

THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORIAN

Spring 2021

A Blue Earth County Historical Society Publication

Vol. XXVII No. 2



Surrounded By History: A Trio of Parks

By BECHS Staff

Public parks come in all shapes and sizes, and those in Mankato are no different. Some parks are simply a green space like Blue Earth Park in West Mankato. Others parks, such as Sibley Park or Hiniker Pond, include a variety of activities and amenities.

Three of Mankato's parks, Lincoln, Washington and Tourtellotte, have a couple of things in common. First, is location, with Broad Street starting at Lincoln Park on the south end and ending with Tourtellotte Park on the north, with Washington Park halfway between the two, although one block to the east. Secondly, each park is home to one of Mankato's 18 heritage plaques. Although each plaque gives some history, there's much more to learn about these three parks.

Lincoln Park

While we may have dozens of parks to choose from today, this wasn't always the case. One of the earliest parks in Mankato was Lincoln Park. An 1885 article in the *Mankato Free Press* called attention to the need for a public park, saying a park was "the one thing sadly needed for the beautifying of our city, and for the

Mankato's Lincoln Park with its giant elm tree and The Boy in Blue statue.

What's Inside

- 2 Director's Notes
- 7 Gift Shop
- 9 Every Object Has a Story
- 10 Research Center
- 12 Hubbard House
- 13 Donors and Members
- 14 Calendar of Events
- 15 Membership

Continued on page 3



THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORIAN

Board of Trustees

Chair, Steve Jameson, Mankato
Vice Chair, Nikolas Proehl, Mankato
Treasurer, Kevin Allen, Madison Lake
Secretary, Kirby Hurd, Mankato

JO Guck Bailey, Mankato
Rhonda Dass, North Mankato
Gayle Elston, Mankato
Kristin Fisher, Mankato
Katherine Hughes, North Mankato
Erin Kragh, Mankato
Kelly McBride, Mankato
Mary Teubner, Amboy
Ken White, Skyline
Ken Wilmes, Mankato
Lisa Wolf, Mankato

Staff

Jessica Potter, Executive Director
Director@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com
Danelle Erickson, Operations Manager
Museum@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com
Heather Harren, Communication & Archives
Research@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com
Shelley Harrison, Curator/Archivist
Archivist@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

History Center & Museum

424 Warren Street, Mankato, MN
507-345-5566
Tuesday—Saturday 10 am-4 pm
Research Center By Appointment

R.D. Hubbard House

606 South Broad Street, Mankato
507-345-4154
Memorial Day-Labor Day
Pending COVID Restrictions



Facebook.com/BECHShistory



@BECHShistory (Instagram)



BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

The Blue Earth County Historian

Spring 2021

The Blue Earth County Historian is published quarterly for the members of the Blue Earth County Historical Society. Copyright © 2021 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

Crazy to think where we were just one year ago and how far we've come. We've been happy to welcome many of you back in the building!

Just like many of you, BECHS is already planning for a popular summer activity. No, it doesn't include a vacation or trips to the lake—it's road construction! Warren Street will be under construction this summer, which makes this the perfect time for BECHS to make some much needed improvements to our Warren Street parking lot which will be a great addition to the History Center and the community. Watch for details and ways you can support this project.

We've also embarked on another project in the History Center. During the pandemic, we discovered some deficiencies with our technology systems, so this year we are adding and upgrading aspects like new staff computers, a building-wide wireless network, and better security and digital storage. As a staff member with a super slow computer, I'm over the moon for a new machine. If you love tech, check out our "Tech for BECHS" campaign (page 11) to raise \$10,000 by May 31. We are excited to announce a \$1,500 matching gift. Double your impact and donate today!



This summer BECHS will also embark on a process to update our Strategic Plan—our road map to the future. We will need your help crafting this document, so watch for emails, surveys or phone calls as we gather your thoughts and feedback. Thank you in advance!

Check out the calendar of events for a fun summer of virtual and in-person opportunities to experience history. As long as COVID continues to decline, we anticipate opening the Hubbard House this summer, with tours needing to be booked in advance. Watch our website and Facebook for updates.

One update from last issue, you may have noticed an announcement for an event called *Battle of the Brains Virtual Trivia*. Due to the pandemic, we decided to reschedule that event for January/February 2022. Watch for information as it is released. But for now, put a note on your calendar for our next *A Night at the Speakeasy* coming in October 2021!

PARKS Continued from page 1

outdoor enjoyment of our citizens. It is something that every city has, and a feature looked after even by the smaller villages. It provides a place where public meetings can be held; where bands can go on a summer's evening and make glad the hearts of thousands whose day's labors have left them weary; where lovers may woo and coo to their heart's content—in fine where one may pass a pleasant hour at his own sweet will, and feel that he is trespassing not upon the rights of anyone."



