

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF **R.S. PRUSSIA** Collectors, Inc.

April 2013

Snowdrops: First Sign of Spring Page 8

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President's Message Allen DiMarco

Greetings from Central Pennsylvania! Unfortunately there are very few signs of spring in my back yard. Our weather was mostly winter-like during the month of March. Guess Pennsylvania's Phil really blew it this year!

I have been very busy doing club and convention details since the year's beginning. By now I assume most of you have had a chance to view our new website. Thanks to Linda Titus and her partner, Heather Wiskow, we are now able to enjoy a wonderful new website. If you have navigated the site, I think you will agree with me that it is very user-friendly. You may have also found the page entitled "Members Only" which hasn't been developed yet. That page will soon be updated with information for members (such as back issues of the newsletter and membership information) and will require that members log-in. Since the newsletter and roster are privileges of membership and supported by your annual dues, only members will be able to access this section. This section will also be used to communicate any other club issues that are not for the general public. These may be notices that contain member's personal data (phone numbers or addresses), names of deceased members, and the like.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find that I included another article. That article outlines the process for the visits to any or all of the five Michigan Club members who have so graciously agreed to open their homes so that members traveling to convention may stop by to view their collections.

Because of the extensive pre-convention work that Beth Vander Meer has done, we will hold a convention barbecue at the nearby Cascade Township Park on Friday evening. It is important to register with Beth in advance. The details, menu, and registration form are included as a separate flyer in this newsletter. IMPORTANT: The deadline for the barbecue registration is June 15.

I urge you to attend the Annual Banquet on Saturday evening. There will be three choices for dinner, and prices range from \$27-\$32, which is considerably lower than previous years. The monies realized from this event defray the cost of all the hotel meeting room charges. This includes the hospitality room, the large rooms for two days of meetings, our Do-it-Yourself Auction, and for the auction on Saturday. The hotel requires that we spend \$1200 on food and beverages—minus tax and gratuity. (This amount is only half the required amount of the last three years!) Any monies not realized from the banquet sales must be reimbursed from the Club's treasury.

An additional important note—the Club has a contract with the hotel. We have reserved 166 room nights at the special price of \$109 plus applicable taxes. Whether you choose to come to Convention on Tues., Wed., or Thursday, those days all count towards our required contractual room night totals. Those 166 room nights (minus an allowance of 20%) must be sold or the club is responsible to pay the hotel for the cost of unsold rooms. Consequently, if you are contemplating "staying down the road to save a couple of bucks," please reconsider and support

Newsletter Policy

This newsletter is the voice of the members of the International Association of R.S. Prussia, Inc. We welcome articles from members. We ask that articles be constructive and contribute positively to the welfare of the club and its members. The newsletter is printed four times a year. Publication mail dates are February 15, April 15, June 15, and October 15. Articles submitted for publication are due to the editor by the 15th of the month prior to publication and are subject to editing. (For example, items for the June issue would be due by May 15th) We look forward to hearing from you!

President's message continued...

the Club! Let's not forget what transpired in Dublin, Ohio in 2009—the Club was charged \$10,500 to satisfy the cost of unsold rooms.

I talked to the hotel earlier this week, and I am delighted that to date we are a little ahead of schedule! Once the 166 room nights have been sold, the hotel is not required to honor the special \$109 rate for additional rooms! Remember to make your reservations early so the hotel can reserve a room for you on the floors that have been reserved for the RS Prussia Club.

In closing, I want to remind you that Convention activities will begin Thursday evening. Please make your reservations and travel plans so that you do not miss any of our convention events! I look forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids this summer!

A Message from the Editor

We always exhale a huge sigh of relief when we finalize each issue of the newsletter, but it is also a thrill to see it. We hope you feel the same about our newsletter. Be sure to keep those members in mind who spend many hours on articles they write for our newsletter and when you see them at convention, thank them for their time and efforts.

Linda Gray has contributed a wonderful feature article on *Snowdrops* which I am sure took her many hours, effort and research to complete. After I read this article, I went to my china cabinets to see if I had any of the pieces she mentions in the article. Unfortunately, I did not have any pieces that have the snowdrops in the mold. After last issue I did, however, discover that I have two floral pieces that Mary Lou Bougher mentioned in her beautiful feature article *Florals: Worth a Second Glance*. David Mullins has included a fantastic article about one of our newest members, Richard Wittke, the curator of the Tillowitz Porcelain Museum. Thanks for your time and efforts David!

