

# THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORIAN

Fall 2022

A Blue Earth County Historical Society Publication

Vol. XXVIII No. 4



Unidentified saloon, note the Bierbauer Beer advertisement behind the bar.

## Early Mankato Breweries: 1857 – 1890

By Gail Palmer

*Originally published in August and September 1985  
by the Blue Earth County Historical Society*

Information about early Mankato breweries is both meager and sketchy. Available dates of operation are frequently conflicting or approximate, and the spelling of the names of brewery owners often differ depending on the source.

Many of the owners of these early breweries were in and out of business in record time. It would seem that many brewery owners were in business to make money quickly. If this meant selling the plant for a profit, they did so. Other times, they seemed to become disenchanted when the profits were not readily available. They then disposed of the enterprise to the first available buyer.

Furthermore, in spite of the fact that early brewing business contributed considerably to the economy of early Mankato, writers of early Mankato accounts did not seem interested in such happenings. Therefore, few complete or accurate sources are available.

Continued on page 3

### What's Inside

- 2 Director's Notes
- 6 Gift Shop
- 9 Every Object Has a Story
- 11 Volunteer Opportunities
- 12 Programs & Experiences
- 13 Hubbard House
- 14 Calendar of Events
- 15 Membership



**Board of Trustees**

Chair, Nikolas Proehl, Mankato  
Vice Chair, Kristin Fisher, Mankato  
Treasurer, Steve Jameson, Mankato  
Secretary, Gayle Elston, Mankato

Jo Guck Bailey, Mankato  
Mary Ann Brenden, Mankato  
Jennifer Echevarria, North Mankato  
Katherine Hughes, North Mankato  
Kirby Hurd, Mankato  
Kelly McBride, Mankato  
Eric Oleson, Mankato  
Mary Teubner, Amboy  
Dan Tomhave, Mankato  
Ken Wilmes, Mankato

**History Center & Museum**

**424 Warren Street, Mankato**  
**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**

**Christmas at Hubbard House**  
**Self-Guide Holiday Tours**  
December 3, 3-7 p.m.  
December 4, 1-4 p.m.

**Guided Holiday Tours**  
December 10, 11, 17 & 18 1-4 p.m.



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



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



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

**The Blue Earth County Historian**

Fall 2022

The Blue Earth County Historian is published quarterly for the members of the Blue Earth County Historical Society. Copyright © 2022 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  
[Director@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](mailto:Director@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com)

The Blue Earth County Historical Society was founded 121 years ago to collect, preserve and share the history of Blue Earth County. Today, the Society not only preserves the past, but also inspires, engages and connects people today at the Historic R.D. Hubbard House, the Blue Earth County History Center and around the county.

I have realized more and more each day that history is as much about the past as it is about the present. Lessons learned from our shared experiences joins us together. This is what the Historical Society is all about. Every day, we are focused on showing the importance of history and bringing it to life, creating a shared sense of place for us all.

The Historical Society has preserved generations of stories through the items we have collected: photographs, newspaper accounts, wedding dresses, you name it. These collected stories have filled every nook and cranny at the History Center and Hubbard House.

And that is why we are excited to continue to share our BOLD vision of a newly imagined and expanded History Center to serve as a gathering and learning space. Every bold vision starts with a step. Last year, we took a giant step and raised \$240,000 in 120 days. Sincere gratitude to those that made gifts to that BOLD campaign!

This year, thanks to that giant step, we are closer to realizing the first phase of the vision – exterior improvements. The goal for the remainder of this year is to raise an additional \$125,000 for exterior History Center improvements in 2023, which will include an accessible parking lot, new signage and a pollinator teaching garden! We now have a better understanding of the true cost of this BOLD phase. Funds raised now will also move us one step closer to realizing that BOLD vision of an expanded History Center in the near future!

We need BOLD History Heroes like you to make it happen. As the campaign runs through December watch for double your donation days, where your gift could be matched by another donor. Or join the "Great Minnesota GIVE Together" also known as Give to the Max Day on November 17 through GiveMN.org. Of course, my favorite would be for you to stop by for a visit. My door is always open and I love to chat about the future of history.

Thank you for your support as a member and/or donor of the Blue Earth County Historical Society. It's because of you, that we are able to dream about a BOLD future for our Blue Earth County History Center.

## BREWERIES Continued from page 1

### 1867

On March 2, 1867, *The Mankato Record* reported that a Mr. Welsch (also spelled Welch), was constructing a brewery. Soon after, a beer garden was established near Welch's Brewery. On June 8, 1867, *The Mankato Record* reported: "Mr. Conrad J. Klein has purchased an acre from Lewis Branson in the timber near Welch's Brewery, which he has



Bierbauer House and Brewery 703 North 6th and Rock streets, c. 1890s.

fitted up for a beer garden and erected a commodious dance hall. They will be open for visitors every Sunday and on holidays and the lovers of 'genial beverage' are cordially invited to visit the pleasant resort, the proprietor assuring the public that every effort will be made for their enjoyment and nothing of a disorderly character permitted."

