

# THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORIAN

Winter 2020

A Blue Earth County Historical Society Publication

Vol. XXVI No. 1



Clio Club, c. 1892 Left to right: Mmes. Beattie, Wise, Williams, Rose, H. Smith, Webster, Swan, Willard and Davis

## WOMEN'S CLUB MOVEMENT

### Making Their Own Opportunities

By Morgan O'Hara

The women's club movement began on the East Coast in the 1860s. By 1900, more than a million women were part of clubs across the country. Many of the clubs started as social clubs - a chance to meet and share common interests. But soon, the women saw they could use their clubs as a vehicle to change the world around them. The fact they didn't yet have the right to vote didn't stop these women. Instead, they used their roles as wives and mothers to reform and make changes in their local communities.

Rural Minnesota was a popular place for women's clubs, because women here already had a tradition of helping each other and this movement encouraged them to continue to do so. Mankato, specifically, was home to several women's clubs which made an impact on the community.

The Tourist Club is Mankato's oldest women's club. It started in 1892 with twelve members. As the name would imply, the Tourist Club was started because of an interest in travel as some of the members were sailing to Europe and wanted to study the countries

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## History Center & Museum

424 Warren Street, Mankato, MN  
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Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## R.D. Hubbard House

606 South Broad Street, Mankato  
507-345-4154  
CLOSED for the season

## The Blue Earth County Historian

Winter 2020

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# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Jessica Potter, Executive Director

Happy 2020! A new year, a new decade. There's always something inspiring about a new year, like a clean slate. It's also a great time for new beginnings. 2020 is shaping up to be an exciting series of new beginnings for the Blue Earth County Historical Society and I would love to tell you all about them.

But first, my sincere appreciation to all of you for your financial gifts in 2019. It was a banner year thanks to History Heroes like you! In 2019, we invested in the History Center with the full replacement of our roof. Our History Heroes joined forces to raise over \$40,000 to complete the fundraising drive for this project! Way to go! And in the last couple of months of the year, our History Heroes once again raised over \$40,000 for general operations AND new initiatives. Again, Thank YOU!

What are those new initiatives, you might ask. 2020 marks the third year of our three-year Strategic Plan. So, in late spring/early summer, we will embark on a series of work sessions as we look to the next three years. Watch for details in the Spring *Historian* on how you can help in that process.

One new direction this year will be the addition of a new staff person. We have a small, but mighty, staff of four full-time employees at the History Center. We work hard, but as you can imagine, there is always more we would like to do. The new staff person will be focused on member and donor relations (like special incentives and appreciation events), special events (like our annual spring gala – mark your calendar for Saturday, April 25) and fundraising. This is an important addition as we look toward future building projects and expansion of our current facility (more on that later, I promise). This is a very exciting time for the Historical Society, our staff, Board and you, our dedicated members and donors. The future of history is in our hands!

I have another new beginning to share. In partnership with Radio Mankato, we have started a weekly podcast called "Surrounded By History." The podcast explores the history all around us in plain sight. You can hear the podcast weekly at 1:05 p.m. on KTOE 1420 AM or you can download it from our



The first BECHS podcast featured the 1920 Mankato Winter Carnival, including this ice castle.

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## WOMEN'S CLUB Continued from page 1

they planned to visit. The Club also discussed current issues such as editorials, international affairs and morality in fiction.



Tourist Club, 1892

The Clio Club was founded just two years after the Tourist Club, in 1894. It was formed so its members could study literature and history. Two years later, two more clubs formed, the Zetetic Club, which also studied literature, and the Art History Club. The last of Mankato's longstanding clubs was The Woman's Club of Mankato, founded in November 1913.

The women's club movement in Mankato took on a similar pattern as the movement did across the country. The clubs began as individual study clubs and evolved into community aid-based clubs. While each club had their own area of interest, they also had a tradition of helping each other in the interest of civic betterment. The clubs would create committees composed of members representing different clubs to support projects within Mankato. The projects and campaigns the clubwomen participated in were successful, allowing women to be active community members and make a difference.

