



History Center at Courthouse Square Annual Meeting: *Abraham Lincoln's Family Ties*

The History Center at Courthouse Square celebrates the Abraham Lincoln bicentennial with its 2009 Annual Meeting program: *Abraham Lincoln's Family Ties*. The meeting and program will be held at the Courthouse Square in Berrien Springs on Tuesday, April 28, at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free and the public is welcome. Reservations are not required.

A brief business meeting with election of board of directors will precede the program. A reception with sweets and hors d'oeuvres will follow.

History Center Executive Director Frances Porter Snyder and curator Robert Myers will present the new PowerPoint program about Abraham Lincoln and his family. The program uses photographs of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln, their children and other family members to explore the 16th president's domestic life.

Although famous as a remarkably homely man, Lincoln used the newfangled art of photography to full advantage. Photographers secured dozens of portraits of him, beginning with a daguerreotype taken about 1846 or 1847 after his election to the U. S. House of Representatives. During his presidency, photographs of the Lincoln Family became popular souvenirs.

Interest in Lincoln photographs has only increased in the 144 years since his assassination. Historians and collectors have ferreted out virtually every Lincoln image known to exist. Even so, photographs of Lincoln and his family continue to surface.

In 1951, 14 year-old Ronald Rietveld discovered the only known photograph of Lincoln's body lying in state in the Capitol rotunda. Historians had believed that Secretary of War Edwin Stanton had destroyed all of them, but a single copy remained in the Illinois State Historical Library.

For many years historians assumed that no photographs existed of the Lincolns' second son, Edward Baker Lincoln, who died in 1850 at three years of age. In 1998, historian Lloyd Ostendorf published a daguerreotype of Eddie Lincoln in his book *Lincoln's Photographs: A Complete Album*. The image had long been overlooked in the collection of Herbert Wells Fay, an early custodian of the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield. Just this year

a researcher announced his belief that he had discovered of a photograph of Lincoln standing in front of the White House. The photograph was taken on March 6, 1865, and was in the private collection of Ulysses S. Grant. If the figure in the photograph is indeed Abraham Lincoln - it was taken at a distance and the figure in the photo is partly turned away from the camera - it is the last picture of Lincoln taken during his life and the only one showing him in front of the White House.

We're looking forward to a great Annual Meeting - see you at the Courthouse!



The Lincoln family in a period illustration. Robert, in his army uniform, stands behind his parents, with youngest son Thomas "Tad" at right. A portrait of Willie Lincoln, who died in 1862, hangs behind them.

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Kristen Patzer Umphrey *Museum Store Manager*

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 2009, Vol. 25, No. 1

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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,

Spring has not yet "sprung." Daffodils and crocus are making every effort to encourage us to begin the spring-cleaning projects we know are waiting for us. Many of us are looking forward to spending time outdoors even if we have to rake and weed our gardens.

At the History Center, we are getting ready for spring. The gallery in the 1839 Courthouse has been painted and the Picturing the Twin Cities exhibit has been re-designed and installed in the gallery. A grant from the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor Rotary Foundation sponsored the exhibit, with additional funding provided by Indiana Michigan Power.

The early blooming flowers also serve as a reminder that the Berrien County Historical Association's Annual Meeting is a spring event. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. The evening will begin with a brief business meeting including election of board members, followed by a program entitled Lincoln's Family Ties, and a reception with special cookies and hors d'oeuvres. Please plan to attend.

Another sign of spring is our "Springing into the 1830s" Pioneer Day. On Pioneer Day, school children from all over Berrien County visit the museum and participate in activities that early Berrien County pioneers experienced during the 1830s. If you would like to volunteer to assist with the event, please call Kristen Patzer Umphrey at 471-1202. Special skills are not necessary as there are many areas where volunteers are needed.

The Board of Directors and I are already planning the 2009 Signature Event, scheduled for October 29, 2009, at the Mendel Center. Reserve this date and plan A Visit With the Lincolns.

The Savannah trip is attracting many travelers from previous trips and new members. Whether you have traveled with us before or are considering your first adventure with the History Center, Bob and I hope you will join us. The company is wonderful, the events are varied and interesting, and the food is the best.

