Berrien County Historical Association
Annual Meeting April 17

Berrien County Historical Association has now completed it’s 51st year! We are ready to welcome you on Tuesday, April 17, 2018, at 7 p.m. in the 1839 Courthouse for our Annual Meeting. Our keynote speaker this year will be Steve Arseneau, Director of the Dowagiac Area History Museum who will present, “The World Wide Webb Miller”.

In 1915, Cass County native Webb Miller left his job with the Chicago American to freelance report on the Pancho Villa expedition at the border. Once there, he proved adept at working channels and bypassing censors and was quickly hired by the United Press. For the next twenty-five years, one can follow World History as Webb Miller covered every significant event across the globe. From the trenches of World War I to the opening salvos of World War II, award-winning journalist Webb Miller was there. Miller was also the first Western journalist to cover the Gandhi independence movement in India in 1930.

In 2007, the Dowagiac Area History Museum received its Webb Miller Collection from Miller’s family. The treasure trove of materials included photographs, press passes, personal items and scrapbooks of articles authored by Miller. The “World Wide Webb Miller” program uses the collection to document his life and the many journeys he took to provide the news to the world.

Steve Arseneau, Director of the Dowagiac Area History Museum, is a Milwaukee native who moved to southwest Michigan in 1998 to serve as curator at the Museum at Southwestern Michigan College. He became director of the museum in 2005 and in 2012-13 coordinated the move of the museum from the college to the City of Dowagiac. He is the author of several books and articles on Dowagiac history and won the President’s Award from the Michigan Museums Association for his efforts moving the museum. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee in Public History.

The Annual Meeting will also include the presentation of the seventh 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.
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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

The Docket
Spring 2018, Vol. 34, 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
Kelsey A. Curnutt, 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,

Whew! 2017 ended in a flurry and we are already a quarter-way through 2018! Over the autumn, we received some updates to the Courthouse and Sheriff’s Residence such as roof repairs and a well marked emergency exit in the downstairs exhibit area. In September, we loaded the Cardinal Motorcoach to travel around Canada - what a busy trip! We visited Parliament, Quebec City, Montreal, and Niagara Falls. Quebec City is very familiar with colder weather and was a great source for finding warm clothes.

In October we partnered with the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center of St. Joseph for the Haunted St. Joseph tours and had a visit with Amelia Earhart for our Signature Event (see page 4). December we enjoyed welcoming friends of the community for Kindle Your Christmas Spirit (also on page 4).

February of this year Renee Peddie’s 2nd grade class at Mars Elementary participated in a contest promoted by the Herald Palladium where the students created ads for the History Center. They turned out great! The staff and myself had the hard task of deciding on a winner that was then published in a special edition of the Herald Palladium. Congratulations to Chloe Bond! You can see Chloe’s and the rest of her classmates’ artwork on display in the Sheriff’s Residence. As a result of this contest, Ms. Peddie’s classroom has initiated a GoFundMe campaign to help raise money for replacing our boardwalk! The kids are excited and are helping pave the way toward the future.

Currently we have an installation by local artist Nancy Swan Drew on display in the Courthouse until April 14 (see page 3). Later in April, we invite you to join us for the Annual Meeting where we will listen to Steve Arseneau’s presentation, “The World Wide Webb Miller” - a reporter from Cass County who brought news of world events to the United States. April is also when we hope to open “World War I: 100 Years” (see page 3).

We are gearing up for our school event “Pioneer Days” in May - when we will also begin operating our Summer Hours (see back schedule for details). A new volunteer, Bonita, has been working hard cleaning the 1830 Murdock Log Cabin, even going so far as to vacuum the walls! If you are interested in volunteering on this, or any other, special occasion, give us a call!

I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support as we at the History Center strive to present and preserve our county’s history. As the Journal Era promotes it is “The Best County in the Best State of the Union.” I look forward to welcoming you to our events and exhibits in the coming days and months!

Kathy A. Cyr
Executive Director
**World War I - 100 Years** The war to end all wars.

