



**the** *The Almost Monthly Publication of  
the Ionia County Historical Society*  
**CHRONICLE**



# FARM POWER!



Members and guests welcomed George Gregg and Fred Bishop from the Ionia County Farm Power Club to the April meeting. Amidst a half-dozen display boards filled with photos, our guests related the story of the Club and their premier event: the Farm Power Show.

This year marks the 12th year of the show, taking place on Father's Day weekend at the Ionia Fairgrounds. It was in 2000 that Gale Wing began to talk up the idea of having a tractor-pulling club. These discussions evolved into organizing a club, and an event to publicize the club. It was initially billed as the "Ionia Steam and Gas Show" and took place in the spring of 2001. At that time there were eight sponsors, several displays by local antique collectors and some organized competitions.

Over the years, this event has grown to cover much more of the Fairgrounds for a three-day event, welcoming visitors from all over the Midwest. There are now over 120 sponsors, hundreds of tractors and farm machines, plus contests and activities for families. There are several classes of tractor competitions, from special pulling machines to garden tractors and even pedal-cars!

As one would expect from a local show with an agricultural theme, there's a pie-baking contest and auction, as well as plenty of great food and lots of outdoor games at the "Kids Coral." There's a flea market, food vendors, Tractor Softball, demonstrations of "yesterday's farm skills" and more. And the Fairgrounds Campground fills up for the weekend, too. In short: a great family event!

One of the highlights of the show every year has been the tractor raffle. This year's first prize ins a 1950 Massey-Harris 30, fully restored by members of the club. There is also a quilt,

a cash prize, and a metal scale model of the same Massey-Harris tractor to be given away.

The event continues to grow year after year, and will certainly continue. The website at [www.ioniafarmpower.com](http://www.ioniafarmpower.com) contains more details about the event, and contact information for anyone who would like to get involved. The Farm Power Club is a non-profit organization.

Thanks to our guests, and to all the members and sponsors of the Ionia Farm Power Show for keeping a great ag-focused event going in our community.



**This year's raffle  
GRAND PRIZE: a 1950  
Massey-Harris 30,  
restored by members  
of the Ionia Farm  
Power Club.  
More prizes, more fun,  
more FARM in Ionia on  
June 14, 15, 16. See  
you there!**

## MINUTES of the April 3rd Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie VanderMolen at approx. 7:10 p.m. at the Blanchard House on Wednesday, April 3, 2013.

The first item on the agenda was to have a presentation from the Ionia County Foundation who had approved a \$500 min-grant to the ICHS for museum displays. Unfortunately, representatives of the Foundation failed to arrive, but our thanks are expressed nonetheless.

Several treasures were donated to the Historical Society recently, including a Camphor-wood trunk that had belonged to Fred Green of Ionia during his campaign for Governor, donated by Beverly Lindburg.

The Appraisal Roadshow is coming on Saturday the 13th, 10-2 o'clock. \$5 per item, but you don't need an antique to come by and enjoy the show.

The "Let's Floor It" fundraiser buffet will take place at the Lamplight Grill on Sunday, April 14 in the afternoon. For \$15 per plate, everyone gets the buffet and \$5 of that goes to the ICHS for the new carpet funding. Tickets available now from Kathleen Cook or Linda Ciangi. There will also be a door prize of a FREE RENTAL of the Blanchard House!

Need a few more volunteers to staff the Blanchard House for the upcoming "Spring Into The Past" museum open house, Mary 4th and 5th. Please contact Stephanie if you can help for a couple of hours. The hours are from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Help is needed for one more push to sell Quilt Raffle Tickets. The quilt (and matching pillow shams) will be given away to some lucky winner during the



**NEXT MONTH: A History of Handwriting!**

“Spring Into The Past” event.

Also keep in mind the ICHS when you plan your summer calendar: we need volunteers to staff the House for our Summer Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. If you’d like to learn how to give tours, please contact the Board to arrange an orientation session. It’s fun!

The Upstairs/Downtown event is still on, and arrangements are in the final phases. Watch for more information soon. It will be on May 18th from 10 to 3 p.m. - contact Allie Cook if you’d like to help.

The annual Antique Fayre and Flea Market on the Blanchard House lawn will take place on Friday, May 31, and Saturday, June 1. Still a few \$10 vendor spots open, and donations to sell on behalf of the ICHS are being accepted. Contact Hank Knoop if you have stuff to donate!

