

# THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORIAN

Summer 2021

A Blue Earth County Historical Society Publication

Vol. XXVII No. 3



Camp Patterson on Lake Washington, 1936

## History of Camp Patterson

By Tim Pulis

On the northeast shore of Lake Washington, twelve miles northeast of Mankato, sits 19.2-acre Camp Patterson, a beautiful place for youth groups to gather for a week of activities, friendship and fun. There is a swimming beach, lots of trees and plenty of open spaces for games. I recently toured the camp with John Kind, Executive Director of the Mankato YMCA (which has three weeks of groups utilizing the camp) and past president of the Mankato Kiwanis. The Mankato Kiwanis has been the owner and guardian of the camp since its inception in 1927. It is now known as Kiwanis Camp Patterson.

It was my first time visiting Camp Patterson and I was immediately impressed not only with the setting, but the amazing organization that is needed to house, feed and guide 2,600 youth over twelve weeks of summer. There are 165 beds in 14 cabins, a dining hall with cooking facilities and a large recreation building with ping pong tables, pool table and a craft area. Besides a swimming beach, there are canoes and kayaks, an archery range, wooded hiking trails, a sand volleyball court, a gaga pit and a large fire ring to gather around and sing songs.

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### History Center & Museum


424 Warren Street, Mankato, MN  
507-345-5566  
Tuesday—Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Research Center By Appointment

### R.D. Hubbard House

606 South Broad Street, Mankato  
507-345-4154  
Memorial Day-Labor Day  
Friday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Sunday 1-4 p.m.

 Facebook.com/BECHShistory

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### The Blue Earth County Historian

Summer 2021

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Jessica Potter, Executive Director

I've heard the saying that Minnesota has two seasons: winter and road construction. I agree with them (whoever "they" are) as we are fully into road construction season around the History Center. Warren Street, our main entrance, has been getting a complete overhaul since May and the project is expected to last until October. If you plan to visit the History Center or Hubbard House, please be aware of detours and alternate routes. We will also be using this time, while all of the equipment is already here, to resurface our parking lot. Please also watch for updates on that project and any alternate parking locations. If you are interested in supporting the Parking Lot project, please see page 12 for details.

BECHS was honored to be part of Marian Anderson Day on Saturday, June 26 along with our friends at the Nicollet County Historical Society and Mankato Area Foundation. It was a day to celebrate the art and legacy of Marian Anderson. As part of the celebration, a new bronze sculpture of a young painter was unveiled in Vetter Stone Plaza during a summer shower. And at the History Center, we enjoyed one of Marian's favorites—Dam Store pie! (Thank you, Jenny!)

I'm not sure about you, but I think it's time for a party! We have all been through quite an experience over the past year and just like in 1921, the world is slowly rebounding after a global pandemic. Please join us for **A Night at the Speakeasy: Return to the Roaring 20s on Thursday, October 21 at Chankaska Creek Ranch & Winery!** The party will include dinner, live music, silent auction, and all the glitz and glamour you expect from the 1920s. Sponsorship opportunities are available now and tickets will be on sale soon. Mark your calendar for a night to remember!

Thank you to all each and everyone of you for your continued support of BECHS. I'm a little biased, but I think we have the best members, donors and volunteers of any historical society in MN!



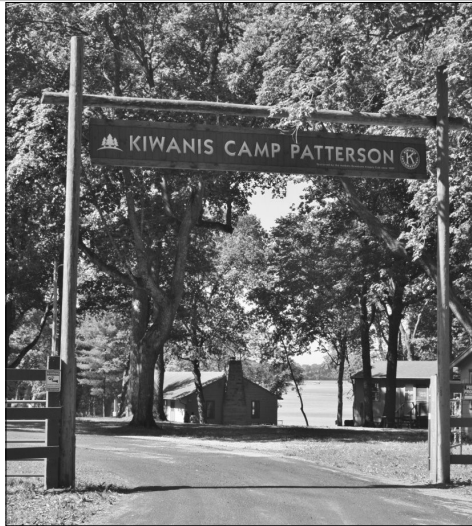
Marian's sister and niece visiting the new sculpture dedicated in Marian's honor, *The World is Her Canvas*.

