

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Board of Trustees
- 3 Director's Notes
- 4 Education & Outreach
- 6 Collections & Exhibits
- 7 Every Object Has a Story
- 8 Gift Shop & Art Gallery
- 10 "Liberty Denied"
- 13 Research Center
- 14 Hubbard House
- 15 Volunteer Opportunities
- 18 Calendar of Events

SPECIAL EXHIBITS



Good Thunder Baptist Church
1900s, Then

Then and Now

Bend of the River Photo
Club Oct. 3-Dec. 29

**Celebrating Minnesota
State University,
Mankato 150 Years**
Through Nov. 25

**Coming of Age:
The 1968 Generation**
Opens December 9



Mankato Normal School, c. 1900

Change is in the Air

In this issue of *The Historian*, you will find several mentions of Minnesota State University, Mankato. In preparing for our current exhibit and upcoming events, we found ourselves referring to two college-related protests that happened almost a century apart. In 1872, Julia Sears was the first female president of Mankato Normal School. She only held the position for a year before she was forced out. This caused much controversy and led to the "Sears Rebellion."

A century later, opposition to the Vietnam War led to unrest at Mankato State College. Many of the students participated in peace rallies, sit-ins and perhaps most memorable, the May 1972 march that closed Main Street Bridge.

To step back in time to these turbulent events, you won't want to miss two upcoming BECHS events. *History Bits & Bites—Out of Chaos: Music of the Times* on October 19 at Noon will tune back to the music of the 1960s and 70s. Secondly, at *Ghosts From the Past: From Normal School to University*, you will meet seven "ghosts" including President Sears and an eyewitness to the 1972 demonstrations. See the back cover for *Ghosts* times and ticket information.

Although not connected with the University, you will also find another protest of sorts in this issue. In 1918, the newly formed Nonpartisan League was making headlines and many people saw their views as unpatriotic. This caused local residents and businesses to rise up against the League. Turn to the main article, "Liberty Denied" on page 10 for more about this time of political change.

The Blue Earth County Historian



Board of Trustees

Chair, Shirley Piepho, Skyline
Vice Chair, Dan Bruss, Mankato
Treasurer, Dana Truebenbach, Good Thunder
Secretary, Julie Lux, Mapleton
Kevin Allen, Madison Lake
Dale Benefield, Lake Crystal
Jessica Beyer, Mankato
Gretchen Bohl, Mankato
Randy Dinsmore, Mankato
Joe Farnham, Mankato
Sandi Garlow, Mapleton
Jonathan Guentzel, Lime Township/Kasota
Katherine Hughes, Mankato
Steve Jameson, Mankato
William Steil, Mankato
Marnie Werner, Mankato
Ken White, Skyline

Staff

Jessica Potter, Executive Director
Director@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com
Danelle Erickson, Development Manager
Museum@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com
Heather Harren, Communications Manager
Research@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com
Shelley Harrison, Archives & Collections Mgr.
Archivist@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com
Beth Johnson, Education & Outreach Coordinator
Education@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

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:
Dec. 2, 3-7 p.m., Dec. 3, 1-4 p.m.
Walk-in Guided Tours:
December 9-10, 16-17, 1-4 p.m.

The Blue Earth County Historian Fall 2017

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

Copyright © 2017 by the Blue Earth County Historical Society. All rights reserved.
Reproduction in whole or in part of any material from this issue without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

Board of Trustees

Dan Bruss, Board of Trustees Vice Chair

We all depend on road maps, traditional or virtual. This is true not only to enjoy a family trip, but also to guide organizations into the future. That's what a strategic plan does; it provides an organizational road map to effectively move forward.

It is not uncommon to revisit a strategic plan after five years of implementation. The BECHS Board of Trustees approved a strategic plan in 2012, but a lot has happened since then. The purchase



of and expansion into the lower level is a case in point. The additional space has been a game changer.

The time is right to draw up a new road map for BECHS. As a result, the Trustees gave authorization to begin the process of developing a new strategic plan. An eight-member taskforce was assembled that represented a cross-section of the board, staff, county government, education and local businesses. The group met several times during the course of the summer. I had the pleasure to serve as facilitator. And a pleasure it was! The group jelled quickly, had no problem engaging in dialogue and provided good insight.

We get energy from building on our strengths, and it's important to develop direction with that in mind. At the same time, we need to peer down the road to see if we can identify and seize new opportunities in the next few years. To help do that, we felt it was best for an organization like BECHS to solicit ideas and feedback from each of the major constituencies. To gather ideas, find common themes and perhaps unearth new possibilities, the taskforce set up a number of "brainstorming" sessions which were open to anyone who had an interest. The conversation at each session revolved around a few simple questions relating to recent success, possible obstacles, and future ideas for BECHS. The membership didn't let us down! We had over seventy participants, contributing either in person or online.

The raw data was collected and organized by the Director and the taskforce to identify the key points that have become the foundation of the next strategic plan. A draft was developed and submitted to the Trustees for review and discussion. At its October meeting the board unanimously approved the plan which will serve as a road map for us for the next few years.

On behalf of the Trustees, we extend a hearty thanks to all of you who participated and shared ideas. Expect to hear more about the "map" in future issues of the *Historian*.

Director's Notes

Jessica Potter, Executive Director

Fall is upon us and as I look back, it was a great summer for BECHS. One of the highlights for me was our process to update our Strategic Plan. Thank you to each person who attended a brainstorming session, completed an online survey, served on the Strategic Plan Steering Committee or shared their personal hopes for BECHS as part of the process. I'm excited to see where the next three years will take us.

Here are the top strategic goals based on the feedback collected: Improve Marketing and Communications, Serve a Broader Audience, Enhance our Facilities and Generate Additional Revenue for Special Projects.

As a staff, we now have a better idea of our road map and where we need to be focused. Our next steps are to develop and implement the strategies to achieve those goals.

What is your part in the journey ahead? It will take your long-term partnership with BECHS in a variety of ways.

Membership. Annual membership dues make up 10% of our annual operating budget. The annual budget includes expenses like rent, payroll, preserving collections/archives, exhibits, programs, technology and printing. As a member you not only have an annual pass to visit the History Center and Hubbard House, but you are also making it possible for us to do the work we do each day. Looking for a great holiday gift? Consider giving a gift membership.



Kris and Dick Norland and Jon Guentzel at the Annual Member Appreciation in August

Donations. Unrestricted donations contribute 59% to our budget. As we close out 2017 and make plans to push forward in 2018 with our updated strategic focus, please thoughtfully consider a gift to BECHS. You can use the giving envelope included in this newsletter or make your donation securely online. Please be assured that every penny is used to further our mission of collecting and promoting Blue Earth County's history and to ensure its preservation for the enrichment and benefit of present and future generations.