Establishing a ladies' lounge was one of the largest projects the clubs completed. The lounge was known as the Ladies' Rest Room and all the women's clubs were interested in the success of the project. The clubs created a committee composed of one member from each club to work together. The women lobbied the business community and City Council. The

women worked together to not only open the Rest Room but also continued to work together to keep it running.

The Rest Room was started because the clubwomen of Mankato wanted a place for women to converse with one another, promoting culture and uplifting women. The lounge was used by farmer's wives when they came into town or by out-of-town guests who enjoyed relaxing in the space. Later, it hosted maids and young women from the Commercial College.

The Rest Room opened on March 8, 1911. It was successful from the beginning, receiving 133 women representing twenty-eight towns in just one day. It was located at 118 Hickory Street in downtown Mankato and the rent was paid by the Mankato City Council. Members of the various women's clubs in Mankato took shifts, acting as matrons in the lounge. The Clio Club, Art History Club and Zetetic Club all made donations to the lounge. From magazines and furniture to monetary donations, everyone pitched in to make sure the Rest Room was a success. It took the women's clubs coming together to make this project possible, something the clubwomen were able to contribute to the betterment of Mankato.

Pure food and milk were another popular campaign for women's clubs. In 1911, the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs collaborated with the Board of Health to publish the *Report on a Campaign to Awaken Public Interest in Sanitary and Sociologic Problems in the State of Minnesota*. This report was published with the intention of inspiring pure food and milk practices in Minnesota and contained information on the conditions and practices regarding sanitation. The findings in Mankato astounded the women of the city.

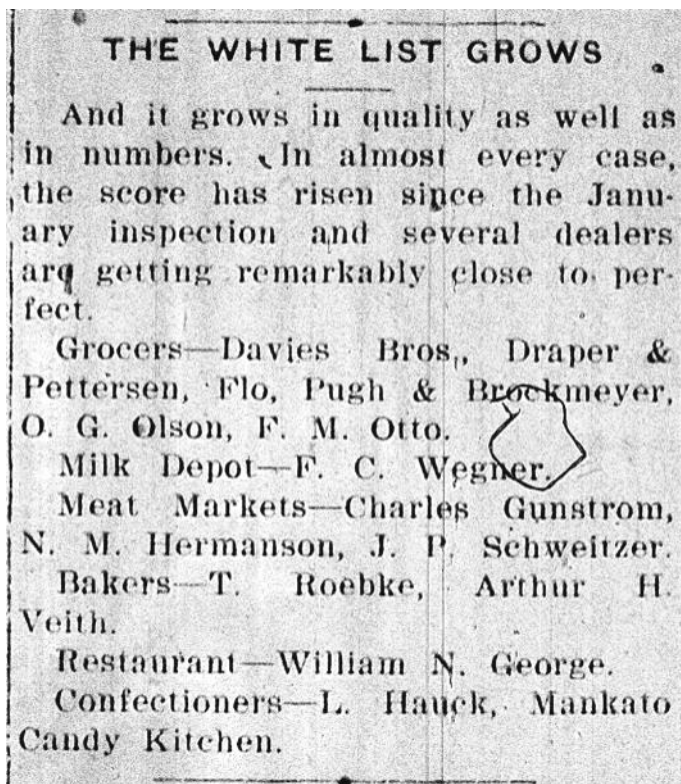
The report found several things wrong with the pure milk practices in Mankato. The Milk Ordinance was not being enforced. Cows in Mankato dairy farms weren't being tested for tuberculosis. Cans and bottles used on the farms weren't washed before being reused.

Pure food practices in Mankato were not any better. According to the report, several popular candy shops and bakeries in Mankato didn't

meet basic sanitation standards. The report also concluded Mankato had the worst markets and food factories in the state.

With all the improvements Mankato needed regarding pure food and milk practices, the report made several suggestions. The report's author Caroline Bartlett Crane encouraged the women of Mankato to do their own inspections of food establishments. She contended women had more time to do the inspections than the Board of Health and would be able to do them more frequently. She also wrote that women have "the needed influence arising from their patronage, to keep these establishments up to the proper standards."