## PARKS Continued from page 1

We will get to more about today's Camp Patterson, but first we need to go back a hundred years to the beginnings of the Mankato Kiwanis. On February 19, 1921 the charter meeting of the Mankato Kiwanis Club was held in the Griebal Tea Rooms on Hickory Street. H.A. Patterson was chosen as acting president. Ninety men voted to form a local Kiwanis chapter and thus one of the first service clubs in Mankato was formed.

As a true service organization it would "devote itself to good, rather than greed, to service rather than selfishness." Membership in the organization "requires that its members be of high grade and stand for fair dealing, for service, for human fellowship and for the vital principles of the golden rule... it is an organization with purpose, pep, punch and personality." The Mankato Kiwanis celebrates its centennial this year and has maintained a remarkable consistency in membership numbers with 100 or more members.

In its early years, some ideas the Kiwanis toyed with were putting a dam across the Minnesota River to create a swimming area, putting seats in the new armory building and to improve the slough where Mankato West High School sits today. The club soon decided that its first major project was to provide a camp experience for boys and girls, especially the underprivileged. The first camp was in 1922 near Sibley Park and tents were set up there. It was just a one-day camp experience. Finally, two years later a new camp was found on the north side of Lake Washington. The idea of more permanent structures was discussed and vetoed because it would be built on leased land. To solve that dilemma, in 1927 H.A. Patterson, in honor of his father, bought 9.2 acres of land on the east side of Lake Washington and donated it to the Kiwanis for the purpose of a permanent site for a youth camp experience. Not only did the Patterson family donate the land, but it gave liberally

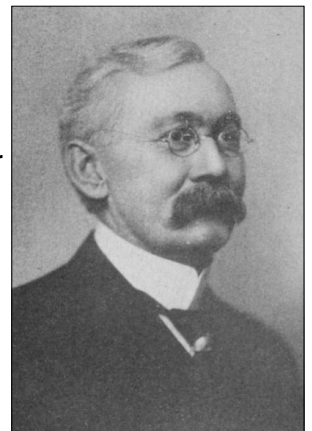


Kiwanis Camp Patterson today

toward the construction of the large central lodge built in 1930. H.A.'s father, Lester Patterson, was born in 1841 in Ohio. He was already a very successful businessman when he moved to Mankato in 1884. He was instrumental in starting the Mankato Gas Works (later the Mankato Gas and Electric Light Company), but his main business was running a large wholesale grocery business called L. Patterson Mercantile Company with a branch in North

Dakota. He was also a director and large stockholder in the Citizens' Bank of Mankato and had large land holdings in northern Minnesota and North Dakota. In the *History of Blue Earth County*, Thomas Hughes writes glowingly of Lester including "There are few enterprises of note in the community which in some way have not profited by the direct or indirect influence of this prince of promoters."

Lester's son H.A. Patterson took over the family business after Lester moved to California for retirement. Lester Patterson died in 1924. H.A. Patterson died in 1943 and his obituary shows that he carried on the Patterson tradition of business acumen and social connection that his father had. H.A. Patterson's son Roland took over the business and had the same fondness for supporting Camp Patterson that his father and grandfather showed. Roland's will shows that \$20,000 (in today's dollars) was given to Camp Patterson when he died in 1971.



Lester Patterson (top)  
H.A. Patterson (bottom)

It is impossible to realize the history of Camp Patterson without having a sense of both the Mankato Kiwanis and the Patterson family legacies. The relationship between the two has not been altered since the beginning of Camp Patterson. Although the Patterson family is no longer around Mankato, the Kiwanis remain a vibrant local service organization supporting such community endeavors like Kiwanis Holiday Lights at Sibley Park, the Thunder of Drums and Kiwanis Dog Park.

In 1927, the first year of Camp Patterson, the *Mankato Free Press* described the site as ideal. "A sand beach rising with gradual slope to a grove of tall old forest trees, underneath which eleven large khaki tents are arranged in semicircular formation fronting the shores of Lake Washington, is the setting of a beautiful camp which has unlimited possibilities in the way of development." Also on site was a five-compartment bathhouse, a 100-foot dock and a cookhouse for making meals. Although primitive by today's standards, the Camp Fire Girls had a grand old time as the camp's first residents.