Included in your newsletter packet this time is your newsletter, roster, convention registration form and barbecue registration form. However, if you did not pay your 2013 dues, you did not receive a roster booklet. You did receive a newsletter and a reminder to pay your dues. We wanted you to get your newsletter and one last chance to renew. We do not want to lose anyone!

Our secretary, Mary Lou Bougher has emphasized the importance of getting your convention registration sent in as soon as possible as she and her husband Ken (our Treasurer) will be attending a business convention in Cancun the week prior to our convention. So please help to make her life easier and get your registration form sent in ASAP!

My partner Heather Wiskow, Mary Lou Bougher and I have gone over and over the membership data base and roster until we almost have it memorized. If there are any problems in your name, address, phone or email, please let us know as soon as possible. Address errors can result in not receiving your newsletter because the United States Post Office does not handle bulk mail like first class mail. It will be tossed in the circular file.

You will also find a registration form for a new convention event this year – a Barbecue! It is important if you plan to attend to get this form mailed to Beth Vander Meer, not Mary Lou Bougher. Beth needs your registration and payment for the barbecue to her by June 15.

We have one more issue before convention. Won't you please consider contributing an article to share with our membership? Help keep our newsletter enjoyable, informative, and exciting to receive in the mail.

New Members

Michael Harrell Corbin, KY **Taylor Hoffman** Durant, IA **Heather Wiskow** Davenport, IA **Charlene Johnson** Myrtle Beach, SC **Kimberly Johnson** Kansas City, MO Elzbieta Jedrzejewska Poland **Richard Wittke Museum Porcelain RS** Schlegelmilch Poland **Holger Richter** Canada **Heidi Disney** Tennessee

With Sympathy

The club extends sympathy to the family and friends of

Jerry Hammons, KY Jan Killian, NC

Hospitality Room

The Michigan Club would love to have you bring homemade goodies to share in the hospitality room at the Grand Rapids Convention.



Notes from the Secretary and Treasurer

Ken and Mary Lou Bougher

e're really excited about our new members! One new member came in possibly by the website, three were sent in by members and seven new members were sponsored out of a suggestion posted on Facebook that we sponsor a new member for the first year dues of only \$30.00. Our Facebook page is stills growing, so maybe we



(including one new one from Canada and two new members from Poland) and 223 US Members for a total of 235 members. We have eleven new members and a few former members have renewed. Let's keep growing!

Ken and I will be attending a business convention in Cancun the week before our RSP convention. It will really help us out if you please

will get more new members that way. It's a great way for us to grow. One of these new members is Richard Wittke, the curator of the Museum of Porcelain RS Schlegelmilch in Tillowitz, Poland. He is posting information on the Museum and the Tillowitz area. David Mullins has contributed an article in this issue about Richard. If anyone else would like to sponsor a new member from Facebook, you can post it yourself on Facebook or you can let David Mullins or Allen Marcus know and they will post it for you. It will only cost you \$30.00 to pay for their first year.

We still have some members who have not paid their dues for this year's membership. If you have not paid your dues, the Club has extended the courtesy of sending this newsletter to you; however you did not receive a roster book. This will be your last newsletter if we do not receive your dues before next issue. Our membership numbers now stand at 12 Non-US get your reservations for convention sent to us as soon as possible. Bring lots of items to display, sell or trade in your rooms. The room visitation is the heart of the convention! See you at convention – we will probably be exhausted and sunburned, but we will be there!

Our New Members and their sponsors from Facebook members:

Michael Harrell sponsored by Mary Lou & Ken Bougher Heather Wiskow, Taylor Hoffman, Charlene Johnson sponsored by Linda Titus

Richard Wittke sponsored by David Mullins Elzbieta Jedrzejewska sponsored by Jan & Pete Weimer Holger Richter sponsored by Allen Marcus

Other sponsored Members and their sponsors: Mark Rood and Ashley Kubek

sponsored by Tony & Brenda Rood Vivian Hammett sponsored by Vickie Wurtz

Website Update Submitted by Linda Titus

The new rsprussia.com website has gone live and is up and running. If you have not seen it yet, I encourage you to check it out. The site is the result of many hours of hard work and I am sure that you will agree that it shows. My partner Heather and I believe that the site is user-friendly, is very informative, and is designed to enhance the beauty of R.S. Prussia and related china.