Lincoln Park is a triangular plot of land, surrounded by Broad, Lincoln and Grove Streets. Today the park features picnic areas and a beautiful water fountain dedicated to local Civil War soldiers. Also, at the park you will spot a green heritage plaque.

This public green space is named after President Abraham Lincoln. The desire to honor the memory of Mankato's Civil War dead prompted a citizen's committee headed by John Ray to purchase the triangular parcel of land which was dominated by a massive elm tree known by locals as the Lincoln Elm. On

September 1, 1886, Trustees to Lincoln Park turned over the deed to the City of Mankato. The Alexander Wilkin Post of the Grand Army of the Republic erected a bronze monument of a Civil War soldier standing guard. The monument and fountain were dedicated on Memorial Day 1893. The soldier's monument was referred to as The Boy in Blue. Thirty years had passed since the Civil War had torn the nation



Three members of the Selle family in front of The Boy in Blue, 1904. Courtesy of the Selle-Ulateig families.

apart. Mankato's efforts to memorialize its fallen heroes was part of a national effort to build monuments and hold commemorative encampments on Civil War battlefields. A 3,000 pound mortar gun was later added to the park.

A notable incident occurred at the park on July 4, 1909. Several young men schemed a plan for an explosive Fourth of July by setting off the mortar gun in Lincoln Park. The boys stole blasting powder and a four-foot fuse from the Carney cement works. They spent 2-3 nights hand-drilling the fuse hole that had been cemented closed. One of the boys drilled while the rest of them stood guard making sure no one stumbled upon their work. Then on July 3 the boys loaded the mortar gun with the blasting powder. When midnight came they lit the fuse and ran off into the night. The blast broke 324 windows in the neighborhood and could be heard for several miles around. The gun lifted and deposited on the grass 17 feet from its original position. No injuries were reported, but the boys spent the summer working to repay the damages.

Over the years, the bronze statue and fountain and the mortar gun were all removed for scrap or due to disrepair. In 2015, a new Boy in Blue monument was erected based on the original. In addition, brick pavers with the names of Civil War soldiers now circle the base.

Lincoln Park anchors a neighborhood that shares its namesake. In the early development of Mankato, the Lincoln Park neighborhood was where the upper class built their homes. They spared no expense when constructing their elaborate custom, hand-crafted



Lincoln Park mortar gun

houses. They built in a variety of styles, the most popular being Queen Anne, French Second Empire, Colonial Revival and Craftsman. This area, built mainly between 1856 and 1930, is one of the largest neighborhoods to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Most buildings remain either intact or only slightly altered from their original design. Of the neighborhood's 224 properties, 177 structures including houses, garages and carriage houses are designated as historic places on the national register.

The residents of this neighborhood were just as impressive as their houses. Prior to 1930, this neighborhood was home to many captains of industry, merchants, attorneys, mayors, an inventor, one of the first female doctors in Mankato and is the setting of the famous children's literature *Betsy-Tacy* series by Maud Hart Lovelace.

Washington Park

Washington Park is located on Fourth Street between Mulberry and Washington Streets in downtown Mankato. Washington Park is laid out as a traditional town square style park with sidewalks that crisscross to the meet in the center. Today the park features picnic areas, a playground, and a



Washington Park with Immanuel Lutheran Hospital seen just over the trees on the left side of this postcard.

beautiful new unity totem designed by local artist Julie Dempster with the word "Welcome" inscribed in the majority of the 40+ languages spoken in Mankato today.

It might surprise you to learn this park's green heritage plaque sits on the location of an old railroad depot and the park itself was once part of the railroad.

During the summer of 1868, the Minnesota Valley Railway Company contracted more than 500 people to grade and lay ties and tracks from Kasota to Mankato, reaching Mankato on October 3, 1868.

The railroad occupied the Fourth Street right-of-way from Madison Avenue to Mulberry Street. A timber-framed depot was the showcase on this route. Directly north of the depot, across Washington Street, was a freight house, a four-stall brick engine house, turntables, and a nearby stockyard. Also here was a branch line of the Mankato Streetcar Railway Company which provided horse-drawn transportation between the depot and downtown Mankato.

A notable event happened on January 13, 1885. Schuyler Colfax, former Speaker of the House of Representatives and 1868 U.S. Vice President under Ulysses S. Grant, was travelling to Iowa from Wisconsin and had to change trains and depots in Mankato, Minnesota. After arriving at the depot at the foot of Hickory Street, Colfax had to walk three quarters of a mile, in thirty degree below zero weather, to the Fourth Street depot to wait for his next train. After he arrived at the depot on Fourth Street, he collapsed and died from a heart attack.

Shortly after 1900, the Fourth Street tracks were abandoned in favor of a route along the Minnesota River; however, they did not officially vacate the site until 1912. Washington Park was dedicated as a city park in 1915.

Looking at the houses around Washington Park you



Washington Park and neighboring houses, c. 1915

will notice they are set back and there is a boulevard or green space known as Tourtellotte Parkway. This was the old railroad switching yard, another remnant of the railroad line.