### 1868

In early 1868, Mankato was home to three breweries. These breweries were operated by William Bierbauer, Peter Welch, and Trout and Wolf. The largest of these was William Bierbauer's brewery, with the capacity to produce 100 barrels per week.

### 1873-74

There were four breweries operating in Mankato from 1873-1874. At this time, the William Bierbauer Brewery was located on the end of Rock Street, the Hass and Schmidt Brewery was located in West Mankato, and the George Leiferman Brewery was also located in West Mankato. Interestingly, on an 1874 city map of Mankato, a section of property near the county bridge over the Blue Earth River is shown to be owned by C. Leiferman, and the 1871 Mankato City Directory listed C. Leiferman as a brewer. The relationship between these Leifermans is

speculative.

A fourth brewery had been previously established by Wolf and Trout and was now

owned by Peter Welch. It had several other owners until it was bought by William Gessler and John Nagle (also spelled Nagli) of Gessler and Company.

William Gessler was born in 1845 in Baden, Germany. He came to the United States in 1865, and he was

employed in a brewery in Milwaukee. After doing the same work in Winona for a year, he came to Mankato. He continued working in the brewery business for three years and then bought a brewery of his own, the West Mankato Brewery. Gessler and Company continued to be listed in the Mankato City Directory through 1885-1886. However, the following article in the *Mankato Review* of March 13, 1883 gives this account:

"**BREWERY BURNED.** The brewery of Mess'rs Nagli and Gessler, near the Blue Earth River bridge, was burned about 2 o'clock on Tuesday morning last and as the flames spread with remarkable rapidity very little was saved from the conflagration. The origin of the fire is not known. One of the partners returned home about half past twelve o'clock and at that hour there was no fire in the stove in the saloon and there had been no fire under the boiler since noon on the previous day. There was insurance of \$1,000.00 with Christenson and Chapman's Agency on the furniture and brewing apparatus but none on the buildings, a policy for \$2,000.00 having been allowed to expire a short time previous."

This leads to the question, did Gessler and Company rebuild after the fire and continue in operation for the next four years? Notably, later this same year, Nagli and Gessler were charged with violating the internal revenue law and fined

several hundred dollars for an unrelated incident.

## 1878

Several breweries were operating in Mankato in 1878. Of course, one of these was the William Bierbauer Brewery located at 628 Rock Street. The Peter Welch Brewery, located near the Blue Earth River, was also still in operation. This brewery was leased to Joseph Ibach (also spelled Iback) on March 3, 1876. *The Mankato Record* of that date published this ad:



In 1878, Joseph Ibach bought a brewery in the southeast section of the city known as Tinkcom's Addition from Anton Jacoby. Who had purchased the brewery in 1876 from the original owner Carl Boekle.

However, it's important to note that contradictory or confusing information was sometimes given in local sources regarding the Mankato area breweries. For example, in the Mankato City Directory, the following information is provided on the Blue Earth Brewery:

- On page 78, the Blue Earth Brewery is listed as operated by William Gessler on Front Street in West Mankato.
- On page 4, the Blue Earth Brewery is listed as operated by the Gessler and Company located on South Front Street.
- In an advertisement, Joseph Ibach is listed as the proprietor of the Blue Earth Brewery, located in West Mankato.
- On page 21, Joseph Ibach was listed as operating a brewery at the Blue Earth River bridge.

This information leads to some questions:

1. Were there two breweries in West Mankato operating at the same time by two different

proprietors both named the Blue Earth Brewery?

2. Did Front Street continue as far south as the Blue Earth River bridge and intersect Blue Earth Street at the bridge so the two descriptions are actually the same place?
3. Were two breweries located in such close proximity?
4. Was the compiler of the 1878 directory in error about the name of one of the two breweries?

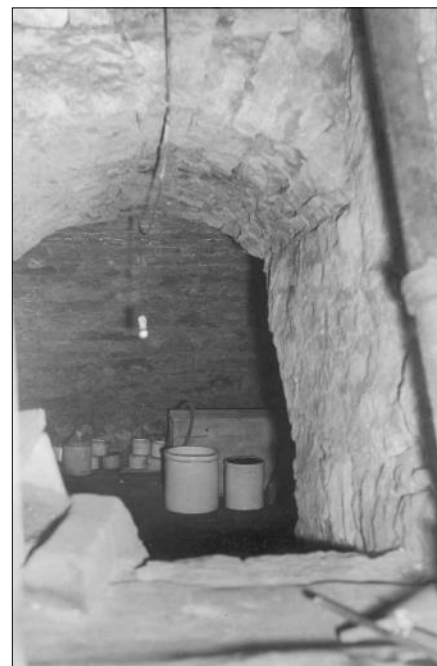
## 1879

In 1879, John and Nicholas Graeber of Graeber (also spelled Graber) and Company purchased Peter Welch's brewery.

