



# SUMMER EVENTS AND WHAT'S COMING

## The Historical Society's Events and Activities over the past few months (June - August 2012)

JUNE'S PROGRAM was a presentation about the 1907 "Salem Train Wreck" by Hank Knoop and Mike Gallagher. Several of Mike's ancestors had been on the train, and his uncle died in the wreck. He described some of the family recollections of the event. Hank introduced a video documentary and showed several "chapters" from the account to the assembled members and guests. This documentary conveyed some very graphic descriptions of the wreck and its aftermath from first-hand accounts.

The following is from a story published in the Ionia Sentinel-Standard on the 100th anniversary of the wreck:

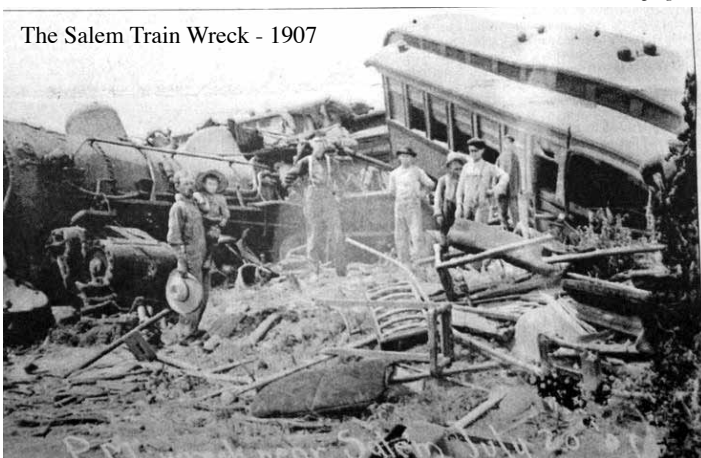
"A day that brought shock, sadness and fear to the community of Ionia started in the early morning of July 20, 1907 with workers of the Pere Marquette boarding a train heading for Detroit with family members and friends. The day was suppose to be a joyous expedition, but ended with 33 people from Ionia dead, and dozens more injured.

"The train left for Detroit at 6 a.m., with roughly 800 passengers, mostly railroad men and their families. At roughly 10 a.m., near Plymouth, the passenger train collided with a freight train. The wreck is commonly called the Salem train wreck.

"The entire city has a funeral air," reads the July 25, 1907 edition of the Ionia Weekly Sentinel. "Business is suspended and people are gathered in groups, and with saddened faces discussing the affair. There is a general feeling of gloom and profound sympathy is felt for the stricken families whose relatives are in the list of killed and injured. The awful visitation has had a stunning effect and people are bewildered

*Continued on page 2*

The Salem Train Wreck - 1907

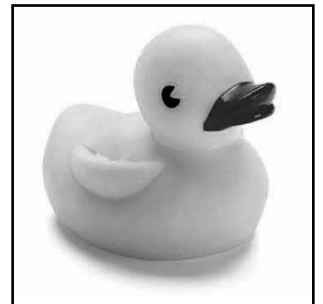


## The Historical Society's Events and Activities for the next few months (Sept - Dec 2012)

The September 5th program will be a presentation from Scott Bultman, on the history of Kindergarten, including information on the pioneering efforts in Ionia. Scott is president of Freobel USA, an author and promoter of kindergarten programs, plus host of several international conferences on kindergarten education.

The weekend of the 8th of September will bring Civil War enthusiasts to Ionia. The 21st Michigan Infantry was mustered into service in 1862 on the lawn of the Ionia County Court House, and this event will commemorate that event. Members of the 3rd Michigan will also be in attendance. The public is invited to see the historical presentations. Thanks to Pastor Larry Brown for chairing the Ionia side of the event, and to the citizens of Ionia for their support.

The annual Fall Festival at Bertha Brock Park will take place in the 15th, including the ICHS Duck Race. Once again tickets will be on sale throughout the event, and the "Dumping of the Ducks" will be at 4:00 p.m. Entries are one Duck for one Dollar, or 6 for \$5.00.



In October will be the annual meeting (no regular program) with Elections for the Board of Directors. Any member whose dues are paid will be able to vote for two Directors to the Board. (Maybe three.) ANY MEMBER INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE BOARD PLEASE CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER ASAP. The organization is very much in need of more member involvement at the Board level, so please ask how you can help!

Also in October will be the second annual Cemetery Tour "Spirits of Ionia's Past" at the Highland Park Cemetery. See the advert in this issue and be sure to get a flier. Anyone interested in helping with this event please contact Stephanie VanderMolen.

