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SPECIAL EXHIBITS

Featured Artist:



Sea of Spring

Colors of Nature

By Terri DeGezelle
on display now through
December 30, 2016

Exhibits:

Fur Trade in Minnesota
October 20 - January 7,
2017



Portaging a Canoe, 1860 by Dennis Gale

Here's an Extra Helping of History for You

We hope you enjoy this expanded issue of *The Historian* with four extra pages of history and happenings. It's our holiday gift to you. On October 20, we open a new traveling exhibit titled *Fur Trade in Minnesota*. To help you dig a little deeper on the fur trade, please enjoy the in-depth feature article "The Fur Trade in the Minnesota River Valley" by William E. Lass, PhD. Dr. Lass is a professor emeritus of history at Minnesota State University, Mankato who has written extensively on various Minnesota history topics. In this issue, you will also notice some great programs and events coming up. You won't want to miss even one! See the calendar on page 22 for more information. We hope to see you at the 30th annual *Ghosts From the Past, 115th Anniversary Open House* and our annual *Christmas at the Hubbard House*. As we near the holiday season, please consider shopping in our Gift Shop chalked full of unique items; check out pages 8-9 for a sampling of what is available. Need a gift for someone hard to buy for? Consider a gift membership or a donation to BECHS made in that person's name. You can be a History Hero! New this year, check out the enclosed giving envelope for an easy way to make a gift and renew your membership.

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
Closed for Season
Open Weekends in December
Christmas at the Hubbard House:
December 3, 3-7 p.m.; 4, 1-4 p.m.
Walk-in Guided Tours:
December 10-11, 17-18, 1-4 p.m.

The Blue Earth County Historian Fall 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 begin by thanking everyone for your support of BECHS and our mission “to lead in the collecting and promoting of Blue Earth County’s history to ensure its preservation for the enrichment and benefit of present and future generations.”

BECHS will once again be launching its Annual Fund Drive. This is the time of the year when you and I can show our support for a community-based organization that values and preserves the history of its citizenry. Please consider a gift to not only support operations this year, but will also be an investment in 2017.

Visit our website to view all the events that are taking place for the rest of the year. Please encourage others to join you in attending BECHS’ programs which educate and inform us about Blue Earth County’s rich history. Check out the new traveling exhibit coming soon, the Anniversary Open House in November and of course, *Christmas at the Hubbard House* in December. We are also starting to plan our annual fundraiser *Surrounded By History* and could use some help planning and fundraising. Volunteers are always a welcomed addition at BECHS, so please consider sharing your time and talent with us. I want to make you aware of a referendum for Mankato residents that will appear on the November 8 ballot that could greatly benefit BECHS. This referendum is an extension of an existing one-half of one percent sales tax that is currently assessed on purchases made in Mankato—it is not a new tax. If approved, the 0.5 percent sales tax would continue to be collected until 2038. The tax has been collected since 1991; originally as a funding source for the Civic Center. The referendum not only affects the length of time the tax can be collected, but it also broadens the scope in which the funds can be spent. The tax will support improvements to critical infrastructure and development of existing and new regional facilities. For the first time, BECHS would be able to request matching funds from the City of Mankato for our existing facilities. If you are a Mankato resident, please consider supporting this referendum on November 8 and please support History. For more information, visit greatermankato.com/salestax.



GROWING
A GREATER MANKATO

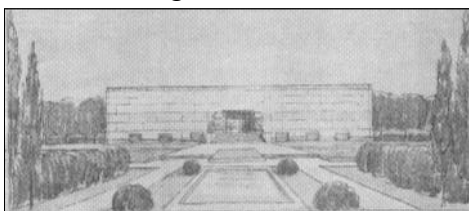
Director's Notes

Jessica Potter, Executive Director

Happy Anniversary Blue Earth County Historical Society! For 115 years, the Blue Earth County Historical Society has collected, preserved and shared the rich history and heritage of Blue Earth County. We are celebrating with a party – join us for our *115th Anniversary Open House* on Friday, November 4 and Saturday, November 5 - special events, gift shop sales and refreshments all weekend. Come help us celebrate 115 years of history!

I've been reflecting on this milestone a lot this year. I feel so fortunate to not only be part of a long-standing community organization, but also to be living out the dream of our founders. Although the Society was officially organized in 1901, it wasn't until 1916 that they started dreaming of a permanent home for the organization. In 1916 then Society President Lorin Cray hoped "the day was not far distant when the association would command a membership that would enable them to have a home of their own, where the many treasures that he felt sure would soon be assembled might form an educational center for all southern Minnesota, and that the names and deeds of the men and women who turned the tangled wilderness of this beautiful valley into smiling fields, and who laid the foundation of our schools and churches that are now our pride, may not pass into oblivion."

Although the History Center doesn't look like this rendering from 1937, it is one of two educational



Proposed Museum design, 1937

centers that we operate today. Did you know that the Hubbard House was purchased from

Mary Esther Hubbard in 1938 with funds donated by Cray after his death? The Hubbard House served as our first permanent home and educational center for 50 years.

I also think back to the years of work put in by Board members in the 1980s who addressed the issue of cramped quarters in the Hubbard House and invested in the future of the organization by moving into this building. They saw a vision for a new educational center and found the community support

to make it happen. At the time, they could only imagine what to do with all of the space. Well, almost 30 years later, the space is filled and we have even expanded. And now, kudos to our more recent Board members and donors who again invested in our future with the acquisition of the entire building.



Hubbard House as the Museum

All of these milestones came on the backs of people – people who served in leadership roles, people who paid their annual membership dues, people who financially supported BECHS, people who gave their time and talents, and people who trusted us with their cherished history. At the core of the Blue Earth County Historical Society was and remains people. People like you and me. People who made and continue to make a difference in the future of BECHS, the future of History.

In the last few months of our 115th anniversary year, please look back at what the Historical Society means to you...what history means to you. And please consider making an investment in our future with a generous gift. All funds raised will not only be used to meet our funding gap, but will also be used to make year #116 even better than the last. Please use the enclosed giving envelope today for your donation.

In 2017, we plan to invest in:

- improved storage and display conditions for our precious collection by converting all incandescent and fluorescent lights at the History Center to LED,
- the visitor experience by creating dynamic learning opportunities for people of all ages that visit both the History Center and Hubbard House,
- new computers which will enable staff to better keep up with ever-changing technology (while current staff computers will be shifted to improve volunteer workstations), and
- our people, by supporting our dedicated staff with competitive wages.

Join me in making 2017 another milestone year for our Blue Earth County Historical Society!



Education & Outreach

Making Local History Accessible to All Ages

By Beth Johnson, Education and Outreach Coordinator

Wow! Can you believe we are already well into the fall? It's harvest time and the kids are back to school. Here at the Blue Earth County Historical Society we spent our summer with many visitors – young and old and continued our planning for a busy season ahead!

BECHS at the Mahkato Wacipi

In September, I took Education and Outreach on the road! BECHS

partnered with the Minnesota Historical Society/Jeffers Petroglyphs and the Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota in the Education Tent at the Mahkato Wacipi. We brought our *History of the Mahkato Pow Wow* exhibit, Native American games and some items from our study collection. Children and adults



In the Education Tent at the Mahkato Wacipi.

played the games with curiosity and handled our stone tools with awe. A big "thank you" to our wonderful Pow Wow volunteers who helped with our constant stream of visitors.

***Young Historians* is back!**

Throughout this year *Young Historians* will explore Blue Earth County's natural history. We started in September by looking at our important water resources with rural development researcher and BECHS board member Marnie Werner. Students learned how water contributed to the development of the county. They also made fish prints, courtesy of supplies provided by Minneopa State Park Naturalist, Scott Kudelka. It was fun to see the students' excitement as they created their colorful fish. You can see the student's prints hanging in the Discovery Lab!

