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## SPECIAL EXHIBITS

### Featured Artist:



### Water Vapors

By Kay Herbst Helms  
on display now through  
October 29, 2016

### Exhibits:

*When Home Won't Let  
You Stay: Stories of  
Refugees*

Closes July 30, 2016

*Minnesota on the Map*

August 6 – Oct. 8, 2016



Celebrating the first train to arrive in Cream, 1907

## Everything Old is New Again

"Everything old is new again" is an appropriate phrase for this issue of *The Historian*. Inside you will discover an *old* traveling exhibit coming back by popular demand with a *new* spin. An *old* fire truck *newly* 100. An *old* newsletter article refreshed for a *new* audience. An *old* bridge gets a *new* life. A beloved *old* program celebrating a *new* milestone—30 years. And the good *old* days will be explored in a *new* way. For fun, see if you can find our *new* use for an *old* item (hint: there are more than one).

Of course, this phrase may also shed a little light on the work done by the Blue Earth County Historical Society everyday. Nearly every single day, we discover a new bit of our history in the Research Center or through the donation of an artifact. The stories and objects of the people who came before are all around us. Their legacy stands the test of time through photographs, books, wedding dresses, military uniforms.... How will you be remembered? What will your legacy be?

Another new thing we are pretty proud of is our *new* video that gives viewers a glimpse of what the 115-year *old* Historical Society does everyday. You can check it out on our website or stop by the History Center.

So remember, what may be old to you, just may be new to someone else.

## The Blue Earth County Historian



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### History Center & Museum

424 Warren Street, Mankato, MN  
507-345-5566  
www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com  
Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### R.D. Hubbard House

606 South Broad Street, Mankato  
507-345-4154  
June-August: Fri.-Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.  
September: Saturday - Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.

### The Blue Earth County Historian Summer 2016

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

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## Board of Trustees



Shirley Piepho  
President, Board of Trustees

I want to start out by thanking everyone who participated in *Surrounded By History*: guests, sponsors, donors and volunteers. The evening was fun and entertaining. In the end, over \$30,000 was raised for the Blue Earth County Historical Society (BECHS) to continue its focus to make local history education accessible to more people. Thanks to all of our History Heroes!

We are already working on *Surrounded By History* for 2017 and the theme will focus on transportation in Blue Earth County. If you have an interest in joining our planning team or volunteering in other areas with the Society, please let us know. There are so many opportunities available for a wide variety of interests.

Please turn to page 18 or visit our website to view the upcoming events that are taking place. I hope that you will encourage others to join you in attending BECHS' programs, which entertain, educate and inform us about the rich history of Blue Earth County. I hope to see you at the annual Member Appreciation event on Friday, August 26 from 5-7 p.m. It will be a fun evening exploring all the History Center has to offer.

Thank you all for showing your support for a community-based organization that values the history of its citizenry.



## Annual BECHS Member Appreciation

Friday, August 26  
5-7 p.m.  
History Center

### Join us for:

- Appreciation meal
- Door prize drawings
- An unique journey around the History Center to discover what your membership support makes possible
- Member-only specials in Gift Shop



**Together We're Making History!**

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Visit [www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](http://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com) or call 507-345-5566.

# Director's Notes

Jessica Potter, Executive Director

*Legacy. Something handed down from one generation to the next.*

At the Blue Earth County History Center, we celebrate the legacy of the people of the past every day. Some people leave their mark or their legacy through their family, the business they founded, their impact on their community through service or simply by living in Blue Earth County.

*Legacy. Money or property bequeathed to someone or someplace in a will.*

In the history of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, we have received countless generous, heartfelt donations. Some have been made upon the death of the donor—these are legacy gifts. One of the first legacy gifts was \$10,000 from the estate of Loren Cray in 1927. That gift was used to purchase the Hubbard House in 1938 from Mary Esther Hubbard for the Society's first permanent location, a dream of Cray's. When Cray designated the donation for a home for BECHS, little did he know the funds would help purchase the home of his next door neighbor, R.D. Hubbard.

Other sizeable legacy gifts came in the late 1980s with the Society's capital campaign to obtain and



remodel the History Center and restore the Hubbard House. Mary S. Gray grew up an only child near Garden City, spent her career working for the YWCA in Chicago and returned to Minnesota in her retired years. Upon her death in 1986, Mary left a sizeable trust to support her many interests in life. Her legacy is still evident as large gifts from her trust purchased the tables, chairs and reels and reels of microfilm still used in the Research Center today.

In our more recent past, the Society has received two sizeable legacy gifts that will help in the newest chapter of our story. In 2012, BECHS received a legacy gift from the estate of June Lees. June was a world traveler having visited landmark waterfalls and gardens around the globe, but all of those travels always brought her home to Mankato. June's unrestricted gift to BECHS was set aside by the

Board of Trustees as seed money for capital improvements. In four years, less than 17% of the gift has been spent on building improvements and equipment with the remaining 83% invested for future use.

A month ago, we received a generous legacy gift from the estate of Eldon Jones. Eldon was the founder of Crysteel Manufacturing, an inventor, civic leader and longtime supporter of the Blue Earth County Historical Society along with his wife



Eldon and Helen Jones  
*MN Valley Business* magazine,  
December 2012

Helen. His unrestricted gift is also being invested as seed for our future capital drive.

*History. The whole series of past events connected with someone or something.*

In the case of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, a *legacy* is a gift of money that makes it possible for *history* to be handed down to the next generation. Isn't that beautiful.

Thank you to all of our generous members and donors over the past 115 years! Every gift, large and small, leaves its mark on the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

## ***Make a Difference In the Lives that Follow***



**LEAVE A LEGACY® Mankato Area**  
*Sponsored By Minnesota Planned Giving Council*

**Blue Earth County Historical Society  
is a proud member of Leave A Legacy.  
Contact BECHS for more information or to  
pick up a free "Personal Planning Guide."**  
Support local nonprofits through Planned Giving.



# Education & Outreach

## *Making Local History Accessible to All Ages*

*By Beth Johnson, Education and Outreach Coordinator*

Do you remember being in school and the excitement you felt on the day of a field trip? For generations, the Blue Earth County Historical Society has welcomed students to the History Center and Hubbard House. Almost weekly we hear from someone who remembers their field trip to the Hubbard House from years ago.

This past May, the entire Mankato Area Public Schools 6<sup>th</sup> grade class joined us at the History Center for their year-end field trip. Over six hundred students and teachers joined BECHS staff and volunteers for some history fun and learning. During their visit the students explored the founding of Blue Earth County and Mankato, learned about primary and secondary sources through historic photographs, newspapers and books, toured the Museum and investigated historic objects. In the “thank you” notes that followed, many of the

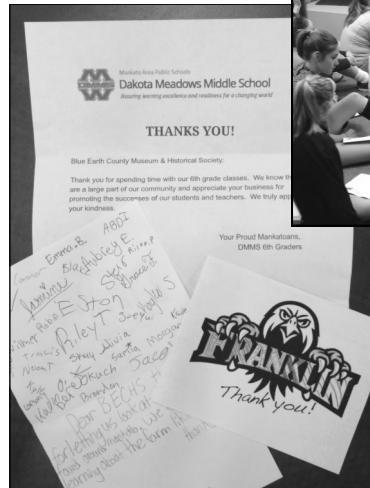


students expressed a wish to return and spend more time at the History Center. The history fun even continued for one class when a teacher borrowed a “History-to-go Kit” for the WWII lesson she was teaching.

