

THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORIAN

Spring 2020

A Blue Earth County Historical Society Publication

Vol. XXVI No. 2



It's anyone's guess how many s'mores were consumed each summer as the Camp Fire Girls took over Camp Patterson, July 1954.

CAMP FIRE GIRLS: Work, Health and Love

By Danelle Erickson

The 1950s and early 60s in Mankato were the height of Camp Fire Girls, popularity, with an average enrollment of over 800 girls each year. Documenting this time period, BECHS has two large scrapbooks full of what appears to be every mention of Camp Fire in the *Mankato Free Press*. In 1952, for example, the Camp Fire Girls had 1,135 inches of column in the newspaper. The scrapbooks and photo albums give us a snapshot of this popular girl's organization. We also see that there is much more to Camp Fire Girls than summer camp and s'mores.

Camp Fire Girls of America began on the east coast in 1912 by Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick and his wife, Charlotte. Soon groups were forming across the country. The first group in Mankato was organized by May Fletcher in 1915. Soon there were more Mankato groups and Miss Fletcher served as the executive director of Mankato Council of Camp Fire until 1946. In 1975, Camp Fire invited boys to join and changed their name to Camp Fire Girls and Boys. The organization still exists today and is now called Camp Fire.

As the name implies, Camp Fire Girls had an emphasis on

What's Inside

- 2 Director's Notes
- 6 Collections & Exhibits
- 7 Share Your Covid-19 Story
- 8 Let's Keep Making History
- 9 Gift Shop
- 9 Research Center
- 10 What's Happening

Continued on page 3

Board of Trustees

Chair, Steve Jameson, Mankato
Vice Chair, Erin Kragh, Mankato
Treasurer, Kevin Allen, Madison Lake
Secretary, Kirby Hurd, Mankato

JO Guck Bailey, Mankato
Gayle Elston, Mankato
Kristin Fisher, Mankato
Katherine Hughes, North Mankato
Jonathan Kemp, Mankato
Julie Lux, Mapleton
Nikolas Proehl, Mankato
Mary Teubner, Amboy
Dana Truebenbach, Mankato
Ken White, Skyline
Ken Wilmes, Mankato
Lisa Wolf, Mankato

Staff

Jessica Potter, Executive Director
Director@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

Danelle Erickson, Operations Manager
Museum@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

Heather Harren, Communication & Archives
Research@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

Shelley Harrison, Curator/Archivist
Archivist@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

History Center & Museum

424 Warren Street, Mankato, MN
507-345-5566
www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com
CLOSED—Watch for Reopening
Information

R.D. Hubbard House

606 South Broad Street, Mankato
507-345-4154
CLOSED—Watch for Reopening
Information

The Blue Earth County Historian

Spring 2020

The Blue Earth County Historian is published quarterly for the members of the Blue Earth County Historical Society. Copyright © 2020 by the Blue Earth County Historical Society. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part of any material from this issue without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Jessica Potter, Executive Director

INSPIRE. ENGAGE. CONNECT.

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is committed to those three words whether we are hosting visitors, new exhibits, educational programs or complying with stay-at-home orders to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and have closed our facilities.

This moment in time is challenging, uncertain and quite historic. And that is why BECHS continues to inspire, engage and connect. This is a very important time in our lives, but it is also critical that we capture this moment in time for future generations. But we cannot do this alone. We need your help to Keep Making History.

We know this is financially challenging times for so many, but as you are able, please renew your BECHS membership or make a donation. Our staff continue to work, our building continues to have expenses (even though reduced) and the local small businesses we work with still need to be paid. I know it may seem strange that we're asking you to renew your membership when the History Center and Hubbard House are closed indefinitely, but remember you also receive a subscription to *The Historian*, 10% member discount on Gift Shop and Art purchases (now available for online purchases, see page 11) and you are making a difference to local history.

Another way we need your help is sharing our mission with your family and friends. On page 10 you will find all of the great ways you can still engage with BECHS and connect your friends and family to our work.