The Washington Park neighborhood was built as a working-class neighborhood, occupied by laborers, shop employees and tradespeople. The proximity of the neighborhood to the central commercial and industrial core, what today is more commonly known as Old Town, meant many of these people could easily get to work. Most of the early residents in this neighborhood were German, Irish, Scandinavian, and Lebanese. They built their houses in the popular Victorian style for the time, but unlike the Lincoln Park neighborhood, these homes were more modestly constructed. They built on a smaller scale and used embellishments that were mass-produced and ordered by catalogues rather than custom made.

This area of town was also the location of Mankato's first school house in 1853, which was the same structure used to hold the first church service in 1854. It was also home to two of Mankato's hospitals, St. Joseph's built in 1899, and Immanuel Lutheran in 1906.

Tourtellotte Park

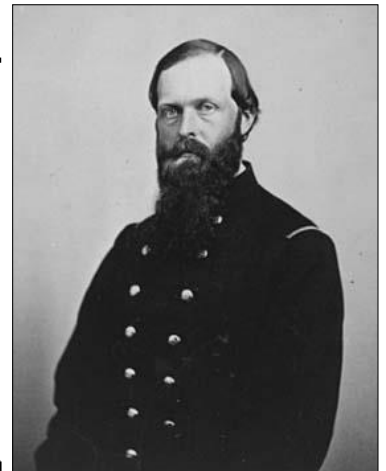
As you come to what was once the north end of town, Tourtellotte Park is located at 300 W. Mabel Street, between North Second and North Fifth Streets. Today this park is most well-known for Tourtellotte Pool. The park also features picnic shelters, playground, pickleball courts, sand volleyball courts and a softball diamond. And of course, you will also find a green heritage plaque.

Tourtellotte Park was created in 1939 through the Work Projects Administration

(WPA), a Great Depression work program that provided employment and income to people during the Great Depression while developing infrastructure across the United States. Locally, we can see WPA projects most notably at Tourtellotte Park, Minneopa State Park and the lookout point on Lookout Drive in North

Mankato. At Tourtellotte Park, the WPA was responsible for the construction of the swimming pool, wading pool and bathhouse which were opened to the public on June 30, 1940.

Tourtellotte Park is named for Colonel John E. Tourtellotte who was a lawyer, Civil War veteran and one of Mankato's early philanthropists. Tourtellotte was born in Connecticut in 1833. At the age of 24, he opened a law practice in Mankato in 1857.



Colonel John E. Tourtellotte, c. 1862; Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

When the U.S. Civil War broke out in 1861, Tourtellotte set about to recruit his own military company known as the "Valley Sharpshooters." It became Company H of the Fourth Minnesota Infantry. Tourtellotte enlisted with his men as a common soldier but was immediately elected Captain. In August 1862, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment and then to Colonel in October 1864. Tourtellotte commanded the Fourth Minnesota at the Battle of Champion Hill, assault on Vicksburg, Battle of Chattanooga, Battle of Altoona and Battle of Bentonville. He also commanded a brigade during Sherman's March to the sea. After the war, Tourtellotte returned to Mankato, where he resumed his law practice. However, within six months, he took a commission in the U.S. Army, leaving Mankato for good. He served in a number of prestigious positions in the Army until he retired in 1885.

Although Mankato was no longer his home,

in 1888, Tourtellotte donated \$8,000 for the construction of the city's first hospital. In exchange, the City was to provide two acres of land for what would become Tourtellotte Hospital. This two-story, 20-room hospital opened in 1889 on the north end of the City at Fourth Avenue and Maxfield Street (this would have been west of Riverfront Drive).



Tourtellotte Hospital

Tourtellotte's condition for the hospital was that no charge be made against those unable to pay. This was a true community hospital with local groups, churches and service clubs donating money and goods to support the operation of the hospital.

The City operated the hospital for seven years and then management was turned over to the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother. By 1899 the Sister opened the new St. Joseph's Hospital near Washington Park. Shortly after, in 1906, Immanuel Lutheran Hospital was built, also near Washington Park. Interestingly, the stone used to build Tourtellotte Hospital was later used to build Immanuel Lutheran Hospital.

In recognition of Tourtellotte's donation for the hospital, in 1927 the City of Mankato named the abandoned railway right-of-way by Washington Park "Tourtellotte Parkway." Then in 1940, Tourtellotte Park was also named after the city's early benefactor.



Tourtellotte Pool

In learning a little of the history of these three parks, it is pretty apparent that we are

indeed surrounded by history. So the next time you visit a park, or pass by a heritage plaque, take a moment to discover some of the history that surrounds you everyday.