The Parks and Rec Department has contact the ICHS seeking suggestions for “historic persons of note” to rename the Jackson Street Park, where the old JayCee Center and Tennis Courts were located. The members seemed to be very much in favor of naming it “Perry Park” after our own Gerard Perry. Contact Stephanie if you have other suggestions.

Hank Knoop delivered the Treasurer’s Report (see elsewhere in this issue), as well as noting that he will be conducting a tour of the Blanchard House on April 22nd for a class of second graders.

Linda Ciangi mentioned that she will not be able to attend the next Chamber Breakfast on April 23, and asks if someone else would consider representing the ICHS at that event. She also pointed out that Paul Lentz was the winner of the house rental at the Buckaroo Ball in February.

The Cane Display Case refurbishment is complete and looks very nice! Thanks to Les Fowley for his expertise with this project.

The meeting was adjourned, and the members and guests welcomed our guest speakers (see story, page one).

## MINUTES of the April 16 Business Meeting

Note from the Secretary. Due to rescheduling conflicts, I was not able to attend the April business meeting. In place of the usual minutes, president Stephanie VanderMolen has shared the following annotated agenda for the meeting. (Comments in italics.)  
**Board & Business Meeting Agenda - April 16, 2013:**

- Treasurer Annual Report -
- New Coming Rentals? May 17th
- April 13th Appraisal Roadshow earned \$305!
- April 14th Carpet Fundraiser Dinner made \$355! Including a \$105 donation!

What is the next fundraiser event? (*See Upstairs/Downtown below*)

- Spring into Past May 4th & 5th -

1. Volunteers- Saturday-Barb, Linda, Patty, David, Sunday- Kathleen (1), Linda, Barb H, Barb E., Stephanie. Cakes-Patty and Kathleen, Ice Cream-Linda

2. What still needs to be done at house before event date? Carpets will be cleaned (need recommended cleaner). Need help cleaning house.

3. Cleaning Lady - Board decision? Reference quotes- Price quote scared us. A little more than we are ready to spend. May reconsider a 1-2 time a year cleaning. Board is interested in putting together a cleaning party in hopes to recruit members.

• Military Pictures have been brought out of the basement. They were in disrepair and filthy. Linda has been cleaning and says that they need new paper on the back and they will be good as new. *Is this something we are interested in getting done? Also do we want Mary Kimble to scan and put on a disc for us? Please advise so Linda can proceed. We would like to wait on the scanning until we have a larger collection of military. Are the Photos tied to Ionia? If not we would like to file at this time. If so then Foam Board could be purchased and done by member to complete picture. (only if proven ties to Ionia at this time)*

## Upcoming Programs and Events

Wednesday, May 1, 7:00 p.m.

Program Meeting at the Blanchard House  
**“Handwriting and History”**  
presented by David McCord

Friday, May 4 & Saturday, May 5

11:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Spring Into The Past Museum Tours  
QUILT RAFFLE WINNER ANNOUNCED!

Sunday, May 6, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Summer Sundays at the Blanchard House  
Open Houses Begin

Saturday, May 18, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Ionia’s Upstairs-Downtown Tours

Friday, May 31 & Saturday, June 1

Annual ICHS Yard Sale / Flea Market

Saturday, August 3rd - All Day!

**BUS TRIP to GREENFIELD VILLAGE**

\$65 per seat, includes your museum ticket

AND MORE — WATCH THIS SPACE!

Be sure to stop in on Thursday afternoons to help out with the many projects under way at the Blanchard House. Cleaning and maintenance, yes – but also research and inventory, working on museum displays, and finding wonderful treasures!

Visit the ICHS website at [ioniahistory.org](http://ioniahistory.org) for more!

• Ypsilanti Reed furniture upstairs. Please share thoughts. Due to cleaning and preparing the 3 room downstairs. These pieces are on display temporarily (summer). They provide an exciting story for tours, large part of Ionia History, and create more space to work in basement. *Board understands and welcomes the changes in the basement.*

• Antique Fayre and Flea Market- Vendors are starting to come in. An effort has been made by posting on FB sites. *Stephanie wants to propose an Ad be accepted in the Shoppers Guide to call out to vendors. - Board approved \$50.00 in Shoppers Guide. Also Doni asked Stephanie to place ad on Craigslist.*

• May-meeting - Program by David McCord

• Committee Reports:

1. Accessions

2. Rentals

3. Events:

• **Upstairs Downtown TIME TO PROMOTE!** Are we doing the Main St. houses? Shoppers Guide, Face Book, WION, work on getting a Sentinel story, americantowns.com, Craigslist, Promote Michigan, etc.