Lastly, we hope you will participate in our new Share Your COVID-19 Story project. Imagine it is 2070 and BECHS is about to open a new exhibit about life 50 years ago. What needs to be included in that exhibit? It is those things, the stories, objects and photographs, that we need to collect now. Check out page 7 for more information about this new community project and how you can participate.

The BECHS Board of Trustees and Staff will continue to monitor conditions surrounding COVID-19 and when it is safe for our staff, visitors and volunteers, we will cautiously reopen the History Center and Hubbard House, open the new exhibit *The Great Outdoors* and resume programming. Until then, be well, reach out if you need us (we are still here) and together Let's Keep Making History!

CAMP FIRE GIRLS Continued from page 1

outdoor activities, but the organization also developed creativity, taught business, science and home skills and encouraged good citizenship. *WOHELO* might have been the most important word to a Camp Fire Girl - *Work, HEalth and LOve*.

There were three levels of Camp Fire Girls, based on age: Blue Birds were for girls 7-9 years old; Camp Fire for girls 10-14; and New Horizons for 15-18. During this time, Mankato and North Mankato had over sixty smaller groups, each with their own name such as Sunbeam Blue Birds, Okayanga Camp Fire and New Horizons Voyagers. These smaller groups met regularly, making craft projects, learning a new skill or visiting a local business or attraction.

Once Blue Birds graduated or “flew up” to Camp Fire, they also started their path on the Camp Fire Trail. The trail was made up of four ranks, such as Wood Gatherer and Torch Bearer. Each rank had a certain number of tasks for the girls to complete, such as planning a group activity or completing various “honors.” There were hundreds of honors to choose from, all found in the *Book of the Camp Fire Girls*. With each completed honor, the girl received an honor bead. Each year at the Grand Council Fire, held at various schools around Mankato, honor beads were distributed and ranks were awarded.

For girls who continued in the organization into High School, there were the New Horizons. By this age, only 10-20 girls remained active in any given year. One such young lady was Kay (Jones) Jacobson. For Kay, New Horizons brought her many new experiences, including canoe trips with the beloved Dr. Ruth Schellberg. Their focus was preparing for a multi-day adventure to the Quetico-Superior Forest. They perfected their canoeing skills, including the important j-stroke. During one training excursion, Kay remembers having to paddle for shore for help when darkness set in, and the girls found themselves lost on the Minnesota River between Mankato and St. Peter.

Camp Fire Girls opened up even more travel for Kay when she and four girls traveled to



Canoe class on Lake Washington, 1954.

New York City for the national convention in 1960. Kay admits they probably spent more time shopping and exploring the city than at the convention. However, their chaperones never commented. Whether it was because they trusted the girls or were oblivious to what the girls were doing, Kay wasn't sure!

In the early years of Camp Fire, there was a strong Native American component to the organization. The girls had ceremonial dresses based on Native American gowns which they decorated with symbols and beads to make the gown their own and show their accomplishments. Interestingly, much of the early designs and Native American symbols came from Dr. Gulick's friend Dr. Charles Alexander Eastman, or Ohiyesa, a Santee Dakota born in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. By the 1950s, there was less emphasis on the ceremonial gowns, although many of the symbols and words remained. Eventually, jackets replaced the gowns.



Barbara Lutzi and Linda Anderson in their Camp Fire uniforms, selling candy to Mrs. L.L. Dewey, 1957.

The girls' uniforms consisted of a white blouse, navy blue skirt, red neckerchief and blue jacket. Often the girls sewed the honor beads they had won to their jackets. Nancy (Larson) Shapiro has a clear memory of sewing the beads during a meeting at her leader's house while they listed to

Tennessee Ernie Ford's hit "16 Tons." Kathy (Burns) Rosen spent hours making

her beads into a headband, which she still has. In Mankato, Brett's Department Store was the official headquarters for Camp Fire uniforms, canteens, stationery and much more.

The biggest single week for the Camp Fire Girls across the nation was Birthday Week, the week surrounded the anniversary of the organization's founding on March 17. Each Birthday Week had a different theme that was also emphasized throughout the year. In 1953, for example, the theme was "Down to Earth." The girls tended to their own patch of earth and learned the value of natural resources and how everything eventually depended on the soil.