These field trips are just another example of

how the Historical Society is working to make history accessible to people of all ages. As we continue to work with schools in Blue Earth County, we hope to create field trips for first, third and seventh graders in addition to the sixth grade tours. Additionally, we are creating in-class experiences for multiple grade levels as well as kits with artifacts for teachers to use in the classrooms.

If you would be interested in donating to the school field trips or history kits, or if you would be interested in assisting with either of these two ventures, please contact me for more information.



“Thank you” cards and notes from the sixth graders.

## HISTORY CENTER ART GALLERY

### *Water Vapors: A Consideration of Past, Present and Future Water*

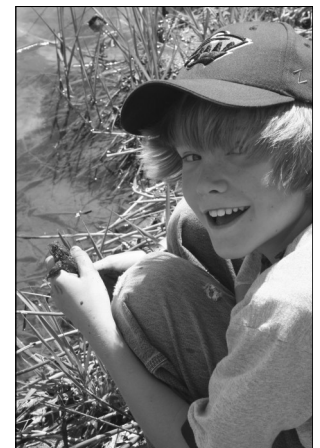
**By Kay Herbst Helms**

July - October 2016

“We come from water. Our bodies are 60% water. We die without water. Water is a shared resource and responsibility. Yet, according to NASA, we are depleting more than half of the world’s aquifers faster than they can be replenished.

“My photographs of water are about what we do to, in, and for our water. We all have connections to each other and to water. Managing those connections will determine the future of our great-great-grandchildren. I hope this exhibit will raise awareness of how we’re treating our water and inspire us to take better care of this global resource.” - Kay Herbst Helms

“In the end, our shared humanity and our shared history are written in water. And how the story ends is entirely up to us.” - Alexandra Cousteau



“We will not protect what we do not love.” - Stephen Jay Gould

# Monthly Educational Opportunities at the History Center

## Remember When Coffee Club

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 the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. for BECHS' *Remember When Coffee Club*.** This is an



informal opportunity to share memories and photos with fellow local history enthusiasts at the History Center.

Attendance and rich conversation continues to grow. There is no formal program, just a conversation topic to get the group started. Coffee, tea and light refreshments are provided. Free.

### Upcoming Topics:

**August 2** - Memorable Birthdays

**September 6** - My Ancestors: Arriving in the USA

**October 4** - Radio: Over the Airways

## History Bits & Bites

This monthly learning series is held the **last Wednesday of each month during the noon hour at the Blue Earth County History Center**. Bring your lunch for a bite while learning a bit of history! Come see what you have been missing. Free for BECHS Members, \$5 Non-members. Lunch is NOT provided, but beverages will be available.



Photographer Jim Bowey discussed his exhibit *When Home Won't Let You Stay: Stories of Refugees* at June's *History Bits and Bites*.

### Upcoming Programs

**July 27** – “Gardening Tips and Tricks” by the Twilight Garden Club

**August 31** – “History of the Mahkato Wacipi” by Mahkato Mdewakanton Association

**September 28** – “Minnesota On the Map” by David Lanegan

## Young Historians

*Young Historians* is a free, monthly, hands-on history workshop for school-age children. It meets the 2nd Saturday of each month, September through May from 10 a.m. to Noon.

For the upcoming year of *Young Historians*, we will be exploring how important our natural resources are to Blue Earth County. We will explore through the history of our area landscape how soil and water have impacted and generated change in Blue Earth County in a multitude of different areas, from agriculture to architecture. Our Young Historians will be busy uncovering new ways to look at our natural history this year!

*Young Historians* is made possible through the generous support of the Grace Jefferson Educational Fund.

### Upcoming Workshops

**September 10** - Water, Water Everywhere!

Rivers, Lakes and Transportation

**October 8**—Animals, Birds, Fish and Economics



Last May, *Young Historians* wrapped up a year of exploring ethnic groups in Blue Earth County by sharing their own ethnic and cultural backgrounds at the Family Heritage Fair.





# Collections & Exhibits

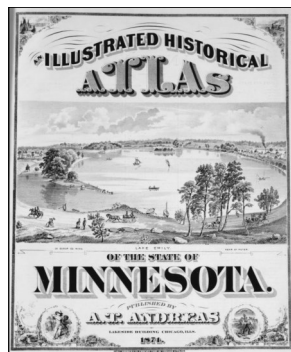
## *Minnesota on the Map*

Shelley Harrison, Archives & Collections Manager

Blue Earth County Historical Society is thrilled to announce the return of *Minnesota on the Map*!

*Minnesota on the Map*, a traveling exhibit from the Minnesota Historical Society, is back with some new maps and atlases and in a new, bigger location – in the traveling exhibit gallery near the Gift Shop.

This exhibit showcases maps with supporting material that give you a tangible link to the past. *Minnesota on the Map* features dozens of maps ranging from Louis Hennepin's 1683 map of the Upper Mississippi River Valley to a satellite map of Minnesota produced by NASA. One of the interesting atlases included is the *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota*, 1874. This atlas contains individual county maps depicting transportation routes, railroads, canals, streams and rivers, cities, towns and villages, and 19th century Minnesota place names. One-room schools, churches, cemeteries and many other cultural features are also included in the atlas. Not only can maps show physical places, but they can also present a snapshot in time.



Maps of all shapes, sizes and formats are included in this exhibit, ensuring there is something for everyone! There is an oversized jigsaw puzzle map, perfect for our younger visitors, while adults and would-be-scholars will enjoy paging through large atlases and plat maps. A touch-screen video presentation and variety of laminated maps showing Minnesota's geography and history are also included.

BECHS is delighted to once again present this exhibit featuring a new selection of maps – school wall maps, an early territory map and historical atlases. Many of these maps illustrate how our County was viewed, interpreted and recorded in the past. Complimenting this exhibit will be maps from our collection —including a large wall map of Blue Earth County in 1874, an 1853 map of Minnesota

before it was a state and county plat maps from late 1800s to early 1900s.

The *Minnesota on the Map* exhibit is based on the book *Minnesota on the Map: A Historical Atlas* by David Lanegran. In connection with the exhibit, *History Bits and Bites* will feature a presentation by Lanegran on September 28 at noon.

If you are interested in history and geography and are looking to learn something new in an interactive setting or if you missed the exhibit the first time, here's your chance! *Minnesota on the Map* back by popular demand runs August 6 – October 8, 2016. Our next traveling exhibit, *Fur Trade in Minnesota*, opens on October 20, 2016.

