Mary Purnell and the City of David
The History Center Annual Meeting, April 26

R. James Taylor, secretary of the Israelite House of David as Reorganized by Mary Purnell, will present a keynote address about the order’s founder for the History Center’s Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 26.

The evening begins with a brief business meeting at 7:00 p.m., followed by the program. Admission to the evening is free and the public is welcome to attend. Light refreshments will follow the program.

Itinerant preachers Benjamin and Mary Purnell founded the Israelite House of David in Fostoria, Ohio, in 1902 and moved to Benton Harbor, Michigan, a year later. The House of David’s membership upon their arrival in town numbered seven people - counting Benjamin, Mary and their son, Coy. Within a few years, nearly a thousand followers joined them. They built the colony into a highly successful community which they supported with numerous businesses and farms.

Infighting had divided the colony even before Benjamin Purnell died in 1927. The colony formally split in 1930; about half of the members followed Mary while the other half remained with the House of David’s business manager, Judge H. T. Dewhirst. Mary had to build a new communal organization during the depths of the Great Depression. Through her leadership, the Israelite House of David as Reorganized by Mary Purnell built a new colony based on religious faith supported by farms, restaurants, a hotel, a resort, and a professional-caliber baseball team.

The Annual Meeting will also include the presentation of the sixth annual Frank J. Ward Memorial History Award. The History 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 award is named for Frank Junior Ward, a long-time member and benefactor of the History Center at Courthouse Square.

Mary Purnell, with husband Benjamin Franklin Purnell, founded the Israelite House of David.
Berrien County Historical Association Board and Staff

Board of Directors
Robert Sykora, President
Gary Campbell, Vice President
Robert Feldman, Treasurer
Rebecca May, Secretary
Al Butzbaugh  Robert Norris
John Kamer  Margaret Poole
Stephen Smith

Staff
Kathy A. Cyr, Executive Director
Robert Myers, Curator
Madge Bibler, Museum Services Coordinator

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

Director’s Comments
By Kathy Cyr

Dear Friends,

Spring is coming, just a few weeks away! It has been a mild winter compared to the last two winters here in Southwest Michigan, but I am looking forward to warmer weather.

Looking back to December 2015, the staff would like to express their heartfelt appreciation for your contributions to the Annual Appeal. Your generous support netted the History Center over $4600 to continue our mission of collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of Berrien County through exhibits, tours, publications, and educational and community outreach programs. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2015 Annual Appeal.

Looking ahead to our upcoming programs and special events, please mark your calendars and plan to attend the following programs, special events and heritage motorcoach tours:

March 24: 2016 Winter Program Series, “President Roosevelt and His Stamps,” presented by Tim Langlois.


April 26: Annual Meeting of the Berrien County Historical Association, 7:00 p.m. at the 1839 Courthouse featuring R. James Taylor of Mary’s City of David, speaking about Mary Purnell and Mary’s City of David. Free admission.

Our first New Orleans Tour and our tour to St. Louis, Missouri are sold out, but we are offering a duplicate trip to New Orleans on May 21-29. Fifteen spaces are still available on the second trip.

May 13: Springing into the 1830’s-Pioneer Days for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. Sessions run 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m. $4 per student.

June 12: Downton Abbey Tea at Point O’ Woods Golf & Country Club and Deer Path Garden Walk. 4 p.m. Price TBD.

June 23 - July 28: Thursdays at Courthouse Square. 6:30 p.m. Underwritten by AEP Indiana Michigan Power and the Berrien Springs/Eau Claire Rotary Club. The June 23 and July 14 programs are also cosponsored with the Berrien Springs Community Library. 6:30 p.m. Free admission.

September 15-22: The “Superior Country: Michigan’s Upper Peninsula” Tour booklet will be mailed soon with tour details.

October 15: Haunted St. Joseph Walking Tour, with the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center. $5 per person.

October 27: Signature Event featuring Rene Goodwin portraying Eleanor Roosevelt during the war years, 6-9 p.m. at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center. $75 per person or $500 for a table of 8.

