



Vol. 35, No. 1 January 2019

Director's Comments

Welcome to the new digital newsletter! As mentioned in our most recent issue, creating a printed version of the newsletter is quite time consuming and uses a lot of precious resources. We hope to bring you an e-newsletter once a month that will include much of what you loved about the printed letter: historical articles, upcoming events, and follow-up on events passed.

In 2019, we hope to bring you exciting programs at the History Center at Courthouse Square, some motorcoach tours, and more changing exhibits. Stay tuned for details!

We often host school programs on the property. On January 17, we have a highschool class coming in for a Mock Trial and could use some volunteer jury-members! Interested? Give us a call to sign up (471-1202).

I hope your holiday season was spent surrounded by loved ones, the most precious gifts we could receive.

Sincerely,
Kathy A. Cyr
Executive Director

Happy New Year!

A Brief History of New Year Resolutions

It is the beginning of a new year and many of us have made resolutions. Have you ever wondered where the tradition came from? Let's take a look.

The beginning of making resolutions dates back to the Babylonians. During their 12-day festival celebrating a new year in spring, Babylonians made pledges to the gods to return all borrowed items and pay all debts. If they followed through the gods would look favorably upon them.

Circa 46 B.C., Roman Emperor Julius Caesar created a new calendar that began on January one. The month was named after Janus, the two-faced god who could look backward and forward at the same time and the guardian of doorways and arches. On the first of the new year, Romans, believing that Janus would look back into their past and look to the future, offered sacrifices to the god promising good conduct in the year to come.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist church, began holding Covenant Renewal Services in 1740, on either New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. These had a spiritual theme to them and often involved the congregation making resolutions based on Bible verses. The practice continued to change and became more secular in the following years where, rather than making promises to be better Christians, the focus was placed on self-improvement and the only person you were accountable to was yourself.

Today approximately 45% reported to making resolutions, and only about 8% kept them. This has prompted author Lisa Scottoline to make "unresolutions"; preferring to look at what she has done right and resolve to continue doing them. This may include things like eating pasta, watching cooking shows, and

reading books.

Here at BCHA, we like to make resolutions of what we want to accomplish in the coming year *and* we like to celebrate what we have accomplished in the past year, none of which we can do without you.

So, here is to you, our members! Happy New Year!

From the Collection

This greeting card displays a picture of several South Sea Islanders' huts on the front. The card is part of a collection of personal World War II memorabilia donated to BCHA in 1995 by Chester "Chet" Krause. The inside shares a message of Christmas and New Year greetings in both English and Tagalog (the language of the Philippines). Krause served as captain in the U.S. Army Airforce during World War II in the Pacific Theater.



Kindle Your Christmas Spirit

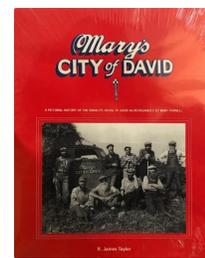
Kindle Your Christmas Spirit, the annual holiday open house in Berrien Springs was on Thursday, December 6, 2018. At the History Center at Courthouse Square we had caroling in the courtroom, a blacksmith demonstration in the forge and a wonderful showing of life in a log cabin. The Sheriff's residence was also open to the public for a preview of the World War I exhibit. We welcomed nearly 1,200 people on the property and felt very festive by the end of the evening.



Special Offer!

Thanks to our friend R. James Taylor at Mary's City of David, you can receive a copy of his book "Mary's City of David: A Pictorial History of the Israelite House of David as Reorganized by Mary Purnell" with a donation of \$20 or more!

You can donate online, through the mail via check (make sure the memo says Mary's City of David) or in person in the Museum Gift Shop.



[Donate Now](#)

South Dakota Adventure, May 28 - June 5, 2019



Join the History Center for an adventure westward to South Dakota on a 9-day 8-night motorcoach tour. The tour fee of \$1,850* for members includes transportation, lodging, all breakfasts, most dinners, some lunches, all admission fees, taxes, and gratuities. We will visit the Badlands National Park, Wall Drug, Mt. Rushmore National Monument, Custer State Park, Crazy Horse Memorial, and more! Call 269-471-1202 for more information.

**Price per person, double occupancy. \$1,900 non-members' price. \$457 single supplement.*

[Visit Our Website](#)

[Become a Member](#)

[Take Our Survey](#)

Board of Directors

Liz Muhlenbeck, President
Tom Nelson, Vice President
MaryEllen Drolet, Treasurer
Rebecca May, Secretary

Al Butzbaugh
Dennis Hollingsead
Mariann Litznerski
Robert Norris
Stephen Smith

Staff

Kathy A. Cyr, Executive Director
Kelsey A. Curnutt, Museum Services Coordinator
Yarleth Gomez, Collections 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.