



the **CHRONICLE**

The Almost Monthly Publication of
the Ionia County Historical Society



A Message from the ICHS President, Kathleen Cook

Dear ICHS Members and Friends,

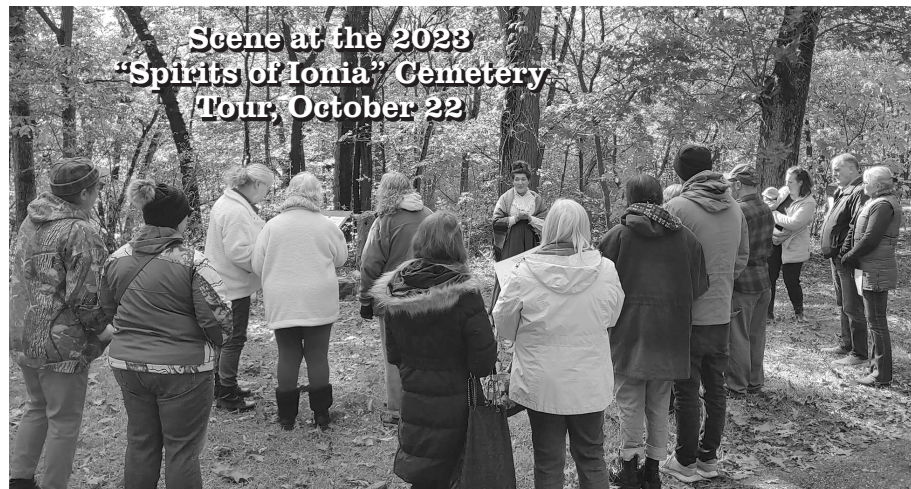
It has been a fun and busy autumn starting with the **Celebration of the City of Ionia**

turning 150 years old. Of course, if something is happening in our hometown, we want to be a part of it. Our very own Linda Ciangi and David & Annette McCord were significant contributors in this event. The window and table displays of artifacts at the theatre looked fabulous!

David, all dressed up to play the part, gave a fantastic tribute to Ionia's first Honorable Mayor Frederick Hall. Linda, in Marion Hall-Fowler fashion, made sure that any child attending, would receive a book. On Sunday, the Blanchard House was open for tours, and the house looked especially beautiful. I was pleased to see so many volunteers to host this event.



In keeping with the theme of 1873, the characters in the **Cemetery Tour** were someone significant from that time. We sold 71 tickets and made a little extra money from concessions and gift shop items. I was happy that the weather cooperated, and we had the opportunity to teach local history. Tracy Hodgkins, owner of "Just Like Home Adult Daycare" loaned us her bus and Tom Millard offered to drive it. Words can not express my appreciation (and sigh of relief) of figuring out a way to safely get tourist to the top of the hill.



Scene at the 2023
"Spirits of Ionia" Cemetery
Tour, October 22

Thank you to all of those who donated candy to be given out on **Halloween**. Annette McCord said that we had 387 trick-or treaters. We believe the number of visitors is down from years past because of the cold weather. Regardless, it is always a fun event, and I am glad that we can participate.

After much discussion, we decided that we will not give tours this year in the month of December. We will put up and decorate the large **Christmas Tree** in the parlor, but we will not decorate the house as we did in years past. The cost of heating the house and the lack of visitors makes it difficult to justify the cost. Heating the house during the winter months is our largest expense.

We will be kicking off with a campaign to heat the house and if you can contribute, it would be appreciated. We also decided to close the house up and cancel general membership during the winter months. Our first general membership meeting will be in April at the Blanchard House. The board would like to use the winter months strategically planning on how we should move forward. Like most organizations, our membership is down from years past and we have very few active members. It is critical that we spend time recruiting new members to the group. If you know of someone who is interested in joining but they have not, please direct them our way.

Need some great family photos taken? We've made an agreement with Kenzie Myers, a local photographer, to capture family photos on the Blanchard House front porch. If you're interested, visit: capturedbykenziephotography.mypixieset.com!

I still receive a lot of inquiries about Ionia history. I got a call about a month ago from a gentleman who is interested in the first recorded perfect game in baseball history. Of course, this all happened well before the term "perfect game" was part of baseball lexicon. The gentleman was impressed that I knew about the game and "Pud" Galvin. I also received some items from my mother's closest friend, Janice (Graham) Morrison. She gave me a fun picture of her standing with the owner and other employees at the Tastee Freeze in Ionia. Do any of you remember going there? Ken Porta was cleaning out a house and donated some pictures and items from Moon Franch who was sheriff of Ionia County right after my "Papa Cook." I receive





GREAT GIFT IDEAS ON THE NEXT PAGE ... THE
GIFT SHOP WILL BE OPEN ON DECEMBER 6th!

Message from Kathleen - continued from Page 1

a call almost monthly, inquiring about the State Hospital or one of the prisons. So, as you can see, there is still a lot of interest in our town's history.

We have some of the richest history of any place I know, and we will continue to tell our story. We will be selling gift shop items at the **Mrs. Claus Bazaar** on December 2, and we will open the house of for prearranged tours at a time convenient for both parties. I hope to see all of you at our annual **December Potluck** at the Blanchard House. We will begin the evening with a social hour (you may bring your own adult beverage if you would like) at 6:30, followed by dinner at 7:00. If you would like to bring a friend, my motto is, "the more the merrier." I hope to see you then.

Happy Holidays,
Kathleen Cook, ICHS President



HELP HEAT the HOUSE?

We'll be starting a campaign to keep the heat on during the winter months. If you'd like to help—with a donation or a bit of fund-raising—contact a member of the Board. Thanks!