## 1882

The June 1882 *Mankato Free Press Special Edition* contained this article: "Mankato has three of these industries which turn out thousands of gallons of beer and consume thousands of bushels of barley and other products. Probably one of the finest and largest of these outside of St. Paul is William Bierbauer's. Located upon the terrace back of the city, its commanding position makes a conspicuous object. But its dimensions and surroundings cannot be seen or appreciated except by visiting them. The buildings are of brick and stone, substantially built, and contain the very latest of modern improvements for manufacturing the foamy beverage. Large vaults cut in the solid stone furnish

receptacles for storing a year's product and warehouses for holding materials used are of huge dimensions. His residence opposite the factory is a large, roomy brick edifice, surrounded with a green lawn and arbor covered porch. Mr. Bierbauer is a successful businessman and highly esteemed



One of the Bierbauer vaults

as a prominent citizen.

Gessler and Company are an old established firm in West Mankato, who turn out a large quantity of beer. Joseph Ibach is located in Tinkcom's Addition and has a substantial edifice suitable for his business."

Through the years, several breweries operated in West Mankato. It was an excellent choice for the location of a brewery, in that excavations in the limestone bluffs furnished spaces for vats for cooling, aging, and storing beer before electricity was available for refrigeration. The close proximity of the bridge over the Blue Earth River linked this area by road, not only to Mankato, but to south going traffic. The Blue Earth and Minnesota Rivers furnished water transportation for bringing in needed supplies and shipping out the finished product. The Chicago, St. Paul, Milwaukee and Omaha Railroad, which ran through West Mankato, furnished another avenue of transportation.

Between 1857 and 1890 there were the following breweries in Mankato:

- William Bierbauer Brewery (700 block of N. 6th and 628 Rock Street)
- Haas and Schmidt (West Mankato)

- George Leiferman (West Mankato)
- Stephen Lamm (West Mankato)
- Carl Boelke (Tinkcom's Addition)
- Anton Jacoby (Tinkcom's Addition)
- Wolf and Trout (West Mankato)
- Graeber and Company (West Mankato)
- William Gessler and Company (West Mankato)

There may have been others. Out of all these breweries which existed before 1890, only the William Bierbauer Brewery survived. More on that in the next installment.

#### SOURCES:

Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota, A.I. Andreas, 1874;  
*History of the Minnesota Valley*, Reverend Edward D. Neill and Charles S. Bryant, 1882;  
*History of Blue Earth County*, Thomas Hughes, 1906;  
Mankato City Directory 1871, 1873-74, 1878, 1885-1886;  
*Mankato Record*, March 2, 1867; June 8, 1867; March 3, 1876;  
*Mankato Union*, February 21, 1868  
*Mankato Review*, March 13, 1883

BLUE EARTH HISTORICAL  
COUNTY SOCIETY

## A NIGHT AT THE SPEAKEASY

OCTOBER 29, 2022

Thank you to our Speakeasy Sponsors,  
Raffle, Silent Auction & Gift Card Donors,  
Volunteers, Entertainment & Attendees  
who made this year's Speakeasy  
a night to remember!

The Speakeasy will be back in 2023!  
Watch for details coming soon!

### CELEBRATING ART IN MANKATO



**Saturday, November 26**  
10 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Sunday, November 27**  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Mayo Clinic Health  
Systems Event Center**

*Be sure to visit our booth featuring local  
Books and Marian Anderson Fine Art prints.  
Volunteer Opportunities Available*

### HOLIDAY HOURS

## History Center Closed December 24 - January 9

This extended holiday break will provide  
both a break for our staff and an  
opportunity to gear up for 2023.  
Staff will continue to have occasional  
access to their email during this time.



# GIFT SHOP & ART GALLERY

Heather Harren, Operations Manager  
 Museum@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

It is that time of year again and if you're anything like me, that means you are starting to think about your Holiday shopping list. The History Center Gift Shop has many great, local items to choose from that will impress even the hardest person to shop for!

New to the Gift Shop is a selection of serving plates and bowls from local artist Jon Nibbe. A lifelong resident of southern Minnesota, Nibbe fires his ceramics in a traditional wood-fired Anagama "cave kiln" for 72 hours. These serving pieces have been glazed with locally sourced clay found along the Blue Earth River. Each plate and bowl are different, making this a perfect gift for the host/hostess on your list.

We also have several new products from Lakota Made—indigenous made herbal remedies



and personal care items. There are different hand-made shampoo and body bars and healing salves to choose from.

Newly restocked 'Sota Cracklers soy candles are a great gift idea. They are Minnesota-made candles with a crackling wood wick. I personally love the "Corner Coffee Shop" candle, but only your nose knows which one suits you. Each candle is available in either 4 oz. or 8 oz.

Marian Anderson note cards make the perfect gift. The Mankato Series and Mankato House Series

make perfect nostalgia gifts. Note cards are also available as fine art prints for those looking for a larger gift.