Mankato Heritage Plaques

- Blue Earth County Courthouse
- Dakota Memorial, 1862
- Eberhart House
- First Presbyterian Church
- Highland Park: Mankato's "First" City Park
- Ho-Chunk/Winnebago
- Hubbard House
- Kenney House
- Land of Memories Park
- Lincoln Park
- Malda Farnham Park / Hubbard Carriage House
- Maud Hart Lovelace 1892-1980
- Pioneer Memorial Park
- Riverfront Park
- Sibley Park
- Sibley Park: World War I
- Tourtellotte Park
- Washington Park

Sources

- BECHS Photograph Collection, Vertical Files and Newspaper Clippings
- Photograph courtesy of the Selle-Ulateig families of Madelia and Mankato and Kathryn Lerch.
- Photograph by Joel Emmons Whitney; courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society
- Schrader, Julie and Bryce Stenzel, *The Boy in Blue*, 2018.

LOCAL HISTORY PODCAST

Much of the content in this article was adapted from three of BECHS' *Surrounded By History* podcasts, created in partnership with KTOE Radio. You can find all previous episodes on our website at

BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/podcast



GIFT SHOP & ART GALLERY

Danelle Erickson, Operations Manager

While the originals in BECHS' current exhibit *Marian Anderson: Her Personal Collection* are not for sale, that doesn't mean you can't take some Marian Anderson art home with you.

Visit the Marian Anderson Art Gallery exclusively at the History Center. Here you will find over 80 limited-edition prints—all signed by Marian. There are also select framed pieces, from framed cards (starting at \$38) to limited edition prints (\$200-500). We also have 30 different notecard packs featuring Marian's art (\$7.50/6 cards).

Unable to visit in person? Prints and notecards are also available for purchase in our online store at BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/marian-anderson. Please contact us directly to



learn about our inventory of framed pieces.

Did you know 100% of all Marian art sales go directly to saving history? In 2010, Marian donated her prints and notecards to BECHS, with all sales directly benefiting the Historical Society!

FREE Contactless Pickup at the History Center for Gift Shop and Art Gallery orders.

An Exciting Update

As author Tim Pulis was researching for his article on the Sibley Park Dam featured in our previous issue of *The Historian*, he often wondered what ever happened to the bronze markers that once stood on the riverbanks in Sibley Park near the Dam. He feared they were lost to history.

But, as you might have guessed, this wasn't the case! Just a few weeks ago, City of Mankato employees Andy Goettlicher and Jim Tatge were going through some items stored by the City, when they came across a cast bronze plaque. The men realized the piece must have some historical significance and set out to find out what they could.

Jessica Potter, BECHS Executive Director, was contacted to see if there were any photographs of the exterior of the Tourtellote pool house. No such luck. They then talked with Paul Vogel, Community Development Director, BECHS member and local historian buff. He had just read Tim's article so he reached out to Tim for his thoughts. It was a match! Tim couldn't believe what he was seeing. Paul took the bronze plaque to Sibley Park where the stone monument still stands; it was a perfect fit!

From here, the bronze plaque will be donated to BECHS by the City of Mankato. It will be BECHS' responsibility to care for the item and tell its story for future generations.



MARIAN ANDERSON: HER PERSONAL COLLECTION

Danelle Erickson, Operations Manager

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is honored to present our newest exhibit *Marian Anderson: Her Personal Collection*.

Nationally-acclaimed artist Marian Anderson lived most of her life in Blue Earth County. She painted hundreds of original oil paintings on a variety of subjects. Marian was a great friend to BECHS and we were saddened by her death in January of this year.

Prior to her death, BECHS had been lent a collection of Marian's original paintings for this Spring exhibit. The art and memorabilia on display were part of Marian's personal collection—the images she kept for herself—making this exhibit a beautiful tribute to the talented artist.

Many who have visited the exhibit have shared special memories of Marian and her art. Many visited her studio and some have commissioned paintings at their home. There have been neighbors, former classmates and one person even used to style her hair!

For people who didn't have a chance to know Marian personally, this exhibit not only tells some of her life story, but also shows the things that were important to her, served as an inspiration and brought her joy.

Marian's appreciation of heritage can be seen in the painting of her father and of

Rapidan. Her love of nature comes through in the watchful eyes of the snow leopard. Her spirit of adventure is apparent in her mountain men paintings and the piece featuring artic explorer Will Steger and his dog sled team.

There's also a bit of mystery in the exhibit in the form of some unfinished paintings.

Why these paintings were left unfinished, we may never know!

A particularly special part of this exhibit is that many of these paintings Marian did just for herself. This includes the painting of her friend Kay with her little dog. When most of us go on vacation, we might take a few photographs or buy a postcard. Not Marian. Instead, she



Her Personal Collection on display (above) including an unfinished painting (right).

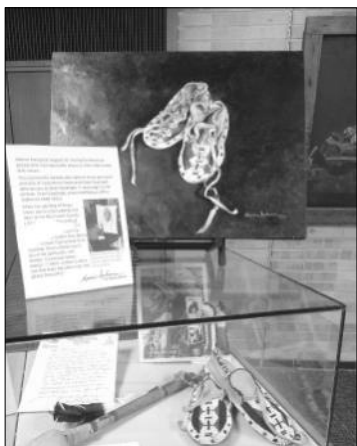


captured her time in France in two beautiful oil paintings.

