



Visiting the Lincolns

Celebrate the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial with a Special Visit by Abraham & Mary Todd Lincoln

Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 29, as Abraham and Mary Lincoln come to Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center.

The evening starts at 6:00 p.m. with a social hour and cash bar. A dinner follows, with entree choices of prime rib, cherry pecan chicken or eggplant parmesan; garden salad; and dessert. The Lincolns' program follows the dinner.

Ticket prices are \$75 each or a table for eight for \$500. All tickets include a \$25 tax-deductible donation to the History Center. Payment can be made by check or credit card - the History Center accepts Visa and Mastercard.

Michael Krebs has portrayed Abraham Lincoln since 1992. He has appeared as the 16th president on C-SPAN and the History Channel and at many presidential libraries and historic sites. He and Debra Ann Miller as Mary Todd Lincoln present *Visiting the Lincolns*, in which a group of unexpected guests arrives at the White House near the end of the Civil War and catches the family unawares.

To purchase tickets or sponsorships for *Visiting the Lincolns*, call the History Center at Courthouse Square at (269) 471-1202. Tickets are by advance registration only.

This year marks the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth in Hardin County, Kentucky. Lincoln's public life is well known, but his childhood and youth is less well documented. Most knowledge of his early life comes from research conducted in later years by his law partner, William Herndon.



Lincoln was the first U. S. president born west of the Appalachian Mountains. His parents, Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln lost their farm due to court action and moved to Perry County, Indiana, when Abraham was nine years old.

Abraham had two siblings: a young brother, Thomas, who died in infancy, and an older sister, Sarah, who would later die in childbirth. After Nancy Lincoln died of milk sickness, Thomas Lincoln married a widow, Sarah Bush Johnston, who brought three children of her own to the household.

Abraham's new stepmother instilled in him a love of reading. The boy's preference

for reading over field work created a conflict with his father, who had relatively little patience for books and studying. The two were never close, and Abraham set out on his own as soon as he came of legal age. In 1832, he crossed the Wabash River to move from Indiana to Illinois.

He settled in the hamlet of New Salem, where he worked at various jobs, including keeping store, surveying, and serving as village postmaster. He ran for state legislature in 1832 and lost, but (notwithstanding popular belief) won the next four elections.

Lincoln moved to Springfield, and in 1842 married a popular belle, Miss Mary Todd. Smart, charming and ambitious, his new wife promoted his political career. He was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives for a single term in 1846. He lost in a bid for a U. S. Senate seat in 1858, but the campaign against Stephen A. Douglas earned him national attention. Two years later, that fame would propel him to higher office.

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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

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Editorial Staff

Frances Porter Snyder, executive director
Robert C. Myers, curator
Kristen Patzer Umphrey, museum store manager

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 yearly for institutions. Supporting memberships are: \$40 Contributing, \$50 Sustaining, \$100 Patron, and \$500 Benefactor.

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Director's Comments

By Frances Porter Snyder

Dear Friends,

As I look out the window today, I see a gray day with the hint of orange and red on the trees. It is difficult to say goodbye to the beautiful geraniums, donated by Crystal Springs Florist, and the other summer flowers in the garden and planters. Interns from Andrews University's History Department are preparing the Murdock Log House and the Bennett Forge for winter and the 1839 Courthouse for several special events including a wedding and the Village Seventh-day Adventist Church anniversary celebration, both scheduled in October.

The Board of Directors and staff at the History Center are gearing up for a fall season that includes something for everyone. Our signature fundraising event is scheduled for October 29, 2009, at the Mendel Center. Abraham and Mary Lincoln will come alive when *Visiting the Lincolns* is presented. A social hour begins the evening at 6:00 p.m. The event also includes dinner, live music and spectacular door prizes. All proceeds support the operation of the site and programs. A tax-deductible donation of \$25 is included in each ticket.

In November, the History Center will partner with Twin City Players to present *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial*, performed at the 1839 Courthouse. The performance dates are November 13, 14, and 15 and November 20, 21, and 22. Watching a play in the courtroom is always a memorable experience. For reservations, please call the History Center at 471-1202.

