



## *Down on the Farm: Specialty Agriculture in Berrien County*



including some that have never before gone on display. One of the largest (and heaviest to move in!) is a wooden roadside sign that advertised peaches at the Edward Brohman farm south of Berrien Springs. The sign probably dates from about 1940. It appears to be an example of advertising for one of the area's earliest "U-Pick" farms.

Another unusual item is a fruit basket turning machine that was used in packing apples and peaches. The operator packed the fruit in an upside-down galvanized form. A wooden basket went over the form and the whole thing rolled into the center of the machine,

The History Center opened its latest exhibit, *Down on the Farm*, on December 4 in time for the "Kindle the Christmas Spirit" celebration in Berrien Springs. The exhibit is open during the History Center's regular winter hours: Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The exhibit focuses on the specialty farms that operated in Berrien County over the years: wineries, "U-Picks," the Israelite House of David farms, the Emmanuel Missionary College dairy farm, the Berrien County Poor Farm, and others.

The exhibit has allowed us to showcase some of the more unusual artifacts in the museum collections,

where it was flipped right-side up and the form removed. It's a clever contraption and appears to be homemade. We know that they were used on many farms in the area - ours came from the Alton Wendzel farm near Watervliet.

Many individuals also allowed us to digitally scan photographs from their personal collections for use in the exhibit. We received some wonderful images and are delighted to display them for the first time. A couple of them appear on page 3 of *The Docket*. Drop in and tour the exhibit!

# Berrien County Historical Association Board and Staff

## Board of Directors

Tom Nelson, *President*  
Margaret Poole, *Vice President*  
Sara Bell, *Treasurer*  
Emily Foster, *Secretary*

William Ast III                      John Kamer  
Tom Burnison                        Robert Sykora  
Ted Chamberlain                    Michael Wood  
Elizabeth Christy                    Bruce Wrenn  
Don Gillespie

## Staff

Frances Porter Snyder    *Executive Director*  
Robert Myers              *Curator*  
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.berriehistory.org](http://www.berriehistory.org).

## The Docket

Winter 2010, Vol. 26, No. 4

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

### 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.

© Berrien County Historical Association, 2010

# Director's Comments

By Frances Porter Snyder

Dear Friends,

It is time to look back on a very busy and successful year. The History Center offered many great programs and events that attracted new members and participants. We thank Indiana Michigan Power for sponsoring the *War Stories* exhibit. The Berrien Springs/Eau Claire Rotary Club donated cushions for the hard benches in the 1839 Courthouse. The *Thursdays at the Museum* program series, sponsored by the Berrien Springs Community Endowment, attracted an average of over 60 people per program.

The History Center partnered with Mary's City of David to offer tours of Bethany House and other buildings on the site. In September, we had a record number of travelers join us on the *Founding of America* tour. The signature event, *Deelighted: Dinner with Theodore Roosevelt*, also attracted more attendees than in past years. Finally, we had 1,437 visitors to the *Kindle the Christmas Spirit* Berrien Springs/EauClaire Chamber of Commerce Holiday open house. Everyone who attended enjoyed the music of the Trinity Lutheran School students and the church's Praise Group.

The open house visitors also had an opportunity to view the new exhibit, *Down on the Farm: Specialty Agriculture in Berrien County*. We would like to acknowledge the assistance of Andrews University, Emily Foster, Lemon Creek Winery, Mary's City of David, Candace Myers, the Stover Family, Herb Teichman and Tree-mendus Fruit Farm. The exhibit is featured in a story in *The Docket*.

The History Center also published a new book, *Locomotives along the Lakeshore: The Railroads of Berrien County*, and reprinted *Historical Sketches of Berrien County, Greetings from St. Joseph* and *Greetings from Buchanan*. Next year, we are planning to publish *Greetings from Benton Harbor*. Since our indexes of Berrien County vital records has been available on our Internet website, requests for genealogical information have dramatically increased.

The Board of Directors and staff are encouraged by the support received during the past year. The support takes many forms: membership, financial contributions, signature event ticket purchases, volunteer hours, and artifact or archival material donations. Thank you! Everyone at the History Center appreciates your participation.