Time. Did you know that over 100 individuals

volunteer with BECHS annually in a variety of ways. Please consider how your time and talents may contribute to our strategic goals and please volunteer.

Voice. As a community nonprofit organization, your voice and long-term partnership shows the importance of history and brings it to life, creating a shared sense of place for residents and visitors of Blue Earth County. Your impact can be seen on the faces of school children when they first visit the Hubbard House, or the memory brought to mind with an old photograph, or the appreciation and understanding discovered through a program or an exhibit.

Please share this copy of *The Historian* with a friend or family member unfamiliar with the Society and tell them why you feel local history is important. Or invite someone to join you at *Ghosts from the Past*. Please be a voice for local history.

Thank you for your support, time and talents, History Hero! Enjoy the beauty of the season!



**BE A HISTORY HERO!
INVEST IN THE FUTURE
OF HISTORY!**

Your gift today will show the importance of history and bring it to life, creating a shared sense of place for residents and visitors of Blue Earth County.

You make a difference!

You can be a History Hero by:

- Making a financial contribution today
- Becoming a BECHS Member
- Signing up to be a Sustaining Member and your automatic donation will provide support throughout the year.

Use the enclosed envelope to make your donation today. Donations and memberships can also be paid online at www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com, by mail to BECHS, 424 Warren Street, Mankato or in person at the History Center.



Education & Outreach

By Beth Johnson, Education and Outreach Coordinator

Children are back in school, leaves are falling and the stores are full of holiday items. Here at the History Center we are looking forward to the coming months, which are full of activities. From school tours to adult history, we are serving our entire community through education.

In the Schools

One of our goals at BECHS is to reach more children by actively offering more History Education. This summer we again visited with a class of over 90 kids in the Mankato Community Education Aces program and were thrilled when another 64 children in three Little Aces classes visited the Museum in August. We also had a delightful annual visit from the AP History class from the Breck School of Minneapolis.

Over the summer we were excited to see new faces in our Discovery Lab as students with school tour coupons ventured into the building with friends and family to explore. Many of our young friends learned about WWI from our Time Travel Kits, available to educators and visitors alike.

We continue to develop school tour opportunities for multiple grades levels. This fall BECHS is rolling out our new selection of school tours for elementary schools. The selection includes grades Kindergarten through 5th. We are gearing up for more fun and educational visits with our schools!

BECHS has partnered once again with Mankato Community Education to offer after school History classes for elementary students. If you know a child who would like to participate, please register through the Fall Community Education catalogue.

BECHS Outreach

We had a great time at the annual Blue Earth County Fair at the end of July! Our volunteers worked hard to make the newly renamed Heritage Building a unique, fun and educational experience

for young and old. Over 2,200 visitors viewed local history displays, took a "ride" in an old surrey, tried out the "Six Simple Machines," hunted for hidden beads and tried on some historical hats. A big THANK YOU to Randy Dinsmore and friends for sharing turn-of-the-century hand tools and building techniques.

In the Young Historians Program we will be spending the 2017-18 academic year "Traveling Through Time." The program began with the settlement of Blue Earth County in our program from "Civil War to a New Century." Over the coming months we will cover the political, cultural and economic highlights of the decades and meet guest speakers: Arn Kind, Jo Schultz, Larry Kortuem and others. This program is a free, hands-on history workshop for kids. See more information on page 5.



Fun at the County Fair. Trying out some historic hats (top) and hands-on learning with old tools and techniques (bottom).



Exploring the WWI Time Travel Kit



Education tent at the Mahkato Wacipi

In September BECHS once again participated in the Education Tent at the Annual Mahkato Wacipi. We enjoyed our time talking with visitors, elders and volunteers as we all learned and shared our combined cultural history.

We have so much planned for the upcoming months and hope you will join us for one or more of our monthly programs or special events. Check out page 5 and 18 for a full list of upcoming opportunities.

Exploring History for All Ages

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

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 1st Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. for BECHS' Remember When Coffee Club.**

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 7 - Preparing for Winter

December 5 - After the Holidays

January 2 - Good Eats and Diets

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, 10 a.m. to Noon.** This year, the *Young Historians* theme is "Traveling Through Time." Each month students will explore technology, fashion, war, food and much more, seeing how life changed and developed from the late 19th through 20th centuries.



September's Young Historians packed their pioneer covered wagon as part of the hands-on workshop.

Upcoming Topics

November 11 - Roaring 20s Through the Depression Years

December 9 - More about the 40s with Arn Kind

January 13 - The Fabulous 50s with Jo Schultz

History Bits & Bites

History Bits & Bites is a monthly learning series held the **3rd Thursday 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! Free for BECHS Members, \$5 non-members. Lunch is NOT provided, but beverages will be available.

Upcoming Topics

October 19 - "Out of Chaos: Music of the Times" with Mark Halverson and John Anderson

November 16 - Author Talk: *Norwegian American Women* by Dr. Lori Ann Lahlum, history professor at Minnesota State University, Mankato

December 21 - *Two Weeks in May*, a film about turbulent times at Mankato State College in 1972

January 18 - "The Food We Eat" with Dr. Jill Cooley, author and history professor at Minnesota State University, Mankato

SPECIAL EVENTS

Automotive Fix-It Clinic: 6 Easy Tips to Winterize Your Car

October 19, 6:30-7:30 p.m., History Center

Cost: Free for BECHS Members, \$5 non-members.

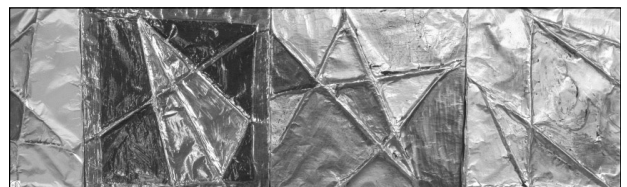
Why is that dash light on? What is that noise? Want to be more prepared to make decisions about repairs? Come to a Fix-It Clinic to learn about car care and have a more successful visit to the repair shop. Larry Kortuem is a seasoned advanced level certified master auto technician. John Larson is an experienced auto technician and has taught at Minnesota State University, Mankato and South Central College.

Stained Glass Workshop for Kids

November 4, 11:00 a.m.-Noon, History Center

Cost: Free

Visit the Museum and be inspired to create a panel for the new stained glass mural in the Discovery Lab. Explore the historical importance and meaning of the use of stained glass through a variety of media.



