



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



150 Years Ago



NEWS OF THE REBELLION

The months of June, July, and August of 1863 were among the most eventful of the entire conflict. The Vicksburg and Gettysburg campaigns are regarded by many as the turning points in the conflict.

The State of West Virginia became the 35th state of the Union in June, seceding from the seceded state of Virginia.

Maj. General George Meade took command of the Union Army of the Potomac, succeeding Gen'l Joseph Hooker, just days before the Gettysburg campaign. Grant's assault on Vicksburg finally met with success in the west, thanks in large part of Admiral Farragut's contribution from the Mississippi River fleet. As the 4th of July passed, the Union began to celebrate some notion of victory - but at great cost.

Border skirmishes continued all across the country, with forays both north and south. Political struggles also continued to plague efforts both Union and Confederate, as the strain of the conflict filled the headlines of newspapers and monthlies.

In New York City, August was a month of unrest. The Conscription Act, passed earlier in the year by the U.S. Congress, met with hostile reaction from the poorer citizens who could not buy their way out of service. Riots broke out in the city that lasted many days, caused extensive damage, and nearly 100 lives were lost before being brought under control by Federal troops returning from the battlefield.

In a reversal of roles, the Union Navy began bombardment of Ft. Sumter in Charleston Harbor as a part of the assault on Ft. Wagner.

1863 SATURDAY SOCIAL

Members and families of the 3rd Michigan Infantry and 21st Michigan Infantry gathered at the Blanchard House for a casual day on August 17 — our "1863 Saturday Social."

The Civil War re-enactors were joined by spectators on a truck-drawn tour wagon while the history of some of the town's major landmarks and beautiful architecture was described. The soldiers demonstrated some drills and described their weapons and accouterments to the spectators, while their families showed folks their homespun handiwork.

Tours of the Blanchard House inspired discussions of history and how people share and experience the inspiring stories of the past. In this year of the Civil War's sesquicentennial, the reenactors have had a very busy year. With events scheduled for nearly every weekend of the year, this day was intended as a restful afternoon. And thanks to the wonderful weather, it was easy to relax in the shade and get acquainted.

Closing the day with a meat-and-potatoes supper, and a bit of music and poetry of the period, a good time was had by all.

Many thanks to the members of the Historical Society for making this event happen! We hope to continue this new tradition and invite our 1860s friends back again next year. (1864, that is.)



Carol G. and Stephanie - our Kitchen Help for the Social!



NEXT MONTH: ANDERSONVILLE.

NOTE: Nominations are due for the Board of Directors at the September meeting - elections in October. You can VOTE if your annual dues have been paid before the election!

MINUTES of the June 5th Program Meeting

June 5, 2013, Monthly Program Meeting at the Blanchard House

President Stephanie VanderMolen recapped recent events with thanks and congratulations for several successful efforts, including the Spring Into The Past museum tours, the Quilt Raffle, several tours of 8th-grade students, the Upstairs-Downtown event, the Antique Fayre and Flea Market. Congratulations were also extended to Gerry Perry, being honored with the newly refurbished Jackson St. park being named in his honor.

Linda Ciangi reported that Mike Antonides is very interested in heading up the "clean the creek" project on the Blanchard lot. Watch for more information soon.

Summer Sunday volunteers are needed — please sign up on the calendar in the kitchen, or speak to a member if you'd like to help welcome our guests this season.

Saturday, June 2 will be the Summer in the City event in downtown Ionia. David M. has a historic downtown Scavenger Hunt ready to go. This will be a free activity, and the Board has decided to offer a prize to the winner of a free rental of the House for a day, to be redeemed within a year of the winning. Also on Saturday, the ICHS will have a couple of tables at the Armory "yard sale" to offer left-overs from the Antique Fayre event. Volunteers are welcomed for this as well!

Then Sunday, June 3, after the regular tour hours, Linda C. is running a Silent Auction to raise funds for the Carpet Project ("Let's Floor It!").

Tuesday, July 16, will bring the Tri-River meeting at noon at the Belrockton. \$10 for a catered lunch and program on Crystal and Glassware.

The ICHS may have an entry in the Free Fair parade on July 20 - Linda C. is hoping to get the 1930s Fire Truck to represent us. The Queens' Reception will be held again at the Blanchard House before the parade. Hank and Doni are working diligently on the Antique Village displays for the Floral Building as well. David M. noted that he will be trying to get a Boy Scout display in there, too. Sunday the 21st, ICHS members are encouraged to come by in period costume to draw attention to the exhibits there.