The clubwomen of Mankato met the calls for reform head on. They launched a campaign called "Pure Milk" or "Swat the Fly." As part of the campaign, the women created the White List. This White List was published weekly in the *Mankato Free Press* to make citizens aware of clean places to shop. The club members went into the food establishments and scored them using a standardized scorecard. Along with these inspections and creating the White List, the clubwomen also paid for the list's publishing.



The White List, published in the *Mankato Free Press*, March 9, 1911

At first many of the retailers and business owners in Mankato didn't take the White List seriously. But consumers started to pay attention to the list, and businesses realized it would be to their best interest to improve their sanitary practices and have their names included – a true indication of the campaign's success. When Mankato hosted the annual meeting of the women's club state federation, it was exclaimed, "There are no flies in Kato!"

In 1916 the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the Children's Bureau created Baby Week where participating clubs raised awareness for the proper care of babies. Clubwomen across the country were called to action and were specifically encouraged to reach out to young mothers who may not possess the skills or knowledge the more mature mothers had. The women also promoted proper sanitation in health facilities and encouraged birth registration.

Nationally, 2,000 clubs participated in this movement. Locally, Baby Week was an active interest of the Art History Club, although several clubs worked together to promote Baby Week.

Baby Week began on March 4, 1916 and promised to be an exciting event throughout Mankato. Retailers got involved, creating displays of toys, baby clothes, bottles, and other items babies needed. Religious leaders devoted part of their services to promote Baby Week to their congregations. The Public Library drew attention to the books and pamphlets it had on the proper care of babies. The clubs invited a nurse to give a lecture on the proper care of babies and one of the school principals



Baby Week helped raise awareness of proper childcare. Jane Ellis Jenkins and children, 1922.

hosted a Mother's Meeting, inviting all Mankato mothers to attend. Baby Week resulted in establishing birth registration, which was inspired by Mrs. Brandrup, a former doctor. This week was successful thanks to the work of the clubwomen and the community.

Not every project the clubs worked on was an immediate success. For example, in 1915 and again in 1917, the Zetetic Club and Clio Clubs encouraged Mankato to establish a playground, but their suggestions had trouble gaining attention. The women's clubs were naturally concerned about the young girls of Mankato. As early as 1910, discussion began about forming a Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). However, the clubs weren't able to initiate quick action. In fact, Mankato's YWCA didn't open until 1926.

Despite setbacks or barriers these women faced, it is amazing what a few dedicated groups of women could do. They might have first organized under the veil of studying history, art, travel or literature, but the women's club movement was so much more. Women, deprived of a place in the political sphere, carved out their own space in politics and made



Some of the women's club's records and memorabilia from BECHS Archives are currently on display at the History Center as part of the exhibit, *A Century of Civic Engagement. League of Women Voters Minnesota*.

a difference. They used their roles as wives and mothers to step out of the home and make a difference in their communities. When these women weren't given the opportunity to make a difference, they made the opportunity.

Women's clubs weren't just in Mankato. In fact, there was a Blue Earth County Federation of Women's Clubs. They held their first meeting in Lake Crystal on April 27, 1923. The federation was dedicated to such causes as the Red Cross, welfare work, selling county Christmas seals, conservation of trees and wild life, and "cancer control."

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Riley, Glenda, "In or Out of the Historical Kitchen? Interpretations of Minnesota Rural Women," *Minnesota History*, Summer 1990.

Various articles from the *Mankato Free Press*

Various records from Blue Earth County Historical Society archives including Art History Club, Clio Club and Zetetic Club records.

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#### Director

Continued from page 2

website, at [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/podcast](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/podcast). This is a great opportunity to promote and share stories of our rich heritage. Thanks in advance for listening!

And I have exciting opportunities for you too. Join us this year for some great new programs and events like our new History Happy Hour held on the last Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. – one hour before the History Center opens to the general public. Join us for special staff guided tours behind closed doors. Check out page 6 for more information. Also this year, the History Center will welcome three major exhibits centered on women's suffrage, the great outdoors and *We Are Water*, a statewide traveling exhibit. It's going to be a fun, entertaining and exciting year ahead and as our partners you will have front row seats to all the action. Thank YOU and cheers to a healthy and prosperous 2020!

