



the **CHRONICLE**

The Almost Monthly Publication of
the Ionia County Historical Society



Library Report

One of Ionia's most prominent historical buildings is the Hall-Fowler House, which has served the community as our library since 1903. It has been well known that the structure has been inadequate to the task for the past 50 years, and the Ionia Community Library is in desperate need of a better facility to serve the area with 21st-century services.

Library Director Dale Parus was recruited to address the Historical Society meeting on February 7th after our scheduled program was cancelled (thank you, Dale). He shared the status of the recent efforts to provide the Ionia area with a library that can bring us all modern information services and better access.

Of course, the concern of many citizens is "What will become of the Hall-Fowler house if a new Library is built?" These concerns are prominent in all the plans being considered, and many suggestions have been made.

The Historical Society is, of course, very concerned about the fate of the building as well. Speculations include establishing a genealogical library or research library there, or use part or all of the building to create a historical museum for the community.

Interested citizens are invited to a pair of public forums on the subject, to be held on March 13 and 22 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Main Street Music, 415 W. Main in Ionia. Please drop in and share your ideas, and learn the full story of our Library's needs and hopes.



The original plan for the February meeting was a tour of the L&D Hardware building, but the response was so great that the tour was cancelled due to safety concerns. We're hoping to have the building on the Upstairs-Downtown tour in May of this year.



ICHS Board Meeting Minutes

The December 20, 2018, Board Meeting was called to order by President Linda Ciangi at approx. 7:00 p.m. in the Blanchard house. The Treasurer's Report was distributed to the Board members with a brief summary from Annette M. (available on request).

The Building and Grounds Committee: The ICHS is in need of "handyman" services again - specifically to repair the ceiling and wall water damage in the dressing room. The need for a grounded outlet in the tea room was mentioned, due to the continuing use of computer and photographic gear in that room for the Accessions process. When the electrician comes by to work on the electrical in the basement, he will be asked to estimate the tea room upgrade as well. The humidifier in the basement needs work. The annual check-up for the furnaces has been done - it is an "automatic" annual service that Wilson's does for us at no charge. Also, the back door is ready to install, but the builder needs some help, and some good weather, to do the job. It was suggested to use leftover paint from the pantry project for the door.

Our guests for the Friday, Dec. 22nd rental asked permission to serve alcohol at their gathering. The Board approved the request. Barb Ehlert also noted that there are two rentals scheduled in January.

Monthly programs for 2018 were reviewed and are shaping up well. The overall calendar of events was reviewed briefly, and dates were set for Upstairs-Downtown Tours (May 19), the Cemetery Tour (Oct. 7), the Duck Race (Sept 15), and the Yard Sale sometime in September. July 12 will be the Queen's Reception and the Free Fair Parade, which brought up the call for volunteers to work on our parade float again this year. A possible bus tour for 2018 was mentioned (Greenfield Village or Gilmore's Auto Museum were candidates). Linda C. was considering a

display for the March 3rd Ionia Expo, still to be determined. She said that, due to the popularity of craft breweries, perhaps we could tie in some history of Ionia's breweries somehow.

Other items on the unfinished business list include the need for a Publicity Committee, an inventory of the property stored at the Sentinel-Standard building, and moving the items from the S&K storage area.

Stacy T. asked about donor recognition and this topic was reviewed, but no action taken.

Due to conflicting schedules, the Board discussed changes to their monthly meetings. It was decided to try meeting the LAST Wednesday of each month for a while and see if that works better.

The meeting was adjourned, the next Board meeting being scheduled for January 31st.

The January 31 Board Meeting was called to order by President Linda Ciangi shortly after 7:00 p.m. at the Blanchard House. Present were Linda C, Barb Ehlert, Dave White, Ally Cook, Lyle Joslyn, David & Annette McCord, Goose Elliott, Katie Mooney, and Shawna Hoekstra.