On November 10 the ICHS has arranged a Shopping Trip to Chicago via tour bus! The round trip for a full day's fun is only \$65 per person, and funds raised go to support ICHS programs and Blanchard House expenses.

**NEXT MONTH:  
Kindergarten comes to America!**

while they try to realize what has happened so unlooked for and so sad. The full extent of the disaster is not yet comprehended.”



Much more information is available on the wreck, including photos and news stories. Interested folks can inquire at the Historical Society. Thanks to Hank and Mike for their presentation!

JULY — The annual Independence Day pot-luck dinner was held at the Blanchard House, at which plans for some upcoming events were discussed.

July's community events included the ICHS participation in the Antique Village displays in the Floral Building at the Free Fair. The ICHS also had a float in the Free Fair parade, themed to promote the upcoming Civil War reenactment, for which an award was earned. (Thanks to the members who worked on the project!)

AUGUST — The August membership meeting included a musical presentation by Sally Harris and family. The members reviewed the ICHS participation in the Free Fair Parade (which won yet another award, thanks to the "float committee") and the Antique Village display area (with thanks to that committee as well).

# 200 Years Ago this summer:



When the United States again declared war on Great Britain, on June 18, 1812, British Major General Isaac Brock ordered Captain Charles Roberts on St. Joseph Island to seize Fort Michilimackinac. Accordingly, Captain Roberts began building a force of approximately 45 regulars of the Tenth Royal Veteran Battalion, 180 Canadian backwoodsmen, and more than 400 warriors from the Chippewa, Menominee, Ottawa, Sioux, and Winnebago tribes.

Meanwhile, there were less than 60 American troops stationed at Fort Michilimackinac, commanded by Lieutenant Porter Hanks. Although the war was almost one

month old, the remote fort had not been informed! At nine o'clock on the morning of July 17, the Americans discovered that the British held the high ground overlooking Fort Michilimackinac with two 6-pounder cannon. To reinforce their threat of massacre, hundreds of Native American warriors came out of the woods and showed themselves to the fort. At eleven-thirty, a single cannon fired a warning shot, and then a small group of men with a white flag approached the fort.

Captain Roberts seems to have deceived the civilians into believing his forces were much greater than their actual number. After the surrender, Lieutenant Hanks wrote to Brigadier General William Hull that 46 British regulars, 260 Canadian militia, and 715 Chippewa, Menominee, Ottawa, and Winnebago warriors opposed him.

In the same report, Hanks listed his own forces as fifty-seven healthy soldiers, five men with illness, and one drummer boy. The Lieutenant discussed the options with his subordinate officers, but because they were facing an overwhelming force, they all agreed to surrender the fort.

Captain Roberts paroled all of the American soldiers and sent them to Fort Detroit, where Lieutenant Hanks faced a court martial for cowardice. On August 16, 1812, the day William Hull surrendered Fort Detroit, a British cannonball killed the hapless Lieutenant Hanks.

On July 12, 1812, General William Hull led an invading American force of about 1,000 untrained, poorly-equipped militia across the Detroit River and occupied the Canadian town of Sandwich (now a neighborhood of Windsor, Ontario). By August, Hull and his troops (numbering 2,500 with the addition of 500 Canadians) retreated to Detroit, where they surrendered to a force of British regulars, Canadian militia and Native Americans, led by British Major General Isaac Brock and Shawnee leader Tecumseh. The surrender not only cost the United States the village of Detroit, but control over most of Michigan territory. The British flag once again flew over Michigan, and would remain for the next two years.

The United States had great difficulty financing its war. It had disbanded its national bank, and private bankers in the Northeast were opposed to the war. The failure of New England to provide militia units or financial support was a serious blow. Threats of secession by New England states were loud, as evidenced by the Hartford Convention. Britain exploited these divisions, blockading only southern ports for much of the war and encouraging smuggling.

Many glorious naval battles were fought during this conflict, some on the high seas (including the heroic feats by the crew of the U.S.S. Constitution, a.k.a. "Old Ironsides"). But many ship-to-ship confrontations took place upon fresh waters, in the lakes of northern New York as well as upon the Great Lakes.



# 150 Years Ago this summer:

## The 21st Michigan Infantry



## June 1862 —

The Union advances southward along the Mississippi, taking Memphis by June 6th. U.S. Admiral Farragut continues to push northward from Louisiana, as Union forces turned their attention towards the Confederate stronghold at Vicksburg. On the 19th, the U.S. Congress outlawed slavery in all the nation's Territories. And to pay for the war, Congress approved a new income tax law on June 26 and sent it on to the president for his signature.