# BECHS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

## Remember When Coffee Club

First Tuesday, 10 a.m., History Center

Love history? Love to swap stories of the good old days?

Looking for a place to connect with other history enthusiasts?

**Come to the History Center for the**

***Remember When Coffee Club.*** There is no formal program, just a conversation topic to get the group started. Coffee and light refreshments are provided. Free.



### Upcoming Topics

**February 4** - Running Away from Home

**March 3** - Stories About Birds

**April 7** - Favorite Neighbor

## Talking Ancestors Genealogy Group

First Saturday, 10 a.m., History Center



Genealogy is a great hobby, but sometimes it helps to talk with others and share successes, tips or brick walls. **Come to the History**

**Center for Talking Ancestors.** There is no formal program, just general topics. Free.

### Upcoming Topics

**February 1** - Documenting: Leaving Clues and Giving Credit

**March 7** - Handwriting: The Writing is on the Wall and I Don't Know How to Read it

**April 4** - Naming Conventions: They Call Her Toots. What's Her Real Name?

## Young Historians

Second Saturday, September – May  
10 a.m.-Noon, History Center

*Young Historians* is a free, monthly, hands-on history workshop for school-age children. This year's theme is

"The Story of U.S." Young Historians will explore the founding of the United States

traveling through history to present day. This program is geared toward first through sixth grade, but all school-aged children are welcome. Free.



### Upcoming Topics

**February 8** - 1940s

**March 14** - 1950s-1960s

**April 11** - 1970s-1990s

## History Happy Hour \*NEW\*

Last Saturday, 9 a.m., History Center

Join BECHS staff for behind the scenes guided tours of the History Center or Hubbard House one whole hour before the buildings open to the general public. This is a special opportunity to walk along with a staff person and see that space through their eyes.

**Admission:** \$10 Adult BECHS Members, \$15 Adult non-members, \$5 for Kids 5-18, Free Kids under 5.

### Upcoming Special Tours

**February 29** - History Center Museum with Curator/Archivist Shelley Harrison

**March 28** - A Closer Look at the Exhibit: *A Century of Civic Engagement* with Curator/Archivist Shelley Harrison

**April 25** - Research Center with Archives Manager Heather Harren



## Historic R.D. Hubbard House

*Where 1900s History Comes to Life*

A heartfelt **thank you!** to everyone who made the Hubbard House come alive this past year. From our tour guides to costumed characters to everyone who took a tour or attended an event.

We know the house itself is beautiful and full of history, but is it seeing people like YOU enjoying the house and grounds that really brings history to life.



The lively antics of *Christmas at the Hubbard House*. Did you solve this year's history mystery?

If you would like to be a part on bringing this history to life, contact BECHS about volunteering at the Hubbard House. Volunteers lead and assist tours, dress in costumes for special events or help to plan events. You are also invited to attend the **Annual Volunteer Meeting, Tuesday, April 14 at 3 p.m. at the History Center.**

The R.D. Hubbard House is open for tours May through September and for special events. Visit our website for details.



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

### BECHS WISH LIST

A few things BECHS could use—new or used or funds to purchase.

- Laptop, Windows 10, new preferred
- Flat screen TV 50" - 60" with USB port
- Speakers with micro SD slot
- Fiberglass step ladder, 6-8 feet tall

# VOLUNTEERS MAKE HISTORY

## Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for something new to do? Consider volunteering with BECHS! There are many ways you can get involved; below are just a few. Call or visit the History Center to learn more or to get started, sign-up online at [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/volunteer](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/volunteer)

- **History Writers** to research and write articles on local history. Resources are available in the Research Center and topics are often left open to the writer.
- **Archives Processor** to catalog and number items such as photographs. Must have small, precise handwriting. While the hours are flexible, BECHS asks you commit to a minimum of 2 hours a week, for at least six months.
- **Rental Hosts** to assist meeting room evening and weekend rentals, stay on-site during the event and lock-up when done. Schedule varies.
- **Visitor Services Attendant** to tend the front reception desk, greeting visitors and answering general questions. Training is provided.
- **Tour Guides** to assist with group tours at the Hubbard House and History Center. Training is provide. Schedule varies.