After congratulations to yours truly for the recent award from the Chamber of Commerce, President Ciangi asked for committee reports:

- The Treasurer's report was delivered by Annette McCord. She handed out a summary of the past month's transactions and current account balances to the Board members (available, as always, on request). Some minor income and expenses were passed to her at this time during the meeting which have only a minor affect on the report. (P.S. — Chamber dues have been paid as of this writing, however the Board did not vote to approve paying for the Expo booth for the March 3

event. The Board was solicited for approval via email after the meeting, and the motion passed.)

The records of the office are intended to be handed off to the new Treasurer, Kathleen Cook, on February 4th. Goose E. moved that Annette be removed from the checking account shortly thereafter, and Kathleen be added as an authorized signature. David McCord and David White would remain on the signature card. The motion was supported by Ally Cook and passed.

Finally, the forms were checked for the 2018 raffle, and it was concluded that one of the forms was not necessarily necessary. Prizes were discussed (1st = a free rental, 2nd = \$100 gas card, 3rd = \$50 gift certificate to the ICHS Gift Shoppe) and the drawing date set to be the last of our "Summer Sunday" tour days in late August. The Treasurer completed the forms and returned them to Linda C.

- The Building and Grounds Committee report consisted of a dialog between Linda C. and Dave White, Committee Chair. Linda has still not met on-site with the electrician regarding the outlet wiring in the basement or the addition of a grounded circuit to the second floor (tea room). The new back door has not been hung yet, waiting for fairer weather. Greg Cook has submitted an estimate for repairs to the dressing room wall and ceiling, but no action was taken on that issue during the meeting (still requires Board approval).

Degradation of the cement work on the front steps has aroused some concern also. There has been no progress with other maintenance or repair issues at this time. February 22nd will be a work day at the Blanchard House, and the city is scheduled to inspect the water system at the house that day.

- The Gift Shoppe chairman, Katie Mooney, mentioned that Kathleen Cook wanted some funds to purchase Ionia souvenir key chains to sell. Those present who have seen these were very supportive of the idea. Ally moved to approve \$100 which would buy 20 key chains. The motion was supported by Goose and passed. David M. noted that the last of the Free Fair books is now on site, as well as a new inventory of 25 "Journey of the Dexter Colony" books. Annette M. reported that she still has the device for scanning credit cards, and will return it to the Blanchard House soon. A collection of souvenirs from the Gift Shoppe will be on display and for sale at the Ionia Expo in March also.

- The Accessions Committee report was delivered by Shawna Hoekstra. For the sake of our newest Director, she reviewed the rules about the handling of collections within the house. A specific occurrence of items being moved without notification to the committee was discussed. Members were reminded that the committee's job is to keep records up to date about what's where, and must be notified when something is moved, even temporarily (meaning, for more than a day or two for a specific event or activity). She reported that the committee intends to have the Tea Room ready again for tours by the end of March, and informed the Board of some rearranging of furnishings in the tea room to make it more efficient for the committee. Help will be appreciated when this move happens. (Contact Shawna at sketch.48849@gmail.com if you'd like to help.) She noted the committee's opinion that their duties are best performed at the Blanchard House in most cases because (1) this is where most of the artifacts and documents are kept, (2) repeatedly moving them can cause damage (3) shuffling items between two sites would add management tasks to their process, and (4) most new acquisitions come to the Blanchard House, where initial evaluation takes place anyhow. Donations of new artifacts was discussed, and a suggestion was made to have a permanently placed box or bin where items can be put when they come in, and also where the necessary forms can be kept. It was decided to put a bin in the mud room under the microwave shelf as a trial location. It was also noted that a record of temporary movement of items (as mentioned above) could be kept in the same place. Shawna also mentioned that the Accessions Committee would like a pair of digital cameras to help with their digitization of the collections. Stacy T. noted the current grant (see below) for Accessions technology, and Goose said that he would look into camera options. David M. said he had a tripod and easel that he would donate (and still has the copy stand for photographing documents and small artifacts if the committee wants it).

Because ICHS property has not yet been moved out of the S&K storage room, Goose moved to pay another \$130 to S&K for rental of the space. The motion was supported by Ally and passed.

