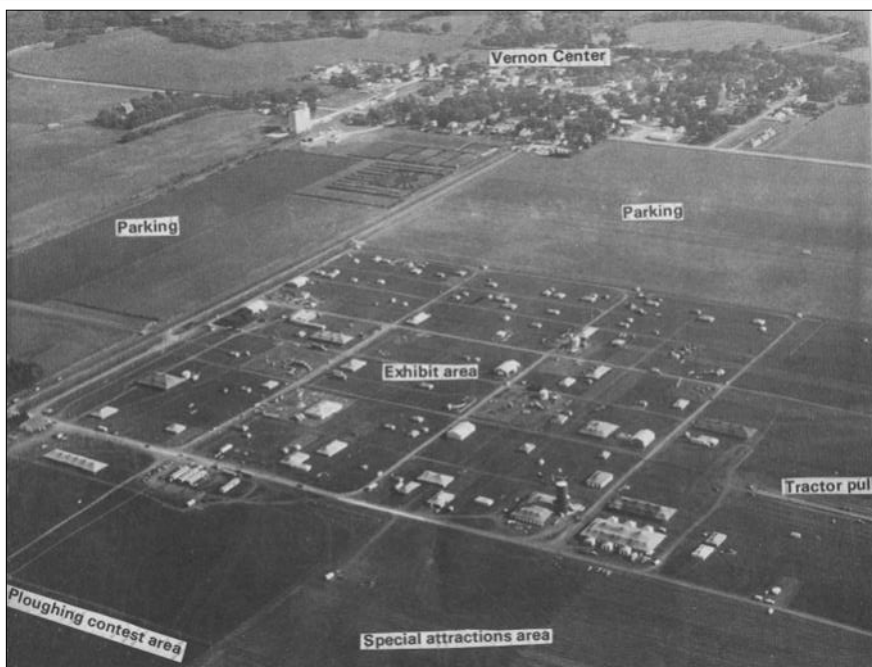


# THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORIAN

Summer 2022

A Blue Earth County Historical Society Publication

Vol. XXVIII No. 3



Farmfest 1972

## World's Fair of Agriculture Comes to Vernon Center

By Hilda Parks

The little community of Vernon Center gained national and even international attention fifty years ago this year during the week of September 11-17, 1972. Shady Brook Farms just north of the town, owned by Bert Hanson, became the site of the 19<sup>th</sup> World Ploughing Contest. ["Ploughing" is the British spelling of "plowing"] But this event was much more than the United States' location of the annual World Ploughing contest. It blossomed into a 1,400-acre agricultural extravaganza called Farmfest USA with over 1,000 acres of demonstration plots, 65 acres of exhibits, political speakers, state and national competitions and big name entertainment.

How did an agricultural extravaganza experienced by close to 500,000 people land in the small southern Minnesota town of Vernon Center? We must begin the story with the man who hosted the event on his Blue Earth County farm – Bert Hanson.

### Bert Hanson

Bert Hanson was a farmer and cattleman, who lived near Vernon Center. Later in life, he wrote a column in *The Land* magazine from 1976-1986. He was known for raising one of the top Shorthorn cattle

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**The Blue Earth County Historian**

Summer 2022

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# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Jessica Potter, Executive Director  
[Director@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](mailto:Director@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com)

Greetings from the History Center. The summer is flying by and we already have our minds on the great new things coming this fall. But before I share that, we have had some very exciting changes over the past few months that I cannot wait to tell you about.

The Board and I spent the early part of this year, evaluating our current staffing needs as our organization grows. We identified three areas where we need to add staff in order to enhance our organization: programming, archives/research center and fundraising/marketing. These areas of operation were determined after reorganization of existing staff (Heather is now the Operations Manager at the front desk and Shelley's role has evolved to Collections Manager). I'm now happy to announce the addition of two new members to the BECHS Staff: Becky is our new Programs and Experience Manager and Bri is our new Archives Assistant. Both are located at the History Center, so stop by to say hi. We still hope to fill the remaining need for fundraising/marketing in early 2023. Exciting times!

I'm sure you're also wondering about the facilities projects and timelines. We continue to move forward with the parking lot renovation, but due to construction timelines it will not happen in 2022, instead we are slated for work in the summer of 2023. Hopefully, construction prices will drop a little by then. I, for one, will be so happy when that project is complete and we have improved accessibility to the History Center. Look for more information to come.