Other Birthday Week themes urged the girls to get out in the community. "Let's Be Different Together" encouraged the girls to learn about the different customs and cultures of the people around them. In 1958, the girls went out to "Meet the People" and photograph what they saw and who they met. The photos were then displayed in the windows of Ben Franklin, Brett's and Conrad Furs.

These yearly themes sometimes reached beyond Mankato. In 1956, "Plant Seeds - Reap Friendship" had the girls sending seeds to the countries of Ceylon (Sri Lanka), East Pakistan, Burma (Myanmar) and the Philippines. In total, 216 seed packets were sent, along with greetings from the girls. They also studied the counties they were helping, learned songs and dances, and made ethnic foods to sample.

Birthday Week spread beyond just the girls themselves. Local businesses, including Jones Sheet Metal, Northern State Power Company, Salet's and Schmidt Roofing and Siding, included "birthday wishes" in their print ads. The girls also were encouraged to attend their religious services in their Camp Fire uniforms, often receiving special recognition during the service.

As the calendar year progressed, the next

big event was the favorite of most of the girls – summer camp at Camp Patterson! Each year, Camp Fire rented the camp from the Mankato Kiwanis Club. In 1951, 325 campers attended one of four weeks of camp with 100 girls on the waiting list. The following year, a fifth week was added, making room for 400 campers.

Camp Patterson had ten cabins for the campers, with room for eight campers and one counselor in each. Kathy and Nancy both remember bringing orange crates to set next to their cots to act as nightstands and storage for their belongings. Each girl made up her own bedroll on her cot and had to sleep with her head at the opposite end of the cot compared to her neighbors – probably to keep night-time chats and giggles to a minimum. After breakfast, each cabin was inspected, and if it was clean enough, a pendant was hung outside for all to see.

Although mostly well-behaved, Nancy admits to at least one time when excessive giggles got them into trouble, probably during a time of brushing their teeth in the trough-style sink. As punishment, the girls had to rake the grass by the lake instead of swimming.

The week-long camp was full of your typical camp activities. The girls learned how to pitch a tent, tie knots, waterproof matches, trail blazing and fire building. They also learned several ways to cook over the fire. A favorite were "breadsticks" – Bisquick dough wrapped around a stick and baked over the fire. Marcia (Jones) Richards' best camp memory was

sleeping under the stars. "You would wake up cold, stiff and covered in dew," she remembers, "but happy!" Other camp activities

included sports like archery, softball, badminton and swimming. Also, photography lessons, folk



"Let's Be Different Together" Birthday Week display



Archery was just one of the many activities the girls enjoyed at camp each summer.



Swimming was a big part of every summer camp. The girls could earn honor beads as well as Red Cross certification.

dancing, scavenger hunts and talent shows were just some of the camp activities through the years.

The week ended with a council fire when the girls received the honor beads they had earned throughout the week. Each year, thousands of beads were distributed. For example, in 1955, 5,280 beads were

awarded: 2,056 in sports and games, 2,223 for outdoor crafts, 54 in home crafts and 947 for creative arts.

Another annual activity throughout the 1950s was the Hobo Walk; Mankato's launch of the national member drive. Each September, hundreds of Camp Fire Girls as well as girls interested in joining, put on their best "hobo"

look and made their way to Sibley Park. The day included games, a visit to the zoo, picnic lunch and the crowning of the best hobo queen and attendants.

Also, in the fall was the sweetest Camp Fire activity—candy sales! Each year, the girls would make their way around town, taking orders for candy. Not only did the sales raise money for the organization, but the girl who sold the most candy was awarded a free week at camp! In later years, the candy was mass produced by companies such as Russell Stover and Fanny Farmer, but the candy in the 1950s came from local companies including the Candy Kitchen, Colonial Candy, Shari Candies and Wegge Candy. The girls set a record in 1958 selling 10,172 boxes (8,265 pounds) of candy!

