



Fall 2020

The Almost Monthly Publication of  
the Ionia County Historical Society

# the CHRONICLE



## A Message from the ICHS President, Kathleen Cook

Dear Members and Friends,

Much like the previous letter, I still have feelings of uncertainty of what the next few days, weeks and months may bring. I know that I am grateful to be living in Ionia amongst friends who share the same love of history.

I would like to introduce our newest members to the historical society. We have a junior member and her name is McKenna O'Connor. Her grandmother, Cheryl O'Connor has been very generous with donating items in the past and most recently she donated a 1948 Sears, Roebuck and Co. catalogue. Kristi Zuverink came to our yard sale and walked away as a member. Hopefully one day, all of you can meet them in person. (*NOTE: We welcomed a few more new members since this was written! - D.M.*)

In the past few months there have been several inquiries left on the answering machine, and on our Facebook page and website. One message was particularly moving. A woman from outside the area wanted information about a particular business and its owner in 1958. She mentioned that her mother said that her father was the man who owned that business. We researched obituaries and we were able to find out more information about him and the family.

Another call came from a retired contractor who has worked on major projects in various parts of Michigan. He wanted to be connected to the person who owned the house on East Main Street (Celia Jackson). Her house sustained significant damage from fire in July 2019. I was able to connect the two but I do not know anything more right now. It would be nice to see that house restored to its original glory.

In some cases, others help us with information. If you have been visiting our Facebook page, you will notice the Ionia Little League team pictures. Several have been able to identify people in the photo and it is fun to listen to people reminisce. The response has been fantastic and I am happy to report that we now have over 2,000 "likes" on Facebook.

I want everyone to know that the house is being looked after and cared for. Greg Cook replaced the mercury light. This new light has an energy efficient bulb which should reduce our utility bill. He also patched and painted the rubber roof on the conservatory and above the back porch. The white rubber was showing through and it looks much better. Dave and Laurie White have been doing a wonderful job mowing this year. Dave

whisked in one afternoon with his grandson and his trailer and they helped me clean up a large pile of weeds that I cut down by the carriage house. Not wanting to take advantage of a good thing, I decided to call my dad (David Cook) for the next load. I am hoping that he will bring back some bark chips for the creek bank on our return to town.

Speaking of the creek, I have a group of gentlemen who are volunteering their time to spruce of the bank. I refer to them as the "Maude Men" (long story) and they are Greg Cook, Kim Grant, Mark Horrocks and Steve Reiger. We enjoy playing in the creek just as much today as when we were kids. If you get a chance, drive by and take a look at our progress. If you are interested in helping with this project, let us know.

I am pleased to report that our yard sale was a great success. These people helped with donations, pricing, set up/ tear down, or a combination of these. The main goal was to keep a safe distance and follow the rules according to the health department. Thank you, Barb Hogan, Bryan and Mary Kimball, Jean and Paul Barker, Rick and Mary Jo McKendry, David McCord, Dave Cusack, Stacy Tchorzynski, Kathleen Cook, Amber Stranahan and her daughter Makayla. Thanks also to Rod and Tracey Bergeron for their donations to the sale. Over \$1,000 was raised, and we're now planning another "pop-up sale" again on September 19th.

As of now, we are planning on having the Spirits of Ionia's Past Cemetery Tour at Highland Park. The date has been set for October 25th. Wait for more details on Facebook and through eMails. (*See ad in this issue.*)

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, ideas, or you just want to chat, feel free to give me a phone call.

— Kathleen



Barb Hogan, David McCord, and Stacy Tchorzynski at the Yard Sale.



*Greg Cook and the "Maude Men" (Steve Reiger and Kim Grant) tackle the challenges of the creek beside the Blanchard House.*

# What's Happening....

## Minutes from the ICHS Board Meeting —

President Kathleen Cook called the August 26th ICHS Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on the lawn of the Blanchard House. Also present were Directors Bryan Kimble and Stacy Tchorzynski, Treasurer Mary Kimble, Secretary David McCord, plus members Amber Stranahan and Lyle Joslyn. New member Tracey Bergeron and guests Steve Rieger and Kim Grant were also in attendance.