As part of our assignment to design and manage the site, we will

be updating the site quarterly or more often if the club decides it is necessary. There is a page that is tabbed "members only", which will be developed



very soon. This page will be used to post back issues of the newsletter, roster and member data, and important membership information that is considered privileged to members who are current with their dues. It will require a log-in by members and the log-in will be provided to members when the page is completed. The log-in will change each year when the current membership roster is updated and all dues have been received by the cutoff date. If you have sugges-

tions for the site, feel free to let me or Heather know your ideas and we will consider your suggestions as valuable input.

Richard Wittke: His work in Tulowice to preserve the Schlegelmilch legacy for future generations Submitted by David Mullins

n Sunday, January 20, I was reading posts on the R.S. Prussia Facebook page. I noticed that the Facebook page received a message with someone asking to join the group from a "Muzeum Porcelany R.S. Tillowitz-Tulowice". I quickly approved the request and sent a "thank you" message for joining. I went to the Facebook page for "Muzeum Porcelany R.S. Tillowitz-Tulowice" and could not believe my eyes. I saw what appeared to be hundreds of interesting pictures and posts from Tulowice. I could see pictures of the factory, the Erhard Schlegelmilch Villa, the Schlegelmilch Family Cemetery, large displays of porcelain including rare animal and bird figurines. I was so excited that our Facebook group was in contact with a museum in Tulowice. Tulowice (Tillowitz), Poland is the city where much of the beautiful R.S. Prussia porcelain was made.

The "Muzeum Porcelany R.S. Tillowitz-Tulowice" quickly posted a thank you message for welcoming them to our group. Richard Wittke (Ryszard Wittke in Polish), the curator of the museum and I began to share information by sending messages back and forth. We each used a "Google translator" to aid us in our conversation. I couldn't believe I was communicating with someone who lives in Tillowitz, Poland. The love and appreciation for Schlegelmilch



porcelain has been a part of Richard's family for generations. His grandmother, Hedwig Wittke, worked in the Schlegelmilch factory at Tulowice. Richard gives credit to his grandmother for his love of porcelain. The first pieces in his collection were boxes of carefully wrapped mementoes that belonged to his grandmother. He also cherishes a chocolate set that was given to his grandparents as a wedding gift by the staff at the factory in Tulowice. In a period of eight years Richard has grown his collection from just under 100 pieces to over 2,000 pieces. When I learned of the connection with his grandmother it



brought back fond memories for me. My grandmother showed me my first piece of R.S. Prussia. I also credit my grandmother for my love of porcelain.

Richard gets much enjoyment sharing his collection and educating people about Schlegelmilch porcelain. The Facebook page that Richard created,



"Muzeum Porcelany R.S. Tillowitz-Tulowice," already has 251 members. Richard has posted over 77 albums with over 2090 pictures. Richard's great work on Facebook is only a small portion of the many things he does to share and educate his community about Schlegelmilch porcelain. I have read numerous articles on the internet about his work and have watched videos on YouTube from TV Poland interviews showcasing his Museum. When I read an article published by a Polish newspaper on January 24 of this year in Opole (City near Tulowice), I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw my name in the article. In the article Richard commented to

Continued on page 6 ...

Richard Wittke continued...

the author that days earlier he had met another enthusiast from the United States from the International Association of R.S. Prussia Collectors. Richard mailed me a copy of the newspaper. In the article Richard was quoted as saying, "Collecting these beautiful objects also serves to maintain the memory of those persons who have contributed to their creation for prior decades and centuries." He also wrote, "Porcelain is essential to life and existence." I remember Richard telling me, "Porcelain is the history of our town and our heritage." Richard is truly proud of the heritage and the importance that porcelain has played to Tulowice for many decades and his dream is to devote his full attention to the Museum, which is currently housed in the upper level of his home.