In the Schools

We continue to work with our area school districts to see how we can help fill any gaps within their history curriculum. Plans for field trips and classroom visits are being developed and made available to our area schools. We have also partnered with Mankato's Community Education to provide enrichment classes for grades K-5 in the spring!

Special Activities for MEA

On October 20, I have arranged for a special visitor in conjunction with the opening of *Fur Trade in Minnesota* exhibit! Local historian and naturalist Larry Richie will be at the History Center all day to show his stone tool collection and handmade dugout canoe. It's the start of MEA weekend and this hands-on program is perfect for all ages to explore history. Richie will also present a more in-depth class in the evening about stone tools and the people who made them. See the calendar on page 22 for more information.



Stone tools on display now.

If you are interested in volunteering or donating to fund school field trips/activities, History Kits, or any of our fun activities, please contact me for more information.

give
TO THE
MAX

NOV. 17, 2016

Join BECHS for
Minnesota's
Day of Giving on
November 17 at
www.GiveMN.org!

One more easy way to make an online donation to support BECHS.

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, lively 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:

November 1 - Music: Songs from the Past

December 6 - When Relatives Visit

January 3 - New Technologies

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.



Dave Lanegran, author of *Minnesota on the Map*, presented in September.

Upcoming Programs

October 26 – *The Japanese American's Experience During World War II* with Sally Sudo and Lucy Kiriara, in conjunction with Minnesota State University, Mankato's Common Read Program

November 30 – *Hispanic Heritage* with Dan Perez

December 21 – Fur trade documentary film and discussion.

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.

This year, *Young Historians* will be exploring how important our natural resources are to the development of Blue Earth County. 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

November 12 - The Importance of Our Animals

December 10 - Rocks, Glaciers and Geology

January 14 - Harnessing the Cold



A trio of Young Historians and the fish prints they made in September as they learned about water.



Collections & Exhibits

Minnesota on the Map

Shelley Harrison, Archives & Collections Manager

The Blue Earth County Historical Society welcomes our newest traveling exhibit *Fur Trade in Minnesota*. The exhibit shows the impact fur trade had on the Native Americans, explorers and international trade.

This exhibit opens Thursday, October 20 (MEA weekend) with some special activities throughout the day. See page 22 for more details. The exhibit is open through January 7, 2017 and is free to the public.

With lots to see and do, this exhibit is sure to have something for everyone. Try your hand at lifting a 45-pound Voyageur's pack, design Native American-inspired art, see the steps it takes to turn a beaver pelt into a stately top hat and play fur trader in the kid-sized fort.

Minnesota played a key role in the fur trade which stretched across five continents, making it Minnesota's first global business. Blue Earth County contributed beaver, wolf, fox, otter, mink, raccoon, badger, and skunk to this efficient and global transportation network to get furs into the hands of buyers. For example, the total value of pelts for just four months in 1869 brought to market in Mankato was \$88,800.

"How to make a hat from a beaver," from fur trade exhibit

Fur Trade in Minnesota was created by the Minnesota History Center's "Exhibits to Go" program which brings Minnesota history to communities statewide. Visitors will enjoy interactive displays, maps, art, photographs and hands-on artifacts that tell the



Discover life as a fur trader!

stories of these fascinating people.

Come in and take an epic journey into the heart of Minnesota's frontier.

In connection with this exhibit, BECHS is excited to host historical re-enactor and educator Arn Kind and his *Fur Trade Experience* on Saturday, November 5 at 1 p.m at the History Center. Immerse yourself in the voyageur spirit as Kind shares his assortment of costumes, objects and hands-on activities. This family fun activity is free for all.



For more about Arn Kind and how he shares living history, visit his website "Historical Experiences"

Minnesota Historical Society "Exhibits to Go" 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.

Fur Trade in Minnesota

A traveling exhibit from the Minnesota History Center.

This traveling exhibit, rich with activities and objects, shows how plentiful beaver and furbearers brought together native people, explorers, and international trade.



Don't Miss It!

Blue Earth County History Center

October 20 - January 7
Free



Every object has a story...

In the Blue Earth County History Center Museum we showcase objects that tell stories of Blue Earth County's past. Although only about ten percent of our collection is on display at any given time, the objects are selected to show a wide range of unique stories.

Take a closer look at these items currently on display:

Horsehair Coat with quilted lining, circa 1900s

Horsehair is known for its superior warmth and durability, making it perfect for cold Blue Earth County winters. This double breasted coat also has a raccoon fur collar and cuffs with wood toggles. Raccoons were especially popular with



trappers and traders in Minnesota because the fur gets thicker and longer the farther north the animal lives.

Top Hat with leather traveling case, circa 1800s

This hat is made of beaver felt with a black ribbon encircling the base of the crown. Beaver felt is tighter than rabbit and hare



which makes for a more durable fabric. As the demand for beaver felt hats grew in Europe, beaver pelts became the prized trading good in North America. In fact, the hats became so popular that the beaver was almost hunted into extinction.

So the next time you visit the Museum, take a few moments to closely examine these artifacts and see what other stories may be discovered.

HISTORY CENTER ART GALLERY

Colors of Nature

By Terri DeGezelle

October - December 2016

Photographer and author, Terri DeGezelle has more than 60 children's non-fiction titles published as well as several photos in national publications. She continually strives to blend her two art forms, writing and photography. In DeGezelle's perfect world she would be reading, writing and photographing the world around her.

For DeGezelle, photography is like going on a journey. She gathers her equipment, maps out her route, studies her destination, and finally, spends time doing all the planned activities. But what she has learned along the way is best laid plans can go awry and the most fruitful outings are those when spontaneity takes over. Her best shots are those

taken when she simply is in the right spot, at the right moment, with her camera turned on.

DeGezelle strives to bring color, texture and wonder to her viewers. She enjoys taking up the challenge to seek out the splendor, quiet, graceful beauty of nature while bringing her viewers along to provide them with an... "*Ah ha moment!*"



Pink Spring

Special Art Events with Terri DeGezelle Saturday, October 15

Hand-Tinting Photography Class

1 p.m., History Center

Learn how to hand-tint black and white photographs. Each person will create a frameable work of art from this class. Free, but space is limited and pre-registration is encouraged, please call 507-345-5566.

Artist Opening Reception 7-8 p.m., History Center

Special opportunity to view the art and meet Terri DeGezelle.

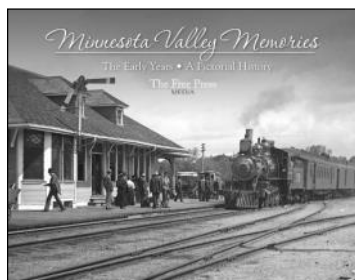


Gift Shop & Art Gallery News

Danelle Erickson, Development Manager

As we enter the holiday season, don't forget to add the History Center Gift Shop to your shopping list. With a wide variety of unique items, there is sure to be something for everyone! Not sure what to buy? We offer Gift Certificates and Gift Memberships, too.

This past year, the Blue Earth County Historical Society was excited to once again work with The Free Press Media on their latest book, *Minnesota Valley Memories*. Now, we are happy to announce the Gift Shop has copies available for purchase, \$44.95. Inside this beautiful hard-covered book you will find a number of great photographs not only from BECHS' collection but also from area residents and organizations.



Starting in November, the Gift Shop will have available a beautiful selection of vintage inspired Christmas ornaments. They not only make great gifts, but would look perfect on your tree, too! The holiday decorations will be on display just in time for our *115th Anniversary Open House* on November 4 and 5. Be sure to visit the Gift Shop for great store specials.



The next time you visit the Gift Shop and Marian Anderson Gallery, take a few minutes to browse through the beautiful Marian Anderson note cards and "create your own note card pack." Cards can be purchased in quantities of 1, 6 or 9. Mix and match your favorites! In addition, now through the end of the year, all Marian Anderson prepackaged note card packs are on sale for \$7.50.

