



A SUDDEN STORM!

Major Shawna Hoekstra of the Civil Air Patrol (and member of our own Accessions Committee) related a tale she called “Lessons from J6.” She began with a lesson in environmental science, explaining (by means of a diagram) how thunder storms work - how they form, how they evolve, and why much of their behavior is unpredictable. Specifically, she talked about a “microburst” wherein extremely powerful, high-speed winds can be generated in a sudden downdraft.

The next part of the presentation she called “Christmas Kneeboard.” A kneeboard is a small clipboard which airplane pilots and crew strap to their leg just above the knee, and where they can refer to information handily and write flight data. On this particular occasion, Shawna had a kneeboard that had been a recent Christmas present in a light backpack.

A training mission had been planned, and the crew were all in attendance at the G.R. Ford International Airport, but the skies looked threatening so they called off the mission at the last minute. As they began the routine to put their gear back into storage, the crew stepped out of the hangar to look up at the storm clouds.

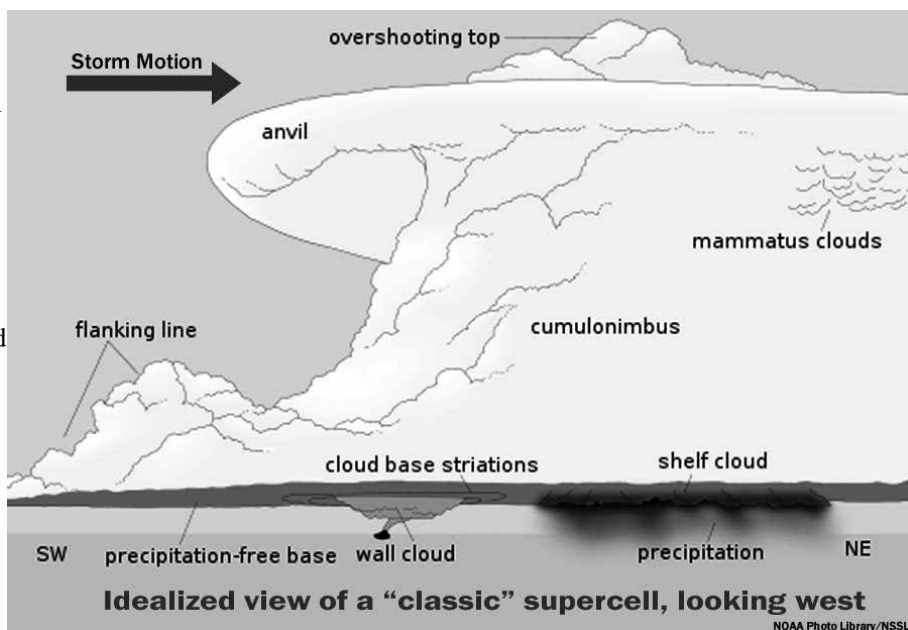
What they saw were “boiling” clouds. Within seconds of this they heard a bizarre roaring sound, and sudden high-powered winds slammed into them. Crewmen were pushed to the ground and there were pieces of equipment moving about. The door to the hangar was lifted in an instant, hurling two of the men through the air.

Just as suddenly, the furious winds stopped and heavy rains descended from the heavy black clouds, instantly flooding the pavement. Looking up, they all were astonished to find that the hangar they had just been in was gone. Shawna had been struck in the back by some flying object (she suspected it might have been a ladder), but she was saved from serious injury by the “Christmas Kneeboard” in her backpack.

Shawna said the great lesson she brought away from this experience was based on the phrase “Survivor vs. Victim.” She said she needed to come to grips with the shock and trauma of the event, making the conscious decision to be a Survivor than a Victim.

Her presentation included much more detail about the CAP and their procedures, and the individual stories of the folks who shared the experience with her that day.

Thanks for sharing your exciting story, Shawna! (I hope I’ve told the gist of it with some degree of accuracy.)



