



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



**Upcoming Programs and Events**

**Wednesday, January 8, 7:00 p.m.**

The ICHS will be privileged to visit "The Picket House" - an 1850s home on the shore of Woodard Lake. Interested folks can carpool!  
 (Leaving from the Blanchard House at 6:15.)

**Wednesday, January 15, 7:00 p.m.**

Business Meeting at the Blanchard House

**Wednesday, February 5, 7:00 p.m.**

ICHS Members and Guests are invited to learn the fascinating history behind St. Joseph Church in Pewamo.

**Wednesday, February 19, 7:00 p.m.**

Business Meeting at the Blanchard House

**Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting will be held at the Ionia Township Hall.

**Saturday, March 15 — Ionia Expo**

**Wednesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m.**

Business Meeting at the Blanchard House

March "Appraisal Road Show" (Date to be Determined)

**Wednesday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.**

"THE JOY OF SOX" at the Blanchard House.

**Wednesday, April 16, 7:00 p.m.**

Business Meeting at the Blanchard House

**Weekend of May 3 & 4**

"Spring Into The Past" Tri-River Museum Tours

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

Program at the Blanchard House presented by David McCord.

**Saturday, May 17**

Annual Upstairs/Downtown Tours in Downtown Ionia!

**Have a wish?**

The ICHS Board is asking members to make suggestions for a 2014 "wish list" for the Historical Society. Please bring your suggestions to the Board of Directors!

**Raffle Tickets available now!**

The Ionia County Historical Society is raffling off TWO fully catered dinners for up to 10 people at the historic (and romantic!) Blanchard House. The drawing will be held at the April 2nd meeting, and arrangements made with the winners directly thereafter. These dinners are being provided by:

**The Lamplight Grill  
 and  
 Gregory's Catering**

Tickets are available from ICHS members, and the costs are:

**\$1    \$5    \$20**  
 Per Ticket    For SIX    For 25 Tickets!

*A special Thank You to  
 Michigan -One Credit Union  
 for sponsoring the downtown  
 Mingle-Jingle Even, Dec. 6.*

**VOLUNTEERS are  
 always appreciated!**

Visit the ICHS website at  
**ioniahistory.org** for more!

**Christmas at the Blanchard House and Museum was sponsored by...**

Ionia Community Library

Keeper of the Crows

Sid's Flower Shop

Greenville Floral

W I O N Radio i1430

Promo Print & Stitches

Ionia Sentinel-Standard

Schanski Dodge Chrysler Jeep

Char Sherman

Paul Barker

Greg Cook

Andy Roberts

Laurie Brooks & Kelly

John & Kaye Lepien

Gordon Wright

Barb Ehlert

Mattie Cook

Joe and Joan McCord

**From the Secretary / Editor of the Chronicle —**

Happy Holidays, friends! Here's hoping your winter will be a blessed balance comfort and joy (with just a little excitement, too).

You may have noticed the lack of Chronicles over the past couple of months, as well as the "sparseness" of this one. Well, some of you know that my wife and I (with the help of family and friends) have been working hard to upgrade a century-old house in Ionia in time for my daughter's family to move in by Christmas. That effort took every scrap of "spare time" we could muster, and the house is now near that state of "live-ability." This means that my time will be available again to work on this newsletter again after the first of the year. I thank you for your understanding.

I've heard from many of my readers how much you enjoy the Chronicle, and I'm glad that I can entertain and educate a little through its pages. You'll notice there are no "Minutes of the Meeting" columns in this brief edition. For those of you interested in the details of the past half-dozen meetings, I do have my notes on file and can share the info with you on request. Again, in the future, I will hope to type them up and publish them so everyone will have the "inside story."

We've had some fun and informative programs this year, concluding the November presentation about the history of surveying in Michigan, which was outstanding. The Board is lining up a great schedule for 2014, so watch the calendar!

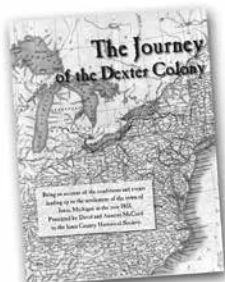
The Board is also looking for volunteers who can help with the on-going promotion of ICHS events and news - someone with some Internet savvy to keep up the Google Calendar and Facebook Page. If anyone reading is so inclined, or knows someone who is, please get in touch!

**PLEASE NOTE** (as shown on page 1) that the meetings in January, February and March are NOT going to be held at the Blanchard House!!! If you'd like more information, or to share a ride to these other historic locations, please contact a Board Member (the phone numbers are on the back page of this newsletter.

Again, thank you for your support, and Happy New Year! — **D. McCord**



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

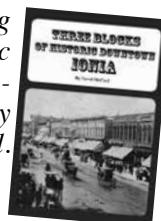


*The Journey of the Dexter Colony, 1833, by David and Annette McCord. A detailed history of the settling of Ionia. \$12 each (\$15 with postage)*

*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**

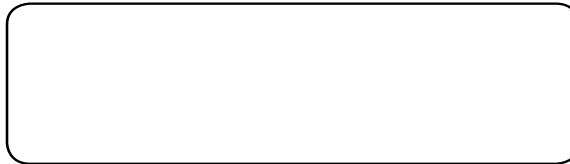
• **1973 Ionia City Centennial Program Book**



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

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

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



## JOIN TODAY!

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Please Check Your Membership Type:

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

### Please Share a Little Information:

- Renewing Member
- New Member

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Thanks!

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

- January 2 – Big Bend - America's Last Frontier*
- January 9 – The Great Parks of Alaska*
- January 16 – England and Wales (part 1)*
- January 23 – England and Wales (part 2)*
- January 30 – Africa, the Serengeti*
- February 6 – Maui*
- February 13 – Northern Spain (part 1)*

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

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