The August 3rd Greenfield Village Bus Trip is a go, with tickets available now for the day. \$60 includes transportation and admission to the site.

The "1863 Saturday Social" is getting a little traction with Civil War reenactors. Details for foods and arrangements for the "tram" are still being finalized. The day will include a very light lunch and lemonade, guided tours of the Blanchard House and downtown Ionia, followed by a pot-luck supper and some casual entertainment. Everyone is encouraged to wear period clothing if possible. This event will be free, the intent being to nurture our relationship with the reenactor community.

This fall there will be THREE Board positions up for election. Anyone interested in serving on the board, or with suggestions of people who might be recruited, please see a current Board member. The nominations (according to

the By-Laws) must be finalized by the September meeting.

The "Spirits of Ionia" cemetery tour is now on the calendar for October 20, and Stephanie V. is working on rounding up actors, interesting biographies, and publicity for the third annual event.

Progress continues in the refresh of the museum displays at the B. House. Linda C. reports that more minor repairs have been made and plans are well along for an updated display of Ionia's medical history, as well as more about the Ypsilanti Reed plant. She also noted that several boxes of materials were donated from Rus Gregory's archives, which have yet to be sorted, cataloged, and stored.

Due to illness, the program for the evening had to be canceled, so Hank Knoop filled in with a presentation of Civil War firearms from his own collection.

MINUTES of the June 19th Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie VanderMolen at approx. 7:20 p.m.

The first item on the agenda is Rentals, of which only one is scheduled presently: the "free rental" awarded to Phil Kahl set for July 21.

The Carpets will be cleaned by Stanley Steamer in preparation for the summer traffic at the Blanchard House. Funding for the new carpet in the parlor is going slowly, but surely.

Items have been prepared for the upcoming sale at the Armory, and the Scavenger Hunt is ready to go. There are several volunteers lined up to help.

The Silent Auction plans also are coming together, with wine and cheese and other snacks being prepared. There are 55 items donated to the cause at this point, and all is in readiness.

Plans for the Free Fair parade are in place also. The antique fire truck will represent the ICHS, and Linda will put some signs and banners on the vehicle to publicize the organization.

The Queen's Reception before the parade will be hosted by Linda C. and Barb Ehlert. Maddie Cook at the Sentinel will be on hand to cover the event. Hank and Doni continue to work on the Antique Village displays at the Fair also.

The Greenfield Village Bus Trip is meeting with a fair amount of enthusiasm, but still very few tickets have been sold. At \$60 each, we need at least 35 passengers to make this a success.

The Civil War "1863 Saturday Social" is still on for August 17th. David M. reports that the event has been picked up by the State's Civil War Events calendar, and more publicity will be going out soon. Kathleen Cook has volunteered to help with the foods, and Linda C. will check on the tram for the city tour. A truck and driver are still needed for the tour, too.

The "Spirits" cemetery tour plans are progressing. Stephanie proposed a price increase to \$7.00 each, and to put together a booklet to give each visitor with short biographies of the folks being portrayed on the tour. Kathleen has begun some research already, and will put together the content for this booklet. It was suggested that 100 copies should be sufficient.

Progress continues in the basement museum, artifacts and displays. There was some water leaking into the basement which appeared to be

due to the stopped-up gutters. Hank K. has made repairs, and some little work is yet to be completed, but it appears that the work is about done.

Still needing volunteers for the Summer Sundays. It takes at least three people to host these open house afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m., but 4 is better.

Chel Lea has approached Stephanie about organizing a Victorian Spiritualist Event, to invite fortune tellers and such to the Blanchard House, to provide a presentation on the historical background and allow guests palms to be read, etc. The Board encouraged Stephanie to continue her talks with Chel Lea to put together the details and pick a date between the "Spirits" tour and Thanksgiving.

Hank asked about the August program, and if he should try to reschedule Julie Cooper who had to cancel her June appearance. The Board supported this idea, but Kathleen Cook said she could do a presentation on Civil War Quilts if necessary.

The Board considered that the September meeting could be billed as a "show-and-tell" session for members. October will be the Annual Meeting and Elections, and a November program is still to be determined.

Regarding the elections, several names have been suggested for the three new Board positions coming up. The nominees will be announced at the September meeting, when the slate list been confirmed.