Things like summer camp, hobo walk and candy sales involved all of the local groups



Hobo Walk at Sibley Park, 1952

coming together, but the individual groups also did their own activities. Most of the groups met monthly. Throughout the 1950s and early 1960s, the *Mankato Free Press* had a weekly column titled "Camp Fire Notes" where groups could share what they had done. The girls might have made valentines or worked on memory books or planned the next Mother's Tea. Other times they might have toured a local business or gone for a hike.

The girls also had different service projects they worked on. In August 1950, many of the young ladies went door to door, asking people to sign a "I won't hoard" pledge. With the start of the Korean War, and World War II only a few years past, many people were looking to stockpile. This pledge encouraged people to only purchase what they needed for daily living.

In 1951, the girls collected toys and games for children forced out of their North Mankato homes by the spring flood, and the following year sent over 200 dolls to children overseas. The girls also helped by providing childcare during PTA meetings, sang songs to shut-ins, and collected donations for cancer funds, community chest and the March of Dimes which was started to raise money to fight the polio epidemic. Marcia remembers selling poppies for the American Legion. She always looked to partner with one of her more outgoing friends who had no reservations about approaching strangers with "Please, will you buy a poppy."

For thousands of local girls and millions across the national, Camp Fire Girls was a big part of their young lives. There was plenty of fun to be had, but also responsibilities to undertake and lessons to learn. Above all, the girls gained an appreciation and enjoyment of nature and friendships to last a lifetime.

Sources

Book of The Camp Fire Girls, 1958

Camp Fire Girls Scrapbooks and photo albums

Phone and email interviews with Kay (Jones) Jacobson, Marcia (Jones) Richards, Kathy (Burns) Rosen and Nancy (Larson) Shapiro.

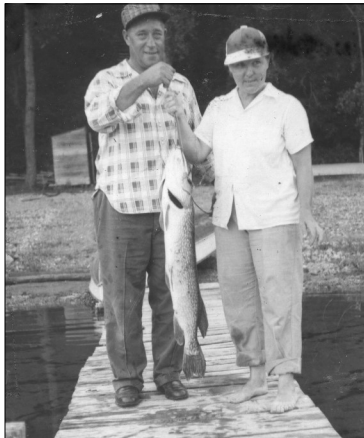
COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

Shelley Harrison, Curator/Archivist

The Blue Earth County Historical Society can't wait to present our next temporary exhibit *The Great Outdoors: Summertime Fun in Blue Earth County*. We will celebrate nature and the lure of spending time outdoors in the season of leisure.

The exhibit will highlight Blue Earth County parks. More than 600 acres of the county is dedicated to over fifteen parks, trails and waysides. We have a rich history of preserving significant natural and cultural resources since the establishment of our first county park, Lake George, in 1966. The exhibit contains park photographs, brochures, clippings, flyers, postcards and souvenir items from the Historical Society's Collection.

We will also explore the county's water scene including fishing, canoeing and swimming. Did you know that Blue Earth County's largest lake is Lake Washington? (1487 sq. ft.) There are so many incredible tidbits. Here's another: Blue Earth County has more shoreline than any other county in Minnesota. We invite you to share your memories of time spent on or near the water.



John and Ann Getta, 1953

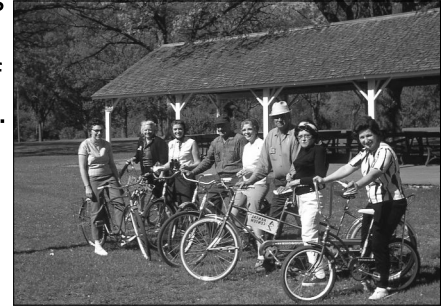
The exhibit will feature Scout and Camp Fire Girls uniforms and a display of tent and camp gear where you can test your knowledge of campfire building and knot-tying. You can also try your hand at shaping an origami boat and learn about animal tracks. Fun for all ages!

