



The City Streets

The Historical Society welcomed Chad Listerman of C&L Trucking to the Blanchard House on April 4th. Chad has been in the excavation business for 25 years and that experience has included working on many projects for the city, repairing and reconstructing streets.

He spoke about typical street projects for the city, which take on average four months to complete. The crews follow an engineer's directions precisely, trusting that all technical challenges and regulations have been accounted for. The process begins with notifications to the residents and business, provisions for access during the project, and all the utilities involved (water, power, gas, cable, sewer, storm drains, etc.). "Paving season," said Mr. Listerman, "is generally between May 1st and Thanksgiving." CL works all around mid-Michigan for municipalities and developers, utility upgrades and new installations in subdivisions.

The find all kinds of things under the streets! This includes the artifacts of earlier construction, such as the famous wooden water mains (that are still being dug up around Ionia). There have been bones and tools and glassware found as well - but no buried treasure. Outside the cities and villages, signs of old "corduroy roads" are still found—roads built by laying logs side-by-side as a road surface.

Many thanks to Chad for his presentation, and to CL Trucking for their expertise in road-building - more than meets the eye!



The photo above is from the early 20th century when Ionia's Main Street got its first layer of bricks installed. The street surface, and every street in the city, has gone through improvements over the years. To the left is a wood water pipe similar to the ones that served Ionia's citizens for nearly a century.

ICHS News and Information:

The ICHS News in this issue is based on the minutes of the March 28 Board Meeting and the April 4th Program Meeting (as edited by D. McCord, Secretary).

The monthly Board meeting was held at the Blanchard House on March 28th. Present were Barb Ehlert, Stacy Tchorzynski, Goose Elliott, Dave White, and David McCord. Ally Cook and Lyle Joslyn arrived shortly after the meeting opened. This report includes also notes from the Meeting of April 4th which were shared by Linda Ciangi before our presentation (see story above).

The president summarized the March 3rd Ionia Expo event, noting thanks to those who helped with the event, and especially to Karen Kindel who now owns the Elks Building for her help and attendance with a display of Elks Club memorabilia. Linda also shared a list of new additions to the inventory at the Sentinel-Standard storage facility.

- The Treasurer's Report: Kathleen Cook, was not able to attend, and no report was submitted. Also for the record, it was confirmed that Kathleen C. is acting as chairperson for the Finance Committee.

- Rental Committee: Barb Ehlert reported no new rentals, but some tentative rentals coming up.

- Accessions Committee: Mary Kimble reported by way of email to David M. as follows: The "tea room" is nearly ready for summer visitors, and again reminds everyone not to move anything in the room, into the room, or out of the room, as it's all part of the inventory process at this time. Technology-wise, Mary has the ICHS laptop at her home entering data from their inventory efforts. She hopes to have it back on site very soon. She has ordered the external hard drive previously discussed so that all the data and photo archives will be properly stored and backed up. The committee reminds the Board that a properly grounded electrical outlet is still a critical need in that room also.

Linda C. noted that Barb Hogan, although she is out of town 8 to 10 weeks per year, remains a valued part of the accessions efforts. She also noted that, while the Accessions Committee works primarily on Wednesdays, Barb still prefers to work on Thursdays. Linda also said that, because the Thursday afternoon work sessions have been going on for a long time, many folks assume that it's the day for dropping off donations. (Editor's Note: The previously discussed "donation bin" for the pantry has not yet been acquired.)

At the general meeting on April 4, Barb E. said that she had documentation for the collection of clothing and textile goods to add to the Accessions database. A meeting will be arranged to discuss the topic further.

- Building and Grounds / Maintenance Committee: Dave White's to-do list continues to grow. Since the winter has taken its toll, the eave troughs on the house need some repairs. Inside the house, plaster and repainting upstairs will hopefully be done in time for the Spring Into The Past event on May 5 & 6. There has been no progress on the electrical work or the installation of the new back door. Mary Kimble pointed out that the medallion above the gasolier on the second floor landing appeared to be broken. (After the meeting was adjourned the medallion was inspected and Goose E. took some photos of the situation.)

- Gift Shop Committee: Katelyn Mooney was not present to give a report at the Board meeting.

Upcoming events and activities:

On April 19th, the Ionia Literary Council will present an Adult Spelling Bee at Steele Street Hall. At the April 4 meeting, the members of the ICHS approved the donation of a Free Fair book to their event.

May starts off with a program by local entertainers "Three Husbands

Continues...