Sincerely,

Francie Porter Snyder

Executive Director

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

Visiting the Lincolns

Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln the Featured Guests at this fall's History Center Fund-Raiser

Abraham and Mary Lincoln are this year's featured guests for the History Center's annual fund-raising event. The program will take place at Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center on Thursday, October 29.

The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with a social hour and cash bar. A dinner follows, with an entree choice of prime rib, chicken or vegetarian dish; 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.

The program captures the touching humor and deep love shared by this legendary couple as they confront the losses in their own lives.



Michael Krebs and Debra Ann Miller as Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln.



A performance of *Visiting the Lincolns*.

The History Center is seeking sponsors to assist in underwriting the *Visiting the Lincolns* performance. In addition to supporting a landmark Michigan historic site, sponsorship includes:

- * Ambassador Level (\$100): you or your business' name in the program book

- * Capitol Level (\$250): Two tickets to the event, plus you or your business' name in the program book.

- * White House Level (\$500): quarter-page ad in the program book and two tickets to the event.

- * Cabinet Level (\$1,000): half-page ad in the program book, inclusion in all print advertising, and two tickets to the event.

- * President Level (\$1,500): full-page ad in the program book, inclusion in all print advertising, and a table for eight at the event.

- * In addition, all sponsors will be included in a video slide show to be played at the event.

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

Picturing the Twin Cities Exhibit Opens at the History Center

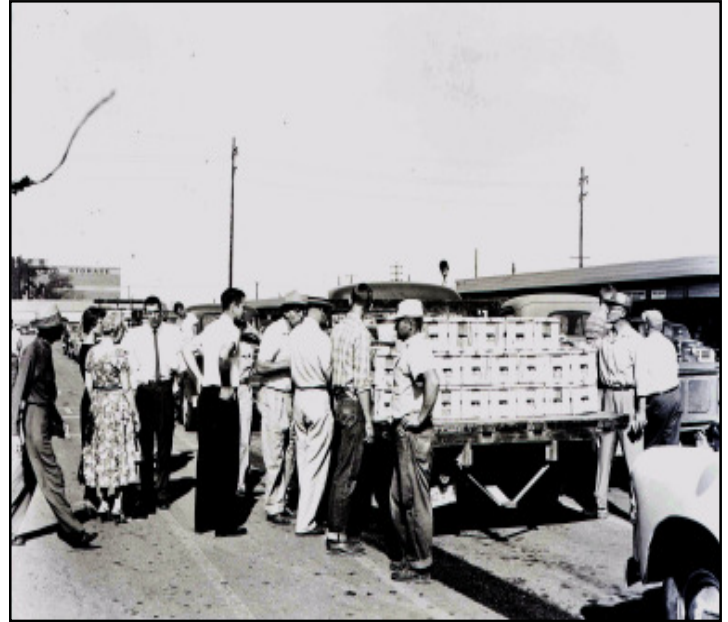
Did you miss our St. Joseph/Benton Harbor photographic exhibit at Orchards Mall last fall? Want a second look at some of those fabulous images from the 1950s-1960s? You're in luck - a reprise of the enormously popular exhibit has opened at the History Center.

The History Center is open 10-5, Monday - Friday, and will open 10-5 on Saturdays in June. Admission is free. The exhibit is funded by grants from the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor Rotary Foundation and the Indiana Michigan Power Company.

Picturing the Twin Cities showcases a rare collection of historical photographs taken by St. Joseph photographer J. Sherwin Murphy during the late 1950s and early 1960s. Murphy photographed hundreds of scenes throughout the twin cities during those years and won numerous awards from the Twin Cities Camera Club and in shows in Chicago.

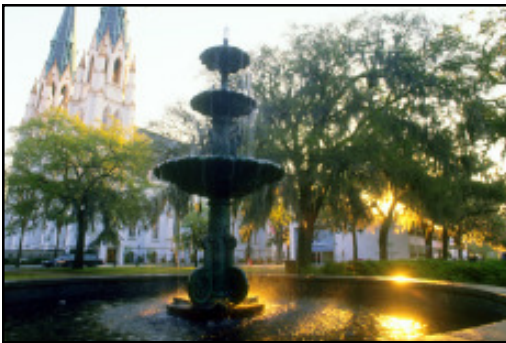
Despite Murphy's active role in Twin Cities' history, research has thus far uncovered little information about him exhibit for newspaper accounts of his many awards. He evidently moved away from southwest Michigan and we know nothing of his later activities. His photographs, however, remain as priceless documentation of our area in the mid-20th century. Many also appear in our new book, *Greetings from St. Joseph*. You can also

visit the Chicago Historical Society's "Encyclopedia of Chicago History" website, <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org>, to view some of the Murphy photographs of Chicago online.



