



Thawing Out

"Due to inclement weather" (or some variation of that phrase) was on everyone's mind over the past two months. As a result, many activities in our area were canceled during late January, February, and early March - including ICHS meetings. Therefore, not much transpired to warrant the publication of a February newsletter.

It appears that the cold is subsiding, and the ice melting off the roads and into the flood plain. We did have a March meeting, and it looks like we'll be getting back on track soon.

The minutes in this issue are long, but informative, and the calendar summarizes plans for the coming months. We hope to see you at our upcoming meetings and events! And as always, if you can help in any capacity, please contact a Board member or Committee Chair.



ICHS NEWS from our recent meetings:

Minutes of the Meeting of March 6, 2019:

After a season of ice, snow, wind, and sub-zero temperatures, the ICHS finally got a meeting together on Wednesday, March 6th. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by president Linda Ciangi at the Blanchard House.

The first item on the agenda was a welcome back to Phil Kahl, who had been at the SKLD facility for recovery after a fall. Also a welcome to all our members and guests - our first meeting since December.

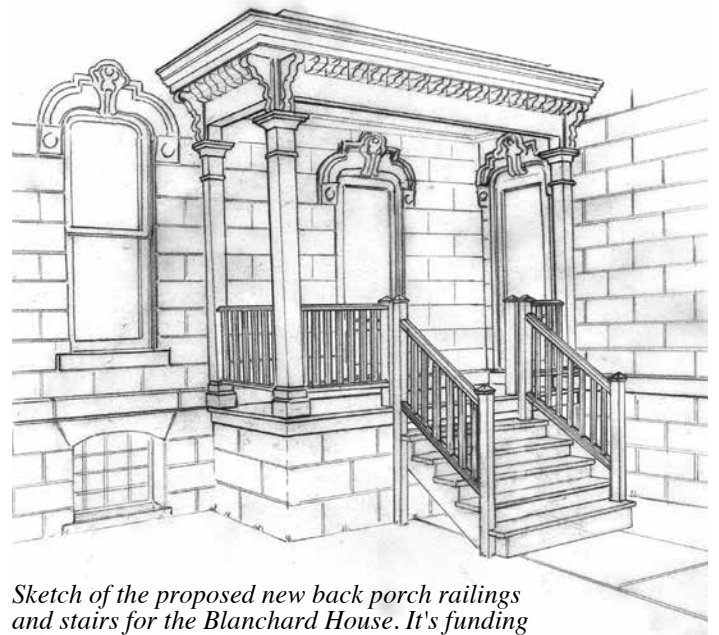
The Secretary's report as published in the January Chronicle still stands, due to no meetings since then. A few copies of that newsletter were available for attendees.

The Treasurer's report was informal, noting that the gap in meetings has put transactions behind schedule. To illustrate that point, several bills and contributions were passed along to the Treasurer at the start of the building. A more formal report will be prepared for the next Board Meeting, March 27, and will be reported accordingly. Kathleen noted that expenses over the past few months have not been balanced with income, and we need to get serious about some fundraising. Suggestions and volunteers are welcomed!

The Grounds & Maintenance Committee, headed by Dave White, got the small windows in the carriage house replaced just before the wicked weather hit. With the granting of \$1000 from the Ionia County Community Foundation for the update of

the back steps of the Blanchard House, Dave will be contacting the contractors again to get that project under way. Sources of additional funding will be discussed anon. Stacy T. also said she is looking into additional grants and will report more info soon.

Continues...



Sketch of the proposed new back porch railings and stairs for the Blanchard House. It's funding time for this project! If you would like to contribute, please contact a Board Member.

"News" continued from page 1:

Linda C. reported that the ICHS booth at the Ionia Expo on March 2nd can again be considered a success, with lots of good publicity for the organization. She thanked Lyle Joslyn, and Dave & Lori White for their help in set-up and take-own for the event.

David McCord shared some of his ideas in the form of sketches for the continuing development of the carriage house. The plan for the upcoming months is coming together, and soon will be on the calendar and asking for volunteers for specific tasks. It was suggested that a paid ad might be published to let the greater community know what's needed and solicit some help. We were also reminded to keep in mind donor recognition for all of our contributors.