## Mark your calendar!

**Annual Volunteer Meeting**  
Tuesday, April 14, 3 p.m.  
History Center

All volunteers, new and returning, who are interested in leading or assisting with tours at the History Center or Hubbard House are strongly encouraged to attend.

**Annual Volunteer Appreciation**  
Afternoon Tea  
Tuesday, April 14, 4 p.m.

# COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

Shelley Harrison, Curator/Archivist

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is thrilled to announce our latest exhibit, *A Century of Civic Engagement: League of Woman Voters Minnesota*. The League of Women Voters (LWV) is celebrating its 100th year! BECHS and the LWV St. Peter (which includes members from Blue Earth County) has joined together to commemorate the centennial of Women's Suffrage and celebrate the women who paved the long and arduous road.

*A Century of Civic Engagement: League of Woman Voters Minnesota* tells the story of women and voting in Minnesota. The 1860s was when women began petitioning the State legislature for the right to vote. There was some success in 1875 when women could vote in school elections. In 1919, Minnesota women were given the right to vote in presidential elections and on September 8, Minnesota became the fifteenth state to ratify the 19th Amendment. The exhibit continues on to include the 1960s Civil Rights Movement as well as current issues, making this exhibit about much more than just gaining access to the voting booth.

This exhibit also includes some of BECHS' artifacts including a selection of historic clothing that show how women's fashions have adapted to reflect her changing place in society. Just consider how fashion impacted women's struggle as they gained the right to vote and what fashion continues to mean for women's rights today.

The exhibit also showcases some amazing women of Blue Earth County and their contributions to history, such as, Mary Trafton—president of the Blue Earth County Suffragette Association; Charlotte Farrish—first female lawyer in Mankato and one of the first presidents of Mankato Chapter of League of



Women Voters in the 1930s; and Arline Brown—first Mankato City Councilwoman and a member of the League of Women Voters.

The exhibit celebrates a century of women's social and political activism and also highlights the efforts and impact of Blue Earth County women who led the way and

brought about positive change in our communities. The exhibit runs now through March 28, 2020.

Be sure to check our calendar of events for programs in collaboration with the LWV exploring this historic amendment and its lasting relevance including a Census program on February 15, a book talk with author Dr. Lori Lahlum on March 28 and the Annual Meeting with guest speaker Najwa Massad. See page 14 for more information.

## A CENTURY OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT *League of Women Voters Minnesota*

Through March 28, 2020  
Blue Earth County History Center  
424 Warren Street, Mankato  
FREE

Visit this vibrant exhibit that features Minnesota's suffrage story, highlighting the women who made it happen – and who continue to lead to make democracy work for all through the League of Women Voters.

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



# EVERY OBJECT HAS A STORY...

At the Blue Earth County Historical Society, we showcase objects that tell the stories of Blue Earth County's past. These objects are quite diverse, with only about ten percent of the collection on display at any given time. Here is a glimpse at some artifacts from the 1920 Mankato Winter Carnival, currently on display at the History Center.

## Pennant, 1920

This yellow souvenir pennant from the 1920 Mankato Winter Carnival has the logo and the dates from that first winter celebration, 100 years ago. "Mankato Winter Carnival. Jan. 19-24, 1920" with a female skier swooshing down the hill.



## Brett's Patch, 1920

The patch appeared on the Geo. E. Brett's Department Store Booster Club suits. These "natty carnival suits" were worn by store employees working to plan and spread the word of the carnival. This was the first booster club formed. Many other businesses did the same.



## Black Seal Fur Coat, c. 1920

The seal fur coat is trimmed with a band of tan mink fur around collar. It was worn by Sophia Wingen Schoffman of McPherson Township.



## Winter Cap, 1900s

The black sheared beaver fur cap with visor and side earflaps was worn by Daniel Williams of South Bend Township when hauling wood to sell to customers throughout the county.



Come in from the cold and take a spin through the History Center to learn a little more about the 1920 Mankato Winter Carnival.

