



the **CHRONICLE**

The Almost Monthly Publication of
the Ionia County Historical Society

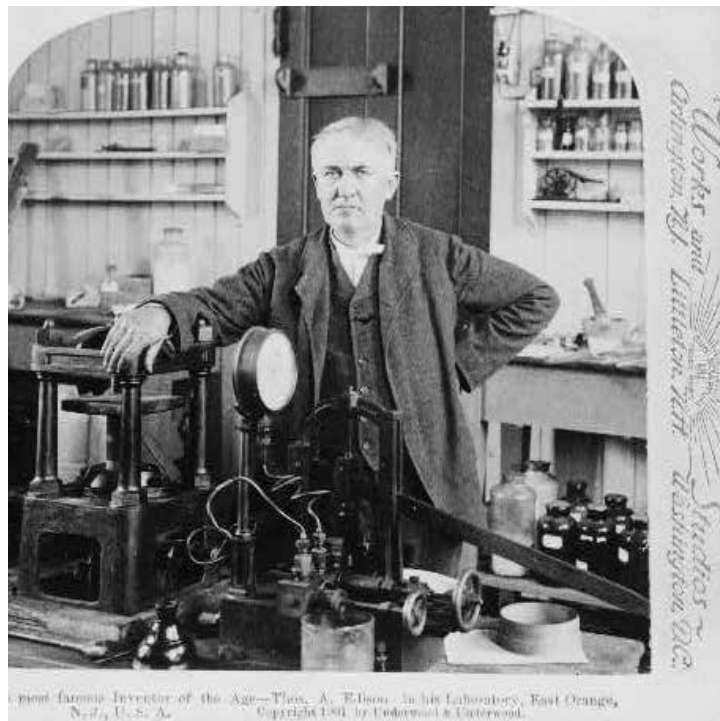


A Visit from Tom Edison!

Historical Society members were honored to welcome Ivan Reynolds, cousin of ICHS member Marilyn Nash, who is a sixth grader in Lowell. Ivan shared his first-person presentation as Thomas Alva Edison, attired in a period outfit and surrounded by photos and examples of some of Edison's more famous inventions. His presentation earned him an "A" in 5th grade, as well as a Blue Ribbon at the 4H fair.

Ivan spoke about the major milestones in Edison's life, very well rehearsed and enhanced with a bit of humor. After the biographical info, Ivan spoke about some of the photos and artifacts in his display, then asked if the members had any questions.

Their questions were answered with plenty of detail. It was obvious that Ivan had "done his homework" and knows a lot about Mr. Edison! Our thanks to Ivan for his terrific presentation and we encourage him to continue in his historical interests.



...ment famous Inventor of the Age—Thos. A. Edison, in his Laboratory, East Orange, N. J., U. S. A. Copyright 1901, by Underwood & Underwood.

NEXT MONTH: The ICHS meeting will be held at the Pewamo Baptist Church!

MINUTES of the November 7th General Meeting

President Stephanie VanderMolen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Blanchard House, welcoming members and friends. Thanks were extended to those who staffed the house for Halloween: David & Annette McCord for hosting, Doni and Hank for the decorations, and everyone who donated the candy. It seemed to be a success, and worth planning again for next year.

Stephanie began with a report on the November 10 Chicago Bus Trip. There are still seats available, but enough tickets have been sold to make the trip financially worthwhile. There are still 15 tickets for sale at \$65 each.

Barb Ehlert noted that the House needs to be cleaned and decorated for the holidays by the 13th, and asks for any help she can get.

Linda Ciangi reminded members of the upcoming November 15th "non-profit night" in downtown Ionia, where the Keeper of the Crows will host the Historical Society. The recently completed "Snow Train" video will be played and offered for sale. The Chamber's entry-per-\$20-donation drawing is still in effect, and the drawing will be at the Christmas Parade on the 1st.

On November 25th, the Blanchard House will be open from 1 to 5 for our first ever "Gift Sale." In addition to the ICHS gifts there will be some other vendors, plus the debut of the new Snow Train display in the museum. We'll need volunteers for this and the December Sundays as well. If you have the time, please contact Stephanie.