A pair of patriotic quilts had been donated by someone from Grand Ledge, which prompted further discussion of the Accessions Committee's acceptance criteria. All were reminded that the committee makes recommendations to the Board, but the Board has the final say in the disposition of donated items. A vote will be taken at the February Board meeting regarding the quilts, etc. It was also pointed out that the proper donation paperwork was not filed for these donations, and must be completed ASAP by the person who accepted the items.

- Barb Ehler's rental committee reports two parties scheduled, and she expects the usual springtime gatherings and graduation parties.

- In the Grants department (not really a committee), Stacy T. reported on the recent grant submission for new technology for the Accessions committee, being a powerful computer and "library scanner" (especially made for scanning books and large documents) totaling approximately \$1,975. The paperwork was submitted to the Ionia County Community Foundation (a copy is on file with the Secretary) and the Foundation's decision will be made in late February.

Stacy also shared some resources for historical organizations available from the National Parks Service and the Michigan Historical Preservation Network resource directory. She also passed a DVD to Dave White about historic preservation of windows. Linda C. mentioned that the Rotary Club of Ionia has some grant money, and she will learn more about that to share with the Board.

- The Program Committee still has a few unconfirmed programs, and will continue to coordinate with the Library's public programs for 2018. Currently the program schedule is as follows:

February 7, L&D Hardware Building Tour; March 7, A History of Vaudeville at the Ionia Theatre (hosted by the Library); April 4, What it Takes to Build a Road; May 2, Musical Program by Three Husbands on the Loose; June 6, Dave Cusack's "Can You Dig It" program on Michigan Archeology; July 4, the annual Independence Day Pot Luck; August 1, Al Bryant returns with The Lizzie Borden Story; September 5, TBD; October 3, Annual Meeting & Elections + program TBD; November 7, TBD; December 5, annual Holiday Pot Luck. There are three slots still open, for which the Board would be happy to take suggestions from the membership!

- No report from the Refreshments Committee, Membership Committee, or Publicity Committee at this meeting.

- Linda C. reported on the progress of her two major projects: First, the Ionia Murals Project, in which murals would be painted on the sides of buildings somewhat reminiscent of vintage advertisements. She said the Linda Curtis at the DDA is looking at matching grants. Stacy T. mentioned a resource called the "Historic Mural Program" online, and that we should be mindful of regulations and approvals that may be needed from the state due to the area's Historic District status. Linda C. said she would mention that concern to Jason Eppler, City Manager. Secondly, she has been promoting the Governor Green memorial at the Adams St. roundabout. She says she's heard support from the Corvette and Shelby Clubs, and others. She passed around a donation form for review and comment, noting that the ICHS would be accepting the donations, turning the funds over to the City when the project is ready to proceed. Shawna H. pointed out that public safety should be consulted about emergency vehicles needing to get through the roundabouts, concerned that a monument might get damaged. Linda will mention the concern to the landscape architect.

- The Ionia Expo is coming in early March, and Linda has suggested that we work with Karen Kindel to talk about the history of the Elks Club and the building, which Karen is presently working to restore. The Board was in favor of the idea, which Linda will pursue. Anyone who would like to help with this event, please contact Linda C.

- The Antique Village committee will be meeting at 2:00, February 7, at the Bluewater Café to discuss the theme for the displays and ideas that might be implemented there. Persons interested in helping with this

are encouraged to attend. Linda also mentioned that the Free Fair Float for this year needs volunteers, too.

- The OZ Festival Committee will be meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday the 8th at the DDA office. The ICHS has traditionally been quite involved in this event also, and interested parties are invited to help out. This year's event has been officially designated as "The Michigan Oz Festival" and will be held at the Fairgrounds. Many volunteers are needed, so please help if you can!

- Lyle Joslyn had asked at the January meeting if the ICHS would be interested in selling some ad space in the (almost monthly) newsletter, the Chronicle. After a bit of discussion, Dave White moved that we try out such a program, and charge \$25 for a business-card-sized ad in each issue. Lyle suggested putting it on the page beside a similar-sized ad to solicit more advertisers. Goose supported the motion, and it passed. Lyle will send David M. a mockup of an ad, and it will be included in the next issue. Payment procedures will be worked out with Kathleen C. The idea of online advertising (on the website) was mentioned briefly, but no action taken.