Once again, the History Center Gift Shop is joining with the Mankato City Center Partnership

(CCP) and American Express as we celebrate "Shop Small Saturday" on November 26 with the History Center open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. that day. This nationwide event encourages shoppers to shop local. Not only does the money support the local economy, but our local businesses offer so many great products and services not available at the big box stores. Watch for more information, including how to receive your CCP Passport and be eligible for some great prizes.



Marian Anderson Fine Art Prints

Available exclusively at the History Center and at **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.

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



Winter's Lace

Give the Gift of History this Holiday Season!

*Memberships, Art, Gift Certificates
available at the History Center*

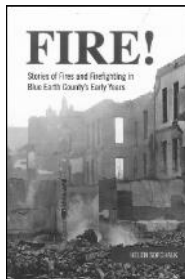
Holiday Gift Ideas from the Gift Shop

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

BECHS Publications

Blue Earth County Historian 2001-2005 Vol. 1 and ***Blue Earth County Historian 2006-2010 Vol. 2***
Compilations of the main articles from past issues of *The Historian*. Two volumes available. \$14.95 each.

Fire! by Helen Sofchak. A collection of stories that show the state of firefighting technology in the early days of Blue Earth County and the advancements over the first 65 years. \$12.95



Other titles include: *Blue Earth County Century Farms*, *Meet the Hubbards*, *Minneinneopa: 150 Year History of Minneopa*, *The Multifaceted Carp*, *Rapidan Dam*, *The Remarkable Men of Garden City* and *Unique Mankato Stories*.

Local Histories

Did They Think We Would Remember? by Maggie Jones. Meet some of Lake Crystal's colorful individuals from 1900-1950. \$10.00

History of the Welsh in Minnesota, translated from Welsh by Martha Davies. Discover the rich Welsh heritage of Southern Minnesota with this newly rediscovered information. \$29.95

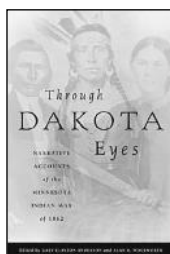


Other topics include: Red Jacket Valley, Maple River, St. Clair, Mankato trivia and family histories.

Dakota History

Being Dakota by Amos E. Oneroad and Alanson B. Skinner. The tales and traditions of the Sisseton and Wahpeton. \$19.95

Through Dakota Eyes by Gary Clayton Anderson and Alan R. Woolworth. A collection of narratives of Dakota experiences from the summer of 1862. \$18.95



Other titles include: *The Dakota War of 1862*, *Little Crow* and *Everything You Want to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask*.

Popular Titles

Hot Dish Heaven by Ann Burckhardt. A celebration and recipe collection of Minnesota's favorite meals. \$16.95

Children's Blizzard, by David Laskin. A moving story about the 1888 blizzard that devastated much of the Midwest. \$15.99

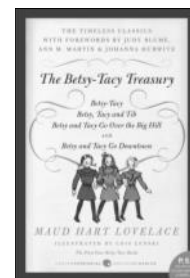
Minnesota History Along the Highways The perfect handbook for your next road trip. \$13.95



For the Young and Young-at-Heart

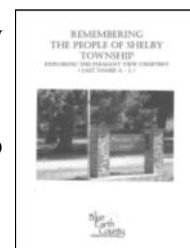
The Betsy-Tacy series by Mankato author Maud Hart Lovelace. Follow Betsy in her many adventures as she grows up in Deep Valley (based on real-life Mankato). \$14.99-\$15.99

"You Choose" books, published by Capstone Press. Interactive history adventures where the reader decides what happens next in the story. \$6.95 each



Cemetery Transcriptions

Remembering the People compiled by Corey Hugg. This series of 9 books documents those buried in different Blue Earth County cemeteries and also includes obituaries and other biographical information. \$49.95 each



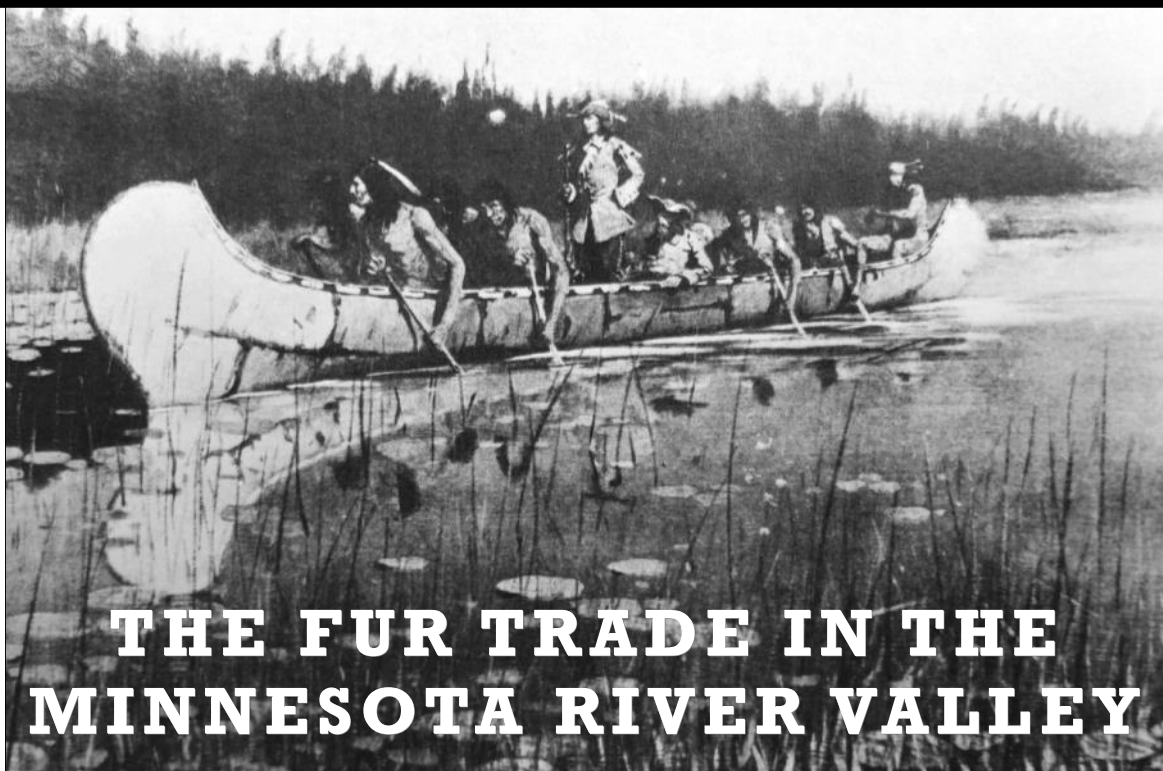
Unique Gifts

Hand-painted Slates from the R.D. Hubbard House feature the Hubbard House, Carriage House or Seppman Mill. \$34.95

Adult coloring books with topics including Steampunk Fashions, Victorian Houses and historic patriotic posters. \$3.99-\$5.99

Local art by Marian Anderson, Gerry Tostenson, John Cross and more.





Radisson and Groseilliers, 1905 painting by Frederic Remington

By Dr. William Lass

Introduction: The Nature of the Trade

The fur trade, which could also aptly be called the Indian trade, was the first business in the Minnesota River Valley and most other American frontier regions. It featured a rather elaborate bartering system. Incoming Europeans provided the native people with an array of practical goods in exchange for animal pelts, which were subsequently marketed in Europe and China. The principal trader-supplied items were certain grocery items including flour and sugar, blankets, cloth, clothing, hardware, cutlery, tobacco, liquor, guns and ammunition.

Three categories of pelts were obtained from the Indians. Beaver, which was mainly used to make men's hats, was the most valuable. Fine furs usually obtained from muskrats and members of the weasel family such as marten, weasel, mink, fisher and otter ranked next below beaver. Lastly, was the category of rough furs that included the black bear, gray wolf and coyote.

