



# the **CHRONICLE**

The Almost Monthly Publication of  
the Ionia County Historical Society



## “Bees 101”

We welcomed Adam Ingrao from Bee Wise Farms in Lansing (and his wife) for our October program. This was another in our series of programs brought to us through the Ionia Community Library.

Mr. Ingrao shared the fascinating history of beekeeping, from ancient lore through 19th century technology and up to the present day. He related the long history of honey and its many uses through the centuries, too.

He told us the significance of studies in the 1800s that revolutionized the design of bee hives, still in use today. He brought in a full-size sample of one of the newer hives based on this design, but using modern materials. He also showed us a small hive containing hundreds of bees milling about the hive, and described the various parts of the hive, the honeycombs, and the roles of the various types of bees in the colony.

What they eat, what eats them, how they communicate, the diseases that effect them... it was a truly fascinating program. After his presentation, the audience shared stories and asked many questions, for which he had great answers and even more fascinating facts to share.

Many thanks to Mr. Ingrao and Dale Parus at the Library for sharing this program with our members and guests!

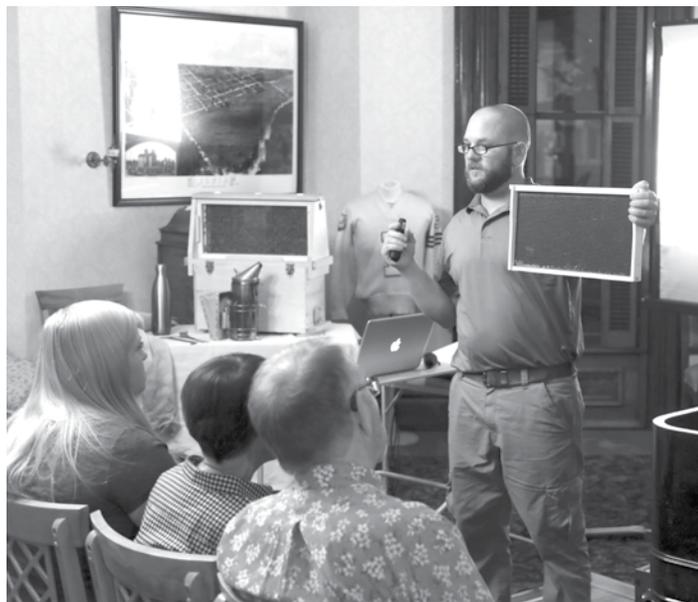


Photo by Goose Elliott

## Our 2017 Annual Meeting:

Before our program on October 4th, President Kathleen Cook called to order the Annual Meeting of the Ionia County Historical Society. She recapped briefly recent successful ICHS activities, noted some of our upcoming programs and events, and conveyed her thanks to all our members and friends for the support given over the past twelve months. Linda Ciangi led the assembled members and guests in a round of applause in thanks to Kathleen for her service as President and on the Board of Directors.

The detailed minutes of this meeting are available on request from the Secretary. As an overview, the usual procedure was followed as dictated by the ICHS Bylaws. Candidates for the three Board positions available were welcomed and ballots were distributed and completed by those at the meeting. The Treasurer also noted that many ballots had been received by mail as well.

After just under 5 minutes, the official business was concluded and the Secretary and Treasurer retired to the office to count ballots. The results were delivered after the evening's program that Linda Ciangi, Stacy Tchorzynski, and Dave White were elected to the Board. Our thanks to the other candidates Bryan Kimble, Shawna Hoekstra, and Marilyn Nash.

The regular meeting was then called to order for the monthly program (see story) with refreshments supplied by McCords and Kimbles.

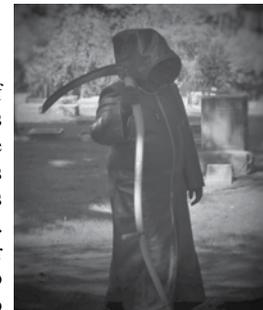
A short Board Meeting was held following the program to welcome the new Directors. (Again, detailed minutes are available on request.) At that meeting, Stacy T. was presented with Key #12 and a copy of the ICHS ByLaws. She apologized in advance that she would have to miss the October Board meeting due to other obligations, but would work to resolve future date conflicts.

The Board elected their officers for the coming year as follows: President, Linda Ciangi, Vice President Ally Cook, Treasurer Kathleen Cook, and Secretary David McCord. Annette McCord will continue to serve as Treasurer until (A) the Annual Reports are submitted to accountant Larry Tiejema, and (B) Kathleen Cook returns from vacation to take over that office.