I received a large parcel from Richard containing many beautiful brochures and color postcards of Tulowice. He included copies of pages with beautiful pictures from the book *Fabryki Porcelany Górnego Śląska*. Translated, the name of the book is *Upper Silesia Porcelain Factory*. Some of Richard's collection is pictured in this book. He has also sent me two DVDs with beautiful videos of Tulowice. Tulowice reminds me of a city unchanged by time with an old



world charm. There are beautiful palaces, churches and cobblestone streets. The Erhard Schlegelmilch Villa and Schlegelmilch Family Cemetery is in Tulowice. I will be bringing the literature and videos to convention to share with the club. Richard said he would be so happy for any of us to visit Tulowice and would love to be our tour guide.

Richard has shared so many wonderful pictures with us on the Facebook page. If you haven't joined the R.S. Prussia Facebook page, you should consider joining. With Richard's help we've learned that the Erhard Schlegelmilch Villa is for



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sale. If anyone wants a great home to display their collection, I cannot think of a better place. Richard has shared that the factories are being torn down. He has salvaged many artifacts from the factories and has showed us his finds. Richard shares wonderful pictures of guests visiting his museum, and photos taken when he takes guests to pay respect at the Family Schlegelmilch graves. Local teachers have asked Richard to share the museum with school children. It was heart-warming to see the photos of children visiting the museum and the Schlegelmilch graves. Years ago, when Mary McCaslin discovered the graves and cemetery in shambles, the International Club paid to have the site restored. Richard now makes sure that the site is maintained and places flowers to honor the Schlegelmilch Family.

Lambinowice, a community six miles from Tulowice, recently honored Richard. March 8 is Women's Day Holiday in Poland. He was asked to speak to a group of women about the museum. He was surprised that 50 people attended and said that it was a wonderful event for him. They served tea, coffee and cake. There was music including some singers from the village. He spoke for about two hours and he told me that everyone was pleased with his information. He also shared with the group that he is now a member of the International Association of R.S. Prussia Collectors. He told me he was rewarded with applause and the group gave him a special watch as a souvenir. He told me he felt so appreciated and I could see from the pictures he posted that he was so happy.

I invited Richard to come to our 2013 Convention. I showed him pictures from last year's convention and he was excited to see them. He said that the convention looked like a fairy tale to him. I am learning from him, and he is learning from me and other members that share information on Facebook. He does not believe he can attend Convention this year, but will plan to attend the 2014 Convention in St. Louis.

I learned while talking with Richard that many of the R.S. Prussia Red Mark and earlier pieces that we enjoy in the USA and Canada are very hard to locate in Poland. When these pieces were manufactured they were exported from the region. Richard posted on Facebook that he is always looking for any donations of porcelain for his museum. He is even grateful to receive broken pieces.



All Schlegelmilch porcelain is very dear to him. A number of members from the R.S. Prussia Facebook have generously donated pieces to Richard's museum. Richard has been a great friend since we first met on Facebook. He gets so much excitement when a new piece arrives at the museum. If anyone would like to donate pieces to the museum, Richard's contact information is in the 2013 roster.

Richard, thanks for all the work you do in Poland to share your love and joy of collecting Schlegelmilch Porcelain. We are so happy you are a member of the International Association of R.S. Prussia Collectors and we wish you great success with your museum! We look forward to sharing our mutual enthusiasm for collecting Schlegelmilch porcelain when you attend the 2014 Convention in St. Louis, Missouri.





Fabryki

Snowdrops: First Sign of Spring Submitted by Linda Gray

he snowdrops are one of the first flowers in the garden to announce the approach of spring. They usually appear in January, before crocuses and other spring bulbs. Snowdrop (Galanthus), is often described as having the appearance of three drops of milk spilling forth from a bright green stem. Unlike many other flowers which are generous with their color variations, snowdrop flowers only come in a sophisticated, creamy white hue. Snowdrops often arrive by poking through layers of snow.

The snowdrop is loved not only for its simple beauty but its distinct honey-like scent. The plant is native to Switzerland, Austria and Europe. Due to their low growing pattern and the fact that they were regularly seen springing up in cemeteries, many Victorians felt these flowers represented death, believing it was bad luck to bring them into homes of those who were ill.