- David M. noted that a bit of work needs to be done on the website to accommodate the 2018 newsletter pages, and that said work will cost about \$100. No action was taken at this meeting, but a "remote vote" will be sought. (The Board did approve this expense in an email vote later.)

- David M. also has received a message that Fred Bishop has some vintage newspapers he would like to donate if we deem them to be of value. David will follow up with him.

- February 10 is the annual "Ag Dinner" at the Steele Street Hall - a fundraiser for the Ionia Free Fair Ag Department. Linda asked the Board about putting together a historic photo in a frame to auction off. She will talk to Bryan Kimble about choosing an appropriate photo from the archives.

- Linda supplied the Secretary with an inventory of the items currently being stored at the Sentinel-Standard building (with notes), and shared a membership list (including phone numbers) with the Board members.

* * *

The December monthly meeting was originally scheduled as a tour of the old L&D Hardware building at 410 West Main, but the response was so overwhelming that the tour had to be canceled. We hope to see the building on the Upstairs-Downtown Tour on May 19th, so please watch for more information.

The meeting opened at the Blanchard House with a review of upcoming events (see schedule). President Ciangi shared ideas to commemorate the Salem Train Wreck of 1907, specifically as a memorial observation with area churches, in June of this year. The members agreed with the idea. Stacy said she would get in touch with the Historical Society at Salem to let them know about the idea, too.

Linda also asked the members about opening our annual Yard Sale to other non-profit organizations, to expand the event and benefit other groups in the community. This will be an early September event this year. The members were in favor of this idea as well.

Also in September, the idea was put forth to partner with the Library for the Chamber's "After Hours" event. It's been six years since the ICHS hosted this, and sharing the hosting with the Library would benefit us both. The members also were in favor of this idea.

Dave Cook suggested that the ICHS consider a booth at the Oz Festival's "marketplace" to sell souvenirs and distribute information.

Linda C. gave a brief report on the use of the Sentinel-Standard storage area, and once the weather clears up, the need for help to move the items from storage at S&K. Anyone interested in helping with this effort, please contact Linda Ciangi.

Accessions is make great progress getting the Tea Room in shape for tours, as well as making their work space more efficient. Linda said she'd gotten a call from someone in Keene Township about scanning historical documents, stating that it would be nice if we could be a go-to resource for such services someday. (Keene went to Lowell for help.)

The Treasury has been passed from Annette McCord to Kathleen Cook, including the keys to the P.O. Box and the bookkeeping files, both physical and digital.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 for Dale Parus's presentation on the Library plans for this year (see story on page one).

* * *

LAST-MINUTE NEWS!

The Historical Society has received a grant from the Ionia County Community Foundation to help with the expense of technology for the Accessions Committee. Thanks to Stacy Tchorsynski for making this happen for us, and to the Foundation for their continuing support.

Our calendar of upcoming events.

Wednesday, February 28, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Board Meeting at the Blanchard House.

Saturday, March 3 — The Ionia Expo at the High School, featuring an ICHS booth with historic displays and souvenirs. (Volunteers welcomed!)

Wednesday, March 7, 7:00 p.m. — "A History of Vaudeville" will be presented at the Ionia Theatre, sponsored by the Ionia Community Library. There will also be a short presentation by the Lyons-Muir Historical Society, and refreshments.

Wednesday, March 27, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Board Meeting at the Blanchard House

Wednesday, April 4th, 7:00 p.m. — "What it Takes to Build a Road" presented by C&L trucking at the Blanchard House.

Wednesday, April 25th, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Board Meeting at the Blanchard House

* * *

Wednesday Afternoons are work sessions for the Accessions Committee, documenting the artifacts in the Historical Society's historical collections. If you would like to help with this effort, please contact Shawna Hoekstra, 616-430-1348.

Thursday afternoons are work sessions for housekeeping and displays. If you would like to help with this effort, please contact Linda Ciangi at 616-527-4945

NOTE: The work schedules are subject to change (mostly due to the weather).