Also on display are personal items including dozens of paint brushes and empty paint tubes. There are also awards she won, family photographs she saved, and many other glimpses into her life as an artist.

Marian Anderson: Her Personal Collection is free and open to the public at the History Center until September 2021.

We also invite you to join BECHS for our virtual program "The Life and Art of Marian Anderson." The program will be presented live at 4 p.m. on May 6, with the recording made available to all registrants through May 9. Registration is free for BECHS members or \$7/ household if you aren't a member. Visit BlueEarthCountyHistory.com to register.



Even after retirement, Marian continued painting, including these moccasins in 2014.

EVERY OBJECT HAS A STORY...

At the Blue Earth County Historical Society, new-to-BECHS artifacts are being donated all the time. What fun it is to learn more about each item. Here's a closer look at one donated item.

Money-Maker Butter-Kist Popcorn Machine, c. 1920.

This all-electric popper has a mahogany base and includes compartments to hold candy and a peanut warmer. The only thing missing is a small globe that sat on top and lit up when in use.

These machines were popular in theaters, five-and-dime stores, and other businesses where onlookers could watch it work. This machine came from Kiffe's Food Market at 410 West Front Street in Mankato where it was used from the 1920s until the 1960s.

In 1894, William Siebert bought a saloon at 410 West Front Street which he converted into a grocery store. William and his wife Amelia ran the store until their deaths (1914 and 1926 respectively). The operation of the store passed to their son-in-law Otto Kiffe and it was during



this time the popcorn machine was purchased. The store remained in the family for at least another 40 years by which time it had been converted by Norman Kiffe (Siebert's grandson) into a liquor store. It was eventually sold and became Park Lane Liquor which closed in 2017.

But that's not the "hull" story. When the Duehring family (descendants of William Siebert) contacted BECHS about donating the popcorn machine in 2018, the machine was in Evans, Georgia. The family picked it up and transported it back to Mankato, but then the pandemic happened! It took over two years, 2,444 miles and almost everyone in the family to complete this donation to BECHS. We are grateful for their perseverance.



Kiffe's Food Market with the popcorn machine viewable through the window.

HISTORY CENTER ART GALLERY

A LIFETIME OF PAINTING

By Mary Ann (Morness) Jensen
through June 30, 2021

Mary Ann was born in 1929 in Owatonna, Minnesota. She graduated from Mankato High School in 1947 and from the Minneapolis School of Art in 1950.

Mary Ann married Vic Morness in 1950 and was widowed in 1988. They had five children, all of whom display a variety of different artistic and creative talents. Mary Ann then married Orv Jensen in 1991 and was again widowed in 2009. They each enjoyed working within their respective artistic preferences and often combined their creative talents.

This extensive collection showcases Mary Ann's talents from the 1940s to 2010s. Mary Ann's art is featured in the History Center Art Gallery, the 2nd Floor hallway and the Museum.



Seppman Mill

RESEARCH & GENEALOGY CENTER

Heather Harren, Communication & Archives Manager

Happy Spring! As the days are getting longer and the weather getting warmer, as a family historian, you might be torn between research and spending time outside. How to make the best use of your time? We have just the solution for you! BECHS is proud to announce our NEW online search feature for our Research Center Indexes.

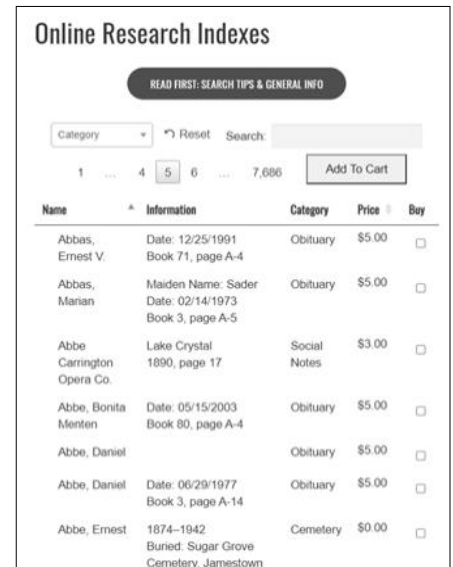
This new search lets you search across our different indexes all at once, at any time and from any place! You can search by name, place, and dates through the almost 200,000 entries. Think of it as an online card catalog. We think you'll like the new search feature as much as we do!

The best part of this search is it can be used in two ways. Can't make it to the Research Center? Search the index and place your order without having to leave your home. In the next business day or so, I will email the documents to you. Or use the search before visiting the History Center to plan out exactly where you

want to start your research.