Kristen Patzer Umphrey has selected many new books and other items for sale in The Museum Store. As you plan holiday shopping, consider The Museum Store for high-quality interesting gifts. The store will be open during the annual Berrien Springs holiday event in early December and at the Orchards Mall, where we shall have our annual exhibit and books and items for sale during December and January.

In closing, Bob Myers and I just returned from the Center's motorcoach tour to Berea, Kentucky; Savannah, Georgia; and Pleasant Hill, Kentucky. Among our fellow travelers were many who had toured with us in past years and several new people. We appreciate your participation. We had a wonderful time and will decide where to go next year very soon. If you have ideas, we would love to hear them.

I hope to see you all at events in the near future.

Sincerely,
Francie Porter Snyder
Executive Director

Theater at the Courthouse

Twin City Players to present *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial* in November

High drama returns to the History Center in November when Twin City Players presents the drama *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial* in the 1839 Courthouse.

Production dates are Fridays and Saturdays, November 13, 14, 20 and 21, with Sunday matinees on November 15 and 22. Curtain times are 8:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 4:00 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors age 60 and over and students age 18 and under.

History Center curator and Twin City Players board member Bob Myers will direct the two-act play. The play is a joint production of the History Center and Twin City Players, and proceeds from ticket sales will benefit both organizations.

“The courtroom creates a natural stage setting for plays like *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial*,” says Myers. “The audience members feel as though they’re on stage with the actors, surrounded by the play itself. It’s a feeling you don’t get when you attend the typical theater.”

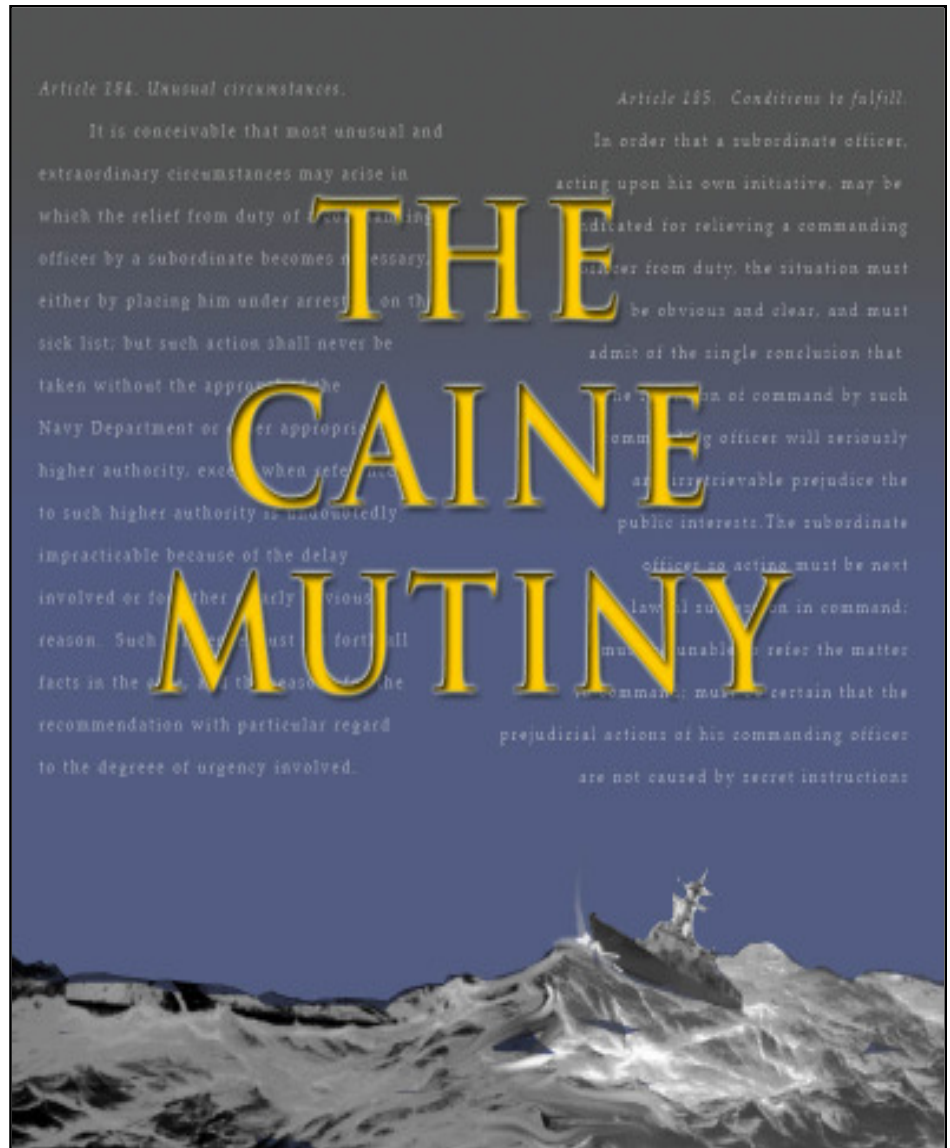
Seating in the courtroom is first-come, first served, but reservations are strongly recommended. For reservations, call the History Center at (269) 471-1202.