Attendees couldn't help but notice the presence of disassembled holiday decorations in the house. President Ciangi asked for volunteers to help store things away at the upcoming Thursday afternoon work session. Based on previous conversations at the December board meeting, Linda purchased a set of large tubs for the new 12-foot Christmas tree. She presented her invoice to the Treasurer for reimbursement (\$50). It was moved by Katelyn M. and supported by Dave C. to pay the \$50, and the vote passed.

Linda C. reported on progress with the State's "Rising Tide" program. The State of Michigan has provided a full-time consultant for the community of Ionia to help nurture and promote the local economy. The Historical Society is seen as an important part of Ionia's quality of life and potential in making Ionia attractive. More information will be available soon. Robin Suomi is our Rising Tide rep, and is looking forward to hosting a meeting at the Blanchard House at 3:30 on March 18th. Robin also suggested that the ICHS speak to SCORE representatives about a business plan for the organization.

On the subject of ICHS involvement with other organizations, David M. reported on the recent Tri-River meeting in Lake Odessa, where a presentation was given on the importance of a Disaster Plan for museums. He brought a copy of the presentation document, and encouraged the Board

to address the topic as soon as possible. The next Tri-River meeting will be held at Grattan on March 12th.

He also reported on the participation of the ICHS in the "Conversations" program being rolled out by the Keutsche Center for Local History at GVSU on March 14th. He and his mom, Joan, plan to attend the annual conference that day to represent the ICHS as they unveil a

Participants, members, and guests viewing a few of the 20+ displays sponsored by communities along the Grand River at the 10th annual conference of the Kutsche Office of Local History at GVSU.



multi-community display of Grand River history.

Linda C. reported that the Shaw house, 419 Union, had been bought, and the new owners sought some info on the house's history. This brought to mind the collection of Home Tour information now stored in several places. She suggested that it all be brought together and stored at the Sentinel-Standard storage facility. Kathleen said she would bring in what she has.

There is a rental of the house scheduled for May 11th for a wedding, and the renters ask permission of the Board to have champagne on-site for the traditional toasting. It was moved by Barb E. and supported by Kathleen to allow this, and passed. (This is a formality required by our ByLaws.)

Speaking of rentals, David M. pointed out that the Greenville Daily News is publishing a Wedding Guide soon which would be a great venue to advertise the Blanchard House for rent. It was moved by Stacy T. and supported by Katelyn M. to purchase a quarter-page ad for \$100. The motion passed; David M. will prepare an ad and Kathleen will call the publisher to get it placed.

And Stacy asked on behalf of the Michigan Archaeology Society to host their annual meeting at the Blanchard House on April 28th. Everyone was very much in favor of this opportunity, and thanks to Dave Cusack for the arrangement, who is a member of the ICHS and president of the MAS.

Bryan Kimble suggested that the Board consider raising the rates for renting the Blanchard House. His statements were supported by others that the current rates are much lower than other similar facilities. Linda C. said she would put it on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

Donations continue to come in from various sources, large and small.

The calendar and schedule for the 2019 year was reviewed briefly, and some updates made. (The updates are reflected in this issue of the Chronicle.) David M. noted that our April presenter, Valerie Marvin, wanted us to choose from four

Continues...

The New Year means New Opportunities!

If you can spare some time, some expertise, or some muscle-power, there are plenty of things you can do to help support our organization. Please sign up to help whenever you can. If you have suggestions or specific area of interest, please let the Board know also.

The ICHS is for the entire community, and that includes you, too!



"News" continued from page 2:

possible presentations that she can give us. After reading the options, the members assembled chose to hear about "The Michigan State Capitol." (She is the Michigan State Capitol Historian and Curator.)

A suggested was made to hire someone new to help clean the house (Rob Thomas at \$15/hr). This, too, will be discussed by the Board at the March 27th meeting.

Ally Cook addressed the group about the possibility that the City Council is considering replacing the seats in the historic Ionia Theatre with modern seats. She asked the ICHS members if they supported the change, and the reaction was overwhelmingly negative. She will keep us informed. She also noted that it would be great if the ICHS was represented in the City Council.

The meeting was then adjourned for quick refreshments, and all those present were invited to tour the house next door. That house, once home to the Lockwoods (who had also owned the Blanchard House), was more recently occupied by ICHS member Gordon Wright. (Gordon was officially designated our "good neighbor" for keeping an eye on the Blanchard House.) The house was recently purchased by another ICHS member and current Treasurer, Kathleen Cook and her husband Greg. They are in the process of extensive restoration on the house. Many thanks to them for allowing us to see the early stages of that restoration!

