



President Linda Ciangi welcomed members and guests to the Blanchard House for a presentation on June 5th, co-sponsored by the Ionia Community Library. She opened with a bit of information about an Ionia resident named Suzabelle Arnold, Ionia High School class of 1913. In the High School Annual, she was described as being active in the movement for women's suffrage in our town. Linda also took a few minutes to commemorate Wes Preston, also an Ionia High School graduate, who fell in the early hours of the D-Day invasion during World War II (June 6th). The common theme being the commitment and dedication of young people from Ionia to a higher cause. Her introduction was well received.

*Below, our guest speaker Elizabeth Homer (right) joins some of the ICHS Suffragists outside the Blanchard House.*



### Minutes of the Board Meeting of May 29, 2019:

The meeting was called to order by president Linda Ciangi approx. 7:00 p.m. at the Blanchard House. Also present were V.P. Barb Ehlert, Treasurer Kathleen Cook, Accessions Committee members Bryan and Mary Kimble and Shawna Hoekstra, Directors Katelyn Mooney and Dave White, Secretary David McCord and visitors Robin Soumi and Bonnie Ehlert.

There were no reports from the Secretary or Treasurer due to their busy schedules, but information will be presented to the board as soon as possible. Both officers can be contacted in the meantime for details if necessary.

Building & Grounds Committee — Dave White reported that he's having very little luck finding a contractor to complete the back porch stairway project. He has received two quotes over \$5,000 and will continue to work on the project (with

Dale Parus, Director of the library, then introduced our speaker, Elizabeth Homer, whom he met at a Michigan History Conference in April of this year. She was not a stranger to Ionia, being a friend of former ICHS member Mary Esther DeDazio who was an energetic advocate of women's history in Michigan.

Ms. Homer has been a curator for over twenty years, first at the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame (1987-1996) and then at the Turner-Dodge House & Historical Center (1997-2008). (Both are in Lansing, Michigan.) In 1999 she was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame for her political, social, economic, and education work. She is author of a book entitled *Pioneers, Reformers & Millionaires* focusing on the struggle for women's rights.

Through a short slide show, she shared some milestones in the progress of women's suffrage prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution one hundred years ago this month. She spoke about some of the key persons involved in the various women's movements, including the fight for legal rights, education and labor, plus the evolution of the temperance movement in Michigan.

Many thanks to her for the fascinating presentation, and to the members and guests who donned their period costume for the event to celebrate the centenary of the passage of the 19th Amendment.

encouragement from the rest of the Board). Kathleen Cook reported that Jane Horrocks apologized for missing a few days in caring for the gardens. She requested a key to the Blanchard House so she could have access to the sink and bathroom while she's working at the house. Key #15, previously assigned to Shawna Hoekstra, will be transferred to Jane's care (with Board approval).

Rental Committee — There have been several rentals recently with great success. Kathleen C. said she has some suggested revisions to the existing Rental Agreement, including the recent decision to raise the rent by \$50. David M. said he would get quotes for having a form printed with a "carbon copy" page to give the renter and guarantee that the info on the form is consistent. David will also update the form and contract for the next printing. President Ciangi remarked on the task of filling in

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*“Minutes” continued from page 1:*

while our Rental Chair and Vice President Barb Ehlert is dealing with health issues lately.

Accessions Committee — Mary Kimble reported that the new computer gear was a great improvement over the previous system. Shawna H. then brought out a “test of the system” for the Board. They printed four random records from the collections database which listed objects in the collection. These records include a catalog number, description of the object, donor and value info, and the physical location of the object. She handed these four records to four Board members and challenged them to find the objects. Only one of the four was where the record said it should be. One (a set of photos) had been taken off-site for storage. This exercise emphasized the need to ensure that the computer record matches reality, and the need to report changes to the Accessions committee.

Dave W. moved that nothing that has been entered into the Accessions system (i.e. has an Accessions tag) be moved (inside the house or elsewhere) without written notification to the committee. Katelyn Mooney asked that the subject be tabled until a future meeting for the Board to consider the issue further.

\* Later in this meeting, the topic came up again, and Kathleen C. brought out a form that had been created to record when things were moved off-site. She and Dave W. suggested such a form should be used to record when things are moved within the house and museum as well, so that the computer records could be kept up to date. Shawna H. emphasized the need to have accurate records because (A) inaccurate records are hardly useful, as shown by the challenge presented during this meeting, and (B) when the ICCHS applies for grants or major donations, an effective Accessions system is simply necessary proof of the organization’s competency.