Happy holidays!

Frances Porter Snyder  
Executive Director

## Photographs from *Down on the Farm: Specialty Agriculture in Berrien County*



Working in a beet field at the Shaker Farm, Berrien Springs, ca. 1900.



Milk wagon at Emmanuel Missionary College. (Courtesy Andrews University)



Farm implement dealership at Arden, ca. 1900. The building still stands on M-139 (Old US 31) five miles north of Berrien Springs. (Courtesy June Stover)



The Israelite House of David cold storage plant at the Benton Harbor Fruit Market.

# Historic Massachusetts Tour

It seems like we just returned from our “Founding of America” Tour of Virginia, but we’re already planning next fall’s trip. Hotels and restaurants can fill up early, especially when we need to accommodate a large group, so we start booking places months in advance.

We’re planning a spectacular tour of sites in historic Massachusetts for next September. Plans are still tentative, but at this writing our tour includes:

\* **The Mark Twain House** (yes, its in Hartford, Connecticut, not Massachusetts, but it’s on the way!)

\* **Old Sturbridge Village**



*Old Sturbridge Village*



*Plimoth Plantation*

\* **A day in Boston**, including the John F. Kennedy Presidential Museum, the USS *Constitution*, the Paul Revere House, Faneuil Hall, and the Old North Church

\* **A day in Salem**, including the Salem Maritime National Historic Site and the Peabody Essex Museum

\* **A day in Concord**, including the Concord Museum, Louisa May Alcott House, Ralph Waldo Emerson House, and Walden Pond

\* **A day in Plymouth**, touring Plimoth Plantation and the *Mayflower II*.

## What’s Included?

As always, our tour includes almost everything: motorcoach transportation, lodging, all breakfasts and dinners, all admission fees, and all taxes and gratuities.

The nine-day, eight-night tour is scheduled for September 10-19, 2011. More information will be coming out in future issues of *The Docket*, but if you would like to receive detailed information as it becomes available, contact us via email at [bcha@berrienhistory.org](mailto:bcha@berrienhistory.org) or call us at (269) 471-1202.

*The JFK Presidential Museum, Boston*



## *Dee-Lighted! Dinner with Theodore Roosevelt*

Actor Joe Wiegand delivered a stunning performance as Theodore Roosevelt at this year's Signature Event. The event included dinner, a silent auction, door prizes and of course our featured guest. We're already planning for next year's signature event and another presenter from the past.



*Like all politicians, President Roosevelt was glad to meet and greet visitors!*



*Guests enjoyed an excellent meal and dinner conversation.*



*Rick and Sharon Fedoruk pose with President Roosevelt.*



*Harpist Meg Rogers entertained everyone during dinner. Her harp is over a century old.*

# Join the History Center Today!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- Membership categories:  
**Basic**  
 Individual \$20  
 Family \$30  
 Institutional \$40  
 Patron \$100
- Supporting**  
 Contributing \$40  
 Sustaining \$50  
 Benefactor \$500

***We need volunteers to help with many museum functions! Call Kristen Patzer Umphrey, volunteer coordinator, for information.***

Additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please make checks payable to the Berrien County Historical Association or  
 Please charge my credit card: (Circle one)  
 MasterCard                      Visa  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

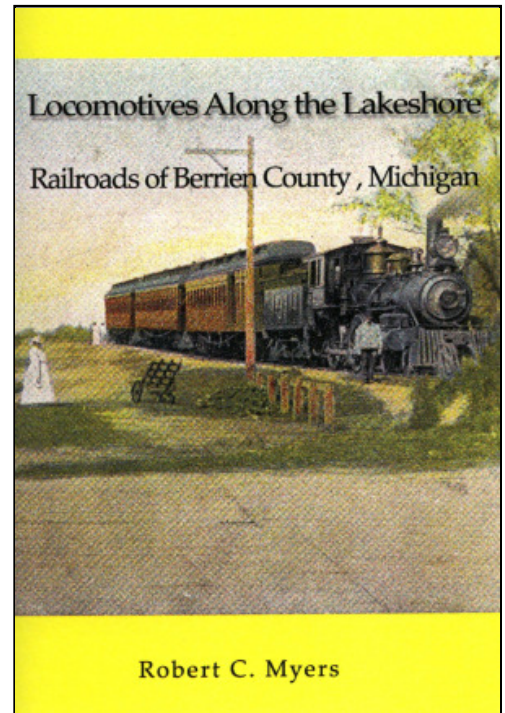
Mail or fax to: BCHA, PO Box 261,  
 Berrien Springs, MI 49103  
 Phone: (269) 471-1202 Fax: (269) 471-7412