Not all the news was grim or warlike. Among the "city items" in Boston newspapers was a nod to the "inventive genius" of confectioner Edwin C. Barr who was credited with concocting frozen pudding ice cream, and there was a series of articles on Dr. Gardner Quincy Colton who spent most of the month in and around Springfield, Mass, giving demonstrations of "laughing gas."

General Joseph E. Johnston was replaced by Robert E. Lee as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. As the month drew to a close, news of more battles around Richmond appeared. These would become known as The Seven Days Battles, six major battles over seven days from June 25 to July 1. Lee would drive the Army of the Potomac from outside Richmond and down the Virginia Peninsula, ending any hope for the predicted quick end to the Civil War and once again putting the capital at Washington in harms way.

## July 1862 —

The Transcontinental Railroad Act is put into effect, as well as the Morrill Act which authorizes Land Grant Colleges in the U.S. The Lakota Sioux attack white settlements in Minnesota after promised supplies are not delivered. And on July 11, Major-General Henry Halleck was named general-in-chief of the Union army.

Starting on July 15, 1862, Governor Blair of Michigan authorized the recruitment of volunteers from the 4th Congressional District which included the counties of Barry, Ionia, Montcalm, Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta,

Mason, Manistee, Grand Traverse, Leelanaw, Manitou, Osceola, Emmet, Mackinac, Delta, and Cheboygan. The 21st Michigan Infantry rendezvous was at Ionia, where a new training ground was established called Camp Sigel. (General Franz Sigel was a well-known German professional soldier and immigrant, who rallied the enlistment of scores of Europeans for the Union cause. Ionia's was one of several camps

named in his honor.) Volunteers from all walks of life immediately began streaming into Ionia to join the ranks of the new unit.

## August 1862 —

President Lincoln meets with a "Committee of colored men," to whom he proposes a program by which blacks living in America would voluntarily relocate to a Central American country. Lincoln explains, "You and we are different races. We have between us a broader difference than exists between almost any other two races. Whether it is right or wrong I need not discuss, but, this physical difference is a great disadvantage to us both, as I think your race suffer very greatly, many of them by living among us, while ours suffer from your presence. In a word we suffer on each side." (New York Daily Tribune (NY), 15 August 1862)

The 21st Michigan began training in earnest as more recruits arrived. Late in the month their uniforms and equipment was delivered, including a compliment of Austrian Lorenz Rifles. In addition, the ranks began to fill from local volunteers (many regimental posts were filled by election) as well as the higher ranks, including veteran volunteers and career military officers.

On August 29 and 30, 75,000 Federals under Gen. John Pope were defeated by 55,000 Confederates under Gen. Stonewall Jackson and Gen. James Longstreet at the second battle of Bull Run in northern Virginia.

## September 1862 —

The 21st Michigan Infantry was mustered into Federal service at Ionia, Michigan.

A beautiful silk flag was provided by the ladies of Ionia and delivered to the 21st Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment on the 6th of September, 1862, at that city. The center of the flag was decorated with the American eagle, holding its quiver of arrows, olive branch, etc. Over this a small National flag, and beneath it the words "Union," "Constitution."

An excellent speech was made by L. B. Soule, Esq., on behalf of the ladies, to which Colonel A. A. Stevens, commanding the regiment, appropriately replied. Afterwards speeches were made by Z. Chandler, T. W. Ferry, and F. W. Kellogg. At the same time there was presented a flag by the children of the Grand Haven Sunday-schools to Company G of the regiment. (The flag given to the regiment was carried through all of its engagements, brought back to the State, and at a celebration on July 4, 1865, was formally returned, on behalf of the regiment, to the ladies by the Hon. John Avery, of Greenville, the highest ranking officer of the regiment present, and was received on behalf of the ladies by the Hon. John B. Hutchins, of Ionia.)