Stop in and see what other great gift ideas you can find in the History Center Gift Shop.

## The Art of Marian Anderson



The Blue Earth County Historical Society announces the release of *The Art of Marian Anderson*, a hard cover, full-color, limited edition commemorative book featuring an impressive collection of images by artist Marian Anderson. The book contains published art prints and original paintings from Marian's personal collection never before published. The diversity of Marian's art subjects spans from wildlife to canine, nostalgic to landscape, and Native American to Mountain Man. Included is a biography and some of Marian's original writings. *The Art of Marian Anderson* is a wonderful keepsake commemorating the life, legacy and work of this beloved Minnesota artist.

Retail: \$49.95  
 Hard cover w/dust jacket, 140+ pp.  
 10.5" x 9.75"  
 Published by MN Heritage Publishing

All Proceeds Benefit  
 Blue Earth County Historical Society



[www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Online-Store](http://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Online-Store)

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nik Proehl, BECHS Board Chair

As the weather turns cooler and we prepare for winter, we pause to give thanks. Oh behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank each one of you for your support this year. You are truly History Heroes!

BECHS was proud to once again host "A Night at the Speakeasy" on October 29. With your help, we raised over \$30,000 to support our mission of preserving and protecting our history! This event is the finale of months of work by BECHS staff, board members, and volunteers. Our guests

enjoyed a wonderful, fun evening filled with great music, food, and company. (And a little dancing!) Thank you to the History Heroes who helped to put this event together!

The Board is also looking forward. We recognize that more room is needed to help store and preserve the many wonderful artifacts we have, as well as additional spaces to better tell the history of Blue Earth County. The BOLD vision and BOLD step we launched last year was a resounding success and enabled us to take the first steps to make much needed improvements in 2023. But our journey is just beginning, and we

have a lot of work ahead to realize an expanded History Center.

The BECHS Board of Trustees is seeking new members in 2023. This is a wonderful way to give back to your community and future generations. If you've considered taking on a service role, working with BECHS is one of the most rewarding experiences you can undertake. Please consider volunteering your time and expertise. Applications will be open in January.

Finally, I would like to thank the tireless work of the BECHS

staff and volunteers. Their work every day truly merits the title of History Heroes! Please thank them when you stop by the History Center or the Hubbard House for Christmas.

I hope the holidays ahead are filled with happiness and joy, and that you make memories that become part of your own history.



A Night at the Speakeasy 2022

## WELCOME NEW BECHS MEMBERS

July 23 - October 31, 2022

Judy and Daryl Arzdorf

Char Bezanson

Paul Brielmaier

Courtney Conroy

Wayne Johnson

Kevin and Julie Paap

Faith Pon

Joseph Rodgers

Rachel Schmitz

Janet Siem

Peter and Regina Steiner

David Vavreck

## Book Your Next Meeting, Special Event or Holiday Party at the History Center



**The Blue Earth County History Center  
has a number of rental options perfect  
for your next special event.**

Visit [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Rentals](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Rentals)  
for more information and rates or  
contact the History Center for availability.

# COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITS

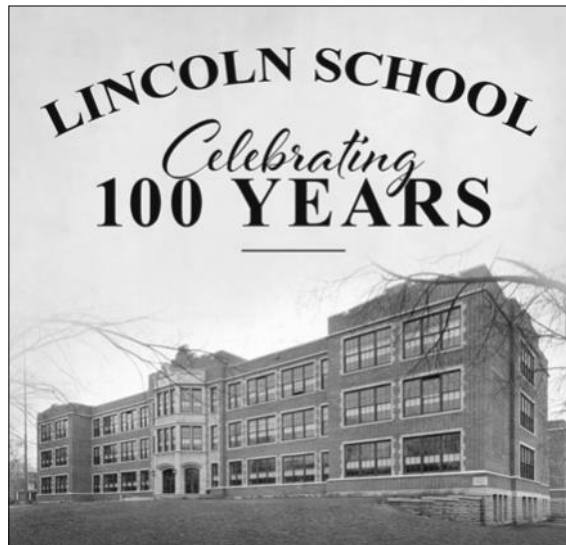
Shelley Harrison, Collections Manager  
Archivist@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

The Blue Earth County Historical Society presents "Celebrating 100 Years of Lincoln School" a new History Center exhibit. The Historical Society, in partnership with Mankato Community Education and Mankato Area Public Schools (MAPS), is celebrating 100 years of Mankato's Lincoln School. The school opened in September 1922, so now is the perfect time to commemorate 100 years of the building, the people, and the memories.

"Celebrating 100 Years of Lincoln School" focuses on the relationship between the building and the community. BECHS views the building itself as an important artifact. The exhibit not only pays homage to the beautiful building and its past, but also honors the building today and its future.