David M. moved to accept the agenda (with a few additions), supported by Bryan K. and passed. By way of "Public Comment" our guests were introduced and thanked by Kathleen for their work on the creek clean-up. Minutes of the previous minutes had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. Bryan K. moved, and Stacy T. supported, acceptance of the minutes, which motion passed.

## Committee Reports —

- Treasurer Mary K. presented the Directors with a financial report and summary of recent income and expenses. Fund raising ideas were discussed, including a suggestion from Stacy T. that we might look into an ICHS-branded root beer! Steve Rieger suggested also that hybrid and special varieties of lilies make a good fundraiser. The phone expense continues to be higher than we think reasonable, and Mary K. will call AT&T to find out

why. She will also contact EPS security about getting a new EPS sign for the front garden (a deterrent, we hope, to break-ins). The one we had has gone missing.

- Dave White was not present to deliver a Grounds & Maintenance report, but Kathleen noted the fine work he and Lori have been doing on the lawns. Kathleen noted that Greg Cook had replaced the old mercury light on the south side of the house with a new energy efficient light, and had painted the roof over the conservatory. Cooks also have taken seven woodchucks and a possum off the property! David M. reported on his continuing work in the carriage house, including some minor structural reinforcement.

Related to the Blanchard House, there was some conversation about redecorating the upstairs "tea room" now that Accessions has moved to the Sentinel-Standard facility. Tracey B. stated that she would be interested in helping with that effort. (More to come.)

- Bryan K. reported that the Accessions Committee work continues apace. He thanked David and Annette M. for helping to install an Ethernet cable in the Sentinel-Standard building which allows a usable Internet connection from within the storage area, as well as allowing Mary K. to connect to the computer there from her home computer. She has been working hard to incorporate standard museum nomenclature into our database, and new donations are coming in all the time. Recently, an antique wedding dress, some WWII artifacts, tools, and many other small items have been donated. Mary also noted that some items have been turned away due to our lack of space and/or our inability to properly care for the items.

- The Gift Shop is still awaiting an opportunity to do a

*Continues...*

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



*continued from page 2:*

proper inventory and implement a sales-recording form so that sales can be better tracked. Amber S. and Mary K. are still trying to coordinate a time to finish this process.

- Nothing has changed for the Museum Committee in recent months, with the exception of the workshop area in the carriage house.

- Publicity chair David M. reported that we have topped 2,000 "likes" on Facebook now, and that we continue to have a lot of traffic there and on the website. This is in large part to the historical photos that have been shared with our Facebook audience which have generated a lot of comments.

### Current Business:

- COVID-19 continues to dictate what we can and can't do, as interpreted by the local Health Department. The Board discussed the schedule for the remainder of the year, and Stacy T. moved to cancel all indoor gatherings for the rest of 2020. This was supported by Kathleen C. and passed. (See notes below RE: our annual meeting.)

- The Yard Sale on August 15th was a huge success, bringing in over \$1,000. Kathleen expressed her thanks to the entire crew that made this possible, and they want to stage another "Pop-up Yard Sale" within the next few weeks to sell more of the inventory. Kathleen will check calendars to coordinate with the First Christian Church Rummage Sale and report back. David M. will publicize the event on Facebook. If anyone is available to post fliers around town, please contact David M. (phone # listed on the back page). (*NOTE: After the meeting, Kathleen C. set the date of the next Yard Sale as Saturday, September 19th. —D.M.*)

- The Cemetery Tour was next on the agenda. We are going through with it, and need a few additional presenters for the event. The date is set now at Sunday, October 25th, from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. at Highland Park Cemetery. It looks like the Free Fair's tram will be available again, and Bryan K. will look into a truck and driver. (*NOTE: Truck and driver were confirmed soon after this meeting.*) Anyone interested in being a presenter, please contact Kathleen. We have several subjects identified now and research has begun. We could use three or four more.