Several topics regarding matinance issues were brought up, but tabled until the regular monthly Board meeting on Oct. 18 (see notes following). Goose Elliott moved that the Secretary and Treasurer would be authorized to vote on Board issues for the coming year (the motion passed) with a note that this should be discussed as an amendment to the Bylaws. The meeting was adjourned within 15 minutes.

## Past Events:

• October 1 — The annual “Spirits of Ionia” Cemetery Tour at Highland Park was a great success. Perfect weather brought the patrons out to experience the presentations by eight of our members depicting persons from Ionia’s history who are buried there. This continues to be one of our most popular activities year after year. Special thanks to our volunteers, including the “extras” who wandered about the cemetery in the guise of the dear departed, and Death himself (portrayed by Joe McCord - photo by Mark Workman).



October 6 — At the Lyons-Muir Historical Society, David McCord presented a program on the life of Chief Cobmoosa and related pioneer information. The meeting was very well attended.

• As always, many thanks to all the volunteers who made these events happen on behalf of our organization and our mission!

## Future Events:

(Be sure to check the Website and Facebook for current information.)

• October 31 — The McCords will host trick-or-treaters at the Blanchard House again this year. Donations of candy have been made, but more are appreciated to satisfy the hundreds of costumed marauders. Shawna H. cannot help this year, and additional volunteers will be welcomed. Please contact McCords if you can help!

• November 1 — The monthly membership meeting will feature a program called “The Last Man in Merrinsville” performed by Raymond Goodwin. This is another event co-sponsor by the Ionia Community Library and the ICHS at the Blanchard House, 7:00 p.m.

November 4 — At 6:30 p.m., the Friends of the Library are hosting a Murder Mystery Fundraiser at the Blanchard House. The event features the entertainment of The Master Arts Theatre of Grand Rapids. Event proceeds to be split between the Friends of the Library and the Ionia Historical Society. Tickets (available soon at \$40 single, a pair for \$75 or reserve a table of four for \$140) will include a light dinner and soft drinks; a donation bar will be available.

• November 14 — Tri-River Museums Network will be meeting at the Blanchard House at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will not include a luncheon (as reported in last month’s Chronicle), but there will be light refreshments. All interested folks are invited to meet representatives from 32 area museums. Annette McCord will help with refreshments, David McCord will deliver a short presentation, and Joan McCord will host on behalf of the ICHS.

• November 26 — There had been some plans to host a gift sale at the Blanchard House for members to sell their wares. At the October 18th Board Meeting it was decided instead to open the Blanchard House for tours to see the house decorated for Christmas. This was suggested by President Linda C. because, due to rentals of the house, it would only be open two Sundays in December for folks to tour. Hosts are needed for this day and the two December Sundays as well. Please contact a Board member if you can help.

• December 2 — Mrs. Claus Bazaar at the Middle School: The ICHS will have two tables again this year. Volunteers are welcomed to help set-up, take-down, and staff the booth during the event. Contact Ally Cook or Katie Mooney if you can help.

• December 6 — Annual ICHS Holiday Pot-Luck at the Blanchard House. Some of our “Spirits of Ionia’s Past” will present their stories.

• December 10 & 17 — The Blanchard House will be open for Holiday Tours. Hosts are needed for the usual 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. visitors. Please contact a Board member if you can help!



## October 18 Business Meeting:

The second meeting of the 2018 Board was called to order by President Linda Ciangi at 7:00 on Wednesday, October 18, at the Blanchard House. Also present were Directors Goose Elliot, Dave White, Ally Cook, Treasurer Annette McCord, Secretary David McCord, plus Barb Ehlert, Katie Mooney, Shawna Hoekstra, Bryan and Mary Kimble. Also welcomed Al Husted and three members of Boy Scout Troop 85 who were present to take notes for their Communications Merit Badges. (Photo above by Goose Elliot.)

### COMMITTEE REPORTS —

#### • Treasurer: Annette McCord

(See separate report, available from the Treasurer.) Annual Report is waiting for a few additional bits of information, then it will be finished and Annette will contact our accountant Larry Tiejema to arrange a meeting. Linda C. submitted a bill from the cleaning service, and for T-shirt reprints for the Gift Shop inventory. Several other minor transactions were mentioned, including some income from sales and memberships.