"News" continued from page 1:

on the Loose" who will (with help from some special guests) present a historical musical program. This year's theme is "War Songs" - popular songs from the war years, going back two centuries!

The annual Tri-River Historical Museum Network's "Spring Into The Past" season-starter will be May 5 and 6. The Blanchard House will be open to the public both days along with the other 32 member museums in the group. The theme again this year is "Fashion through the Ages," and Barb E. will select some historic clothing from the collection to be put on display. Volunteers are needed to be hosts for the event, and encouraged to be in "historic costume." David M. is working with the Tri-River group to coordinate publicity. Boy Scout Troop 85 will be doing a flag-raising ceremony to open the weekend's activities.



May 19th will be the annual Upstairs Downtown tours, and once again the Cooks are in charge of the arrangements. Still in the early stages of organization, further plans will be reported as we get closer to the event. As usual, the Literary Club meets at the Blanchard House that day, too, and Linda C. will be at that meeting as member-on-site.

June will be another busy month also, beginning on Saturday the 3rd with the Cruisers car show on Main Street. The Historical Society will have a souvenir booth set up with the usual gift items on sale, plus the new "Cars Made in Ionia" posters and postcards.

June 8 and 9 is the Michigan Oz Festival to be held this year at the Fairgrounds. Several ICHS members are involved in the event. The following weekend (June 15,16,17) is the Ionia Farm Power Show at the Fairgrounds with lots of antiques on display, this year featuring a Working Truck Show as well.



Ionia Free Fair involvement takes several forms this year.

The president called for a committee to be formed to work on the parade float. Ally Cook volunteered to head up the project, with the theme being

"Ionia's 185th Birthday." She will notify everyone when a meeting is set for the task. Linda noted that she's also hoping to have classic cars to represent the ICHS in the parade as well.

A chairperson is needed for the Queen's Reception at the Blanchard House before the parade. Linda will check with Carol Gallagher, who has done it before. The need will be taken to the general membership if Carol declines.

Linda C. and David M. have started working with Rocky Nelson on the Antique Village display which will feature "The Factory." It is assumed that another meeting will be called soon.



In Ionia, visit our museum at the John C. Blanchard House!
Our website: ioniahistory.org

Get our booklet with maps at any museum or download a PDF at www.commoncorners.com

Thanks to our ICHS "Business Buddies"

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

Other items discussed at the Board Meeting:

Stacy T. has found out about some additional grants that we might qualify for. She also brought information from the Michigan Historic Preservation Network having a conference on May 17-19 in East Lansing. Stacy is in charge of a "scholarship" program for that conference that will pay attendance for seven applicants. She encouraged our Board members to apply.

David M. reported that he and Annette had visited the G.A.R. Museum in Eaton Rapids recently and found it an impressive little museum. The next Tri-River meeting will be held there on April 17th. He also reported that he will be taking a Social Media class through the Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the Historical Society. The class is free, and focuses on promotion thru Facebook and other such media. An email was received from the Michigan Festivals and Events Association inviting the ICHS to join their organization. David agreed to look into it. (I did, and found that the DDA via Linda Curtis is already a member. Will discuss it further with her. - DM) Finally, he reported that several boxes of vintage movies, audio tapes, and slides had been inventoried according to the Accessions Committee's standards and are ready to be moved from his house to storage at the Sentinel-Standard facility. (This has since been done. - DM)

The Ionia Community Library continues to gather information from folks in their service area on Library use and future plans. The Historical Society collaborative programs with the Library have gone well, and hopefully will continue apace this year. All are encouraged to voice their opinions on the Library's future at public forums, online media, and surveys.

In preparation for the season of visitors, Mary K. and Shawna H. thanked their family members for help with cleaning at the house: Lucy Kimble and the Hoekstra girls.

At the April 4th meeting, Linda talked about the city of Ionia's water system, showing a piece of the old wooden water pipes that have recently been excavated, and about the old waterworks on Jackson street. The subject came up due to the recent reconstruction of Hacket Street (where Linda resides) and all that goes into such a task. She then introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Chad Listerman. (See story on page 1.)

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!

Our calendar of upcoming events.

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

Wednesday, May 2, 7:00 p.m. at the Blanchard House — Three Husbands on the Loose (and Friends) present some history through music. This year, “War Songs”, songs that were popular during America’s war years over 2 centuries.

Saturday, May 5 & Sunday, May 6 — “Spring Into the Past” sponsored by the Tri-River Museums Network opens the 2018 season. Free admission to all Tri-River museums, including Ionia. (See ad.)