This exhibit explores summer fun and what would summer be without community celebrations like Duck Days, Paddlefish Days or Bend of the River Festival. By using the Society's Archives, we can showcase our local groups and organizations that thrive in the great outdoors like Mankato Paddling and

Outing Club, Mankato Bird Club or The Kato Hiking Club. Let's explore the endless variety of outdoor activities. There's something for everyone and every interest.

We've been hard at work researching the fun and fabulous activities, from what is a paddlefish to Point Pleasant and the Red Jacket Trail to Tater Days. We're excited to bring you something new that highlights summertime and the great outdoors! We all need a little escape; in fact, the fun might even be contagious!

Be sure to check back for more details including exhibit dates, programs and other special summertime activities.



The Kato Hiking Club, c. 1960s



The Great Outdoors

Summertime Fun in Blue Earth County

Come explore the history of our great outdoors in Blue Earth County! Discover more about our natural resources and the outdoor recreational and family fun to be had in the area.

Summer 2020

Blue Earth County History Center
424 Warren Street, Mankato
FREE to the Public

BlueEarthCountyHistory.com
507-345-5566

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Share Your COVID-19 Story

BECHS needs your help documenting today's historic events. What COVID-19 related stories, photos and objects do think should be preserved and remembered for future generations? Please share with BECHS so we can do what we do best—collect and preserve today's history for generations to come.

From everyday photos taken with your cell phone to handmade face masks, no story is too small! Join this community project today by visiting:

BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Story

LET'S KEEP MAKING HISTORY

Here are some examples of the stories and items you can share

Stories

How has life changed?
How has life stayed the same?
What do you miss the most?
Ways people are working together.

Photos

Working or school work at home
Signs around your neighborhood
Empty store shelves
Masks or other ways you are staying safe

Objects

(please donate once the History Center has reopened to the public)
Handmade masks, Lawn Signs
School projects

VOLUNTEERS MAKE HISTORY

BECHS has so many amazing volunteers and we can't wait to welcome you all back to the many things you make possible at the History Center, Hubbard House and beyond.

One way you can still safely volunteer is in the gardens around the History Center! Spring has sprung and so have the weeds. So grab some garden gloves and some garden tools. If you are able to bring your own bags for trash and weeds, we'd appreciate it!

Email museum@blueearthcountyhistory.com if you have any questions.



In honor of National Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 20-24), BECHS staff (working remotely) shared appreciation for BECHS's amazing volunteers!

LET'S KEEP MAKING HISTORY



#GiveAtHomeMN May 1-8

Give at Home MN is a statewide week (May 1-8) of GIVING and UNITY; a celebration of GRATITUDE and GENEROSITY. How to participate:

- Join BECHS's "Share Your COVID-19 Story" project
Make a mask to donate, take photos of your community, or share your personal story (see page 7 for more ideas)
- Support your favorite local nonprofit, including BECHS
 - Visit [GiveMN.org/organization/BlueEarthCountyHistoricalSociety](https://www.GiveMN.org/organization/BlueEarthCountyHistoricalSociety)
Special incentives all week when you donate
 - Visit [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Donate](https://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Donate)
 - Mail check to BECHS, 424 Warren Street, Mankato
- Buy a gift card from a local small business or restaurant

We've been inspired by how communities are coming together during these historic times and are so grateful for your support no matter how you participate. Watch our Facebook page and website all week for our special celebration of gratitude for you!

BECHS DONORS, MEMBERS AND SPONSORS

January - March 2020

History Superhero \$1000+

John Jay Hubbard
William Steil and Nancy Zwickey

History Hero Partner \$500-999

Kiwanis Holiday Lights
Randy Zellmer

History Hero Advocate \$250-499

Ardent Mills
Joe and Malda Farnham
Medo Township
Vernon Center Township
Don and Marti Weisgram

History Hero Friend \$100-249

Ron Andersen
Wayne and Mavis Anderson
Marilyn Buscher
Nick and Jill Frentz
The GE Foundation
Sue Grunzke
Jim and Shannon Gullickson
Kathryn T Hanson
Katherine Hughes

