



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



# Spring has Sprung

## Programs and Visits

The past few months have blessed us with some outstanding activities at the Historical Society. We hope that you have all been able to attend. If not, here's a quick summary of our tours and presentations. Be sure to review the upcoming programs, too! We hope to see you there.

### January 7

The members of the Historical Society gathered at the home of Mark and Jane Horrocks on North State Road. The farm house is over 150 years old, and filled with precious artifacts of generations of the family's occupants. Much of the home's original décor is preserved, and filled with stories. Some members braved the winter chills to take a brief tour of the farm buildings, including "the factory" which still contains some machinery, pulleys and drive belts from the days when machinery was driven by steam-power. The "tourists" were fascinated by flashlight with the variety of antique tools and furnishings. Every building tells a story – or several. We're grateful to the Horrockses for their hospitality and support of the Historical Society.

### February 4

First Christian Church of Muir, presented by Kieth Salter at the church, with thanks to Pastor Greg Gladding and the congregation!

The First Christian Church and Disciples of Christ was rooted in western Pennsylvania and Kentucky in the 1830s. It was a union of two denominations founded by Thomas and Alexander Campbell and Barton Stone. The first Montrose Church (Muir) was founded by Ambrose Soule, one of the area's earliest pioneers. Soule made a modest fortune in the patent medicine business in the 1850s. The Soules family became quite prominent in the area, including establishing the area's first sawmill in 1854. By 1856 they



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**Minutes of Recent Meetings** (since the publication of the last Chronicle in early December, 2014)

### December

The December Board Meeting was held on the 17th. President Ciangi reviewed the season's activities, including the Mrs. Claus Bazaar (another success) with thanks to all who made it happen. Treasurer Hank Knoop reviewed the Annual Report as compiled by Larry Tiejema for the Society. The 2015 Activities Calendar was discussed, including our monthly programs, fundraisers, community events, and other opportunities. Challenges were also discussed, including the maintenance of the property and collections, and recruiting new volunteers.

Ally Cook and Goose Elliot reported that the schedule for the Ionia Free Fair Centennial book was beginning to be a problem. There are too many photos and other resources to sort through and still satisfy the Arcadia Press deadlines for the summer release of the book. Alternate ideas are being discussed and will be presented soon after the holidays.

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exercised significant influence upon the railroads, and were instrumental in bringing the tracks through Muir. The Reverend Isaac Erret was invited by Ambrose Soule to come to Muir and help establish the church there. The first congregation of 24 members became the “mother church” for the Disciples of Christ denomination in Michigan. Isaac Erret was a prominent “circuit preacher” who established and supported many churches in Michigan, including the First Christian Churches in Ionia and Portland. He also invited a young minister named James Garfield to preach in the area. The church prospered, and in 1861 the present church was constructed. James Garfield dedicated the new church. (Garfield soon joined the army to help preserve the Union, attained the rank of Major General, served many years in congress, and later became U.S. President.)

In 1868, the church proudly installed a bell in its tower. Through the latter years of the 19th century, the church building survived several major storms, and shifted on its foundation several times — its foundation being to this day a collection of large boulders. For many years the church was lit by acetylene lamps. The stained glass windows are a more recent addition to the building: 1906. The building is listed in the State and National Registries of Historical Places, and has undergone major restoration projects over the last decade.

To top off the evening, we were entertained by Mary Cusack who played some traditional 19th-century hymns and tunes on the 1875 church organ which had only recently been returned to Muir. Readers may recall seeing (and perhaps hearing) this organ in the Blanchard House. It had been kept there when it's original church home was purchased some years ago. Thanks to Mary for the very appropriate music!



## April 1

Susan Nenadic joined us at the Blanchard House with a presentation entitled “The Union’s Female Soldiers and Spies.” This event, sponsored by the Ionia Community Library, is just one of several presentations that Susan provides to similar organizations. In this case, she began with some stories about prominent women in civilian service to during the Civil War — nurses, aids, and “support services.” But the stories of those in disguise as males told a fascinating story. Their reasons for joining the army were many and varied.