Saturday, May 19 — the annual Upstairs/Downtown tours in Ionia. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** Please contact Ally Cook if you’d like to help.

Wednesday, May 30. 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Board Meeting at the Blanchard House

Wednesday, June 6, 7:00 p.m. — Dave Cusack presents “Can You Dig It”, his popular program about Michigan Archeology

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

Wednesday, July 4, 6:00 p.m. — The annual Independence Day pot-luck dinner at the Blanchard House - Public welcomed!

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

Wednesday, August 1st: Al Bryant presents “Lizzie Borden” 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.



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

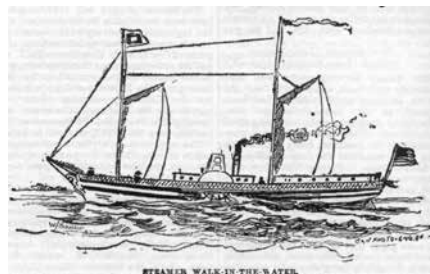


THE WAYBACK MACHINE

1818 -

Fort Gadsden in Florida was isolated from the rest of the U.S. Any visitor meant an influx of long-overdue news of the rest of the country. With the coming of Major Hogan, the new paymaster, in April of 1818 in the heat of the First Seminole War, came startling news of Indians murdering whites in Alabama and an army of Indians gathering in nearby Pensacola. General Jackson ordered artillery and ammunition and readied his troops for war.

During the first half of the 19th century, innovations in transportation made traveling faster, easier, and cheaper. The steamboat was the first to impact travel to Detroit. Before the steamboat, travel



between Buffalo, and Detroit took a month. In April 1818, the first steamboat on the Great Lakes, named the Walk-in-the-Water, made the trip in 44 hours and 10 minutes.

When Indiana (1816) and Illinois (1818) joined the Union, remnants of their territories were joined to Michigan Territory. On April 18, 1818, an area equal to 30 townships was also transferred from Michigan Territory to Indiana to allow that state access to Lake Michigan. Soon afterward, the federal government rapidly began signing treaties with local Indian tribes and acquiring their lands.

Also during April, the international boundary between Canada and the United States in upper Lake Huron was finally set, resulting in Michigan’s undisputed control over Drummond Island after three years of surveys and negotiations.

1868 -

The Treaty of Fort Laramie (also called the Sioux Treaty of 1868) was an agreement between the United States and the Oglala, Miniconjou, and Brulé bands of Lakota people, Yanktonai Dakota and the Arapaho Nation



signed on April 29, guaranteeing the Lakota ownership of the Black Hills, and further land and hunting rights in South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana. The Powder River Country was to be henceforth closed to all whites. General William Tecumseh Sherman presided over the signing of the treaty, which ended Red Cloud’s War.

Southern states were in the process of fully rejoining the Union. In April 1868, voters in South Carolina and Louisiana approved their new state constitutions, accepting terms of reunification. This action ended martial law in those states which had been established at the close of the Civil War.

Wayback Machine - Continued...

In Covert, MI, up the coast from Benton Harbor, a farmer named Dawson Pompey (nearly 70 years of age) set off to make history. He decided to run for public office as a highway overseer in the township, where roads were raw and hacked through the forest.

It was illegal for a black man such as Mr. Pompey to vote in Michigan, much less stand for office. (The 14th and 15th Amendments, guaranteeing equal rights in the voting booth, were still unratified.) Dozens of white men in Covert Township elected Dawson Pompey an overseer - a first in the state of Michigan, and elsewhere.

1918 -

The War to End All Wars raged on in Europe.

The war in the air set several major milestones during the month of April. The Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service merged to form the Royal Air Force, the first autonomous air force in the world. The first parachute was used in combat, when a German pilot successfully bailed out of a damaged Albatros fighter before it hit the ground.

On April 21, German flying ace Manfred von Richthofen, better known as "The Red Baron", died in combat at Morlancourt Ridge near the Somme River. Credit for his kill was given to Canadian pilot Roy Brown, but it was disputed by others who claimed that von Richthofen was killed by ground fire from Australian artillery gunners Sergeant Cedric Popkin, Snowy Evans or Robert Buie. The German war ace's record total of 80 victories would not be exceeded until June 1941. Two days later, Lieutenant Paul Baer shot down his fifth aircraft, becoming the first flying ace of the American Expeditionary Force, and on the 29th, American pilot Eddie Rickenbacker scored his first victory, shooting down a German fighter near Baussant, France. He would become the top-scoring American ace of the war.



