

## Director's Comments

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the road! Myself and 28 others are on the South Dakota Adventure. I have been wanting to visit the area for many years and, at long last, I have the opportunity to see the carved faces of the Presidents at Rushmore.

May sped by and we had an incredible month here at the History Center. Summer hours began on the first and we kicked off the season with a phenomenal concert on the first Sunday.

I want to thank each of our volunteers who helped with Pioneer Day where over 150 students, teachers, and parents came to the property to learn about life on the frontier. Thank you to those who sat on the jury for the Mock Trial for St. Joseph High School Practical Law Course. You made each event a success and I am grateful for your contributions.

If you were unable to volunteer in May, we have some exciting opportunities to help during the Fourth of July celebrations (see the "Wanted: Volunteers" section below).

We have more free programs coming up in June, including the start of "Thursdays at Courthouse Square" series and I hope to see you there!

As many of you know, I am retiring at the end of July. While I am sad to leave BCHA and our community, of which I have grown very fond, I am looking forward to retirement at my family farm in Northern Michigan. That being said, our search committee has begun the hunt for a new Executive Director *and* a new Curator (as we have been without an official curator for the past two years!). I am very excited about these openings and know that the individuals who will join the staff will be leading BCHA forward with the Strategic Directives. If you or someone you know would be interested in either of the positions please direct them to our website ([www.berrienhistory.org](http://www.berrienhistory.org)) where the full job descriptions are posted.

Sincerely,  
Kathy A. Cyr  
Executive Director



While most will mark the end of slavery when President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation January 1, 1863, it wasn't enforced in the entire country. On June 19, 1865, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, Major General Gordon Granger accompanied by Union soldiers, rode into Galveston, Texas, to read General Order Number 3 which began:



"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

The reactions that followed were a mixture of shock and shouts of jubilation. Following that first statement were more instructions on what the new relationship between former owner and former slave would entail. However, many slaves felt that their first step in freedom was to step off the plantations. For many their destination was to the North, which represented "true freedom"; for others they wanted to reconnect with family members who were in neighboring states such as Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. As these people settled into their new homes and their new roles as freed men and women, they faced new challenges. The day June 19, or Juneteenth as it was coined, became a "motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territory." Juneteenth became a time to celebrate family, to reassure each other, often gathering together for prayer and food. The day was mostly and widely observed in Texas, with many former slaves traveling back every year to Galveston to mark the occasion.

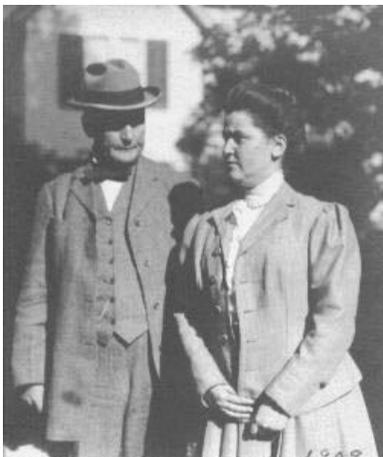
At the turn of the century, the day lost status and faded into the background of history. However, during the 1950's and 1960's, amidst the fights for Civil Rights led by remarkable figures such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks, Juneteenth began to regain its significance and spread beyond Texas. It again became a day for praying, reassuring, and celebrating. On January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday in Texas, marking the first emancipation celebration granted official state recognition.

Today, Juneteenth continues to grow in popularity with institutions such as the Smithsonian and the Henry Ford Museum sponsoring Juneteenth related activities. Last year Benton Harbor hosted its very own Juneteenth celebration, focusing on education and family. A significant player in getting Juneteenth celebrations started in Benton Harbor have been the Browns, who opened an African American History and Literature Gallery in Benton Harbor City just over a year ago. The gallery is a product of faith and hard work by these two incredible individuals with a passion for educating and celebrating African American history. I encourage you to visit them during their open hours (Wednesday/Thursday 10 am - 11:30 am) or join them for a fireside chat Saturday, June 22, 5 pm - 6:40 pm, and Thursday, July 18, 5 pm - 6:30 pm.

For more information about our local Juneteenth celebration, you can email the Browns at [aahlgallery@gmail.com](mailto:aahlgallery@gmail.com)

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## From the Collection: Dad



Fathers Day is fast approaching and I wanted to pull something from our collections that celebrates "dad". Many of the items in our collection are referenced as "something belonging to dad" or "that's dad in the picture", but few actually display a direct relationship between a father and his children. Luckily, there are those few items that celebrate that special relationship including this series of photographs dating between 1906-1912 of Edna K. Warren Lackey and her father Edward K. Warren, the founder of the Warren Featherbone Company out of Three Oaks, Michigan.

The family was very prominent and they made a lasting impact on the region. In 1879, Mr. Warren began buying acreage along the beach (later incorporated in the Warren Dunes State Park) and in the woods (later incorporated into Warren Woods State Park), setting aside for preservation. Thanks to Mr. Warren's foresight, Warren Woods is home to the last climax beech-maple forest in Michigan.