Turn to page 18 for the full calendar of events



Collections & Exhibits

Celebrating Minnesota State University, Mankato 150 Years

By Shelley Harrison, Archives & Collections Manager

Blue Earth County Historical Society is thrilled to announce our latest exhibit, *Celebrating Minnesota State, Mankato 150 Years*. The University is celebrating its 150th year with events throughout 2017 and 2018. The Historical Society and Minnesota State University, Mankato have collaborated to honor the school's rich history and to celebrate its ongoing commitment as a leader in education.



Celebrating Minnesota State, Mankato 150 Years features dozens of artifacts, photographs and fun facts telling the story through five name changes, two campus locations and one "Big Idea." From the early days of Mankato Normal School and one building, the school grew to multiple buildings with several thousand students. Through this exhibit, we will explore the history of the University as well as student life.



One of the interesting artifacts displayed is a large wall mural. This mural, *Minnesota: Granary of the World*, is one of a set of four given to the College from the classes of 1924 and 1928. It was customary for

graduating classes to present the school with a gift as a token of appreciation. These murals once hung in Old Main. They were removed in 1973 and donated to the Historical Society. The mural is a copy of an original painting which hangs in the Minnesota State Capital Building in the Senate Chamber.

In association with the exhibit and in connection with the Minnesota State University, Mankato's Common Read, *Out of Chaos* by James Nickerson, October's *History Bits & Bites* will feature a presentation: "Out of



Chaos: Music of the Times." Mark Halverson and John Anderson will talk about the music of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Join us October 19, at Noon for this event.

Celebrating Minnesota State, Mankato 150 Years highlights important historical milestones, people and contributions the University has made to our community. The exhibit runs now through November 25, 2017.

Our next traveling exhibit, *Coming of Age: The 1968 Generation*, comes from the Minnesota Historical Society and opens December 9, 2017.



University Name Changes

Mankato Normal School 1868-1921
Mankato State Teachers College 1921-1957
Mankato State College 1957-1975
Mankato State University 1975-1998
Minnesota State University, Mankato 1998-present

Coming OF AGE The 1968 GENERATION

A traveling exhibit from the Minnesota History Center.

GROWING UP AMIDST POLITICAL TURMOIL and revolutionary social change had a lasting impact on teens in the late 1960s. This special exhibit looks at the pivotal events—both far away and close to home—that forever shaped the lives of this generation.



Don't miss it—

Blue Earth County History Center

December 9, 2017 - June 16, 2018

Free



Every object has a story...

At the Blue Earth County History Center's Museum, the objects showcased tell the varied stories of Blue Earth County's past. With only about ten percent of the total three-dimensional collection on display at any given time, sometimes it is hard to determine what stories to tell! Here is a closer look at some items currently on display in the Museum.

Etching Press, c.1906

This press was made by Gilbert M. Fletcher, a famous Mankato born artist. The press has an interesting history. Created and used by Fletcher in his youth, it later remained untouched for 40 years. It was found in a local farm's corncrib by John Page, Mankato State Teachers College art instructor. The press was then donated to the College in the 1950s. When the Art Department relocated to Highland Campus, the press was given to the Historical Society.

Fletcher was most famous for his linoleum block prints. One of his large block prints of a ship can be seen in the Museum next to the press. Another similar print is part of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's collection in New York City.



America the Beautiful, c.1928

This 4-by-10 foot mural called *America the Beautiful* includes three reproductions of paintings by three noted American artists; *Indian and the Lily* by George de Forest Brush, *The River* by Daniel Garber, and *Trout Ripples* by Eanger Irving Couse. It also includes a quote from the poem: "The Seasons: Winter" by James Thomson. This mural is one of a set of four given to Minnesota State Teachers College. (See the previous page for more about these murals). Before it came to be on permanent display in the History Center stairwell, you may remember this mural from the Heritage Room in the Centennial Student Union.



So the next time you take a spin through the Museum, you'll know a little more of the story.

HISTORY CENTER ART GALLERY

Then and Now: Blue Earth County Through the Lens

By Bend of the River Photo Club
October 3 - December 29, 2017



Amboy Then 1940s and
Amboy Now, by Randy Wood

Then and Now is a collaborative project between The Bend of the River Photo Club and Blue Earth County Historical Society to document places in Blue Earth County through the camera lens. For this project, Photo Club members chose a historic image from the extensive collection at the History Center. They then re-photographed buildings and locations around Blue Earth County by standing where another photographer stood years ago.

The Photo Club is documenting history today. Years from now these photographs, printed and carefully stored at the Blue Earth County Historical Society, will be available for the next generation.

The Bend of the River Photo Club was started in 2008 by individuals who had a common love (obsession?) for photography. They bring their collective experiences together and share with others the same passion for the lens. For more information, visit www.botrphotoclub.org.



Gift Shop & Art Gallery News

By Danelle Erickson, Development Manager

Holiday decorations will soon be making their appearance in the Gift Shop, just in time for our Anniversary Open House, November 3 and 4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Stop on in for a jump start on your holiday shopping with double-member discounts plus free museum admission and refreshments.

To continue with another annual tradition, BECHS will once again be at the Madison East Center's Holiday Expo on November 18. It's a fun day to show off some of the Gift Shop items and share more about the Historical Society with the attendees.

The Gift Shop will also participate in "Shop Small Saturday" on November 25. This is an effort to encourage people to "shop local." Look for more information from Mankato's City Center Partnership for a list of participating businesses as well as how you could win some great prizes.

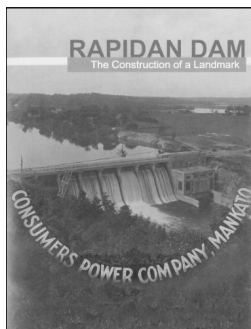
Have people on your gift list who are hard to shop for? Then a visit to the History Center Gift Shop might be just the thing you need!

Unique Books BECHS has written and published (thanks in large part to our talented volunteers) many great books that are only available through the Historical Society. Know someone who enjoys a trip to the Rapidan Dam or who grew up in Garden City or someone who just enjoys local stories? The perfect book is waiting in the Gift Shop!

Victorian-Inspired Gifts Looking for a gift with a touch of elegance? The Gift Shop has added some stylish and fancy items with a Victorian flair including scarves, aprons, tea-for-one and more!



Nostalgic Christmas Give your Christmas tree a touch of nostalgia with some vintage-inspired ornaments. Add some sparkle to your holiday season!



Marian Anderson Art Oftentimes people visiting the Marian Anderson Art Gallery are surprised by the variety of subjects: wildlife, mountain men, Native Americans, historic scenes and more! Stop by the Gallery, which is part of the Gift Shop, or visit www.MarianAnderson.com.

A Gift for Everyone We all have the one person (or more!) who is impossible to shop for. Why not give them a gift of history! Purchase them a gift membership or make a donation in their name.