Looking ahead to the fall, it will be quite busy and we hope you will tag along for the fun. It's full steam ahead for the annual Speakeasy on October 29. Check out more information on page 10 or visit [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](https://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com)/Speakeasy for how you can be part of the pre-event fun. Tickets will be on sale in September!

Other noteworthy events happening this fall include: new book featuring the art of Marian Anderson coming out in September, Young Historians is starting back up after a break due to Covid, a new exhibit at the History Center showcasing the history of Mankato's Lincoln School, and more walking tours.

As always, we encourage you to be a tourist in your own backyard! This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the first Farmfest, which is now held in Redwood Falls, but originated in Blue Earth County. And the 50th Annual Mahkato Wacipi held at Land of Memories Park on September 16-18. Plus the Centennial Celebration of Mankato's Lincoln School. Check out these local places and events!

## FARMFEST Continued from page 1

herds in the nation and being a pioneer in farm aviation. On April 18, 1947, Hanson said, "There's nothing like a plane to look over your land. I can analyze a drainage or erosion problem in an hour from the air which would take surveyors a month."

He also preserved the traditions of old-time farming. In 1927 and 1931, Hanson was a Minnesota state cornhusking champion, the only man to win twice.

So, it was really no surprise that Hanson was approached in 1969 to provide the host site for the 19<sup>th</sup> World Ploughing Contest in 1972. The first in Minnesota and only second in United States. But what was a surprise was how Farmfest USA organized to "promote the World Ploughing Contest, National and Minnesota State Plowing contest, the Grand National Tractor Pull, Minnesota Horse Plowing Contest and Horse Pulling Contest." This turned into a seven-day agricultural extravaganza.

### Farmfest USA

Farmfest USA was held September 11-17, 1972 on the Hanson farm one mile north of Vernon Center. Planning began at least two years earlier as Hanson leased his farm for the occasion and took a two-year loss on production. The event was planned and managed by Agricultural Promotions, Inc. (API). Local residents were invited to participate in event committees, but those committees were slow at getting organized. Local residents and town officials were not always well informed of the arrangements including traffic, housing, water, and expenses.

Eventually, preparations were made for housing, entertainment, local tours, and interpreters. Minnesota Highway 169 was resurfaced and the portion which ran along the Farmfest site was widened to four lanes. Traffic routes to and from Vernon Center were designated with signage erected. Provisions were made for doctors, nurses, medical helicopters, security, power lines, telephone lines and water to

be brought in by tank trucks from the town's water supply. Parking was available for up to 20,000 cars on the grounds; costing \$1.00 per day to park. Shuttle buses were organized from Mankato. The Mankato airport prepared for 300 planes per day. Area FFA's began to sell advance tickets, \$1.50 per day, \$5.00 for four days.

Many campground sites were available within a 50-mile radius of Vernon Center. All hotel and motel rooms in Mankato were filled and over 1,200 rooms were rented on the Mankato State College (MSC) campus. The fall term at MSC was delayed by one week to accommodate. Local K-12 schools also canceled classes for the week. Individuals in Mankato rented rooms through the Chamber of Commerce. Local farmers provided space for vendors to park campers overnight or provided rooms for others working on the grounds. The Bob Cornish home, for example, became the site of the Farmfest Public Relations darkroom.

The week began with fog and rain. After 1½ inches of rain fell, sawdust and crushed limestone was used to cover the mud. Bert Hanson himself physically stopped trucks from spreading crushed rock, as that would make the fields unworkable in future years. The first day saw more people in attendance than food providers had planned for and there was a definite lack of toilet facilities. Those problems were quickly remedied for the remainder of the week, although there were few food choices. Swanee's Cafe in Vernon Center quickly moved into a tent on the southeast corner of the site,

servicing hot food.

Falling on an election year, local candidates Minnesota Governor Wendell Anderson and Congressman Anchor Nelson made appearances on opening day. Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern delivered his major farm message at the event. The acting Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz spoke for the Republican position a few days later.



There was big name live entertainment daily including Roy Rogers and Dale Evans on Monday and Tuesday, Charley Pride was featured on Wednesday, with Frankie Fontaine, the Bugs Bunny Show, the U.S. Air Force Band and the Thunderbirds the remainder of the week. All of this led up to the appearance of Bob Hope on Saturday.