Housekeeping — Linda C. reported that Ron Thomas has taken over the cleaning tasks at the Blanchard House now, 2 hours/week plus occasional special cleaning projects.

#### OLD BUSINESS —

Upstairs-Downtown Tour — Kathleen C. reports that it was a big success, bringing in over \$1,000 for the weekend. There was some trepidation due to the tour being only five sites, but it continues to be a popular event.

Carriage House Project — David M. had no progress to report due to a lack of time to spend on the project since early spring. This hopes to get off the ground in another month or so.

Documentary Film Visit — Linda C. noted that a documentary film maker from Los Angeles brought in a crew last week to record some interviews at the Blanchard House. It was a successful filming session, and we will be informed when the finished project is released.

Summer Sundays — We need to fill the calendar with volunteers to staff the house for our Summer Sunday tours ASAP.

We are covered for the next few weekends, but beyond June the calendar is still open. The need will be repeated to the membership.

Free Fair Antique Village — The theme is the 1940s, and Linda C. is looking at a large photo display to represent the ICCHS this year. David M. will get a quote for scanning and printing photos so a budget can be put together for this effort. Anyone interested in helping with the display, please contact Linda. (See phone number on page page.)

Free Fair Parade — This is the 50th anniversary of Shelby Cobra production in Ionia, and Linda is lining up some Shelby owners to drive in the Parade. Ally and Margo Cook have volunteered to work on the ICCHS entry. Kathleen C. mentioned handing out the souvenir hand fans again, which seemed to be a big success. David M. is still looking for the Shelby artwork that he proposed for a T-shirt a couple of years ago that might be used for a parade graphic.

Free Fair Queen’s Reception — Our annual open house for the visiting Queens (and Kings) before the parade needs a chairperson.

#### NEW BUSINESS —

Cruisin’ Classics Car Show, June 1 — The Board decided not to participate as a group this year.

Bertha Brock Fall Festival — Kathleen reports that there is no Fall Fest being planned for this year.

Cornell Alley update — Linda C. reports that discussions are in progress to remodel the alley - take out the planters and put in a winding sidewalk and ground-level plants. More to come. (The ICCHS keeps the alley cleaned up as one of our obligations to the city.)

Blanchard House Gift Shop — Linda C. and David M. are talking about ways to “spruce up” the gift shop area to make it easier to manage and more effective. More to come.

Fund Raising Ideas — Barb Ehlert & Barb Hogan will chair this year’s ICCHS Yard Sale and will check the calendar to set a date soon for that event.

ICCHS Raffle — This effort has been successful in the past, but we need to find a chairperson to make it happen. Until then, it’s on hold.

Cemetery Tour — The date for this popular event has not yet been set. More to come.

Wreaths Across America — Shawna H. has been involved in this program for some years, and a few of our members have been involved as well. Organizations like the ICCHS can offer sponsorships to individuals at \$15 each, and \$5 goes to the sponsoring organization (ICCHS) for each one. The Wreaths group lays out the commemorative wreaths during the holidays at veterans grave sites. Shawna HAs offered to help, but the ICCHS would need a chairperson for the activity.

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## Help Wanted!



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



*“Minutes” continued from page 2:*

Meeting was adjourned about 8:40, with a reminder that the June Program would start at 6:30 and notice should be publicized to that effect.

— Sec’y, David McCord

### Minutes of the Board Meeting - June 5, 2019

Following the June 5th presentation (see article on page 1), President Ciangi asked that the Board gather together for a short meeting to discuss some immediate topics. That meeting included Treasurer Kathleen Cook, Directors Barb Ehlert, Katelyn Mooney, Stacy Tchorzynski, and Secretary David McCord.

President Ciangi reviewed arrangements for the Free Fair Parade, and asked for a commitment of \$150 to cover a few graphics for the parade plus a breakfast for the Shelby car owners as thanks for their participation in the parade. It was so moved by Stacy T. and supported by Katelyn M. and passed.

Barb Ehlert volunteered to chair the Queen’s Reception, and Katelyn M. moved that we advance \$75 to her for expenses (which is covered by the Free Fair parade committee). This was supported by Stacy T. and passed.

Likewise, the Antique Village display of 1940s vintage photo reproductions will require some money for prints and display materials. Linda C. asked the board for \$100 to cover the expenses, which was moved by Stacy T. and supported by Katelyn M. and passed. David McCord has a quote from S&K Printing for the photo prints, and will pursue the production when a final decision is made on the pictures to be used.