By 1930, Camp Patterson was organized into 13 weeks of supervised operation. Some of the groups that summer were: 41 boys from SS Peter and Paul's parochial school, 43 girls from the same school, five weeks of Minnesota Valley Boy Scouts numbering 197, 140 Camp Fire Girls for two weeks, YMCA boys 85 in number, 60 girls from the YWCA and finally 35 members of Job's Daughters. As a respite from rainy weather and a place to gather to eat was a large lodge with a huge stone fireplace. Tents with board floors were in place for campers to sleep. The beach was described as the finest on the lake with excellent equipment for swimming and diving.

An article in a 1931 newspaper talked about how safety at the camp was a high priority. Each Boy Scout was required to have his own drinking cup as there was no "community cup" at the well. An experienced first aid man was

ready to give assistance in case of an accident. With a long history of many tragic drownings in area rivers and a desire to have the reputation of Camp Patterson be a good one, safety measures at the swimming beach were numerous.

In 1938, the national Kiwanis Magazine featured Camp Patterson. It described how the year before 43 underprivileged children enjoyed



Outside the cabins, 1951

the camp experience. It told how the weeklong outing was under almost perfect conditions and how competent instructors in swimming, watersports, handicraft, woodcraft and sports were on hand. Many youngsters who had never had a chance to learn how to swim left camp with a much better ability to handle themselves in the water. The article noted how there were six cabins to accommodate 8-12 people each, but there was also three army tents still in use that were nearly beyond repair.

In 1943 H.A. Patterson died and his son

Roland gave \$80,000 (in today's dollars) to purchase an additional 5.72 acres for the camp. Two cabins a year were being built by the Kiwanis members, sometimes with the help of members of the Elks and Shriners Clubs. Also, the Patterson family donated over a half million dollars to build the crafts



Camp Patterson water activities, 1957

building, a camp director's cottage and counselor's cabin. As buildings needed painting through the years, Kiwanians would make a day



of it at the camp to paint, repair and clean up the grounds.

A 1947 article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* described some activities at Camp Patterson. It stated that no matter what the financial condition of the young person's family, no one was turned away. The four main groups utilizing the camp at that time were the YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls. Over the decades, many other groups also used the camp including Centenary Methodist Church Family Weekend, 4-H groups, Y Indian Guides, Y's Men Group, YMCA Boys Camp, St. John's Catholic Church Family Camp and Grace Lutheran Church Family Camp.

At the end of each camping season the campers were given a survey. One question was what did you dislike the most about Camp Patterson. Almost unanimously the answer was the "outhouse." The wood constructed outhouse had served the camp for decades and it was time to modernize. In 1969 the Mankato Kiwanis Club endorsed a proposal to proceed with the construction of a \$300,000 (in today's dollars) bathroom.

In 1970, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the new facility. The all-concrete building was insulated, ventilated and designed for 125 campers. Besides toilets and sinks, both the girls and boys sides had three shower heads. A much larger investment was avoided when a cooperative arrangement for a sewage treatment plant was negotiated with the neighboring Robert Carlstrom condominium.



Camp Fire Girls in 1957 in the Mess Hall.

In August, 1984 tragedy struck the camp. The over 50-year-old mess hall burned to the ground. Many happy memories of the building were in the minds of former campers. Camp caretaker Joanne Starke said "It was just a cozy, inviting building. That's all lost now. It's just a great, nostalgic loss." The local Kiwanis Club with the help of insurance money, raised more than enough to have the hall replaced the next year.



Camp Patterson Cabins today.

In the winter of 1985-86 all ten cabins at the camp were replaced. With the help of an anonymous donation of over

\$100,000 (in today's dollars) the 16-foot-by-18-foot cabins would each hold five bunk beds and had a much more modern look. There was electricity but no running water in the cabins. *(Author's note: My next-door neighbor purchased one of the old cabins and turned it into his cabin on Duck Lake. I think there are a lot of old buildings that are moved and reused in the area.)*

Raising money for the camp was never too hard because it had touched so many lives through the decades. Recently the Kiwanis weighed the millions of dollars of value they could get if they sold the valuable lakefront property versus the value of the experience thousands of children have every year at the camp. Thankfully the young people won out. Last year the camp had no overnight visitors due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mankato Kiwanis Club took advantage of the lull and did a lot of overdue maintenance work. The cabins were repainted inside and out, new doors and windows installed, the stairs to the cabins replaced along with the decks. According to Randy Berkland who was president of Camp Patterson Inc. for 27 years, the legal entity who owns the camp, \$130,000 of materials and

\$250,000 of volunteer labor was used last summer alone.