Linda C. asked if it might be possible to put something on the ICHS website about the upcoming Silent auction, specifically to publicize that Jake Slater (the Elvis impersonator) will take bids for a personalized song performance at an upcoming concert.

The July 3 meeting will be the traditional pot-luck at the Blanchard House, and final plans for the Free Fair will be discussed then.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

MINUTES of the July 3rd Program Meeting

July 3 was the annual Independence Day Pot-Luck, for which only the most necessary business was discussed, being a more social event.

MINUTES of the July 17th Business Meeting

President Stephanie V. began the meeting with a discussion of Blanchard House Rentals, specifically that there are very few on the calendar. She asked members to think about publicizing the rentability of the house.

The vintage Fire Engine will be available for the Free Fair Parade! Linda C. will arrange to have signs for the ICHS on the truck. The Antique Village is coming along well according to chairman Doni Knoop. Planning a special Sunday afternoon reception to start the week, with some special programs. ICHS members are encouraged to come to the fair in historic costume! Linda, Steph, and Carol Gallagher are also hosting the Queen's Reception prior to the Free Fair parade.

The Silent Auction that was held at the Blanchard House was a great success, bringing in approx. \$1500. Many thanks to Linda C. for taking charge of this event. Many attendees said they heard about it via Facebook! Of the 67 items in the auction, 9 got no bids. Many thanks to Toni Buys

for donations to the auction and word-of-mouth promotion. The Board voted to give her a complimentary membership (moved by Kathleen, supported by Ally).

We have very little time to sell more tickets for the Greenfield Village bus Trip on August 3rd. There must be 35 tickets sold to break even, and presently only 12 are signed on. If we cancel by the 20th, we'll only lose our \$100 deposit. It was agreed to push for ticket sales for a few more days, then take a phone vote to decide yay or nay.

The Civil War "Social" even for August 17th is coming along also. Chairman David McCord reported that he has a truck and needs a driver for the city tour. Kathleen will be working on the arrangements for food.

The "Spirits of Ionia" cemetery tour is scheduled for October 20th. Chairman Stephanie V. asked interested members to meet at the Highland park cemetery to walk through the site and pick a "short list" of subjects for this year. July 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Gailia Brown, long-time ICHS member, passed away recently and left the Historical Society \$6,000 in her will. The Board decided to defer a decision on how to invest these funds for at least a few months, to consider options appropriate for the contribution.

A painting of the Thayer House on High Street (often mis-identified as the Tower House) was offered at the Silent Auction. The present owner of the house would like the painting, and the Board (at the suggestion of the Accessions Committee) offered it to him for a \$100 donate, which he accepted.

Rus Gregory donated a substantial amount of his research materials and historical records (still being sorted). Among these are lots of records regarding local healthcare professionals as well as many veterans and other wartime articles. Kris Haskins has volunteered to catalog these artifacts.

Ryan Gregory has donated a child's rocker which was made by the Ypsilanti Reed Company.

Linda C. reported that progress continues in the basement. Painting and cleaning are on the agenda, as well as refining displays.

Summer Sundays are still in need of volunteers to finish out the season. It takes at least three people at the house to efficiently host tours and welcome our guests. Interested members please come by at 1:00 on Sunday afternoons!

Hank K. and Linda C. also reported that the "Clean the Creek" project was progressing as well, with help from a neighbor.

David McCord offers to conduct a Calligraphy Class for the ICHS. The Board is considering a late fall date to prepare for Christmas projects. More to come.

Hank K. offered his Treasurers report, including a request to the Board for \$50 to renew the ICHS membership in the Michigan Historical Society. It was moved by Kathleen and supported by Ally to do so - passed by the Board.

Saints Peter & Paul would like to host a reception at the Blanchard House in October in exchange for \$600 worth of advertising in their church newsletter. Hank will report further as more information is available.

Hank is arranging for a Civil War canon to be on display on the last Sunday of August at the

House. He ways they will transport it to his house afterwards, where it will be fired.

Kathleen will provide a program for the first meeting of August on the subject of Civil War Quilts and their use as signals for the Underground Railroad.

Linda C. says she was approached by the White's Bridge rebuilding group asking for photos and info about the bridge.

The Hospital has a golf fund raiser coming up and they're seeking donations for door prizes. The Board voted to donate some DVDs and a historic golf photo (moved by Ally and supported by Kathleen).

Paul Letts at Edward Jones offered to host an ICHS meeting at his historic home sometime this winter. Linda will follow up with him to check on available dates.