The Mrs. Claus sale will be at the Middle School

again this year on December 1st. The Historical Society will have a table there, and Patty S. will have Quilt Raffle tickets for sale there, as well as other ICHS souvenirs.

There are several events scheduled in December at the Blanchard House — businesses, families, and organizations renting the house for parties and meetings. The Community Foundation and High School Choir have already reserved the B. House for their fall gatherings in 2013.

The Board is hoping to get our "standing committees" staffed for next year. If any members are interested in helping with anything, there is probably a committee for it! Jessica Rouch said she'd like to help with research.

John Dempsey, president of the Michigan Historical Commission, has asked if a database of Ionia County historical markers and monuments could be put together and made available to the public through our website, as well as in print. If anyone is interested in this project, please contact President VanderMolen.

Thanks to Al and Robin Husted who have been raking the Blanchard House lawn, sponsored by Applied Imaging. There was also an anonymous donation for lawn care expenses.

Hank Knoop delivered his Treasurer's Report for October, which was good news (income was higher than expenses for the month) and noted that dues, rentals, and the "Spirits" tour

put our accounts in good shape.

David White donated a civil-war themed chess set to the Historical Society to enhance the museum's displays. He also noted that he had some civil war letters in the family that he would like to have transcribed. (David is hosting the ICHS meeting at the Pewamo Church in February.)

Deb Benedict has some photos from the "Spirits of Ionia" cemetery tour that she would like to share. Linda C. said that these can be sent to the Sentinel-Standard and tell them they are for the "Linda File."

There was some discussion about promoting the upcoming ICHS events and activities. Rose Scheller said that she would be happy to distribute fliers.

The meeting then adjourned to hear our program for the month (see story above).

MINUTES of the December 5th General Meeting

The December meeting of the Ionia County Historical Society was the annual "Holiday Pot Luck and Fellowship" meeting. A minimum of business was conducted (mostly reminders of upcoming activities already on the calendar) and the actuals were excellent (as usual). Barb Ehlert did mention that there was evidence of some water damage in the back bedroom that should be attended to, and Linda Ciangi reported on the latest museum displays.





MINUTES of the January 2nd General Mtg

President Stephanie VanderMolen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Blanchard House. Her agenda began with a report on the great success of December's activities. The Holiday Sundays with the musical entertainment were outstanding, and she expressed her thanks to all the volunteers who made it happen.

She apologized for some miscommunication regarding one of our December rentals in which Barb Ehlert ended up hosting an event alone. Linda C. came to the rescue, but it put a lot of extra work on Barb. During the resulting discussion about better planning, Barb volunteered to chair the rental committee to help avoid similar issues in the future. Her number will be published in the Chronicle, rental fliers, and on the website as the primary rental contact.

The gift shop has been really successful this year, and we're looking for more souvenirs that we can offer for 2013. If anyone has ideas or historical items to offer for sale in the gift shop, please contact Stephanie.

Linda C. received the Board's approval to develop a display for the museum to focus on "Ionia's Health Care History." She has the support of the hospital staff and several members to work on the project in the coming months.

Ally Cook has offered to chair the Upstairs-Downtown event in 2013, tentatively scheduled for May 18th.

Doni Knoop is chairing the June Yard Sale / Flea Market again for this year as well. She wants very much to increase participation from crafters and other vendors this year. Please let her know your ideas to improve on this event.

The Board is looking for PROGRAM IDEAS for the year. We have a few things scheduled, but there are many monthly meetings still to be programmed. This might include buildings to tour, topics to discuss, displays to develop, or guests to invite. Please bring your ideas to the Board!

With the post-holiday sales going on, Barb E. noted that we could use some new Christmas decorations including a new tree for the second floor landing. She asked the Board to consider spending \$200 to \$300, but noted that they should act quickly due to the immediacy of the sales.

Regarding the Treasury, Hank K. was not in attendance to deliver a report, but there had been some discussion about budgets and accounts among the Board members regarding the setting-up of accounts and targeting funds from specific events for specific committees. As an example, gift shop income to fund the museum displays, and rentals for maintenance expenses.

Next month (February 6th), the ICHS will be meeting at the Pewamo Church. Members are encouraged to carpool! If you'd like a ride, contact the President to make arrangements.

