



The Almost Monthly Publication of
the Ionia County Historical Society

the CHRONICLE



The 2013 ICHS Annual Meeting

As usual, the October membership meeting is focused on (A) the many events and activities that come 'round during the fall months, and (B) the election of new members to the Board of Directors, followed by the Board's choice for officers for the coming year.

This year, with a fair turn-out, the members gathered to choose three Directors. The ballots included Kathleen Cook (for re-election), David White, Linda Ciangi, and Brenda Cronk. After tallying 19 ballots, Secretary David McCord reported to the members that the new Directors for 2014 were Kathleen, David, and Linda. These three joined Patty Simpson-Gokee and Ally Cook, who are in the middle of their 2-year terms. (You can read further the minutes from their first official gathering elsewhere.)

In addition to that proceeding, the outgoing president, Stephanie VanderMolen, had many, many thanks to express to the members of the Society for their support of her term in office. She was "persuaded" to take on the office of Vice President under Kris Haskins, and when Kris resigned the office, found herself president. Everyone agrees that she has done an outstanding job, and we all thank her for her fresh ideas, her dedication, and her enthusiasm for the Historical Society and it's mission.

Be sure to consult the schedule of upcoming events and activities as we embark on another fall season!



NEXT MONTH:
**Measuring
Michigan!**
**Historic Surveyors
and how they
performed
their duties**

**Wednesday,
November 6
7:00 p.m. at the
Blanchard House**

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!

MINUTES of the Oct. 2nd Public Meeting

After opening the meeting on Wednesday, October 2nd at the Blanchard House, President Stephanie VanderMolen introduced Riley Perrone to the members and guests. He had spoken with Stephanie after his wife overheard Stephanie's mention of a need for storage space for the Museum's items which are not always on display. Riley immediately noted that building a storage facility might just be a worthy Eagle Scout Project. With that in mind, the members were informed about the Eagle Scout program, and asked if they would support such a project. Secretary David McCord volunteered to work with the Eagle Scout candidate to define some of the needs and expectations of the Historical Society to see if the program could be accomplished during 2014.

Immediately after this presentation, Hank Knoop produced a bundle of flowers which he presented with gratitude to Stephanie V. for her term of service as our President. Mattie Cook was present to take a photo of the event for the Sentinel-Standard. Hank also thanked several other members for their service, including Barb Hogan as an outgoing member of the Board for her careful sorting and cataloging of artifacts for the ICHS.

The next item on the agenda was planning for the upcoming "Spirits of Ionia" Cemetery Tour, scheduled for October 20 at Highland Park Cemetery. Most of the "celebrities" have been chosen, biographical information is being researched, and a few "actors" (presenters) are still needed. Other volunteers are needed as well to staff the various positions throughout the cemetery - guides, parking, ticket sales, refreshments, act. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Stephanie if they'd like to help. Patty Simpson-Gokee has volunteered to drive the "Time Machine" too!

David and Annette McCord have agreed to staff the Blanchard House for the community Trick-or-Treat this year on Halowe'en night. Hank Knoop will help again with the decorations, and donations are welcomed for candy to be handed out that evening. "Factory packaged" candies can be dropped off at the Blanchard House whenever anyone is there between now and Oct. 31.

David M. is also preparing to present a
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Calligraphy Class to all interested folks. This will be in time for the Holidays, and participants will learn how to inscribe their holiday greetings with “fancy writing” and impress their family and friends. (See advert elsewhere in this issue.)

We continue to acquire more treasures from the Ionia District Library as they repurpose areas of their facility. The Hall-Fowler house has reached its limit for media and research materials, so they are passing along many artifacts to the Historical Society for our custodianship. Items from books and documents to a menagerie of stuff birds and bugs to major furniture are coming our way. Thanks to Kathleen C. (who also serves on the Library Board) for opening this channel for us.

The Treasurer’s Report was delivered next see details in column 2). Hank explained several of the entries in this report, expressing thanks to the members for their efforts in generating income.

Very significant in the report was the result of the Duck Race at the Fall Festival. 500 ducks were funded for the race, which profited the Society over \$350. Hank thanks the volunteers for their help, Pearson’s Orchard for the free apples, and made a few suggestions for next year. He also thanked Bertha Brock for her appearance at the event. She was a popular celebrity!

In addition to the monthly report, Hank cited a note from Joe & Joan McCord regarding the continuation of their service, organizing the weekly “Travelogue” movies at the Ionia Theatre. (Movie listing is on the back page of the Chronicle.) They say they will continue this tradition (now in its eighth year!) as well as representing the ICHS at the Tri-River Museums Group.