A vendor who was at the Summer in the City event in Ionia asked Linda about reselling copies of historic photos that are for sale in our souvenir shop. After some discussion, it was decided that the ICHS has no specific rights to the photos, and therefore anyone who buys them can do whatever they want with them. No special arrangements will be offered.

Linda also mentioned an idea for a raffle: Four prizes / four winners of special dinners at local restaurants. The Board supported further discussion, and Linda will pursue the idea. Launching the raffle at the Mrs. Claus Bazaar was thought to be a good idea.

Barb Ehlert purchased some window screen inserts for the house during the recent heat wave. She's asking the Board for a reimbursement of \$26.72. It was moved by Kathleen and supported by Ally to do so; passed by the Board.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 9:00.

MINUTES of the August 7th Program Meeting

The meeting began with the usual welcome message from president Stephanie VanderMolen, and a hardy thanks to all the folks who worked at the Antique Village at the Free Fair. The ICHS sold many of our souvenir DVDs - and the order is in to David McCord to make more ASAP!

In addition, the Queen's Reception was "wonderful" and thanks to Linda C., Barb E. and Carol G. for all their hard work.

The ICHS was not represented in the parade. Unfortunately, the antique Fire Truck developed engine trouble at the last minute, so we had to drop out. Maybe next year?

Also "maybe next year" — the Greenfield Village Bus Trip was canceled due to not enough ticket sales. The members noted that the early August timing might have been part of the problem. We hope to try this again someday.

The Creek Cleanup continues, and Hank

noted that Dave White has been doing an outstanding job keeping the lawn groomed.

The Civil War Social is coming up on the 17th. Still need some food arrangements made, and several reenactors from last year's event have said they will be attending. We're hoping to make this an annual event (in some form or another). The last Sunday in August Hank will be bringing a Civil War canon to the House for display, too.

The Museum continues to evolve. Painting will soon be under way, and the displays are coming together. Thanks to all the volunteers on this most significant part of our mission! Linda notes that she's looking for more Business memorabilia.

An 1838 clock which once belonged to Anna Dexter now sits on the mantelpiece in the parlor. This clock was restored to working order by Trier's jewelry store! Some other items were donated to the ICHS collections from a patron in Kalamazoo, as well as a 1965 Free Fair Premium book and several City Directories ca. 1917 - 1922. There are also a number of books (mostly atlases) coming from the Library.

Two new Board positions are coming up for election this fall. The nominations must be in by the September meeting, so if any members are interested in serving on the Board - or have any suggestions for the positions - please speak to a Board member before the September meeting.

October 20 is the date set for the next "Spirits of Ionia" cemetery tour. The dear departed Ionians for the tour are being selected now, and research has begun. We are still in need of presenters for this event, and volunteers in several other positions as well. Please contact Stephanie V. if you're interested.

In November, ICHS members are planning to host a "Christmas Gift Gallery" again, welcoming vendors to the Blanchard House to sell their wares (with a percentage going towards the Blanchard House maintenance fund). It's been hinted that this might be a good time to schedule that Calligraphy class, too.

Linda Ciangi reported that the Mrs. Clause Bazaar is being relocated to the High School (from the Middle School). August 18th brings an Elvis show to the Theatre, with "excess" income being donated to the ICHS. She also reported that Gary Ferguson at the Theatre will donate from pre-feature advertising to the Historical Society in the coming months.

The September program will be Jenni Cooper, with stories about her ancestor who served in the Civil War and was a prisoner at Andersonville. Upcoming programs include the Pewamo Catholic Church, a local historic home, and potential visit from a historic surveying reenactor.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments, followed by Kathleen Cooke's presentation.

VOLUNTEERS

are always welcomed!

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

QUILTS ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY?

Kathleen Cook brought in a collection of quilts (old and older) to show the members and guests at the August meeting some of the historic patterns in the fabric. According to author Eleanor Burns, many of these quilt patterns had a very special meaning to the folks escaping slavery during the 1850s and 1860s.

The path to freedom in the north was called “Underground Railway” and along this secret route were many local “Stations” where escaping slaves could find food, shelter, protection and transportation. Often the opposite might be found as well.