## Enjoy our Local History!

<i>Locomotives Along the Lakeshore</i> (\$23.95) <b>New Book!</b>	Quantity: _____	Total: \$ _____
<i>Greetings from St. Joseph</i> (\$24.95)	Quantity: _____	Total: \$ _____
<i>Greetings from Berrien Springs</i> (\$21.95)	Quantity: _____	Total: \$ _____
<i>Greetings from Buchanan</i> (\$24.95)	Quantity: _____	Total: \$ _____
<i>Historical Sketches of Berrien County</i> (\$22.95)	Quantity: _____	Total: \$ _____
<i>Twin City Trolleys</i> (\$8.95)	Quantity: _____	Total: \$ _____
<i>The Story of Buchanan, a history</i> (\$14.95)	Quantity: _____	Total: \$ _____
<b>SPECIAL: <i>Greetings from Buchanan &amp; Story of Buchanan</i></b>	Quantity: _____	Total: \$ _____

Get both for \$29.95

Subtotal \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Discounts (Library 20%/Member 10%) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 State sales tax (6% for Michigan orders only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shipping (\$3.95 for 1 book, \$1.00 each additional book;  
 \$5.00 for the *Atlas of Berrien County*) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_



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

### SHIP TO:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check/money order payable to:  
 Berrien County Historical Assn.  
 P.O. Box 261, Berrien Springs, MI  
 49103. (269) 471-1202.

*For Credit Card orders (Visa & MC)*  
 Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on Card : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Frank J. Ward History Award

The Frank J. Ward Memorial History Award is a new History Center program. The award is named for Frank Junior Ward, a long time member of the Berrien County Historical Association and benefactor of the History Center at Courthouse Square. Mr. Ward died recently and included the History Center among his bequests.

The History Award will be 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 nominations for the award until February 28, 2011. A committee consisting of BCHA Board members, staff and members will select the recipient. The first award will be presented at the Berrien County Historical Association's annual meeting to be held in April of 2011. The Berrien County Historical Association Board of Directors and staff are not eligible to receive the award.

Nominations will be accepted from the BCHA membership and the greater Berrien County community. Please complete the form below and attach a one page (or less) document to inform the committee about your nomination.



*Berrien County Historical Association, Inc.  
The History Center at Courthouse Square  
Frank J. Ward Memorial History Award Nomination Form  
P.O. Box 261  
Berrien Springs, MI 49103*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete this nomination form and submit it with a document of one page or less about your nomination to the above address by February 28, 2011.*

## Curator's Corner

### Recent Artifact Acquisitions

Dorothy Conrad . . . . . Fruit pitting and peeling tools

The Heritage Museum  
& Cultural Center . . . . Michigan Central Railroad papers

Sue Addison King . . . Clark Equipment Co. cap

Virginia L. Kuball . . . . . Photograph, personal papers

Martin D. Pschigoda . . . Watches, jewelry, Polaroid camera,  
souvenir plates, photograph

Marilyn Roth . . . . . Postcards, Booklet *Steamer Jaunts, 1892*

Charlotte Stover . . . . . Michigan and maritime history books

Dorothy Conrad recently donated several fruit peelers to the museum. Her mother, Lydia Lockman, lived outside Benton Harbor and used the homemade peelers during the mid-20th century.





Post Office Box 261  
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Berrien Springs, MI  
PERMIT NO. 38

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## Continuing and Upcoming Events

**Ongoing:** *Down on the Farm: Specialty Agriculture in Berrien County.* Exhibit at the History Center. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mondays - Fridays.

**September 2011: Historic Massachusetts Tour.** Nine-day, eight-night motorcoach tour of The Bay State.