Marian Anderson
Fine Art Prints



Autumn Interlude

Marian Anderson Fine Art Prints are available exclusively at the History Center and online at **MarianAnderson.com**. **100% of all sales benefit the Historical Society.** 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.

**Give the Gift of History
this Holiday Season!**

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

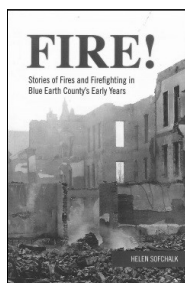
Holiday Gift Ideas from the Gift Shop

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.

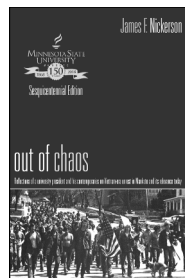
Fire! by Helen Sofchalk. A collection of stories that show the state of firefighting technology in the early days of Blue Earth County and the advancements over the first 65 years. \$12.95



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

Out of Chaos: Reflections of a University President and His Contemporaries on Vietnam-Era Unrest in Mankato and its Relevance Today, Minnesota State University, Mankato's 2017 Common Read. \$15.00



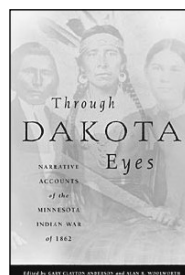
History of the Welsh in Minnesota, translated from Welsh by Martha Davies. Discover the rich Welsh heritage of Southern Minnesota. \$29.95

Other topics include: Red Jacket Valley, Lake Crystal, Maple River, St. Clair, 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



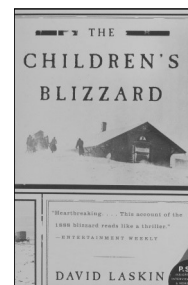
Other titles include: *The Dakota War of 1862*, *Little Crow* and *Everything You Want to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask*.

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

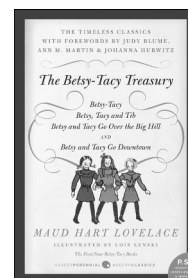
Minnesota History Along the Highways The perfect handbook for your next road trip. \$13.95



For the Young and Young-at-Heart

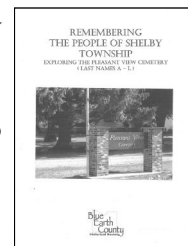
The Betsy-Tacy series by Mankato author Maud Hart Lovelace. Follow Betsy in her many adventures as she grows up in Deep Valley (based on real-life Mankato). \$14.99-\$15.99

"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



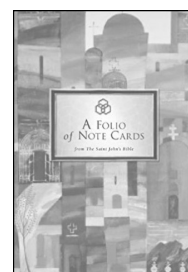
Unique Gifts

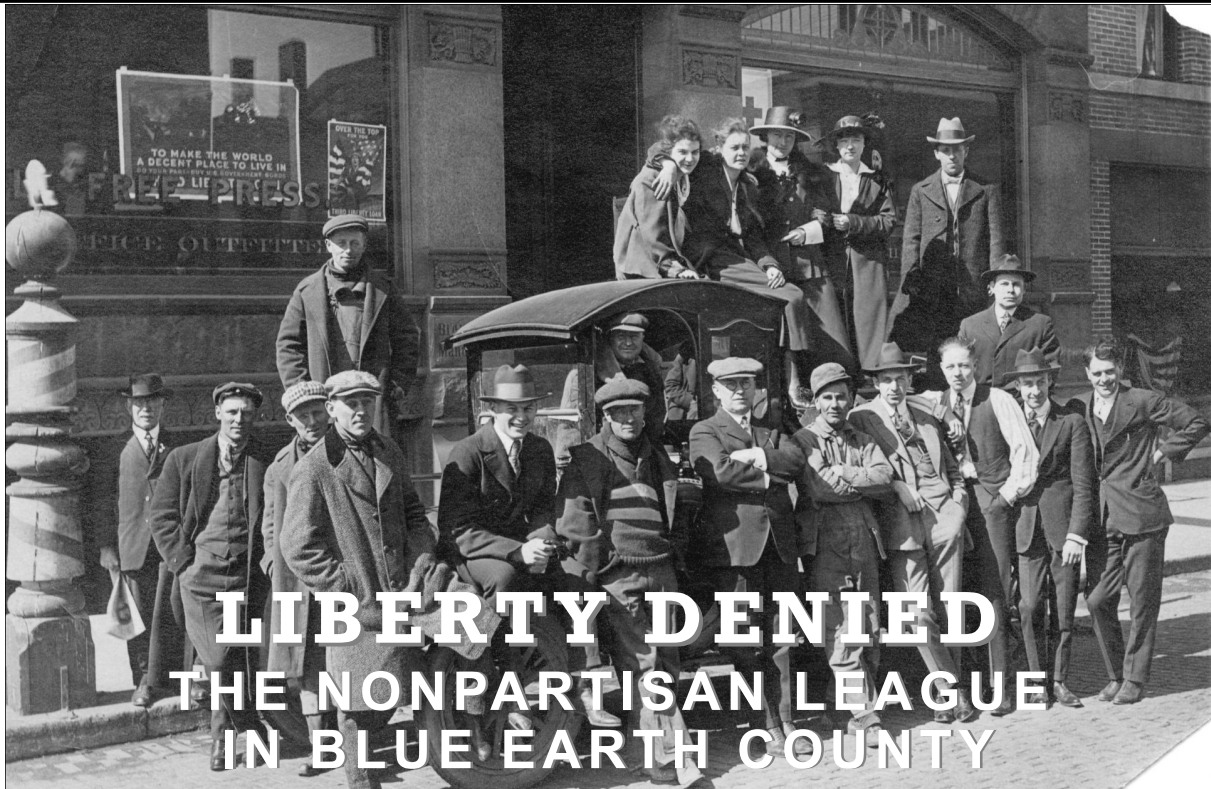
Hand-painted Slates from the R.D. Hubbard House feature the Hubbard House, Carriage House or Seppman Mill. \$34.95

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

Local art by Marian Anderson, John Cross and more.

The Saint John's Bible merchandise
Due to the popularity of last summer's *Saint John's Bible* exhibit, the Gift





Mankato Free Press staff with patriotic posters in the front windows, c. 1917

By Jonathan Soucek

As far as politics goes, the 1918 elections in Minnesota could be considered almost as chaotic as the one that just took place in 2016. At the start of the election cycle, there were several progressive political movements coming through the state, including the anarchistic Industrial Workers of the World. In Southern Minnesota, the most notable political movement was the Nonpartisan League (NPL). The League endorsed Charles Lindbergh, Sr., father of the great aviator, for governor to run against the incumbent Joseph A. Burnquist in the Republican primary. The backlash against the NPL resulted in police officers or local businessmen preventing League meetings, the fire department soaking parading Leaguers with firehoses, or even teams of people forming to paint League cars yellow, all just in Blue Earth County.