Author Herman Wouk created the play from his hugely successful novel, *The Caine Mutiny*. *The Caine Mutiny*, his third published book, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1951.

The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial is set during World War II, and involves a mutiny aboard the destroyer/minesweeper USS *Caine*. The *Caine*’s executive officer, Lt. Stephen Maryk, relieved the *Caine*’s captain during a typhoon when he feared the ship was foundering and the captain refused to take action. Maryk and other officers believe that Capt. Philip Queeg has crossed the line into from strict disciplinarian to a paranoid incompetent. The resulting court-martial will either clear Maryk or condemn him to life in prison.

Cast members for the Twin City Players production include (in order of appearance):

John Taylor as Lt. Stephen Maryk
Lloyd Bolick as Lt. Barney Greenwald
Adam Rowland as Lt. Cmdr. John Challee



Michael Johnson as Captain Blakely
Allen Snyder as Capt. Philip Queeg
Blake Edmonds as Signalman Junius Urban
Michael Cook as Capt. Randolph Southard
John Rybarczyk as Dr. Forrest Lundeen
Gary Campbell as Dr. Bird

Twin City Players is one of Michigan’s oldest community theater organizations. It was founded in St. Joseph 1932 and today stages performances in its theater on Glenlord Road in south St. Joseph. Players has presented other performances at the 1839 Courthouse in past years, including *Inherit the Wind* and *Tom Jones*.

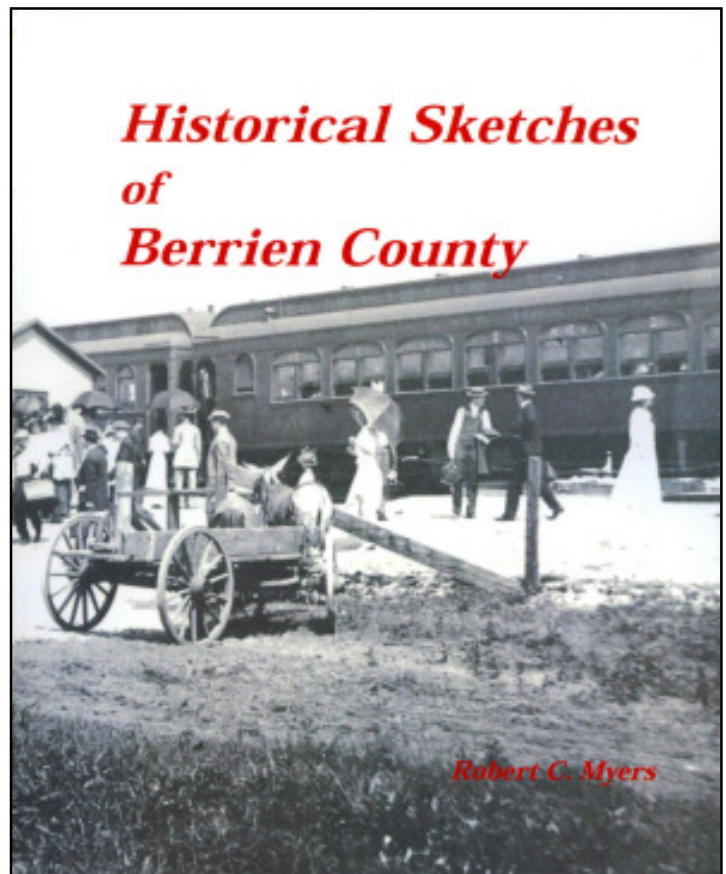
Historical Sketches of Berrien County Reprinted