— D.M.



Our usual Weekly Activities.

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the Blanchard House is open for tours on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to staff the house on these afternoons, either as tour guides, greeters, or companions.

Wednesday evenings are work sessions for the Accessions Committee, documenting the artifacts in the Historical Society's historical collections. If you would like to help, 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.

Our calendar of upcoming events.

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

Wednesday, April 3, 7:00 p.m. —
Special Presentation to the ICHS from Valerie Marvin, Michigan State Capitol Historian and Curator, with a program about the State Capitol Building.
(At the Blanchard House.)

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

Wednesday, May 1, 7:00 p.m. — Program co-sponsored with the Ionia Community Library at the First Christian Church, 105 East Washington St.

Saturday, May 4, and Sunday, May 5th — the Annual "Spring Into The Past" kicks off the Museum season. The Blanchard House will be open for tours - watch for more details soon.



Saturday, May 18 - the Annual ICHS **"Upstairs/ Downtown Tours"** in Ionia's business district. More information coming soon. To help, contact the event Chair Kathleen Cook.

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

Wednesday, June 5, 7:00 p.m. — **"Votes for Women!"** - a special presentation on the subject at the Blanchard House.

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



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



WAYBACK

1819 —

In January of 1819, the Treaty of 1818 took effect between the US and the UK. Also known as the Anglo-American Convention or 1819, the Treaty set the 49th parallel as the northern boundary of the US and establish joint occupation of Oregon (known in British and Canadian history as "The Columbia District of the Hudson's Bay Company").

The United States House of Representatives agreed to the Tallmadge Amendment on February 13th, barring slaves from the new state of Missouri (the opening vote in a controversy that led to the Missouri Compromise).

Three days later, an act was passed in Congress authorizing the election of a delegate from the Michigan Territory to the Congress of the United States "and extending the right of suffrage to the citizens of said territory." This delegate would not be a voting member of the legislature, but represent the territory's interests and relay the pertinent activities of the U.S. Government to their constituents in Michigan.

And just a week later, the Adams-Onís Treaty was signed wherein Spain ceded Florida to the United States in exchange for the American renunciation of any claims on Texas and \$5 million.



1869 —

On February 6th, Harper's Weekly published the very first picture of Uncle Sam with chin whiskers.

In the aftermath of the Civil War, charges of Treason against Jefferson Davis were dropped on February 15th. Five days later, Tennessee Governor W C Brownlow declared martial law in the midst of a Ku Klux Klan crisis, and the State of Kansas passed legislation outlawing the KKK entirely.

In Washington, on Feb 26th, the 15th Amendment guaranteeing right to vote was sent to states for ratification. The next day, John Menard became the first African American to make a speech in the US Congress.

The first inauguration of Ulysses S. Grant as the 18th President of the United States took place on March 4, 1869. Thus began the first four-year term of Ulysses S. Grant as President



and the only term of Schuyler Colfax as Vice President. Grant's inaugural parade was grander than any of those before him. Eight full divisions of soldiers marched down Pennsylvania Avenue on that day. Windows overlooking the parade route sold for very high prices. This is also the first time ever that special tickets were required for admission to the Capitol on inauguration day. That evening, a ball was held in the Treasury Building.

1919 —

Recovering from the disastrous outcome of the Great War, the German Workers' Party was formed on January 5th in Berlin - the precursor to the National Socialist German Workers' Party (the Nazi Party).

On the morning of January 15th, two million gallons of molasses flood Boston, Massachusetts in the "Great Molasses Flood" when a storage tank burst, drowning 21 and injuring 150.

The Paris peace conference (aka the Versailles peace conference) opened on January 17th to draw up the treaties formally ending the Great War (WWI). Two days later, the Irish militant nationalist party Sinn Fein created its own parliament in Dublin and declared Ireland independent of Great Britain, sparking the Irish War of Independence.

The Order of DeMolay formed in Kansas City on March 21st of this year. The order was organized under the auspices of the Masonic Lodge to provide a character-building environment for young men. (Yours truly was privileged to be a member of the order.)