Canadian militia exchanged fire with armed protesters against conscription in Quebec City on Easter Monday, resulting in five deaths and hundreds of injuries. Total damages from the weekend of rioting were estimated at \$300,000.

"I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established

upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

"I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."

"The American's Creed" - Written 1917, accepted by the United States House of Representatives on April 3, 1918.

1968 -

The 249th and final original episode of The Andy Griffith Show was aired on CBS on April 1, two days after Andy Griffith's retirement was revealed to the general public. The final episode was a pilot for Mayberry R.F.D., with the focus on Ken Berry in his fourth appearance as Sam Jones. Griffith would make one more appearance as Andy Taylor in the series premiere of Mayberry R.F.D.

Also in the entertainment world, Stanley Kubrick's classic sci-fi film 2001: A Space Odyssey premiered at the Uptown Theater in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his final speech, later known as "I've Been to the Mountaintop", outside the Masonic Temple in Memphis on April 3rd. The next day, he was assassinated as he stood on a balcony at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis.

U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968 into law on the 11th of April, which included the Fair Housing Act as its Title VIII section. For the first time, it was a violation of federal law for a homeowner to refuse to



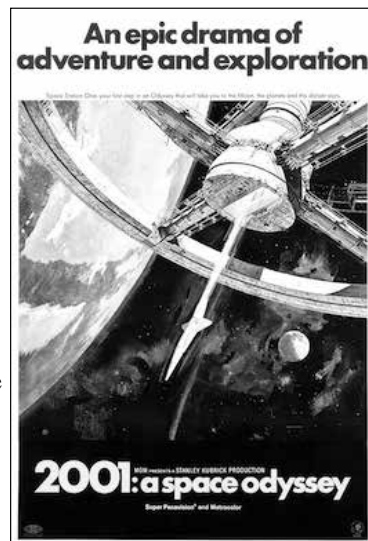
sell or rent a dwelling to a person based upon race, color, religion, or national origin.

On April 26, the largest hydrogen bomb ever tested by the United States was detonated

underground at the Nevada Test Site, with a blast so powerful that it registered at 6.5 on the Richter Scale and shook buildings 100 miles away in Las Vegas. The crater formed by the weapon was 300 feet wide and 50 feet deep.

Also on that day, an estimated 200,000 college and high school students in New York City failed to show up for school after a call for a nationwide protest by the Student Mobilization Committee To End the War In Vietnam. Although that number seems huge, the call was not as successful beyond the New York area as organizers hoped.

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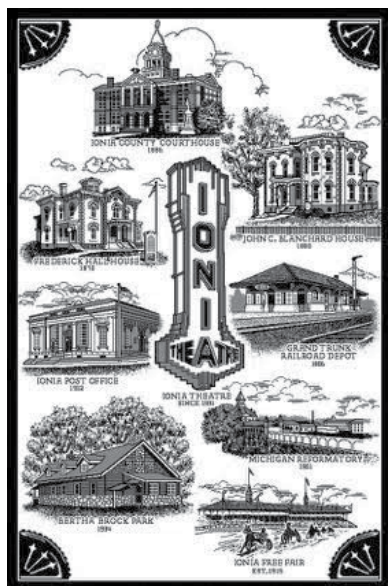
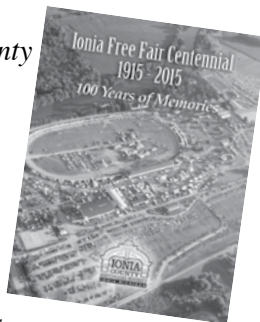
The newest addition to our collection of Ionia County memorabilia, the masterwork for 2016:

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 ICHS 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!



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 ICHS 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 ICHS.)

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

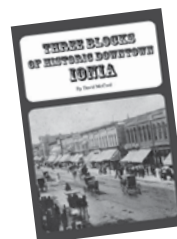
DVDs are available for \$10 each!

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

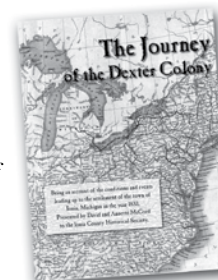
A History of Bertha Brock Park on its 80th "Birthday" by David McCord. \$6 each



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)





the CHRONICLE

www.ioniahistory.org

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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

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For information on your long-lost relatives in Ionia,
please contact the Ionia County Genealogy Society.
<http://ionia.migenweb.net/ICGS/icgshome.htm>