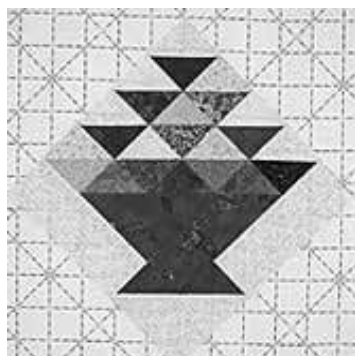
To signal the fugitive slaves (for, by law, they were the property of their owners), many techniques were used. This included lantern signals, the singing of certain hymns, markings on fences and barn doors. And according to Ms. Burns, quilts hanging on a lie or a fence with a certain pattern on display conveyed a specific message.

Kathleen also displayed some other vintage quilt patterns and discussed a few traditional stitches and techniques. She also had a splendid example of a century-old “crazy quilt.” Thanks to Kathleen for her presentation!

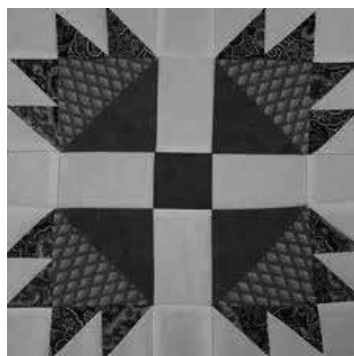
Below are a few examples, and the messages attributed to these various patterns.



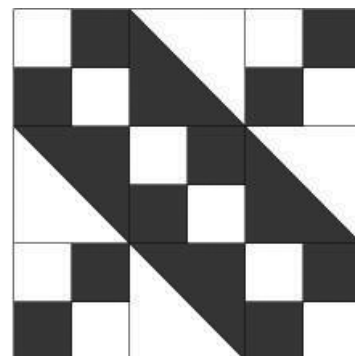
The Crossroads Quilt would signify an intersection, and the colors could mean a safe one (black) or danger (red).



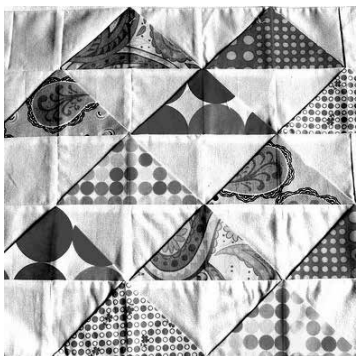
The Basket pattern meant that food was available within the farmhouse.



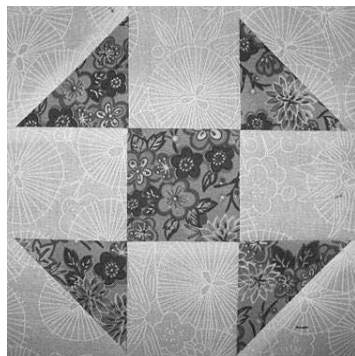
A Bear Claw pattern might indicate that the travelers should be wary and stick to the trail lest they be set upon.



Jacob's Ladder was a pattern that signified good tidings and aid was available.



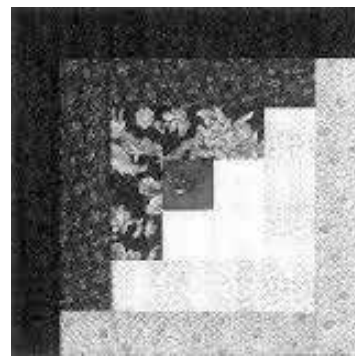
The Geese-in-Flight pattern could indicate both a direction and the advice to “fly” without lingering.



The Shoofly pattern (also called “churn-dash”) was also an indication of a safe place to rest.



The Wagon Wheel was a signal that transportation could be had, or that the traveler should move on with haste.



The popular Log Cabin quilt advertised a safe haven where the traveler could rest warm and dry in a comfortable shelter.

Upcoming Programs and Events

Wednesday, September 4, 7:00 p.m.
Meeting at the Blanchard House
Jennie Cooper's Civil War Ancestor
at Andersonville and the ill-fated “Sultana”

Wednesday, Sept 18th
ICHS Business Meeting

Saturday, Sept 21st, at Bertha Brock Park
The Fall Festival and ICHS Duck Race!

Wednesday, October 2nd, 2013
The ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTION
of TWO NEW DIRECTORS

Sunday, October 20th
The “Spirits of Ionia” Cemetery Tour
Highland Park Cemetery, Prairie Creek

MUCH MORE TO COME!!!

Visit the ICHS website at ioniahistory.org for more!