• Bus Trip to Greenfield Village - RED HATTERS are on board!

**VOLUNTEERS**  
are always welcomed!

Please contact the Board of Directors, or visit a meeting or program to ask what you can do to help!

## What’s Up There?



No need to wonder any longer!

It’s time for the annual Ionia  
**Upstairs/Downtown Tour**

Saturday, May 18th • 10am to 3pm

\$10 for all 12 sites / \$2 for just one

All proceeds go to the Ionia County Historical Society

150 Years Ago



**NEWS OF THE REBELLION**

The 1st Michigan Sharpshooters was organized at Kalamazoo and Dearborn, Michigan between April 14 and October 7, 1863 and six companies were mustered into Federal service on July 7, 1863. Company K was composed primarily of Native Americans of the United States, especially members of the Ojibwa, Odawa, and Pottawatomie nations.

On April 27, Union General Hooker crossed the Rappahannock River to attack General Lee's forces. Lee split his army, attacking a surprised Union army in three places and almost completely defeating them. Hooker withdrew across the Rappahannock River, giving the South a victory, but it was the Confederates' most costly victory in terms of casualties.

Union General Grant won several victories around Vicksburg, Mississippi, the fortified city considered essential to the Union's plans to regain control of the Mississippi River. On May 22, Grant began a siege of the city. After six weeks, Confederate General John Pemberton surrendered, giving up the city and 30,000 men. The capture of Port Hudson, Louisiana, shortly thereafter placed the entire Mississippi River in Union hands. The Confederacy was split in two.

*Reprinted from the Detroit Advertiser and Tribune: Camp Shafer, near Murfreesboro, Tenn., April 3d, 1863 - by Special Correspondent.*

Soldiering has its pleasant as well as unpleasant phases and we have learned to bear both equally

well. As you are aware, the 21st is in camp about a mile from Murfreesboro, performing the ordinary duties of troops in an enemy's country. Of these, picket duty is one of the most important ones, and is generally performed with the greatest strictness. This is as it should be. One half the disastrous defeats to our armies have resulted from surprises occasioned by carelessness on picket duty.


It may not be uninteresting to learn of some of the most important incidents that have transpired within the last few days, to commence with the review of our division by Major Gen. Rosecrans, on Monday, March 23d. The day previous, we were informed at dress parade that our division would be reviewed by the General commanding, this department, and were requested to make our preparations accordingly. Knapsacks were packed, overcoats strapped on top, accouterments and clothes brushed up, and the arms brightened up where it was necessary. The beautiful flag presented to us by the ladies of Ionia, was displayed on Monday by the side of the stars and stripes, which is the only battle flag allowed to be carried. It will be remembered that the old national ensign carried by our regiment on two battle-fields, was badly riddled with the missiles of the enemy when brought out of the hard-fought contest at Stone river. It has been replaced by a new silk national flag.


At 10 A. M. the different regiments moved out on a large open space not far from camp which was indicated as the ground for our review by a camp color placed there. After half an hour spent in assuming our respective positions on the ground, the General made his appearance, and with a smiling countenance and touch of the hat, acknowledged the salute of the line. We will remember the compliment of the General, of which Michigan may feel proud: "Mich-

igan men? Indeed! I wish we had more of them." The review being ended we march by regiment to our respective camps, the bands playing.