Field demonstrations were held daily on a dozen farms in the area, displaying corn, soybeans, grain, forage, and sorghum trial plots. Over 180 types of corn had been planted and nearly a dozen types of soybeans. Both domestic and foreign farm equipment were on display and many demonstrated in the field. Some of the newer items on display were a new building system from Lester's, Steiger's new 4-wheel drive tractor, a 10-ton self-propelled silage buggy from HCI Industries and a universal header attachment for combines which fit all row crops from Melroe.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture arranged a 10,000-foot exhibit featuring the increasing sales of United States farm produce abroad. The exhibit was arranged by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Clarence Palmby, who had grown up and farmed in the community.

Eight programs advertised for women were presented every day in a 2,000-seat tent. Classes were presented on terrariums, wall papering, lamb and soybean cookery. A fashion show was held most days featuring fashions from the Madison East shopping center in Mankato.

The grounds even had a post office located in a mobile unit with its own zip code, 56002. The Mankato Post Office had been using a Farmfest U.S.A. cancellation on all mail since June.



Even though plowing was the focus of the competition, there was also a Kite Flying contest, the State Duck and Goose Calling contest, the Grand National Tractor Pull, Minnesota Horse Plowing Contest and the Horse Pulling Contest. The State and National Plowing contest occurred early in the week, choosing the contestants for the World contest the following year. Local farmer Jim Cornish won the State plowing contest using a John Deere tractor and

a Minneapolis Moline plow. His award was \$150, a plaque and a kiss from a Minnesota Plowing Princess. On the other hand, the Grand National Tractor Pull had a purse of \$20,000. A horse pulling contest closed the week.

### **World Ploughing Contest and Cairn of Peace**

The World Ploughing Organization has roots dating back to 1953 in Ontario, Canada. "Competitors utilize tractors and ploughs for the competition, but are not allowed the use of modern technology such as a GPS. Conventional and Reversible ploughing are scored using various criteria including straightness, weed control, crown, uniformity and finish just to name a few. In the agricultural world, ploughing is a big deal and has strong interest. The purpose of the World Ploughing Contest is to foster a vigorous spirit of co-operation and enterprise in producing food for an increasing world population. And by these means to encourage fellowship and understanding amongst the people of all nations."

At the 19<sup>th</sup> World Ploughing Contest held in conjunction with Farmfest USA, twenty nations were represented by 38 contestants. These men farmed anywhere from 10,000 acres in Rhodesia (present-day Zimbabwe) to twelve acres in Belgium. Teams arrived early to practice plowing in soil which was heavier than most experienced in their own countries. Many stayed in local homes and plowed on their land. The Austrian team stayed at the home of Verl and Inez Rollings near Garden City and the German team practiced plowing on the land of George and Alice Parks. During the week of Farmfest, all contestants and crews were housed at Gage Towers on the campus of MSC. Teams brought coaches and mechanics, some provided by the companies who supplied the tractors.

The contest was spread over two days. The first day plowing was done on stubble, the second on grassland with each contestant plowing a 10-meter by 20-meter plot. All plowing was done with two-bottom plows. The contest lasted three hours each day. The first twenty minutes the participants opened a furrow the length of their plot. Thirty minutes were then allowed to make adjustments and the last 1½ hours was used to complete the plot. Contestants were judged on things such as the uniformity of depth, furrow straightness, entrance and exit from each slit and smoothness of running

without jerking the plow. Autumn furrows needed to be strong enough to stand over the winter. Plowing was judged by two teams of five persons each. Each person per team judged a different aspect of the furrow. Austrian Willi Flatnizen won the contest with 273 points out of 400. The second and third place winners were both from Norway.

The World Ploughing Contest continues annually around the world with the exception of 2020 and 2021. In 2019, the contest was once again held in Minnesota in Baudette, Lake of the Woods. The 2022 event is planned for September 20-22 in Ireland. It was originally scheduled to be held in Russia, but due to the attacks on Ukraine, it was canceled and moved to Ireland.

Since it is the organization's objective to promote peace, encourage fellowship and understanding among the people of different nations, a monument to peace is erected before the event at each site. The 1972 Cairn of Peace monument was designed by Rod Furan, an instructor at the Mankato Area Technical College. Each participating country brings a stone from their country to be incorporated into the structure. The stones are of a standard size and engraved with the name of the country. The 1972 Cairn of Peace contains stones from nineteen of the twenty countries represented in the contest (Yugoslavia never submitted a stone). The structure is located just off Minnesota Highway 169, north of Vernon Center and marks the site of the 1972 Farmfest.



### Farmfest Legacy

In the end, the 1972 Farmfest USA was termed "the largest agricultural exhibition ever."