Photo by Peter Glendinning





## IONIA COUNTY LIBERTY CONVENTION.

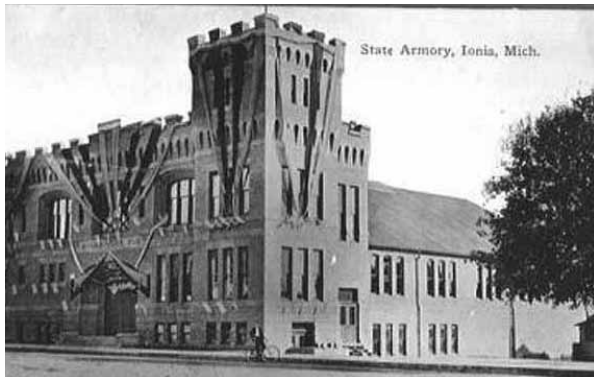
A convention of the Liberty party will be held at the village of Lyons, on WEDNESDAY, the 17th of September next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. for the purpose of consultation among the friends of Human Right, and for the discussion of such subjects as may appertain to the objects of the meeting, and to adopt such action as may seem necessary to further the cause of Equal Liberty. At the same time, delegates, will be appointed to attend a District Convention at Grand Rapids, proposed to be held on the 20th following.

# 100 Years Ago this summer:

Four candidates were in serious contention for the U.S. Presidential Election during 1912. Woodrow Wilson's victory is credited by many with the divisions in the opposition which fragmented voter support in the major parties.

In addition to the dedication of the stone at the site of Camp Sigel (see below and the article on the previous page), many significant structures were being built in Ionia. This included the US Post Office, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. New also were the City Hall and Ionia Armory. The community enjoyed significant prosperity in every quarter during the early years of the 20th century.

				
<b>Nominee</b>	Woodrow Wilson	Theodore Roosevelt	William Howard Taft	Eugene V. Debs
<b>Party</b>	Democratic	Progressive	Republican	Socialist
<b>Home state</b>	New Jersey	New York	Ohio	Indiana
<b>Running mate</b>	Thomas R. Marshall	Hiram Johnson	Nicholas Murray Butler	Emil Seidel
<b>Electoral vote</b>	435	88	8	0
<b>States carried</b>	40	6	2	0
<b>Popular vote</b>	6,296,284	4,122,721	3,486,242	901,551
<b>Percentage</b>	41.8%	27.4%	23.2%	6.0%



*Scenes of Ionia in 1912, including the brand-new Post Office (right), the Armory (left), and a scene of Ionia's Main Street Business District (below).*



*Dedication of the monument at Camp Sigel attended by veterans 50 years after the mustering in of the 21st Michigan.*





## MINUTES of the Board Meeting, June 2012

The June 20 business meeting was held at the Blanchard House. The meeting began with discussion of the July 4 pot-luck, and the Board decided to go ahead with the holiday gathering.

The video being done by Aaron Russman (Tell Tale Heart) went very well, and the deal included \$500 rental of the house and grounds, plus the production of a short promotional video for the ICHS (parts of which are still being scheduled). Mr. Russman expects the video to be released in 6 months or so.

The other video - Joshua Pardon's film about the State Hospital - also has gone very well, and the producer is very happy with the materials gathered. Now the production begins.

The Tri-River Museums Group has tickets available for their July 17th banquet at the Belrocton.

A \$50.00 expense was incurred to rid the house of bees. They once again invaded the north-east wall, and had to be fumigated and holes caulked.

Patty Simpson-Gokee continues to make progress on the grounds - weeding and planting ground cover.

Hank Knoop and Gerry Perry had to deal with a security system alarm. The backup battery apparently went bad during a recent power outage, causing the alarm to trigger. The battery has been replaced, as well as an aged motion sensor.

The "Spirits of Ionia's Past" cemetery tour is scheduled for October 21st, and Doni K. has agreed to work on gaining sponsors. Stephanie V. will begin the promotional work as well.

Stephanie also asked the Board if they would be interested in putting together a Bridal Show for late fall to publicize the house and raise some funds. She passed around a sample letter to potential participants, and the Board will consider the idea. It was suggested that a February date might be a better choice.

Ideas were also discussed regarding a fall Bus Trip. Casinos, Museums, and Theater trips were brought up. Stephanie had some research on a Chicago excursion that sounded promising. The Board will consider the information and decide at the July meeting.

Chel Lea has expressed interest in renting the house again this fall - perhaps several times for a series of events. The Board is supportive, and Stephanie will continue to correspond with her on the subject.

The use of the Carriage House was discussed, as storage, work space, and potentially display space for historic artifacts and demonstrations. Stephanie would like to collect ideas and get a plan together for that building. Meanwhile, the Yard Sale leftovers are still in there. David M. will get the unused metal shelves out of the

building at his first opportunity.

It was also noted that a few of the mannequins were offered for sale, and a check received the day of the Yard Sale, but that check bounced and the mannequins were never picked up. So they are still in the inventory.