There is a great tips guide and a Research Center and Indexes video that you don't want to miss as you start to use this new tool to search for obituaries, wills and much more. We will be adding new index entries to the site as they become available.

As a side note, the Research Center remains open by appointment only for in-person research. Visit our website to book your visit today!

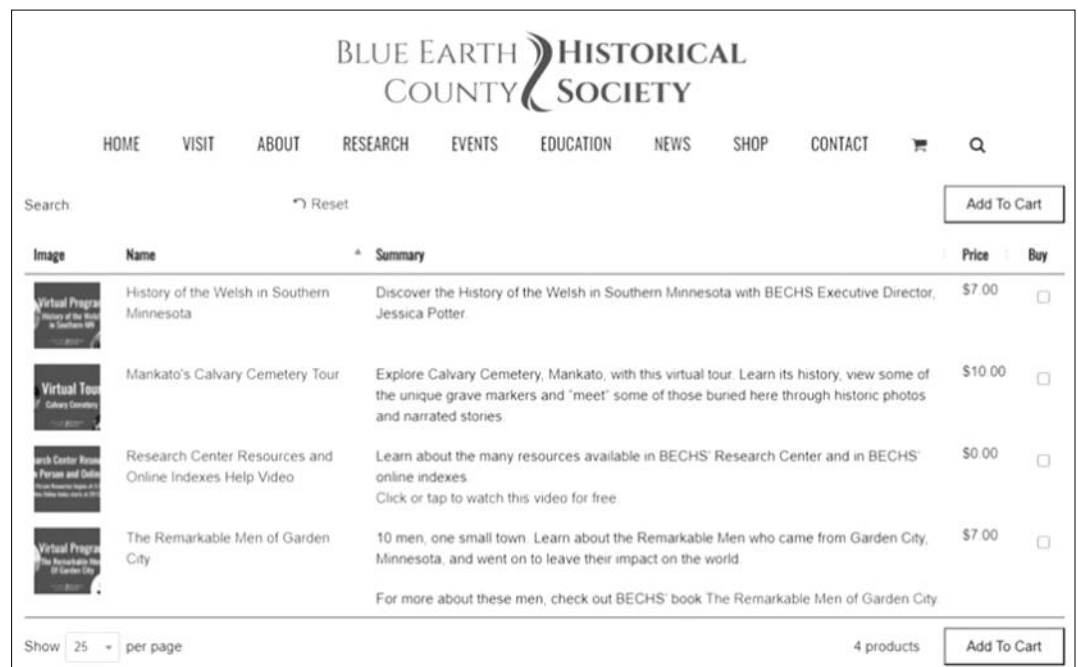


Sample screenshot of the indexes.

NEW! VIDEOS ON-DEMAND

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

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



Visit BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Online-Store/



SpringForwardMN

Presented by GiveMN.org

May 1 - 11, 2021

GiveMN.org presents “**Spring Forward MN**” **May 1-11**,
a statewide initiative to spring nonprofit organizations forward in 2021!

Donations to BECHS will benefit our “Tech for BECHS” campaign as we raise \$10,000 and invest in the ongoing technology improvements at the History Center including new staff computers, new wireless network and firewall, and upgraded Collections Management Software.

TECH for BECHS

TWO EASY WAYS TO GIVE:

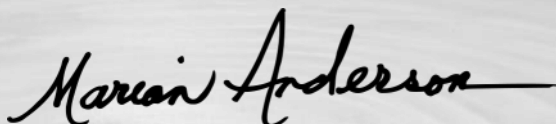
BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Tech

OR **GiveMN.org** and search “Blue Earth County Historical Society”

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

All gifts will be matched up to \$1,500!

Special Public Exhibition



HER PERSONAL COLLECTION

**Blue Earth County History Center
through September 30, 2021**

FREE

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

www.MarianAnderson.com

VOLUNTEERS MAKE HISTORY

Volunteers are truly the lifeblood of the Blue Earth County Historical Society. There isn't an aspect of the work done at BECHS that hasn't involved volunteers. **THANK YOU to all past, present and future volunteers for your support.** BECHS Staff has enjoyed welcoming some of our regular volunteers back to the History Center and we look forward to seeing more of you in the coming months.

“Work from Home” Volunteer Opportunity

BECHS continues to add to our Online Research Indexes (see page 10). Volunteers are needed to index Social Notes, those short bits of community news from the newspapers. Work is done on your own computer at home. **Requirements:** Knowledge of basic spreadsheet functions and access to email. **Curious to know more?** Email Danelle at Museum@BlueEarthCountyHistory to receive more info.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

BECHS is excited to welcome two new board members. Get to know a little about them below.

What is your occupation?



Rhonda Dass: I am a professor and current chair of the Anthropology Department, director of the American Indigenous Studies program and Museum Studies Program



Kelly McBride: Library Services Director at Blue Earth County

What is your favorite place/thing about Blue Earth County?

Rhonda: I love the river and all of the bike trails but I think my favorite thing is the public art that is everywhere in our community!

