



# Busy Summer!



*Hurrah for the women of the Ionia County Historical Society (and friends) as they commemorate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in the State of Michigan! Above: marching proudly in the Ionia Free Fair parade, and below posing on the steps of the court house.*



## ICHS News and Information:

### Minutes of the Board Meeting of June 27, 2018:

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 by Vice-President Ally Cook in the absence of President Linda Ciangi. Present were Dave White, Kathleen Cook, Tracy Tchorzynski, and David McCord.

The Secretary's report was accepted as published in the Chronicle.

Copies of the Treasurer's report were shared by Kathleen Cook, noting total income for the previous month of \$311.92 and expenditures of \$1,614.71. Several invoices are in hand to be paid amounting to approx. \$750 (for DVD cases, Hardcover IFF books, postage & printing costs). The balance in the general fund checking account is \$15,827.83. She also reported that there are some papers to be signed by designated officers at the M-1 Credit Union for one of our Certificates of Deposit renewals.



Lizzie Borden took an axe,  
 And gave her mother forty whacks;  
 When she saw what she had done,  
 She gave her father forty-one.



Find out what REALLY happened (maybe) that morning in August of 1892. Al Bryant will share the whole story at the ICHS meeting on August 1st!

There was no report from the Accessions Committee, noting that health and busy summer schedules have hindered progress a bit. Kathleen C. has been learning about their accessioning system so she can help. (NOTE: Some items are received that are noted by the donor as "to be sold" to raise funds for the ICHS. The Board assumes this would be noted on the Accessions form in the "notes" space until further notice from the committee.)

Dave White, chairman of the building and grounds maintenance committee, took the Board members on a short tour of the grounds, reviewing many repair and maintenance tasks that are approaching the critical stage. He pointed out many small items and a few major ones that need attention. The Board asked Dave to compile and submit a plan of action and a budget to address these issues in one comprehensive proposal. Upon Board approval, Dave would be given sole responsibility to get those things done.

*Continues...*

“News” continued from page 1:

Barb Ehlert, Rental Chairman, was out of town, but the calendar shows a rental of the Blanchard House is scheduled for August 11.

Ally and Tracy have been working on an idea for the Free Fair parade to commemorate the centennial of women’s suffrage in Michigan. Dave White moved to approve \$200 to support the effort for signage and publicity costs; the motion was supported by Ally and passed. They also said they would have Mike Miller’s Ford Model T in the parade with them as well. It was suggested to offer the car’s owner a gas card in return for his participation, but no vote was taken to approve it.

The Tri-River Historical Museums Network annual luncheon is coming up on the 17th at the Belrockton in Belding. The cost is \$12 per plate, and the program will be a team showcasing historical fashions. David McCord also noted that the annual Tri-River Bus Tour is coming (Sept. 27) visiting several museums for only \$50 per ticket. He also noted that the 2019 Tri-River Guidebook editors will be seeking advertisers again, and asked the Board to renew our traditional ad. Ally moved to invest the \$65 for the ad, Dave White supported, and it passed.

David M. reported that a case of new DVD cases arrived, as well as a new batch of 25 hardcover Free Fair books for the gift shop.

Linda C. sent along an update to the inventory at the Sentinel-Standard storage facility. More seldom-seen and large items are being moved there to open up space for use in and around the carriage house, and in the Blanchard House as well. Linda C. asked the Board to consider getting a ShopVac for the Sentinel-Stand facility to help keep things tidy.

The 2018 Yard Sale will be on Sept. 7 & 8 this year. Linda Ciangi will chair the event - details to come.

The Cemetery Tour will be early this year. Due to schedule conflicts, Sunday, September 30th we’ll host the event once more at Highland Park Cemetery. Kathleen shared a checklist of tasks to be done to manage the event. David M. pointed out that an early start on the tour’s subjects would be nice to facilitate doing the research and gathering our presenters.

The Oz Festival (despite the weather) was a big success at the Fairgrounds, and will be there again in June of 2019. (Although not a direct ICHS project, many of our members are involved.)

Thanks to Goose Elliott for help on a recent Work Day, and to Gordon Wright for help during Sunday tours. Tours have been slow this summer so far, and it must be stressed that we need volunteers to keep the house open on Sunday afternoons.