Back in 1941, it was decided that a Camp Director should be hired. The Director is the only consistent element at the Camp. Each group brings in their own food, cook, instructors and supervisors of the youth. The Camp Director assisted the groups, took care of ongoing maintenance issues and served as a lifeguard. Four persons have served as director until 1979: Robert Hanson 1941-1960, Glen Leiding 1961-67, Albert Russ 1968-74 and Michael Biehn 1975-79. These were summer jobs only. In 1980, a full-time year-around caretaker was brought on and given housing at the camp. Al and Joanne Starke would serve in this post for 39 years. At first they lived in a trailer at the camp and eventually a house was provided. This house was moved from Marsh Street in Mankato to Camp Patterson when the hospital



Al and Joanne Starke, with Melissa and Nathan Starke. *Mankato Free Press* Sept. 29, 2019.

expansion took place. The Starkes' raised three children at the camp. When they retired, their son Nathan and his wife Melissa became caretakers.

The future development plans include a three phase project. First, an additional bathhouse will be added, then a 50% addition to the dining hall and finally adding six cabins to have room for 60 more kids. Today, Camp Patterson is rented exclusively to nonprofit youth organizations. The groups coming to Camp Patterson have shifted through the years. Presently a group called Celebrate Me has grown to need five weeks occupancy. The goal of this organization is to help build the self-esteem of youngsters going into 7<sup>th</sup> grade. When the registration opens up months before their summer dates, it fills up within twenty minutes. Another group sponsored by My Place



Interior of present-day cabins.

will bring disadvantaged kids out after the season is over for day camps.

One of Al Starkes' favorite things was to witness firsthand the growth of the kids who came to Camp Patterson. "You have to be out here on a daily basis to see what effect it has on the kids, it's just amazing." Joanne Starke said, "It's like family coming home to see us every summer, and just the joy of the kids; the minute they get out of the bus or car, the kids are like wind-up toys, they look around, gleeful and it's absolutely wonderful."

A friend of mine who lived on Lake Washington for years told me that when she heard the kids joyfully yelling in the water she knew summer was here. When the singing from the evening campfire spread out over the lake there was a certain sense that all was right with the world.

### Sources

- Blue Earth County Historical Society vertical files and newspaper clippings
- Hughes, Thomas, *History of Blue Earth County*, 1909
- Interview with John Kind (past president of Mankato Kiwanis and executive director of the Mankato YMCA)
- Interview with Randy Berkland (50-year member Mankato Kiwanis and past president of Camp Patterson Inc.)
- KiwanisCampPatterson.com
- Nydahl, Theodore, *History of Mankato Kiwanis*, 1980
- Photographs of present day Camp Patterson taken by Tim Pulis

# GIFT SHOP & ART GALLERY: NEW VIDEOS ON-DEMAND

Danelle Erickson, Operations Manager

BECHS is excited to announce a NEW feature in our Online Gift Shop - Videos On-Demand!

These on-demand videos feature the great programs that were presented virtually over the past year. Maybe you missed one or can't wait to watch it again. While the selection is small at the moment, check back in the coming weeks as more are added!

Current videos include four virtual tours, history programs on the Welsh and Garden

City, plus a video explaining many of BECHS' resources available in the Research Center.

To access the content, just add the video(s) you would like to watch to your shopping cart.



Once you complete the checkout process, you will receive a link to the video recording. You will also be emailed the links. There is no time limit or restrictions on the number of times you can watch any one video, we just ask that you don't share

the link. Visit [blueearthcountyhistory.com/online-store/videos-on-demand/](http://blueearthcountyhistory.com/online-store/videos-on-demand/)

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Heather if you are interested in volunteering or for more information.

### Newspaper Clipper

BECHS is seeking someone to clip the area newspapers for stories related to Blue Earth County. Newspapers can be provided, and training will be provided. Time commitment: About two hours a week. Can be done at home or in the Research Center.

*Thank you Jo Schultz for over 30 years of dedicated service to this project!*

### Research Center Assistants

BECHS is seeking people to assist in the Research Center with daily operation such as assisting researchers, fulfilling research requests and keeping the room tidy. Training will be provided and staff will be available to assist. Time commitment: Flexible, but a minimum 3-hour shift on a regular schedule would be preferred; Tuesday-Friday with occasional Saturdays.