Linda also asked the Board for support of offering a copy of the Free Fair history book as a part of the Ladies Day event at the Fair. The Board approved giving a hardcover copy to the event.

Thanks were expressed to Lori White for washing the table covers after the May 18th event at the Blanchard House.

David M. shared his notes for the Carriage House project, which are still unrefined at this point. Once the Oz Festival is over, he will have time to pursue this project.

David M. also shared some ideas for the update of the Gift Shoppe area as introduced at the previous Board meeting. Some display shelving has become available from the closing of the Main Street Music store that might help. Linda C. noted a glass-top cabinet presently in storage that could work well in the new layout. The plan is moving forward as inventory and display ideas are refined.

Linda C. spoke briefly about the Rising Tide project and the ICHS role in that as a major component of Ionia’s self-promotion activities. David M. noted that he is contributing blog posts in a rotation with the DDA and Chamber, and work is being done to set up “VisitIonia.com” as a hub for event information around the area. More to come.

It was noted that Barb Ehlert’s open-heart surgery is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, and she will (of course) be convalescing for a while thereafter. Her work for the Rental and Housekeeping committees are being filled as much as possible by others in her absence.

This, and recent discussion about the Accessions process, emphasized the observation that “how things work and where things are” needs to be known by more than one or *Continues...*

## Our calendar of upcoming events.

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

Wednesday, July 3, 6:30 p.m. — Our annual Independence Day Pot-luck at the Blanchard House. All members and guests are welcomed!



Wednesday, July 31, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Board Meeting at the Blanchard House.

Wednesday, August 7, 7:00 p.m. — Presentation by Al Bryant on “The House of David” at the Blanchard House.



## 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 Mary Kimble, 616-897-6592.

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!*



two persons in the ICHS. When someone in a key position is unavailable for a length of time for whatever reason, the critical functions of the Historical Society should not “bring any of our plans to a stand-still.” President Ciangi stated that we should strive to have more “depth” to our committees, more co-chairs and informed members in each area. As part of this idea, Linda C. and Kathleen C. want to learn more about the Accessions process - how it works and how they can help. David M. noted that the Tri-River Group remains a great source of information from the network of small museums and historical societies on all manner of subjects.

David also shared information about the annual Tri-River Bus Tour which will be visiting several museums on September 26th. Stacy T. asked about the August program here on the subject of The House of David in Benton Harbor. She suggested that this would be a fascinating bus tour for the ICHS to raise some funds, and if it could be arranged before that August meeting, we might sign some folks up for the trip at that meeting. Kathleen agreed, and the two of them will pursue the idea and report back to the Board at the next meeting, June 26th.

The meeting was adjourned at approx. 8:45.  
- Sec'y, David McCord



# WAYBACK

## June 1819 -

A major earthquake struck the Kutch district of western India, killing 1,543 people and raising a 6m-high, 6km-wide ridge, extending for at least 80km. It is now known as the Allah Bund ("Dam of God").



On June 20, the 320-ton *SS Savannah* (left) became the first steamship to cross the Atlantic ocean. In spite of this historic voyage, the great space taken up by her large engine and its fuel at the expense of cargo, and the public's anxiety over the dangers of steam power in general, kept *Savannah* from being a commercial success as a steamship. Most of the voyage, in fact, she relied on her sails. The vessel was converted back into a sailing ship shortly after returning from Europe. No other American-owned steamship would cross the Atlantic for almost thirty years after *Savannah's* pioneering voyage.

The U.S. economy suffered another “financial panic” during the summer of 1819 as well. It was a continuing effect after the second war with the British and fragile relations with other foreign powers.

## June 1869 -

This was a month of invention and innovation in American history. On June 1st, Thomas Edison was granted his first patent for the Electric Vote Recorder (U.S. Patent 90,646) (shown here). A week later,



Ives W. McGaffey of Chicago patented the first vacuum cleaner; he called it a "sweeping machine." The next day, in Philadelphia, Charles E. Hires sold his first mug of root beer. Meanwhile, in New Orleans on the 10th of June, the steamship *Agnes* arrived with the first-ever shipment of frozen beef. On June 15th, the world's first plastic was patented by John Wesley Hyatt of Albany, NY. It was known as “Celluloid” and was a refinement of earlier materials. Its primary use was for dental plates and billiard balls, being a substitute for ivory.