The Minnesota River Valley fur trade occurred over about a century and a half. It was opened in 1700 by the French explorer/trader Pierre Charles Le Sueur and essentially ended with the Dakota Indian land cessions of 1851. During that period the trade had distinct French, British and American periods.

Throughout its history most of the trade was

conducted on a credit system. Traders found that the moneyless Indians had to be advanced goods to induce them to produce furs. Typically traders distributed supplies during the fall and collected furs the following spring. Until about 1800 beaver was the usual medium of exchange. The price of all trade goods was established relative to the value of a beaver pelt. Thus, for example, the highest quality wool blanket might cost two beaver pelts. Likewise, the exchange system established values of other furs relative to beaver. So at any given time it might take twenty muskrat pelts to equal one beaver.

The cost of goods to the Indians was necessarily high, because the frontier price included typically steep transportation costs. Manufactured goods that originated in Europe could easily cost three or four times what they did at their point of origin.

The French, British and American fur trade periods were established by diplomatic developments involving North American land claims. France was the first claimant of all land drained by the St. Lawrence and Mississippi rivers. This gave France an initial advantage in the fur trade because Indians usually lived along major waterways. Consequently, the French could easily penetrate interior North America by canoes and other watercraft while their British rivals were developing Atlantic seaboard colonies.

The French Period

The French first realized that the area west of Lake Superior was potentially rich fur trade country because of the explorations of Pierre Esprit Radisson and his brother-in-law Médart Chouart, Sieur des Groseilliers. In 1659-60 while exploring the present-day North Shore Drive region, Radisson and Groseilliers met Dakota Indians. The Dakota, who were then being forced west-southwest by the more numerous and better armed Ojibwe (i.e. Chippewa) welcomed the Frenchmen as potential trading allies.

Publicity of the Minnesota area by Radisson and Groseilliers, as well as that of Daniel Greysolon, Sieur Duluth, who explored the Duluth-Mille Lacs region in 1679-1680 and the 1680 Mississippi River explorer Father Louis Hennepin, induced French traders to begin operating in present-day Minnesota.

In 1689 Nicholas Perrot assisted by his lieutenant Pierre Charles Le Sueur established a trading post on the Wisconsin side of Lake Pepin, the widening of the Mississippi below the mouth of the Chippewa River. During the 1690s some of their customers were Dakota Indians who decorated their bodies with a bluish-green clay they had obtained along the banks of the Blue Earth River. There is a persistent tradition, which is nothing more than folklore, that Le Sueur thought the clay was copper ore. Although Le Sueur was untrained in metallurgy he had seen copper during his time in the Lake Superior area and certainly recognized the difference between a metal and a clay whose color resembled oxidized copper.

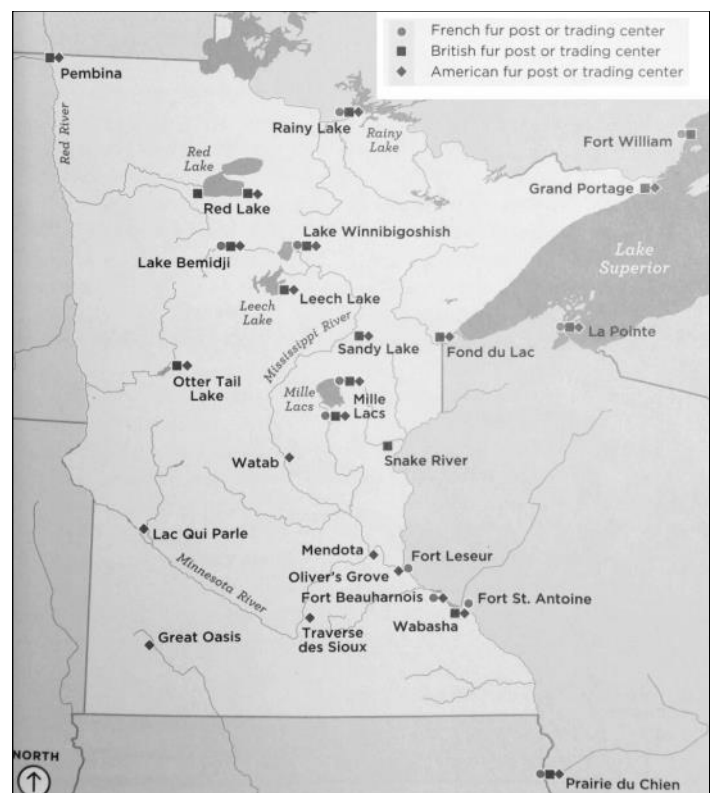
Le Sueur evidently concocted the copper mines notion as a ruse to enter new trading territory. France's economic system was mercantilism under which the central government tightly controlled supply and demand by granting monopolies to selected companies, rather than allow natural supply and demand to determine market conditions. When Le Sueur sought permission to enter the Blue Earth River area, the French and European market was glutted with beaver pelts. Consequently, the government had banned the issuance of more trade licenses. But, Le Sueur easily obtained a permit to mine copper.

In 1700 Le Sueur with about two dozen men ascended the Mississippi, Minnesota and Blue Earth Rivers. In early October he built stockade Fort L'Huillier (le-wee-yea) at some undetermined site along the Blue Earth River several miles above its mouth. Le Sueur stayed at the fort for only a year, but the last of his men did not abandon it until 1702. At Fort L'Huillier, Le Sueur, apparently hoping that the European beaver market would improve during his

absence, engaged in the fur trade. He traded for 3,600 beaver pelts with visiting Dakota groups. The country about Fort L'Huillier was rife with wild animals. Vast buffalo herds ranged over the grasslands to the west and black bears frequented nearby forests. During the fall of 1700 Le Sueur's men killed some four hundred buffalo for their wintertime subsistence.

Unfortunately, Le Sueur is best remembered for his bogus copper mine. But, his most significant contribution was to extend French claims and pioneer the Minnesota River Valley fur trade.

After the abandonment of Fort L'Huillier, France was forced to reduce its activities west of the Mississippi. Because of a series of wars with Great Britain and lingering war against the Meskwaki (i.e. Fox) Indians in the present-day Illinois-Wisconsin region, French traders had to concentrate their activities



Major Fur Trade Posts in Minnesota, 1660-1855

in the Great Lakes region.

The British wars ultimately led to France's downfall in North America. From 1689-1763 France and Great Britain fought four wars against each other in Europe. All of them had North American phases. The last war, now known as the Seven Years War (1756-63) in Europe and the French and Indian War in North America, proved to be decisive. The Paris Peace Treaty of 1763 marked the end of the war and with the treaty, France ceded nearly all of its North American

claims to Great Britain. Because of this surrender British traders became the new lords of the frontier fur trade.

The British Period

Legally the British period was ended by the Treaty of Paris of 1783, the diplomatic settlement of the Revolutionary War. Great Britain and the United States agreed that the western boundary of the United States would be the Mississippi River. The area west of the Mississippi was then controlled by Spain, which had acquired the vast Louisiana region from France in 1762.