#### • Accessions Committee: Shawna Hoekstra

Shawna showed the Board an example of how poor storage of artifacts can cause hidden damage: a framed photo backed with a piece of printed cardboard. The acid from the cardboard image had discolored the photo print over the years. The example had an “L number” on the back, bringing up the fact that this and many other artifacts are being discovered which had previously been in the Hall-Fowler Library’s collection.

In keeping with the Board’s approval, the entire Tea Room has been taken over as a work area for the committee for the winter months. Bryan noted that the desk, previously in the “Resource Room” upstairs, has been moved into the Tea Room, giving Barb Hogan more room to work and store archives. He replaced incandescent bulbs in the Tea Room with LEDs, giving much better light at a reduced cost. And finally, a fine heavy mantle clock was found, recorded, and cleaned up. It is now on display over the fireplace Mr. Blanchard’s office.

Shawna also noted that the painting of the Nurse, which formerly hung in the Hospital, might have found a place on the Tea Room wall as well. Also, thank-you notes are being sent to recent donors.

#### • Building and Grounds Committee: Dave White

The Ginko Tree situation was reintroduced, and Katie Mooney contacted her father about a final bid to remove the south tree, trim the north tree and trim a maple tree. At the end of the meeting, Katie reported that he would do the job for \$800. Ally moved to accept the bid and get this done. The motion was supported by Goose, and passed by the Board. Dave W. voted against the motion (for the record) but will follow through.

## Thanks to our ICHS “Business Buddies”

Dan Balice  
Darin Elliott  
Larry Heffelfinger  
Lyle Joslyn  
Glen Rairigh  
Todd Reurink  
Rich and Lindsay Thompson

Some discussion took place about a replacement for the McPherson memorial tree, and Dave W. suggested installing a Rose of Sharon bush. It was noted that new memorial plaques should be made for this and the Knoop tree. Annette and David M. will pursue this subject and report to the Board.

Dave W. also noted that he will clean the globes on the light in the front yard. Annette M. will be painting the back stairwell as soon as she receives the paint promised by Kathleen Cook at the August meeting. David M. restated his intention to fix the latch on the kitchen's porch door as well. Still no word on an installation date for the outside pantry door, and the back stoop should be replaced soon.

Dave asked for a vote on the electrical improvements in "Room #4" in the basement, based on a \$550 bid from Bredice Electric. (Rene Simon did not respond to the RFQ.) Goose moved to proceed, and was supported by Ally and passed by the Board. Linda C. will arrange to be present when the electrician is available to review the project.

• **Membership Committee: Ally Cook**

Business Buddies letters (invitations to support the ICHS) have been sent to many local business, and more will follow. David M. passed around samples of ICHS Membership Cards, which the Board approved. They will be sent out with thank-you notices to all paid members as soon as Ally and Annette McCord complete their verification of the new membership list (presently in the works).

• **Rentals & Housekeeping Committee: Barb Ehlert**

Rose Sheller's Dec. 3rd Tea Party is coming up, as well as another rental on either the 20th or 21st (to be confirmed).

• **Refreshments Committee: Jane Horrocks**

Jane has consented to take on the scheduling of refreshments for our monthly program meetings.

• **Program Committee: Linda Ciangi and Kathleen Cook**

For the time being, those named above will serve to manage the monthly programs for the ICHS, including coordinating with the Library's co-hosted programs. The updated schedule will appear in the Chronicle.

• **Gift Shoppe Committee: Katie Mooney**

Linda C. has ordered reprints of the Pontiac T-shirts for the gift shop to stock up for the holidays. (This is one of the more popular items.) Due to a change in product, these new shirts will be offered for \$15. Joel Kilgore will produce a new stock of DVDs for the shoppe as well (in exchange for a carton of root beer).

• **Publicity Committee: TBD**

• **Tri-River Representative's Report: Joni McCord**

A written report was delivered to the President. The Tri-River Museum Network will hold their November meeting at the Blanchard House on November 17th. They will not be serving a luncheon, but snacks and beverages only. They will not need tables set up for the meeting; but chairs will suffice. The new Tri-River guidebooks will be distributed to Michigan Tourist Centers as they become available.

**OLD BUSINESS —**

**Cemetery Tour:**

Thanks from the President to the Cooks for the success of "Spirits of Ionia's Past" — refreshment stand, and to all the presenters. Thanks also to Shawna Hoekstra for her summary report to the committee. A thank you is also extended to Ionia Township for the use of the Cemetery.

**Halloween:**

McCords will hand out treats at the Blanchard House again this year. Plenty of candies have been donated, but more are accepted if anyone would like to. Shawna (the "woman in the window") cannot help this year but other helpers will be welcomed.