The program for the January meeting was a rather informal presentation of 35mm Slides which had been donated by the Elliot family. Once we figured out the projector system (thanks to Gerry Perry for his expertise), we watched several carousels of slides including: birds and wildlife, flowers and landscapes, scenes of the Algoma Railway and Sault Ste Marie, the Holland Tulip Fest, several Free Fair parades from the late 60s / early 70s, Mt. Rushmore and Bronners, and a few locations we could not identify. You just never know what you're going to find!



Two views from Ionia in 1912 - 100 years ago. If we look carefully, we can see the landmarks that have survived that century of "progress." Some buildings have disappeared and others have changed to a point that they're hardly recognizable today.

Upcoming Programs and Events

Wednesday, January 16, 7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting at the Blanchard House

Wednesday, February 6th, 7:00 p.m.
Program Meeting at the **Pewamo Baptist Church**
203 W. Main St. with our host David White

Wednesday, February 20, 7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting at the Blanchard House

Wednesday, March 6th, 7:00 p.m.
Program Meeting - **Location To Be Announced**

March 16 — Ionia Expo at the IHS

Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting at the Blanchard House

Wednesday, April 3
Program Meeting - **Location To Be Announced**

Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting at the Blanchard House

Wednesday, May 1, 7:00 p.m.
Program Meeting at the Blanchard House
presented by David McCord

May 4 — Spring Into The Past Museum Tours

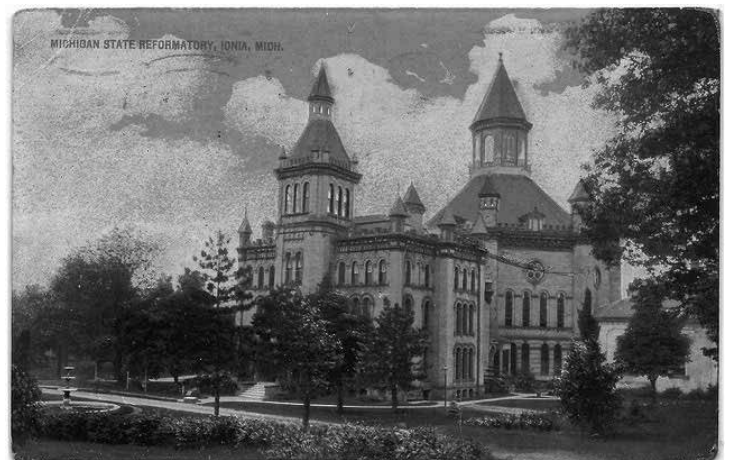
May 6 — Summer Sunday Open Houses Begin

May 18 — Upstairs-Downtown Tours

June 7, 8 — Annual Yard Sale / Flea Market

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

For other upcoming events -
visit the ICHS website at ioniahistory.org.



150 Years Ago



NEWS OF THE REBELLION

On November 4th there was an election for President and Congress in the states loyal to the Union. The lack of any major Unionist victory was reflected in the results, which showed that the opposition picked up more support than Lincoln's government. In the Senate, Lincoln's supporters, who prior to the election had a majority of 41 seats, lost this advantage to the opposition with a majority of 10 seats.

In the east, General McClellan's slow movements, combined with General Lee's escape, and continued raiding by Confederate cavalry, dismayed many in the North. On November 7, President Lincoln replaced McClellan with Major-General Ambrose E. Burnside.

On November 14, Burnside, now in command of the Army of the Potomac, sent a corps to occupy the vicinity of Falmouth near Fredericksburg. The rest of the army soon followed. Lee reacted by entrenching his army on the heights behind the town.

The House of Representatives passed a bill on December 10th to create the state of West Virginia. The government at Wheeling had originally intended to call the new state "Kenowa," but this name was voted down before the final Statehood petition to Congress.

On December 13th, General Burnside mounted a series of futile frontal assaults on the Confederates, but by December 15, Burnside called off the offensive.

On December 17th, General Grant's reputation was tainted when he issued General

Order Number 11, which expelled Jews from his department because "they are a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department."