COMING UP:

To verify current details, please visit our website of Facebook.

- Wednesday, November 29, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Business Meeting at the Blanchard House.
- Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m. — Annual **CHRISTMAS POT-LUCK** at the Blanchard House. Bring your favorite holiday dish!



ATTENTION PLEASE!



There are no scheduled
"First Wednesday" public meetings
of the Ionia Co. Historical Society
for January, February, or March!

(The first Monthly Meeting in 2024 will be April 3rd.)

This doesn't mean there won't meetings!
Committee work and special projects will
still go on, including:

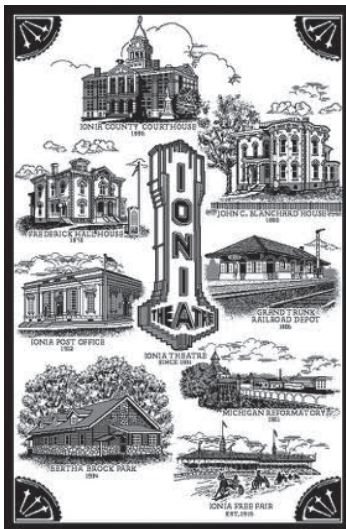
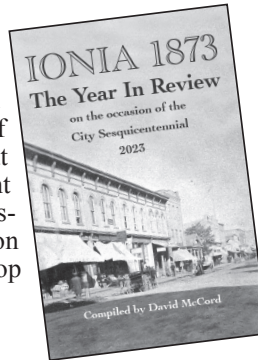
- ★ maintenance, housekeeping
- ★ participation in community events,
- ★ recruiting individual members
- ★ recruiting business memberships
- ★ accessions and inventory
- ★ the accessions building project
- ★ research for our patrons
- ★ fund raising and future events
- ★ and much, much more!

The best way to keep in touch with the Board
and Committee Chairs is through Facebook,
eMails, or phone calls. If there are any on-going
projects or winter tasks that you would like to
help with, please contact a member of the Board
and they will fill you in. THANKS!



Ionia 1873—The Year In Review

Compiled especially for the Sesquicentennial of the City of Ionia in 2023, this 40-page booklet presents a summary of life in the City of Ionia during the year of its incorporation. World and National news, Learn about local events, businesses, organizations, and prominent landmarks. Includes many period photos and statistics sure to entertain and educate. The newest addition to the ICHS Gift Shop Library—Just \$10.00!



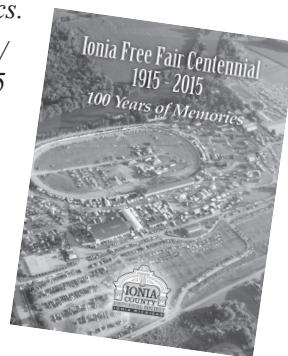
Do you have your souvenir Ionia History blanket yet? This attractive heavy throw is large, warm, and looks great in anyone's home. Available in shades of gray or burgundy. \$75 for this souvenir of Ionia. (\$65 for ICHS Members).

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 post-)



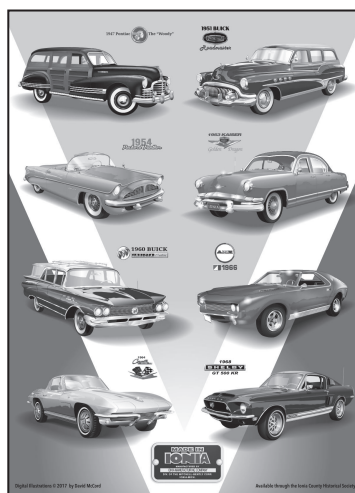
ALSO AVAILABLE:

Reproductions of historic Ionia publications:

- 1887 "Headlight Flashes" Special Ionia Edition
- 1907 Ionia Souvenir Book
- 1973 Ionia City Centennial Program Book
- Antique Ionia Postcards and 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.)

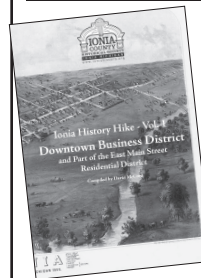
Historic DVD Videos

The ICHS Gift Shop includes copies of several historic films on DVD, some professionally produced and others are copies of vintage footage donated by individuals.

Most significant is this 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!

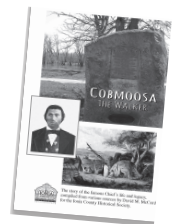


DVDs are available for \$10 each!

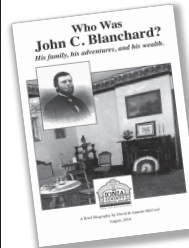


"History Hike - Vol. I" a walking Tour of Historic Downtown Ionia including a map and many colored pages of history by David McCord. \$10 each

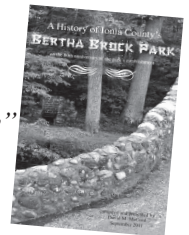
Cobmoosa: The Great Walker — A biography of the last Great Chief of the Grand River Indians. by David McCord. \$6 each



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

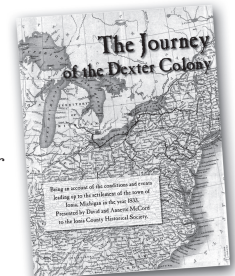


A History of Bertha Brock Park on its 80th "Birthday" by David McCord. \$6 each



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, 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.

MEMBER

**Tri-River
Historical
Museum Network**

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



Ionia County Historical Society 2021-22 Board of Directors and Officers

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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
and find us on Facebook, too!

Thanks!