ICHS News and Information:

Minutes of the Board Meeting of August 29, 2018:

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Ciangi. Also present were Ally Cook, Goose Elliott, Katelyn Mooney, Barb Ehlert, Stacy Tchorzynski, Kathleen Cook and David McCord.

Linda began with thanks to Stacy for her contribution of 4 half-mannequins and noted that she (Linda) had also purchased some display fixtures there as well. Thanks to Lyle Joslyn and Gordon Wright for their continuing help as well.

The Secretary’s Report as published in the August Chronicle has a few errors, viz: The days for the upcoming yard sale were incorrect (should have been Friday & Saturday, not Thursday & Friday); the date of the Salem Wreck in the flier should have been July (not June); two rentals at the Blanchard House should have been July 28 and Sept 27. Ally moved to accept the report with corrections; supported by Stacy, and passed.

The Treasurer’s Report was brief (and, as always, available on request). Members had been reimbursed for their expenses for past events, with the exception of Carol Gallagher (funds pending from the City - Kathleen will look into it). Receipts were received for other minor expenses, including misc. supplies and postage. Kathleen noted that Al

Continues...

In Memoriam

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of members recently passed.

Gary Richard (“Dick”) Hogan

Gordon Wright

Dave Odette



“News” continued from page 1:

Kasper will be helping with our taxes this year, and he has requested that Annette McCord (past Treasurer) provide him with three years’ digital bookkeeping data. Goose moved to accept the report; supported by Stacy, and passed.

The Treasurer and Secretary will be comparing their membership and mailing lists over the next few weeks to refine the information before the upcoming Annual Meeting. Reminders to the membership for Dues and Board Nominations have not been sent. David will send something via email, and members will be reminded at the September 5th meeting as well.

Committee Reports were called for. No one was present to report for the Accessions Committee, but David M. gave the Board an update on chairman Mary Kimble’s status since her surgery. Dave White was not present to deliver a report for the maintenance committee, but topics under his purview were discussed as follow.

The category of “Old Business” was opened with thanks to Stacy, Dave Cusack, and Goose for their work cleaning up the Carriage House. There is much more to be done, and discussions of specific artifacts were scheduled after the meeting. Replacement of the window panes in the south wall of the Carriage House (which have gone cloudy over the years) have been estimated at \$400 by Burt Dickinson, Dave White received an estimate of \$1500 to repair the curved dash on the cutter, and Chris Bredice has been asked for an estimate to upgrade the electrical within the building. No action was taken to pay for these projects.

In the same vein, much has been removed from the furnace room to the Sentinel-Standard facility. After the Board Meeting, those present assembled in the furnace room to discuss the fate of some artifacts - some for sale, some for storage, and some for the dumpster.

Arrangements for the annual Yard Sale, Sept 7 & 8, were reviewed. Dave Cook will supervise volunteers in setting up tents on the 6th at 6:00 p.m. Volunteers are arranged (but more would be good), and all seems ready. Barb will staff the house for folks who need to use the restroom. David M. will ensure that a display ad goes to the Shopper’s Guide on Thursday morning (8/30/18) to publicize the event. Jim Carlyle has invited one of the members to call in to the Friday morning radio show to talk about the sale. Goose volunteered to create signs for the sidewalk using our small chalkboard stands.

Kathleen then reported on the progress of the “Spirits of Ionia” Cemetery Tour. She reviewed her list of 23 things to be done for the event. There are a number of loose ends, but it’s coming together. Stacy will manage the refreshment stand. David M. will “boost” the Facebook event nearer the date and submit an ad to the Shopper’s Guide also. The tram still needs to be arranged, and Kathleen will ask Keith Salter if he will help with that again this year. A sign on the road was suggested to warn oncoming traffic to slow down at the entrance due to the increased traffic. Though we are commemorating seven of the victims of the train wreck, Kathleen wondered about some kind of marker to adorn the grave sites of other victims at the cemetery as well. David and Annette will continue helping with research as needed. Finally, Kathleen will give

Our calendar of upcoming events.