## HISTORY CENTER ART GALLERY HERE!

By Jane Horton  
through March 31, 2020

A weathered barn, two mid-century homes, the four seasons of the year. These are just a few of the subjects Horton has chosen for her exhibit, *HERE!* The works present scenes, structures and memories of Blue Earth County with an eye to its complex history. As an artist, Horton doesn't limit herself to one medium or style. For example, she has woven pieces of paper, ribbons, corn husks, and natural grasses onto a grid to interpret the four seasons, specifically with regard to Blue Earth County.

Of particular interest to her is the subject for *Old Church Missing Its Steeple*. This structure is on 4th Street in Mankato, now a residence was originally the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church. A historic photo at the History Center is all that remains of the steeple.

This is made possible by an Artist Grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council with funds provided by the McKnight Foundation.



*Old Church Missing Its Steeple*

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October - December 2019

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Helen Jones  
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## In-Kind

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Jo Schultz  
Jody Swanson

\*\*Booster Level  
Members and higher.

# “\$60K IN 60 DAYS” UPDATE

BLUE EARTH COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**\$60K  
IN 60  
DAYS**

BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

BECHS supporters make history possible! You safeguard our 20,000+ collection items; you provide inspiration with hands-on history activities, and you help celebrate and remember thousands of local stories. **You are a History Hero!**

\$60K in 60 Days, the campaign that ran November and December 2019, has come to an end. **BECHS supporters generously gave \$41,323.** Thank you! While we didn't reach the full \$60K, the gifts received do fully cover our 2019 expenses, plus provide some of the funds needed for a new staff member focused on the future of history. (For more on this, see the Director's Notes on page 2.) Imagine the stories we could share with an updated and modern History Center! **Thank you** for investing in the future of history.



**Together, we preserve, provide and share the ONE place to discover the rich heritage of Blue Earth County.**

## In Memoriam & Tribute

*In Memory of Marilyn Hiniker*  
Randy Zellmer

*In Memory of Jerry Schmidt*  
Maurine Johnson

*In Memory of Esther Zellmer*  
Michael Frederick  
Norbert and Lynette Smith

*In Honor of Ellis Jones*  
Bob and Judy Douglas

Thank you for memorial and tribute gifts to the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

# YOUR IMPACT

BLUE EARTH  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



**\$25**

Specialty Victorian Era appropriate bulbs to light the Hubbard House

**\$100**

Refreshments for guests at the annual *Christmas at the Hubbard House*

**\$175**

Host ONE Elementary School Field Trip at the History Center

**\$250**

ONE MONTH of Young Historians Programming: Hands-on History Workshops for Kids



**\$500**

Archival supplies that protect Blue Earth County's historical treasures

**\$767**

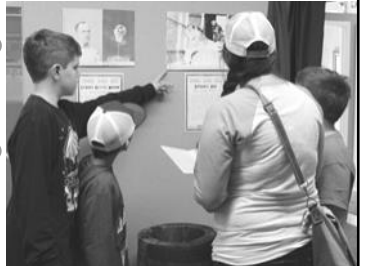
Covers the cost of having the History Center open for ONE DAY

**\$1,000**

Construct new History Center exhibits

**\$2,000**

Heat and Electricity at the History Center for ONE MONTH



**\$3,000**

Production and mailing of *The Historian* quarterly newsletter for ONE YEAR

**\$5,000**

Having the Research Center open and available to researchers for ONE YEAR



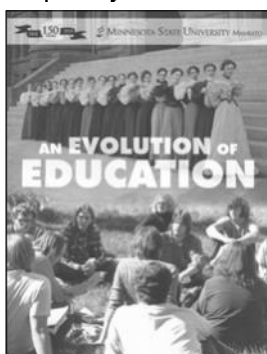
**THE FUTURE OF HISTORY  
IS IN YOUR HANDS**

To support the Blue Earth County Historical Society, please visit [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/DONATE](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/DONATE) or call 507.345.5566

# GIFT SHOP & ART GALLERY

Danelle Erickson, Operations Manager

With the arrival of the newest exhibit at the History Center, *A Century of Civic Engagement*, the Gift Shop is excited to add some fun new items. "Votes for Women" mugs, bracelets and mirrored compacts are now available! Show your appreciation for the courageous women who fought for voter equality. \$8.95-\$19.95.