*Minnesota Historical Society traveling exhibits are funded through the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, part of the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment created by Minnesota voters on November 4, 2008. A portion of the fund has been appropriated to the Minnesota Historical Society for state-wide history related projects.*

## Back by Popular Demand with New Maps

# Minnesota on the Map



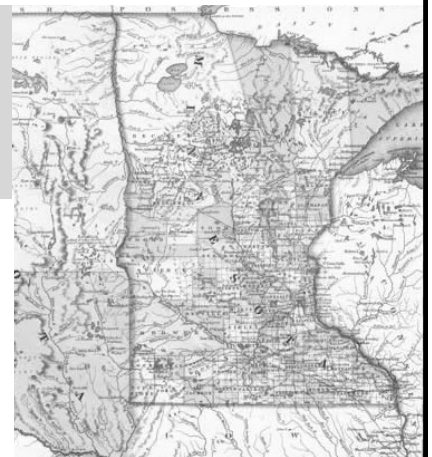
A traveling  
exhibit from  
the Minnesota  
History Center.

SEE WHAT MAPS of Minnesota have looked like from the late 1600s to the early 2000s in this exhibit featuring reproduction maps and atlases, a video station and even a giant map jigsaw puzzle.

Don't Miss It!

**Blue Earth County  
History Center &  
Museum**

**August 6 – October 8  
Free**



# Every object has a story...

100 years ago, the vehicle known as “Chemical #1” was constructed by the men of the Mankato Fire Department. In celebration of this milestone, we take a look back at the history of this memorable piece in the Society’s collection.

Adapted from “The Little Engine That Couldn’t – Quit,” *Historian*, Fall 1998 by Janet Goff



In 1916, the Mankato Fire Department purchased a 6-cylinder, 1916 Buick Touring Car chassis from Clements Auto for \$945. With an additional \$152.18 worth of materials, plus existing firefighting equipment including an old chemical tank, the men of the Mankato Fire Department set to work in creating their new apparatus. Before long, the city was presented with “a neat, serviceable car, at about half the price of one that could be purchased ready made.” Chemical #1 was born.

April 19, 1916 was the first mention of the use of Chemical #1 responding to a fire call. Its maximum speed on its first call was 33 miles per hour as it traveled to a home on South Second Street in response to a chimney fire.

Chemical #1 was used for a total of 1,469 fire calls between 1916 and 1948. Its heaviest use was in 1923, when it was used on 160 calls, 93 percent of the total number of calls that year. In 1931 its use declined sharply when its personnel were assigned to work with a new piece of equipment.

The truck was donated to the Blue Earth County Historical Society in 1948 and was displayed at Sibley Park until the flood of 1965. Without a place to display the truck, it was stored in the basement of the Hubbard Carriage House. In 1968, the carriage house and truck were badly damaged by flooding from heavy rains. For the almost thirty years that followed, the truck was moved from place to place, in need of restoration but without funds to do so.

In 1996, an anonymous donation was made for

the truck’s restoration. From fall 1996 through fall 1998, the truck was painstakingly restored by Tom Rasmussen of Odyssey Restoration, Inc. For Rasmussen, the restoration project was more than just a job. It was an opportunity to understand and appreciate the original builders. “When you restore a vehicle you get to know the personalities of the

men who put it together. We’ve gotten to know the fire fighters of Mankato in 1916. They knew their needs. They had plenty of talent available: blacksmiths, woodworking, metalworking, even gold leafing. There was a sense of pride in that time period, especially in a firehouse.”

One can imagine those men would be proud to know their talents and dedication from 100 years ago can still be seen today. Stop by the Hubbard Carriage House this summer and say “Happy Birthday” to Chemical #1!

## CALL FOR MEMBER ARTISTS

Are you a BECHS member? Are you an artist? BECHS is looking for members/artists to exhibit in our History Center Art Gallery. We would like to help share the creative work of our artist members with other members of the BECHS community! Photography, wall sculpture, fabric art, mixed media, painting, drawing, graphic design, calligraphy and other media will be considered. For more information or to schedule a show, please contact Beth at [Education@blueearthcountyhistory.com](mailto:Education@blueearthcountyhistory.com) or 507-345-5566.

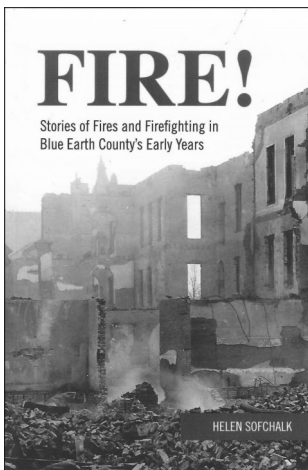




# Gift Shop & Art Gallery News

Danelle Erickson, Development Manager

Hopefully you can find some time to relax amid the busyness of summertime. And the History Center Gift Shop can help during your leisure time with a great selection of books. Stop by the Gift Shop and see what we have. We have a little bit of everything including fiction and non-fiction, for adults, young readers and for the young-at-heart.



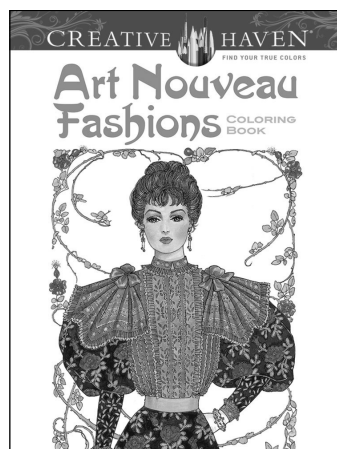
Even with all of the advanced technology and communications of today, fires can still cause significant damage. Now think back to the early days of Blue Earth County, when fire departments were still in their infancy, central water mains were nonexistent and equipment was built for the firefighters, by the firefighters (return to page 7 for more). For a closer look

at the history of firefighting, pick up a copy of *Fire! Stories of Fires and Firefighting in Blue Earth County's Early Years*, \$12.95.

The Gift Shop is excited to present a selection of adult coloring books with a historical spin. Topics include Victorian houses, 1950s fashion, historic patriotic posters and even Steampunk! These high quality books are available at a great price, ranging from \$3.99 to \$5.99.

Looking for another colorful activity this summer? The Gift Shop is now offering copies of the "Mankato/North Mankato Montage" for \$4.95, a 50% savings. This 25"x19"

poster is packed with dozens of recognizable faces and places from the area's past and present and makes for a great coloring project. Stop by the History Center and see the poster we've started



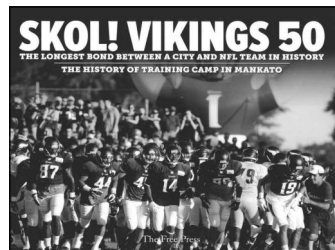
coloring. You can even help by coloring a few buildings of your own.

It won't be long before Minnesota Vikings Football returns once again to Minnesota State University, Mankato for another year of



Close up of "Mankato/North Mankato Montage"

training camp. Take a look back at the 5 decades of camp in *Skol! Vikings 50* by the *Free Press Media*, \$39.95. You can also show your Purple Pride with Vikings window stickers, pennants and more,



available in the History Center Gift Shop. While you're here, check out the new Vikings Training Camp mini-exhibit on display for a limited time.