Over the past 100 years, the historic Lincoln School has hosted countless school, social, and community events. The space has had languages of diverse cultures spoken and customs practiced. Lincoln opened as an elementary and junior high school in 1922. The building transitioned to serve as Mankato High School for a decade before returning as a junior high. Did you know that the Lincoln Junior High School Comets had a team rouser?

In 1982, the building then became the home of Community



Education and known as Lincoln Community Center, where it continues to serve students of all ages.

The exhibit highlights this history through historic memorabilia, photos, stories, garments and also features most of the organizations that have called the building home.

We are excited to share so many stories from students, teachers and community members. We are grateful for the memories shared and objects loaned to us. We hope

to be continually adding to the exhibit as Lincoln memorabilia and photos are shared. If you are interested in loaning or donating items and being a part of the Lincoln story, please contact Shelley.

The exhibit opened in October with an Open House at Lincoln Community Center for a grand kickoff. In conjunction with "Celebrating 100 Years of Lincoln



Lincoln Community Center Open House  
October 17, 2022

School", BECHS will partner with MAPS to feature a variety of Lincoln building programs including, an Adult Basic Education art exhibit, virtual and in-person tours of the building. Watch for more community opportunities to celebrate and share the history of Lincoln School. This exhibit is free and will be on display at the History Center until June 2023.



Lincoln Comets memorabilia



# EVERY OBJECT HAS A STORY...

For our latest exhibit, "Celebrating 100 Years of Lincoln School", we have requested and have received a few items that will be here just for the duration of the exhibit. Here is just a glimpse of those objects now on display:

## Wood-handle Brass Hand Bell, pre-1950



This handheld school bell is just over 8 1/2" tall by 4 9/16" wide and is quite loud. The handle is well-worn from use. There is a brass collar and cap. The bell is on loan from Donna Quick. She inherited the bell from her father, John J. Nelson, who was the Lincoln School principal from 1955-1981.

## Beanie Hat, 1969

This is a red and white felt Beanie with "Lincoln" stitched on one panel. Colleges and universities across the country had beanie traditions. The hats were worn as a symbol of a freshmen, which distinguished them from upper classmates. This beanie was given to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students at Lincoln as a rite of passage of their last year at Lincoln Junior High School. This beanie was proudly worn by Donna Nelson and autographed by her classmates in 1969.



## Flocked Aussie Hat, 2013

This marching band hat is from the Mankato Area 77 Lancers 2013 season. The Lancers started in the early 1970s as Mankato's community youth marching band based out of the Lincoln Community Center. It has recently changed from a Community Education and Recreation program to a Mankato Area Public Schools (MAPS) activity, like sports or theater. In 2013, the Lancers took second place in the Vikingland Band Festival. The hat is on loan from MAPS.



There is still time to share your Lincoln School photographs and school memorabilia to be included in this very special anniversary exhibit at the History Center. Items will be on loan with BECHS until May 2023 and then returned to the lender. Don't miss this great opportunity to share your Lincoln School story. If you are interested in loaning or donating items contact Shelley, BECHS Collections Manager.

## BOLD VISION, BOLD STEP, BOLD HISTORY HEROES

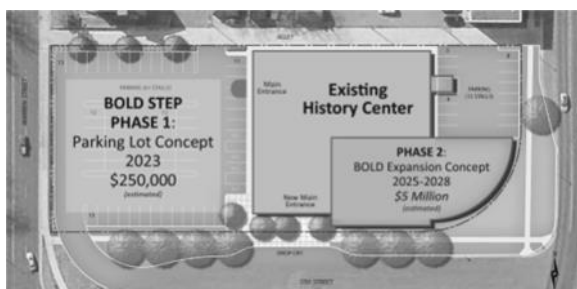
The Blue Earth County Historical Society has a **BOLD VISION** for the future of history; a **BOLD expansion** of the History Center to triple the museum capacity!

The first **BOLD STEP** is to raise an additional **\$125,000** in 2022 to **redevelop the south side of the property in 2023**, which will feature a new accessible parking lot, signage and pollinator teaching garden! Total projected cost for this project is \$250,000.

Investments in the History Center's infrastructure, like this, are moving us one step closer to realizing the **BOLD** expansion to come.

We need **BOLD HISTORY HEROES** like YOU!

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



# RESEARCH & GENEALOGY CENTER

Bri Krumwiede, Archives Assistant  
Research@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

As Veterans Day approaches, come explore our resources on Blue Earth County's veterans. We have vertical files on veterans of the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, WWI, WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and more. Here are a few other notable resources:

## WWI

When researching WWI veterans, explore *Blue Earth County Minnesota in the World War*, a book printed and published by the Free Press Company in Mankato. This resource explores veteran service records, the Mankato chapter of the American Red Cross, the Mankato unit of the Minnesota Home Guard, and other aspects of Blue Earth County's involvement in WWI.