Kathleen Cook and Linda Ciangi are working on the Free Fair Float, which will have a Civil War theme to promote the Sept. C.W. event. C&L will once again offer their trailer and truck, David M. has more of the green "grass" floor covering used in past years that he will donate if needed.

Linda C. also reported that sales of copies of historic photos is proving to be a lucrative project. Families and researchers are very happy to pay a few dollars to get copies of photos from our archives, and pricing structure was discussed. It was decided to charge a base rate of \$5 for an 8x10 and \$10 for a 11x17, plus (depending on the research and retouch time required) a nominal "set-up" fee.

Ionia's 180th Birthday is coming next year, and Linda C. has discussed with Jason Eppler and Linda Curtis some kind of an event in conjunction with the City. More to come...

Upstairs-Downtown was mentioned for next year, and people generally agreed that an autumn date seemed to work better. A date has not yet been set for the 2013 event.

The idea of some kind of Hallowe'en event at the Blanchard House was brought up, and several Board members were in favor of further discussion.

Stephanie also encouraged everyone to sign-up for Summer Sunday hosting at the Blanchard House. There are a few holes in the schedule yet to fill, and members outside the usual circle of volunteers should be encouraged to help!

Carol Gallagher reported that plans for the Princess Reception at the Blanchard House (before the Free Fair Parade) are still a bit vague but coming together. Ideas and contributions are welcomed! She and Doni Knoop are also working on the arrangements for the Antique Village displays at the Floral Building, and volunteers are welcomed there as well.

Linda C. asked David M. if he could run more copies of the 1939 and 1936 Snow videos for sale - they continue to be in great demand! She also noted that the 1907 Souvenir Book is being scanned and retouched for future reprints that the ICHS can offer for sale. This will also result in a digital copy that we might be able to sell as well, and will make future reprints much easier. David M. also reported progress with a new version of the Business District Waking Tour and the Look-Up Tour, both to be put into a booklet format to make them more "sellable."

In speaking of the ICHS "Gift Shop", Stephanie asked for the Board to keep their eyes open for new souvenir ideas, and asked David M. to

look into updating and enhancing the on-line souvenir page.

The Fire Extinguishers were inspected and recharged as usual by Mort Slowinski. He submitted a \$160 invoice. It was moved by Steph and supported by Kathleen to pay this, and Hank offered to research this cost to see if there were any alternative services that might be less expensive.

Linda retrieved some records and references from the Sentinel's archives and noted that many plans and idea have been in discussion for decades which have still not been completed. This indicates an on-going interest in these popular subjects, as well as the need for some catalyst to take these projects from the "talking stage" to the "doing stage." The Board agrees, but admits that time and money continue to be the greatest obstacles to further progress. The Board has, however, acknowledged the great progress that has been made in recent years, and improvements continue to be made.

As noted, the July meeting will be the annual Independence Day Pot Luck, and the only business planned for that social gathering will be in regards to the Free Fair and all its activities.

## MINUTES of the Board Meeting, July 2012

The ICHS Board met on July 18 at the Blanchard House.

The agenda began with Free Fair-related events. Carol Gallagher reported that the Queen's Reception plans were coming together, and several members were offering snacks and to help with set-up and clean-up. Meanwhile, the trailer was delivered to be turned into a float. Immediately following the meeting, Linda C. asked available members to help if they could, and to acknowledge the contributions of C&L Trucking, Horrock's Nursery, and Lally's. She also asked David M. if he could arrange to pick up a rental in Grand Rapids for the Abe Lincoln costume, which he said he would do.

Aaron Russman's film crew will be at the house on the 28th and 29th for the final filming, and hoping to come to Ionia one more time to finish up with a few clips for the ICHS promotional footage. Stephanie asked the members to be sure to get the pictures hung back up on the walls, decorative items back onto the mantelpieces, and the gardens weeded for this final round of filming.

Josh Pardon has offered to transfer all his raw footage from the State Hospital interviews to a hard drive for the ICHS. After some discussion, it was felt that his offer to do this for \$130 was not unreasonable. (See discussion of incoming funds below.)

Stephanie has created posters for the next "Spirits of Ionia" tour, and hopes to get volunteers together to walk through the cemetery soon to make a final decision on the people to

spotlight for this year's tour. She also reminded people of the need for sponsors, and potential advertising opportunity for them on the "time machine" (tram) the day of the event, as well as in our hand-outs. She also asked if members think it's a good idea to have a bake sale or something similar at this event.

The bus trip was discussed, having settled on a Chicago Museum Trip since the last Board Meeting. Stephanie had put together a draft of a flier for the event, and price was the major issue. Second to that was the schedule, noting that weekends might bring more people, but Monday is a free day at the Shed and Science museums. More calculations will be done, and the Board hopes to vote on this plan very soon.