Hank also noted that some old Ionia postcards had been received from someone in Traverse City, and Linda reported a donation of Ionia photos from a resident of Kalamazoo. A person from East Tawas donated a wood box that bore the name of the Ionia Brewery. The Historical Society has also acquired the sign which once appeared over the office door of Dr. Deffendorfer, which will enhance the display of Ionia healthcare history.

The regular meeting was then adjourned by President VanderMolen at approx. 8:00 p.m.

MINUTES of the Oct 2nd Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was called to order directly after the Regular Meeting reported above. The Secretary reviewed the proscribed agenda for the Historical Society’s Annual Meeting as written in the Bylaws. Director Patty Simpson-Gokee moved to forgo the first three items on the agenda, namely: the reading of the minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting, the reading of the minutes of the September 2013 meeting, and the calling of the Role of Members. The motion was supported by Director Kathleen Cook, and passed.

The Board agreed to accept publication of the meeting announcement in the Chronicle to be sufficient for “public notice.” Thereafter, President VanderMolen read the names of the candidates for the three positions on the board up for election:

Kathleen Cook (re-election); Linda Ciangi; David White; Brenda Cronk.

The ballots were passed out, the completed ballots collected by the Secretary. The meeting was recessed while the Secretary counted the votes. The meeting was then reconvened and the results of the election announced, as follows:

Of 19 ballots cast, 19 votes for Kathleen Cook, 19 for Linda Ciangi, 14 for David White, and 5 for Brenda Cronk.

With congratulations to the three elected, and thanks to Brenda C. for her candidacy, the 2013 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

MINUTES of the Oct 2nd Board Meeting

Shortly following the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors gathered to elect their officers for the coming year, and review a few outstanding issues.

David White nominated Linda Ciangi for President, which was supported by Ally Cook. She was elected unanimously to the office. David W. then nominated Kathleen Cook for Vice President, which was supported by Patty S. and passed unanimously as well. Kathleen nominated David McCord for Secretary, which was supported by Linda C. and passed. Kathleen also nominated Hank Knoop as Treasurer for another term, which was supported by Dave W. and passed.

The Board decided to maintain the twice-monthly meeting schedule and consider ideas for standing committees and opportunities to advance the ICHS mission in the community.

Hank noted that Stephanie’s key to the Blanchard House should be passed to David W. with instructions for the alarm system.

Linda C. reported that shelving from the L&D Hardware building would be delivered soon, and needed restoration before they can be used.

Kathleen reported that the Friends of the Library would like to address the ICHS Board to discuss common interests and opportunities to work together. This “partnership” could include collaboration on grants and the formation of a Library committee within the ICHS. The Board was receptive to this opportunity.

Finally, President Ciangi expressed thanks to the outgoing board, to the new Directors for their service, and to Gordon Wright, for being a good neighbor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

MINUTES of the Oct 16th Business Meeting

The Board of Directors assembled at the Blanchard House on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Linda Ciangi. Also present were: Ally Cook, Director; David White, Director; Gordon Wright; Patty Simpson-Gokee, Director; Stephanie VanderMolen; Barb Ehlert; Hank Knoop, Treasurer; David McCord, Secretary; and Kathleen Cook, Director arrived late.

Linda C. invited Stephanie V. to address the Board with any open issues. The priority topic was the final arrangements for the upcoming “Spirits of Ionia” cemetery tour. Volunteers are being lined up to fill in the various positions and the actors have their scripts nearly ready. There was some discussion about picking up the “time machine” trolley from the Fairgrounds. Patty, Hank, and David W. will work it out. Ally asked about a budget for the concession stand, and the Board decided to do a quick phone vote once she’d done some price research.

It was noted that a group had asked for a tour of the Blanchard House at 4:00 p.m. directly after

the “Spirits” event. Linda C. had volunteered to give that tour, but depending on the number of folks in the group, she may need to recruit last-minute help. The Board agreed that they could muster some help if need be.

Linda, Stephanie, and Hank also attended a meeting of the Ionia Township to review the event with them. There is some bad feeling from many years ago that still exists among some members of the Township Board regarding the Historical Society. In addition, the “Spirits” tour arrangements have apparently not followed the proper procedures with the Township, so this will be remedied in any future planing that takes place.

Linda encouraged the Board to try getting the entire 2014 year’s calendar of events together as soon as possible. This will help in promoting and planning for the year. Among those plans, she suggested hosting a Chamber Breakfast in September of 2014. Patty made the motion, supported by Kathleen, with the assumption that the budget will be around \$300. This motion and passed, but the Board wished to revisit the issue again before the event pending budget concerns.

Linda also asked for the Board’s approval to pursue the idea of a “Catered Dinner Raffle” which would involve area restaurants and caterers. The Board asked her to continue.