December 1: Kindle your Christmas Spirit, a Berrien Springs community event, 6-9 p.m. Free admission.

Have a terrific spring!

Kathy A. Cyr
Executive Director

The Docket
Spring 2016, Vol. 32, No. 1

The Docket is published quarterly by the Berrien County Historical Association, 313 N. Cass Street, PO Box 261, Berrien Springs, MI 49103. (269) 471-1202

Editorial Staff
Kathy A. Cyr, Executive Director
Robert C. Myers, Curator
Madge Bibler, 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.

© Berrien County Historical Association, 2016.
We’re thrilled about this summer’s line-up of history programs and the dynamic speakers who will come to the History Center with fascinating topics on state and local history.

The series begins on June 23 and runs every Thursday through July 28. All programs start at 6:30 p.m. and are free of charge thanks to grants from Indiana-Michigan Power Company and the Berrien Springs/Eau Claire Rotary Club.

**June 23: A 1,000-Mile Great Lakes Islands Adventure.** Great Lakes trekker Loreen Niwenhuis has completed her third 1,000 mile Great Lakes walk. She released her book about her latest journey exploring Great Lakes islands in 2015 and will sign copies of her book after her presentation. Co-sponsored with the Berrien Springs Community Library.

**June 30: Plank’s Tavern.** In 1889, John Plank built a fabulous 420-foot long summer hotel with accommodations for 750 guests on the beach in St. Joseph. It’s resemblance to Mackinac Island’s Grand Hotel was no coincidence: Plank built the Grand, too. John Owen, Plank’s grandson, will present an illustrated program about his grandfather’s amazing hotel.

**July 7: History Center curator Bob Myers will present Locomotives Along the Lakeshore: Railroads of Berrien County.** Railroads, beginning with the Michigan Central in 1848, spread a transportation network across Berrien County in the 19th century. The program, based on Myers’ book of the same title, examines how the Iron Horse shaped local, state and national history.

**July 14: Singer/songwriter Laura Whidden,** a Berrien Springs native, will share her music and information about her work as a partner with the humanitarian aid organization World Vision. Her connection with this organization has helped Laura assist children and communities throughout the world in battles with problems in their lives. Her albums include Love’s Pure Light, Flow, Awaken Me, and You Are. Co-sponsored with the Berrien Springs Community Library.

**July 21: One of our most popular presenters, author/historian Chriss Lyon returns with A Killing In Capone’s Playground.** Her extensive research into the links between Chicago gangsters, the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre and the murder of St. Joseph policeman Charles Skelly culminated in a best-selling book. Chriss will autograph copies of her book following the program.

**July 28: Gib Young will portray Theodore Roosevelt and the American West in a one-man show.** Mr. Young is a professional TR interpreter and has performed in hundreds of venues including Mount Rushmore, The JFK Library, and The Smithsonian Museum of American History. He appeared here at the History Center a couple of years ago and was so popular that we’ve brought him back to present one of his other programs on President Roosevelt.
Curator’s Corner

Recent Donations to the Museum Collections

Walgreen’s teaspoon, pen, phonograph album . . . . Donna Dill

Postcards . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Madge Bibler

Painting . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Thomas & Charlotte Rasberry

Crystal Palace Ballroom advertising postcards . . . . . . Cynthia Schroeder

Holland Co. fishing rod, Photographs . . . . Daryl T. Schlender

The Crystal Palace ballroom on Paw Paw Lake brought in America’s premier dance bands from the Big Band Era. Our thanks to Cynthia Schroeder for donating nineteen of these cards to our collections.

Painting of the Paul & Lottie Tudor Farm, 1900

Thomas and Charlotte Rasberry recently donated this oil on canvas painting to the History Center. It shows Paul and Lottie Tudor of Berrien Springs at their cow barn and is dated 1900. The artist, Edwin D. Betts, Jr., came over from Chicago to stay at the Tudor’s farm during the summers and gave the painting to Paul and Lottie as payment for his room and board.