Also new on our shelves is *An Evolution of Education*, published by the Free Press. The pages are full of great historic photographs covering the 150-year history of the Minnesota State University, Mankato. \$6.95.

Fans of Maud Hart Lovelace will be excited to learn *The Tune is in the Tree* is now available. The book was first published in 1950 and for many years was out of print.

Thanks to the local Minnesota Heritage Publishing, this delightful book is available in a limited-edition reprint. When young Annie Jo finds herself home alone, the neighboring birds take it upon themselves to come to her aid. With a little bit of magic, Annie Jo becomes the size of bird, grows wings and explores with her new flying friends. \$15.00



## DID YOU KNOW?

BECHS has an online store! So even if you aren't able to visit the History Center Gift Shop in person, there are many books to choose from online. Visit [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Shop](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Shop)

Marian Anderson  
Fine Art Prints



Whether you like snow or not, most will agree there is something beautiful in the *Winter Solitude*.

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

Marian Anderson Fine Art Prints are available at the History Center and online. All sales benefit BECHS.

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

BLUE EARTH HISTORICAL  
COUNTY SOCIETY

## 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Location, Date and Time  
to Be Determined

State-of-the-Society  
Member's Business Meeting

followed by

Special Guest  
Najwa Massad

BECHS Members, watch your mailbox for a postcard announcing further details.

# RESEARCH & GENEALOGY CENTER

Heather Harren, Communication & Archives Manager

Happy New Year! May your 2020s be as Roaring as the 1920s were!

Often this column focuses on the resources available only in the Research Center, but what if BECHS's resources could come to you? In a way, we can! BECHS has a Speakers Bureau that brings presentations about local history into our communities. Presentations on a variety of topics are researched using the resources from the Research Center. Each Speakers Bureau comes with a PowerPoint presentation of images and a presenter who is knowledgeable about the topic. Each talk is 45 minutes to an hour long, plus time for the audience to ask questions or share their own stories.

Topics range from general history of Blue Earth County to specific topics such as the Spanish Influenza or Union School in Mankato. A full list of topics is available upon request. If you are looking for a specific topic, we can discuss creating a new program, especially if the topic is Blue Earth County related.

And while I thoroughly enjoy giving these presentations, BECHS is always looking for volunteers to join our Speakers Bureau. We can provide training if you would like to present one of our already established presentations, or help you research and format a new topic you can present for BECHS.

Speakers Bureaus are great for any number of groups - from businesses to club meetings; assistant living centers to church groups. Please get in touch if you have questions or would like to schedule a Speakers Bureau for your next gathering.

## Speakers Bureau

- \$50 for existing topics, scheduled during regular business hours
- \$100 for new presentation topics or speakers bureaus scheduled outside of regular hours

Also available are walking tours or hop-on bus tours. Schedule is flexible. Contact Heather at [Research@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](mailto:Research@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com)

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR LOCAL MEDIA PARTNERS

Check out **The Free Press** for updates including Sunday's *Glimpses of the Past*

Watch **KEYC News 12** at Noon the first Thursday for *Throwback Thursday* and at 6:30 a.m. the third Tuesday for *History-To-Go*

Listen to **KTOE 1420 AM** *Talk of the Town* with Lisa Kaye the 4th Thursday at 1 p.m.

Don't miss the **NEW** weekly *Surrounded By History Podcast* with KTOE. New episodes every Monday! Past episodes available at [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/podcast](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/podcast)

Stay tuned for BECHS on KEYC's new NBC affiliate evening news. Info to come.

## Book Your Next Meeting, Special Event or 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.

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February – April 2020

## FEBRUARY

- 1 Talking Ancestors Genealogy Group, Documenting: Leaving Clues and Giving Credit, 11 a.m., History Center, Free
- 4 Remember When Coffee Club: Running Away from Home, 10 a.m., History Center, Free
- 8 Young Historians: 1940s 10 a.m.-noon, History Center, Free
- 15 Making Sense and Cents of the Census, Brown Bag Lunch, Noon, History Center, Free/ BECHS Member, \$7/Adult
- 29 History Happy Hour: History Center Museum, 9 a.m., History Center, \$10/BECHS Member, \$15/Adult, \$5/Child, Please RSVP to 507-345-5566