Buyers at the Benton Harbor Fruit Market, 1957.

Join our Fall Savannah Tour!



Savannah's
Lafayette
Square

Reservations are coming in for our September tour to Savannah, Georgia. The 9-day, 8-night motorcoach tour will run September 19-27, 2009.

"Savannah is one of my all-time favorite destinations," said History Center curator and tour guide Bob Myers. "The city has a fantastic history, and its museums and sites are among the best in America."

The trip includes a tour of the Fort Pulaski Civil War site; a riverboat dinner cruise on the Savannah River; a musical play at the historic Savannah Theater; a trolley tour of the city; and a tour of the Savannah Historical Museum. A three-hour ecotour of the Bull River and the Barrier Islands will acquaint participants with the area's natural history, and a visit to the Tybee Island Lighthouse and Museum examines Savannah's

maritime heritage. We'll also have an afternoon of free time to explore Savannah on their own.

The tour will stop for a full day in Berea, Kentucky, to visit the town's artisan shops, including potteries, glassworks, woodworking shops, ironworks and more. Lodging in Berea will be at the historic 1909 Boone Tavern.

On the return trip, we'll take in the Pleasant Hill (Kentucky) Shaker Village. The 3,000-acre site includes dozens of original buildings. The tour there includes a riverboat ride on the Kentucky River and overnight lodging in one of the historic Shaker buildings.

The members' tour fee of \$1,599 includes deluxe motorcoach transportation, lodging, breakfast and dinner every day, all admission fees and guide services.

Non-members of the History Center can join and take immediate advantage of the discounted members' price. The tour fee for non-members is \$1,649. All prices are per person, double occupancy. The single supplement is an additional \$500. For a complete itinerary or to register for the tour, call the History Center at Courthouse Square at (269) 471-1202. Registration deadline for the Savannah Tour is August 3, 2009.



Tybee Island Lighthouse

History Highlights ~ The *J. B. Ford*

Residents of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor have always enjoyed watching the majestic Great Lakes steamers entering the harbor to unload cement and stone. The *J. B. Ford* ranked among their favorites. Her trips on the Great Lakes and visits to the harbor at St. Joseph have ended, but the *Ford* lives on in memories of residents and visitors of that port town.

The *J. B. Ford* began life in the winter of 1903-1904 as the steamer *Edwin F. Holmes*. The American Shipbuilding Company of Lorain, Ohio, built her at their Black River shipyard. She was launched at noon on December 12, 1903, and christened the *Edwin F. Holmes* by Miss Alia E. Hawgood. In the ceremonies that followed Capt. James Owen took command as the ship's first skipper. The freighter measured 440 feet long, had a beam of 50 feet, and a depth of 28 feet.

The *Holmes* entered service in 1904 under the ownership of the Acme Transit Company, which was part of the firm of W. A. Hawgood & Co. The *Holmes* had a close brush with death the next season. Horrific gales swept the Great Lakes on November 28-30, 1905. The ore carrier *Mataafa* broke in two just yards from the pier entrance at Duluth, Minnesota, with the loss of nine crewmen. The *Edwin F. Holmes* had left Lorain upbound with a cargo of coal for Duluth and made it through the Soo Locks into Lake Superior, but was listed overdue on November 30. Her sister ship, the *Umbria*, arrived in Duluth that same day with a wrecked bridge, her crew steering from the emergency station located behind the smokestack. Worried families sighed with relief when the *Holmes* arrived safely in Duluth the next day.

The Armistice Day Storm of November 1913 sank nineteen ships on the Great Lakes and stranded as many more. One of the big freighters that went to the bottom was the *Henry B. Smith*, lost with all hands on Lake Superior. Her captain was James Owen, who had been the *Edwin F. Holmes*' first commander a few years earlier.