Edwin D. Betts, Jr., was the son of Edwin D. Betts, Sr., and Annie Betts and one of a whole family of artists. His father was a well-known painter as were his siblings: Grace, Louis and Harold. Edwin, Jr., studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and under his father’s tutelage and had several paintings in major exhibitions. Art historians are familiar with his more typical paintings that depicted religious scenes.

More research is needed to trace Betts’ life in later years. The 1920 U. S. census revealed that he was a patient in an insane asylum - the Kankakee (Illinois) State Hospital. He was still there in 1930 but does not appear in the 1940 census. He may have died in the 1930s, but that is presently unknown.

To complicate matters, several sources confuse him with his father and state that he died in 1915.

Paintings of actual scenes from Berrien County’s past are a rarity. We’re delighted to acquire this artwork depicting a once-common but now rare activity on a local farm.
Join the History Center Today!

Name: _______________________________ Phone: _______________
Address: ______________________________ State: __________ Zip: ________
City: _______________________________ State: _______ Zip: __________ Email: _______________

Membership categories:
Basic
[ ] Individual $20
[ ] Family $30
[ ] Institutional $40

Supporting
[ ] Contributing $40
[ ] Sustaining $50
[ ] Patron $100
[ ] Benefactor $500

Additional donation: $ ________
Amount enclosed: $ ________

Please make checks payable to the Berrien County Historical Assn.
or
Please charge my credit card: (circle one)
Mastercard  Visa  Discover

Card Number: ___________________ Exp. Date: ________

Mail or fax to: BCHA, PO Box 261
Berrien Springs, MI 49103
Phone: (269) 471-1202  Fax: (269) 471-7412

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!

Subtotal: $ ________
Discounts (Library 20%  BCHA Members 10%) $ ________
State sales tax (6% for Michigan orders only) $ ________
Shipping ($4.95 for 1st book, $1.00 each additional book) $ ________

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: _______________________________

Make check/money order payable to: Berrien County Historical Assn., PO Box 261,
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Name: _______________________________ Address: _______________________________
City: ____________________ State: ______ Zip: ________ Telephone: __________ Email: __________
**Downton Abbey Tea ~ June 12**

It’s a cultural phenomenon and we want you to experience it with us. At 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 12, we're hosting a Downton Abbey Tea at Point O’Woods Golf & Country Club and at Deer Path Gardens, the home and gardens of Glenn and Margaret Poole, both in Benton Township. Final plans for the event are still progressing but we expect to create an English tea sufficiently proper enough to please even the butler, Mr. Carson.

*Downton Abbey* has become the most popular series in the history of PBS’s iconic Masterpiece Theater.

**A second “Old Man River Tour”: May 21-29**

Our “Old Man River” tour to New Orleans filled up so quickly - and we had so many people on the waiting list - that we’re duplicating the trip two weeks later. This one will run Saturday, May 21, to Sunday, May 29.

Museum curator Bob Myers and Museum Services Coordinator Madge Bibler will lead this second tour.

Our tour includes the Mississippi River Museum in Memphis and the Vicksburg National Military Park in Mississippi. While in New Orleans, we’ll spend a day at the National World War II Museum, take a mule-drawn carriage ride in the French Quarter, enjoy a riverboat dinner cruise, visit Oak Alley Plantation and the Battle of New Orleans Battlefield, find out about native floral and fauna on a swamp eco-tour, and have a free afternoon in the French Quarter.

Like all our tours, this one includes Cardinal Motorcoach transportation, lodging (Holiday Inns and Comfort Inns), all breakfasts and dinners, some lunches, all admission fees, taxes and gratuities.

The tour fee is $1,795 per person, double occupancy. The single supplement is $500. A $200 per person deposit, refundable up to 60 days prior to the tour, will secure your place on the tour.

For more information, call Curator Bob Myers at (269) 471-1202, or email him at rmyers@berrienhistory.org.

Set in the fictional Yorkshire country estate of Downton Abbey, the program depicts the lives of Robert Crawley, the 7th Earl of Grantham, his family and their servants during the reign of King George V.

Highclere Castle in north Hampshire stands in for exterior shots of *Downton Abbey* and most of the interior filming. The kitchen, servants’ quarters and working areas, and some of the “upstairs” bedrooms are all sets created for the series.