The History Center at Courthouse Square has released its latest Berrien County history book. *Historical Sketches of Berrien County*, by curator Robert C. Myers, contains over 150 short stories about area history, illustrated with dozens of photographs and drawings. The book combines all four volumes of the previously-issued *Historical Sketches* books into a single volume. The short stories in the book are based on Myers' popular program on WAUS Radio.

The 275-page book includes a bibliography and index, as well as nearly one hundred illustrations.

Historical Sketches of Berrien County retails for \$22.95. Copies are available at the History Center's museum store in Berrien Springs. Museum hours are 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Saturday. The book can also be purchased through mail order by calling the History Center at (269) 471-1202, or by sending a check to the History Center, PO Box 261, Berrien Springs, MI 49103. Shipping is \$3.95 for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional copy. Michigan residents should add \$1.38 sales tax.

Chapters in the book include Berrien County's colonial history, stories about the more colorful residents of the county, businesses like Clark Equipment Company and Truscott Boat, tales of railroads and ships, and many stories of the county's participation in the Civil War and World War II.



A Great Time in Savannah!

We had a wonderful time on our September motorcoach tour to Savannah, Georgia, and Kentucky. Most of the forecast rain stayed away and we enjoyed good (if warm and humid!) weather on our trip south. The 9-day, 8-night tour visited a wide variety of historical, ecological and cultural sites.

Our tour group of 28 people spent a day in the artisan center of Berea, Kentucky and another day at the Pleasant Hill (Kentucky) Shaker Village. Highlights in Savannah itself included Fort Pulaski, a riverboat dinner cruise on the Savannah River, and the musical play *Hooray for Hollywood* at the Savannah Theater.

We learned a great deal about Savannah culture, from the days of pre-Revolutionary War cotton and rice plantations, through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Our hotel stood right at the edge of Savannah's historic district, so we spent a couple of evenings just walking around admiring the antebellum architecture, live oak trees and Spanish moss.

Next year's tour? We're considering New Orleans and Memphis; Washington, DC, and Gettysburg Battlefield; or Boston, Plymouth Plantation and Hartford, Connecticut. If one of these sounds especially good, give us a call at (269) 471-1202, or email us at bcha@berrienhistory.org.



Our tour group poses in front of the Trustee's Office at the Pleasant Hill Shaker Village in Kentucky. One of the tour's real treats was our overnight stay in the original Shaker buildings, complete with Shaker furniture. (Courtesy Bernice Tretheway)

Museum Receives Unique World War II Collection



The crew of B-24 Liberator *Our Honey*. Clare Hubbard (front row, far right) with his crewmates: Pilot Dale Grubb (standing, far right), navigator Bernard Epstein (standing, far left), and top turret gunner Eusebio Rodriguez (front row, far left).

The History Center at Courthouse Square has received a rare collection of World War II artifacts that documents the story of American internees in Switzerland. The collection includes photographs, letters, scrapbooks, a uniform, and other memorabilia that belonged to Clare W. Hubbard of Berrien Center, who spent over eight months as an internee. Historians of the conflict have studied the lives of prisoners of war but have rarely examined the little-known topic of servicemen interned in neutral Switzerland and Sweden.