It’s been suggested that our next Board Meeting be held at the Sentinel-Standard storage area so the Board can see the progress that’s been made there, and the efficacy of the overall plan. The Board agreed, and so the next Board Meeting will be there at 7:00 p.m. on July 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

— D. McCord, Secretary, July 6, 2018

**Thanks to our  
ICHS “Business Buddies”**

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

**PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!**

**Volunteers are still needed for our Summer Sundays at the Blanchard House! If you can possibly spare a few hours for the cause, please contact a Board Member right away! (Phone numbers are on the back page.)  
...or just drop in!**

**Our calendar of upcoming events.**

**SUMMER SUNDAYS** at the Blanchard House -  
*Still looking for volunteers from 1:00 to 4:00 to host our visitors to the house!*

Wednesday, July 25, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Board Meeting at the Sentinel-Standard Storage Facility (Located behind the Sentinel office)

Wednesday, August 1st, 7:00 p.m. — Al Bryant returns with his presentation on *“Lizzie Borden”* at the Blanchard House

Wednesday, August 29, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Board Meeting at the Blanchard House

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 7:00 p.m. — Shawna Hoekstra will present *“Thunderstorm Formation and How a Microburst Changed My Life.”*

Friday and Saturday, September 7 & 8, brings the Annual ICHS **“Yard Sale”** at the Blanchard House. Vendors please contact Linda Ciangi!

Sunday, Sept 30th, at Highland Park Cemetery, the annual **“Spirits of Ionia’s Past”** Cemetery Tour! More details coming soon.

Thursday evenings 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



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



# SOUVENIRS

MEMORIES & MOMENTOS IONIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HERITAGE & HISTORY

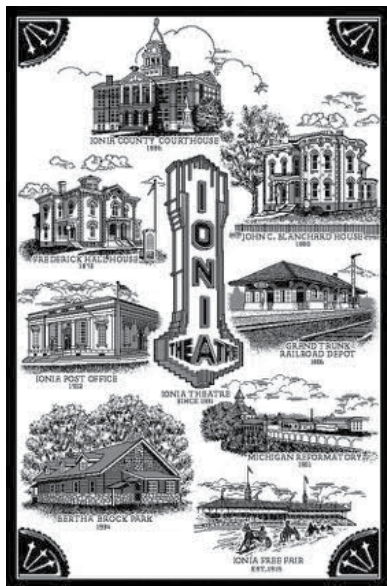
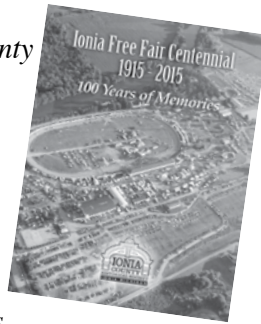
The newest addition to our collection of Ionia County memorabilia, the masterwork for 2016:

## 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 ICBS 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!



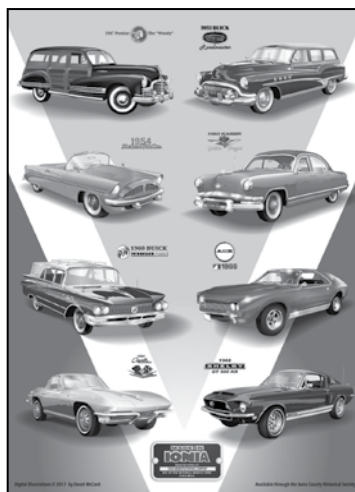
### ALSO AVAILABLE:

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 ICBS 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 ICBS.)

### 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

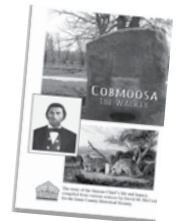
1937 Ionia Airport Inaugural plus Bertha Brock Park's 1940 "Winter Festival"

1973 Ionia Centennial Documentary

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

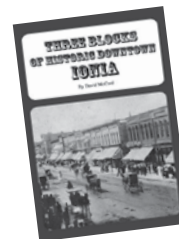
DVDs are available for \$10 each!

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

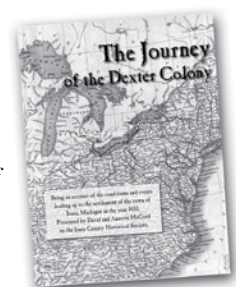
A History of Bertha Brock Park on its 80th "Birthday" by David McCord. \$6 each



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)



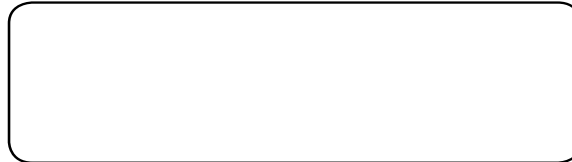




# the [www.ioniahistory.org](http://www.ioniahistory.org) **CHRONICLE**

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 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>