## LOCAL HISTORY PODCAST

*Explore the history that surround us!*



New episodes air Saturdays at 11:05 a.m. on KTOE Radio. You can find all previous episodes on our website at

[BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/podcast](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/podcast)

## Celebrating 20 Years at BECHS

Earlier this year, BECHS' Executive Director, Jessica Potter (left) and Curator/Archivist, Shelley Harrison (right), celebrated 20 years of working at the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

The next time you see them, be sure to thank them for their years of hard work and dedication to local history!



# COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITS

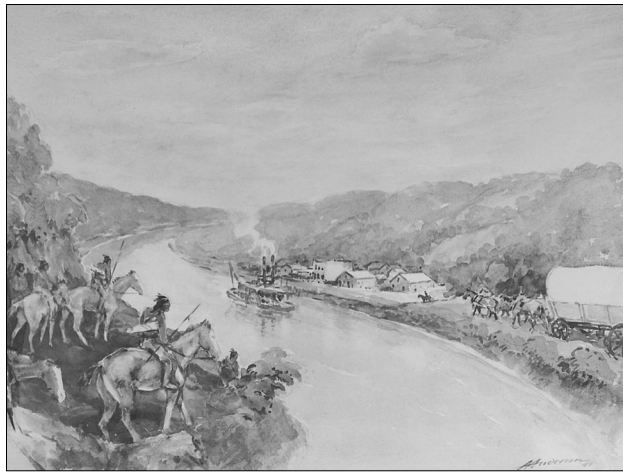
Shelley Harrison, Curator/Archivist

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is currently highlighting Marian Anderson, local artist, with her own exhibit now on display at the History Center, but did you know we had another Mankato artist with the last name Anderson? It's Anders Anderson.

Anderson was born in Mankato in 1871 and was a lifelong resident. This talented man was an engraver, sketch artist, painter and illustrator. He made a living working for the *Mankato Free Press* where his art could be seen on a daily basis. He worked for the newspaper for nearly 30 years until his death in 1956.



BECHS has several of Anderson's sketches and engravings in the collection; subjects are primarily people, scenes, activities, and events that relate to Mankato's history. One of his most recognizable pieces of art is a watercolor painting known as *The*



*The Pioneer Town of Mankato in the Year 1851*

*Pioneer Town of Mankato in the Year 1851*. This painting was used as part of Mankato's Centennial celebration in 1952, and was used as part of the cover art for the Centennial history book.

If this image looks familiar, you probably have Herman Miller to thank for that. Miller was a local entrepreneur, owner and founder of Miller Motors, Kayot and Kaye Cooperation. Miller Motors was one of the sponsors for Mankato's Centennial which ran from June 29-July 4, 1952. As part of the Centennial and to celebrate Miller Motor's 26 years in business,

Herman Miller had Anderson's painting, of which he owned the original, turned into a print. For several years that followed, Miller Motors gave the print to customers and friends.



*Seppman Mill* by A. Anderson

In fact, so many people have this print that the Historical Society gets asked about it regularly, and we have at least seven prints in our collection right now. A copy hangs in the

Museum and a portion of the image also appears in the large collage currently in the hallway outside of the Research Center. How many more are out there? Do you or somebody you know have this print in your possession?

Two interesting sidenotes: if you were reading closely, you might have noticed that the title for this famous image includes the year 1851.

But in fact, Mankato was

settled in 1852. We haven't been able to determine if Anderson gave the picture its current name, or if the title was created by Miller Motors for the centennial print. Secondly, Mankato's other Anderson artist, Marian Anderson, was commissioned by the city to create a print to celebrate Mankato's Sesquicentennial in 2002.



*First 150 Years* by Marian Anderson



# EVERY OBJECT HAS A STORY...

Every object tells a story, here are just a few of those stories from our collection.

BECHS is celebrating the life and art of Marian Anderson through the special exhibit *Marian Anderson: Her Personal Collection*, featuring original artwork held in Marian's personal collection. Many have not been seen publicly.