A bit of trivia: filming of outdoor scenes takes place in the village of Bampton in Oxfordshire; St. Mary's Church and the library serve as the cottage hospital entrance; and the old rectory is Isobel Crawley’s house with interior scenes filmed at Hall Place in Buckinghamshire.

The series has garnered innumerable awards, including Emmys for Outstanding Miniseries and for Outstanding Supporting Actress (Maggie Smith).

The sixth season will be the last for *Downton Abbey*, but rumor has it that a motion picture is under consideration. Another rumor: Julian Fellowes is said to be working on a spin-off prequel of *Downton Abbey* that revolves around Lord Grantham and Cora’s romance and eventual marriage as the earl and countess.

Stay tuned!
**Superior Country: Upper Peninsula Bus Tour**

Mackinac, Michigan’s “U. P.” is stunning. And when the trees begin to turn color in September - wow!

We’re planning our 8-day “Superior Country” bus tour for September 15-22. Arrangements are still in progress, but here are some items on the itinerary:

- Pictured Rocks boat tour on Lake Superior in Munising
- Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum at Whitefish Point
- Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee
- Soo Locks dinner cruise in Sault Ste. Marie
- Quincy Mine in Hancock
- Taquamanon Falls
- Marquette Maritime Museum
- A day on Mackinac Island, with a carriage tour and a visit to Fort Mackinac.

The price? We’re still working on that, but you can expect to receive a booklet describing the whole tour very soon.

---

**Signature Event: Eleanor Roosevelt, the War Years**

Last fall we welcomed President Franklin Roosevelt at our annual Signature Event, so we felt it only fair that Eleanor should be our guest this year. Rene Goodwin, an actress/historian with American Historical Theatre, will portray the woman who was our nation’s greatest First Lady, our first delegate to the United Nations, and an iconic human rights activist.

The event takes place at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center, starting at 6:00 p.m. We’ll have a silent auction and dinner, followed by the program.

Eleanor was born into a family of wealth and privilege and married a distant cousin from a wealthy, powerful family. She seemed destined for a life of comfort and ease, but she instead became a champion of the common man. Especially after Franklin was stricken with paralysis, Eleanor became his eyes and ears, listening to his constituents and providing a sounding-board for Franklin’s policies. Eleanor and Franklin made a formidable team.

Eleanor continued to champion human rights after her husband’s death in 1945, actively fighting segregation as First Lady of the World. Her difficult early life made her sensitive to the pain of others and her character made her commit to a lifetime devoted to easing that suffering.
Ongoing:

New From You!

Exhibit at the History Center. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mondays - Fridays.

March 24: Winter at Courthouse Square. "President Roosevelt and his Stamps." 2:00 p.m. Tim Langlois' program shows how FDR made stamp collecting the world's most popular hobby.

April 2-19: "Founding of America" bus tour to Washington, DC, and historic sites in Virginia.

April 26: History Center Annual Meeting. 7:00 p.m. "Mary Lincoln: Her City, Our Dream." Public welcome.

April 30 - May 8: "Old Man River" bus tour to New Orleans.

May 13: "Springing into the 1830s" pioneer Michigan day for school groups.

May 21 - 29: "Old Man River" repeat bus tour to New Orleans.


June 17 - 19: "Gateway to the West" bus tour to St. Louis.

June 19 - 27: "Springing into the 1830s" bus tour to New Orleans.

July 14: Thursdays at Courthouse Square. Singer/songwriter Laura Whidden. Presented with the Berrien Springs Community Library. 6:30 p.m.

July 21: Thursdays at Courthouse Square. Author/historian Chriss Lyon presents "A Killing in Capone's Playground." 6:30 p.m.


October 15: Handout Sl Joseph Walting "Old Man River" Bus Tour. 2:00 p.m.

October 25: Handout Sl Joseph Walting "Old Man River" Bus Tour. 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.


December 1: "Kindle the Christmas Spirit." 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virginia.

Library: 6:30 p.m. Library and historic sites in Virgin...