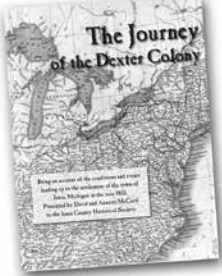
The next day our regiment went on grand guard and remaining twenty four hours. When we returned, dinner was in order, but hardly had the preparations commenced, when the order came, "The whole brigade will march for Salem immediately." Dinner is hurriedly disposed of, haversack are filled with "hardtack," canteens filled, &c.. We are ready in a twinkling, and soon on the way to Salem. We march about two hours, halt in a piece of woods, form in line of battle, stack arms, unslung blankets and haversacks, and then, as is usual in such cases, every man goes on double quick to the nearest rail fence, and returns with a rail or two on his shoulder. Next a fresh supply of water is in order, which is not always the best, but here springs are abundant. Fires are next build. A detail of fifty men and three officers from each regiment goes on picket. Arrived at the proper place, the detail halts, is divided into three reliefs, outposts are established and sentinels posted. Those who remain at the station stack arms, and build small fires. Sentinels are relieved every two hours, the outposts every four hours, the station every twenty-four hours; the whole force expects to be relieved in five days. Thus sufficient reset is allowed to all and everyone goes off pleasantly. It rained quite hard one night, so that we were threatened with a severe soaking. Next day, however, the sun shone out in all its splendor, making us forget the drenching of the previous night. As we expected, we were all relieved by another brigade and a battery on the fifth day. We returned to camp and have since been quietly drilling and preparing for the supposed coming conflict. An occasional shot is heard in front.

- C.B.



**MEMORIES & MOMENTOS**  **HERITAGE & HISTORY**


*Just a few of the many things available at the Blanchard House / Ionia Museum Gift Shop.*



**The Journey of the Dexter Colony, 1833,**  
by David and Annette McCord. A detailed history of the settling of Ionia.  
**\$12 each (\$15 with postage)**

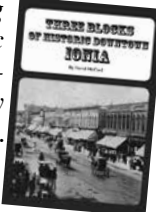
*Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Ionia - 40-pages of history by David McCord.*

**\$5 each**



**A History of Bertha Brock Park on its 80th "Birthday"**  
by David McCord.  
**\$6 each**

**WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC DOWNTOWN IONIA**



**DVD Video souvenirs!**

- **'Sno Wonder DVD – 1936 Ionia County Road Commission + 1940 Bertha Brock Snow Festival**  
*Short films that show us a glimpse of the challenges and the fun of Winters in Ionia County a generation ago.*
- **1939 "We're In The Movies"** *A promotional film produced by Ionia businesses and organizations. It's a wonderful look into our town over 70 years ago.*
- **1950s Home Show and Free Fair Movies**
- **1976 U.S. Bicentennial in Ionia**
- **1937 Ionia Airport Inaugural plus Bertha Brock Park's 1940 "Winter Festival"**
- **1973 Ionia Centennial Documentary**
- **"Ionia's First 150 Years" and "Ionia - A Look Back" - Documentaries by Monroe MacPherson**

**DVDs are available for \$10 each!**

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**

**Reproductions of historic Ionia publications –**

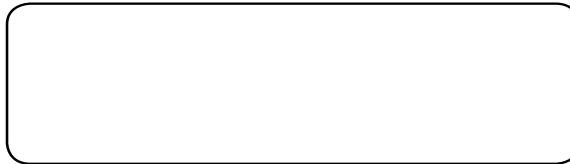
- **1887 "Headlight Flashes" Special Edition**
- **1907 Ionia Souvenir Book**
- **1973 Ionia City Centennial Program Book**



# the [www.ioniahistory.org](http://www.ioniahistory.org) **CHRONICLE**

The Chronicle is the official publication of the Ionia County Historical Society. It is written, edited, and published by David McCord, Secretary. Any comments, corrections (of course), or contributions should be directed to the editor c/o the ICHS at P.O. Box 176, Ionia, MI, 48846 or via [www.ioniahistory.org](http://www.ioniahistory.org).

Ionia County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 176  
Ionia, MI 48846



## JOIN TODAY!

If you'd like to help us preserve the area's heritage, please fill in the form below and send it, with check or money order, to the ICHS Treasurer, care of Box 176, Ionia, MI 48846.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please Check Your Membership Type:

- Regular = \$20
- Sustaining = \$35
- Business Buddy = \$50
- Corporate = \$250
- Life = \$1000
- Free to Students under 18
- Gift = \$\_\_\_\_\_

### Please Share a Little Information:

- Renewing Member
- New Member

If you're a new member, how did you hear about us?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Thanks!

## Join Us at the Ionia Theatre at 9:30 a.m. every Thursday for **FREE ICHS Travelogues!**

*April 4 – Yosemite National Park*

*April 11 – Great Britain*

*April 18 – Cirque de Soleil*

*April 25 – Ireland*

*May 2 – Australia*

*May 9 – Mt. Rushmore*

*May 16 – Italy*

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