## Our Calendar of Upcoming Events.

Wednesday, November 1, 7:00 p.m. — "The Last Man in Merrinsville" will be presented by Raymond Goodwin, a program co-sponsored with the Ionia Community Library at the Blanchard House.

Saturday, November 4 — The Friends of the Library are hosting a MURDER MYSTERY at the Blanchard House with the Master Arts Theater of Grand Rapids. See details on Page Two of this issue.

Wednesday, November 15, 7:00 p.m. — Business Meeting at the Blanchard House - all are welcomed!

Saturday, November 18 — Gift Bazaar at the First United Methodist Church (ICHS will have a booth)

Sunday, November 26 — The Blanchard House will be open for tours to show off our Christmas decorations

Saturday, December 2 — Mrs. Claus Bazaar at Ionia Middle School (ICHS will have a booth)

Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 p.m. — Annual ICHS Christmas Pot-Luck. Bring your favorite Christmas treats and special foods to share!

Sunday, December 10, 1 - 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 17, 1 - 4:00 p.m. — The Blanchard House will be open for tours to show off our Christmas decorations.

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

PROGRAMS for 2018 are being planned as follows: January, New Year's Dinner at the Lamplight; February, L&D Hardware building; March, Lyons-Muir Museum; April, "Road Building", May, Musical Program by Three Husbands on the Loose; MORE TO COME...

*Be sure to monitor our Facebook Page and Website for current information!*

**M.E. Church Bazaar (Nov 18):**

Goose moved that we spend the \$5.00 for a booth if volunteers come forward to work at an ICHS booth at the event. Ally supported the motion and it passed the Board. Anyone interested in helping with the event, please contact a Board member.

**November Gift Sale:**

This opportunity for ICHS members to sell their wares was originally scheduled for the Sunday after Thanksgiving (as in years past). Linda suggested cancelling that event due to the fact that we only have two Sundays available in December to show off the Holiday decorations at the Blanchard House. Instead, she asked the Board if we should have a "tour day" instead, and the Board acquiesced. Hosts are needed for that day between 1 and 4 p.m.

**Mrs. Claus Bazaar (Dec 2):**

Ally Cook and Katie Mooney are chairing this year. Ally considered only having one table for gift sales, but after some discussion it was decided to have two. Ally moved to spend the \$40 for the space, which was supported by Goose and passed. Annette M. will get us signed up for the event. Goose offered to display some of his photos for sale, with proceeds for the ICHS. David M. offered some display panels for this purpose. Ally asked for help with set-up and take-down for the event. (Patty Simpson-Goeke and Barb Hogan “will probably help, too”)

**December 6th - Annual ICHS Holiday Pot-Luck:**

Annette M. mentioned that in years past the actors from the Cemetery Tour presented their stories to the Pot-Luck attendees, especially for those who missed the tour. The Board agreed to invite the actors to do so if they would be willing.

**December Sunday Tours:**

Seeking hosts for Dec 10 and 17. McCords will try to be available, but others are encouraged to help. Interested members may contact McCords or any Board member. Linda would like to invite actors from the Cemetery Tour to portray their characters at the Sundays as an added feature. The Board supported the idea.

**NEW BUSINESS —**

Linda C. has set up a small bulletin board (to be kept in the kitchen broom closet) to track ICHS Events and Activities. 3x5 note cards are pinned thereto, and volunteers for each event may sign up there (and other relevant notes can be written there as well). The calendar of events remains on the broom closet door as an overview.

The Brick Street Marketplace - a new Main Street business - has three of our 1939 DVDs there for sale. They will promote the ICHS also by hanging historic photos on their walls. Linda C. is working with them to promote the store and the ICHS.

Linda C. asked if our paperwork is up to date and past Raffle business concluded with the State so we could carry on with a Raffle for 2018. (The 2017 permit request had remained unresolved for some time.) Treasurer Annette M. assured her that all was up to date now.

Linda also asked the Board if we preferred our Yard Sale in June or September (now that we've tried both). There was no decision at this meeting, but the Board will consider the options and address the issue anon.

“To relieve some of the writing time for David,” Linda has offered to submit some content for the Chronicle. This will enhance the Secretary's reports on things that transpire at the meetings with information on other intermittent events. (To which I responded: “That's wonderful! Thank you!”)

Annette M. moved that the meeting be adjourned at approx. 8:30 p.m. - which it was.