The *New York Times* described it as "the Olympics of agriculture and the farmer's Woodstock." There were 75,000 people in attendance the day Charley Pride performed and 80,000 for Bob Hope. Total attendance for the seven days was close to 500,000, including a Los Angeles couple who had won a trip to Farmfest on "The Dating Game." The event made a \$35,000 profit for event producers API, plus the repayment of \$50,000 on a state loan. "This may be the first time in Minnesota that someone repaid the state," quipped a representative of API.

A second Farmfest was organized in 1976 as a Bicentennial salute to agriculture and was located on the Lloyd and Schroeder land west of Lake Crystal. There was no plowing component. Being a presidential election year, both Jimmy Carter and Bob Dole attended. A Hidatsa Indian Village was a special attraction, and a long list of Country-Western stars were scheduled to perform. There were 900 exhibitors, 1,000 demonstration plots and expectations of a million in attendance. However, heavy rain and mud limited the crowd to less than 300,000 people slogging through the muck. Roy Clark performed, but many of the other scheduled artists did not appear. As a result, API declared bankruptcy.

Marlyn Buss of Lake Crystal purchased the "Farmfest" name and beginning in 1982 sponsored a yearly event on family land near Lake Crystal. He promoted tractor pulls, political speakers and women's style shows and craft fairs. In 1990 Minnesota Farmfest moved to a location near Austin. In 1994 it found a permanent home on Gilfillan Estate in Redwood County, where it has been held every year except 2020. It is now managed by the IDEAg Group LLC, which holds several agricultural events throughout the United States.

### Sources:

- BECHS Vertical Files
- "Throngs Turn Minnesota Hamlet into a Global Center of Plowing," in *The New York Times*, September 18, 1972
- *The Best of Bert: A Collection of His Columns Plus a Look at His Life*, 1984
- <https://WorldPloughing.org/>
- <https://USAPO.org/>
- <https://www.ideaggroup.com/farmfest>

# GIFT SHOP & ART GALLERY

Heather Harren, Operations Manager  
Museum@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

Summer is a great time to get together with friends and family, especially for picnics and potlucks. And unless you have a staple item you are known for, you may be wondering what to bring with you. We have just the options here at the History

Center!  
*Hotdish Heaven* (\$19.95),  
*Bundt Cake Bliss* (\$16.95),  
*Land of 10,000 Plates* (\$24.95), and



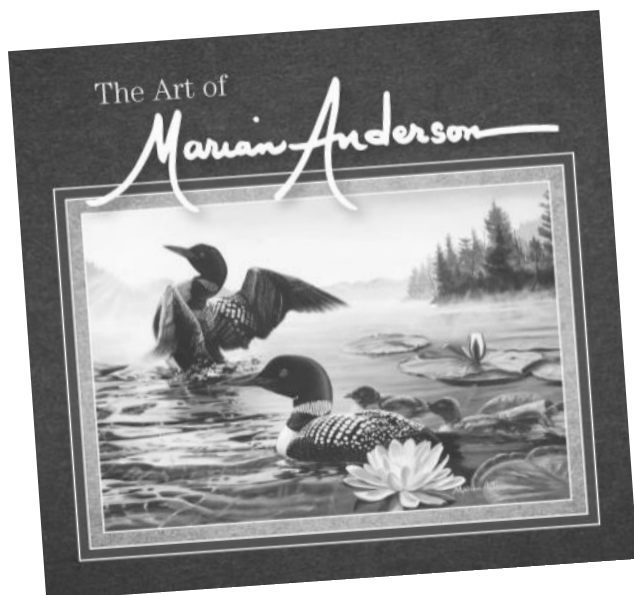
*Potluck Paradise* (\$16.95) have plenty of options for you to choose from. The "Cheese Loaves" from page 14 in *Potluck Paradise* looks like one I'll need to try for my next family gathering! Not only do these books provide recipes, but also some history of cooking and why certain things

are made the way they are. (Such as sour milk – milk with vinegar- for the Cheese Loaves.) Stop by during open hours to see these and other great books.

Are you looking for a art to add color to a room? How about a series of prints to change out seasonally? The *Seasons of Life* series by Marian Anderson are named for the different seasons of the year, but also reflect how life changes over time and each season represents a stage of life. Purchase just one print or all four as one framed image. And I know we've been showcasing *The Art of Marian Anderson* for the past few newsletters, but we are so excited the book is almost completed. See below for more information and reserve yours today.