Kelly: I really love exploring all the parks and trails. I use the Red Jacket Trail all the time and I love Mount Kato. I'm also loving the community- everyone has been so welcoming to my daughters and me. We feel very fortunate in that respect.

What are you most excited about as a new BECHS Board Member?

Rhonda: Being able to contribute to our community

Kelly: I'm most excited to learn more about BECHS and what it means to be a BECHS board member. I'm excited for the future of the organization and am eager to participate.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The BECHS 2020 Annual Report is now available is on our website at BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/About

The report, along with full financial information, is also available upon request by contacting the History Center.

Historic R.D. Hubbard House

Where 1900s History Comes to Life

GUIDED TOURS BY APPOINTMENT

Friday - Sunday

Memorial Day thru Labor Day*

606 South Broad Street, Mankato

Visit BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Hubbard-House for more details coming soon.

**Site operation dependent upon current COVID restrictions and guidelines*



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

Twilight Garden Club Plant Sale



Saturday, June 5, 2021 8am-12pm
Sunday, June 6, 2021 8am-11am

Historic Hubbard House Gardens
606 South Broad Street, Mankato
Rain or Shine

BECHS DONORS, MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

January 16 – April 15, 2021

DONORS

Gina Abbas
Kevin and Shelli Allen
Ray Ball
Marilyn and Kirk Beyer
Verla Boesch
Mitchell Brown
Bob and Susan Brown
Marilyn Buscher
Lori and Randy Cooley
Decoria Township
Crystal Dervetski
John Dorn
Duane and Carol Dubke
Nancy Eilola
Ben and Gayle Elston
Patrick Erdner
David and Julie Ewert
Ben Findley
Jill Fischer
Chad Foster
Sandi and Darrell Garlow
Ted Gates
Jane Griffiths
Sam Gruber
Sue Grunzke
Gail Havelka Telecky
Jennifer Heins
Scott and Janet Hermel
Thomas Hoehn
Jason & Ronette Hornick
Katherine Hughes
John Isch
Kay and Lyle Jacobson
Family Fund
Linda Karow
Wynn & Ginnette Kearney
Chuck and Kait Klammer
Ted Krause
Jeremy Kuznia
Jim and Ann McGuire
Medo Township
Katie Mittelstadt
Rachel & Scott Moeller
Jon Murakami
Chuck & Mary Norgaard
Roger and Gail Norland
Matt and Emma Norland
Neil Nurre and Dr. Janet Cherrington
James Pengra
Marilyn Pierce
Rapidan Township
Bonnie Reak
Jim and Connie Rovney
Mike and Chris Schmitz

Florence Sheppard
Kristy and Mike Sizemore
Jedediah Stark
Emily Stark
Mary Teubner
Thrivent Financial's
Thrivent Choice
Nancy Thurber
Terry and Kay Tompkins
Katie Ullrich
Vernon Center Township
Paul and Kristin Vogel
Wendy Walsh
Richard and Lynne Weber
Brad Wilmes
Sue Wiltgen
Diane Winegar
Lisa Kaye Wood
Xcel Energy
Randy Zellmer

BUSINESS SPONSORS

Ardent Mills
Chankaska Creek Ranch
& Winery
ISG
Brian Koch/RBC

BUSINESS PARTNERS

All American Foods, Inc.
Ardent Mills
First National Bank Minnesota
Mankato Computer
Technology
Meyer Financial and
Consulting
New York Life

MONTHLY DONORS

Dale Benefield
Joel Botten
Carol English
David and Julie Ewert
James Hummer
Steve & Susan Jameson
Mike Lagerquist
Jack & Diann McGowan
Marnie Werner
Beth Zimmer

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Linda Beck
Peg Bindner
Bonnie Danberry
Nancy Eilola

Scott and Janet Hermel
Stefanie & John Jaquette
Peggy Kreber
Kelly McBride
Jim and Connie Rovney
Adam Sageng
Dennis and Karen
Sandersfeld
Brian Schmidt
Ann Stewart

In Memoriam & Tribute

*In Memory of
Marian Anderson*
Ken and Julie Schrader

*In Memory of
Richard Kakeldey*
Eloise Layman

*In Memory of
Karl Sassenberg*
Dan Sassenberg
Anonymous donors

In Memory of Donna Webb

Myles and Marcene
Bromeling
Cathy Colby
Judy Freeberg
Donald & Pamela Foster
Susan Hynes
Joyce Johnson
Karly Kock
Lorin & Michelle Krueger
Katherine Kunkel
Tom and Theresa
McLaughlin
Harley and Ruby Mohr
James and Susan Pirsig
Ronald Pooley
Richard & Shirley Pooley
Greg and Beth Pooley
Daniel & Susan Prenzlow
Linda Schoemaker
Ken and Julie Schrader
Jo Schultz
Laura Sievert
Steven and Ida Ulman
Gerald Webb
Beth Zimmer

IN MEMORIAM

Donna Webb, longtime BECHS volunteer, passed away February 24, 2021.