Wednesday, September 26, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Board Meeting at the Blanchard House

Sunday, Sept 30th, at Highland Park Cemetery, the annual “**Spirits of Ionia’s Past**” Cemetery Tour! See advert in this issue and connect with us on Facebook.

Wednesday, October 3, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Annual Meeting and Election of Board Members at the Blanchard House. **This election is for two positions on the Board, and we have three candidates. **IF YOUR DUES ARE PAID** for the coming year, you can vote!* We’ll be discussing many projects that are in the works to get ready for a record-breaking year in 2019. For more info, please contact a Board Member (phone numbers on the back page).

Wednesday, October 24, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Board Meeting at the Blanchard House.

Wednesday, October 31, 6:00 p.m. — ICHS welcomes trick-or-treaters to our front door for Hallowe’en again this year. If you’d like to help, or donate goodies, please do!

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

NOTE: The work schedules are subject to change.



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



Jim Carlyle some “Free Admission” certificates to the event that he can give away on the radio.

The ICHS “Suffragettes” will be marching in the Belding Labor Day parade. Hand fans to be given out along the parade route need to be assembled. Participants will gather at Belding at 10:00 a.m. on the 3rd. Kathleen suggested handing out bubble gum to kids along the route, and Goose moved to spend \$30 on the gum; supported by Stacy and passed. Ally hopes to have a couple more signs made to carry in the parade as well.

Discussion continues regarding our schedule of Summer Sundays
Continues...

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS for our “Spirits of Ionia” Annual Cemetery Tour!

**This is one of our most successful
annual events, and there are several
ways you can help the day of the event.
If you can help, please contact
Kathleen Cook : 616-527-2626 today!**

“News” continued from page 2:

and the difficulty in getting volunteers to host and give tours. A once-per-month schedule and “by appointment only” were discussed briefly. The topic will be considered again before the 2019 calendar is complete.

The “New Business” section of the agenda began with nominations for the Board of Directors for the next two years. Two positions are to be decided at the annual meeting in October, and the nominations must be closed at the September meeting. (We are behind schedule on this process!) Ally Cook and Goose Elliott will both be stepping down, and so far Phil Kahl and Barb Ehlert have expressed interest in the positions. David will send out an Email to ask for any other nominees for the position.

Linda noted that the calendar for the coming year needs to be established for planning and publicity. There is no program set for our November meeting, so projects for the upcoming year can be discussed, and recently received artifacts reviewed as well.

The December Pot Luck (12/5/18) was discussed. Linda said that Tim Marshall may be able to bring a team of Percherons with a hay wagon to give folks rides around the neighborhood. She suggested we focus on a soup and chili menu for the event. If the plan comes together, she also said it would be nice to get an estimate (via RSVP) for attendance to help plan the evening.

Another movie company has been touring Ionia with Linda Curtis from the DDA. They are interested in using the Blanchard House is some capacity. More to come on this subject.

Lynnette Luna of Agro Liquid of St. Johns would like to partner with the ICHS to help finance field trips. Kathleen and Linda will gather more information and report back to the Board.

David M. will be attending luncheon hosted by the Kutsche Office of Local History at Grand Valley State. This is a kick-off for a program about the history of communities along the Grand River. It will be Sept. 21st at the GVSU downtown campus in Grand Rapids.

Linda mentioned participation in the “Festival of Tables” event at the FUMC in Ionia on Dec. 4th, and participation in the Mrs. Claus event again this year. More to come on these events in the coming months.

Ally reported progress on the Beer Tent Event, “Rockin’ the Block.” She has met with official contacts about the event, and has met with a lot of support. The date must be set ASAP, and she proposed October 6th or 13th as the more likely to succeed. The Board tended to support the 6th pending research into conflicting events on that day. Linda C. asked about coordinating a Pie Sale at the event as well. More to come.