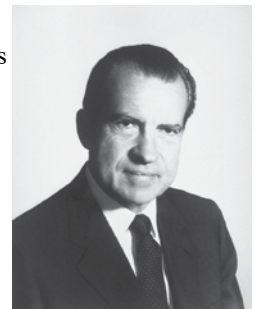
On March 23rd, the 8th Congress of the Russian Communist Party re-established a five-member Politburo that became the center of political power in the Soviet Union. The original members were Vladimir Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Joseph Stalin, Lev Kamenev and Nikolai Krestinsky. In contrast, two days later Woodrow Wilson's dream of a League of Nations became a reality after the League Covenant is adopted at the Paris Peace Conference.

1969 —

On January 7th, the US Congress doubled the president's salary. Two weeks later, Richard M. Nixon inaugurated as US president to enjoy that healthy increase.

January was a big month in Music: On January 12, the debut album by Led Zeppelin was released in the US. On the 23rd, the band Cream released their last album, entitled "Goodbye." Also, the Beatles perform their last live gig, a 42 minute concert on the roof of Apple Corps HQ in London, on January 28th.

There was a lot of activity in orbit during the early months of 1969, including the 10-day mission of Apollo 9, performing docking maneuvers with the lunar excursion module, and by the Russians docking two spacecraft together, transferring cosmonauts and supplies between the two ships.



February 5th the US population reached over 200 million.

And one more significant event in popular music: On March 12th, Glen Campbell won the "best record" award for his recording of "By the Time I Get to Phoenix" written by Jimmy Webb. (The song was originally recorded by Johnny Rivers in 1965.)

SOUVENIRS

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

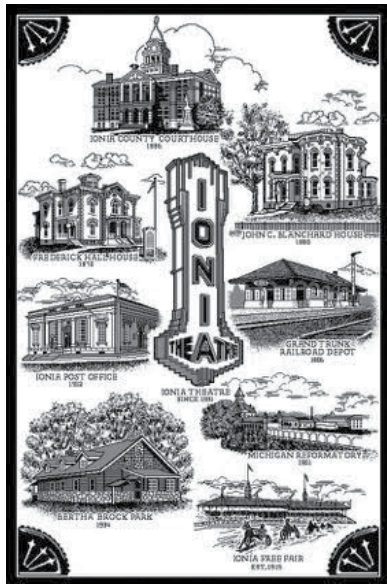
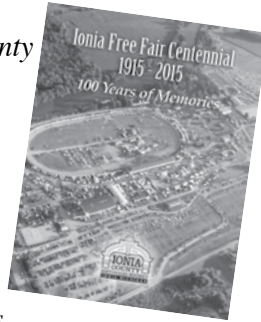
The newest addition to our collection of Ionia County memorabilia, the masterwork for 2016:

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 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

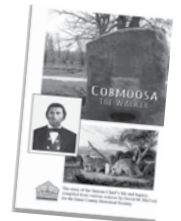
1937 Ionia Airport Inaugural plus Bertha Brock Park's 1940 "Winter Festival"

1973 Ionia Centennial Documentary

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

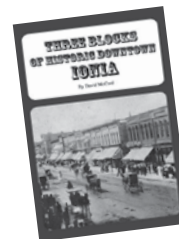
DVDs are available for \$10 each!

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

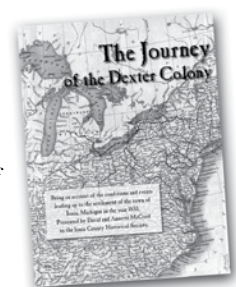
A History of Bertha Brock Park on its 80th "Birthday" by David McCord. \$6 each



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)

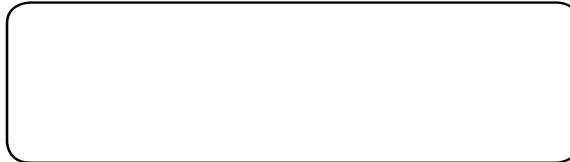




the www.ioniahistory.org **CHRONICLE**

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 2019 Board of Directors & Officers

- Linda Ciangi, President — 616-527-4945
- Barb Ehlert, Vice Pres/House Rentals — 616-522-0844
- Dave White, Director — 989-855-2350
- Katelyn Mooney, Director — 616-902-7777
- Stacy Tchorzynski, Director — 517-763-1770
- David McCord, Secretary — 616-527-3784
- Kathleen Cook, Treasurer — 616-527-2626

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