On June 28, 1914, the Austro-Hungarian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophia, were shot and killed. The event was a result of mounting tensions and catapulted the world into turmoil. Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire - collectively known as the Central Powers - were pitted against the Allied Powers, that is, Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Japan, and the United States (who entered in 1917). New military technologies coupled with trench warfare, World War I saw unprecedented carnage and destruction resulting in more than 16 million deaths of soldiers and civilians. The Great War officially ended on November 11, 1918, Armistace Day, leaving devastated families the world over and drastically changed the approach to war.

This year marks 100 years since the end of World War I and the History Center is creating an exhibit displaying the role and effect of Berrien County. The exhibit will feature a timeline, uniforms, photographs, personal memories of specific people from our county including George F. McIntosh who was part of the force known as the Polar Bear Expedition (see photos). Opening in April, the exhibit will be in the Sheriff’s Residence available for free to the public during regular museum hours.

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**Nancy Swan Drew Art Installation: Now - April 14, 2018**

The History Center proudly announces an installation of work titled “Courts History” by artist Nancy Swan Drew. The exhibit is open to all now – Saturday, April 14, 2018.

Ms. Drew has a career spanning 50 years as a syndicated cartoonist, designer of furniture, clothing, interiors, and published writer with over a million pieces of art floating about. She has been featured on HGTV, ABC Home Show, and in other major publications. Her work is colorful, playful, and relatable pulling people in to take a closer look at the details.

The courtroom of the 1839 Courthouse has been transformed with art pieces of all shapes and sizes. The exhibit will be a fun way to spend a family afternoon exploring the interaction between art and our local history. Ms. Drew invites you to, “Please take a lookie-see and revel in a free print!”

For more information about the exhibit, contact the History Center at (269) 471-1202.
In October the History Center again partnered with the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center in St. Joseph for the Haunted St. Joseph Cemetery and Walking Tours. Held on October 8, the Spooky Cemetery Tour led visitors through the city cemetery making stops at various tombstones highlighting the historically accurate spookier past of Berrien County. The event begins in the afternoon and continues into the early evening where the path is lit with battery-operated candles.

Held three weeks later on October 29, the Spooky Walking tour took attendees through historic downtown St. Joseph stopping in front of houses that belonged to historically important figures, perhaps historically unfortunate figures, and some that have reportedly been visited by these figures from the “other side”. The event is a fun way to learn more about St. Joseph and Berrien County. This year we had about 350 people attend these events! We are grateful for this partnership with the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center and all the volunteers who act as tour guides during each event.

Spooky Sightings

On Thursday, October 26, at 7 p.m. 127 of us gathered at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center for the Berrien County Historical Association’s Signature Event. We enjoyed each other’s company, ate delicious food, listened to our favorite Marimba Player, Jerry Vandenberg, bid on items in the Silent Auction, and finally were entertained by Amelia Earhart, portrayed by actor Pat Jordan. The evening was a success and we finished it off by 9 p.m., when we gathered our items from the auction and selected our apple from Tree-mendous Fruit Farm.

An Evening with Amelia

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Kindle Your Christmas Spirit

Once again we kicked off the Most Wonderful Time of the Year during the Berrien Springs community Christmas open-house. The Trinity Lutheran School held their annual Christmas program in the Courtroom, three blacksmiths demonstrated the practice of blacksmiths, and many visitors traipsed through the doors of all the buildings - connecting with each other and with their local history.
Join the History Center Today!

Name: ______________________________  Phone: ________________
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Membership categories:
Basic        Supporting
[ ] Individual $20       [ ] Contributing $40
[ ] Family $30           [ ] Sustaining $50
[ ] Institutional $40    [ ] Patron $100
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Additional donation: $ ________
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Please charge my credit card: (circle one)
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Card Number: ______________________________ Exp. Date: ________

Mail or fax to: BCHA, PO Box 261
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Enjoy Our Local History!

Greetings from Three Oaks ($25.95)  Quantity:  Total: $
Greetings from Benton Harbor ($27.95)  Quantity:  Total: $
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Greetings from Buchanan ($24.95)  Quantity:  Total: $
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Save on shipping and pick up your books from the History Center Store!