## NEW BOOK COMING SOON



Retail: \$49.95  
Hard cover w/dust jacket, 150+ pp.  
10.5" x 9.75"  
Published by Minnesota Heritage Publishing

The Blue Earth County Historical Society announces the upcoming release of *The Art of Marian Anderson*, a hard cover, full-color, limited edition of 500, 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 and work of this beloved Minnesota artist.

**Don't miss this opportunity  
PRE-ORDER TODAY!**

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

**All proceeds benefit BECHS**

# HISTORY CENTER ART GALLERY

## BEND OF THE RIVER PHOTO CLUB

### Tombstones of Blue Earth County

July – September 30, 2022

“Tombstones of Blue Earth County” stems from one of our photography club assignments, (of the same title). Seeing the results instills an understanding of what some of the early inhabitants of our county endured. Women sometimes died very young during childbirth, or babies and young children passed during the early years of their lives were hard and sad times for families settling our area. Many of the tombstones photographed suffer from years of neglect, after the families of those interred passed away or moved to another part of the country. In some cases, even the cemetery itself appears to have been forgotten, overgrown with weeds and brush and slowly returning back to nature. Many of these photos will give the viewer a sense of what the family of those buried beneath the stones felt as the markers were placed over their lost loved one.



**MEET THE ARTISTS  
OPENING RECEPTION**  
July 30, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### 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.

# 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

### Board of Trustees

Open seat on Board of Trustees for a Blue Earth County resident with background in finance. Seat is for three years beginning in September. To apply or for more information, please contact Jessica Potter.

### History Center Gardeners

Seeking individuals to care for and maintain the flower beds on the Cherry Street side of the History Center, mainly weeding and trimming as needed. Some tools and supplies are available. Set your own schedule.

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.

## WELCOME NEW BECHS MEMBERS

April 23- July 22, 2022

James Auggedahl  
Linda Brown  
Pamela DeMarce  
Jennifer Echevarria  
Scott and LuAnn Glaubitz  
Paul Johanson  
Madysen Pearson and Jacob Bristol  
Rebecca W. Pierce  
Ronald Polzin  
Ardis Roberts  
Elizabeth Sandell  
David and Brenda Spangenberg  
Adrian Swales  
Dan and Stacy Tomhave  
Bob and Jill Zoet

# COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITS

Shelley Harrison, Collections Manager  
 Archivist@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is pleased to announce the launch of our new collections database system. The Historical Society recently received a Minnesota Cultural and Heritage Grant in support of a new Collection Management System. The nearly \$10,000 grant will enable BECHS to convert our collections



management database from outdated software to CollectiveAccess an open source collections management software available through the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums (MALHM). It gives us the ability to manage the information and location of the objects and archival materials in our care.

The project started in November 2021 and is ongoing. We currently have over 56,000 records in the database. Did you know BECHS preserves over 22,000 three-dimensional objects that document the history of the county - textiles, artworks, vehicles, equipment, and everyday items; over 19,000 photographs, approximately 11,500 archival items and 4,000 books? That is a lot of Blue Earth County history to keep track of, organize and store.

With CollectiveAccess we will also have an opportunity to share our collection online in the



future. This new tool aligns with BECHS's mission to provide a modern approach to

preserving and sharing history about our County. The project is also used by other local history museums across Minnesota. We encourage you to check out the consortium at [MNCollections.org](http://MNCollections.org). New items will be added to our online catalog in the future.

## Surrounded By History Tour of Sibley Park

Thursday, August 25, 6 p.m.



Driving and walking tour around Sibley Park to discover historical spots such as the dam, racetrack, zoo and many other spots where history is in plain sight.

\$10/Adults; \$7/BECHS Members

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

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Blue Earth County  
**120 YEARS**  
 STORIES

The people, places and objects  
 that shaped Blue Earth County

March 4 - September 30, 2022

Blue Earth County History Center  
 424 Warren Street, Mankato

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

507.345.5566



# EVERY OBJECT HAS A STORY...

At the History Center, we showcase objects that tell the stories of Blue Earth County's past and present. These objects are quite diverse, with only about ten percent of the collection on display at any given time. This ensures their long-term care. For our latest exhibit, "Blue Earth County: 120 Years, 120 Stories", we highlight the history of the County and Society, along with social and cultural trends. Here is just a glimpse into a few of those objects and stories now on display.