*A couple of scenes from the carriage house repurposing project.*

- Halloween at the Blanchard House will also be canceled for this year.
- We do not have a Membership Committee, but Mary K. has prepared postcards and a mailing list for former ICHS members. The Board approve postage for this at an earlier meeting, but action was postponed due to the pandemic. Mary has been encouraged to send those out now to recruit new members prior to the annual meeting in October.
- Discussion ensued regarding the annual meeting and election process in light of the pandemic and our suspension of membership meetings (see above). After some discussion, the Board decided on the following plan:

We will not be meeting for our normal first-Wednesday program on Sept 2nd. However, the September meeting date is still the deadline for nominations for the Board of Directors elections in October.

There are two positions open on the Board of Directors this year, and we have five candidates at this time: David Cusack, David McCord, Barb Ehrt, Linda Cangi, and Amber Stranahan. (*NOTE: Amber S. has withdrawn her nomination as of 8/31*) Members interested in running for the two open

*Continues...*

positions for the Board should contact the President, Kathleen Cook, before September 2nd to be included in the election in October. Nominations will be closed at that time, and ballots prepared.

Shortly thereafter, members will receive a membership form, ballot, and return envelope in the mail. These will be prepared and mailed by David M.

Paid members' votes\* will be collected by the Board until the scheduled date of the October first-Wednesday meeting. (Late ballots will not be counted.) As usual, the ballots will be tallied and the newly elected Board members announced. NOT as usual, there won't be a general meeting that night, so the announcement will be shared through Facebook and eMail only.

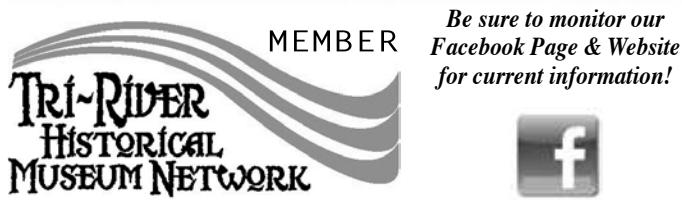
The new Board will meet shortly after that date to elect officers for the coming year and address the annual fiscal duties.

A Fall Newsletter is in process, and will be printed immediately after nominations are closed and recorded. Copies of the membership forms and ballots will be included in that issue as well.

\*Members who have joined within the past 6 months are considered "paid" for the upcoming year.

• Bryan K. moved to adjourn the meeting, which was supported generally by the members present. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

- Duly submitted, David M., Secretary



## Our calendar of upcoming events!

Additional information and changes (where necessary) are posted on our Google Calendar and Facebook page.

NOTE: During the COVID-19 pandemic the Blanchard House is closed to tours, meetings, and rentals. For the few events we are hosting, we are observing restrictions imposed upon all Michigan museums and outdoor gatherings to the best of our ability. Please join us in our compliance with those imposed guidelines. We hope to be back to normal for the 2021 season. Thanks for your continued support through memberships, donations, and social media.

Saturday, September 19th — Our second "pop-up" Yard Sale will be held at the Blanchard House front lawn from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please stop by and help us meet our expenses for the winter!

Wednesday, October 7th — This would normally be our Annual Meeting and Election of Directors. Due to the pandemic, this will not happen. See more details in the "What's Happening" minutes on how we'll be running the elections this year. Thanks for your understanding.

Sunday, October 25th —  
**The Annual "Spirits of Ionia" Cemetery Tour!**  
See the advertisement elsewhere in this issue.

# SOUVENIRS

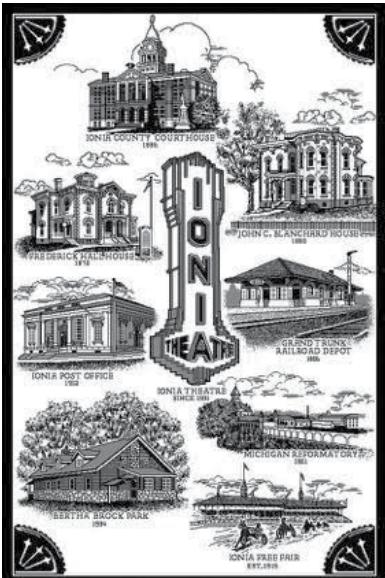
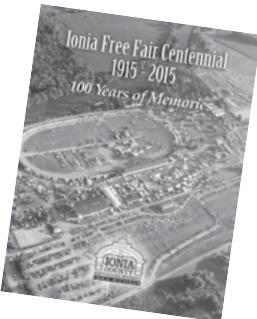
MEMORIES & MOMENTOS      IONIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY      HERITAGE & HISTORY