## June 1919 -

On June 4, the U.S. Congress passed the Women’s Suffrage Bill - the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. It was then passed on to the State governments for ratification.



On June 28, 1919, Germany signed the Treaty of Versailles, officially ending its involvement in World War I. The treaty subjected Germany to a number of harsh penalties and restrictions.

The final treaty had been completed in May of 1919. The most contentious part of the treaty was Article 231, known as the “war guilt clause,” which forced Germany to accept all financial and moral responsibility for the war. Germany was given two choices: sign the treaty as is, or resume fighting. The result was devastation for the German economy for the next decade.

## June 1969 -

On June 3rd, viewers were tuned in to the final episode of the TV show *Star Trek*. Then, on June 8th, was the final episode of *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*. A sad week in television history. But on the upside, June 15th was the premier of *HeeHaw!*

The Cuyahoga River near Cleveland caught fire on June 22 due to heavy industrial pollution.

In the era known since as “the Summer of Love”, a series of huge outdoor rock concerts were held around the country, drawing tens of thousands of fans, and setting the stage for larger and larger music festivals in the coming months.



On June 28, police raided the Stonewall Bar in Greenwich Village, New York (left), sparking a huge riot that lasted three days. It was a milestone in the struggle for gay rights, commemorated annually as a major event in the progress of all human rights causes.



# SOUVENIRS

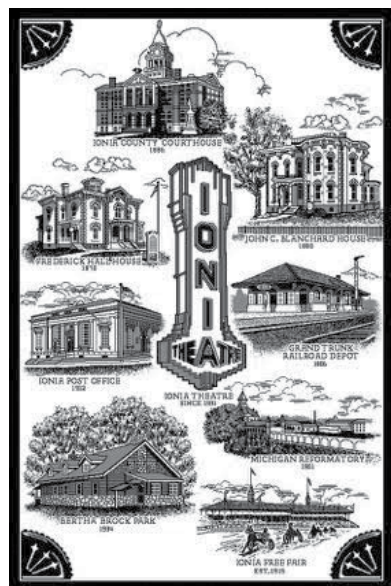
**MEMORIES & MOMENTOS** **IONIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** **HERITAGE & HISTORY**

## 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!



## 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**

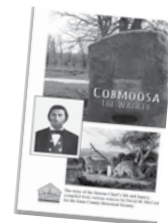
**1937 Ionia Airport Inaugural plus Bertha Brock Park's 1940 “Winter Festival”**

**1973 Ionia Centennial Documentary**

**“Ionia’s First 150 Years” and “Ionia - A Look Back”** - Films by Monroe MacPherson

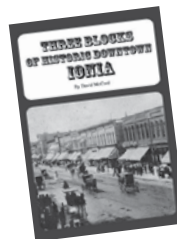
DVDs are available for \$10 each!

**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

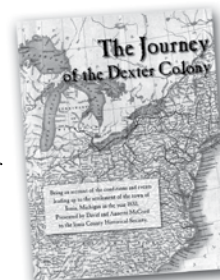
**A History of Bertha Brock Park on its 80th “Birthday”** by David McCord. \$6 each



**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)



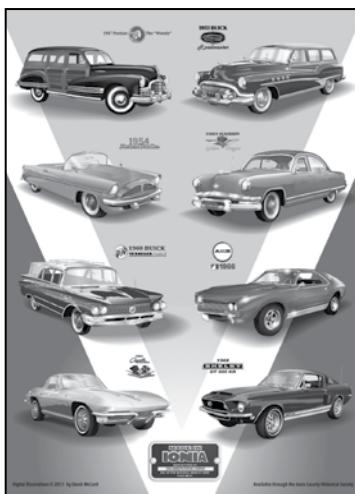
### ALSO AVAILABLE:

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



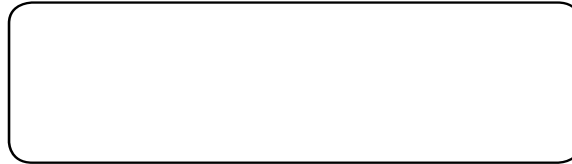
Exclusive to the ICHS Gift Shoppe, the 18x24-inch poster on heavy gloss paper sells for \$15, and the packet of NINE “Made in Ionia” automobile post-cards are just \$10. (Artwork by David McCord; proceeds go to the ICHS.)



# 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 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>