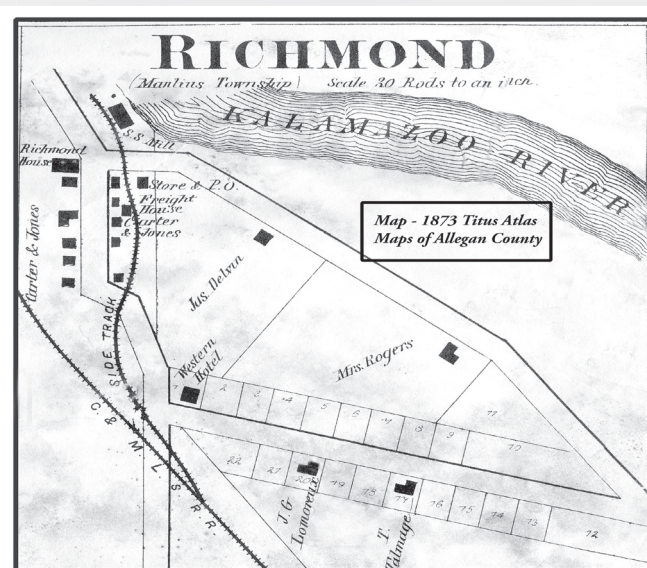
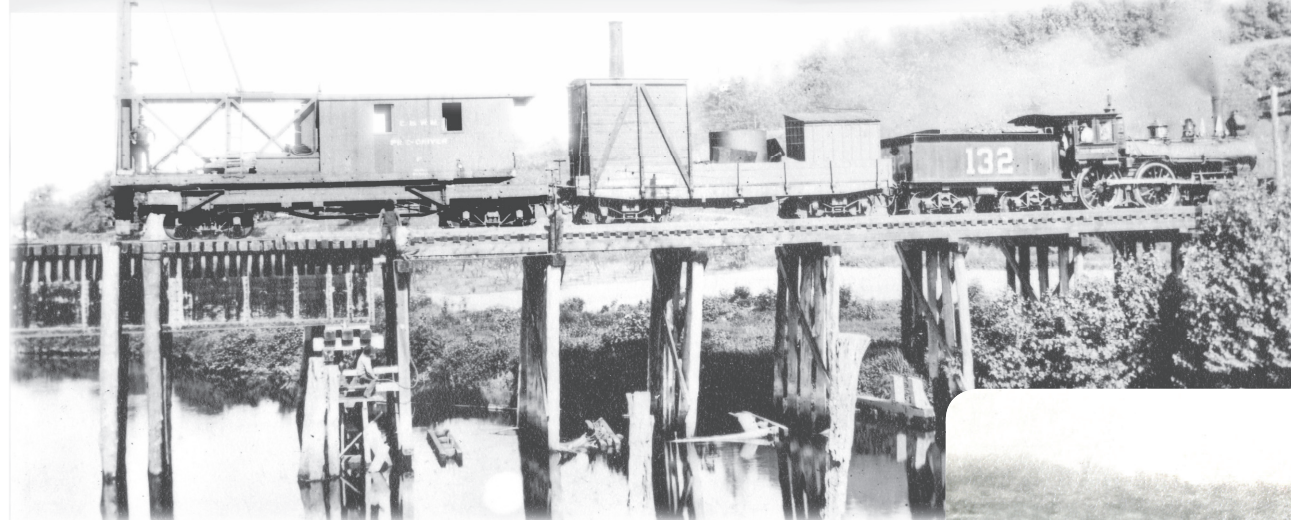


# Remembering When ...

## OUR HISTORY



### NEW RICHMOND -THE BEGINNING

The first inhabitants of Richmond --frontiersmen who came to trade with the Indians -- were probably there about 1825. Their shacks on the river bank remained, but they were gone when John Allen of Ann Arbor came down the Kalamazoo River valley in 1837 looking for town-building opportunities. Allen liked what he saw; raised some capital; recruited a partner named Ralph Mann; started a sawmill and platted a settlement on the north bank of the river. The plan included a scheme to reroute the Rabbit River to provide water power.

However, the demand for capital turned out to be larger than the supply. Allen moved on to Allegan to sell farm implements. Ralph Mann bought some of the milling equipment which he moved a few miles south to the area of Manlius. There he farmed and built a small sawmill. So Richmond disappeared from economic view for the next 30 years.

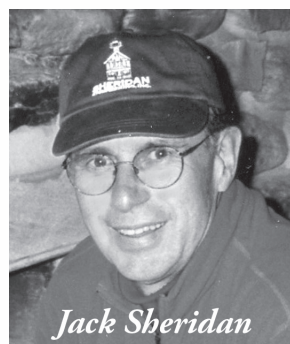
Twenty years later the settlement got a new start when Hollister Marsh – a hotel owner from Allegan and a farmer, built a substantial sawmill there. In 1871 the Chicago and Michigan Lakeshore Railroad came through with their line and a bridge. The name was modernized to New Richmond (there now being another Richmond on the east side of the state). During the next thirty years New Richmond reached its zenith sporting a veneer mill, hotels, stores, post office and a saloon.

These historical photos derive from this period and provide a glimpse of New Richmond in the “good old-old days”. By Jack Sheridan

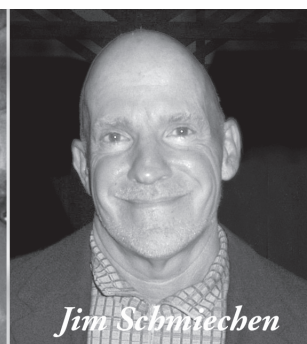


The Remembering When feature is the creation of Jack Sheridan and Jim Schmiechen of the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society. Please visit the Society's museum – this years exhibit “Lincoln's Ready-Made Soldiers: Saugatuck Area Men in the Civil War is open through the fall. The museum is located on the west side of the Kalamazoo River at the foot of Mt. Baldhead, and is open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. There is no admission charge.

We welcome your comments on Remembering When. Call 269 857-7901, email us at [sdhistory@accn.org](mailto:sdhistory@accn.org) or write to Box 617 Douglas, Mi 49406. SDHS historical images can be seen on the SDHS web site at [www.sdhistory.com](http://www.sdhistory.com) and all historical photos are available for purchase in print sizes up to 12x17. Our historical image database is growing through your contributions. We scan your old photos—you keep the originals—and we then provide you with a CD of your digitized images.



Jack Sheridan



Jim Schmiechen