## Drawing of Hubbard House Dining Room



Watercolor drawing of the R. D. Hubbard House dining room of the created by Linda Nussbaumer in 1992 as part of the Hubbard House Restoration from museum to historic

house. It served as an historical representation of what the Hubbard family's dining room would have looked like in 1905. You will notice many details like the marble top table with the silver tea service and a fern in the corner by the small window, as it is interpreted today. You can see both the inspiration and real thing if you visit the house.

## Stage Curtain

The stage curtain hung in the Butternut Valley Township Hall until 2012 when it was donated to BECHS. The Township Hall hosted not only plays and musical performances, but also political rallies, temperance speeches and served as a polling place. The curtain hung over the stage and greeted township members with advertisements for local businesses which date from the 1940s.



## Highway Sign

The sign was located on Highway 22 between Mankato and Mapleton. This stretch of highway is known as "Victory Drive" because the trees planted along the highway in the



1950s honored of the men and women in the area who served in the Armed Forces. The trees were purchased by friends and family. This sign was donated to BECHS in 2017 when major road construction began on this stretch of highway.

The next time you take a spin through the Hubbard House or History Center, you'll know three more stories about objects on display in this exhibit on display through September. Also, follow us on Facebook for a weekly object story.

## 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 weekends**

606 South Broad Street, Mankato

### SPECIAL EVENT

**RETURN OF THE  
OLD-FASHIONED MEDICINE SHOW  
Saturday, August 27, 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



[BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Hubbard-House](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Hubbard-House)

# RESEARCH & GENEALOGY CENTER

Bri Krumwiede, Archives Assistant  
Research@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

My name is Bri and I am so excited to be joining BECHS as the Archives Assistant.

A little about me. I have my Bachelor of Arts in History from Southwest Minnesota State University and I am finishing my Master of Library and

Information Science online through the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I am originally from Lake Crystal and I am so excited to continually learn more about the history of my home county.

During my first month at BECHS, I have been working with our photograph collection. Today I want to share this photograph of Lake Crystal's Main Street, circa 1915. Street view photographs can show us how much our towns have changed—and how much they've stayed the same.

In this photograph, we can see signs for a



theater, tailor, bakery and other businesses. We can see that Lake Crystal's roads weren't paved yet and people were traveling using horse-drawn carriages and early automobiles.

The businesses and roads in Lake Crystal have

changed over time, but some of the architecture—especially the building on the corner of Prince Street and Main Street—is still recognizable as uniquely Lake Crystal's.

Make an appointment for the Research Center to view more top photographs like this one. Also, available at your fingertips, check out MNDigital.org where a selection of our historic photographs and those around Minnesota are available for viewing with just a click.



## NIGHT AT THE SPEAKEASY

Step back in time to the Roaring 20s, the era of Prohibition, Flappers, and Gangsters at ***A Night at the Speakeasy*** at **Chankaska Creek Ranch & Winery** on **Saturday, October 29**. With its unique historic vibe, the *Speakeasy* is the Blue Earth County Historical Society's signature fundraising event for 2022 and you are invited!

This one-of-a-kind event celebrates the past, present and future of history. The



entertaining evening includes Live Jazz Music, Prohibition-inspired Cocktails, Dinner and Silent Auction with a few mysteries and surprises along the way.

Sponsorship opportunities are now available. BECHS is now collecting items/packages and gift cards for the Silent Auction and Gift Card Grab. All donations and proceeds support the 2023 History Center facility projects. Tickets will be on sale in September.



# BECHS DONORS & SUPPORTERS

April 23 – July 22, 2022

## DONORS

Diane Brekke  
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## IN MEMORIAM

*In Memory of*  
Pastor Dawn Carder  
Penny Banwart

*In Memory of*  
Marcia Miller Dimmel  
Ron Anderson  
Joan Brown  
Norbert and Carole Evers  
Marilyn Lehnert  
Missy Manderfield

*In Memory of*  
Sherry Kraft  
Darrell and Sandi Garlow

*In Memory of*  
Geoff Salter  
Darrell and Sandi Garlow

*In Memory of*  
Alice Salter  
Darrell and Sandi Garlow

*In Memory of*  
Marian Vosburgh  
Byron and Karen McGregor

*Thank  
You!*

## Celebrating 100 Years of LINCOLN SCHOOL



The Blue Earth County Historical Society in partnership with Mankato Community Education and ISD 77 is celebrating 100 years of Mankato's Lincoln School. The school opened for the 1922/23 school year, so now is the perfect time to commemorate 100 years of the building, the people and the memories.