Chel Lea was given the price of \$650 for three rentals or \$500 for two; waiting now for her response. Nicki Bray, a paranormal investigator and author of the "Michigan Haunts" book series, contacted Stephanie about Ionia's spirit world. The correspondence continues, but not sure yet what arrangements she might have in mind.

The Board was asked to approve expense to purchase some Ionia Honey from Andy Roberts which can be resold as an Ionia souvenir in the ICHS gift shop. The expense was approved (moved by Carol, supported by Barb H.). Speaking of gifts, David M. reported that the new run of DVDs would be delivered very soon, and Linda C. that the 1907 Souvenir Books were nearing completion as well with some of the production costs covered by an anonymous donor.

The Blanchard House was visited by travelers on a "Mystery Tour" from the Lansing area, and this visit was a great success, bringing in a substantial sum in donations and "tips." She also received a generous donation from the Peshke family for a copy of a photo from our archives. Linda suggested that some of these funds be used to cover the cost of the Hard Drive containing the video footage from Josh Pardon. Kathleen made the motion, Carol supported it, and the Board approved.

The Ionia Chamber of Commerce has a program in place for non-profits to offer donors who give in \$20 increments a chance at a drawing later this year for a \$750 cash prize. The Chamber has issued special coupon/entry forms for the promotion which the ICHS can give to donors. Barb H. moved that we get copies made from the master sheet provided by the chamber, and this was supported by Kathleen and passed by the Board. Annette McCord will arrange the copies at Printing Essentials.

Stephanie also asked about the Business Buddies program, and encouraged the Board to think on ways to give the idea a boost this year with some special perks. More to come on this subject.

*Continued on page 4*

## A CALL TO SERVE! JOIN IN THE FUN!! NEEDS YOU!!!

The Ionia County Historical Society

There are several openings in the Board of Directors. Elections will take place in October. If you or a friend would like to serve on the Board of Directors, please contact an ICHS Board member TODAY!



The invoice was received from the Fair for the art department prizes sponsored by the ICHS (\$30). This expense had been approved several months ago, so the invoice was passed to Hank to be paid.

David McCord also noted that he was in the process of signing up with a service called "TechSoup" which administers donations of technology for non-profits. This could include office machines, computer gear, software, and camera gear free or nearly so. He will report on the program further as more is learned about it.

The next meeting will be August 1 at the Blanchard House with entertainment by Sally Harris and family, plus planning for upcoming events and activities.

## MINUTES of the Board Meeting, August 2012

The August ICHS business meeting was called to order by President Stephanie VanderMolen shortly after 7:00 p.m. on August 21. Directors Carol Gallagher, Kathleen Cook, and Barb Hogan were in attendance, as well as Secretary D. McCord and Treasurer H. Knoop, and three others.

The first order of business was the upcoming "Post Office Birthday Party" to be hosted this coming Sunday afternoon at the Blanchard House. Event chair Linda C. reported that the next couple of days will be filled with getting the displays finished to showcase the history of our 100-year-old post office building. She expects between 50 and 60 people to attend, and will have many unique and fascinating items on display. Carol G. is working on having some refreshments at the event, and any other interested members can donate to that. Linda will try to arrange a birthday cake also.

Before that day - on Saturday the 25th - a wedding will take place at the Blanchard House. Knoop and Barb E. are working with the wedding party to make that happen.

Plans continue to fall into place for the Sept 8th Civil War Reenactment. The ICHS is coordinating a luncheon with the Commission on Aging. The Blanchard House will be open on that

Sunday afternoon for the Reenactors to visit. For this, too, contributions will be welcomed. A flier for the event has been posted on the ICHS website. Relevant to the subject, D. McCord reported that he's reading a book which chronicles the story of the 21st Michigan very well—he recommends "Into the Tornado of War" by James Genco.

September 15th will bring the annual Bertha Brock Park Fall Festival, and once again Hank Knoop will be running the famous Duck Race. Members who would like to help, please contact Hank.

October 21st will bring the next "Spirits of Ionia's Past" cemetery tour at Highland Park. Stephanie V. is chairing the event again, and shared a list of the personages that will be presented this year. There are still openings for a few actors/presenters if anyone is interested, and research has begun.