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



THE WAYBACK MACHINE

January - February 1818:

On January 15, 1818, a proclamation by Lewis Cass, Governor of Michigan Territory, established Macomb County, the third in Michigan Territory. The county was named for General Alexander Macomb, a highly decorated veteran of the War of 1812.



On January 28, the US Congress extended the boundaries of Michigan Territory to bring present-day Minnesota into its domain. Taking effect in April, this configuration would remain until the creation of Wisconsin Territory in 1836.

Inspired by the coming statehood of Illinois and Indiana, Gov. Cass called for an election to decide if Michigan should apply for Statehood and for official representation in the U.S. legislature. That election (held Feb 16) failed, mostly due to the cost involved.

This month also saw the early conflicts with the State of Ohio over the border between it and Michigan. It would evolve into a significant struggle known as the "Toledo War."

After a number of additional States had been admitted to the Union, a resolution was offered in Congress appointing a committee to alter the U.S. flag. They entered a bill on that stated "from and after the 4th day of July, 1818, the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternated red and white; that the union have twenty stars, white, on a blue field. And it further enacted, that on the admission of every new State into the Union, one star be added to the union of the flag, and that such addition shall take effect on the 4th of July next succeeding such admission." (The arrangement of the stars and order of the colored stripes were not specified.)

February saw the birth of two prominent figures in the U.S. struggle for unity and racial equality. Austin Blair was born on February 8 in Caroline, New York. He would later be elected Governor of Michigan and become known as the "Civil War Governor." On the 14th in Tuckahoe, Maryland, Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey was born into slavery. Raised by his grandparents, he only saw his mother four or five times before she died when he was seven. He later changed his name to Frederick Douglass, famous orator and civil rights activist.

January - February 1868:

Father Irenaeus Frederic Baraga passed away on January 19th. He was a Slovenian Roman Catholic missionary to the United States and grammarian of Native American languages. He became the first bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Marquette, Michigan, originally sited at Sault Sainte Marie, which he led for



Continues...

Our 2018 Calendar of Programs

March: "History of Vaudeville" and Lyons-Muir Historical Society - at the Ionia Theatre

April: "Road Building" at the Blanchard House

May: History through Music, presented by Three Husbands on the Loose

June: Dave Cusack's "Can You Dig It" program about Michigan Archeology

August: Al Bryant presents "Lizzie Borden"

AND MORE TO COME...

(Subject to change. Check the Facebook page for info.)

- Do you have storage facilities that need to be emptied out?
- Do you have an estate that needs to be liquidated?
- Are you looking to hold an auction sale?
- Are you looking for someone to buy o
- entire house or building contents?
- I can help!
- Lyle Joslyn, Auctioneer
- Ionia - 616-204-3113
- bluesprucegrower@yahoo.com



If you would like your business to join in support for the Historical Society, contact our Treasurer, Kathleen Cook, for information on the Business Buddy program, or to place an ad in the next issue of the Chronicle!

Thanks to our
ICHS "Business Buddies"

Dan Balice

Darin Elliott

Larry Heffelfinger

Lyle Joslyn

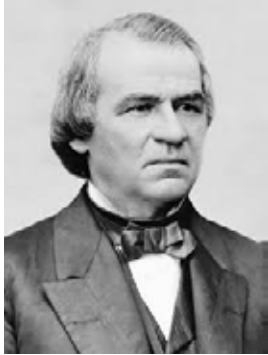
Glen Rairigh

Todd Reurink

Rich and Lindsay Thompson

15 years. His letters about his missionary work were published widely in Europe and he was honored as 'Venerable' by the Church.

On February 16 in New York City, the "Jolly Corks" organization was renamed the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE). And on February 24, the first parade to have floats took place at Mardi Gras in New Orleans.