On a more positive note, the Snowdrop appears in biblical stories—one being that the snowdrop burst forth to comfort Adam and Eve after they were cast out of the Garden of Eden. The official name for the Snowdrop plant is Galanthus, from the Greek words "gala", meaning milk and "anthos", flower---it is referred to by some collectors as the "flower of hope." Once considered bad luck, today they are thought to be a delicate symbol of hope, purity and consolation.

leaf mold and has the snowdrops raised in the mold. The flower is not prominent on this plate but can be felt by the raised design. This is Mold 10c, leaf mold variation. (Same as above) P. 30, RSP Portrait Cake Plate, Gaston 3rd Series.

This plate is a variation of the



Snowdrop (Galanthus)



I believe this is Mold 566 marked with the familiar red RSP mark. The snowdrop is highlighted in gold as well as raised in the mold. This biscuit jar is decorated with the cherry blossom and swallows transfer, marked with Prussia Wreath & Star. Also pictured in RSP Wreath & Star, Marple, Page 95.



This toothpick holder has the snowdrop appearing in cobalt and is marked with a straight raised line in the mold. This item seems to be numerous, as it is not unusual to see these in antique stores. They are decorated in various patterns.

One of the active substances in a snowdrop is galantomine, and is used to help treat patients with Alzheimer's disease. Galantomine, an alkaloid extracted from the snowdrop flower, is sold as the prescription drug Razadyne[™] (formerly Reminyl). Galantomine has a long history of use and is still available as a nutritional supplement. A team of researchers from Europe first discovered the positive effects of this substance for treating Alzheimer's disease. Maybe my close association with this disease has drawn me closer to the snowdrop flower.

During the winter months, I found myself gazing upon my RSP collection and admiring the artistry in each acquired piece. Not only the delicate patterns and molds, but



These snowdrops were decorated in gold on the rim but were not at the base of the creamer. This sugar was decorated on the base to show the flower, stem, and leaf. I believe this mold to be one from the early years of RSP. I have found this item as a souvenir from Huntsville, Washington, marked with a raised cross.



The snowdrop is highlighted in gold and drapes over the Man in the Mountain scene. Mold 566.

thinking back to a period of time when these items were used to enjoy hot chocolate and high tea. Oh, if only these dishes could talk, they would tell the stories of their past owners.

This time of the year is a good time to move items around and dust the shelves. Additionally, I like to redefine my favorite RSP and place them in prominent spots to enjoy. When I was rearranging some of my chocolate sets and de-cluttering some other shelves, I came across several items decorated with the snowdrop flower. I began pulling these individual pieces together and soon realized I had a collection of snowdrops. One such item is simply an 8" plate, but it really appeals to me. I have four Continued on page 10 ...



This chocolate pot is decorated with snowdrops on the handle, rim and base in gold accents to announce its presence. It has the "nickel mark" and is embossed with the number 281.



This saucer is not marked, but the cup has the red RSP mark, consistent with the other pieces in the Mold 566, but may be a variation of this mold.



These snowdrops are white with cobalt trim. Example found in Art Nouveau Years, Marple, Page 11, Mold OM 69. Circa 1900.



The snowdrop is undecorated with the daisy decoration dominate. The cup is marked with a raised straight line. An open sugar, not shown, with same decoration and mold, is marked with a raised cross.

Snowdrops continued...

cups and saucers in the snowdrop pattern that actually match, but I haven't found the chocolate pot yet! I even have an open sugar that matches, mold and decoration, but naturally the creamer is elusive. It's the thrill of the hunt that really drives our passion.

I am not sure when I started adding snowdrops to my collection, but I was surprised to find this flower on so many pieces on my shelf and later in RSP books. No doubt I have not identified all the molds and decorations that include these delicate flowers, but will continue to look for examples.

Recently, I was looking around one of our local consignment shops and a porcelain shoe caught my eye. I picked it up and thought the piece might be an unmarked RSP item. Upon closer examination, I was delighted to see—you guessed it, an embossed snowdrop sitting prominently on top of the shoe. I knew when I saw it where I wanted to display it. As collectors, we all have unique methods for choosing our treasures. As our collective knowledge of RSP increases, we may find the treasures are endless.