The Hawgood Company sold the *Holmes* and another ten of its ships to the Pittsburg Steamship Company in 1916. The *Edwin F. Holmes* was renamed the *E. C. Collins*; her sister ship, the *Umbria*, became the *MacGillvray Shiras*. During the

next three decades the two vessels plied the Great Lakes with cargos of coal, iron ore and grain. The Pittsburg Company replaced them with newer, larger and faster ore carriers in 1944, selling both ships to the Kinsman Transit Company. In 1956, the Huron Cement Company of Detroit, Michigan, bought the *Collins* for use as a bulk cement carrier and in 1958-1959 converted her into a self-unloader.

Renamed the *J. B. Ford*, she carried cargos of cement from the Huron Company docks in Alpena to storage silos all



The *J. B. Ford* at the Huron Cement elevators in St. Joseph, ca. 1960.

around the Great Lakes. St. Joseph was a frequent port-of-call, and many residents have fond memories of the grand old freighter pulling into the harbor to unload cargo at the Huron Cement elevators. They remember with less fondness the coal smoke belching from her stack. During the winter of 1975-1976, Nicholson & Hall Corporation of Buffalo, New York, converted the ship from coal to fuel oil power.

The *J. B. Ford* made her last voyage in 1985. An accident had damaged her steam engine, and although repaired it apparently never functioned properly. Her owner, Inland Lakes Management, idled the aging lake freighter at South Chicago, Illinois. She lay there for a many years in use for cement storage. LaFarge Corporation (which bought Huron Cement in 1987) built a new cement silo on shore and in 2001 had the *Ford* towed to Superior, Wisconsin. She remains there today, still in use as a floating cement silo.

Curator's Corner

Recent Artifact Acquisitions

- William F. Ast II St. Joseph/Benton Harbor archival material
- Martha Churchill Postcard of Mercy Hospital
- John H. Frambach Fallout shelter plans, 1962
- Emily Rose Foster. Photographs & papers pertaining to World War II German prisoners of war
- Harold Hanlin Clark Equipment Co. newsletters, photograph
- Little Traverse Regional Historical Soc. House of David photographs
- Candace Seymour Myers Benton Harbor High School signature shirt, ca. 1939
- Anne Odden Photograph
- Belzora Page Book, *Ben King's Melodies*, 1911
- Martin D. Pschigoda 1933 Worlds Fair teaspoons; baptismal certificates
- Beverly Pottle Interurban railroad photograph
- William E. Schlender Wooden rake and basket
- Sedona Historical Soc. Baroda Twp. teacher's record book

Duck and Cover!

Many of our readers will recall the dark days of the Cold War when thousands of Americans built backyard fallout shelters. John H. Frambach recently donated a copy of the government's official plans for citizens to build their own shelter. We'd love to know if anyone here in Berrien County actually constructed one. If you know of a still-existing shelter, give us a call!

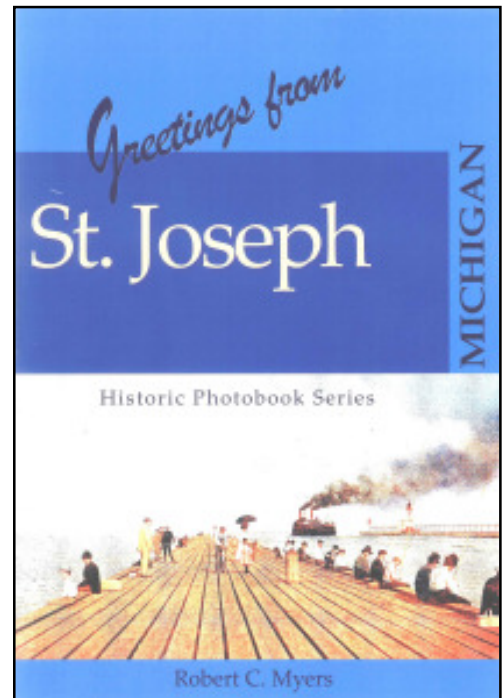


Enjoy our Local History!

<i>Atlas of Berrien County, Michigan, 1873</i> (\$24.95)	Quantity: _____	Total: \$ _____
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<i>Greetings from Berrien Springs</i> (\$21.95)	Quantity: _____	Total: \$ _____
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<i>Twin City Trolleys</i> (\$8.95)	Quantity: _____	Total: \$ _____
<i>Millennial Visions & Earthly Pursuits</i> (\$8.95)	Quantity: _____	Total: \$ _____
<i>The Story of Buchanan, a history</i> (\$14.95)	Quantity: _____	Total: \$ _____
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History Center Offers "Springing into the 1830s" Pioneer Day

Michigan's early settlement period comes to life again this year at the History Center's annual school program, "Springing into the 1830s." The program runs in two sessions on Friday, May 15: 9:30-11:30 a.m. and again 12:30-2:30 p.m. Admission is \$3 each for children. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the History Center at (269) 471-1202.