The Chicago Bus Trip idea has been refocused to a Shopping Excursion, and tickets are to be offered at \$65 for a full day's adventure on November 3rd. If we can fill the bus, the ICHS will have covered a couple of months' heating bills this year. Promotion will be the key - the

bus will hold 46 passengers. Carol G. moved to proceed with the trip, at a cost commitment of \$1472.00 as arranged by Stephanie V.; this was seconded by Kathleen and passed. The challenge is now promotion of the event, and generating ticket sales. Ideas are also in the works to make the travel a fun experience, with possible raffle/door prizes and activities for the passengers.

Also in November, the ICHS will again host the Tri-River Group's meeting.

Stephanie also brought up the need for a Nominating Committee, to accept nominations for at least two, and possibly three seats on the Board of Directors. After some deliberation, two outgoing Directors - Carol G. and Patty S. - along with Barb H. will take on the task. Any interested persons, or any ideas for the nominations, will be gratefully accepted. According to the ByLaws, these nominations need to be in place by the closing of the September ICHS meeting.

The Treasurer did not submit a written report at this meeting, but Director Kathleen Cook asked that future reports to the Board include a report of the various account balances in addition to the traditional cash flow reports. Several invoices were submitted for reimbursement on projects that had been pre-approved, and Hank K. wrote the checks on the spot.

In the accessions area, the ICHS received an offer of a scrapbook of WWII clippings. The Committee decided to respond that we would like to see the collection, but would only be interested in anything that doesn't duplicate what we already have in the archive. Josephine Lehman has also offered a book authored over 60 years ago by a relative of hers from Ionia. David M. also reported on the prog-

ress of registering the ICHS to get discounts and donations through an organization called "TechSoup.com." Hank K. will contact Larry Tiejema with their request for additional documentation. Barb H. reported a possible need for new technology in regards to problems with the museum management software we have.

Linda C. reported that more progress is being made with copies of photos and documents, scanned to CD archives. This includes the latest edition of the 1907 Ionia Souvenir book, which she passed around for inspection. The Board authorized her to get a price on printing 50 copies of that book that we can offer for sale. On a related note, David M. submitted another 15 DVD videos for the inventory, and reported that he will soon have a DVD available that focuses on a "Snow" theme, combining the 1936 Road Commission Snow Storm video with the 1940 Bertha Brick Snow Festival footage. He also reported that progress is being made on the "Business District Walking Tour" and "Look-up Tour" booklets as well.

Linda C. asked the Board to review an "open letter to the members" that she has prepared regarding the plans for the museum/basement and historical displays. She's seeking input on the desires of the membership, and to base further efforts on those desires. The Board will review the letter and respond before the next meeting.

Hank also noted that we have a quilt that has been donated as a raffle prize, but no one has come forward to chair a raffle at this time. This should be added to the agenda in future.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 9:00 p.m.



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*



**PLUS reproduction and new POSTCARDS of Ionia's Historic Landmarks and outstanding Victorian Architecture!**

## DVD VIDEO SOUVENIRS!

*These movies have proven to be our most popular offerings to date, and recent discoveries have added several popular new titles to the list:*

- **1939 "We're In The Movies"** A promotional film produced by Ionia businesses and organizations. The soundtrack has been lost, but the images present a wonderful look into our town over 70 years ago.
- **1950s Home Show and Free Fair Movies**
- **1976 - The 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" - Films 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 (NEW EDITION!)**
- **1973 Ionia City Centennial Program Book**

# Ionia Civil War Encampment

Downtown Ionia Public Square (near the Courthouse)

Friday thru Sunday, Sept 7 - 9, 2012

• **Friday, Sept 7 —**

Evening: Military and Civilian Encampment Set-up

• **Saturday, Sept 8 —**

Morning: Living History Activities, Military Drills, Courthouse Tours

Noon: Luncheon at the Ionia Commission on Aging (\$5.00 per plate)

Afternoon: Mustering-in Ceremony at Courthouse Steps, followed by a March to the Camp Sigel Monument (near Prairie Creek)

4:00 pm: Ken Burn's "Civil War" documentary at Ionia Theatre (FREE)

6:00 pm: Ionia Community Band on the Courthouse Lawn, followed by Civil-War-Era music and dancing (public welcomed)!

• **Sunday, Sept 9 —**

Morning: Civil-War-Era Worship Service, 1st United Methodist Church

11:00 - 4:00 p.m. — Blanchard House / Museum tours and refreshments.