I have perused the RSP books to find other examples of the snowdrop flower, and was amazed to discover the flower in other molds I never before noticed. I have provided pictures of some noted plates, but have no doubt that members will locate other examples of this flower. From my limited review, I believe the snowdrop was used from the late 1895 to 1905 period. It seems to be a rarely heard of old fashioned type of flower. These RSP objects with the snowdrops sitting on the shelf have made quite an impression on me. Soon the weather will be nice and I can start planning my garden. I just placed an order for my own snowdrops. I am anxious to add these flowers to my perennial garden.

At this time, I have no doubt that I have overlooked other examples as I continue to browse through RSP books and find the snowdrop.



Not sure how this plate is marked, saw it on eBay. The undecorated Snowdrops are embossed in the mold around the edge of plate. Mold 10c, Leaf Mold variation, RS Prussia Popular Lines, Gaston, Page 49 & 177.



This snowdrop lies on the top of the shoe, painted blue and embossed in the porcelain. This shoe is glazed on bottom except where it touches the surface. It is not marked. This item appears to represent Mold OM 130, from Early Years, Marple.

Snowdrops continued...



This looks like a snowdrop, but not sure it isn't part of the floral decoration. RS 51, RSP Wreath & Star, Marple, Page 29.



Mold 115, found in RS Prussia Popular Lines, Gaston. P. 257. Also found RSP Third Series, Gaston, P. 66. This snowdrop is raised on the outside edge of the rim.



This snowdrop appears in a reticulated style. It hangs on the rim of the plate. Variation of Mold RS 25, Marked Royal Dresden made in Germany. Example found in Art Nouveau Years, Marple, Page 107. In catalogs circa 1901-03.



This is an example of the snowdrop in a shadow flower. From the published pictures that I have reviewed, I cannot find an example of this decoration. It is not marked and has two raised circles in center of the underside of plate. It appears similar to Mold OM130.



This pot has the snowdrops presented in a pale pink color leaving no doubt the flower of choice for this chocolate pot. This pot is not marked and I believe this to be Mold OM 69.



ON THE COVER

These snowdrops are white with green stems entwined on rim of plate. RSP OM 69, found in Early Years, Marple, P. 104.

Antique Stores in the Grand Rapids Area



1. Captain Bizzaro's Treasure World 442 Leonard NW (616) 805-5840

- 2. Century Antiques Shop (Multiple dealer antique shop) 445 Century Avenue SW (616) 233-4000
- 2. Warehouse One 449 Century SW (616) 235-9292

- 3. City Antiques 954 Fulton Street East (616) 776-5500
- 3. Always, Betti Vintage & Estate Jewelry 1141 Fulton Street East (616) 458-8212
- **3. Blue Door Home Design** 946 Fulton Street East (616) 456-7888
- 3. Perception 210 East Fulton (616) 451-2393

- 4. Eastown Antiques 1515 Lake Drive (616) 776-1076
- 4. Heartwood Antique Store 956 Cherry Street SE (616) 454-1478
- 4. Heirloom House Antiques 505 Lakeside Drive SE (616) 454-0411
- 5. Phil's Stuff 722 Wealthy SE (616) 459-1940

Michigan Antiques Directory

Submitted by Beth Vander Meer

Be sure to check out this great tool before you head for the 2013 Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It is a website that has all kinds of cool links to antique shops in each county of Michigan. Travelers can click on the counties that they might be passing through and mark shops of interest. Be sure to check the Michigan Antiques Directory site out: **www.mi-antiquesdir.com**



The site list all places Antique, Vintage, Repurposed and Collectible. The website is easy, informative, convenient and current.

Grand Rapids, Michigan 2013 Convention • July 16-20 Tentative Convention Schedule

Thursday, July 18

9 - 11:30 am Registration
9 am - 2 pm
12:30 - 2 pm Board Meeting (Part 1)
1 - 2 pm
2:15 - 3:15 pm Seminar, RSP Facebook Page Hosted by Allen Marcus, David Mullins, Gary Marshinski and Jerry Nodeen
3:15 - 3:45 pm
3:15 - 5:30 pm
7 - 8 pm
8 - 9 pm
8 - 10 pm

Friday, July 19

8 - 9:30 pmBoard Meeting Part 2 (If required)
10 - 11:30 pm General Membership Meeting
11 am - Noon
1 - 2 pm
2:30 - 3:30 pm
4 - 6 pm
5:30 - 7:30 pm
8 - 10 pm Room Viewing (Schedule given at the general session)