## MARCH

- TBA BECHS Annual Meeting—details to follow
- 3 Remember When Coffee Club: Stories About Birds, 10 a.m., History Center, Free
- 7 Talking Ancestors Genealogy Group, Handwriting: The Writing is on the Wall and I Don't Know How to Read it, 11 a.m., History Center, Free.
- 14 Young Historians: 1950-1960s 10 a.m.-noon, History Center, Free
- 28 History Happy Hour: A Closer Look at the Exhibit: A Century of Civic Engagement 9 a.m., History Center, \$10/BECHS Member, \$15/Adult, \$5/Child, Please RSVP to 507-345-5566
- 28 Women's History Program: Dr. Lori Lahlum, author of *Equality at the Ballot Box: Votes for Women on the Northern Great Plains*, Brown Bag Lunch, Noon, History Center, Free/ BECHS Member, \$7/Adult
- 28 *A Century of Civic Engagement: League of Woman Voters Minnesota*, Traveling Exhibit Closes, History Center, Free

## APRIL

- 4 Talking Ancestors Genealogy Group, Naming Conventions: They Call Her Toots. What's Her Real Name?, 11 a.m. History Center, Free
- 7 Remember When Coffee Club: Favorite Neighbor, 10 a.m., History Center, Free
- 11 Young Historians: 1970-1990s, 10 a.m.-noon, History Center, Free
- 14 Annual Volunteer Training, 3 p.m., History Center
- 14 Annual Volunteer Appreciation: Afternoon Tea, 4 p.m., History Center
- 25 History Happy Hour: Research Center 9 a.m., History Center, \$10/BECHS Member, \$15/Adult, \$5/Child, Please RSVP to 507-345-5566
- 25 A Night at the Speakeasy, 6 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott , Mankato. Tickets on sale March 1.

### Three easy ways to stay up-to-date:

- Sign-up for our free monthly e-news to receive updates between *Historian* issues at [www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Newsletter](http://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Newsletter)
- Check out [www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](http://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com) for full event details and updates!
  - Follow BECHS on Facebook and Instagram

# MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

As BECHS works to share more history with new programs and exhibits and continues to preserve the ever-growing archives, expenses also increase. As we continue bringing history to you, there will be a change to BECHS annual membership levels in 2020. A small increase to your member dues, when added to that of your fellow members, will be a boost for history!

These new rates will go into effect on April 1, 2020. **As a BECHS supporter and *Historian* reader, we want to give you the chance to join or renew your membership before this change occurs.** Use the form below or visit [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Membership](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Membership) to

pay online. If you have an active membership, renewing today will extend it for 12 months. You won't lose any weeks or months by renewing early. Check out your expiration date on your mailing label.

**Membership with BECHS is a "win-win"!** You receive great benefits, including FREE admission to the History Center and Hubbard House, a subscription to *The Historian*, gift shop discounts and more. PLUS, your member dues support history by providing resources needed to share and preserve history.

**THANK YOU!**



## BECHS Annual Membership

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Include name and address

### Membership Levels

Individual Senior (62+) \$35 \$30  
 Individual \$40 \$35  
 Senior Household (new) \$55 \$50  
 Household \$65 \$50

***New Pricing and New Donor Circle Opportunity will go into effect on April 1, 2020.***

***Renew today!***

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)

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

**A NIGHT AT THE SPEAKEASY**

**APRIL 25, 2020**  
**COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT, MANKATO**

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

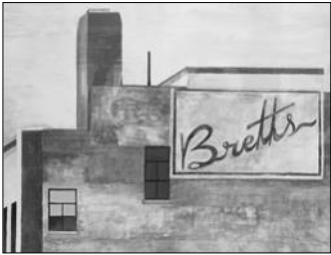
**EXHIBITS**

**A Century of Civic Engagement:**  
 League of Women Voters Minnesota  
*through March 28*

**Blue Earth County: The Great Outdoors**  
*opens April 2020*

**ART GALLERY**

**HERE!**  
 By Jane Horton *through March 31*



*Brett's*

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Membership  
 Expiration Date**