Come with us on our popular Life of Lincoln Tour next spring! All our members will receive a booklet with a full description of the trip, but here’s a preview:

Our motorcoach tour on April 17-19, 2015, takes in a whole host of Abraham Lincoln sites, including the huge new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library. The $599 tour fee includes motorcoach transportation, two nights’ lodging, full dinners on both nights, all admissions, taxes and gratuities.

Our tour starts with an afternoon at Lincoln’s New Salem, the reconstructed village where Abraham Lincoln spent his early adulthood. Lincoln lived in the little hamlet about twenty miles northwest of Springfield as a young adult. There he worked at a variety of jobs: clerking in a store, splitting rails, and postmaster and deputy surveyor. He failed in business but won election to the Illinois General Assembly in 1834 and 1836.

New Salem went into decline and in 1837 Lincoln moved to Springfield. The log structures at the abandoned village eventually rotted away and New Salem disappeared.

Today, twelve log houses, the Rutledge Tavern, ten workshops, stores, mills and a school where church services were held have been reproduced and furnished as they appeared in the 1830s. One log cabin in New Salem, the Onstot Cooper Shop, is original, although Henry Onstot moved it to Petersburg in 1840; it was returned to New Salem in 1922.

The second day starts with a tour of the Old State Capitol Building, which stands just a couple of blocks from the Lincoln House in downtown Springfield. Lincoln served his final term as a state lawmaker here in 1840–1841 and he also made his House Divided speech here in 1858, announcing his candidacy for the U. S. Senate. It was also to this building that his body was returned from Washington, D.C. prior to final burial in Springfield’s Oak Ridge Cemetery.

We’ll then visit the nearby Illinois State Museum to discover everything about Illinois. It’s a fabulous museum with a little something for everyone, and a great way to place Abraham Lincoln in context. There are plenty of eateries around the museum, so we’ll have time to tour the museum, have lunch, and stop in at one or two of the shops in the vicinity.

Our destination in the afternoon: the Abraham Lincoln House. This house at 8th and Jackson streets in Springfield is the only home Lincoln ever owned. Abra-
Berrien County Historical Association Board and Staff

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**BCHA Mission Statement**

The mission of the BCHA is to collect, preserve and interpret the history of Berrien County through exhibits, tours, publications, and educational and community outreach programs for public benefit.

Learn more about the BCHA by visiting www.berrienhistory.org

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**The Docket**

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Kristen Patzer Umphrey, Museum Services Coordinator

*The Docket* is a benefit of membership in the BCHA. Annual membership dues to the BCHA are: $20 for individuals, $30 for families, and $40 for institutions. Supporting memberships are: $40 Contributing, $50 Sustaining, $100 Patron, and $500 Benefactor.

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**Director’s Comments**

*By Kathy Cyr*

Dear Friends,

Season's Greetings to all of you! We have much to be thankful for here at the History Center at Courthouse Square: we appreciate the members, volunteers, staff, board members, County personnel, and everyone in the community who give so freely of their time, expertise and financial support to help us preserve and interpret our area's history. Thank you for all you do on the History Center's behalf!

Looking ahead to events in 2015 – The annual meeting will take place on April 28, where for the fifth year we present the Frank J. Ward Memorial History Award. The annual History Award honors an individual, organization or business that advances the cause of local history through research, writing, historic preservation or programming. Please nominate a deserving individual, organization or business for consideration of this honor. A nomination form is included in this newsletter.

New for 2015 – We are offering three heritage bus tours. The first, April 17 – 19, is a three-day trip to Illinois for the “Life of Lincoln”. The second trip, scheduled for July 26- 28, is a three day trip to Sault St. Marie and the Agawa Canyon. The third trip, an eight-day tour of Charleston, will be September 12 – 19. Please join us for one or more of these fun-filled history adventures. Watch for a special mailing announcing each trip. We will begin taking reservations for the “Life of Lincoln” tour on January 5.

The History Center is also launching a new monthly afternoon lecture series for January, February and March which will be free to the public. See the article inside this newsletter.

Again, thank you for your past support by: your attendance at the History Center programs and special events; your volunteering at programs and events, your input for new programs, your donations and contributions; your membership and your annual appeal gift. The Board of Directors and staff look forward to working with and serving you in the coming year.

As you make out your Christmas giving list, please be sure to remember the History Center in your end of year gifts to your favorite non-profits, for without your continued monetary support we would not be able to bring you the programming you have come to expect.

I hope you all have the merriest of holidays! Safe travels if you are planning to visit out of town family.