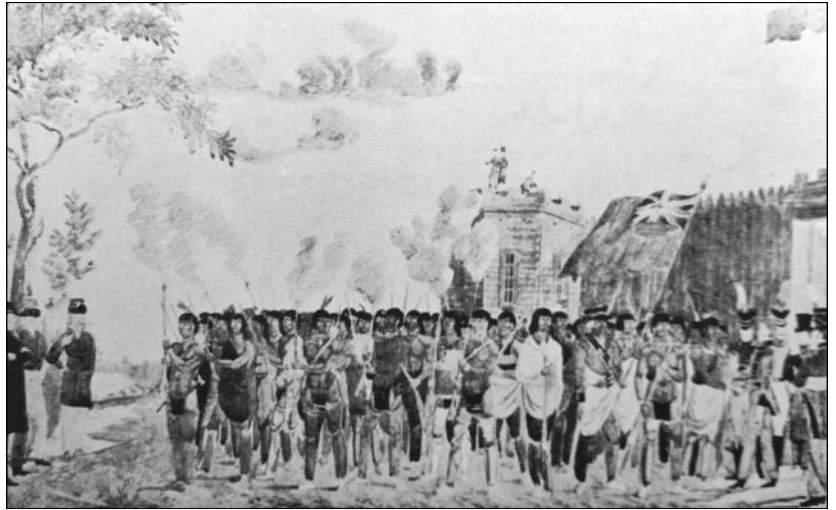
But since both the United States and Spain made no effort to occupy their respective parts of the Upper Mississippi country, British traders remained on the land until they were forced out after the War of 1812. The United States became more concerned about the British presence after it purchased Louisiana from France (it had been retroceded to France by Spain in 1800) in 1803. But the British traders stayed because they were supported by all Indian tribes of the Upper Mississippi-Great Lakes country.

The War of 1812 (1812-1814), which was ostensibly caused because of American demands for freedom of the seas, was mainly fought in the American-Canadian borderlands east of Lake Superior. The conflict, which was essentially a military stalemate, was ended diplomatically by the Treaty of Ghent signed on Christmas Eve, 1814. Significantly, the American and British peace negotiators agreed to survey and mark a firm Canada-United States boundary from the St. Lawrence River westward to the northwest point of Lake of the Woods. This situation enabled the United States to force the Indian tribes formerly allied with Great Britain to acknowledge by treaties that they were subjects of the American government and to ban British fur traders from the country. In most parts of Minnesota including the Minnesota River Valley, the changeover from British to American traders did not occur until 1817.

During the British trade that lasted slightly more than a half century, the Minnesota River business was dominated by traders based at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Located along the Mississippi River thirty miles south of where the present-day Minnesota-Iowa border meets Wisconsin, Prairie du Chien was the key base for the entire Upper Mississippi country. Primarily, the British traders depended on the Dakotas to gather furs in the Minnesota River Valley and then

deliver them to Prairie du Chien.

But some British traders operating out of Prairie du Chien traveled to in the Minnesota River Valley to trade. The first was Peter Pond, a Connecticut Yankee, who led small parties into the valley in both 1773 and 1774. Pond, who ascended the river to about present-day New Ulm profitably traded for beaver pelts and other furs and hides. Pond also observed that some Dakotas had horses, which apparently were introduced



Painting by Peter Rindisbacher depicting British troops being welcomed at the trading post at Prairie du Chien

from the west only a few years before his arrival. Significantly, the horse was a major factor in transforming the Dakotas lifestyle. It made overland travel easier and faster and greatly facilitated buffalo hunting.

Following Pond, Charles Patterson established a trading post on the Minnesota River in later Renville County. In a roundabout way Patterson's trade in the 1780s led to the naming of Sacred Heart, Minnesota. Patterson customarily wore a bearskin hat. Some local Dakotas who venerated bears referred to his headgear as Sacred Hat. Somehow this was mistranslated into Sacred Heart.

By the time the United States purchased Louisiana the most important British traders were Robert Dickson and Murdoch Cameron. Working out of Prairie du Chien they traded in the Minnesota River Valley and also followed the river as the southern route to the Red River valley. Cameron died during a trading expedition in 1811 and was buried on a bluff top overlooking the Minnesota about four miles northwest of present-day New Ulm. At that time when prairie fires were frequent occurrences the hilltops were bare and Cameron's grave which was easily seen by river travelers became a prominent landmark.

Scotchmen were the main entrepreneurs of the British trade. But its rank-and-file was comprised of French-Canadians, who quite often came from Quebec farm families. The numerical dominance of the French-Canadians meant that French was the dominant language used in the trade. Invariably, the second language learned by the Dakotas and other Indians was French. Because of the French-Canadian work force, the trade's owners and managers were usually at least tri-lingual with the ability to speak in English, French and an Indian language. This language pattern persisted through the American period. French-Canadians were one of the main ethnic groups when Minnesota Territory was formed in 1849.

The intensification of the fur trade during the British period caused extensive intermarrying between traders and Indian women. These relationships produced mixed-blood offspring. On the frontier the mixed-bloods were often derisively called half-breeds, but also came to be identified by their more proper name as *Metis*.

The nature of the British trade was also changed significantly by the near depletion of beaver. The high demand for beaver pelts caused traders and their Indian customers to continually strive for peak production. So acting as if there was no tomorrow the beaver producers relentlessly trapped, snared, shot, hunted with dogs and even destroyed beaver dams. Since beaver habitats along streams were easy to locate the animals were very vulnerable. Consequently, by about 1800 beavers were in such short supply that muskrats became the commonest trade item and the new medium of exchange.

The American Period

After the War of 1812 the American fur trade was dominated by the American Fur Company, which was led by John Jacob Astor of New York City. Ramsay Crooks, Astor's principal manager, supervised the Upper Mississippi region. In 1817 the company started operating in the Minnesota River Valley by using former British traders, who chose to stay south of the international boundary and become American citizens.



Joseph Rolette



Spearing Muskrats in Winter, by Seth Eastman

Five years later the company named Joseph Rolette, a veteran Prairie du Chien trader, to supervise the Upper Mississippi region, which included the Minnesota River Valley.

This move coincided with the formation of the rival Columbia Fur Company. Columbia Fur was led by Kenneth McKenzie, later famed for his Upper Missouri trade, and the mixed-blood trader Joseph Renville. Operating mainly on the upper reaches of the Minnesota River the efficiently managed Columbia Fur Company sharply competed with the American Fur Company. But by undercutting his rivals Astor was able to force the Columbia Fur Company out of business in 1827, which enabled him to monopolize the entire Upper Mississippi trade.

Astor, who was astute enough to realize that he could make more money in other ventures such as New York City real estate, sold the American Fur Company in 1834. The Eastern Division, whose field operations were based at Michilimackinac, Michigan, included the Great Lakes and Upper Mississippi regions. It was purchased by Crooks and his associates.

Crooks sub-divided the Eastern Division, which retained the American Fur Company name, into districts identified as outfits. All of southern Minnesota was included in the Sioux Outfit headquartered at Mendota on the Minnesota's right bank opposite Fort Snelling.

From 1834 until the end of the fur trade the Mendota business was supervised by Henry H. Sibley, a well-educated son of a Detroit judge. Sibley's employment was part of Crooks' effort to improve company efficiency and productivity. Sibley, who was only twenty-three years old when he reached Mendota, supervised a cadre of older, experienced traders.

Some of Sibley's traders were veterans of the

British trade and others were newly recruited to the business. The holdovers from the British era included Jean Baptiste Faribault, Louis Provencalle and Joseph Renville. Faribault, who built a house next to Sibley's in Mendota, and his mixed-blood son Alexander controlled the trade in the Little Rapids area (near Chaska) and a belt of land extending southeastward into the Cannon River region. The elder Faribault is the namesake of Faribault County and the city of Faribault was named after Alexander.

Provencalle, who supervised the Traverse des Sioux trade for many years, was locally identified by the Dakota as Le Blanc (i.e. the white man). Interestingly, he was illiterate to the point of not even being able to write such



Henry Sibley

common words as muskrat and blanket. Unfazed by this inability to keep written records, he developed a system of drawings for the various animals and trade goods. Interpreting his so-called books was a challenge for Sibley, but somehow he was able to determine receipts and expenditures.

Joseph Renville, based on the Minnesota's left bank opposite the mouth of the Lac Qui Parle River, traded mostly with the Sisseton and Wahpeton Dakota bands. Operating out of a stockade and heavily padlocked fort, Renville extended his trade northwestward through the Big Stone Lake-Lake Traverse district.