The most amazing aspect of this presentation was the number of women who donned a military uniform and how many succeeded at their deception for a substantial amount of time. In many cases, if these women were discovered, they could simply join up with another unit and carry on their military career. Because of the secretive nature of their adventure, not many details survive. A few autobiographical sources do, however, tell some amazing stories. After the war, most of the women returned to their civilian lives (as did the male soldiers). Some 400 women managed to acquire a federal pension as veterans — and a few were decorated by the war department as well.

Susan then told stories of several of the more notable female spies that served both the Union and Confederate causes. (These tales would make fascinating movies!) Sometimes slipping through the enemy lines in the dead of night, but other times traveling in full public view with authorized passes from high-ranking executives, these women gathered and distributed secrets that often changed the course of the conflict.

Susan offers a book about the lives of 19th century women entitled “A Purse of Her Own” in which she recounts many more stories from the pages of history. Many thanks to Susan for a memorable presentation, and to the Ionia Community Library for this collaboration. Dale Parus, the library Director also invited the members to attend others in their series of presentations. The next will be about historic baseball, presented in May at the First United Methodist Church.

## Historical Society Raffle!

### “Home and Away”

...with Two Exciting First Prizes!

#### PRIZE PACKAGE 1:

**Dinner for 10  
catered at the  
Blanchard House  
by Olivera’s**

#### PRIZE PACKAGE 2:

**Gift Certificates:  
\$100 Gas Card  
\$50 Aunt Stephanie’s  
\$50 Ionia Theatre**

Tickets are \$1 each, 6 Tickets for \$5, or 25 for \$20!  
Contact a Historical Society member to get yours!  
Drawing will be held at the Blanchard House on  
The drawing date is June 21, 2015, at 4:00 pm.

**MINUTES** - Continues from page 1

Linda C. reported that the documentary on “the factory” was underway by Ferris State University students. The Ypsi Reed / Mitchell-Bentley / General Tire plant documentary is being helmed by Josh Pardon (who has been working on another film about Michigan’s State Hospitals) and interviews with former factory employees are being planned for January.

Some of the maintenance projects being worked on include reinforcing the railing along the front walk near the creek, water damage in the basement and some ceilings, as well as installing a jack post in the basement under the kitchen. Another topic of discussion was “stabilizing” the temperature in the basement, including insulation, changes in the ductwork, and possible space heaters. Also, the handrail on the front steps is finally back in place. The Board agreed to have Linda C. send a gift card to the craftsman who repaired the railing.

Museum expert Jerry Adams is planning to visit to discuss some ideas for the museum – storage, display spaces, future needs, etc.

The meeting was adjourned for the holidays.

**The monthly meeting for January 7th** was held at the home of Mark and Jane Horrocks — a beautiful 150-year-old farm house filled with memorabilia. (See story on Page 1)

The entire membership – indeed, the entire community – expressed sadness at the passing of ICHS member (and tireless volunteer) Gerard Perry at the age of 100.

Linda C. noted that the ICHS had received some donations from Sparrow Hospital as they prepare to move to their new facility next year.

She also asked the members if they were in favor of inviting area no-profits to decorate the Blanchard House again for next year’s holiday seasons. The members expressed their support.

The documentary on “the Factory” continues, and interview will be conducted at the Blanchard House on January 17th.

Goose Elliot reported that scans and photos of photos and documents continues for the Free Fair book project. Volunteers will not be turned away if anyone would like to help sort (and identify the subject of) the Fair photos. Also, thanks to Roxanne Nelson for additional Fair information.

Jerry Adams had to postpone his visit from last month. Stand by for news on the museum plans.

Hank Knoop delivered the treasurer’s report, and the meeting was adjourned shortly thereafter for refreshments.

The Board Meeting for January was held on the 21st at the Blanchard House. Those assembled shared their sorrow and shock about the sudden passing of Hank Knoop. Dave White said that he would contact Doni Knoop about getting the Treasury paperwork, saying that he was willing to fill in temporarily to keep track of the books until a new Treasurer can be elected.

Carol and Lindsey Cope shared information about the proposed souvenir “throw” featuring Ionia landmarks woven into the fabric. There was some discussion of the images to be included and the colors and pricing available, but no decisions

have yet been made.