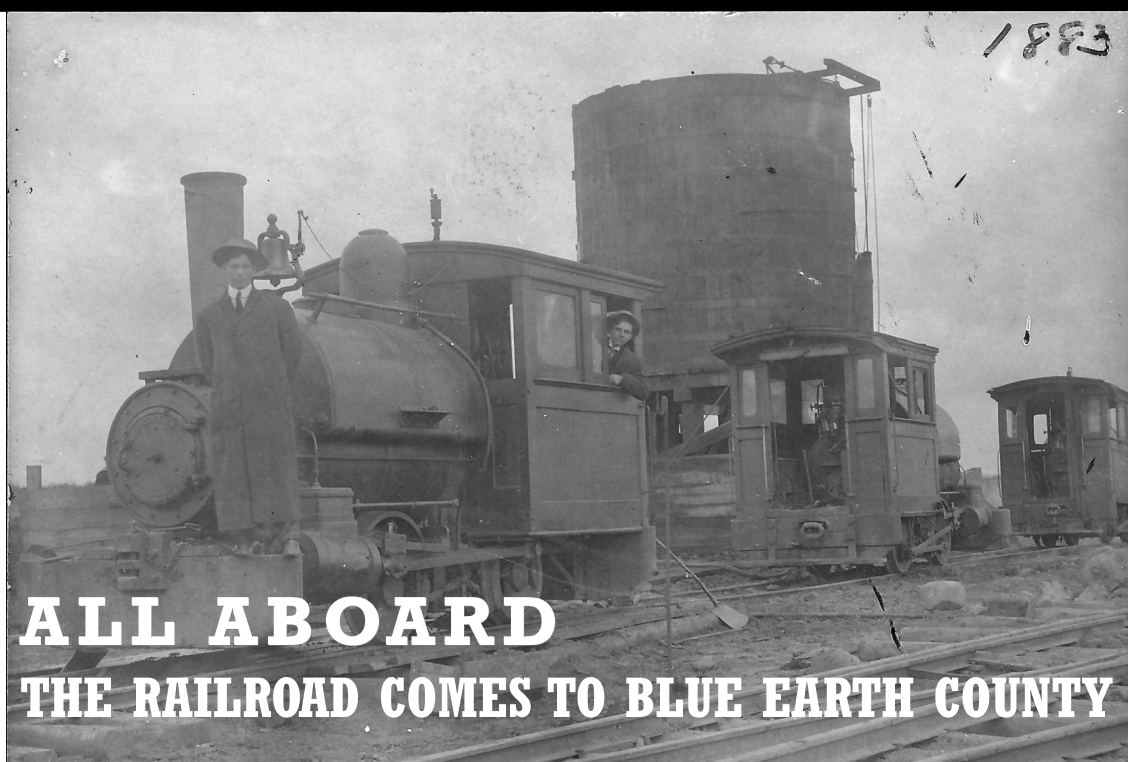
## Marian Anderson Fine Art Prints



Available exclusively at the History Center or online at [www.MarianAnderson.com](http://www.MarianAnderson.com).

View the diverse work of this talented Mankato artist. 100% of all sales benefit the Historical Society. Fine Art Prints and note cards are available.





Railroad engine and water tank, 1883

By Inella Burns

Editor's note: This article is adapted from "The Railroad Comes to Blue Earth County," *Historian*, June 1988, and "The Railroads Reach Out," *Historian*, January 1989.

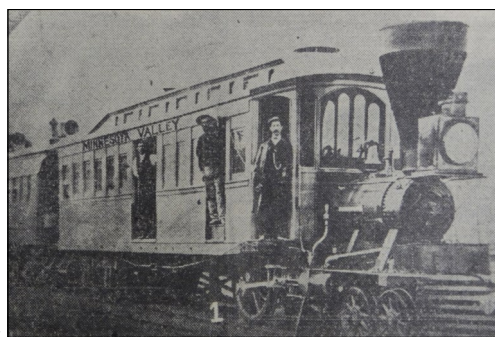
By 1868 Blue Earth County was experiencing considerable growth. That year 40,689 acres of land were under cultivation, 25,566 of which were planted in wheat with a harvest of 550,000 bushels. As a result, milling flourished and manufacturing of farm implements developed. The wool trade for the spring of 1869 amounted to 43,640 pounds, and the fur trade continued strong with \$88,800 worth of pelts bought by Mankato furriers.

With such growth, the county was in need of commercial expansion, but transport by horse-drawn wagon was slow with limited cargo space, and river shipping was seasonal as well as uncertain. And so there was cause for great celebration in the fall of 1868 when the Minnesota Valley Railroad reached Mankato, connecting the county with the outside commercial world.

The first stake for the railway survey was set with due ceremony by Judge J. Brayton of Ohio on June 4, 1857, and surveying crews worked in the county during the early 1860s. By the middle of 1865, the company had six to eight miles of track laid from Hamilton's Landing (Savage) southwest toward Shakopee. But with a lack of funds and materials,

construction lagged. The company had no locomotives and no money to buy them. Finally with a private loan, E.F. Drake, who headed rail construction, found a second-hand locomotive in Columbus, Ohio, and purchased it along with five flat cars and two box cars. He shipped them by rail to La Crosse, Wisconsin; by barge up the Mississippi to St. Paul; and on up the Minnesota River to Hamilton's Landing.

The earliest engines on the Valley Railroad were the *Shakopee* and the *Mankato*. Called "the dummy," the *Shakopee* could



The *Shakopee*, first engine used on the Minnesota Valley Railroad.

pull only one coach and the engine cab served as the smoking compartment for coach passengers. While the *Shakopee* was the first engine to travel from Shakopee to Mankato, the *Mankato*, a curious four-wheeled engine, was the first to travel to Mankato with cars in tow.

As construction picked up in 1866, Mankato voted a bonus of \$15,000 in bonds for right of way over

Fourth Street and for depot ground between Plum and Elm Streets with the understanding that the rail lines would reach Mankato by December 1, 1866.

But the Valley Railroad didn't reach Mankato until October 3, 1868. At that time, the track was considered too rough for safe passenger travel, but on October 8, the first freight shipment left for Chicago carrying 200 barrels of flour from the Red Jacket and Farmers' mills. Finally on October 12, the new timetables for the Valley Railroad went into operations, and the *Mankato Weekly Record* reported "two daily passenger trains arriving and departing with commendable promptness." For a \$4.00 ticket, a person could travel to St. Paul in three hours and 23 minutes.

To honor the advent to the railroad and the people responsible, Mankato held a great celebration on October 29, 1868. At an early hour, teams from the country began to arrive, lining the streets with wagons and buggies. Front Street was soon bustling with people. About noon the Mankato Cornet Band led the crowd to the depot. As the train arrived, 500 "whole-souled, jolly" guests from St. Paul, Minneapolis and intermediate points received loud and hearty cheers. Among the dignitaries welcomed by Mankato's Mayor Wiswell were Ex-Governors Henry Sibley and Alexander Ramsey, St. Paul Mayor Steward and the Hon. Edmund Rice, "the father of railroads in Minnesota."

The Great Western and Mankato Bands led the procession of at least 1,000 persons to Burr's new brick building where dinner had been prepared by M. and T.C. Fowler of Clifton House. According to the *Record*, the feast consisted of the following: "50 turkeys, 10 geese, 20 ducks, 100 chickens, 15 tongues, and 12 hams ... making 1,170 pounds of meat; 1200 biscuits; 310 pies; 50 large frosted cakes; 25 large plain cakes; 12 jelly cakes; 74 stands of celery; 74 dishes of sardines; 74 stands of jelly; 74 dishes of pickles; 74 dishes of fritters; 74 dishes small cakes; 74 dishes cheese; 24 bottles catsup; 74 dishes cold slaw; 3 barrels of coffee, besides a number of little things." Following the banquet, officials from around the state praised

Mankato's cooperation in building the railroad and especially commended E.F. Drake, head of construction.