Saturday, July 20

8 - 9:30am
9:30 - 11am Do-It-Yourself Auction
11am - 1pm
Noon - 1pm Registration Located at Auction's Entrance
1 - 4pm Convention Auction
4 - 6pm (By chance)
6 - 8pm Convention Banquet
8 - 10pm (By chance)

2013 Annual Convention Banquet Entertainment

The Williams Family Band



A fixture in West Michigan for over three decades, the Williams Family band and their mix of bluegrass, country, folk and Gospel continues to entertain fans and music lovers from near and far. Founded by the late Larry Williams (a Michigan Country Music Hall of fame fiddle player), his children and grandchildren carry on his legacy with consistently crisp instrumentals, tight vocal harmonies and the inherent grace of a close-knit Christian family.

The band typically consists of Rick Williams on banjo and resonator guitar; Dave Williams on mandolin and fiddle; Carl Williams on guitar; Mary (Williams) Marker on the doghouse bass; and Dave's son Adam often joining in on mandolin, guitar and vocals, the Williams Family Band offers three generations of musical talent for their audience's enjoyment.



Convention 2013 Update Submitted by Allen DiMarco

t convention last year, I spoke with numerous club Tmembers who expressed some of their personal thoughts, ideas, wishes and frustrations. This article lists the input of ideas and how we have incorporated the ideas for our 2013 Convention.

- The overall tone (atmosphere) of last year's convention seemed too hurried. The demanding schedule of various convention events made any "free time" nearly nonexistent. This year, by beginning the convention schedule Thursday afternoon, we will be able to add additional time to visit with friends and to shop in the member rooms.
- Members have expressed their desire to have a function on Friday evening so that we can all be together and enjoy one another's company. Also, many of you are accustomed to having dinner at a local restaurant with cherished friends each year. We have been able to schedule a chicken and pulled pork barbecue at the nearby Cascade



Township Park, just minutes from the hotel. Since this is the first attempt to provide a meal on Friday evening, it is impossible to estimate how many club members will be attending. Therefore, it is imperative that you make reservations for this barbecue to enable us to get an accurate count for the caterers. Included in this

newsletter is a registration form with menu and detailed map showing how to get to the park. Since the cost is only \$13 for the complete meal, I am anticipating a great turn out! Please send your reservations and check to Beth Vander Meer. Her mailing address is provided on the registration form.

• How many times have you wished you could visit with Club members in their homes and view their collections? Well, as announced last newsletter, your wish has come true! Beth has made arrangements with five Michigan Club members who are willing to open their homes and share their collections with you. These visits will be held for one day only, Tuesday, July 16. Each

of the hosts will designate the specific number of guests and the times for viewing. The map to the right that shows the location and hosts for each of the five viewing homes. You are encouraged to visit as many homes as time allows, but you must call first and make a reservation with the hosts. Hosts will begin taking reservations the week of July 7 and will accept reservations until their schedule is filled. Please do not call prior to July 7!

• Points of interest that early arrivers may choose to visit. Beth has provided some points of interest for those of you who come to convention early. These include antique and repurposed shops with a map on page 12. You may visit the beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline, Downtown Grand Rapids and the ever growing number of microbreweries. The Fredrick Meijer Gardens and other discounted attractions are found on page 16. For those that love to shop, there are three large shopping malls, Woodland Mall, Centerpointe Mall, and Rivertown Mall.

Many of you have stated that our club needs to change if we are to remain a viable club. Hopefully these new opportunities will help to address this issue. If you have additional ideas, please feel free to share them with me. Together, we can ensure that our club will continue to provide the same great fellowship and friendship that we have enjoyed through the years.

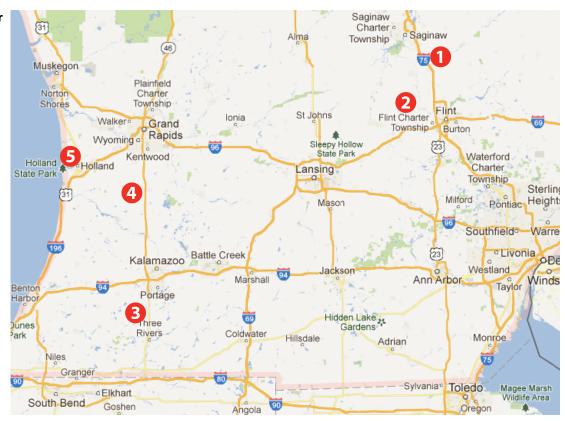
Reminder

This note is for the group hosting the 2014 Convention in St. Louis. Please plan on saving space in your vehicle to bring four large plastic totes back home with you. These totes will contain hospitality room supplies required for the convention in St. Louis, Missouri. Please contact Beth Vander Meer if you need more

details about the size of the totes, etc. Thank You!