Linda C. reported that “the Factory” documentary is coming along well, and that David McCord has agreed to read the narration for the film. The final will be ready by mid-April.

A shelf in the Fred Hall desk/bookshelf has been established as a repository for brochures, forms, mail, rental information and other useful documents. Some concern was expressed about the lack of security for the shelf (the door latch doesn’t work), and Linda said this would be addressed.

Insulating the spaces above the stone walls in the Blanchard House basement was estimated at \$1200. The attic insulation was deemed to be adequate as it is.

President Ciangi noted that the many upcoming events for the year would require some volunteer leadership – event committees will need chairpersons to make them happen!

The Armory Community Center has had new front doors installed, and the original doors are available for the ICHS if we want them. This will be discussed further.

The upcoming rentals and special events were discussed (see the calendar in this issue for more info). A tour group from Pennsylvania (about 40 people) and several private parties have been scheduled.

Linda C. donated \$267 worth of services and supplies to the Society, and also noted that the stock of souvenir DVDs and Booklets is getting very low. David McCord said he would pursue getting reprints and new media together when possible.

**The February meeting** was held at the First Christian Church of Muir. (See story, page 1 - 2.)

President Linda C. asked the members if they would submit ideas for images to include in the souvenir throw project. She said that she’d like to have this decided by the next Board meeting (Feb 18). She reported to the members and guests on other events and projects.

During the past two weeks (since the monthly meeting) the committee working on the Free Fair Centennial book has decided to do a more modest publication of some sort for this year’s Free Fair. Since this year will be the 100th anniversary fair, it was deemed logical to include that even in the book, to truly commemorate the 100th Fair in the book. The idea was put forth to do a calendar in time for the fair that would include promotion for the Centennial book. The book, then, would be published in 2016 – buying precious time to get the book’s content assembled and edited also. To kick off the process publicly, the theme for the ICHS booth at the upcoming Ionia Expo (March 14) will be “Fair Memories.” (Linda also asked Dave White if he would portray Governor Green in the 2015 Free Fair Parade.)

The meeting was adjourned, and Keith Salter took over to present a history of the First Christian Church of Muir, where this meeting was being held.

**The February Business Meeting was held on the 18th** at the Lamplight Grill. President Linda C. opened the meet-

## Upcoming Programs and Events

Saturday, May 2 + Sunday, May 3, 11:00 until 4:00

“Spring Into The Past” Tri-River Museum tours.  
The premier of “the Factory” documentary  
and displays of related subjects  
at the Blanchard House.

Wednesday, May 6th, 7:00p  
“April 1865 – Birth of a Nation”  
presented by David McCord  
at the Blanchard House

Saturday, May 16, 10:00 until 3:00  
“Upstairs-Downtown” Tours  
on Main in St. Ionia  
Presented by Ionia’s downtown  
businesses and the ICHS

Wednesday, May 20, 7:00p  
ICHS Business Meeting  
at the Blanchard House

Sunday, May 31, 1:00 – 4:00  
“Summer Sundays”  
The Blanchard House is open for  
Public Tours through Labor Day

Wednesday, June 3, 7:00p

“The Marx Brothers!” presented by Al Bryant  
at the Blanchard House

Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6, 9:00 to 4:00

“Annual Yard Sale and Antique Fayre”  
Many vendors and daily activities  
on the Blanchard House Lawn  
(Saturday is also Ionia’s annual  
Main Street Classic Car Show)

Wednesday, June 17, 7:00p  
ICHS Business Meeting  
at the Blanchard House

Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20  
Ionia’s OZ Festival throughout the Ionia Business  
District

Ionia Farm Power Show at Ionia Fairgrounds  
S.C.A. Border War at Bertha Brock Park  
National Vintage Travel Trailer Association Show  
...and Father’s Day on Sunday the 21st!

Sunday, June 21, 1:00 – 4:00  
Silent Auction to benefit the Historical Society  
Drawing for “Dinner & Vacation” Raffle

Wednesday, July 1, 6:30p  
Annual ICHS Independence Day Pot-Luck  
at the Blanchard House

July 16 thru 25, 2015  
Ionia Free Fair Centennial!

ing with the need to fill the ICHS Treasurer’s office. Dave White nominated Annette McCord for the position, and Patty Simpson-Gokee supported the nomination. The vote was unanimous, and the records of the office turned over to the new Treasurer. This included some unfinished business with the bank, new business (to implement the new officer) and information about recent donations and expenses. A special meeting was called for the 25th of February at the Blanchard House to address financial matters only.