The U.S. House of Representatives voted on February 24, 1868, to impeach the president. During the years immediately following the Civil War, President Andrew Johnson clashed repeatedly with the Republican-controlled Congress over reconstruction of the defeated South. Johnson vetoed legislation that Congress passed to protect the rights of those who had been freed from slavery. When the trial concluded on

March 16, the president had won acquittal, not because a majority of senators supported his policies but because a sufficient minority wished to protect the office of president and preserve the constitutional balance of powers.

It was a cold winter in mid-Michigan, too: Lansing hit their all-time record low temperature in February at -37°F.



January-February 1918

In January, Albert Sleeper (pictured here) took office as Governor of Michigan. He would serve two terms.

December 1917 through January 1918 still stands today as the coldest and snowiest December-January period ever recorded. The snows in early mid-January 1918 came in two storms one on January 6th and 7th and then the second one on January 11th and 12th. At Grand Rapids the mean temperature for the month was 18.4°F and 45" of snow was reported. Every station in Michigan reported snow during the month. Saginaw/Bay City reported -23 degrees, and Kalamazoo hit -22.

January-February 1968

February brought record snowfalls in the southern United States. Sanannah, Georgia, had more snowfall than New York City; Mobile Alabama had more than Omaha, Nebraska; Baton Rouge, Louisiana, saw more snow than Helena, Montana. Most of Michigan experienced above normal snowfall this month as well. And speaking of ice...American figure skater Peggy Fleming took the gold medal in women's figure skating at the 1968 Winter Olympic Games in Grenoble, France.



Dr. Timothy Leary held a press conference in New York City on February 21, 1968. The LSD advocate said he was tuning in with "Peaceniks and Yippies" and hoped to have a million young people in Chicago during the Democratic Party's convention in August. He hoped, along with peace-movement organizers Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin, that they would disrupt the convention through "Flower Guerrilla" warfare.

The history of *featuring* Dr. Tim Connors of CMU
VAUDEVILLE



March 7
7 PM

Hosted at the Ionia Theatre

Program provided by the

 **Ionia**
Community Library
Enriching Your Life

SOUVENIRS

MEMORIES & MOMENTOS **IONIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** **HERITAGE & HISTORY**

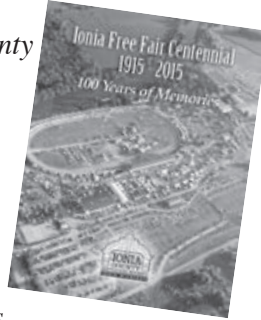
The newest addition to our collection of Ionia County memorabilia, the masterwork for 2016:

Ionia Free Fair Centennial 1915-2015

100 Years of Memories

Compiled by David McCord with the help of many contributors, this 8.5 x 11 inch book contains 328 pages of history and over 1,000 photos and graphics.

Softcover: \$29.95 / Hardcover: \$44.95 (add \$5 for postage)



< Do you have your souvenir Ionia History blanket yet? This attractive heavy throw is large, warm, and looks great in anyone's home. Available in shades of gray or burgundy. \$75 for this beautiful souvenir of Ionia. (\$65 for ICMS Members).

DVD Video on the history of Ionia's major employer for nearly 100 years, produced by students at Ferris State University and shown on public television throughout the country. Only \$10 for the former factory employee in YOUR family!



Historic DVD Videos

'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

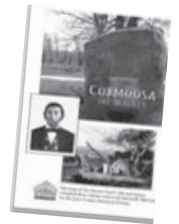
1937 Ionia Airport Inaugural plus Bertha Brock Park's 1940 "Winter Festival"

1973 Ionia Centennial Documentary

"Ionia's First 150 Years" and "Ionia - A Look Back" - Films by Monroe MacPherson

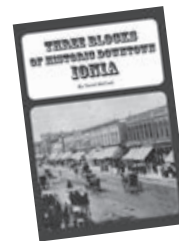
DVDs are available for \$10 each!