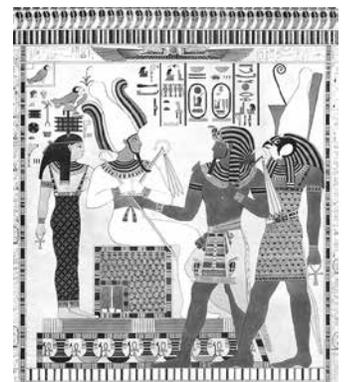
- Duly submitted, David McCord, Secretary

# THE WAYBACK MACHINE

## October 1817

On October 20, 1817, the first Mississippi “Show Boat” left Nashville on her maiden voyage. The early showboats were basically barges that resembled long, flat-roofed houses. To move down the river, they were pushed by small tugboats (misleadingly called “towboats”). It would have been impossible to put a steam engine on these barges; it would have to have been placed right in the center of the floating auditorium. The early “entertainment vessels” had whimsical names such as the Floating Theatre, Floating Circus Parade, New Sensation, Water Queen, Sunny South, and Greater New York. This first period of showboat history was abruptly cut short with the outbreak of the Civil War.

Around 1290 BC, the pharaoh Ramesses I, ancestor of Egypt's most illustrious rulers, was buried in a richly painted tomb in the Valley of the Kings. Ramesses entered his tomb expecting to undertake an arduous journey through the underworld. The tomb of Ramesses I was located in October 1817 by the Italian explorer Giovanni Battista Belzoni. Inside, he found several wooden statues and a red granite sarcophagus with painted decorations. There was damage on the lid where it had been pried open in antiquity. Much of the contents had been stolen many generations earlier, when tomb robbery in the Valley of the Kings was rampant. The mummy of Ramesses I was also missing.



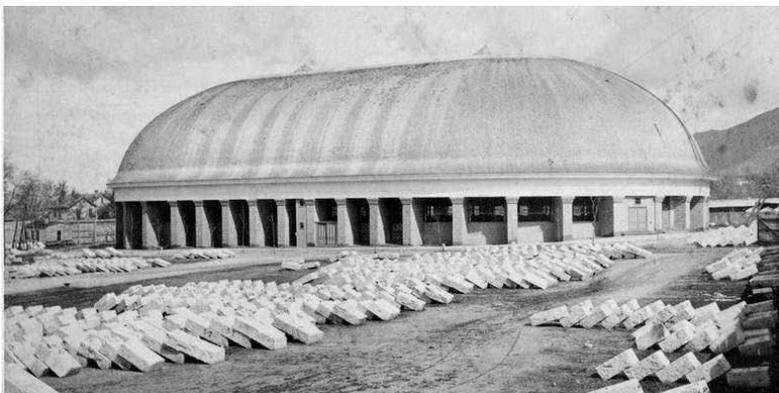
## October, 1867

On October 1st, “Das Kapital” by Karl Marx was published. At the time it was nothing more than a curiosity of social commentary. Some years later, however, Marx's ideas began to be taken seriously and gained world-wide attention as the spark behind new governmental and economic movements.

The Territory of Alaska officially adopted the Gregorian calendar on Oct 16. They had previously used the Julian calendar introduced there by the Russian settlers. Two days later, the U.S. took formal possession of the territory.

The following address and prayer were given on October 9, 1867 during the first meeting held in the Salt Lake Tabernacle (pictured here, construction just completed). President Brigham Young opened the meeting with a few brief remarks, after which “the Tabernacle choir” sang a hymn written for the occasion by Eliza R. Snow.

“O God our Heavenly Father, who dwells in the heavens, in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ we come before thee at this time to worship thee on this occasion. We ask for the aid of thy holy spirit to teach us how to pray, what we should ask for, [and] how to ask that we may receive. We pray that the Holy Ghost may be given unto us to bring us unto all truth and holiness, to [enlighten] our understanding, to enlarge our views pertaining to [the] heavens and to [the] earth, and all creations of God, to inspire us to faithfulness, to [meld us] to a oneness so that we may be the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.



“We pray thee in the name of Jesus to bless this congregation who have assembled within the walls of this house for the first time to worship thee. We dedicate ourselves unto thee, each and every one of us. We dedicate unto thee this house and all that pertains there unto, and pray thee in the name of Jesus Christ to give us the ability to complete the same. After we dedicate it unto the Lord of Hosts, it is then really thine.”

## October, 1917

The October Revolution, officially known in Soviet literature as the Great October Socialist Revolution, is commonly referred to as Red October, the October Uprising, the Bolshevik Revolution, or Bolshevik Coup. It was led by the Bolsheviks under Vladimir Lenin and a pivotal event in the larger Russian Revolution of 1917. It began with an armed insurrection in Petrograd on the 25th of October, 1917.