The program allows schoolchildren to experience various aspects of everyday life in Michigan's early settlement period. The program features six 20-minute sessions, repeated in the afternoon:

- * Open-hearth cooking in the Murdock Log House
- * Blacksmithing in the Bennett Forge
- * Crosscut saw and corn shelling
- * Dancing in the Courthouse courtroom
- * Flintlock musket firing
- * Stencil-making

Sessions begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. During the next two hours, groups of students move from session to session so that each group can visit each of the six "stations." Session presentations are targeted toward schoolchildren in the upper-elementary age group.

The History Center always needs volunteers to help staff this event. If you have a few hours' time to contribute, call Kristen Patzer at (269) 471-1202. Don't worry - you don't have to be a skilled blacksmith to help out! You can help staff the museum store, ring the courthouse bell to signal the end of each session, or assist the presenters.

Historical Sketches of Berrien County to be Updated

The History Center books *Historical Sketches of Berrien County* have consistently been best-sellers over the years. The four volumes of short stories about Berrien County that make up the series have gone through several reprints and will now come out as a single volume.

Museum curator Robert Myers based the stories on his popular WAUS Radio program "Art Talk." Chapters in the book include Early History, Towns, Businesses, Transportation, People, the Military, and more.

"My favorite story is 'Subversive Teddy Bears,'" says author Bob Myers. "In 1907, a Catholic priest from St. Joseph delivered a series of sermons condemning the teddy bear fad. There was such a craze for teddy bears that grown women were lugging them everywhere. The priest spoke out against the bears, the national news media picked up the story, and soon all the newspapers in the country were running stories about the priest who didn't like teddy bears."

"They even asked President Roosevelt about it. T. R. was a good politician, though, and he just laughed and said that he thought the fad was foolish but harmless."

The books were originally published as *Historical Sketches of Berrien County*, Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4. The museum combined Volumes 1 and 2 and retitled it as *The Great Pere Marquette Train Wreck*; Volumes 3 and 4 were combined and retitled *The Flight of the Graf Zeppelin*.

The new single volume will include about 170 stories in 270 pages, dozens of photographs, and a bibliography and index. The price has yet to be determined. The book should be released and on store shelves this summer.

Join the History Center Today!

Name: _____ Phone: _____
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- | | |
|---|--|
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We have many volunteer opportunities at the History Center. Call Kristen Patzer, volunteer coordinator, for information.

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



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Continuing and Upcoming Events

Ongoing: *Picturing the Twin Cities.* Visit the History Center for a special exhibit of photographs of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor. Museum hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mondays - Fridays. Award-winning St. Joseph photographer J. Sherwin Murphy took hundreds of pictures of the twin cities during the 1950s and 1960s. Most of the 110 photographic negatives in the History Center collections are dated to the year, and some to the exact day. Anyone who grew up in southwest Michigan will love these pictures of the towns as the way they appeared fifty years ago!

April 28: *Abraham Lincoln's Family Ties at the History Center Annual Meeting.* 6:00 p.m. Our annual meeting celebrates the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial with a new program about the 16th president's family. Free admission, and the public is welcome.

May 15: *Springing into the 1830s.* Our annual living history program highlights Michigan's early settlement period for students in the upper-elementary school age group. Learn about open-hearth cooking, blacksmithing, dancing, flintlock muskets, and more! 9:30-11:30 a.m. & 12:30-2:30 p.m.

June - August: *Thursdays at the Museum.* 6:30 p.m. Our popular summer program series returns in June. Speakers and topics are still being finalized. Programs every Thursday evening. Free admission.

September 19-27, 2009: *Historic Savannah Tour*
Join our latest motorcoach tour to historic Savannah, Georgia. This nine-day, eight night tour includes overnight stays at Berea, Kentucky, and the Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, Shaker Village. Call us at (269) 471-1202, or email bcha@berriehistory.org to make your reservation for this fantastic tour.