Cobmoosa: The Great Walker — A biography of the last Great Chief of the Grand River Indians. by David McCord. \$6 each



Who Was John C. Blanchard? A biography of one of Ionia's leading businessmen. by David McCord. \$6 each

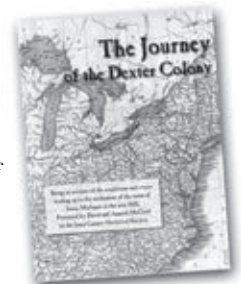
A History of Bertha Brock Park on its 80th "Birthday" by David McCord. \$6 each



Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Ionia - 40 pages of history by David McCord. \$5 each

The Journey of the Dexter Colony, 1833, by David and Annette McCord. A detailed history of the settling of Ionia, fully illustrated.

\$12 each
(\$15 with postage)



ALSO AVAILABLE:

Reproductions of historic Ionia publications:

- 1887 "Headlight Flashes" Special Ionia Edition
- 1907 Ionia Souvenir Book
- 1973 Ionia City Centennial Program Book
- Antique Ionia Postcards
- Antique Ionia Photographs

AND MORE!

IONIA-MADE AUTOMOBILES



A new addition to the ICMS Gift Shoppe, the 18x24-inch poster on heavy gloss paper sells for \$15, and the packet of NINE "Made in Ionia" automobile postcards are just \$10. (Artwork by David McCord; proceeds go to the ICMS.)



IONIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

IONIA MICHIGAN



P.O. Box 176 • 251 East Main Street • Ionia, MI 48846
www.ioniahistory.org

From the President:

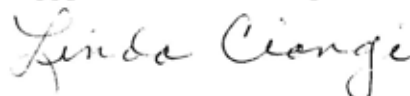
On President's Day 2018 it is a joy to share this article from **The Ionia Sentinel** of January 6, 1886 with a first-hand account of the Gettysburg Address.

Lincoln at Gettysburg. Mr. John Russell Young, ex-United States minister to China, is now on the high road to recovering from his latest severe attack of eastern fever. He has been telling some of his interesting reminiscences and among others relates the following: "The celebration at Gettysburg was on Cemetery hill. I was sent to report it for the press. I sat behind Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Everett delivered the oration. I remember the great orator had a way of raising and dropping his handkerchief as he spoke. He spoke for two hours, and was very impressive, with his white hair and venerable figure. He was a great orator, but it was like a bit of Greek sculpture - beautiful, but cold as ice. It was perfect art, but without feeling. The art and beauty of it captured your imagination and judgment. Mr. Everett went over the campaign with resonant, clear, splendid rhetoric (sp). There was not a word, or a sentence, or a thought that could be corrected. You felt that every gesture had been carefully studied out beforehand. It was like a great actor playing a great part. Mr. Lincoln rose, walked to the edge of the platform, took out his glasses and put them on. He was awkward. He bowed to the assemblage in his homely manner, and took out of his coat pocket a page of foolscap. In front of Mr. Lincoln was a photographer with his camera, endeavoring to take a picture of the scene. We all supposed that Mr. Lincoln would make rather a long speech - a half-hour at least. He took the single sheet of foolscap, held it almost to his nose, and in his high tenor voice, without the least attempt for effect, delivered that most extraordinary address which belongs to the classics of literature. The photographer was bustling about, preparing to take the president's picture while he was speaking, but Mr. Lincoln finished before the photographer was ready. I remember it was a beautiful October day, and there were four or five thousand people present. Very few heard what Mr. Lincoln said, and it was a curious thing that his remarkable words should have made no particular impression at the time. The noticeable thing was the anxiety of all on the platform that the photographer should be able to get his picture. I remember we were all very much disappointed at his failure, and were more interested in his adventure than in the address."

And now Back to the Future. Our secretary, David McCord, is a gifted song writer, musician, costume designer, graphic artist, author and volunteer. He has been honored as the 2018 Ionia County Citizen of the Year by the Ionia Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations! We are proud of you and appreciate your many gifts.

Next Time: Experiences of an Indian Trader in the Grand River Valley. From **The Ionia Sentinel** of January 12, 1886.

Happy Valentine's Day.



Linda Ciangi
Honored to be Your President.



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!

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 Tchorzynski, Director — 517-763-1770
- David McCord, Secretary — 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.
<http://ionia.migenweb.net/ICGS/icgshome.htm>