## Why be a member of the Historical Society?

**1. Programs and Presentations.** Eight to ten times a year, the Historical Society brings in special speakers, performers, or displays to address the community on topics of historical interest. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED, including non-members, students, clubs and organizations... anyone looking for a casual evening with some interesting information, conversation, and even refreshments. Sometimes the programs are focused on local history, but always have some relevance to our community's past. They're usually hosted at the Blanchard House, but sometimes at other historic sites around the County.

**2. The Blanchard House** itself is a registered historical landmark in our care (which takes a certain amount of work, of course). The intent is to continually improve the accuracy of this Victorian mansion as it might have looked while the Blanchards lived here, but at the same time keep the facilities useable for gatherings public and private, a site that can be part of the community as well as a historical showpiece. Anyone interested in historic architecture, lifestyles, décor, furniture, art and literature... here's your haven! The House is open for tours on summer Sunday afternoons, as well as by appointment. (Next objective: the Carriage House!)

**3. The Museum** (the lower level of the Blanchard House) is where we have Ionia County's history on display. Beginning with information about the early native inhabitants, visitors can walk through the past 180 years of local history with artifacts and displays covering many facets of our history. These displays are many and varied, and the members strive to keep things interesting, as well as accurate. This is a vital part of our role in the community as educators and preservers of our local heritage, with some major challenges as well as great personal satisfaction. We have much more amazing stuff "behind the scenes" than we can possibly showcase all at once.

**4. The Archives** are deep and wide. High on the list of priorities is the preservation of artifacts and documents given into our care. This includes tools and furnishings, clothing and household goods, newspapers and photographs that span over 200 years - and can be found nowhere else in the world. Sorting, cataloging, and preserving these artifacts is one of the more labor-intensive aspects of what we do — and one of the most fascinating. We are always discovering new and intriguing treasures in our collection!

**5. Events and Activities** in and beyond our community range from a float in the Free Fair Parade to displays at local expositions and bazaars. The Historical Society offers programs to schools and other organizations in the area, coordinates events with Historical groups in neighboring towns, and hosts several of our own events each year. While we generally hope to raise operating funds through these events, the primary goal is to share our local history with the public, and show everyone just how great a place this is.

**6. The Souvenir Shop** at the Blanchard House is an opportunity to own some of the history we've discovered as reproductions of historic books and photos, historical pastimes, DVD videos of vintage film footage, and newly written historical accounts. We enhance this with a collection of locally produced hand-made goods that

## Upcoming Programs and Events

Wednesday, September 5, 7:00 p.m.

### A History of Kindergarten

Ionia's connection to the Education of America  
by Scott Bultman, President of Froebel USA  
at the Blanchard House.

The weekend of Saturday, Sept 8

### The Mustering-In of the 21st Michigan

A Civil War Reenactment in Downtown Ionia!  
(See advertisement at left.)

Wednesday, September 19, 7:00 p.m.

ICHS Business Meeting  
at the Blanchard House.

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

### The Annual Meeting and ELECTIONS

## ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

(Remember, only paid members may vote or run for office.)

Sunday, October 21st, 1:00 p.m.

### "Spirits of Ionia's Past"

A Cemetery Tour and Presentations about  
some of the Citizens of Ionia gone by.  
Highland Park Cemetery — DON'T MISS IT!



Saturday, November 3, ALL DAY!

## SHOP CHICAGO!

The Historical Society is sponsoring a  
**BUS TRIP to Chicago** to raise funds for our  
Winter Expenses. For only \$65 per person,  
Enjoy the ride, the adventure, and the FUN!

*For other upcoming events - visit the ICHS  
website at [ioniahistory.org](http://ioniahistory.org).*

represent crafts and skills of the past - a little taste of history that also helps us to pay the bills! Contributions to our occasional yard sales, door prizes, and raffles are always welcomed, too.

Through all this, members of the ICHS become a vital part of the history we preserve. The unfolding story of our community goes on, and grows richer with every new treasure we find. There is much to do - but don't mistake that as meaning it's all work! We have a great time discovering new chapters in this on-going adventure, and providing visitors with a memorable experience when they visit our community.

We'd all love to see you at the next meeting, or the next event. And if you ARE a member, thank you! What committee are you serving on? Right now the Historical Society could use a few hours a month if you can spare it. The rewards are great, and the cost is small. See you there!

— David McCord, Secretary, ICHS



# 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!**

*September 6 — Paris*

*September 13 — The West Wilderness USA*

*September 20 — Spain By Rail*

*September 27 — Jerusalem*

*October 4 — Barn Red*

*October 11 — New Zealand*

*October 18 — Alaska's Gold Rush Train*

### Ionia County Historical Society 2011-12 Board of Directors & Officers

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