Happy Holidays and a Blessed New Year!

*Kathy A. Cyr*  
Executive Director
ham and Mary Todd Lincoln bought the single-story Greek Revival house in 1844 from Rev. Charles Dresser, who had performed their marriage ceremony two years earlier. The Lincolns enlarged the house to a full two stories in 1856 to meet the needs of their growing family. Three of the four Lincoln sons were born here, and one (Edward) died here in 1850 just before his fourth birthday. When Lincoln won the 1860 Republican Presidential nomination, he received a delegation of party officials in his parlor.

When the family left for Washington in 1861, the Lincolns rented out the house, sold most of their furniture, and entrusted the family dog to a neighbor. Robert Todd Lincoln donated the house to the State of Illinois in 1887. Now a National Park Service site, it and the surrounding four-block area are restored to their appearance in 1860.

Docents give a wonderful tour of the home. A couple of houses next door contain museum exhibits about the neighborhood as it existed in the 1850s. We'll end the day with a tour of the Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site. The tomb is the final resting place of Abraham Lincoln, his wife Mary, and three of their four sons: Edward, William, and Thomas “Tad” Lincoln. Their eldest son, Robert Lincoln, is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

The 117-foot tall Lincoln Tomb, designed by sculptor Larkin Mead, is constructed of brick sheathed with Quincy granite. At the corners of the obelisk, large pedestals serve as bases for four bronze sculptures, each with a group of figures representing one of the four Civil War military services — infantry, artillery, cavalry and navy. Lincoln's remains rest in a concrete vault ten feet below the marble floor of the burial chamber. Crypts in the chamber's south wall hold the remains of Mary, Edward, Willie and Tad Lincoln.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum - on our third day - is the star attraction of our tour, and for good reason: it's fantastic! The museum opened in 2005 and immediately became the most visited presidential library and museum in America. Attendance topped two million in just four years.

The museum features wonderful exhibits on Lincoln's life, among them the Museum's Treasures Gallery, which features a rotating exhibit of significant artifacts related to Abraham Lincoln. In addition to permanent exhibits, temporary exhibits showcase other collections related to Lincoln's life and times.

There is so much to see in the Museum that many visitors make return trips to re-experience some parts and discover other areas that they overlooked.

Our motorcoach will pick us up at 1:30 for the return trip back to Berrien Springs. We should make it home about 6:30 p.m.

Lodging for both nights of our Life of Lincoln Tour is at the Baymont Inn in Springfield. The Baymont includes a complimentary hot breakfast in the morning, pool and hot tub.

Our dinners include salads, entrees, desserts, coffee/tea/soft drinks, and of course the gratuity. We'll dine in style at two of Springfield's most popular restaurants: American Harvest Eatery and Mariah's Steakhouse & Pasta. The former takes great pride in buying its meats, vegetables and fruits directly from local farmers. Mariah's is a locally-owned restaurant (we always dine at local restaurants, not chains) and one of the top-rated eateries in the city.

Our “Life of Lincoln” Tour has numbered among our most popular motorcoach tours, and it's one of our staff favorites, too. We always have a great time, learn a lot, meet wonderful people, and eat far more than is good for us!

We hope you can join our Agawa Canyon Tour and Historic Charleston Tour as well. We're still working on the details for those trips (some of the sites don't take reservations until January) and will let you know as soon as we have everything finalized.
Curator’s Corner

Recent Donations to the Museum Collections

Buchanan District Library . . . Buchanan High School yearbooks
Frank E. Buesing . . . . . . . . Photograph albums
Beverly Jordan . . . . . . . . . Benton Harbor High School scrapbook
& yearbooks, 1927
Gary Kuehnle . . . . . . . . . . House of David souvenirs, postcards
Tom Lister . . . . . . . . . . . . Photographs
Dwan McOmber McAdams . . . . . Photograph
Virginia Martin . . . . . . . Newspapers, Clothing
Daryl T. Schlender . . . . . Photographic negatives of the
Whitcomb Hotel, 1928
Francie Porter Snyder . . . . 2008 Barack Obama T-shirts
Bud Walkup . . . . . . . . Photograph

Beatrice Andrews graduated from Benton Harbor High
School in 1927. She pasted this armband into her high
school scrapbook, noting that she “Wore this band to all
the football games - Especially St. Joe game.” Her daughter,
Beverly Jordan, recently donated the scrapbook to the His-
tory Center.