Sibley's most noteworthy young men were Joseph R. Brown and Martin McLeod. Brown, who first arrived in Minnesota as a drummer boy in the army garrison that established Fort Snelling, traded from the Minnesota River headwaters westward across the James River Valley. McLeod, a native of Canada, supervised the Lac Qui Parle trade after Renville's death in 1846.

Sibley and all other fur traders nationwide were challenged by a sharp decline in the trade beginning in 1837. The Panic of 1837, the European importation of rival pelts such as South American nutria and a major Dakota cession of the land east of the Mississippi were among the main factors that caused the trade to lose its dominant position in the frontier economy.

By 1837 some Dakotas were indebted to various traders. This trend accelerated in the ensuing years. Nonetheless, Sibley's traders continued to advance

credit because the Indian debt was their principal asset. Sibley entered politics as Minnesota's first territorial delegate to Congress. In that position he worked assiduously to arrange the Dakota cession of southern Minnesota. He and the other traders realized their only opportunity to collect debts would occur when the Indians were forced to sell their lands. By the treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota in 1851 the federal government purchased all Dakota lands, except for designated reservations. Part of the payment to the Dakotas was used to pay off their debts to Sibley and his traders. The sale of their lands finally ended the long trading period of the Dakotas.

Thus, the Minnesota River Valley fur trade ended because the traditional trading alliances collapsed. The demise of the fur trade did not mean that the fur business ended. During the fur trade herds of such large grazing animals as buffalo and elk were driven to virtual extinction in southern Minnesota. But the ample supply of muskrats persisted into the settlement period and lasted until thousands of acres of land were drained in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Likewise such animals as raccoons, skunks and deer adapted well in farming areas and their numbers actually increased after white settlement.

Numerically, the region comprising southern Minnesota and adjacent parts of Iowa and Dakota Territory by about 1870 was producing almost three times as many animal pelts as a roughly approximate area had during Sibley's early years at Mendota. In 1836 nearly 300,000 pelts (95 per cent muskrat) were exported from Mendota. But the 1870 fur business was usually between farmers who trapped part-time and town merchants. The fur trade as a frontier venture had ended when the Dakotas ceded their lands.

Sources:

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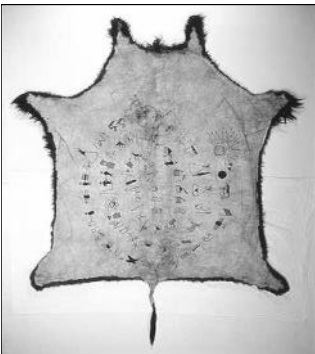
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Long Ago Dakota Life

This year, BECHS has become a regular contributor to The Free Press Media's *Kid-oh!* magazine. Published every two months, this magazine is packed with great articles and activities for families, including a 2-page history spread from the Historical Society. Here is a sample from the last issue.

The seasons were changing, the bison were on the move and it was time for the Dakota people to move too. The Dakota were hunters who followed the bison (called *Tatanka* in the Dakota language) as they moved through Minnesota. They moved with the bison because they provided food and shelter for the people.



The Dakota used bison hides to keep track of the stories of the tribe as they moved. This type of calendar is called a **Winter Count**. Each tribe kept a history of their people and events on a hide.

Before settlers came to Minnesota, the Dakota might have met people from France and England called Fur Traders. The Dakota sold animal furs to these men. The fur traders then took the furs to their home countries to be made into clothes and hats.

Native Americans and fur traders, also called **Voyageurs**, would trade needed supplies like animal pelts for metal cooking utensils and beads.

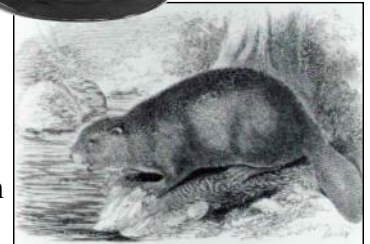


Dugout canoes were made from a single felled tree. Dugouts were created by burning and scraping out the inside of a tree. In the spring the log canoes were used for fishing. Canoes were also used to gather and hold maple sap which was boiled down and made into maple syrup, sugar and hard candies.

Fancy Hats: This headwear is called a **Roach** and was worn by men from the Dakota nation. It is made from the guard hairs of a porcupine.



This fancy hat is also made of animal fur! Called a **stovepipe or top hat**, it was worn by elegant men in many countries. This hat was made of beaver fur which the fur traders often bought from Native Americans and sold to hat makers.



Beavers were trapped for their fur



Can you find these words below?

DAKOTA HERD TATANKA
BONES BUFFALO DOG
HUNT HORSE MINNESOTA
BLUE EARTH

Z	O	S	P	A	Y	E	Y	B	A
D	L	K	G	M	K	B	L	O	P
O	U	I	U	A	L	U	V	N	Q
G	P	N	L	W	E	F	N	E	A
H	H	D	A	E	A	F	A	S	T
T	A	T	A	N	K	A	T	A	O
R	A	R	N	S	N	L	R	X	S
O	T	K	Q	Y	B	O	H	A	E
H	U	N	T	Q	G	C	E	K	N
N	A	K	A	W	T	L	R	N	N
D	A	K	O	T	A	V	D	U	I
H	O	R	S	E	R	W	A	S	M



Around the Research Center

Heather Harren, Communications Manager

A few weeks ago, four women visited the Research Center to find some information about their relatives. They came with lists in hand, each prepared to research a different family name. They knew where to start their search and quickly found the people they were looking for. As I visited with the ladies, I was reminded that they had been at the Research Center about three years ago. We were all pleased that their second trip here had proved just as productive as their first.

Jan-Louise was another recent returning researcher. Traveling here from the west coast, Jan-Louise also came prepared with a list of names and facts she hoped to track down. She was excited to locate and prove many family details and discovered some fun family facts along the way – including a former Mankato mayor in her tree.



Jan-Louise continues the hunt for family stories

While you may find everything you were looking for on your first trip to the Research Center, as you continue collecting and organizing your data, you

might find more questions than answers. This is where an additional visit to the Research Center may be beneficial. Maybe you learned your grandma went to Lake Crystal High School and now you are hoping to see a yearbook. Maybe an obituary told you where your great uncle worked and now you are curious about the business he operated.