A number of the visitor's impressions of the railroad celebration at Mankato were reported in their local newspapers. The *St. Paul Press* praised Mankato's handsome location, its seven churches, new school building, and flourishing Normal School of sixty pupils. The *Dispatch* was impressed with the number of factories including "a woolen mill, several flouring and lumber mills, sash and door factories, furniture and machine shops, a pottery, tannery, oil mill and others." The *Winona Democrat* commented on "the miraculous growth of Mankato, its long rows of splendid brick and stone business houses, its numerous elegant private residences, and above all its never ceasing whirl of business."

The day after the festivities another historic event worthy of celebration occurred at the Fourth Street depot. The first message on the newly completed Northwestern Telegraph line was received by Operator Drake, providing the county faster access to distant places by wire as well as by rail.

On October 29 St. Paul, in turn, hosted a Mankato excursion to their city to celebrate the completion of the Valley Railroad. Two hundred tickets were issued by the railroad company and distributed to leading citizens by the Common Council. Considerable indignation was expressed because no clergy were included, but one gentleman reasoned that perhaps "they did not care to have their little irregularities noticed in the pulpits."

As reported in the *Record*, the Mankato delegation "sped through wood and swamp and o'er prairies and trestle work" toward St. Paul, past ponds and lakes "sparkling like beads of silver...and covered with countless numbers of wild fowl." Upon arriving in St. Paul the group was met by cheering crowds, and the Great Western Band led them over the Mississippi River Bridge to Third Street, which was hung with banners and lined with throngs of people. They stopped at the International Hotel and crowded into a room intending to toast the occasion; but just as the Mankato



*Mankato Union*, Friday,  
October 23, 1868

Mayor raised his glass, the floor gave way from the weight of the throng, and the dignitaries all disappeared beneath a cloud of dust. Rushing to the cellar to offer aid, Mankatoans arrived to see the dust clear away and the tall figure of their gallant mayor still holding aloft his glass. Fortunately, no one was injured. After a “feast worthy of a king,” toasts and speeches, treats of cigars and “other light things,” the crowd returned to the depot for an uproarious trip home.

From this gloriously celebrated beginning, the railroads soon extended in a network throughout Blue Earth County to bring increased growth in agriculture, business, industry and cultural enrichment to county people.

Not everyone, however, welcomed the railroads. Kelly Reuter in her Amboy centennial book records excerpts from Curtis Louer’s diary in which he records his father’s antipathy for the “gol-durned” railroads; “Huh-h-h! Scare our horses to death and run over any durned thing that dasts set a foot on them danmed [sic] tracks. And spread fires all over our prairies!” Having had to pay for his Railroad Relinquishment land twice, the elder Louer predicted that once they got their “crooked hooks into us” the railroad would “own the whole country!”

But the railroad did come. Between 1870 and 1907, a network of rail lines extended throughout Blue Earth County, totaling seven in all, five of which radiated from Mankato. In conjunction with the rail lines, a number of new townsites were platted, usually near existing settlements.

By the summer of 1869, the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad (formerly the Minnesota Valley Railroad and later the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railroad) reached Crystal Lake. In anticipation of its arrival, the new town of Lake Crystal was laid out in May, and in four months what had been a field was a thriving village of forty buildings. A second rail line was added in the 1880s, and soon 23 trains a day were coming to Lake Crystal.

Other booming villages followed as soon as stations on the developing rail lines were designated. Besides the depot and the post office, elevators were a priority for the rich agricultural area. Quick to follow were businesses that provided the basic needs for a thriving town.

Minneopa village, platted in 1870, provides an interesting illustration of a new railroad townsite in a

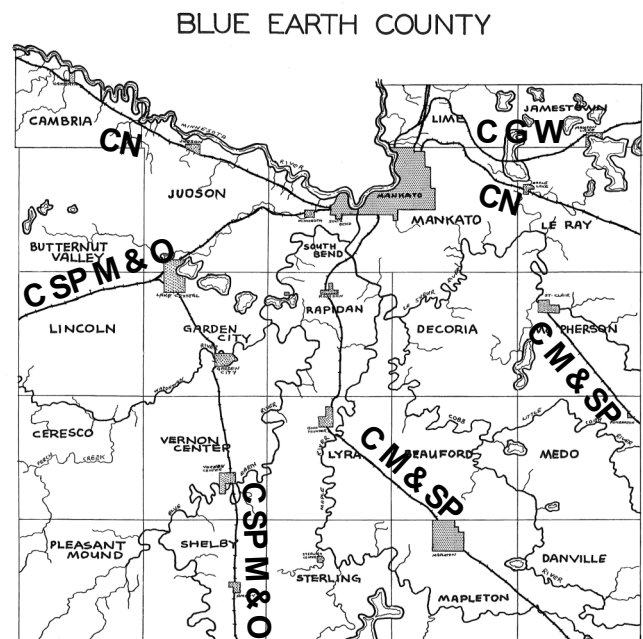
resort area. Besides the Minneopa depot, the railroad constructed an elevator from which 19,000 bushels of wheat were shipped to St. Paul in November. J. Dean’s lumberyard, Daniel Rowland’s store, a blacksmith shop, hotel and other buildings soon followed. As the railroad brought excursionists and artists from as far away as St. Paul and Winona, the Falls area was cleared and improved with foot bridges, trails and stairs down into the glen below the Falls. Huge camp meetings of 3,000 to 5,000 as well as groups from lodges, schools and granges gathered during the summer.

Business flourished, but even the railroads could not save the town

from the devastation of the grasshopper plagues in the mid-1870s. Minneopa village declined, although the



Minneopa Depot and Park



Blue Earth County map showing approximate locations of rail lines.

**Key:** C G W - Chicago Great Western

CN - Chicago Northwestern

C M & SP - Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul

C S P M & O - Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha

railroad continued to bring excursionists to this noted pleasure resort well into the 1900s when the village land had then become part of Minneopa State Park.

The second railroad to extend into Blue Earth County was the Winona and St. Peter line, a part of the Chicago Northwestern Railway system. By August 1870, the track was completed to Burgess’ Mill (Eagle Lake). The first train arrived in Mankato on August 26.

In 1874 the Mankato to Wells track was laid, the third line in the county and the first connection south. Three years earlier as designated stations on the route became known, three new townsites were platted: Rapidan (Station), Good Thunder and Mapleton. By the end of September 1874, daily trains were running to Good Thunder, and on November 17, a celebration of the completed rail line to Wells was held. In 1879 the line was sold to the Chicago Milwaukee Railroad, much to the consternation of the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad whose officers had all but sealed the purchase contract. Piqued by such underhanded dealings, the St. Paul and Sioux City company built a rival line from Lake Crystal via Garden City, Vernon Center and Amboy on its way south to a major east-west rail line. Originally a station was planned at Shelbyville, but when the town voted down a \$10,000 railroad bonus, the St. Paul and Sioux City platted the new village of Amboy for their station, a mile and half north, causing Shelbyville to become deserted within a few years. Eventually the line carried eight passenger trains and two freight trains a day.