The Nonpartisan League grew out of a discontentment from the political and economic system among North Dakota grain farmers. They believed the large grain mills in the Twin Cities had been cheating the farmers through unfair trading prices and corrupt docking methods. Three former members of the Socialist Party in North Dakota, Albert Bowen, Arthur Townley, and Arthur LeSueur, saw these economic hardships, but noted the Socialist platform would never resonate with the farmers because it required them to give up their land. The

three then decided to form a new political organization that appealed to the farmers and called for major economic reforms. LeSueur wrote the first platform, which called for:

1. State ownership of terminal elevators, flour mills, packinghouses, and cold-storage plants.
2. State inspection of grain and grain dockage.
3. Exemption of farm improvements from taxation.
4. State hail insurance on an acreage-tax basis.
5. Rural credit banks operated at a cost.

To achieve these goals, the League used new and different political techniques. Instead of being a political party, the League endorsed candidates to run in the Republican primaries, sometimes the Democratic primaries, and encouraged League members to vote for all of the League-endorsed candidates. Using this tactic, they took over the North Dakota government in 1916.

After their successes in North Dakota, the Nonpartisan League turned its eye towards Minnesota. Then the United States entered World War I around the same time the League began to campaign in Minnesota. The League was against the United States' entry in the Great War, but after war was declared, the League supported the war effort on the homefront. Nevertheless that did not prevent those on the opposite of the political spectrum to deride the League as socialist and disloyal. In

counties surrounding Blue Earth County, the League suffered major blows to its campaign. In Martin County, Charles Lindbergh, Sr. was arrested for “conspiracy” on a small farm outside of Monterey (modern-day Trimont). Both the county attorneys for Martin and Jackson

counties pestered League officials by arresting them outside of the counties’ jurisdiction. Also in Jackson County, an angry mob formed attempting to lynch James Manahan, a League attorney. Lastly, in Brown County, where the League was most successful, the League held a parade after the election, where the citizens of Comfrey barricaded the streets entering the town to keep the League out, and a riot ensued after the League broke through the barricade.

Compared to the action the League saw in these counties, the story of the Nonpartisan League in Blue Earth County seems minor, but nonetheless, it is crucial to the overall narrative of the resistance the League experienced in Southern Minnesota. The League intensified their campaign efforts in Blue Earth County rather late, just in June 1918, less than a month before the Republican primary. Despite this, a few notable events regarding the League’s activity took place prior to June 1918 in Blue Earth County, including one in the small town of Mapleton. In order to prevent a League meeting from happening in Mapleton, in late February 1918, the sheriff of Blue Earth County, Anton Osten, rounded up several members of the Home Guard to ensure a meeting would not happen. Osten originally wanted to take all thirty members of the local Home Guard from Mankato area, but eventually settled on a lower number. In Garden City, the local business owners effectively prevented a meeting on February 14, 1918, by refusing to rent a building to the League. The League also asked the local church, but they too refused.

In June the League increased their activity in Blue Earth County as part of a last-ditch effort to win votes before the primary, but these activities proved to be futile. A secret meeting of thirty Leaguers took place on June 4 at the Sons of Hermann Hall in Mankato. At this meeting, “several office seekers” attempted to gain votes under the close watch of the sheriff who attended to make sure the meeting did not get out of hand. On June 13, Leaguers from Blue



Mankato Home Guard, c.1918

Earth County went on an auto tour around the county. A Courtland band accompanied the Leaguers on their trip around the county. They started in Good Thunder, where the local police force thoroughly searched the Leaguers for liquor, disloyal pamphlets, and other propaganda. From

Good Thunder, the convoy of Leaguers went to Pemberton and then to St. Clair. In St. Clair, local authorities told the band they could only play patriotic songs, thus, the band did not play.

The League faced the most opposition in Madison Lake, where the fire department attacked Leaguers using firehoses. While this happened, many of the local citizens stripped the cars in the tour of their Lindbergh banners while police officers threw some Leaguers in jail. After this ordeal, Sheriff Osten advised the Leaguers to not enter Mankato and the Leaguers took the advice. This

proved to be a wise move on the part of the League because earlier that day a group of citizens got together to paint any League car that would enter the city yellow.

The press in Blue Earth County held a strong anti-League stance which caused the League to not invest many resources into that county. According to Robert Hoppe, four out of the five newspapers that he studied in Blue Earth County prior to 1918 had active anti-League positions, and the fifth did not take a position. Of all the newspapers in

PARADERS WERE HERE

**Nonpartisan League Excurionists
Were Treated With Shower Bath
And Banners Removed. A Lind-
bergh Banner In Madison Lake
Was Like A Red Flag To A Bull.**

Members of the Nonpartisan League held a tour of Blue Earth county Thursday and arrived at Madison Lake about three o'clock. They lined up southeast of the depot, and were asked to remove the Lindbergh banners from their cars if they were going to parade thru main street, or go on their way along a side street. There were about 110 autos in the parade when it reached here. The fire hose was attached to a couple of hydrants on main street and the water turned on, playing havoc with the paraders. Women and men cursed the attacking forces but it did not effect the water supply.

Newspaper clipping from *Madison Lake Times*, June 20, 1918. Visit the Research Center to read the full article.

the county, the *Daily Free Press* had the strongest stance against the League. The *Daily Free Press* produced hyper-patriotic materials to circulate in the newspaper, which included the classic *Man without a Country* by Edward Everett Hale and other anti-League pamphlets. News about the war's frontline and about boys that had died overseas from the local area constituted most of the headlines on the front page.

Mankato's newspaper consistently published anti-League stories and wrote biased things about the League. The *Daily Free Press* constantly attacked Robert LaFollette, a progressive senator from Wisconsin who supported the League. They called him a Socialist and constantly called for him to be censored or removed from his office. On April 29, 1918, the *Daily Free Press* printed a story about how the Nonpartisan League tricked a farmer into not reading American papers and to instead join the NPL to fight against the war. On May 3, 1918, the Mankato newspaper praised the current congressmen from the area, the same candidates the League opposed. The *Daily Free Press* would even go as far to say, "There is not a patriotic line in Lindbergh's platform. It reads like the whine of a chronic pessimist." The *Daily Free Press* actually tried to hurt the Democratic Party's candidate for state senator, Frank Simon, by accusing him of going to the only League meeting in Mapleton. According to Hoppe, several factors, including the large staff size of the newspaper and the small proportion of farmers buying the *Daily Free Press* allowed the Mankato newspaper to be overtly biased against the League.