It was on August 16th, General Hull surrendered Fort Detroit and his army to the British without a fight. Hull, a 59-year-old veteran of the American Revolution, had lost hope of defending the settlement after seeing the large English and Indian force gathering outside Detroit's walls. The general was also preoccupied with the presence of his daughter and grandchildren inside the fort.

Of Hull's 2,000-man army, most were militiamen, and British General Isaac Brock allowed them to return to their homes on the frontier. The regular U.S. Army troops were taken as prisoners to Canada. With the capture of Fort Detroit, Michigan Territory was declared a part of Great Britain.

From the start of the war to the end of July 1813, the British ships, which since May 5, 1813 were led by Commander Robert Heriot Barclay, had maintained control of the lake. They contained the American squadron under Master Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry at Presque Isle harbour. When Barclay lifted the blockade for two days in order to receive supplies, Perry was able to move his ships across the sandbar at the entrance to the harbour and into the lake. Barclay declined to attack them.

Once it was fully armed and manned, Perry's superior squadron instituted a counter-block-

ade of Amherstburg, and supplies of food there rapidly ran short. Finally, with supplies almost exhausted, Barclay put out to seek battle with Perry. On September 13, Perry gained a complete victory in the Battle of Lake Erie, after a hard-fought battle. On receiving Perry's hastily written note that "We have met the enemy and they are ours",

One thousand mounted troops under General W.H. Harrison (later President) began advancing along the lake shore to Detroit, and 2,500 foot soldiers were carried there and to Amherstburg by Perry's ships once the damage had been repaired.



100 Years Ago...

The Copper Country Strike of 1913-1914 began in July. It was a major strike, affecting all copper mines in the "Copper Country" of Michigan. The strike, organized by the Western Federation of Miners, was the first unionized strike within the region.

The strike was called to achieve goals of shorter work days, higher wages, union recognition, and to maintain family mining groups. The strike lasted just over nine months, including the Italian Hall disaster on Christmas Eve, and ended with the union being effectively driven out of the Keweenaw Peninsula.

In 1913, Michigan's newspapers reported that there was no longer any good excuse for motorists not to have 1913 license plates on their vehicles and that they needed to get them as soon as possible, suggesting that their had been at least an unofficial grace period up to that point. The first four months of 1913 had seen 36,000 plates issued - nearly the same number as had been issued in all of 1912!

Anybody who applied for a registration beginning on August 1 was entitled to pay only \$1.50 - half the rate of those who applied at some point in the first seven months of the year. By the end of the year, automobile registrations in Michigan had surpassed 54,000.

It was in 1913 that the annual Ionia District Fair was canceled due to lack of funding. The first Ionia District Fair had been held in 1857, being one of the first in the State.

In the 1913 edition of Iron Age magazine, the following advertisement appears. The Hayes-Ionia plant, one of many businesses begun by Ionia County native H. Jay Hayes, was operating at full capacity making metal autobody components for Chevrolet and other Detroit car makers.

Small Stampings

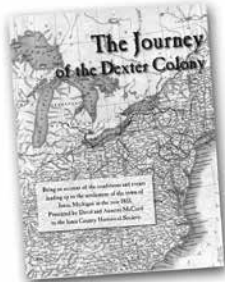
from 20 and 22 gauge sheet metal worked up from trimmings of our regular sheet metal parts. Will either make dies or use ones you have. Work will receive careful and prompt attention. Accuracy, finish and quality guaranteed at very reasonable prices.

Write for details. Send blue prints or samples.

Hayes-Ionia Company
Ionia, Mich.

SOUVENIRS
MEMORIES & MOMENTOS IONIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HERITAGE & HISTORY

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

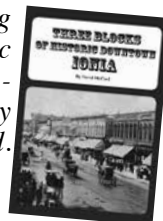


The Journey of the Dexter Colony, 1833, by David and Annette McCord. A detailed history of the settling of Ionia. \$12 each (\$15 with postage)

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



Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Ionia - 40-pages of history by David McCord. \$5 each



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**

MINUTES of the August 21th Business Meeting

Kathleen Cook called the meeting to order in the absence of president Stephanie V. Present were Kathleen, Ally Cook, Barb Hogan, Barb Ehlert, Linda Ciangi, David McCord, and our neighbor Gordon (um... didn't catch his last name).

Barb E. reported that October has two rentals coming up, and there is a tentative rental for November. The Women's Literary Club has asked to hold their annual meeting in March at the Blanchard House. In keeping with long-standing tradition, the Board voted again not to charge them for the use of the House, particularly in recognition of the contributions of many of their members to the ICHS over the years.