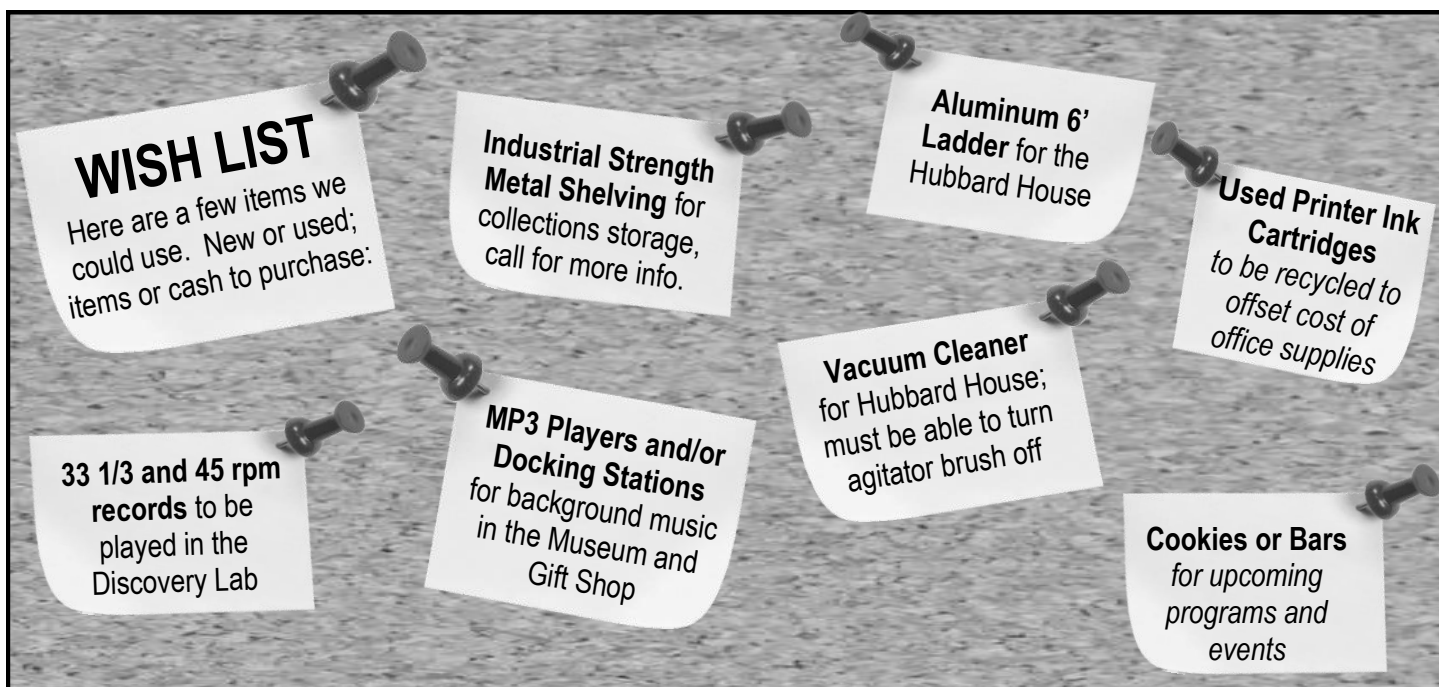
In the Research Center we can help you look further into the history you discovered, or help you dig a little deeper into your family tree. Stop back at the Research Center and let us help you discover more than you thought you would ever know about your family!

Blue Earth County Trivia

1. What year(s) did the man live under the Yaeger schoolhouse?
2. What year was the Typhoid Epidemic in Mankato?
3. What month and year was there a fire at “the Castle” (D.L. Rose House)?

Answers can be found on page 22

Want to learn more about these trivia question topics? Then you don't want to miss this year's Ghosts from the Past, October 27 and 28. See the back cover for more details.



Historic R.D. Hubbard House

Where 1900s History Comes to Life

Another season at the Historic R.D. Hubbard House has come and gone. A very special thanks to Hubbard House Assistant Travis Drescher and to the many dedicated volunteers that made this season possible. The Hubbard House hosted five special events, a few group tours and hundreds of walk-in guests. Although the regular season has come to a close, there is still much planned for our annual *Christmas at the Hubbard House* in December. After that, the House will be closed until May. Costumed volunteers and tour guides are needed in December for special events, group tours and walk-in visitors. Sign-up today!

Upcoming Hubbard House Events

December 3, 3-7 p.m.

December 4, 1-4 p.m.

Christmas at the Hubbard House

With a lively cast of characters and Christmas décor throughout the house, you don't want to miss this year's *Christmas at the Hubbard House*. New and returning visitors will delight in the antics and

intrigue of the costumed characters while enjoying the beauty of this Victorian home. And don't miss the Gift Shop and refreshments in the Carriage House. Mark your calendar for this annual holiday tradition! Free for BECHS members, \$7.50 Adults, \$5.00 children 5-17.

December 10-11, 17-18, 1-4 p.m.

Walk-in Guided Tours Available

The Hubbard House, still decorated for Christmas, will be open for one-hour guided tours. Free for BECHS members, \$5.00 Adults, \$2.00 children 5-17.

Historic R.D. Hubbard House

Hours of Operation

May and September

Saturday, Sunday 1-4 p.m.

June - August

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

Sunday 1-4 p.m.



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 for more information on rates or contact the History Center for availability.

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.



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**BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS A
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BECHS Volunteers Make History Happen

BECHS Volunteers—mark your calendars for the Annual Volunteer Holiday Potluck. Join BECHS staff at the History Center at Noon on December 12 as we celebrate another great year of Blue Earth County History! Sign-up at the reception desk or talk to Danelle.

Sometimes people may think that volunteering at the History Center only means working with artifacts and old newspapers, but there are so many different ways you can help. For example, someone who likes planning large events could help coordinate our fundraising event, *Surrounded By History*, or someone with graphic design skills could help with poster design and publication layout. Have an idea how you could help BECHS? Talk to Danelle.



A very special thanks to the Hubbard House volunteers who took time out of their busy summer to give tours, greet visitors and help with special events. You bring the Hubbard House and history to life!

Volunteer and Employment Opportunities

Technology Assistance

Looking for an individual(s) 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.

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.

Event Planning

Love helping to plan and host parties or events? BECHS could use your help planning our signature events including *Surrounded By History*.

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.

Kiwanis Holidays Lights

Help with setup, tear down or a night at the Park.

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.

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.

Rental Facilitator

Volunteer needed to assist with after hours 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.

There are countless ways you can become involved with the Historical Society. Other opportunities include:

Board Service
Committee Service
Exhibit Research and Design
Gardening
Graphic Design
Light Construction

Living History Events
Marketing and Communications
Office Work
Photography
Writing and Research

BECHS Donations & Membership

July - September 2016

Donations

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Darwin Blume
Cambria Township 4th
of July
Leslie Curry
Shirley Fitzloff
Harley and Janet Goff
Char Hiniker
Madison Lake Area
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You shop. Amazon gives.

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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.

Around Blue Earth County



The United States presidential election of 1912 was fought among three major candidates. Incumbent President William Howard Taft was renominated by the Republican Party with the support of the conservative wing of the party. After former President Theodore Roosevelt failed to receive the Republican nomination, he called his own convention and created the Progressive Party (nicknamed the "Bull Moose Party"). Democrat Woodrow Wilson was nominated on the 46th ballot of a contentious convention, thanks to the support of William Jennings Bryan. Wilson defeated both Taft and Roosevelt in the general election.

The editor of the *Good Thunder Herald* offered this in the October 17, 1912 issue:

Political conditions throughout the country remind one of the breaking up of the mighty deep. Uncertainty as to the immediate future of the success of any party is the natural result despite the confidence that leaders in each of the parties may display. The only thing to do, and it becomes every citizen to do it, is to vote the way that he deems is for the best welfare of the nation. Incidentally it may be well to remark that it is in order for each one to keep sweet and have an even temper, and to credit others with the same patriotism and sincerity of purpose with which he credits himself. And also to remember that whichever party wins, the country is not going to the dogs.

Still good advice 104 years later!

Madison East Center will again host the Bake & Craft sale on November 19 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. RHS will have a booth – come check us out!

The Rapidan Depot is now closed for the season. Upcoming special events at the Depot include *Ghosts and Goblins at the Depot* on October 31 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and *Santa in the Depot* on December 2 from 5-7 p.m. The Depot will reopen on Memorial Day, 2017!



115

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

YEARS OF HISTORY

A celebration of more than a century of our past.

Anniversary Open House

Join us at the History Center for refreshments, door prizes, **FREE Museum admission** and Holiday Gift Shop Specials including **double shopping discount** for BECHS Members.

Fri., November 4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sat., November 5, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Special Fur Trade Experience with Arn Kind
November 5, 1 p.m.

History Center is located at
424 Warren Street, Mankato

Give History for the Holidays
 Marian Anderson Art • Collectibles
 Books • Vintage Holiday Décor
 Memberships • Donations

BECHS member 20% discount at History Center Gift Shop this weekend ONLY. Does NOT include consignment or sale items, online purchases, memberships or to be combined with any other offer.





BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Visit www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com for more details.

CALL FOR LOCAL ARTISTS

Are you an artist?
 BECHS is looking for artists to exhibit in our History Center Art Gallery. We would like to help share the creative work of local artists with members of 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 507-345-5566 or Education@blueearthcountyhistory.com.