As expected, Lindbergh performed poorly in the Republican primaries in Blue Earth County. In the county as a whole he received just over one third of the votes that Burnquist collected, being 1,911 to 3,361. In the main population center of Blue Earth County, Mankato, Lindbergh lost all six wards, with Burnquist receiving 1,224 votes, nearly a third of his votes from the county. Lindbergh only received a miserable 293, barely one-seventh of the total vote he received in Blue Earth County. Lindbergh did appeal to some farmers in the area. Mankato Township and Mapleton Township both voted for Lindbergh, although Lindbergh lost by large margins in both Mankato and Mapleton proper. Lindbergh also won Rapidan (118 to 100), Pleasant Mound (123 to 25), and Good Thunder (48 to 35), all of which were small rural villages. This shows there might have been some discontent among the farmers in the area, but the large population center of Mankato muted their political voices.

Despite the constant attacks the League received

in 1918 and their eventual defeat in the Republican primaries, the League actually won in the long run. After the patriotic fervor of World War I blew over, the same forces that were behind the Nonpartisan League pined with disgruntled laborers in the state to form the Farmer-Labor Party. The Farmer-Labor Party proved to be one of the most successful third parties in United States History and enjoyed more success in Minnesota than the Democrats at that time. It was only after World War II that the Farmer-Labor Party and the Democratic Party merged to create the modern Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, something that is truly unique to Minnesota's politics and history.

Primary Sources

Mankato Daily Free Press (Mankato, MN), 1917-1918.

Minnesota Leader (St. Paul, MN), 1917-1918.

Secretary of State Election Returns, 1858-1962. Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul. Microfilm.

Secondary Sources

Chrislock, Carl H. *Watchdog of Loyalty: The Minnesota Commission of Public Safety During World War I*. St. Paul MN: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1991.

Hoppe, Robert Andrew. "A Comparative Study of the Program Effectiveness of the Nonpartisan League in Blue Earth County and the Second Congressional District." Master's thesis, Mankato State University, 1966.

Huntington, Samuel. "The Election Tactics of the Nonpartisan League." *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* 30, no. 4 (March 1950): 613-632.

Jenson, Carol. "Loyalty as a Political Weapon: The 1918 Campaign in Minnesota." *Minnesota History* 43, no. 2 (1972): 42-57.

Lansing, Michael. *Insurgent Democracy: The Nonpartisan League in North American Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015.

Larson, Bruce L. *Lindbergh of Minnesota: A Political Biography*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1971.

Morlan, L. Robert. *Political Prairie Fire: The Nonpartisan League, 1915-1922*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, Publishers, 1955.

Remele, Larry, "Things as They Should Be: Jeffersonian Ideals and Rural Rebellion in Minnesota and North Dakota 1910-1920." *Minnesota History* 51, no. 1 (1988): 15-22.



Around the Research & Genealogy Center

Heather Harren, Communications Manager

Fall is upon us once again and what a great time to find out more about your family! Not only would a family history be a great gift for someone for the holidays, but it is also a great bonding experience for different generations. While the weather gets colder outside, come in and see who you can find!

At the end of September, we had many people visit the Research & Genealogy Center looking for their family history. Many of the researchers were from out of state, and one couple was from Wales! It was exciting to have so much activity in the room and to see the researchers enjoying themselves while finding family. Many commented on how well organized the room is. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers through the years who helped develop the Research Center and its resources into what it is today!



Starting in January, the Blue Earth County Historical Society will once again be holding Genealogy Classes at the History Center. With the feedback from the first classes held earlier this year, we are expanding on certain classes for the new year as well as offering new topics.

Starting on January 13, we will have a beginner's class, which will be similar to the first class held this past year. On January 20, we will look into organizing your genealogy. This class will cover both electronic formats and paper copies. While these are suggested ways to organize your family history, participants will be invited to share their own organization tips as well as ask questions. On February 17, we will delve deeper into newspaper records. March 17 will cover legal records for family history. April 21 will close out our series with oral histories.

All classes will be from 2-4 p.m. and will be held in one of the History Center meeting rooms with the last hour open for doing your own research in the Research & Genealogy Center. Cost per class is \$8/adult, \$5/BECHS member and student ages 5-17. Watch for more information on how to register coming soon.

WISH LIST

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

Industrial Strength Metal Shelving for collections storage. Call for more info.

Solid White or Black Cotton Sheets to use for covering historic objects in storage

MP3 Players and/or Docking Stations for background music in the Museum.

Laser Printer
Gently used, working condition.

Keurig K Cups
Any flavor of coffee for our Coffee Nook, used by guests, staff and volunteers.

Cookies and other treats to serve at upcoming BECHS events including Ghosts from the Past and Christmas at the Hubbard House.

Historic R.D. Hubbard House

The regular season for the Hubbard House has come to a close. Thanks to all our visitors, volunteers and Hubbard House Assistants Morgan Muldoon and Jonathan Soucek for bringing history to life. The summer saw the return of the Gaslight Series, the ever popular Medicine Show and much more. But before we say farewell for the year, check out the holiday fun at the Hubbard House this December.

Upcoming Hubbard House Events

Christmas at the Hubbard House

Saturday, December 2, 3-7 p.m.

Sunday, December 3, 1-4 p.m.

With a lively cast of characters and beautiful Christmas décor throughout the house, you won't want to miss this year's *Christmas at the Hubbard House*. Visitor's will delight in the holiday sights and sounds along with a little history mystery. Something has gone missing at the Hubbard House! Did someone steal it? Maybe it was just misplaced. Or perhaps someone took it as a practical joke. Visit with the Hubbard family, staff and guests and see if you can solve the history mystery!

When you arrive, stop by the Carriage House to purchase your ticket and then continue on to the

house. We hope to see you at this wonderful annual holiday event! Cost: \$8/Adult; \$5/BECHS Member and Children (5-17)

December Walk-in Guided Tours

Saturdays, December 9 & 16, 1-4 p.m.

Sundays, December 10 & 17, 1-4 p.m.

The Hubbard House is open for walk-in guided tours during the second and third weekends in December. Take a tour and view the holiday décor throughout the historic home. Cost: \$5/Adult, \$2/Children (5-17) and Free/BECHS members.

Help Wanted

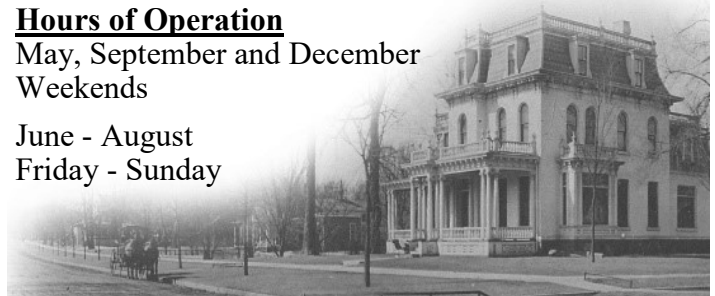
Costumed volunteers and tour guides are needed in December for special events, group tours and walk-in visitors. Sign-up today!