The Chicago Great Western Railroad, being built westward from Faribault, reached Madison Lake in 1884 and Mankato in 1887. Madison Lake was already a popular summer resort with guests coming to Point Pleasant from as far as Chicago, Kansas City and Omaha, and the new townsite platted with the arrival of the railroad became a thriving business center shipping grain, potatoes and sometimes over ten carloads of lumber a day.

To accommodate the government requirement for passenger service,

in 1910, the Chicago Great Western began running the *Dan Patch*, a fast gasoline-fired motor coach and baggage car, between Madison Lake and Mankato.



Dan Patch Line

In 1902 the Chicago Great Western built the present Union Depot in Mankato, contracting to share it with the Chicago Milwaukee line which was already sharing their roundhouse.

In 1899 the Chicago Northwestern laid their "Short Line" up the Minnesota River Valley from Mankato to New Ulm, adding two new townsites—Judson and Cambria—both platted in the early spring of 1900.

The last rail line constructed in Blue Earth County

was Chicago Milwaukee's "Alphabet Line," laid in 1906-07 from Albert Lea north through Pemberton to St. Clair. As in the case of Amboy and Shelbyville, the newly platted town of Pemberton prospered while the settlement of Cream, without a depot, declined.

Exploitive and underhanded as they may have been in some of their dealings, the railroads obviously did not prove to "own the whole country." With the coming of automobiles, trucks and highway systems, many of the tracks have fallen into disuse or have been removed for bicycle, hiking or cross-country skiing trails. But the railroads in their day proved to be a much needed catalyst in the stabilizing of settlements and in the growth of agriculture, business and industry in Blue Earth County.

### Sources

Hughes, Thomas, *History of Blue Earth County*, 1909

Kress, Jeanne, "Railroads in Blue Earth County – Chronology of Railroad Construction," 1980

Lake Crystal Area Historical Society, *Beginnings*, 1979

Madison Lake Area Historical Society, *Madison Lake's Historical Quilt*, 1983

*Plat Book and Farmers' Directory of Blue Earth County*, 1951

Reuter, Kelly, *Amboy, Minnesota – A Heritage Rooted in Rural America*, 1979

Various articles from the *Mankato Free Press* and *Mankato Weekly Record*

### **Gone, But Not Forgotten**

Inella Burns was a high school English teacher and enjoyed history. She wrote a series of historical articles for the newsletter over the years. Inella and her husband Bert spent many hours volunteering with the Blue Earth County Historical Society and led the very popular "Travel Like Bert" in the 1990s. In May, Inella passed away at 99 years of age. She will be greatly missed by BECHS not only for her talented writing, but also for her passion for history. Inella, thank you for sharing your gifts with us.







# Around the Research Center

Heather Harren, Communications Manager

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is a wonderful place to find information on your relatives. Earlier this year, *The Mankato Free Press* contacted us for an image of the ice company in town, as they were featuring a story in the *Mankato Magazine* about ice harvesting (February 2016). Although we didn't have a photograph in our collection, I was able to provide the newspaper with an image from our newspaper clippings files of the Mankato Ice Company.

Fast-forward to this past June. Visitor Joan and her family come to the History Center to see the Museum and mentioned this picture. Once again, the newspaper clipping was located and shared with her. Joan was excited to see the article as one of the men pictured was her grandfather. She left the History

Center eager to share her discovery with her children.

We love it when we are able to show someone a photo of a relative. At times the Research Center holds an original photograph, but other times images can only be found in the newspaper. Our dedicated volunteers have helped maintain this great system throughout the years, making it easy to provide many visitors and researchers with a face to go along with the names in their family trees. Next time you are looking into your family history, visit the Research Center and see whose face you can discover!



Mankato Ice Company article,  
Dec. 13, 1952 *Mankato Free Press*

## Blue Earth County Trivia

1. What township has no rivers or streams, but has three lakes?
2. What year was Jackson Lake, near Amboy, drained?
3. Where was a bottling plant established in 1890 that sold carbonized, bottled water?

Answers can be found on page 18.

## WISH LIST

Here are a few items we could use. New or used; item or cash to purchase:

- Vacuum cleaner for Hubbard House; must be able to turn agitator brush off
- Metal 6' ladder for the Hubbard House
- New 40w or 60w incandescent lightbulbs for the Hubbard House
- 2 new or used MP3 players or docking stations
- Industrial strength metal shelving for collections storage
- Computer audio speakers; high quality to use for public presentations
- Used printer ink cartridges to be recycled for Office Depot credit

**Thank you!**

## Need a Space for a Meeting or Special Gathering?



**The Blue Earth County History Center has a number of rental options for your next business meeting or special gathering.**

BECHS offers three different meeting rooms with 1/2 or full day rental possibilities. Options include kitchen access, media equipment and after-hours rental.

Visit [www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/visit/rentals](http://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/visit/rentals) for more information on rates or contact the History Center for availability.





# Historic R.D. Hubbard House

*Where 1900s History Comes to Life*

The Hubbard House has been abuzz this summer with walk-in, guided tours and new and returning favorite living history programs. Mark your calendar for the special programs below and watch for more to be announced.



This summer we welcome Travis Drescher as the new Hubbard House Assistant. Travis staffs the Hubbard House during regularly scheduled hours as well as special events. He is a recent graduate from Bethany Lutheran College

and has volunteered with BECHS since 2015.

Travis has been joined during open hours by one of our many dedicated Hubbard House volunteers. The second assistant paid position has gone unfilled, but thanks to the volunteers we are still able to open the house to the public. If you are interested in volunteering or working at the Hubbard House, please contact Danelle.

## Upcoming Hubbard House Events

**June 3 - August 26, 10:30 a.m.**

### **Story Time at the Hubbard House**

Join *Mary Esther Hubbard* Friday mornings for a special story time on the Hubbard House lawn. Activities include stories, crafts and games. Story Time is free for all ages.

**August 20, 1-4 p.m.**

### **Step Right Up!**

### **The Medicine Show is Back in Town**

Come and see what new tricks these unscrupulous characters have up their sleeves this year! Free and open to the public; admission charged for tours.

**September 14, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Hubbard House Gaslight Series:**

### **Architecture of the Hubbard House**

An after-hours opportunity to see the Hubbard House in a whole new light. More details to come.

**September 25 – Last day for season**

**December 3-4**

### **Christmas at the Hubbard House**

Mark your calendar for this annual holiday tradition. More details to come.

## **Historic R.D. Hubbard House**

### **Hours of Operation**

June - August

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

Sunday 1-4 p.m.

September

Saturday, Sunday 1-4 p.m.



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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS A  
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**GIVETODAY.  
MAKEHISTORY.**

## **Blue Earth County Historical Society**

### **Monthly Giving Program**

Simple way to provide steady support for the ongoing work of BECHS. Enroll online or at the History Center today.

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# BECHS Volunteers Make History Happen

It's a busy summer at the Historical Society and as usual, we know we can count on our amazing volunteers. Thank you to everyone who has given tours at the Hubbard House, pulled weeds in the History Center gardens and has helped to keep the wheels moving smoothly all around!