Margaretha Geertruida Zelle was a dancer from the Netherlands who developed a rather infamous reputation as a spy for the Germans during the Great War. On October 15th of 1917 she was executed by the French government for espionage. Her stage name was Mata Hari.

On Oct 21st, the first Americans to see action in WWI entered the front lines under French command. Two days later, soldiers with the U.S. First Infantry Division (“The Big Red One”) fired the first shots by U.S. Troops in the war to end all wars.

Meanwhile, 20,000 women marched in a suffrage parade in New York City.

### Climate Statistics from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Michigan Section, for October, 1917:

“The past month was remarkable for its many unusual weather features, with many rainy days and little sunshine. It was the coldest October on record, which was due not so much to extremely low temperatures, but to the continual cloudy weather with resultant low maximum temperatures. The maximum temperature this month was the lowest October in the past 31 years. During the last few days of the month, a large part of the precipitation was in the form of snow. In fact, with the exception of that in 1906, the snowfall during this October was the heaviest in 31 years.

“The mean temperature was 41.4F° which is 7.2F° below normal. The highest temperature, 74F°, occurred at Croton on the 4th. (The extreme highest maximum temperature for October during the past 31 years was 94° in 1897.) The lowest, at 8F°, occurred at Humboldt and Seney on the 24th, the lowest on record being 3F° below zero in 1905.”

In Ionia County, these Department of Agriculture statistics were measured at the Consumer’s Power weather station at the Webber Dam. These official readings had been recorded there since 1913. For the year 1917, they show a high for the month at 68°F and a low at 23°F. Over 2 inches of snow fell in the final week of the month.

## October 1967

Flying an X-15 experimental aircraft, U.S. Air Force Major



William “Pete” Knight made the fastest flight of a powered aircraft on October 3rd. His speed of Mach 6.72 (4,520 miles (7,270 km) per hour) remains unsurpassed to this day.

Guerrilla leader Che Guevara was captured by the 2nd Battalion of the Bolivian Rangers on October 8th. Guevara ordered his men to split into two groups and attempt to fight their way out. Minutes later, a bullet grazed Guevara’s leg and he was unable to run. The distraction from the excitement of his capture allowed the other men to escape. He was executed following an interrogation. To avoid the publicity of a trial, Bolivia’s President René Barrientos ordered that Guevara be put to death.



On October 10th, the “Outer Space Treaty” between the United States, the Soviet Union, and 10 other nations took effect at a ratification ceremony held at the East Room of the White House. U.S. President Lyndon Johnson and Secretary of State Dean Rusk signed on behalf of the U.S. and ambassadors from the other nations signed on behalf of their countries. The treaty declared that the signing nations would not place nuclear weapons in space, and pledged to not establish military bases, nor make territorial claims, on the Moon or any other celestial bodies.

On the 13th, President Johnson signed Executive Order 11375, expanding affirmative action programs to women in an effort to end gender discrimination within the U.S. government. The Federal Women’s Program was established from the order “to enhance opportunities for women in every area of federal employment.”

Michigan Governor George Romney publicly responded to an article in the New York Law Journal, which had concluded upon a review of judicial interpretations of the natural-born-citizen clause in the U.S. Constitution, at Article II, section 1. Romney had been born to American parents while they were in Mexico in Chihuahua City. Romney, who was considering a campaign for the Republican Party nomination for President in 1968, said in Detroit, “I didn’t do anything to be an American citizen except to be born. I am a citizen naturally born.”





# 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!

## Have you got something to donate?

The Historical Society accepts most donations of antique and vintage photos, documents, or larger artifacts IF they are relevant to Ionia's history in some way. Please contact a board member for more information, and be sure to get a receipt for your donation—it may be tax-deductible! (We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.)

### Ionia County Historical Society 2018 Board of Directors & Officers

Linda Ciangi, President — 616-527-4945

Ally Cook, Vice President — 616-821-1406

Dave White, Director — 989-855-2350

Goose Elliott, Director — 616 755 2486

Stacy Tchorzinski, Director — 517-763-1770

David McCord, Secretary — 616-527-3784

Annette McCord, Interim Treasurer — 616-527-3784

Kathleen Cook, Treasurer — 616-527-2626

Barb Ehlert, House Rentals — 616-522-0844

For information on your long-lost relatives in Ionia,  
please contact the Ionia County Genealogy Society.