An Evening with Dolley Madison

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful program with America’s first First
Lady, Dolley Madison. Cynthia Janzen's spot-on portrayal of the iconic
figure from American history left us with the feeling that we had actually met
Dolley herself. We deeply appreciate the efforts of all who contributed to
make the event a big success, and we’re already in the planning stages for the
2015 Signature Event.

Ron Taylor met with Dolley after the program.

Larry Nielsen served as master of ceremonies for the evening.

A big “thank you” to all the businesses and indi-
viduals who contributed to our silent auction!
Frank J. Ward History Award Nominations Sought

The History Center is soliciting nominees for our annual Frank J. Ward Memorial History Award.

The award is named for Frank Junior Ward, a longtime member of the Berrien County Historical Association. When Mr. Ward passed away he included the History Center among his bequests. The award is presented annually to honor an individual, organization or business that advances the cause of local history through research, writing, historic preservation or programming.

The History Center will accept award nominations until February 28, 2015. A committee of BCHA board members, staff and members will select the recipient. The award will be presented at the History Center’s annual meeting on April 28, 2015. BCHA Board of Directors and staff are not eligible to receive the award.

Nominations may come from BCHA members or the greater Berrien County community. Please complete the form at right and attach a one page (or less) document to inform the committee about your nomination.

Enjoy Our Local History!

Greetings from Three Oaks ($25.95) Quantity: Total: $
Greetings from Benton Harbor ($27.95) Quantity: Total: $
Greetings from St. Joseph ($27.95) Quantity: Total: $
Greetings from Berrien Springs ($21.95) Quantity: Total: $
Greetings from Buchanan ($24.95) Quantity: Total: $
The Story of Buchanan ($14.95) Quantity: Total: $
The Heyday of Hinchman ($18.95) Quantity: Total: $
Historical Sketches of Berrien County ($23.95) Quantity: Total: $
Autotram: Clark’s Aluminum Railcar ($16.95) Quantity: Total: $
Locomotives Along the Lakeshore ($24.95) Quantity: Total: $
Twin City Trolleys ($8.95) Quantity: Total: $

SPECIAL: Greetings from Buchanan & Story of Buchanan Quantity: Total: $
Get both for $29.95!

Discounts (Library 20%) BCHA Members 10%)
State sales tax (6% for Michigan orders only)
Shipping ($3.95 for 1st book, $1.00 each additional book

Subtotal: $

Total: $

Save on shipping and pick up your books from the History Center Store!

Credit Card Orders (Visa, MC, Discover)
Card No.: Exp. Date:
Name on Card:
Signature:
Afternoons at Courthouse Square Program Series

Shake off the mid-winter blahs with something new: our winter program series. Join us at 2:00 p.m. on the last Thursday afternoon in January, February and March for some fascinating tales of American history.

We’ll look at St. Joseph poet Ben King and Chicago’s macabre Whitechapel Club; a B-24 crewman who spent the latter part of World War II as an unwilling guest of Switzerland; and discuss Life on the Homefront during World War II in a panel discussion. All three programs are open to the public and free of charge.

The series opens on January 22 with “Ben King and the Whitechapel Club,” presented by Curator Bob Myers. St. Joseph likes to recall its hometown bard as the gentle author of such pastoral poems as The River St. Joe, but King was also a prominent member of Chicago’s Whitechapel Club. The short-lived (1889-1894) offshoot of the Chicago Press Club decorated its meeting rooms with real skulls, hangman’s nooses, murder weapons and other ghoulish souvenirs and included in its membership some of the Windy City’s top writers and journalists, among them Finley Peter Dunne (creator of Mr. Dooley), Brand Whitlock and Charles Goodyear Seymour. They met to drink beer, tell lies and engage in “sharpshooting” - witty repartee in which Ben King excelled.

“Captive in the Alps” examines the story of Clare Hubbard of Berrien Center who spent 1944-1945 as an unwilling guest of the Swiss government.

Hubbard served as a waist gunner on a B-24 Liberator heavy bomber, nicknamed Our Honey. He and his crew flew on bombing raids over Europe as members of the 713th Squadron of the 448th Bomb Group. On their third mission anti-aircraft fire knocked out both engines on the right wing. Realizing that they would never get their crippled bomber back to England, the pilots steered for the Swiss border. The crew bailed out just before Our Honey exploded in mid-air. They, like thousands of other American flyers, found themselves interned for the duration of the war.

History Center curator Bob Myers relates Hubbard’s plight in this program on February 26. Contrary to popular belief, Swiss officials often dealt harshly with Americans who had fallen into their custody and life as an internee was not skiing and sipping hot chocolate while waiting for the war to end.