Donna volunteered at Blue Earth County Historical Society for 15 years after she retired from Minnesota State University, Mankato. While at BECHS Donna served on the Board of Trustees, numerous committees, and assisted with special events like Christmas at the Hubbard House. Donna was instrumental in the management and advancement of BECHS's technology, book and newsletter development and publishing, and cataloguing of the Archives library. Donna always sewed costumes for the Hubbard House and other period programs. While our hearts are heavy, Donna's legacy will carry on at BECHS.

Donna belonged to Daughters of the American Revolution. She enjoyed genealogy, photography, camping, traveling, and reading.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May – July 2021

MAY

- 6 **History @ Home: The Life and Art of Marian Anderson** Join live at 4 p.m. or watch the recording later. Registration required. Free/BECHS Members; \$7/non-members
- 9 **Talking Ancestors Genealogy Group: Success Stories**, virtual chat. 11 a.m. Registration required. Free.
- 20 **Virtual Tour: Silk Stocking Stroll Part 2** Join live at 4 p.m. or watch the recording later. Registration required. \$10/Household.
- 28 **Hubbard House Opening Weekend** - By Appointment Only *Watch for Details to Come*
- 29 **Happy Memorial Day!** History Center Closed; Hubbard House Open by Appointment

JUNE

- 3 **History @ Home: Meet the Hubbards: Family, House and Mill.** Join live at 4 p.m. via Zoom or watch the recording later. Registration required. Free/BECHS Members; \$7/non-members
- 5 **Twilight Garden Club Plant Sale**, Hubbard House Gardens, 8 a.m.-noon *rain or shine*
- 6 **Twilight Garden Club Plant Sale**, Hubbard House Gardens, 8 –11 a.m. *rain or shine*
- 12 **Talking Ancestors Genealogy Group: Ancestral Homes**, virtual chat. 11 a.m. Registration required. Free.
- 12 **Victorian Lawn Party, Hubbard House Lawn**, 1-3 p.m. Enjoy socially-distanced lawn games and a visit from the Zip Zap Ice Cream Truck
- 17 **Hybrid Tour: Historic Minneopa Cemetery** A Video Tour, with cemetery pictures, historic pictures and great stories. Your choice of Online Viewing or an In-Person Experience. Online Viewing premieres at 4 p.m. and will be available through June 27. The In-Person Experience at Minneopa Cemetery is 5-8 p.m.; come prepared with your smart phone to access online videos. Registration required. \$10/Household.



JULY

- 1 **History @ Home: In the Footsteps of Nicollet with author Jason Lee Willis** Hybrid presentation. 4 p.m. via Zoom or in-person at the History Center; OR register to watch the recording later. Registration required. Free/BECHS Members; \$7/non-members
- 3 **Happy Fourth of July!** History Center Closed,
- 10 **Talking Ancestors Genealogy Group: DNA**, virtual chat. 11 a.m. Registration required. Free.
- 15 **Virtual Tour: TBD** Join live at 4 p.m. or watch the recording later. Registration required. \$10/Household.

Registration for all virtual programs can be found on our website at BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Events

MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Your annual membership with the Blue Earth County Historical Society does two things:

1. It provides you with some great benefits! Free admission to the History Center and Hubbard House; free or reduced admission to many programs and events; a 10% discount in the Gift Shop; and up to 30 minutes of free research conducted by BECHS staff.

2. Your member dues also support some of BECHS' everyday expenses such as general utilities and the printing and mailing of *The Historian*. Thank you!

Renewing or starting your BECHS membership has never been easier! Simply visit BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/membership and complete the needed information.

Not sure of your member status? Look for the expiration date on your mailing label.

 **Be a BECHS Member Today**

\$35.00 - Senior Membership, 62+

\$40.00 - Individual Membership

\$55.00 - Senior Household | 2 adults, 62+

\$60.00 - Household | 2 adults and children in same household

Contact Information

First Name *

Last Name *



BECHS Annual Membership

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

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Gift for: _____

Include name and address

Membership Levels

Individual Senior (62+) \$35
Individual \$40
Senior Household \$55
Household \$60

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

Please send this form and check to:

BECHS Membership
424 Warren Street
Mankato, MN 56001

OR

Complete your membership form online at
BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Membership

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

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hybrid Tour of HISTORIC MINNEOPA CEMETERY

Premieres June 17, 2021

Learn about some of the people buried in the Historic Minneopa Cemetery through a video presentation with historic images and narration.



Your Choice: Online Viewing or In-Person Experience

For more details, visit BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Events

\$10/Household | Tickets Now Available www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Events

EXHIBITS

Marian Anderson: Her Personal Collection through September 2021



ART GALLERY

A Lifetime of Painting by Mary Ann Jensen through June 30, 2021



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