Confederate President Jefferson Davis named General Butler, formally in charge of New Orleans, an "outlaw and an enemy of Mankind" on December 23rd. Davis stated that Butler would be hanged if the Confederates captured him. (They never did.)

Major General William S. Rosecrans's Union Army of the Cumberland followed Bragg's army from Kentucky to Nashville. (The 21st Michigan was a part of this force.) Rosecrans left Nashville on December 26, with about 45,000 men, to defeat Bragg's army. He found Bragg's army on December 29 and went into camp that night, within hearing distance of the Rebels.

At dawn on the 31st, Bragg's men attacked the Union, but before fighting stopped that day, the Federals had established a new, strong line.

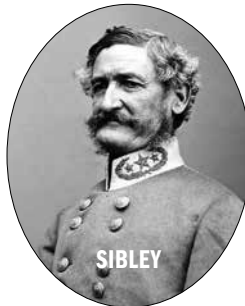
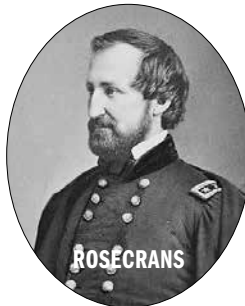
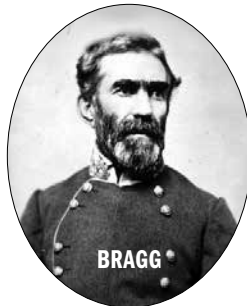
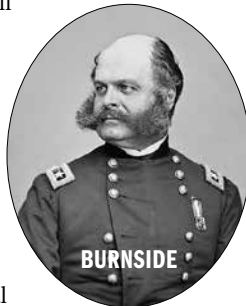
January 1st, 1863 saw arguably the most important act of the American Civil War. President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation that abolished slavery in the rebellious states. To many in the Confederacy, this was seen as an open attack on the perceived way of life in the South and any chance of peacefully bringing the American Civil War to an early end based on diplomacy vanished with the Emancipation Proclamation.

In late afternoon that same day, Bragg hurled a division at the Union army that crossed Stones River and took up a strong position on the bluff east of the river. The Confederates drove most of the Federals back, but with the assistance of artillery the Federals repulsed the attack.

Bragg left the field on January 4-5, retreating to Shelbyville and Tullahoma, Tennessee. Rosecrans did not pursue, but as the Confederates retired, he claimed the victory. Stones River boosted Union morale, but appalling weather made the movement of troops and horses all but impossible, meant that The North could not follow up its success.

In Texas, Brigadier General Henry Sibley raised a brigade of cavalry and led it into the New Mexico Territory, intending to drive the remaining Union forces from it and advance into Colorado, capturing the gold and silver mines located in the territory.

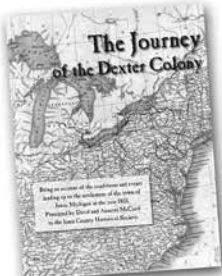
As January drew to a close, Lincoln removed Burnside from his command of the Army of the Potomac. The post was given to General Joseph Hooker. Burnside was very supportive of the President's decision as he had always felt that he was out of his depth and he offered Hooker his full support and loyalty.



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.*

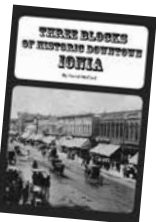


The Journey of the Dexter Colony, 1833, by David and Annette McCord. A detailed history of the settling of Ionia. \$12 each (\$15 with postage)

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 –

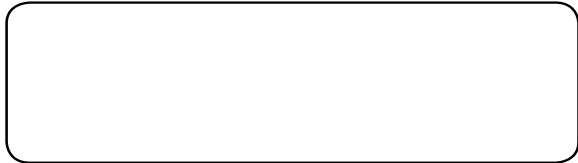
- **1887 "Headlight Flashes" Special Edition**
- **1907 Ionia Souvenir Book**
- **1973 Ionia City Centennial Program Book**



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.

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!**

- January 17 – Versailles*
- January 24 – Love Those Trains!*
- January 31 – The Great Smokies*
- February 7 – The Statue Of Liberty*
- February 14 – The British Isles*
- February 21 – Germany*
- February 28 – Alaska*

Ionia County Historical Society 2012-13 Board of Directors & Officers

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