Americans fought World War II at home as well as overseas. Our March 26 program, “World War II and the Home Front,” brings together a panel of residents who experienced life in Berrien County during the war. The discussion focuses on how they and their families adjusted to the demands of wartime America: rationing; factories turning to war production; young men and women enlisting in the armed forces; and the loss of friends and family members.

We’re looking forward to all of these programs. See you at the History Center in 2015!
Haunted St. Joseph Walking Tour

We enjoyed a HUGE turnout for the Haunted St. Joseph Tour that we hosted with our friends from The Heritage Museum & Cultural Center. We anticipated that 50 to 60 people would register for the tour but we ended up with over 200!

The tour route went up and down State Street, stopping at many of the old 19th century houses along the way. We described the history of the house, including its architectural style and who had built it, and of course stories of residents purported to have returned in the afterlife. Participants then boarded a bus to travel to the St. Joseph City Cemetery and a tour of the mausoleum. Darkness had set in as the last tour went through the cemetery and a bat fluttered through the mausoleum right on cue - we couldn't have hoped for a better finale!

A big thank you goes to our volunteer tour guide, Scott Bradford. Scott's a long-time member of Twin City Players and owner of the Bradford Insurance Agency in St. Joseph. He and Curator Bob Myers led the tours on State Street, while David Kohrman of the Heritage Center led the cemetery tours. Our own Kristen Patzer Umphrey and The Heritage Museum’s Mollie Kruck and Amy Zapal kept things organized at the registration desk.

Another big thank you goes to the St. Joseph Public Schools for its loan of a bus and driver to shuttle participants to the cemetery.

Next year’s Haunted St. Joseph tours will be on Friday and Saturday, October 16 and 17. We’ll see you there - if you’re brave enough!

Kindle The Christmas Spirit

Over 700 people visited the History Center during the Berrien Springs’ annual “Kindle The Christmas Spirit” event on December 4.

The event included musical performances in the courtroom, blacksmithing demonstrations in the Bennett Forge blacksmith shop, and Christmas stories in the Murdock Log House. Visitors also enjoyed many activities in town, including horse and carriage rides, garland and ornament projects, face painting, visits with Santa Claus, ice sculpting and much more.

Students from Trinity Lutheran School in Berrien Springs provided choral entertainment in the courtroom. Blacksmith Dave Francis made sleigh bells in Bennett’s Forge and explained the smith’s art. Curator Bob Myers had the fireplace burning in the Murdock Log House and entertained visitors with stories of early 19th century Michigan. Jenny Branch Sailor greeted people in the Museum Store and Karen Campbell staffed the courthouse.

Kindle The Christmas Spirit is an annual event in Berrien Springs. Always held on the first Thursday of December, next year’s Kindle will take place on December 3.
Continuing and Upcoming Events

**Ongoing:** *New From You!* Exhibit at the History Center. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mondays - Fridays.

**January 22:** “Ben King and the Whitechapel Club,” with curator Bob Myers. 2:00 p.m.

**February 26:** “Captive in the Alps: A Michigan Airman Interned in Switzerland,” with curator Bob Myers. 2:00 p.m.

**March 26:** Panel discussion, World War II and the Home Front. 2:00 p.m.

**April 17-19:** “Life of Lincoln” bus tour to Springfield, Illinois

**April 28:** History Center Annual Meeting. 6:30 p.m.

**June 25:** Thursdays at Courthouse Square. Valerie Van Heest presents *Fatal Crossing: The Mysterious Disappearance of NWA Flight 2501.* 6:30 p.m. Presented with the Berrien Springs Community Library.

**July 2:** Thursdays at Courthouse Square. Author Julianna Frost presents *The Worthy Virgin: Mary Purnell and the City of David.* 6:30 p.m.

**July 9:** Thursdays at Courthouse Square. Topic TBA. 6:30 p.m.

**July 16:** Thursdays at Courthouse Square. Topic TBA. 6:30 p.m.

**July 23:** Thursdays at Courthouse Square. Topic TBA. 6:30 p.m.

**July 30:** Thursdays at Courthouse Square. Actor/historian Gib Young portrays *Theodore Roosevelt,* presented with the Berrien Springs Community Library. 6:30 p.m.


**September 12-19:** Charleston, South Carolina bus tour.

**October 16-17:** Haunted St. Joseph Walking Tour. 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**October 29:** Signature Event 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center

**December 3:** Kindle the Christmas Spirit, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.