New volunteers are always welcome! Take a look at the opportunities below. These are just some of the needs we currently have at the Historical Society. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Danelle at the History Center.

We would like to draw special attention to the need for help at the Blue Earth County Fair, July 28-30.

Volunteers, members, donors and friends of the Historical Society are welcome to help at the fair. See below for more information.



## Volunteer and Employment Opportunities

### **BECHS at the County Fair**

The Blue Earth County Fair at the fairgrounds in Garden City will be held July 28-30. Once again, BECHS will have artifacts, pictures and more at the fair. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors, watch over the displays and promote the Historical Society. 3-hour shifts available; contact Danelle to sign-up.

### **Education/Classroom Activities**

Enjoy helping kids explore history? We are looking for individuals to assist with classroom visits and kids activities at the History Center and Hubbard House from on-site educators to living history characters. Also seeking individuals for the research and planning of activities. Schedule varies.

### **Rental Facilitator**

Volunteer needed to assist with after hour rentals of the History Center Meeting Rooms. Volunteer will greet and assist renters, stay on-site during the event and lock-up when done. On an as-needed basis.

### **Hubbard House Gift Shop Attendant**

Seeking individuals interested in greeting visitors at the Hubbard House, answering basic questions about BECHS and ringing up sales in the gift shop. Volunteers needed immediately.

### **History Center Receptionist/Gift Shop Attendant**

Seeking individuals interested in greeting visitors, answering basic questions about BECHS and ringing up sales in the gift shop. Must be comfortable with computers. Training is provided.

### **Video Production Team**

Seeking creative individuals to assist with the development of a history interview video series. Volunteers needed immediately.

### **History Center Gardeners**

The History Center has a number of flower beds, all of which are cared for by our volunteers. Whether you have been gardening for years, wanting to learn or somewhere in between, new volunteers are always welcome and much needed. Schedule is flexible.

### **Technology Assistance**

Looking for a volunteer 10-20 hours per week to help at the History Center with computer maintenance and problem solving. Experience with PC hardware and software, Windows 7 and 10 is preferred. Experience with Windows Server 2012 would be useful.

### **Research Center Attendant**

Do you enjoy researching family or local history? We are looking for people to help in the Research Center, assisting visitors and fulfilling research requests. Training is provided, however, previous research experience is preferred.

### **Speakers Bureau**

Enjoy sharing history with groups of people? Consider joining our Speakers Bureau to present historical information to a variety of groups. Use one of our topics or develop your own. Some training provided. Schedule varies.

# BECHS Donations & Membership

April - June 2016

## Donations

Tanya and Shawn Ange  
Tim and Lisa Bailey  
Beauford Township  
BENCO Electric  
Bend of the River Photo Club  
Darwin Blume  
Joel Botten  
Stephanie and Andrew Bottner  
Jim and Jeanette Brandt  
C&S Supply Co. Inc.  
Cambria Township  
Patrick Carroll  
Jack Considine  
David Cowan  
Judith C. Davis  
Decoria Township  
Delbert and Judy Dunlap  
John and Marty Elchert  
Jill Fischer  
Sara Frederick  
Garden City Township  
Angela Guentzel  
Char Hiniker  
Doug & Linda Hitzemann  
Alan and Dianne Honermann  
Don Howard  
Paul & Mary Jo Hustoles  
Adam Isackson  
Steve and Lois Jaeger  
Hugo and Pat Johns  
Brad and Lisa Johnson  
Estate of Eldon Jones  
John Just Sr.  
Grace and Richard Keir  
Denny Kemp  
Jack and Jane Kolars  
Courtney and William Kramlinger  
Ryan & Melissa Kuehl  
Mike Lagerquist  
Colleen Landkamer  
Louis "Bud" and Shirley Lawrence  
Leray Township

Julie and Brady Lux  
Jack Madsen  
Gregg and Sue Marg  
Mary McComb  
Tom and Theresa McLaughlin  
Medo Township  
Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union  
Mark and Kristina Murphy  
David Nichols  
Rebecca Novak  
Brad and Jessica Potter  
Preston J Doyle Insurance Agency  
Quality 1-Hr Foto  
Rapidan Township  
Joan Roca and Elaine Lilly  
Thomas Ryan  
Karl Sassenberg  
Joan Schmitz  
Tom Solseth  
Sons of Norway  
Kent Stanley  
Steph and Steve Stoffel  
The Tailwind Group  
Brett & Gretchen Taylor  
Joanne Thomas  
Mary Ward  
Marti Weisgram  
Wingert Realty and Land Services  
Gwenn Wolters  
Anthony Zaragoza  
Randy Zellmer  
Ginger Zierdt

## Recurring Donors

Dale Benefield  
Joel Botten  
Carol English  
Carlienne & Robert Frisch  
Christopher Larson  
Jo-an & Dean Lavitschke  
Jack & Diann McGowan

Judie Neitge  
Tom Solseth  
Donna & Gerald Webb  
Marnie Werner  
Randy Zellmer  
Beth Zimmer

## Donor Matching Programs

Thrivent Financial's  
Thrivent Choice

## Honorarium

*In Memory of Eddice Barber*  
Jo Schultz

## *In Memory of Inella Burns*

Rosemary Graham  
David & Nancy Hiniker  
Margaret S. Jones  
Maxine Jordan  
John & Catherine Kaliski  
Frederick and Mary Howell Mais  
Robert and Donna Mertesdorf  
Arlene Renshaw  
Lauren Rickoff  
Patti Tryhus  
Shirley Wold

## *In Memory of Ann R. Hager*

Raymond Hager

## *In Memory of Rebecca Sandon*

Dorothy Anthony  
Suzanne Browne  
Carole Olsen  
Donna Sandon

## *In Memory of Steve Walters*

Helen Owens

## In-Kind

Harley and Janet Goff  
Larry and Trixie Kortuem  
Quality 1-Hr Foto/SPX

## New Members

Janet G. Adams  
Curt Bossert and Paula Traphagen-Bossert  
Stephanie & Andrew Bottner  
Joanne Cramer  
Sara Evans  
Billie & Randall Hanson  
Kay Herbst Helms  
Sue Hytjan  
Rose Johnson  
Pat Kasell  
Patricia Morrow  
Bob Nord  
Michael Oberle  
Ann Oberle-DeGroodt  
Tyler Pasquale  
Nancy Patton  
Molly Westman

## Renewing Business Members

Gene's Repair  
Old Main Village  
Preston J Doyle Insurance Agency



# Around Blue Earth County



Summer is upon us, a time of picnics, family gatherings and good times. On Tuesday, August 2, RHS will celebrate National Night Out with a potluck from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Rapidan Township Garage. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy a meal with friends and neighbors. Chat with local sheriff and fire departments and also the Rapidan Township Supervisors. Special thanks to the Township for letting RHS hold this at the township garage. This is open to all friends and neighbors!

*Friends and neighbors* – in days past visiting and sharing a meal played an important part of a community. The school was an important common interest, with everyone attending class plays and programs. Churches drew people together on Sundays for service, luncheons and special events like Mission Festivals. Sundays were reserved as a day of worship and rest with families visiting each other and sharing meals, or maybe going fishing.