It was noted that the fee for our booth at the Ionia Expo had not been paid. The rest of the plans for the March 14th event are will under way, including displays of Free Fair history, raffle tickets for sale, and more. Volunteers were scheduled for the set-up, staffing, and take-down.

The ICHS has secured our usual 1/3-page space in the annual “Progress” edition of the Ionia Sentinel-Standard with just a few edits from last year’s entry. Linda C. will check to see if there are reprints available to be used as hand-outs.

Decisions about the images, colors, and quantities for the new Souvenir Throw are almost made. Anyone with an opin-

ion is invited to share their input with Linda C.

Spring projects around the Blanchard House include painting the dining room ceiling, and repairing peeling wall paper in the room. The pantry refurb is also being discussed, including a new back door. (Volunteers are needed for the Maintenance Committee!)

Progress continues on “the Factory” documentary. David M. is going up to Ferris State to record the audio on the 26th. Patty S-G. moved that \$50 be forwarded to David to cover the travel expenses. This was supported by Ally Cook and passed.

Jerry Adams, museum professional, is still planning to come to Ionia to look over the B-House property and discuss our needs and plans for the future. Stand by.

Our Internet presence has been lagging a bit, including the information on the website home page and calendar, and also on the Facebook page. David M. will open access to the Calendar and Facebook page to Gordon Wright and Kathleen Cook so they can help. (The website is due for an overhaul anyway, but other projects are of higher priority at this time.)

Barb Ehler proposed the idea of a Sam's Club membership for the ICHS as a source for household supplies and such. She intends to gather more information for the board to consider.

This concluded the business at the February 18th meeting, adjourned at approx. 9:15 p.m.

**On March 4th, the Historical Society met again** at the Lamplight Grill, and we welcomed several guests. There was no program scheduled for this meeting; discussions focused on upcoming events and projects. These events and activities will require replenishing our inventory of brochures, souvenirs and DVDs. D. McCord continues to have trouble with his DVD recorder, postponing this effort. The booklets for the BB Park and Business District History need additional copies printed as well. Linda C. submitted a few edits for the ICHS brochure, and a new supply will be ordered.

"The Factory" documentary will have a preliminary screening on March 8 with producer/instructor Joshua Pardon. On a related note, word has reached us from an attorney in Owosso that a few artifacts from the former Mitchell car museum may be available. Linda C. will follow up on this opportunity.

Plans are in place for the upcoming Expo on March 14.

April 11 will be a Spelling Bee at the Blanchard House, an event coordinated with the city's "Green Day" event, along with other local organizations. Volunteers are needed.

Linda Droste brought the ICHS a large painting, asking if we could provide any information on the artist Marion Seymour. David M. suggested contacting Ed Bently.

The selection of the souvenir throw images is nearly complete. The final decision will be made this week and the manufacturer contacted for final arrangements.

Mattie Cook, one of our allies at the Sentinel-Standard, will be moving to Chicago, and sent us a lovely thank-you note for our support during her tenure at the Ionia newspaper.

Linda has asked the Board to prepare for discussions at the next Business Meeting concerning the rental contracts, and specifically short-term rentals for photos sessions and meetings.

An estimate has been requested from Baker Painting for the exterior trim on the house.

David M. reports that we've received nearly 900 "likes" on Facebook, and that Gordon W. will be added as an administrator for the page. Some donations were received via "MyTribute.com" - David M. will look into this to see if it's something we might want to add to our website to give folks a digital way to make financial donations.

Annette M.'s first Treasurer's Report was delivered to the Board, but the meeting situation made it difficult to review the details. This will be addressed in more detail at the upcoming business meeting.

The meeting was "informally adjourned."

**On March 18, the monthly Business Meeting** was held at the Blanchard House. This began with a thank you to all the folks who helped out at the Ionia Expo. Nearly \$400 was gained as a result, mostly on the sale of raffle tickets.