## 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 \$10 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



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 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

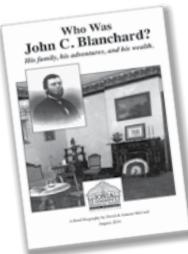
"Ionia's First 150 Years" and "Ionia - A Look Back" - Films by Monroe MacPherson

**DVDs are available for \$10 each!**

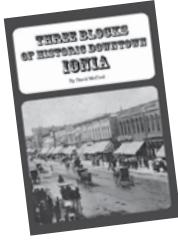
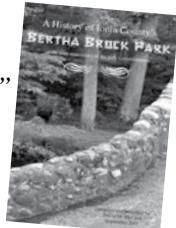
**Cobmoosa: The Great Walker** — A biography of the last Great Chief of the Grand River Indians. by David McCord. \$6 each



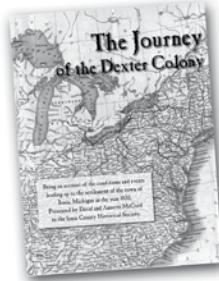
**Who Was John C. Blanchard?** A biography of one of Ionia's leading businessmen. by David McCord. \$6 each



**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)

# WAYBACK

## 1820 - 200 Years Ago:

### Supreme Court of the Territory of Michigan

Early descriptions of the court were sometimes humorous and portray a loosely organized, often whimsical office that was given to gross favoritism and met at irregular hours, "sometimes in the council house and sometimes at the clerk's office; sometimes at a tavern and sometimes on a woodpile." The Detroit Gazette wrote: "In September, 1820, the court frequently held its sessions [in a tavern] from 2 p.m. till 12, 1, and 3 o'clock in the morning of the next day; and cases were disposed of in the absence of both clients and counsel. During these night sittings, suppers of meat and bottles of whiskey were brought into court, and a noisy and merry banquet was partaken at the bar by some, while others were addressing the court in solemn argument, and others presenting to the judges on the bench, meat, bread, and whiskey, and inviting them to partake."



On November 7th, James Monroe was re-elected U.S. president. Despite the being era of single-party politics (known as "the Era of Good Feelings"), serious issues emerged during the election in 1820 including disagreement about the extension of slavery into the territories. Nevertheless, James Monroe faced no opposition party or candidate in his re-election bid. Since President Monroe's re-nomination was never in doubt, few Republicans bothered to attend the nominating caucus in April 1820. Only 40 delegates attended. The opposition Federalist party didn't even bother to nominate a candidate.

Missouri imposed a \$1 bachelor tax on unmarried men aged between 21 & 50 in December of this year. Monetary incentive to take a wife!

## 1870 - 150 Years Ago:

The 1870 Michigan election for Governor was held on November 1. The incumbent Republican Henry P. Baldwin (pictured here) defeated Democratic nominee Charles C. Comstock with 53.71% of the vote.



R. L. Polk & Company was founded by Ralph Lane Polk in 1870 in Detroit as a publisher of business directories. In 2013, IHS Inc. announced their \$1.4 billion purchase of R.L. Polk. (I'd say they did pretty well over the years!)

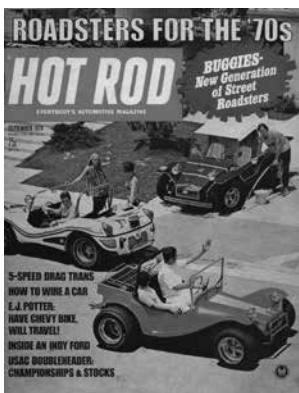
With Brigham Young's support, the Utah territorial legislature granted women the right to vote, providing the Mormons with an added margin of political power. In the same month, the California court ruled in *White vs. Flood* that a black child may not attend a white school, setting the legal precedent for school segregation.