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

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Hit the Road! History Center 2018 Tours

In 2017, we successfully went on two motorcoach tours. One to Delaware in the Spring and the second to Canada in September (see page 7 to see the pictures). We had so much fun getting to know history of our nation’s beginnings (Delaware is the first state of the union!) and the beginning of our neighbors to the north where maple syrup and buffalo plaid reign supreme. For 2018, we have three very exciting trips lined up. Our first will be to Hannibal, Missouri in the spring. Hannibal is the hometown of Mark Twain. We will have a wonderful time visiting his boyhood home, a park made up of caves, and, of course, a riverboat ride! We are now taking reservations. But hurry! The deadline is March 22 extended to April 5!

In the summer the History Center is partnering with the Madaba Plains Project of Andrews University to create a tour to the Holy Lands of Israel and Jordan. Andrews University has been conducting archaeology tours for students to Jordan for 50 years and to celebrate archaeologists Dr. Larry Geraty and Dr. Larry Herr will lead a group through Israel and Jordan. Both Geraty and Herr are well known in the biblical archaeological society and you do not want to miss this unique opportunity to travel with them! Spaces are filling quickly even though the deadline is not until May 22.

The third tour will be September 7-10, to Stratford, Ontario, where we will take in some theater! We have made reservations for classic Shakespearean plays like Julius Caesar and the Tempest as well as To Kill a Mockingbird and will take a behind the scenes tour of theater production.

We are excited about these three tour and hope you will be join us on one or more! If you would like to receive more information or would like to save your spot on any (or all) of the trips, give us a call (269-471-1202).
Bonjour Canada! Tour September 2017

On the morning of September 9, 2017, a group of 42 met at the History Center and loaded a Cardinal motorcoach to journey to Canada. This tour was busy, fun, and historically informative. We visited Fort York the humble beginnings of modern-day Toronto; the Parliament buildings in Ottawa; the Plains of Abraham where we were met by Generals Wolfe and Montcalm; the Ile d’Orleans; and more! The weather was sunny and warm throughout our visit and the food incredible.
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Continuing and Upcoming Events

March 13-April 14: Nancy Swan Drew Installation
March 30-April 2: Closed for Easter
April 17: Annual Meeting, Steve Arseneau, 7 pm
April 22-25: Historic Missouri Tour
May 1: Summer Hours begin
Tuesday - Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm;
Sunday 12 pm - 4 pm
May 11: Pioneer Day, 9 am - 2:30 pm
May 20: How to Write a Book, Brian Johnston, 2 pm
May 27-28: Memorial Day Weekend, Closed
June 21: Thursdays at Courthouse Square, Speaker TBD, 6:30 pm
June 28: Thursdays at Courthouse Square, Eastland Disaster
July 2: 1-5 pm, Holy Lands of Israel & Jordan, Tour
July 2: More History of Berrien County, Tom Kimmel, 2 pm
July 7-12: Thirsts at Courthouse Square, 1,000 Mile Great Lakes Walk, Closed
July 19: Thursdays at Courthouse Square, 1,000 Mile Great Lakes Walk, Closed
July 22: More History of Berrien County, Tom Kimmel, 2 pm
July 29: More History of Berrien County, Tom Kimmel, 2 pm
August 5: Oxen Demonstration, Rob Collins, 2 pm
August 9: Rotary Chicken BBQ Dinner
August 13-18: Berrien County Youth Fair
August 26: Jan Broda Concert, 2 pm
September 1-18: Berrien County Youth Fair
September 2-7: Ozark trout demonstration, Rob Collins, 2 pm
October 1: Winter Hours begin, Thursday-Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm
October 7: Spooky Cemetery Tour, 5-8 pm, $5/person
October 11: Historic Missouri Tour, Speaker TBD, 6:30 pm
October 17: Annual Meeting, Steve Arseneau, 7 pm
November 6: Kindle Your Christmas Spirit, 6-9 pm
November 12: Thursdays at Courthouse Square, Speaker TBD, 6:30 pm
December 6: Knock Your Christmas Spirit, 6-9 pm
December 13: Annual Meeting, Steve Arsenau, 7 pm
December 16: Christmas Caroling at the Courthouse, 6:30 pm
December 23: Thursdays at Courthouse Square, Speaker TBD, 6:30 pm
December 30: Thursdays at Courthouse Square, Speaker TBD, 6:30 pm

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