The Board then adjourned to visit the Carriage House and Furnace Room as noted above. (The Carriage House needs some new light bulbs!).

- D. McCord, Secretary

The Wayback Machine

200 Years Ago:

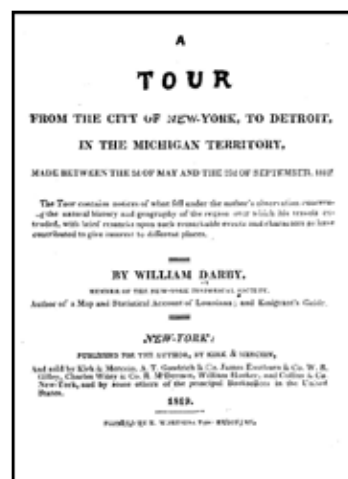
From History of the Great Lakes by J.B. Mansfield:

“On the first day of September, 1818, an entire novelty -- the like of which not one in 500 of the inhabitants had ever before seen -- presented itself before the people of Cuyahoga county. On the day named the residents along the lake shore of Euclid saw upon the lake a curious kind of a vessel, making what was then considered very rapid progress westward, without the aid of sails, while from a pipe near its middle rolled forth a dark cloud of smoke, which trailed its gloomy length far into the rear of the swift-gliding mysterious traveler over the deep. They watched its westward course until it turned its prow toward the harbor of Cleveland, and then returned to their labors. Many of them doubtless knew what it was, but some shook their heads in sad surmise as to whether some evil powers were not at work in producing such a strange phenomenon as that, on the bosom of their beloved Lake Erie. Meanwhile the citizens of Cleveland perceived the approaching monster, and hastened to the lake shore to examine it. ‘What is it?’ ‘What is it?’ ‘Where did it come from?’ ‘What makes it go?’ queried one and another of the excited throng. ‘It’s the steamboat, that’s what it is,’ cried others in reply.

“ ‘Yes, yes, it’s the steamboat; it’s the steamboat,’ was the general shout, and with ringing cheers the people welcomed the first vessel propelled by steam which had ever traversed the waters of Lake Erie.”

Also in 1818, the first sale of treaty lands were processed through the U.S. Federal Land Office. The first such office in Michigan Territory was established in Detroit in 1804, but no sales were held until after the second war with the British was well over and new treaties were in place.

Pictured here, the wildly popular “Tour in the Michigan Territory” by William Darby was a best-seller throughout the country.



Thanks to our ICHS “Business Buddies”

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

150 Years Ago:

Michiganders were preparing for the Presidential election during September. At the 1868 Democratic National Convention, there was no clear front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, but Horatio Seymour (above, with neck whiskers) remained widely popular. Serving as the chairman of the convention, Seymour refused to seek the nomination for himself. But after twenty-two indecisive ballots, the convention nominated Seymour, who finally relented. He faced General Ulysses S. Grant, the widely popular Republican Party nominee, in the 1868 election. In Michigan, he missed victory by a 14% margin against Grant.



From the Annual Report of the Secretary of War, Volume 1:

"Headquarters of the Department of the Lakes, Detroit, Michigan, September 26, 1868. General:

"I have the honor to report that the city and railroad officials with whom I am in constant communication state that, from all they can ascertain, the Fenians have no intention at present of disturbing the peace of Canada by making an attack upon it from this vicinity. The deputy U.S. Marshal (Mr. H.G. Blanchard) stated to me that he believed there were three companies in this city, and that they were armed with the Springfield musket.

"From all the information I can gather, I do not believe the Fenians have any intention of violating the neutrality laws from this vicinity of Detroit at present.

"Very respectfully, your obt. servant,
James A. Bates, Captain, 43d Infantry."