Linda Karow
Neil and Barb Kaus
Jerry and Mary Killion
Arn and Margaret Kind
David Krengel
Sally Lamont
Lime Township
Jeff & Coleen Lindemann
Byron and Karen McGregor
Tom and Theresa McLaughlin
Rebecca Novak
Catie Owens
John Carter Piper
Nadine Sugden
Terry and Kay Tompkins
John and Donna Wolf

Monthly Donors

Dale Benefield
Joel Botten
Carol K English
David and Julie Ewert
Steve & Susan Jameson
Mike Lagerquist
Jack & Diann McGowan
Donna & Gerald Webb
Marnie Werner
Beth Zimmer

Other Donors

Kevin and Shelli Allen
Verla Boesch
John Dorn
Gayle Elston
Don Howard
Barbara Jackowell
Taylor Kassube
Don and Sandy Kerkhoff
Harlan Mehlhop
Helen Owens
Mark and Shirley Piepho
Elizabeth Piper-Forman
Richard Reisdorf
Jeri Retzlaff
Florence Sheppard
Nancy Thurber
Brad Wilmes
Carol Wingen

Business Members

Preston Doyle State
Farm Insurance

New Members

Bill and Chris Bernhagen
Mary Ann Brenden
Michelle Cornelius
Susan Covey
Gayle Elston
Taylor Kassube
Harriet Plotz

Nikolas Proehl
Patricia Recker
Jeri Retzlaff
Courtney Schaefer
June Schifsky
Jesse & Stacy Spencer
Mary Teubner

In Memoriam & Tribute

*In Memory of
Edward Mathews*
Don and Lois Davis

*In Memory of
Maury Oehler*
Ann Kalvig

*In Memory of
Irene Thompson*
Peter Thompson

*In Memory of
Esther Zellmer*
Ken and Linda Wilmes

*In Honor of Heather
and Farmer VanDyke*
Leann Moore

In-Kind

Grace and Richard Keir
Daardi Mixon

GIFT SHOP & ART GALLERY

Danelle Erickson, Operations Manager

One place the Blue Earth County Historical Society always has open is our online Gift Shop featuring books and Marian Anderson Art!

We have several books that are only available through BECHS, such as *The Remarkable Men of Garden City* and *Meet the Hubbards*. Looking for some “light” reading? Then step back in time with Betsy and her friends in Maud Hart Lovelace’s *Betsy-Tacy Series*. The online store has a whole category dedicated to Maud, Blue Earth County’s most famous author.

Also available to purchase online are Marian Anderson fine art prints and notecards. Buy something new for your walls or send a special message to someone with a beautiful notecard. Visit MarianAnderson.com or BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Marian-Anderson. 100% of all purchases go directly to supporting BECHS.

One of BECHS’ current “work from home” projects is *The Historian*, Volume 3. This new

book will be a compilation of all the main articles from *The Historian* newsletter published from 2011 through 2015. Look for this new title coming later this summer!

Marian Anderson
Fine Art Prints

Artist Marian Anderson is recognized for her diverse subjects that come from a natural ability, not only to create a beautiful painting, but to breathe spirit and soul into her work.



Spring

www.MarianAnderson.com

RESEARCH & GENEALOGY CENTER

Heather Harren, Communication & Archives Manager

WOW! How things have changed since we last saw each other! BECHS has been working from home since March 23 and I personally cannot wait to get back to work and see everyone. Since I have been home, I’ve been working on a few different things. I have been creating videos for *Young Historians* so they were not missing the rest of their “year”. If you haven’t seen our Facebook page, I suggest heading there to see all that we are posting.

I have also been cataloging photographs, reminding me of my early days at BECHS when I was the Archives Assistant. It has been great to come back to photographs after so long and they are perfect to work on while listening to music at home!

The Research Center is still open, in a way. While you cannot come to the space yourself, I

still have access to the Archives and we are still taking research requests. While this may not be as quick as coming in yourself, you are still able to get the information that you need. We have a prorated charge of \$30/hour for requests, with most requests costing \$10 or less. These fees help to continue preserving the Archives even when we aren’t there. The documents we find can be emailed or mailed.