Hours of Operation

May, September and December
Weekends

June - August

Friday - Sunday



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

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.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS A
THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®
ENROLLED ORGANIZATION

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, special gathering
or holiday party.**

Visit www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/visit/rentals for more information on rates or contact the History Center for availability.

BECHS Volunteers Make History Happen

Sometimes when people think about volunteering at a place like the Historical Society, they may think “If I can’t commit X number of hours each week, they probably can’t use me.” That couldn’t be further from the truth!

BECHS has a number of volunteer opportunities that can take just a couple hours of your time and saying “yes” or “no” is always up to you! One of the best examples of this is helping with our school tours and programs. Sometimes we need volunteers willing to lead a discussion or activity. Other times, volunteers simply help keep the group together and on task. And most tours are an hour long.

If this sounds of interest to you, please contact Danelle at the History Center. Your name will be added to a list and when a school tour is scheduled, you will be contacted with the date, time, type of



School tours and programs with BECHS are growing, and we need your help to make them a memorable experience for the students!

tour and ages of students. If you are available for that tour, great! But if not, we will reach out when other tours are scheduled.

This “as-needed” schedule is similar for the Speakers Bureau and Rental Facilitator needs listed below.

Volunteer Opportunities

Kiwanis Holiday Lights

BECHS volunteers are needed to help with Kiwanis Holiday Lights setup at Sibley Park on Sunday, November 5, 1-4 p.m. Volunteers are also needed for BECHS night at the park, Sunday, November 26, 5-9 p.m. and for tear-down on Monday, January 1, 9 a.m.-Noon.

In addition, BECHS is looking for creative ideas to decorate our nonprofit tree. Contact the History Center if you have any suggestions or if you would like to help with our tree decorating or help at the park for any of the dates listed above.

As a participating nonprofit, BECHS will receive a portion of the donations collected at this annual community event. Kiwanis Holiday Lights is open every evening, November 24 through December 31.

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.

Technology Assistance

Looking for individual(s) 5-15 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 and tours 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.

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 can be provided. Schedule varies.

Rental Facilitator

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

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Committee Service | Marketing and |
| Exhibit Research and | Communications |
| Design | Office Work |
| Graphic Design | Photography |
| Light Construction | Writing and Research |
| Living History Events | |

BECHS Donors, Members & Sponsors

July - September 2017

Donors

Adventure Club &
Farmers Bank
Darwin Blume
Diane Brekke
Cambria 4th of July
Marcia Chalgren
Tom and Carol Frederick
Garden City Township
Shirley Higginbotham
Ann Kalvig
Larry & Trixie Kortuem
Coleen and Jeff
Lindemann
Jack Madsen
Missy Manderfeld
Olga Polly Marshall
Beth Norman
Carol Ries
Tom and Cindy Salsbery
Joan Schmitz
Vernon Center Township

Recurring Donors

Dale Benefield
Joel Botten
Carol English
Carlienne and Robert
Frisch
Dean & Jo-an Lavitschke
Jack & Diann McGowan
Judie Neitge

Donna & Gerald Webb
Marnie Werner
Beth Zimmer

New Members

Gretchen Bohl
Carol and LaVern
Christianson
Heather Hammond
Christy Ites
Don and Liz Keepers
Missy Manderfeld
Olga Polly Marshall
J. Ric Pierce
Kenneth Polzin
Kate Roberts
Shirley Rosenau
Sharon Schaller
Gene, Grace and Brent
Schreyer
Peter Schwamberger
Karen Stevenson
Doug and Bev Wood
Jonathan and Ginger
Zierdt

Giving Level Members

Helen Jones
Ken and Linda Wilmes
Jonathan and Ginger
Zierdt

Renewing Business Members

First National Bank
Minnesota
Industrial Fabrication
Services
Meyer & Norland
Financial Group
Paape Companies, Inc.
ProGrowth Bank
Pub 500
Quality 1-Hr Foto

Honorariums

*In Memory of Char
Hiniker*
Danelle Erickson

*In Memory of Cindy
Johannsen*
Sheryl Peterson

*In Memory of Edward
Legg*
Darrell & Sandi Garlow

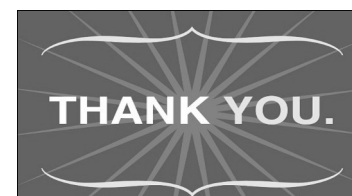
*In Memory of Warren
Lerdall*
Randy Zellmer

In Memory of Oliver J. Mulford

Robert Geotzke
Charles & Shirley Haas
Kathryn T. Hanson
Dean & Jo-an Lavitschke
Patricia Mulford

In-Kind

Special Thanks to our
Media Partners:
Watch KEYC News 12
at Noon the first
Thursday of each month
for a Throwback
Thursday with BECHS.
Listen to KTOE 1420
AM Talk of the Town the
4th Thursday for an
update with BECHS.
**Check out The Free
Press** for regular updates
including Sunday's
Glimpses of the Past.



*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.

Support BECHS on AmazonSmile

You can support BECHS while doing
your holiday shopping on Amazon.com
by shopping via **AmazonSmile**. On
your first visit to AmazonSmile
(smile.amazon.com), select a charity
(search: BECHS), then simply shop
while logged in and a portion of
eligible purchases will be donated to
BECHS.

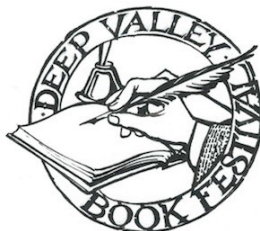


amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Around Blue Earth County

Deep Valley Book Festival

BECHS went on the road this fall to the Deep Valley Book Festival. Hundreds of book lovers gathered on October 7 to buy books, meet local authors and publishers and enjoy the many activities.



Also on hand were four Minnesota authors from the past: Maud Hart Lovelace, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Wanda Gag and F. Scott Fitzgerald mingled with visitors and read from their books. And at the BECHS table, visitors could purchase books written by these famous authors, as well as books written and published by the Historical Society.

Thanks to Minnesota Heritage Publishing, The Free Press Media, Julie Schrader and everyone else who made this event a success and for sharing some of the raffle proceeds with BECHS. We were proud to be one of the partnering nonprofit organizations.