Sergeant Hubbard served as a waist gunner on a B-24 Liberator, a four-engine heavy bomber. His outfit, the 713th Squadron of the 448th Bombardment Group, was based at RAF Seething in Norfolk. The 448th flew on missions over Germany from 1943 until the end of the war, striking at aircraft factories, U-Boat bases and railroad marshalling yards.

On July 13, 1944, Sgt. Hubbard and his crew took off on a mission to hit the railroad yards at Saarbrücken in south-

west Germany. They were new to the 713th, having joined the squadron at Seething just four days earlier, fresh from the United States. The mission against Saarbrücken was the third for Hubbard and the crew of his B-24, *Our Honey*.

Our Honey was hit over the target and lost two engines. The 25-ton bomber could not maintain position on just two engines and fell out of formation. As the bomber began to lose altitude, pilot Dale Grubb and co-pilot Edwin Carnahan realized that they would never make it back to England. Rather than parachute into Germany, they diverted south to Switzerland. About 25 miles over the neutral border, the crew bailed out and *Our Honey* crashed near the tiny village of Baetterkinden, north of Berne.

Hubbard broke his leg in the jump and spent a month in the hospital. All ten members of his crew survived and found themselves guests of Switzerland. The Swiss government placed them in an internment camp at Wengen, where it had turned

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Curator's Corner

Recent Artifact Acquisitions

- Joan Murray Papers, photographs, pastel portraits, rope bed, clothing of the Walton family of Berrien Springs
- Joyce Stockman Printer's block, booklet
- Bambi Lynne Knight WW II uniform, photos, scrapbooks
- Donna Priebe Marxochime Colony Pianolin
- Mary Ewalt Chatelain G.A.R. medals, E.M.C. milk bottle
- Jan Huttenstine American Revolution Bicentennial cookbook, flag
- Ruth Handy Wigington Vietnam War certificates
- Dale Morse Builder's plaque from the Somerleyton Bridge, 1928
- Carol Lewis Pieced wool comforter

Charcoal Portraits

We recently received a collection from Joan Murray that included four fine charcoal portraits of members of the Walton family of Berrien and Lake Townships. Mary Walton (right) was born in Yorkshire, England, and came to Michigan with her husband, John.



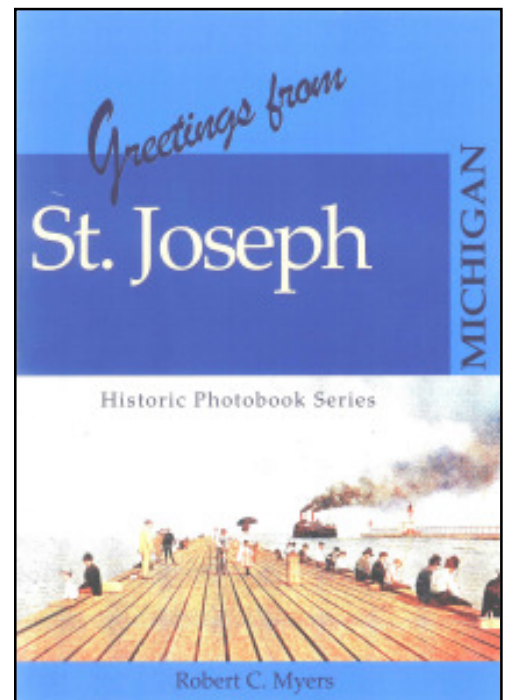
Photographers in the 19th century found that large pastel portraits like this one enjoyed brisk sales. They started by enlarging a photograph and then used charcoal to color over the faint image to create the finished portrait. The large image (this one is 26" x 30", including the frame) resembled a painting but cost much less.

Enjoy our Local History!

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\$5.00 for the <i>Atlas of Berrien County</i>)	TOTAL	\$ _____



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fourteen luxury hotels in the ski resort village into housing for American internees.