The History Center will host an exhibit opening October 15. Memorabilia is being accepted now to help tell the story of Lincoln—a school, a community center, a theatre, a sports venue, and... We are in search of photographs, school and/or building memorabilia and unique items to share in this public exhibit.

All items must be loaned to BECHS by September 15 to be included in the exhibit. Items will be on loan with BECHS until January 2023. Don't miss this great opportunity to share your Lincoln School story. If you are interested in loaning or donating items, please contact Shelley.

Watch for details coming soon about special tours of Lincoln, new Facebook page to share memories, and more community opportunities to celebrate and share the history of Lincoln School.



**Singing  
of Welsh Hymns**  
*(English and Welsh in 4-part congregational singing)*  
**2022 Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival**  
Sunday, September 25th at 1:30 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church, 220 East Hickory, Mankato MN  
Free Admission and Te Bach (Refreshments) after hymn sing.  
mnwelshassociation.weebly.com  
www.facebook.com/MinnesotaWelshAssociation

# PROGRAMS & EXPERIENCES

Becky C, Programs Manager  
Programs@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

We live in interesting times. This summer everyone is talking about money and staycations. Money matters affect everyone when 1 gallon of milk is \$4.75 and one gallon of car fuel is \$4.79. This year marks the highest inflation since 1981. As a result of inflated prices, people are actively searching for ways to enjoy summer without long road trip vacations.

The word "staycation" feels new. Merriam-Webster added it to their online dictionary in 2009. Thanks largely to social media and the use of hashtags, #staycation

has become everyday language. Staycation is a portmanteau combining stay + vacation. As of mid-July, #staycation has been used in over 8,599,000 Instagram posts. Interestingly, Merriam-Webster editors found a 1944 use of the word in a Cincinnati newspaper. "Take a stay-cation instead of a Va-cation this year." Everything old is new again.

This summer is a great time to discover and rediscover city, county and area state parks. Parks are important community gathering spots and places where memories are made. Each park has its own history too.

When was the last time you visited Bray Park or Duck Lake Park on Madison Lake? Ever seen Minnemishinona Falls on Judson Bottom Road? Have you been out to Williams Nature? Did you know Minneopa State Park was the third State Park ever created in Minnesota? Ever visited Shimek Park near Good Thunder? With Rapidan Dam in the news, it's a great time to see the Dam and visit Rapidan Dam Park. The Blue Earth County Fair is located in a park surrounded in oak trees. Blue Earth County staycation ideas abound when we look at our parks and trails. Mankato city parks includes Riverfront Park, Land of Memories Park and Campground (home to the Mahkato Wacipi September 16-18), Tourtellotte



Lake George boat ramp in Madison Lake

Park and Pool, Highland Park, Ray Erlandson Park, Rasmussen Woods, Sibley Park and Red Jacket Valley Park. Near us but outside Blue Earth County, there are all the North Mankato city parks, Seven Mile Creek Park, Gustavus Adolphus

College Arboretum, Flandreau State Park to the west near New Ulm and Sakatah Trails State Park to the east near Waterville. This summer and fall, collect Park visits as part of your #staycation adventures!

Join us for a special Surrounded By History Tour of Sibley Park on Thursday, August 25 to discover the historical

spots around the park like the location of the Dam, first bandshell, racetrack, old zoo and a few other spots where history is in plain sight.

People need nature. Kids benefit from time in nature. As a society we are now spending more time with screens than with trees. Kids today may be able to excitedly cite all manner of details about Pokemon or Fortnite characters, but they may not be able to identify local trees. "The more high-tech our lives become, the more nature we need," according to Richard Louv author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Kids from Nature Deficit* and *Vitamin N: The Essential Guide to a Nature Rich Life*. "Nature brings our senses alive. Nature can reduce depression and improve psychological well-being."

"We have such a brief opportunity to pass on to our children our love for this Earth, and to tell our stories. These are the moments when the world is made whole," wrote Louv.

It's been a hot and humid summer, so if you are looking for a way to beat the heat, visit the History Center and Hubbard House! We are air conditioned, and we'd love to have you visit to explore local history. Many families and youth groups have sought us out this summer as an educational escape from the heat.



## NEW IN THE DISCOVERY LAB

The Discovery Lab, our hands-on-history room at the History Center is getting a makeover! The new Discovery Lab will feature worksheets for families that are directly tied to Minnesota Social Studies standards. It will also feature history-related games that families are welcome to play together.

A new Genealogy and Family Tree Corner is also growing in the Discovery Lab! It will have family history and family tree worksheets. Some families have been in Minnesota for generations, others are new to



Minnesota. Genealogy makes history immediately relevant to people of all ages.