David M. reported on the successful Civil War "Social" which was held on Saturday the 17th. It was well attended by Civil War Reenactors and a few locals who stopped by to share the experience. The "trolley tour" worked out very well (thanks to the Free Fair, Dave Blundy and Dave White). NEXT YEAR (!) we need to provide a better lunch menu, and provide at least as good of weather as this time around. Thanks also to Carol and Mike Gallagher, to Stephanie and Kathleen, and Annette McCord (of course).

The "Spirits" have been chosen for the October 20th Cemetery Tour. They are: George Allured, Vernon Smith, Jesse Webster, the Rice Family, George Webber, Civil War Vet. Mr. Borden, and a presentation on the Minihaha "legend." Research has begun, and anyone interested in helping is encouraged to contact Stephanie.

The basement museum project is still waiting for painting. It's hoped that it will be done this coming weekend. Once that's complete, the displays can be readied for the winter's visitors.

The proposed Calligraphy Course was discussed, and a November date is being considered. This may be in conjunction with the Gift Gallery even at the Blanchard House - or not. More to come on this class.

The Duck Race is scheduled for the Fall Festival on September 21st. Volunteers are needed to work the ticket sales and the race itself. Please contact Hank K. if you'd like to help!

DUES ARE DUE by October first for all members who would like to participate in the election of two new Directors this fall. So far, Linda Ciangi has thrown her hat in the ring, and there are a couple of others considering nomination at this time. Nominations MUST be finalized by the November meeting (according to the Bylaws).

This coming Sunday (August 25) Hank K. will have a Civil War era canon on display in the Blanchard House lawn. Afterward, it will be taken to his house to be fired. (Cover your ears!)

On October 7, the clergy of Saints Peter and Paul Church will be having a reception at the Blanchard House. This "rental" is being traded for approx. \$600 worth of advertising in the Church's newsletter.

The Mrs. Claus Bazaar is being moved BACK to the Middle School now. The ICHS has two booths reserved again this year., December 7th.

Gerry Perry turned over his key to the Blanchard House to Hank Knoop.

Ally Cook has agreed to take charge of the "gift shop" at the Blanchard House. If anyone has ideas for this, please contact her.

Linda C. mentioned that the cost of the Queen's Reception was approximately \$45, and this expense was covered out of the Free Fair Parade Budget. Tom Millard, in charge of the parade this year, said he would build that into the budget for next year.

Linda also said that after the "Spirits" tour we should make a donation of some kind to the Fair Association for the use of the "trolley" for that event as well as the Civil War event just passed. The Board will consider some ideas, in money or in kind.

Linda also mentioned that her "Back In The Day" column in the Sentinel-Standard is very popular, and the newspaper has asked her to contribute a monthly item as well. She is considering the subject of donations and "finds" in the museum collection.

A suggestion was made to see if we could get reprints made of Rus Gregory's booklet on the White's Bridge. Being a popular topic of late, this could be of benefit in several ways.

The presentation schedule for upcoming meetings was discussed. The schedule as it stands as of this meeting is as follows:

MONTHLY PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September: Jennie Cooper's Civil War Ancestry

October: ICHS Annual Meeting

November: Michigan Professional Surveyors Reenactment Group

December: Annual Christmas Pot-Luck and Story Swap

January: A visit to the Historic Pickett Home at Woodard Lake

February: A visit to the Pewamo Catholic Church

March: To Be Announced

April: "The Joys and Pains of Socks"

May: To Be Announced (Program by David McCord)

The ICHS listing in the Tri-River Museum Directory is up for renewal again. David M. has the information and will follow up.

The meeting was adjourned shortly thereafter.



A serious discussion about Hank Knoop's Civil War Firearms on display at the Social.



The Reenactors enjoying a day of leisure at the Blanchard House, sharing the latest news from Michigan boys marching through Tennessee?



Perhaps this is the next generation of Civil War reenactor? Gotta start sometime!

**DON'T FORGET THAT YOUR
DUES ARE DUE, TOO!**



the 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.

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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: _____

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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!**

- August 29 – Over British Columbia!*
- September 5 – The Greenville Gliders*
- September 12 – Scotland*
- September 19 – The Rockies by Rail*
- September 26 – France*
- October 3 – Wild Alaska*
- October 10 – West Wilderness*

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