## WWII

*World War II-Blue Earth County Veterans* is a resource compiled by Georgia "Jo" Schultz,



Blue Earth County drafted men, September 21, 1917

BECHS volunteer extraordinaire. This binder includes narrative information on Blue Earth County's WWII veterans, a list of Blue Earth County casualties and Prisoners of War, a highlight on women who served during WWII, and more. BECHS also has a collection of *Service Men Reports* published in Blue

Earth County newspapers, 1942-1944. These articles are also indexed.

## Korean War

*Blue Earth County Korean War Veterans*, also compiled by Jo Schultz, follows a similar structure to *World War II-Blue Earth County Veterans* including narrative information on veterans.

Call us at (507) 345-5566 or visit us at [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Research](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Research) to make an appointment for the Research Center.

## HISTORY CENTER ART GALLERY



### PEOPLE BEING PEOPLE

Randy Wood

October – December 23, 2022



"This exhibit consists of photographs known as 'Street Photography'. None of the subjects posed for the photograph, or for that matter knew they were being photographed. The title of this exhibit represents what I see in each of these photos, which is people being people, just doing everyday things, being themselves. I think it's interesting to see these people in this moment, just being people, doing what people do, frozen in a moment in time while passing through the world." *Randy Wood*

### CALL FOR ARTISTS

We are accepting proposals for featured local artists in the History Center Art Gallery. All art mediums will be considered: photography, wall sculpture, textiles, mixed media, paintings and drawings. Work must be able to be hung on a wall and be family-friendly to be considered. For more information or an application, please contact Shelley.

# BECHS DONORS & SUPPORTERS

July 23 – October 31, 2022

## DONORS

Dorothy Anthony  
Van Tol/Biewen Household  
Patrick Carroll  
Nancy Craig  
Melissa and Rob Danks  
Sheryl Dobie  
Michael Falk  
Joe Farnham  
Betty Goodrich  
Jim and Pat Hoehn  
Brenda and Garry Hockel  
Tim Huebsch  
Carol Jackson  
Margaret James  
Ellis Jones  
David Kregel  
Lori Lahlum  
The Marian Anderson Fund  
Caroline McGowan  
Tom and Theresa McLaughlin  
Minnesota Valley Federal  
Credit Union  
Rebecca Novak  
Linda and Jerry Nussbaumer  
Helen Owens  
Buck Pettit  
Hunter and Pat Piper  
Joseph Rodgers  
Eunice Sassenberg  
Doug Sinclair  
Leslie Gene-Hartz Sprott  
Karen Stevenson  
Kevin and Jody Swanson  
Leon Tacheny  
Paul and Kristin Vogel  
Ken and Linda Wilmes  
Randy and Rachel Wood

## MONTHLY DONORS

Dale Benefield  
Joel Botten  
Carol English

David and Julie Ewert  
James Hummer  
Steve and Susan Jameson  
Mike Lagerquist  
Jack and Diann McGowan  
Marnie Werner  
Randy Zellmer  
Beth Zimmer

## IN MEMORIAM

*In Memory of John Todd*  
Eloise Layman  
*In Memory of Ann McGuire*  
Eloise Layman  
Ron and Mary Smyth

## SPEAKEASY SPONSORS

Free Press Media  
Hilton Garden Inn, Mankato  
Knutson Construction  
Neubau Holdings Inc.  
Oleson + Hobbie Architects  
RBC Wealth Management:  
Brian Koch  
Sign Pro of Mankato  
The Tailwind Group  
West Bank  
Williams Diamond Center

*Thank  
You!*

# VOLUNTEERS MAKE HISTORY

Volunteers are truly the lifeblood of the Blue Earth County Historical Society. There is not any aspect of work done at the History Center or Hubbard House that doesn't involve volunteers. **THANK YOU to all past, present and future volunteers for your support.**

## NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### GSR Fine Arts Festival

BECHS is participating in this community arts festival November 26 and 27. Volunteers needed to manage sales at our booth. Multiple shifts available.

### Kiwanis Holiday Lights

BECHS is a participating non-profit at the Kiwanis Holiday Lights and needs volunteers to help in the park **Sunday, November 27 from 4:30-9 p.m.** Volunteers alternate between working outside and taking breaks to warm up. Dinner and snacks are provided. Volunteers are also needed **Saturday, January 7, 1-4 p.m.** to assist with tear-down.

### Join BECHS' Board of Trustees

BECHS is seeking Blue Earth County individuals strong in fundraising and friend-raising, facility development, accounting/finance, and human resources, to serve on Board of Trustees. **Accepting applications January 1-31, 2023** for Board terms beginning March 2023. Details at [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/About](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/About)

Contact us if you are interested in these opportunities or volunteering in general. Visit [www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/volunteer](http://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/volunteer) to sign-up.