Bret Harte published "The Luck of Roaring Camp and Other Sketches," a collection of stories based on his years as a San Francisco journalist, which offered a sentimental and humorous view of "uncouth" frontier characters, establishing a set of stereotypes that would remain an important part of the myth of the American West.

## 1920 - 100 Years Ago:

On November 2, the U.S. presidential election resulted in Warren G. Harding as the next President of the United States, defeating Democrat candidate James M. Cox.

Leslie Townes Hope was born on May 29, 1903 in the Eltham district of southeast London, the fifth of seven sons. He arrived in the United States with his family at the age of four, and grew up near Cleveland, Ohio. From age 12, Hope earned pocket money by busking—public performing to solicit contributions (frequently on the streetcar to Luna Park), singing, dancing, and performing comedy. He entered dancing and talent contests as Lester Hope, and won a prize in 1915 for his impersonation of Charlie Chaplin. For a time, he attended the Boys' Industrial School in Lancaster, Ohio, and had a brief career as a boxer in 1919, fighting under the name Packy East. He became a citizen of the United States on December 20, 1920—about the same time he adopted the stage name "Bob Hope."



## 1970 - 50 Years Ago:

PBS began operations on October 5, 1970, taking over many of the functions of its predecessor, National Educational Television (NET), which later merged with Newark, New Jersey station WNDT to form WNET.

The "Doonesbury" comic strip debuted in 28 newspapers on October 26. The comic by American cartoonist Garry Trudeau chronicles the adventures of an array of characters of various ages, professions, and backgrounds, from the President of the United States to the title character, Michael Doonesbury, who has progressed from a college student to a senior citizen over the decades.

Nov 17 Douglas Engelbart received the patent for the first computer mouse. He is best known for his work on founding the field of human-computer interaction, which resulted in creation of the computer mouse, the development of hypertext, networked computers, and precursors to the now-ubiquitous graphical user interfaces.

The Russians made great strides in the on-going space race: On Nov 18, they landed a self propelled rover on the Moon, and on Dec 15, Venera 7 was the first earth-made spacecraft to land on another planet (Venus).

The end of 1970 signaled the end of the Beatles. Ringo Starr released his solo album "Beaucoups of Blues" and George Harrison released his triple album set "All Things Must Pass"



just a month after his release of the controversial hit single "My Sweet Lord." Finally, at the end of December, Paul McCartney filed a lawsuit to dissolve The Beatles as a business entity.

On Dec 21st, Elvis Presley met US President Richard Nixon in the White House. The image of this meeting is the most requested photo from the entire National Archives.

**Just \$5.00  
Admission!**

**+ Social  
Distancing!**

# SPIRITS of Ionia's Past 2020

**On Sunday  
October 25th  
from 1:00 p.m.  
to 4:00 p.m.**



**Highland  
Park Cemetery  
on East Main at  
Prairie Creek**

Join us on our annual adventure into the stories of Ionia's past through Ionians who have passed! Reinactors portray some of the prominent citizens interred at the cemetery with stories of their lives, including how they came to be buried here. See the beautiful headstones and monuments, too!

**Tickets at the event or in advance by contacting  
Kathleen Cook — 616-527-2626**



**If you've paid,  
you may vote!**

There are two positions available for the Board of Directors to be elected for a 2-year term. All ballots returned to P.O. Box 176 by 5:00 p.m. on October 7th will be counted. All votes will be held in strict confidence when counted. The new Directors will be announced via the Website and Facebook.

VOTE FOR    David McCord    Linda Ciangi  
TWO:         Barb Ehler       David Cusack

Please return your completed ballot promptly to:  
**Secretary David McCord**  
Ionia County Historical Society  
PO Box 176 / Ionia, MI 48846

The new Board will meet soon after the election to elect officers for the next year (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary). This, too, will be announced through the Website and Facebook.