Also, the Discovery Lab will have new themes featuring selfie station backgrounds each month as a way more families can get excited about history.

- August—Bison
- September —Minnesota's Inventions and Innovations
- October—Harry Potter 25th Anniversary fun featuring a Hogwarts-themed selfie station, a Muggles Artifact Office, and How Magic Became Science information and activities.

If you have gently loved history-related board games or card games you would like to donate to the Discovery Lab, please let us know. We are growing our games collection as we hope the Discovery Lab becomes a family activity destination in Blue Earth County.

## YOUNG HISTORIANS

### *Hands-on History for Kids*

Young Historians is returning this Fall! 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.) Young Historians meets the second Saturday of each month September–May from 10 a.m. to Noon at the History Center.



Beginning in September, join us for Young Historian activities around the themes of (1) Minnesota Inventions and Icons, (2) Bison as part of our American Heritage, (3) Harvesting Wild Colors: Natural fabric dyes and (4) Exploring Cartography "I knew it, I drew it" Map activities. Stay tuned for details coming soon. Sign-up to receive email updates at [Programs@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](mailto:Programs@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com) or follow BECHS on Facebook for updates.

## LOCAL HISTORY PODCAST

*Explore the history that surround us!*



New episodes air Saturdays at 11:05 a.m. on KTOE.

You can find all previous episodes on our website at

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

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BLUE EARTH  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
INSPIRE. ENGAGE. CONNECT.

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August – October 2022

## AUGUST

- 13 **Family Museum Day** History Center, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free museum admission and fun family-friendly interactive history activities throughout the day. Theme: Bison
- 17 **History @ Home: Bison Ambassadors** 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
- 25 **Surrounded by History Tour of Sibley Park**, 6 p.m. \$10/adults, \$7/BECHS Members. *Tickets must be purchased prior to tour.*
- 27 **Medicine Show** Hubbard House, 1-4 p.m. Shows start on the hour with family friendly activities between shows. Free. Guided House tours available.

## SEPTEMBER

- 3 **History Center Closed, Hubbard House Open Happy Labor Day!** Last Weekend Hubbard House Open for the Season.
- 10 **Young Historians: Cartography History Mystery/Escape Room**, History Center, 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 throughout the day. Theme: Minnesota Inventions and Innovations
- 21 **History @ Home: 20 Featured Stories from Blue Earth County 120 Years, 120 Stories** 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
- 29 **Lincoln Park Neighborhood Walking Tour**, 6 p.m. \$10/adults, \$7/BECHS Members. *Tickets must be purchased prior to tour.*

## OCTOBER

- 1 **Deep Valley Book Festival**, WOW! Zone, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., visit [DeepValleyBookFestival.com](http://DeepValleyBookFestival.com) for registration and details.
- 8 **Young Historians: Harvesting Wild Colors**, History Center, 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 throughout the day. Theme: Harry Potter 25th Anniversary How Magic Became Science
- 19 **History @ Home: Closer Look at Lincoln School Exhibit** 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
- 29 **A Night at the Speakeasy**, Chankaska Creek Ranch & Winery, 6 p.m., Ticket sales open September 15—Annual Fundraiser for the Blue Earth County Historical Society

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

# MEMBERS MATTER

YOU help preserve history! Did you know 38% of BECHS's annual operating budget comes from support from people like you through membership dues! You help preserve history for present and future generations.

It is also through your support that we are able to develop fun new programs and expand offerings for individuals and families at the History. If it's been awhile since you've stopped by, come see all that is happening in the Hubbard House, History Center and hands-on history Discovery Lab!

Know someone who loves history as much as you? Gift Memberships are available and make great birthday or anniversary gifts.

Thank you for supporting BECHS with your annual membership.

## 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.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Gift for: \_\_\_\_\_

Include name and address

### 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

***Membership Expiration dates 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)

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# NIGHT AT THE SPEAKEASY

CHANKASKA CREEK RANCH & WINERY

OCTOBER 29, 2022 | 6 PM Social Hour  
7 PM Dinner

Dinner and Drinks  
Live Music  
Silent Auction

Sponsorships Opportunities Available Now  
Individual Tickets and Reserved Tables on sale September 15

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

**EXHIBITS**



**Blue Earth County:  
120 Years, 120 Stories**



**ART GALLERY  
Tombstones of Blue Earth County**

**BECHS**  
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