Betsy-Tacy Society



The Betsy-Tacy Society will mark the 100th anniversary of the wedding of Maud Hart Lovelace and Delos Lovelace with a presentation of *Betsy and Joe*, a play adapted from Lovelace's book of the same name. The play was written by

local resident, Grace Webb, and will be performed by the Merely Players on Friday, October 27, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Community Center, 110 Fulton Street, Mankato.

The play gives the audience a look at Betsy's senior year at Deep Valley High School as she tries to balance her blossoming writing career, senior physics, the affection of two boys and the uncertainties of a future beyond high school.

Tickets are available at Tacy's House at 332 Center Street in Mankato, or from the Society's website at betsytacysociety.org, or at the door on the evening of the performance. Cost of the tickets is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 17 & under. This activity is funded, in part, by the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, with an appropriation from the Minnesota Legislature with money from the state's general fund.

116

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 3, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sat., November 4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Stained Glass Workshop for Kids 11 a.m.-Noon

Author Talk & Signing: Kathy Baxter 1-2 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.

Genealogy Classes at the History Center

January 13 Beginner's Genealogy

January 20 Organizing your Genealogy

February 17 Newspaper Records

March 17 Legal Records

April 21 Oral History

Classes run from 2-4 p.m. Cost per class is \$8/adults,
\$5/BECHS member and student ages 5-17.

Registration information coming soon.

give
TO THE
MAX

NOV. 16, 2017

Join BECHS for
**Minnesota's
Day of Giving on
November 16 at
www.GiveMN.org!**
One more easy way
to make an online
donation to support
BECHS.

Calendar of Events October 2017 - January 2018

OCTOBER

- 19 History Bits & Bites, Out of Chaos: Music of the Times**, Noon-1 p.m., History Center *3rd Thursday*
- 19 Automotive Fix-it Clinic: 6 Easy Tips to Winterize Your Car** 6:30 p.m. History Center
- 26 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*
- 26-27 Ghosts from the Past -From Normal School to University: 150 Years of Minnesota State, Mankato**, 6-8 p.m., History Center. Shows begin every 15 minutes, last show starts at 8 p.m. Reserve your tickets today!

NOVEMBER

- 2 Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 3-4 BECHS 116th Anniversary Open House**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. History Center
Special Saturday Events:
Stained Glass Workshop for Kids 11 a.m.-Noon
Author Talk & Signing: Kathy Baxter 1-2 p.m.
- 7 Remember When Coffee Club: Preparing for Winter**, 10 a.m., History Center, Free. *First Tuesday*
- 11 Young Historians: Roaring 20s Through the Depression Years**, 10 a.m., History Center
- 16 History Bits & Bites: Author Talk - Norwegian American Women** by Dr. Lori Ann Lahlum, Noon-1 p.m. History Center *3rd Thursday*
- 16 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town* (note: special day)
- 18 BECHS at the Madison East Center Holiday Expo**, stop by our booth while supporting a variety of community organizations.
- 23-24 History Center Closed** Happy Thanksgiving!
- 25 Shop Small Saturday**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., History Center. Come for great holiday gifts!
- 25 Celebrating Minnesota State, Mankato 150 Years** exhibit last day
- 26 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!



DECEMBER

- 2 Christmas at the Hubbard House**, 3-7 p.m.
- 3 Christmas at the Hubbard House**, 1-4 p.m.
An Annual Holiday Tradition



- 5 Remember When Coffee Club: After the Holidays**, 10 a.m., History Center, Free. *First Tuesday*
- 7 Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 8 Coming of Age: The 1968 Generation Special Member's Only Exhibit Opening**, 5-7 p.m. Watch for details coming soon.
- 9 Young Historians: More about the 40s** with Arn Kind, 10 a.m., History Center
- 9 Coming of Age: The 1968 Generation Public Exhibit Opening**, 1-4 p.m., History Center
- 9-10 Hubbard House Open** 1-4 p.m.
- 11 Annual Volunteer Holiday Potluck**, Noon, History Center. All BECHS Volunteers are invited. Bring a dish to share. Sign-up with Danelle.
- 16-17 Hubbard House Open** 1-4 p.m.
- 21 History Bits & Bites: Documentary Film - Two Weeks in May**, Noon-1 p.m., History Center *3rd Thursday*
- 23-26 & 30 History Center Closed** Happy Holidays! Open regular hours December 27-29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 28 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*

JANUARY

- 2 Remember When Coffee Club: Good Eats and Diets**, 10 a.m. History Center, Free. *First Tuesday*.
- 4 Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 13 Young Historians, The Fabulous 50s**, 10 a.m.-Noon, History Center
- 13 Genealogy Class: Beginning Genealogy**, 2-4 p.m., History Center
- 18 History Bits & Bites: The Food We Eat with Dr. Jill Cooley**, Noon-1 p.m., History Center. *3rd Thursday*
- 20 Genealogy Class: Organizing Your Genealogy**, 2-4 p.m., History Center

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 at www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Connect
- Follow BECHS on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Membership Makes a Difference

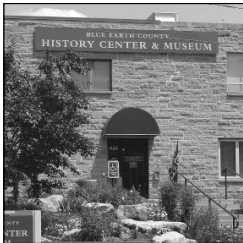
The Staff and Board of the Blue Earth County Historical Society are very thankful for our members! And our thankfulness goes well beyond our appreciation for your financial support.

So often it is our members who remind us how important a place BECHS is. They get excited about new exhibits and programs, bring in fascinating stories and artifacts to share, or exchange ideas about how to make the Society even better.

It's true, they don't have to be a member to do any of those things. But by being a BECHS member, you are showing a deeper connection and a belief that our local history is important and needs to be shared and preserved.

So **thank you**, BECHS members. Thank you for believing in the Historical Society and for trusting us with your history, our history.

If you aren't a member, please join today! Your support will preserve and share local history. In addition, you will receive a number of member benefits including free admission to the History Center and Hubbard House, free and reduced admission to most BECHS events, copies of this publication, *The Historian*, mailed to you, and discounts in the Gift Shop.



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 31st Annual



GHOSTS FROM THE PAST



FROM NORMAL SCHOOL TO UNIVERSITY *150 YEARS OF MINNESOTA STATE, MANKATO*

Tales of buses, protests and life in the barracks;
hour long living history performances begin every 15 minutes.

Topics include:

Julia Sears
Normal School Fire
Early Dorm Life
Camping on Campus
Life in the Barracks
Taking the Bus
1972 Protest

PERFORMANCES TWO NIGHTS ONLY

Thursday, October 26, 6-8 p.m.

Friday, October 27, 6-8 p.m.

Blue Earth County History Center,
424 Warren Street, Mankato

TICKETS

\$8/ Adults

\$5/ BECHS

Members and

Children 5-17

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

PAID

Mankato MN

56001

Permit No. 86

Membership
Expiration Date