Wengen was just one of seven camps in Switzerland that housed American internees. Under rules of the Hague Convention of 1907 governing the rights and duties of neutral countries, Switzerland did not legally have to accept foreign forces on its territory. Once it did, however, it had certain obligations. Foreign combatants were interned for the duration of the war. They could be granted relative freedom of movement around the country, but had to give their parole not to attempt to escape. If caught escaping, they could be sentenced to the squalid Wauwilermoos punishment camp.

During the course of the war, some 1,500 American fliers crashed or landed their battle-damaged airplanes in Switzerland. The first airplane arrived under similar circumstances as *Our Honey*. On August 23, 1943, a B-24 Liberator had two engines shot out and could not make it over the Alps to its base in North Africa. Its pilot ordered the navigator to plot a course for Switzerland. After a successful crash-landing, the crew set fire to their bomber to destroy any military secrets. Scores of other American bombers and fighters arrived in Switzerland during the next year and a half. *Our Honey* was one of five American heavy bombers to crash or land in Switzerland on July 13 alone.

So many American fliers went to Switzerland that allegations arose – prompted by German propaganda – that pilots in undamaged planes had opted out of the war. Rather than continue fighting, they headed to Switzerland. An Army Air Force inquiry in 1944, however, revealed that virtually all of the aircraft in question had suffered serious battle damage. The United States military never pressed charges against any of the aircrew.

Photographs and other materials in Hubbard’s scrapbooks show him with friends skiing in the Alps, visiting tourist sites, and enjoying Christmas dinner at their hotel in Wengen. His experience as an intern obviously differed greatly from that of prisoners of war in German stalags.

Despite the relative luxury of life in Switzerland, internees sometimes escaped and made their way back to England. Clare Hubbard’s scrapbook includes an intriguing page of “Escape Pictures” showing him and his crewmates in civilian clothing. Were the photographs intended for use on false identity cards that would help them get through France? Unfortunately, the scrapbooks carried no further clue as to their purpose.

Not all American servicemen in Switzerland enjoyed the kind of internship that Hubbard experienced in Wengen. The Swiss sentenced some two hundred American internees to the Wauwilermoos punishment camp in Lucerne, mostly for attempting to escape. Conditions there were worse than in many German POW camps. Prisoners slept on lice-infested straw spread on boards, ate food poured into troughs from slop pails, and had no access to medical care, mail, or Red Cross parcels. The camp also housed Swiss criminals. The commandant, Capt. Andre Beguin, was a Nazi who frequently signed correspondence “Heil Hitler.” After the war, he was court-martialed and sentenced to several years’ imprisonment.

Clare Hubbard’s service records reveal that he was released from internment in March 1945 as the war in Europe drew to a close. He arrived back in the United States later that month and returned to his wife, Thelma, whom he had married in 1939. The couple later moved to Boca Raton, Florida, where they spent the rest of their lives.

Hubbard’s collection of World War II memorabilia has now found a permanent home in the History Center collections. Besides the photographs and other archival materials, many physical reminders of Hubbard’s military experiences survive to this day. Most of the air bases returned to farmland after the war, but the Royal Air Force base at Seething from which Hubbard and his crew left on their last mission still serves as a civilian airport. The Palace Hotel, built in the 1930s, remains open today as the Club Med Wengen, serving tourists who come to the town for skiing holidays.

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Please make checks payable to the Berrien County
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We need volunteers to help staff our exhibit at the Orchards Mall in December! Call Kristen Patzer Umphrey, volunteer coordinator, for information.

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Continuing and Upcoming Events

October 29: Visiting the Lincolns. A special fund-raising event held at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center. Event begins at 6:00 p.m.

November 13-15, 20-22: *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial.* Twin City Players presents the courtroom drama at the History Center. 8:00 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays, 4:00 p.m. Sundays. (269) 471-1202 for reservations.

December 3: Berrien Springs Christmas Event. Visit the History Center for our open house as Berrien Springs celebrates the holidays. The village's event includes horse and buggy rides, musical performances, a tree-lighting ceremony, and refreshments.

Want to receive email updates on History Center programs and events? Send your email address to kpatzer@berriehistory.org and we will put you on our listserve.