TO THE

give

MAX 

Nov. 17, 2022

**Join BECHS for  
Minnesota's Annual Day of Giving  
at [www.GiveMN.org](http://www.GiveMN.org)!**

# PROGRAMS & EXPERIENCES

Becky C., Programs Manager  
Programs@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

The Discovery Lab, within the History Center Museum, has undergone all sorts of changes this Fall. There is a American Bison mini-exhibit exploring Minneopa's bison and their connection to wild bison nationwide. What is the Minnesota Conservation Bison Herd? What is a Minneopa Bison Buddy? How do bison stay warm in Winter? Mark your calendars! Minneopa bison expert Tim Pulis will be teaching Young Historians on January 14 from 10 a.m.-Noon to answer these questions and so much more.

There is now a Family Tree corner in the Discovery Lab! We have books and worksheets about different immigrant groups to America. Families can explore their own family tree with these new resources.

Timelines are happening! Hands-on history with create-your-own timelines are also now available in the Discovery Lab. Use cards from a timeline trivia game, or enjoy sharing your own family history to create a timeline. Timelines are a great way to see history differently! Enjoy the experience of putting yourself in history and seeing how a timeline reflects how your own history is valuable and important.

In December, Marian Anderson art will be centrally featured as part of a Minnesota wildlife



American Bison at Minneopa State Park

education wall. Celebrating the release of the new Marian Anderson book, the Discovery Lab will utilize some of her wildlife art prints to explore Minnesota wildlife. There will be Minnesota Department of Natural Resources study maps amid Marian Anderson art which will engage museum visitors to explore questions like "Can I see a loon on a lake in Blue Earth County?" Or "Where can I find loons in Minnesota?" Other maps will link the state map to information about red foxes and birds native to our state.

In January, the Discovery Lab theme will change from Harry Potter to Egyptology.

BECHS is partnering with the Blue Earth County Library to study the Pyramids of Egypt and Egyptology, as part of exploring the 1920s. The maps exploring Egypt, the Nile and surrounding nations will be available. Museum guests will enjoy puzzle problem solving with "Curse of the Mummy" themed escape room adventures. While many people associate 1920s with Jazz and the Great Gatsby, there was also the explorer-craze of archaeology during this time.

So much to see and explore in the Discovery Lab and through monthly hands-on history Young Historians workshops!

**BECHS Membership  
make a great gift!**

Great for history-  
lovers, genealogists  
and families.

**LOCAL HISTORY PODCAST**  
*Explore the history that surround us!*

New episodes air Saturdays  
at 11:05 a.m. on KTOE  
AM 1420/102.7 FM.  
You can find all previous  
episodes on our website at

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



## INTERN INSIDER



My name is Dakota Palmer. I am a student at Minnesota State University, Mankato studying Social Studies Education and History. As an Intern with BECHS this Fall, I had the unique privilege of working within this local museum and research center. Through this opportunity, I experienced what it is

like to work within a historical society and the day-to-day work.

The overall theme of a historical society, from what I have witnessed, is that there is no theme. The daily work seemed to be something different each day. One day you might be providing research for an upcoming exhibit, the next day you could be helping a different staff member or even aiding in different events that change seemingly weekly. Sometimes projects will have higher importance due to when it needs to be accomplished or how much additional assistance they will be able to gather.

How does an exhibit for a museum pop up? This year, Blue Earth County Historical Society curated the exhibit "Celebrating 100 Years of Lincoln School." I was able to help answer that question firsthand. First, the museum decides the scope and context of the exhibit. This decides the who, when, and where of the exhibit. The next step answers the why and the how, which is accomplished through research and interacting with communities included in the overall theme of the exhibit. After the research, the goal is to gather as many physical artifacts as possible. Finally, the artifacts are arranged for viewing and the exhibit opens to the public to enjoy.

There are an abundance of opportunities and projects to explore, which make working with a historical society an interesting job.

---

Internship opportunities are available year-round at the History Center. Students should contact their advisor for more information.

## CHRISTMAS AT THE HUBBARD HOUSE *Celebration of Lights*

Explore Victorian holiday décor at the Hubbard House.

New this year, discover holiday traditions celebrating light in the dark days of December through a special display, stories and crafts celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Yule and Kwanzaa.



### WEEKENDS IN DECEMBER

606 South Broad Street, Mankato

### SELF-GUIDED TOURS

**Saturday, December 3, 3-7 pm**

**Sunday, December 4, 1-4 pm**

Enjoy a lively cast of characters, scavenger hunt and puzzles in this Self-Guided Tour.