The I.F.F. Centennial Book project continues, slowly. Arcadia Press has asked for 200 image files by the end of the month, but this entire plan needs to be discussed again. Volunteer hours are the biggest challenge due to the many hours it takes to identify and sort the photos and documents we've collected. A style for the 2016 publication has been settled upon, and the idea of a 18-month calendar for release by the 2015 Free Fair is being discussed. More to come.

Ally Cook suggested that the ICHS set up a booth at the Free Fair (Antique Village) to offer our souvenirs for sale, and to publicize the upcoming I.F.F. Centennial Book. This would include the calendar (if it happens) with an "order form" for the book included.

"The Factory" documentary will be ready by mid April, and it's being discussed as a central part of our presentation for the "Spring Into the Past" event the first weekend in May. It will also be on the agenda for the Antique Village during Fair Week, including an organized showing for members of the administration from Ferris State University.

The rental agreement was reviewed, and it was noted that the terms have not been followed very closely at times. The Board agreed that "the letter of the law should be stuck to." During tour times and events, the use of the house for photo sessions has proven to be disruptive. After some discussion, Patty Simpson-Gokee moved that a \$30 fee be imposed for 1-hour rental of the house and grounds for photographers "by appointment." This was supported by Dave White and passed.

The Board agreed to assign Linda Ciangi and Alley Cook the task of making the final determination of images to be submitted for the Souvenir Throw.

Repairs at the Blanchard House are on the schedule for this spring, including plaster and paint, repair of wall paper seams, painting and repair of window and other exterior trim, the addition of a jackpost in the cellar (under the kitchen door) and the refurbishing of the pantry and back door. Any interested members are encouraged to get involved in this process!

Nearly \$2000 in donations have been received in memory of Hank Knoop. Doni put forth the idea of putting a "lift" in the Carriage House to make it easier to access the upper floor of that building; to carry items (not people). Keith Salter and Gordon Wright will look into the idea further.

Annette McCord delivered the Treasurer's Report. (As usual, the details of this report are available to members upon request.) There have been some memberships and donations received of late, but the "Business Buddies" program is lagging. The membership list needs to be reviewed and at the close of the fiscal year (September) invoices will be sent out. The idea of using a remittance envelop was suggested to make this process as easy as possible. More to come on this subject.

**The meeting of April 1st was held at the Blanchard House.** President Linda Ciangi called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 p.m., welcoming a room full of members and guests. She reviewed the calendar of upcoming events and activities, with brief reports from the various chairpersons. The presentation for the evening was sponsored by the Ionia Com-

## VOLUNTEERS are always appreciated!

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

munity Library (see story in this issue) and therefore the “business” part of the meeting was abbreviated.

There was a brief Board Meeting following the presentation to discuss a few urgent matters. Board members gathered to discuss the arrangements for the upcoming Spelling Bee. Linda Ciangi noted that Wilson’s Heating & Cooling has performed some preventive maintenance on the furnace at the Blanchard House, and that we are signed up for their annual maintenance program now. She also reported that Jerry Adams had visited the property and is putting together a report and plan for or consideration. Gordon W. reported that the City of Ionia would repair the loose fencepost along the front sidewalk near the creek.

Becca Usher had contacted Linda regarding the I.F.F. Photos – particularly the large display frames. She needs to have those frames put back together and ready to go on display as soon as possible. She has also been tasked with enlarging historic photos for new displays, and needs to have the I.F.F. Photos back so she can take care of that project. David M. said he would contact her to find out precisely how we can help make that happen without too much impact on our own project. Gordon W. would get the frames put back together to the best of our ability and ready for Becca to pick up again within a week.

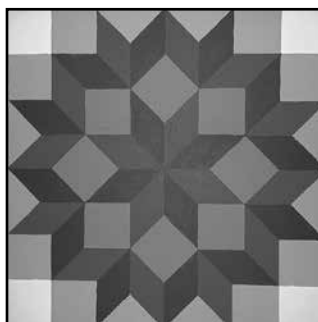
This brief Board meeting was informally adjourned.