Betsy-Tacy Society

Julie Schrader

Summer is always a busy time with hundreds of visitors from across the state and the

country making their pilgrimages to Mankato to see the childhood homes of author Maud Hart Lovelace and her best friend Frances Kenney Kirch. They are thrilled to visit the fictional *Deep Valley*, the setting for the Betsy-Tacy books; it's unique for a town to have its history recorded in a children's book series. The Betsy-Tacy books are Maud's gift to her beloved hometown.

The annual Deep Valley Homecoming was held June 24-27. Attendees enjoyed costumed living history actors, Betsy and Tacy house tours, tours of the county Courthouse, trolley rides, a CD release by Maud Hixson, the release of a special label Deep Valley Wine from Chankaska Creek Winery, a dramatic play featuring *Betsy* and *Joe*, the Deep Valley book festival, a Victorian Tea at Old Main Village, plus speakers, exhibits and much more.

Of all the holidays in the year, Christmas is featured the most prominently — and most lovingly — in the Betsy-Tacy books. The Betsy-Tacy Society hosts an annual Victorian Christmas at the Betsy and Tacy houses (332 & 333 Center Street) on December 3 & 10 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Betsy's house will be decorated for the season and costumed characters will make you feel as if you stepped into the Betsy-Tacy books. At Tacy's house children can purchase a Christmas ornament for 10 cents, just as Betsy, Tacy, Tib and Winona did. Join us for an old-fashioned Christmas and you too, can “*hold Christmas in your hands.*” For more information visit www.betsy-tacysociety.org.

New in the gift shops at Tacy's house and BECHS is Maud Hart Lovelace's Deep Valley 2017 calendar from Minnesota Heritage Publishing. The calendar features photographs from Mankato's early 1900 history, along with book quotes and a short history of each site depicted.

The Betsy and Tacy Houses (designated National Literary Landmark houses) will close for the season on December 18, 2016 and will re-open to the public on April 1, 2017. Happy Holidays from the BTS!

Meet Our Interns

BECHS has an active and long-standing relationship with our local colleges and universities for student interns and class collaborations. This fall we have been fortunate to be working with two amazing students as interns. They both love history and we love having their excitement and energy around the History Center.

Mattie Berg



My name is Mattie Berg and I grew up in the small town of Watertown, about an hour west of the Twin Cities. I am in my final year at Minnesota State University, Mankato studying History and Business Administration. I have

found great joy working at BECHS. The staff has been extremely welcoming and helpful, and the knowledge I have gained from my work so far will undoubtedly help me in the future. My focus with this internship has been non-profit management, including community outreach, business marketing and financial understanding. These skills, along with my previous experience in a small business will be influential on my future career goals. I have high hopes for my upcoming career choices, although I am not sure exactly what direction I will head, I know that my future will be bright!

Teddy Gonzalez



Hi! I'm Teddy. I am studying history at Minnesota State University, Mankato, but I grew up in the Twin Cities. When I'm at the museum I look up facts, make games and set-up fun activities for kids with Beth, the Education and

Outreach Coordinator. This is exactly what I want to do when I graduate! I love history and I want to help others love it as much as I do—no matter what age they are.

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.



Calendar of Events October 2016 - January 2017

OCTOBER

- 15 Hand-Tinting Photography Class**, with Terri DeGezelle, 1 p.m., History Center, Free
- 15 Artist Opening Reception**, Terri DeGezelle, 7-8 p.m., History Center Art Gallery, Free
- 20 Minnesota Fur Trade Opens**, a traveling exhibit from the Minnesota Historical Society, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. History Center

Special Programs:

- Stone Tools and Dugout Canoe**, with Larry Richie, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., History Center. Richie shares a collection of stone tools and showcases an authentic handmade dugout canoe. Free
- History of Stone Tools**, with Larry Richie, 7 p.m., History Center. Learn about stone tools and the people behind them. \$5 Adults, \$2 Kids, Free for BECHS members
- 26 History Bits & Bites: The Japanese American's Experience During World War II**, 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**, 6-9 p.m., History Center. Tickets on sale now.

NOVEMBER

- 1 Remember When Coffee Club: Music**, 10 a.m., History Center, Free
- 1 Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 4-5 115th Anniversary Open House**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., History Center
- 4 Board Alumni Appreciation and Reunion**, 6-8 p.m. History Center
- 5 Fur Trade Experience with Arn Kind**, 1 p.m., History Center
- 12 Young Historians: The Importance of Our Animals**, 10 a.m.-Noon, History Center; Please pre-register by 11/10/16
- 17 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*
- 24-25 History Center Closed** - Happy Thanksgiving!
- 26 Shop Small Saturday**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., History Center. Come for great holiday gifts.
- 27 BECHS Night at Kiwanis Holiday Lights**, Sibley Park, 5-9 p.m. Sign-up now to volunteer. Don't forget to vote for our nonprofit tree! Top vote getter wins cash prize.



- 30 History Bits & Bites: Hispanic Heritage**, Noon-1 p.m., History Center

DECEMBER

- 3 Christmas at the Hubbard House**, 3-7 p.m.
- 4 Christmas at the Hubbard House**, 1-4 p.m.
- 6 Remember When Coffee Club: When Relatives Visit**, 10 a.m., History Center, Free
- 6 Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 10 Young Historians: Rocks, Glaciers and Geology**, 10 a.m.-Noon, History Center; Please pre-register by 12/8/16
- 10-11 Hubbard House open**, 1-4 p.m.
- 12 Annual Volunteer Holiday Potluck**, Noon, History Center. All BECHS Volunteers are invited. Bring a dish to share. Sign-up with Danelle.
- 17-18 Hubbard House open**, 1-4 p.m.
- 21 History Bits & Bites: Fur trade documentary film and discussion**. Noon-1 p.m. History Center. *Note: Special day due to Christmas.*
- 22 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*
- 24 & 31 History Center Closed** - Happy Holidays!

JANUARY

- 3 Remember When Coffee Club: New Technologies**, 10 a.m., History Center, Free
- 3 Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 7 Minnesota Fur Trade traveling exhibit closes**
- 14 Young Historians: Harnessing the Cold**, 10 a.m.-Noon, History Center
- 25 History Bits & Bites: Restoring the Stone House**, Noon-1 p.m., History Center
- 26 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*

Three easy ways to stay up-to-date:

- Check out 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 16:

1. 1896-97 2. 1908 3. February 2015

Membership Makes a Difference



Thank you to all of the members who attended our Member Appreciation in August. We hope you had a good time exploring the History Center and visiting with staff, board members and fellow

supporters and lovers of history.

For those unable to attend, know that you are always welcome at the History Center—even if you just want to stop in to share some history news or to see what new things you make possible at BECHS.

Not a member? Now is the time to join. Annual membership starts at \$35 for individuals or \$50 for households. Membership makes a great gift, too.

To renew or to become a member, visit www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/join or see the information below.



At the Member Appreciation, members took part in our scavenger hunt, got their “selfie” taken and much more!

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 _____

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

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

Blue Earth County Historical Society presents the 30th Annual



GHOSTS FROM THE PAST

THE GHOSTS RETURN

Topics include:

Yaeger Schoolhouse
in Rapidan Township
Greiner's Store Fire in
Mapleton
Pemberton's Bank Robbery
Rose Castle in Mankato
Green Gable's Tornado
Typhoid Epidemic
Glass Block Christmas
Tree Trial

PERFORMANCES TWO NIGHTS ONLY

Thursday, October 27, 6-9 p.m.

Friday, October 28, 6-9 p.m.

**Blue Earth County History Center,
424 Warren Street, Mankato**

TICKETS

\$7.50/Adults \$5.00/Children 5-17

Shows begin every 15 minutes; last show begins at 8 p.m.



Call 507-345-5566 to Reserve Tickets Today!



Blue Earth County Historical Society

424 Warren Street
Mankato, MN 56001

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 86

**Membership
Expiration Date**