Did you know that Marian began selling her art at shopping malls as a sophomore at Madelia High School? Marian was so gracious and humble; it is sometimes easy to forget she made her living as a successful artist. She received both national and international awards for her work. Marian worked in oil paints on stretched canvas and began her career as a portrait and wildlife artist.

While the art currently on display is part of Marian's own collection, we also have some originals as part of BECHS' Collection.

## **Eagle, c. 1960**

According to the donor, this soaring eagle painting by Marian Anderson is actually the

second painting on this canvas. The previous painting was of Sibley Park and it was painted over before the eagle was painted here. This painting would have been from Marian's early career.



## **Peonies, c. 1980s**

You can almost smell the white and pink peonies!

Both are beautiful, one-of-a-kind works. Think about all the paintings that were sold at malls in the early years and those that were commissioned. Marian's legacy will continue as new people are introduced to her art.



## HISTORY CENTER ART GALLERY

### **PITY THE WATER**

By Kay Herbst Helms  
through September 30, 2021

"My poem and my photographic exhibit 'Pity the Water' are inspired by two poems, each called 'Pity the Nation'. The concept is based on the 2007 Lawrence Ferlinghetti poem 'Pity the Nation' (after Khalil Gibran's 'Pity the Nation' 1933). Their poems are displayed as well.



I have seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren and I am troubled about the world we are passing on to them. So much of the country's decisions seem to be made in favor of the economy and large corporations without considering the consequences to our environment, our water, and our people. Water is the foundation of our existence from our beginnings in a watery womb to our ends when ice is all we can swallow. All the water we have now is all the water we will ever have.

So please, enter this exhibit with a receptive mind and allow yourself to think about water and your connections to water in a mindful way. I hope you will become filled with gratitude at the miracle that is water. I

also hope that you will commit to making our water healthy and abundant for all. May we honor and protect our life-sustaining water." Kay Herbst Helms

# RESEARCH & GENEALOGY CENTER

Heather Harren, Communication & Archives Manager

Exciting news from the Research Center! We have received and shelved over 120 new reels of microfilm! These reels are of the *Mankato Free Press* and cover July 2009 through June 2015! Even though most people are also locating some news articles online, you can count on them to be here for future generations!



Some may be wondering, why did we get the microfilm when the articles are available online? Microfilm remains the best way to preserve newspapers for the future. If you have old newspaper clippings at home, you may notice they can start to flake around the edges and have turned yellow. By having the

newspaper microfilmed in a timely manner, the paper does not turn yellow and is a complete edition. We will continue to keep our eyes out for more Blue Earth County newspapers to be microfilmed to add to our collection!

This project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.



On a completely separate note, the Research Center is looking for volunteers to help with daily operations on a regular basis. More information can be found on page 11.

And just as a reminder, the Research Center will continue to ask researchers to make appointments to use the Research Center. You can find the booking section on our website or give us a call!

## YOUNG HISTORIANS

### *Hands-on History for Kids*

School-aged children who love history are invited to join us for this free, monthly program.



(Material is geared for 3-6 grades, but all are welcome.) This year, we are traveling through time from the earliest history in this area through current times. *Young Historians* meets the second Saturday of each month September – May from 10 a.m. to Noon.

Please RSVP to Heather at 345-5566 or [Research@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](mailto:Research@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com)

**September 11** – Native Americans

**October 9** – Pioneers and the Civil War

**November 13** – Industrial Revolution

## GREATER MANKATO ON THE MOVE



**greater Mankato**  
**on the move**  
MOBILE TOURS

“Greater Mankato on the Move” is a mobile arts and history tour app brought to you by BECHS, Visit Mankato, CityArt Mankato, Twin Rivers Council for the Arts and other local arts and cultural groups.

Explore Mankato’s rich Art and History throughout the community with a variety of tour options including CityArt Sculpture Walk, Heritage Plaques Tour and Poetry Walk.

Scan the QR Code with your smartphone to view or visit [GreaterMankato.oucell.com](http://GreaterMankato.oucell.com) to begin your tour!



## Special Public Exhibition

*Marian Anderson*

HER PERSONAL COLLECTION

Blue Earth County History Center  
through September 25, 2021  
**FREE**

Featuring original oil paintings by Marian Anderson on loan from her personal collection, some never before seen by the general public.