### From the editor —

Not much history in this issue that’s more than a few months old. That’s unfortunate, because there’s so much history to be told. 100 years ago: World War I rages on, leading up to the sinking of the Lusitania on May 7th. 150 years ago: the closing months of the Civil War (hear all about it in my presentation on May 6th). 200 years ago: the aftermath of the War of 1812, the U.S. Declared war on Algiers, and Napoleon Bonapart’s 100-day reign begins. Wish I had time to write it all out for you. Maybe next issue? Thanks again for your patience with our (apparently quarterly) publication. Looking forward to another busy season for the Historical Society filled with fun and fascinating information.

## What’s the story of the Quilt Square?

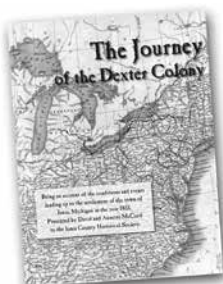
Member museums in the Tri-River Museum Group (there are over 20 now!) are displaying this large Quilt Squares at museums throughout Mid-Michigan. It’s not only a symbol of the organization, but a guide for museum-goers and sort of a souvenir photo opportunity as well.



Kathleen Cook chose the pattern, David McCord worked out the geometry, and Joni McCord painted the square for the Ionia County Historical Society. It will soon adorn the grounds near the Blanchard House to identify us as a member of this growing and influential museum network.

**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**



# Ionia Free Fair Centennial

It's one of our most ambitious project yet (save perhaps the preservation of the Blanchard House). The Historical Society has taken on the task of documenting the history of one of Michigan's most significant institutions. We Ionians are so close to this annual event that it's easy to be used to it... to take it all for granted. But the history of this event, spanning generations for a full century, is far-reaching. It seems that everyone has a Free Fair story to tell.

One of the most visible aspects of this undertaking can be seen at the Blanchard House in recent months. The second floor parlor (a.k.a. Mrs. Blanchard's Tea Room) has been taken over by files of documents, stacks of photos, boxes of 35mm slides. The big task: sorting these photos into categories, trying to identify the people and the time periods, cataloging the sources and cross-referencing the images with premium books, posters and programs. From autographed photos of high-profile celebrities in the '70s to unidentified gymnasts and animal acts in the 1930s, there are hundreds, perhaps thousands of artifacts to look through. And why? Because the very next piece you pull out of the box, or the next album page you flip over, might just be a one-of-a-kind treasure. From Wiley Post, the pioneer pilot, to Vaughan Monroe, legendary band leader, to Johnny Cash and the Beach Boys. And then there's an unidentified family posing next to a Maytag in the Merchant's building, or a young girl standing proudly next to a hog almost as tall as she is. Who is that?

Anyhow, the project is near and dear to the historical society as part of our local history, and we hope that our fellow Ionians will appreciate why we think this story is near and dear to our community. There is plenty of content – enough for an entire shelf of photo albums – to be culled down to the essential story of 100 years of the Ionia Free Fair.

We're targeting Spring of 2016 to have this book ready for sale. We'll be trying to price this so it will be affordable to a wide variety of folks, and any money that we make from it will go towards the projects of the Ionia County Historical Society – to preserve and share more of our local history.

In the near term, we're hoping to put together a wall calendar with just a handful of the fascinating photos we've found of Free Fair highlights. This smaller project will help us fund the larger one, and hopefully become something of a keepsake on its own. Please watch for that at the 2015 Fair – the hundredth anniversary of the World's Largest Free Fair!

(If you'd like to help with this project in any way, or if you have photos or documents that could be copied or photographed for this effort, please contact the Historical Society.)





# 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 = \$40
- ☐ 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 23 — The Pyramids

April 30 — Africa - a Powerpoint Presentation

May 7 — Alaska

May 14 — Mexico

May 21 — Rain Forest

May 28 - The British Isles

### Ionia County Historical Society 2014-15 Board of Directors & Officers

Linda Ciangi, President — 616-527-4945  
Kathleen Cook, Vice President — 616-527-2626  
Patty Simpson-Gokee, Director — 616-527-0676  
Ally Cook, Director — 616-821-1406  
David White, Director — 989-855-2350  
David McCord, Secretary — 616-527-3784  
Annette McCord, Treasurer — 616-527-3130  
Barb Ehlert, House Rentals — 616-522-0844