Though none of these photographs are at the Woods or Dunes, one can imagine Edna and Edward traipsing around commenting on the beauty of nature and spending quality father-daughter time, as it appears they enjoyed a close relationship.

Happy Father's Day!





## Wanted: Volunteers

At Berrien County Historical Association we host several programs throughout the year that use varying amounts of volunteers. There are three events in the coming months that you can help with. Read below to choose which one(s) you prefer and call 269-471-1202 or email [kcyr@berrienhistory.org](mailto:kcyr@berrienhistory.org) to sign up!

**An Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration and Ice Cream Social July 4, 11 am - 4 pm** BCHA, the Berrien Springs Community Library, and the Village of Berrien Springs are cooking up a way for everyone to celebrate our nation's birthday and we need lots of volunteers. The day will be broken up into 2-3 hour shifts and tasks will vary in level of physical demands but it is guaranteed to be a good time! Here are where we need help:

- Set-up
- Parking Lot Attendants
- Greeters at Gates to Courthouse Square
- Crafts and Games at the Library
- Ice Cream Social
- Take-down

Call the History Center to sign up!

**BCYF Booth - August 12-17** Every year BCHA joins in the fun and has a booth in the commercial area of the Berrien County Youth Fair. This booth is manned by volunteers and staff alike in three hours shifts. By volunteering to help at BCYF, you have the opportunity to directly grow our BCHA community and will receive

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## Mark Your Calendar: BCHA



Loreen Niewenhuis will be at the History Center on Thursday, June 27, for Thursdays at Courthouse Square.



Tom Kimmel will be at the History Center on Sunday, June 9, for stories about the settlement of the Southwest Michigan

### **June 9 - Settlement of Southwest Michigan with Tom Kimmel, 2:30 p.m.**

Tom Kimmel returns to the History Center for a presentation about the settlement and development of Southwest Michigan. Kimmel writes a column for the Journal Era and is a local expert about farming and steam engines.

### **June 20 - Thursdays at Courthouse Square: Sister Mary Purnell with Ron Taylor, 6:30 p.m.**

The first program of the popular Thursdays at Courthouse Square series will be by Ron Taylor on Sister Mary Purnell. Mary's City of David sparks a lot of interest among local residents and visitors alike. Learn more about the person behind the movement.

### **June 27 - Thursdays at Courthouse Square: Isle Royale Adventure with Loreen Niewenhuis, 6:30 p.m.**

Loreen Niewenhuis returns once again to the History Center for the Thursdays at Courthouse Square series. This time Niewenhuis will present her work on Isle Royale in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Niewenhuis is known for environmental adventures including her trek around Lake Michigan.

### **July 4 - An Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration and Ice Cream Social, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

The History Center, Village of Berrien Springs, and Berrien Springs Community Library will host a Fourth of July Community Gathering at the History Center at Courthouse Square and Library Lawn to celebrate our Nation's birthday. Concerts, interactive activities, speeches from local politicians and historical interpreters, and more will be sprinkled throughout the day.

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## Mark Your Calendar: Community Events

**Saturdays, St. Joseph Farmer's Market** 9 am - 2 pm , Whether you're looking for fresh flowers or fresh veggies you can find it all on a Saturday morning at the Farmer's Market on the bluff in St. Joseph.

**May 31 - July 28, Pete Souza: Two Presidents, One Photographer, Krasl Art Center,** The iconic photographs of Pete Souza are well known from his tenure as Chief Official White House Photographer for President Obama. What most people do not remember is that Souza was also an Official White House Photographer for President Reagan.

**Sunday, June 2, Antiques on the Bluff, 10 am - 5 pm, St Joseph Bluff**

**Tuesday, June 11, Beginning Genealogy - Digging up your Roots,** Visit the Morton House Museum for a presentation by Patsy Miller, President of the Berrien County Genealogical Society, who will give tips on how to start researching your family history. Cost is \$5 for adult, 3\$ for students.

**Saturday, June 15, Community Recycling Event, 9 am - 1 pm ,** Open to Berrien County residents only, bring your recyclables to the New Buffalo Township Fire Station (17655 Clay St) for responsible disposal!

**Saturday, June 15, Juneteenth Parade and Celebration 2019, 1 pm - 6 pm,** The 1st Annual Benton Harbor MI Juneteenth Parade will start at Broadway Park in Benton Harbor and proceed down Broadway Street to

the Arts & Culture Center at 275 Pipestone Rd. That is where the Celebration begins! There will be Music, Entertainment, Guest Speakers, Merchandise and Food Vendors and much more!

**Saturday, June 22, Fireside Chat with African American history & Literature Gallery, 725 Broadway, Benton Harbor, 5 pm - 6:30 pm.** Join Gallery founders Emmanuel and Sharon Brown to learn directly from their rich archive of President Obama artifacts.

**Saturday, June 22, and Sunday, June 23, Anchors Aweigh A World at War, 9 am - 5 pm, 275 Upton Drive, St. Joseph, MI** A salute to our Navy "Anchors Aweigh" includes Naval Displays, WWII Landing Craft Rides, Helicopter Rides, Battle Reenactments, Flame Thrower, Guest Speakers, Military Displays, and more.

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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.