On our website, the Research Center has a sample listing of indexes and resources available for researchers. Please get in touch if you have any questions or research requests. Research@blueearthcountyhistory.com

Stay healthy everyone. And BECHS will be open again before you know it. Until then, know that we are still here for you!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Virtual BECHS Programs

Are you missing History Center programming as much as we are? **Introducing weekly, virtual programs from the History Center Staff!** These programs will be delivered through Zoom on Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. You must register to receive access to the program.

Can't make it to the live presentation? Register anyway, and the video recording will be emailed to you afterwards.

Free/BECHS Members
\$7/General Audience

Visit BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/events to register.

May 7— Mankato's South Fifth Street

May 14— DNA For Beginners

May 21—Historic Floods

May 28—Remarkable Men of Garden City

Follow BECHS on Facebook or visit our website for information on the return BECHS' programs including Remember When Coffee Club, Talking Ancestors Genealogy Group, Young Historians and the History Happy Hour.



Historic R.D. Hubbard House

Where 1900s History Comes to Life

The R.D. Hubbard House is currently closed. Visit our website or Facebook page for reopening information as it becomes available.



For Hubbard House updates and tidbits, follow "Hubbard House, Mankato" on Facebook

Let's Get Social!

Over the past weeks, BECHS has been extremely thankful for technology. Even though we can't get together in person, we can still share history online!

Most of our activity has been on the BECHS Facebook and Instagram pages. There is weekly trivia, videos from the History Center, and much more.



BECHS joined other museums from around Minnesota for "MNMuseumAlphabet" series on Facebook and Instagram.

One of the easiest things you can do to support BECHS is to "like" and comment on our posts. This tells Facebook and Instagram you are enjoying the content and will help others see it more. You can also easily share things to your own page.

You don't have to have a Facebook account to view our page, but if you do, be sure to "follow" us. You can also tell Facebook you want to "see first" the content BECHS shares.

There is also a lot of great history content on our website, specifically with our blog and podcast. Visit BlueEarthCountyHistory.com and look for the "News" category.

Questions? Get in touch. We'd love to help!



[Facebook.com/BECHShistory](https://www.facebook.com/BECHShistory)



[@BECHShistory](https://www.instagram.com/BECHShistory) (Instagram)



BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

You can also sign-up for our free weekly e-news to receive updates and "bits of history"
www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Newsletters

MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

As you may remember, starting April 1, 2020, BECHS membership levels increased by an average of \$5. Thanks to everyone who took advantage of the “old” rates and renewed early!

Your membership matters more than ever! It shows that you have an appreciation for history and the work being done at the Blue Earth County Historical Society. **Thank you for your continued support!**

If you need to renew your membership, visit BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/membership. Annual members can find their current expiration date on the back cover as part of the mailing label.

BECHS Member Discount - NOW ONLINE

Great news! You can now use your BECHS member discount in our online store as well as in person. Save 10% off books and Marian Anderson art.



BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/online-store
BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Marian-Anderson

Just use the code **BECHSmember** at checkout and the discount will be applied automatically.



BECHS Annual Membership

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is a member-supported, non-profit organization. Membership dues make up a growing portion of the annual operating budget. Thank you for your support.

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

☐ Gift for: _____

Include name and address

Membership Levels

Individual Senior (62+) \$35

Individual \$40

Senior Household (new) \$55

Household \$65

*Membership expiration dates
can be found on your mailing
label on the back cover.*

Please send this form and check to:

BECHS Membership
424 Warren Street
Mankato, MN 56001

OR

Complete your membership form online at
BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/membership

Affiliate Membership levels are available for Groups or Organizations, call for details.

LET'S KEEP MAKING HISTORY



FACEBOOK.COM/BECHSHISTORY
BLUEEARTHCOUNTYHISTORY.COM

THE FUTURE OF HISTORY IS IN YOUR HANDS

BECHS
BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
424 WARREN STREET
MANKATO, MN 56001

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mankato MN
56001
Permit No. 86

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Membership
Expiration Date