Open House Hosts and Map

- 1. Janet & Dr. James Shetlar 741 Maplecrest Dr Frankenmuth, MI 48734 989-652-0098
- 2. Bob Yaklin 17271 Lincoln Rd New Lothrop, MI 48460 810-919-9250
- **3. Carl & Norma Tackett** 231 Grand Schoolcraft, MI 49087 269-679-4030
- 4. Rick & Beth Vander Meer 3981 12th St Wayland, MI 49348 269-792-9284
- **5. Ed & Freda Mott, Holland** 74 W 24th Holland, MI 49423 616-494-9916



Rare & Unusual Seminar

Friday, July 19 • 2:30 pm Beth VanderMeer & Jon Houserman

Now is your time to dig out that rare, unusual, what-the-heck-it-is item for the Rare & Unusual Seminar.

We are asking club members to bring one or two items for discussion at this seminar. We will follow the standard format as in years past. The owner is asked to tell a short story about how they came upon their treasure and then we can open up short discussion with the audience so that others can offer their expertise. This seminar has been an excellent chance for new and seasoned members alike to see and enjoy unique items that they rarely see or that they may have never seen. Everyone always seems to enjoy this seminar and the take-away is rewarding and educational.

Be sure to bring an item to share at this seminar. Our club is centered on the beautiful R.S. Prussia porcelain. What a super way to share your porcelain, knowledge, input and comments, and enjoy fellowship with other Prussia members. See you there!





Complimentary WiFi in Guest Rooms Refrigerator \$10 (one time fee) Room Table \$15 (one time fee)

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

There are many areas within Meijer Gardens to explore including the indoor gardens such as the tropical conservatory, Victorian, carnivorous, and arid gardens, as well as the outdoor areas like the Children's Garden, Michigan's Farm Garden, seasonal gardens, and a world-class Sculpture Park and meandering nature trails and boardwalk.

Regular Admission: \$12.00 Admission with convention badge: \$8.00 Phone: (616) 957-1580

Grand Rapids Children's Museum

This nationally recognized, hands-on, play museum has interactive exhibits and includes permanent exhibits such as Bubbles, Bubbles, Bubbles, and Busy Bees, Mom & Pop Grocery Store, Wee Bank, Post Office and more.

Regular Admission: \$7.00 No discounted admission offered Phone: (616) 235-4726

Grand Rapids Art Museum

The Art Museum's commitment to current and future generations includes opening its doors as the first newly-constructed, Gold LEED-certified art museum in the world. Many environmentally friendly items sold in the museum store.

Regular Admission: \$8.00 Admission with convention badge: \$7.00 Phone: (616) 831-1000

July 18-20 Grand Rapids Michigan

Crowne Plaza 5700 East 28th Street SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546 616-957-1770 R.S. Prussia Convention

Room Rate: \$109 + tax



The Ford Museum

Permanent exhibits allow visitors to actually participate in history while reviewing the lives of President and Mrs. Ford. A succession of feature exhibits draw upon the holdings of the entire Presidential Libraries System, Smithsonian Institution, National Archives, and others. Visitors can also see President Ford's Burial Site.

Regular Admission: \$7.00 Admission with convention badge: \$5.00 Phone: (616) 254-0400

Grand Rapids Public Museum

This museum features world-class exhibitions on history, nature, cultural heritage, Native Americans, and more. Stroll through a full-scale detailed re-creation of Grand Rapids in the 1890s showcasing eleven shops based on actual businesses and buildings. Ride a 1928 carousel, catch a show in the planetarium or eat in the cafe overlooking the river.

Regular Admission: \$8.00 Admission with convention badge: \$7.00 Phone: (616) 456-397