[www.MarianAnderson.com](http://www.MarianAnderson.com)

## Sips, Style & Stories

BLUE EARTH COUNTY BEVERAGE  
AND FASHION HISTORY

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is serving up stories about beverage history and the fashions and fads of that time in this new exhibit.

**OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021**  
Free, Open to the Public

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORY CENTER  
424 Warren Street, Mankato

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

[BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com)

## Share Your COVID-19 Story

BECHS needs your help documenting 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.

No story is too small! Join this community project today by visiting:

[BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Story](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Story)

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

#### Written word

Journal entries, memoirs, letters or emails from the last year and half document the personal side of this global pandemic. What do you want people to remember?

#### Photos

Pictures of "COVID Life" - working from home, home schooling, projects worked on, closed businesses, mask or vax selfies, reunions, etc.

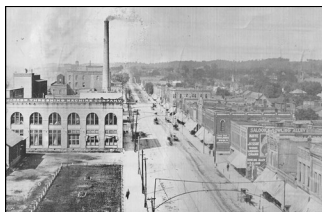
#### Objects

Handmade masks, Lawn Signs School projects, etc. Contact the History Center to donate physical items.

## Old Town Walking Tour

Thursday, August 19, 6 p.m.

Tour starts outside the Wine Café and ends at Mom & Pop's Ice Cream  
301 to 629 N. Riverfront Drive,  
Mankato



\$7/BECHS Members; \$10/non-member

Tickets must be purchased in advance  
Visit [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Events](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Events)  
or stop by the History Center

## HISTORY CENTER PARKING LOT PROJECT

The History Center's Warren Street parking lot is in desperate need of resurfacing and striping. As the road construction on the adjacent Warren Street comes to an end, now is the perfect time to take on this project and utilize some of the same construction equipment. Watch for updates on the project and changes to access the History Center.

If you are interested in donating to this project, please contact Jessica for more information or note "Parking Lot" at time of gift.

## Historic R.D. Hubbard House

*Where 1900s History Comes to Life*

### GUIDED TOURS BY APPOINTMENT

Friday - Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday 1-4 p.m.

Memorial Day thru Labor Day  
606 South Broad Street, Mankato

Visit [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Hubbard-House](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Hubbard-House) to book your tour today!

*Tour reservations are strongly encouraged.  
Space is limited.*

## RETURN OF THE OLD-FASHIONED MEDICINE SHOW

Saturday, August 21, 1-4 p.m.

Free outdoor performances at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. with activities on the grounds throughout the afternoon.



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

## BECHS is partnering with the MOULIN ROUGE HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST for Two Upcoming Events

The Hunt House:  
History and Restoration  
August 5, 4 p.m.  
Hybrid Program  
History Center or via Zoom

Moulin Rouge House B&B/  
Historic Hunt House Tour  
September 12, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Enjoy a self-guided tour of the historic home. Tickets available August 1.

[BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Events](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Events)



## Singing of Welsh Hymns

*(English and Welsh in 4-part congregational singing)*

### 2021 Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival

Sunday, September 26th at 1:30 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church, 220 East Hickory, Mankato MN

**VISITING CONDUCTOR**  
Christopher T. Guy

**PERFORMING CHOIR**  
Peniel Quartet

Free Admission and Te Bach (Refreshments) after hymn sing.

[mnwelshassociation.weebly.com](http://mnwelshassociation.weebly.com)  
[www.facebook.com/MinnesotaWelshAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaWelshAssociation)



# BECHS DONORS, MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

April 16 – July 15, 2021

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## A NIGHT AT THE SPEAKEASY

Return to the Roaring 20s

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Presenting Sponsor

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Limited Sponsorships Available

Contact BECHS for Information

See Back Cover for Event Details

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August – October 2021

## AUGUST

- 5 **History @ Home: The Hunt House: History and Restoration** Hybrid presentation. 4 p.m. Attend in-person at the History Center OR register to join via Zoom (either live or watch the recording later). Registration required for virtual attendance. Free/BECHS Members; \$7/non-members
- 14 **Talking Ancestors Genealogy Group: Family Heirlooms—Show and Tell**, virtual chat. 11 a.m. Registration required. Free.
- 19 **Old Town Walking Tour**, 6 p.m. \$7/BECHS Members; \$10/non-members. Tickets must be purchased prior to tour. See page 12 for details.
- 21 **Return of the Old-Fashioned Medicine Show**, Hubbard House Lawn. Free outdoor performances at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. with activities throughout the afternoon. Admission for Tours.