### GUIDED HOLIDAY TOURS

**Saturday, December 10 & 11, 1-4 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 17 & 18, 1-4 p.m.**

Enjoy a guided holiday tour featuring stories

\$10/Adult; \$7/BECHS Member;  
\$5/Child (5-17)

Advanced tickets on sale  
November 19

*Tours begin in the  
Carriage House  
Holiday Gift Shop*



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



---

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2022 – January 2023

## NOVEMBER

- 12 **Young Historians: History Veterans Day and U.S. Flag History and Etiquette**, History Center, Hands-on History Workshop for Kids 10 a.m.-Noon, FREE, pre-registration required.  
**Family Museum Day**, History Center, Noon-4 p.m., Free Museum Admission and fun family-friendly interactive history activities in the Discovery Lab throughout the day. See page 12.
- 16 **History @ Home: Marian Anderson: The Life, Art and Legacy Hybrid Program**, Noon, attend in-person at the History Center OR register to join via Zoom (either live or watch recording). Registration required for virtual attendance. \$7/adults, Free/BECHS Members
- 17 **Give to the Max Day**—Minnesota's Annual Day of Giving. Join thousands of donors from across the state and give to your favorite non-profits (BECHS included) by visiting [www.GiveMN.org](http://www.GiveMN.org).
- 24-26 **History Center Closed—Happy Thanksgiving!**
- 26-27 **GSR Fine Arts Festival, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**, Mayo Clinic Health Systems Event Center, visit the BECHS Booth for your holiday shopping.

## DECEMBER

- 3 **Christmas at the Hubbard House: Self-Guided Tours** 3-7 p.m. Advanced tickets required. See page 13.
- 4 **Christmas at the Hubbard House: Self-Guided Tours** 1-4 p.m. Advanced tickets required. See page 13.
- 10 **Young Historians: Explore December Holidays**  
History Center, Hands-on History Workshop for Kids  
10 a.m.-Noon, FREE, pre-registration required. Create lap books and hands-on art activities.  
**Family Museum Day**, History Center, Noon-4 p.m., Free museum admission and fun family-friendly interactive history activities in the Discovery Lab throughout the day. See page 12.
- 10-11 **Christmas at Hubbard House: Guided Holiday Tours** 1-4 p.m.; Advanced tickets required.  
17-18 See page 13 for details.
- 24 - **The History Center will be closed December 24 through January 9.** This extended holiday  
Jan 9 will provide a break for our staff and an opportunity to gear up for 2023. Staff will continue to have occasional access to their email during this time. **Happy Holidays!**



## JANUARY

- 10 **History Center Reopens**
- 14 **Young Historians: Minneopa Bison in Winter with Tim Pulis**, History Center, Hands-on History Workshop for Kids 10 a.m.-Noon, FREE, pre-registration required.  
**Family Museum Day**, History Center, Noon-4 p.m., Free museum admission and fun family-friendly interactive history activities in the Discovery Lab throughout the day. See page 12.

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

# MEMBERS MATTER

Inspire. Engage. Connect. BECHS at its fundamental core connects people to the past by engaging and inspiring them. This is made possible through annual membership fees, donations and more.

Membership is an exchange of dues for benefits including free admission, gift shop discount and quarterly newsletter for a full year.

BECHS Memberships make the perfect gift for history enthusiasts in your life and it's easy to do! Fill out their contact information below and mail the form with your check. They will receive a welcome letter noting your gift of membership. Then visit the History Center and enjoy all the fun of being a BECHS member together!

*Gift memberships can be made at any point of the year, not just for the Holidays.*



## BECHS Member Benefits

- Free admission to the History Center, R.D. Hubbard House and Research Center, plus free or reduced admission to most BECHS events
- *The Historian*, quarterly publication, sent to your mailbox or inbox
- 10% off most items in the Gift Shop and Marian Anderson Art Gallery, in store and online
- One 30-minute Research Center search by Staff, a \$15 value
- Annual Member's State-of-the-Society meeting held in March
- The knowledge that you are supporting the Historical Society, providing for exhibits, programs, preservation and future expansion

---

## INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

*Business and Organizational Partnerships also available. Call for details.*

**New**    **Renewal**    **Gift** (contact information for gift below)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

---

### Annual Membership Levels

- Senior \$35** 1 adult, age 62+
- Individual \$40** 1 adult
- Senior Household \$55** 2 adults, 62+
- Household \$60** 2 adults, kids under 18

***Your Membership expiration date can be found on your mailing label on the back cover***

Please return this form and payment to: **BECHS Membership, 424 Warren Street, Markato, MN 56001**  
You can also join or renew online at [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Membership](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Membership)

# HOLIDAY HISTORY GIFT IDEAS

Visit the Blue Earth County History Center Gift Shop in-person or online this holiday season. You are certain to find the perfect gift for everyone on your list.

## Blue Earth County History

BECHS staff and volunteers have written and published a number of books on **Blue Earth County history** which are exclusively available in the Gift Shop.

## For the Young and Young-at-Heart

The Gift Shop has books for all ages, including **The Betsy-Tacy series** by Maud Hart Lovelace. Follow Betsy in her many adventures as she grows up in Deep Valley (based on Mankato).

## Unique Gifts

Vintage-inspired **Christmas ornaments**, **local art by featured artists**, **candles**, **hand-painted R.D. Hubbard House slates** and many other unique and one-of-a-kind gifts!

**Give the Gift of History this Holiday Season!**

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



## EXHIBITS

**Celebrating 100 Years of  
Lincoln School**



**ART GALLERY  
People Being People**



**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