The Tri-River meeting for 10:00 a.m. on November 19th will be at the Blanchard House. More details will be shared as soon as they

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**Ionia County Historical Society
Monthly Financial Overview for September, 2013
Prepared by Hank Knoop, Treasurer**

September Expenses:

Lawn Mowing - Three Times	\$ 90
Phone	\$ 70
Gas & Electric (Consumers)	\$ 126
September Total Expenses.....	\$ 286

September Receipts:

Interest.....	\$ 30
Rent for Nov. 07.....	\$ 200
Dues	\$ 250
DVD’s, Books, & Gift Shop	\$ 20
Gaylia Brown Funeral Donations.....	\$ 75
Duck Race Net Profit.....	\$ 355
Tours.....	\$ 105

September Total Receipts \$ 1035

Fund Reserves:
Basement - \$445.; Painting by Cooks & Windows by Ehlert
Parlor Carpet - \$2,377; \$100. Donation

NOTE:
We are into our largest fund raiser: Dues Renewal - They are due on October 1 and are still only \$20. per person or \$35. For a sustaining member. Prompt payment will save us postage and time for mailing a reminder.

Oct. 16th Board Meeting - Continued:

become available. This usually includes refreshments of some kind.

Linda also suggested printing up identification cards for the Board (and perhaps other authorized members) with the ICHS non-profit information on them so that purchases made for the ICHS can be untaxed and perhaps enjoy some discounts. David M. said he would pursue this idea.

The Building and Maintenance Committee will consist of Linda C., Gordon Wright, Chuck Booth, Mike Antonides, and Kathleen Cook. They will meet soon to update the wish list / need list for the House and Grounds. Linda suggested using some of the bequest from Gaylia Brown to (finally) get a new back door made for the Blanchard House. The Board also reiterated the hope for more electrical outlets in the basement. Kathleen moved that the stair railing to the basement be given a high priority by the committee, and Linda supported the motion. The Board will vote once an estimate for materials and labor is acquired.

John Lapine is working on restoration of recently acquired shelving from the old L&D Hardware. These will be used in the museum area and carriage house for displays. The Blanchard family artifacts in the display case in Mr. Blanchard's office will be redistributed to other areas of the house to further the plan to make the office space resemble a working office, and therewith provide a better space for people to do research.

Christmas is coming! Decorations at the B. House are being planned for, and Patty S. moved that the Board hire Laurie Brooks to clean the house for the season with a \$250 budget. This was supported by David W. and passed. Linda C. said she would pay for Clingers to clean the downstairs windows.

The Mrs. Claus Bazaar is on December 1 at the Middle School. Patty and Stephanie V. will set this up and round up the volunteers as necessary.

The next Board Meeting, December 18, the Board will welcome members of the "Friends of the Library" group to talk about working with the ICHS to pursue common goals in the community.

Treasurer Hank Knoop noted that the ICHS has a CD at Portland Federal Credit Union that is matured. He suggested that it be renewed for a short term, and asked David M. to stop by PFCU to get the proper paperwork taken care of.

Some people from a White's Bridge group contact Linda regarding support from the ICHS for their rebuilding efforts. The Board felt that the ICHS should express an appreciation for their mission, but the ICHS has "enough on our plate" to take any active role in the efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m.

Upcoming Programs and Events

Thursday, October 31
Hallowe'en Treats at the Blanchard House!

Wednesday, November 6, 7:00 p.m.
Program Meeting at the Blanchard House
Historical Surveying Presentation by the
Michigan Professional Surveyor's Assn.

Wednesday, November 13th
A Calligraphy Class by David McCord
Learn "fancy writing!" — \$10 per person.

Wednesday, November 13th
ICHS Business Meeting

Wednesday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.
The annual Christmas Pot Luck
at the Blanchard House

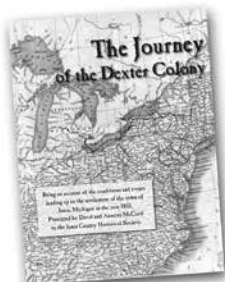
Wednesday, December 18, 7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting at the Blanchard House

VOLUNTEERS are always appreciated!

Visit the ICHS website at ioniahistory.org for more!



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**

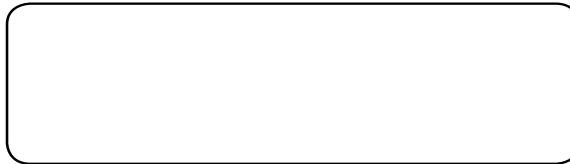
• **1973 Ionia City Centennial Program Book**



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 = \$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!**

- October 24 – Coast Starlight Railway*
- October 31 – Cruising Alaska*
- November 7 – The Grand Canyon*
- November 14 – Over America*
- November 21 – Australia*
- November 28 – (No movie. Happy Thanksgiving!)*
- December 5 – Costa Rica*

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

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