The Blue Earth Fair was “a must” to attend. No matter how busy the people were, time would be spent at the fair visiting with friends and, of course, checking out who had entered the best fruit, canning, sewing, quilting, chickens, hogs or horses in the competitions. A ribbon entitled that lucky person to bragging rights for the year! RHS will once again be



staffing the Garberg Cabin at the Fair, July 28-30 at the Blue Earth County Fairgrounds in Garden City. Feel welcome to stop by, sit a spell and visit!

The Rapidan Depot Museum is open Sundays from 1 – 4 p.m. until Labor Day.



**Congratulations to the Amboy Dodd Ford Bridge!** The 115-year old historic bridge just reopened after years of preservation efforts to save the bridge. The 1901 bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of only two remaining examples of respected bridge builder L.H. Johnson’s work from that time period. As part of the unique bridge rehabilitation project, the historic value of the bridge truss was preserved while constructing new steel beams and a concrete deck that will carry modern full legal bridge loads.

## SAVE THE DATE 30th Anniversary of Ghosts From the Past The Ghosts Return

**October 27 and 28, 2016  
6 - 8 p.m.**

Tickets will go on sale October 1.  
Visit [www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](http://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com)  
for details.

### ***Moving? New Address? Please let us know!***

It costs over \$2 for each newsletter that cannot be delivered. Please help the Society reserve funds and assure you get your *Historian* by notifying us of your new or seasonal address.

*Were you once a “Ghost”? Maybe you’ve always wanted to be. We need you! We are looking for volunteers interested in developing the 30th anniversary performance of Ghosts from the Past. We will need planners, writers and characters. Please contact Danelle if you are interested in joining the planning team.*

# Calendar of Events July - October 2016

## JULY

- 27 History Bits & Bites: Twilight Garden Club,** Noon-1 p.m., History Center
- 28 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*
- 28-30 Blue Earth County Fair,** Garden City. Visit BECHS in Building A to see historic Fair photos, FarmFest memorabilia, and a mini exhibit of *Minnesota on the Map*. Fairgoers can also see displays from the Maple River Heritage, Inc. and Madison Lake Area Historical Society. *Volunteers needed.*
- 30 When Home Won't Let You Stay: Stories of Refugees** last day; exhibit closing.



## AUGUST

- 2 Remember When Coffee Club:** Memorable Birthdays, 10 a.m., History Center, Free
- 2 Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 6 Minnesota on the Map Exhibit** opens
- 20 Step Right Up—The Medicine Show is Back in Town,** 1-4 p.m., Hubbard House, Free
- 24 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*
- 26 Last day of Story Time at the Hubbard House,** 10:30 a.m.
- 26 Annual BECHS Member Appreciation,** 5-7 p.m., History Center, *Together We're Making History*, RSVP to 345-5566 by 8/19/2016
- 31 History Bits & Bites: History of the Mahkato Wacipi,** Noon-1 p.m., History Center

## SEPTEMBER

- 3-4 Labor Day Weekend,** History Center Closed, Hubbard House open 1-4 p.m.
- 6 Remember When Coffee Club:** My Ancestors - Arriving in the USA, 10 a.m., History Center, Free
- 6 Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 10 Young Historians: Blue Earth County's Natural History—Water,** 10 a.m.-Noon, History Center; Please pre-register by 9/8/16
- 14-15 Old Home Certified,** the Minnesota REALTOR® designation developed by Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM), is coming to Mankato! If you're interested in historic

properties, check out this two-day course featuring nine fast-paced, expert-taught classes on Minnesota architecture, understanding historic districts, researching houses and more. This course is essential for anyone who works with vintage properties (realtors, stagers, loan officers, home inspectors, historic property owners). Minnesota Realtors will earn 12 credits of CE. All attendees must pre-register. Get more info at [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com)

- 14 Hubbard House Gaslight Series: Architecture of the Hubbard House,** 7:00 p.m., Hubbard House
- 22 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*
- 24 Welsh Settlements of Blue Earth County Bus Tour,** 10 a.m.-3 p.m., see back page for more
- 25 Hubbard House Closes for the Season**
- 28 History Bits and Bites: Author David Lanegran and Minnesota on the Map,** Noon-1 p.m., History Center

## OCTOBER

- 4 Remember When Coffee Club:** Radio - Over the Airways 10 a.m., History Center, Free
- 4 Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 10 Young Historians: Blue Earth County's Natural History—Animals,** 10 a.m.-Noon, History Center
- 20 Minnesota Fur Trade Exhibit** Opens
- 26 History Bits & Bites: MSU Common Read** Noon-1 p.m., History Center
- 27 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*
- 27-28 30th Anniversary of Ghosts from the Past**

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

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

**Answers to Blue Earth County Trivia on page 12:**  
1. Butternut Valley 2. 1915 3. Mankato Mineral Springs



# Membership Makes a Difference

Summer is a great time for Blue Earth County Historical Society members to take advantage of their free unlimited admission to the History Center and Hubbard House! Check out the Discovery Lab in the Museum, discover your family tree in the Research Center or step back in time with a tour to the Hubbard House.

Be sure to stop by the History Center the evening of Friday, August 26 for our Annual Member Appreciation. Come and see everything you make possible! See page 2 for more details.

Current members can find their membership expiration date on the back of this issue of *The Historian*.

Not a member? Now is the time to join. Annual



membership starts at \$35 for individuals or \$50 for households.

To renew or to become a member, visit [www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/join](http://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/join) or see the information below.

**Check everything your membership makes possible, visit our website to view our new video.**

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



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## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Membership Levels**

Individual Senior (62+) \$30

Individual \$35

Household \$50

Contributor \$75

Supporter \$100

Booster or Business \$250

Advocate \$500

Benefactor \$1,000

Please send this form and check to:

**BECHS Membership**  
**424 Warren Street**  
**Mankato, MN 56001**

**OR**

Complete your membership form online at  
**[www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/join](http://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/join)**

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

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## Welsh Weekend in Blue Earth County September 24-25, 2016



### Welsh Settlements in Blue Earth County Bus Tour

**Saturday, September 24**

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

*Presented by the Minnesota Welsh Association and  
Blue Earth County Historical Society*

**\$30 BECHS or MWA Members  
\$35 General Public**

Explore Blue Earth County's Welsh Settlements along the Minnesota River from Mankato to Cambria with this narrated bus tour. Tour includes numerous stops, history and lunch. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Purchase your tickets today at the History Center!  
Limited number of seats available. Bus will depart from the Blue Earth County History Center.

### 2016 Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival

**Sunday, September 25, 1:30 p.m.**

First Presbyterian Church  
220 East Hickory, Mankato, MN

#### **VISITING CONDUCTOR**

*Dr. James Cassarino - of Vermont*

#### **PERFORMING CHOIR**

*Riverblenders - of Mankato, MN*

4-part Congregational Singing of Welsh Hymns  
(in English)

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

**For more information,  
visit [www.MNWelshAssociation.weebly.com](http://www.MNWelshAssociation.weebly.com) or  
[www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](http://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com)**



### **Blue Earth County Historical Society**

424 Warren Street  
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**Membership  
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