[www.ioniahistory.org](http://www.ioniahistory.org) • [facebook.com/ioniahistory/](https://facebook.com/ioniahistory/)

Due to the restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, our 2020 election of Directors will be held entirely through the mail.  
**VOTES ARE DUE BY OCTOBER 1.**

As you all know, a paid membership is required to vote, so the membership form is on the other side of this page. You can send your membership and your ballot in the same envelope. Most members will receive a separate envelope with this same ballot enclosed. Please don't use both!

If you cut along the dashed line above, you can complete both the membership and the ballot, and mail them well before October 1st to:

**David McCord, Secretary  
Ionia County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 176  
Ionia, MI 48846**



# the CHRONICLE

[www.ioniahistory.org](http://www.ioniahistory.org)

Ionia County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 176  
Ionia, MI 48846

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).



## 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, P.O. Box 176, Ionia, MI 48846.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check Your  
Membership Type:

- Regular Membership = \$20 Per Person
- Business Buddy = \$40
- Corporate = \$250
- Life Member = \$1000
- Student (under 18) FREE
- Enclosing an additional Gift = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am a:

Renewing Member

New Member

If you're a new member, how did you hear about us?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Send my newsletter by US Mail.
- Send a link to get my newsletter by email.

## Got something to donate?

The Historical Society accepts most donations of antique and vintage photos, documents, and 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 org.)



### Ionia County Historical Society 2020 Board of Directors and Officers

Kathleen Cook, President — 616-527-2626

Katelyn Mooney, Vice President — 616-902-7777

Barb Ehlert, House Rentals — 616-522-0844

Bryan Kimble, Director — 616-897-6592

Stacy Tchorzynski, Director — 517-763-1770

David McCord, Secretary — 616-527-3784

Mary Kimble, Treasurer — 616-897-6592

For information on your long-lost relatives in Ionia, please contact the Ionia County Genealogy Society.

<http://ionia.migenweb.net/ICGS/icgshome.htm>



Visit us at [www.IoniaHistory.org](http://www.IoniaHistory.org)  
and find us on Facebook, too!

Thanks!



## A brief look at our candidates for the 2020 Board of Directors election.

### Linda Ciangi

Ionia is my home town (including 50 years on Hackett Street!) and I am honored by the confidence and trust the community has placed in me to share their stories and to safeguard donated family treasures during my 15 years with the Ionia County Historical Society. Come visit the basement museum at the Blanchard House and delight in local artifacts - as museum chair person I will share stories of our town and I'll tell you something you don't know. I stand on my record as a previous board member and past president, and appreciate the support of the society membership.

### David McCord

I have been a member of the ICHS for 30 years, on the Board several times, President for a couple of terms, and Secretary for 20+ years. I've served on several committees during that time, volunteered for dozens of ICHS events, and represent Ionia at the Tri-River Museum Network and the Kutsche Office of Local History at GVSU. I've provided a majority of the souvenirs in the Blanchard House gift shoppe and maintain the Website and Facebook Page (with mixed success). I was honored as Ionia's Volunteer of the Year in 2017, in large part because of my involvement with the ICHS. As a fifth-generation Ionian, I love our local heritage and love sharing it with others.

### Barb Ehler

(By D. McCord on Barb's behalf.)  
Barb has been a member of the Board for a long time, served as "Housekeeping Chairperson" for many years and chair of the Rental Committee. The untold hours of work on behalf of the ICHS and her "hostessing" at countless events make her a valuable asset to the ICHS, to our guests, and to the Blanchard House itself. Add to that her willingness to help at fund-raising activities and participation in a host of other civic events, and Barb is definitely someone whose presence has been undeniably vital to the Historical Society.

### David Cusack

I was born in Ionia, and graduated from Ionia High School in 1981. After years attending college and establishing a respectable career, I eventually returned to live on my family's farm in Ionia township in 2015, joining the Ionia County Historical Society at that time.

I gained hands-on knowledge of our local history through an archaeological recovery effort at the site of the new bridge in Muir. I have served as the president of the Upper Grand Valley chapter of the Michigan Archaeological Society (MAS) (2016-2019) and currently serve as president of the state organization (since 2018.)