## SEPTEMBER

- 2 **History @ Home: Mankato Heritage Plaques**. Hybrid presentation. 4 p.m. Attend in-person at the History Center OR register to join via Zoom (either live or watch the recording later). Registration required for virtual attendance. Free/BECHS Members; \$7/non-members
- 4 **Happy Labor Day!** History Center Closed; Hubbard House Open
- 5 **Last Day for Hubbard House Tours**
- 11 **Young Historians Topic: Native Americans**, 10 a.m.-Noon, Free See page 10 for more details.
- 12 **Moulin Rouge House B&B/Historic Hunt House Tour** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Self-Guided tour of this restored house, now a Bed & Breakfast. \$5/Adults; \$3/Child. Proceeds to benefit BECHS. Space is limited. Visit [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Events](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Events) to reserve your tickets.
- 18 **Talking Ancestors Genealogy Group: Family Fashion**, virtual chat. 11 a.m. Registration required. Free. NOTE NEW Day: *Talking Ancestors is moving to the 3rd Saturday of the month.*

## OCTOBER

- 2 **Deep Valley Book Festival**, 9:30 a.m.- 3 p.m., Loose Moose. Be sure to visit BECHS' table! For more information visit [www.DeepValleyBookFestival.com](http://www.DeepValleyBookFestival.com)
- 7 **History @ Home: History of the Newman Center** Hybrid presentation. 4 p.m. Attend in-person at the History Center OR register to join via Zoom (either live or watch the recording later). Registration required for virtual attendance. Free/BECHS Members; \$7/non-members
- 7-11 **Indigenous People Day**, Visit [www.facebook.com/IPDMankato](http://www.facebook.com/IPDMankato) for a full list of events and activities, including film showings of *Dakota 38*
- 9 **Young Historians: Pioneers and the Civil War**, 10 a.m. See page 10 for more details.
- 16 **Talking Ancestors Genealogy Group: Skeletons in the Closet**, virtual chat. 11 a.m. Registration required. Free.
- 21 **Night at the Speakeasy: Return to the Roaring 20s Chankaska Creek Ranch & Winery**, 6 p.m. Social Hour, 7 p.m. Dinner. Tickets on sale September 1.

For more event information or to register, visit [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Events](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Events)

# MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE


## Membership Drive: We Need You!

BECHS members are undoubtedly some of our biggest supports and advocates. You attend events, bring visitors to the History Center or Hubbard House and “like” and comment on our Social Media.

Members also help “recruit” new members! Now through the end of August, if you refer someone to join BECHS Membership, you will both receive an exclusive variety pack of Marian Anderson note cards. Just include “referred by: \_\_\_\_” on the check memo or in the comments box online.

Renewing or starting your BECHS membership has never been easier! Simply visit [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/membership](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/membership) and complete the needed information.

Returning members can renew at anytime. You won't lose any months by renewing early.

 **Be a BECHS Member Today**

☐ \$35.00 - Senior Membership, 62+  
☐ \$40.00 - Individual Membership  
☐ \$55.00 - Senior Household | 2 adults, 62+  
☐ \$60.00 - Household | 2 adults and children in same household

**Contact Information**  
First Name \*   
Last Name \*



## 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

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### Membership Levels

Individual Senior (62+) \$35

Individual \$40

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Household \$60

*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](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Membership)

*Corporate and Organizational Annual Memberships are also available, call for details.*

  
**A NIGHT AT THE SPEAKEASY**  
 Return to the Roaring 20s  


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 Thursday, October 21, 2021  
 Chankaska Creek Ranch & Winery  
 6 PM Social Hour 7 PM Dinner  


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 Dinner and Drinks  
 Live Music  
 Silent Auction  
  
 Individual Tickets  
 and Reserved Tables  
 on sale September 1  
  
 Sponsorships Available  
  
 BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
  
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 **BECHS**  
 BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 424 WARREN STREET  
 MANKATO, MN 56001

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## EXHIBITS

**Marian Anderson:**  
**Her Personal Collection**  
*through September 25, 2021*



**ART GALLERY**  
**Pity the Water**  
 by Kay Herbst Helms  
*through September 30, 2021*



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