100 Years Ago:

Michigan was suffering in the midst of an Influenza epidemic. As quoted in the Detroit Free Press, "The quarantine is more a precaution against our men spreading the ailment among the inhabitants of Detroit, which would be apt to happen were they given leave from the station," United States Navy Commander A. M. Cook told reporters. Cook was speaking of his decision to quarantine the U.S. Naval Training Station at the Ford Motor Company's River Rouge plant and

SPIRITS

of Ionia's Past


2018

On Sunday
September 30
from 1:00 p.m.
until 4:00 p.m.

**This Year's
Theme:**


Highland Park
Cemetery
on East Main at
Prairie Creek

Victims of the 1907 Salem Train Wreck



**Just \$5.00
Admission!**

The Salem Train Wreck in July of 1907 was one of the worst wrecks of the century, and over 26 citizens of Ionia died in the crash. Railroad employees and their families were on a company sponsored outing to Detroit. The trip was tragically interrupted by a head-on collision. Join us to hear the stories of just a few of the victims, and share the community's grief as the town attended a week of mass funerals.

BROUGHT

TO YOU BY

shipyard – just six miles downriver from downtown Detroit – after several dozen cases of influenza appeared there. On the evening of September 20, five sailors reported to the dispensary with symptoms of mild influenza. Two days later, that

number had swollen to 107.

We often popularize "Rosie the Riveter" as a symbol of women at work during World War II, but the same phenomenon was prevalent during "The Great War" in 1918. Americans were

preoccupied with supporting the war against "the Hun" in Europe, and factories geared up to ship materials and munitions over seas just as they would 25 years later.

Pictured here are women at work in the welding department at Maxwell Motors in Detroit during the fall of 1918. The Maxwell quarter-ton truck was in demand by several branches of the military.



SOUVENIRS

MEMORIES & MOMENTOS IONIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HERITAGE & HISTORY

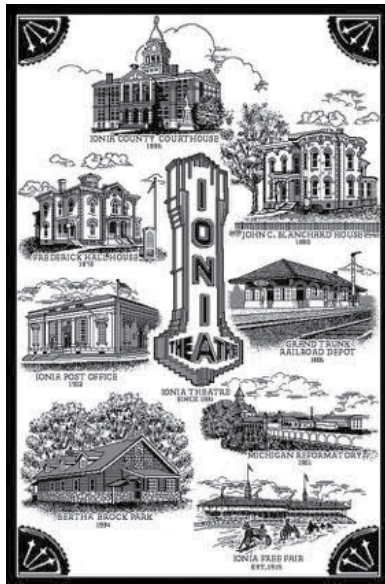
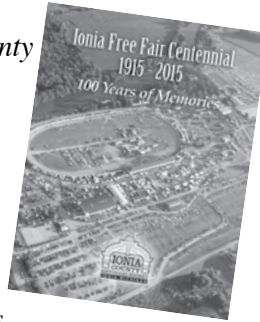
The newest addition to our collection of Ionia County memorabilia, the masterwork for 2016:

Ionian 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

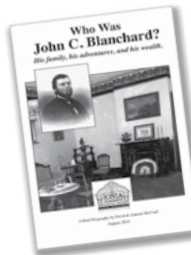
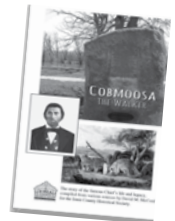
1937 Ionia Airport Inaugural plus Bertha Brock Park's 1940 "Winter Festival"

1973 Ionia Centennial Documentary

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

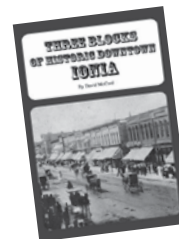
DVDs are available for \$10 each!

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

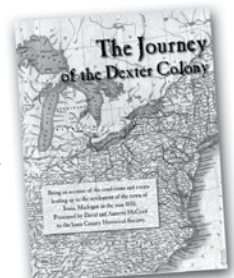
A History of Bertha Brock Park on its 80th "Birthday" by David McCord. \$6 each



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

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>