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SPECIAL EXHIBITS



Cray Mansion by Gerry Tostenson

A Brush of Fresh Air

Outdoor Leisure
Painters
July 7-Sept. 27, 2017

The Saint John's Bible

July 8-Sept. 1, 2017

**150 Years of
Minnesota State
University, Mankato**
Sept. 30-Nov. 25



Electric streetcar passing by the Saulpaugh Hotel on Front Street, c. 1910

Keeping Things on Track

As promised in the previous issue of *The Historian*, we continue celebrating local transportation history with a look at Mankato's two streetcar companies in "History of Streetcars in Mankato" by Tim Pulis. Interested in discovering more about streetcars? Join Tim at *History Bits & Bites* on July 20 at the History Center, where he will share much more information about this unique mode of transportation in early Mankato history.

Also in this issue you will meet Helen Erickson. Helen has been a member of the Historical Society for a number of years and it's a pleasure to talk with her each time she visits the History Center. She was born in 1915 and always has great stories to share. Just think about all the changes she has witnessed throughout her life!

Some of our readers, like Tim and Helen, have been Blue Earth County residents for decades while others are new to the area. Whatever your past, the Historical Society would like your help with our future. Turn to "Director's Notes" on the following page to see how you can help keep the Historical Society on the best road forward.

Summer is always an exciting time at the Blue Earth County Historical Society. Local and out-of-town visitors alike make their way to the History Center and Hubbard House. There is a lot happening at both sites. Keep turning pages to see what is coming up!

The Blue Earth County Historian



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History Center & Museum

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

R.D. Hubbard House

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

The Blue Earth County Historian Summer 2017

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

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Director's Notes

Jessica Potter, Executive Director

The lazy days of summer are here! But it's not so lazy around the History Center or Hubbard House. We have been busy with visitors checking out the new exhibit featuring a volume of *The Saint John's Bible*. It is a stunning work of art and well worth your time to visit the History Center to see it in person. Of course, while you are here, you should stay awhile and wander around the History Center and museum or make your way to the Hubbard House for a guided tour of the 16-room mansion. Or maybe, pick up a book from the Gift Shop to read while you're at the lake or on a long car trip. Just a few ideas for these lazy days of summer.

We are gearing up for some very exciting opportunities in July and August. I mentioned in the last issue that we will be embarking on a journey to collectively dream about the future of BECHS, aka Strategic Plan or road map. We have assembled a small group to work on this and now we need your help.

You, yes, you are invited to attend a brainstorming session to share your thoughts about the future of YOUR Blue Earth County Historical Society. Everyone is invited to participate. The more opinions and suggestions, the better! There will be four opportunities to attend a brainstorming session in early August. Just pick a day/time that works best for you and then RSVP to Info@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com or call 507-345-5566. The brainstorming sessions will be held at the History Center and will last about one hour. I personally want to thank you in advance for participating in a session. Your input is very valuable to the growth of this great organization.

Summer plans would not be complete without a trip to the annual Blue Earth County Fair, July 27-30. I am very excited to announce that BECHS will be found in the newly renamed "Heritage Building" at the Blue Earth County Fairgrounds in Garden City. We have many exciting new attractions along with some annual favorites. New this year at the Heritage Building guests will have the opportunity to try their hand at using historic woodworking tools and techniques using lumber from salvaged Victory Memorial Drive/Highway 22 trees. A historical process with a piece of modern history.

We hope to see you soon either at one or all of the following events: visiting the History Center's new exhibit *The Saint John's Bible*, participating in a brainstorming session, discovering the Blue Earth County Fair or at the end of the summer at the Annual Member Appreciation on August 25 (see back page for more details). Have a wonderful summer!



Board of Trustees

Gretchen Bohl, Board of Trustees

I was recently driving my 9 year-old daughter to the water park in Waseca when she piped up from the backseat and said "Mom, do you know what I love about towns like Mankato and Waseca?"

"What's that?" I asked.

"I love that the history is all around you. Old houses and stuff like that. Like, you can imagine what things were like back in olden days. We're lucky that we live in Mankato, because we have so many old places, like the Hubbard House and Betsy's and Tacy's houses. Places where you can go and see history."

Indeed, those of us who choose to put down roots in Blue Earth County are fortunate that history is all around us. We encounter it when we see the Courthouse perched on the hill overlooking Mankato, when we take our children to visit historic sites, or even when we paddle down the rivers.

Whether you've lived here your entire life, whether you were born here and moved somewhere else, or whether (like me) this is your adopted hometown, you are part of the history of this county. You are part of the story that is continuously being recorded and preserved at the Blue Earth County Historical Society. Being part of that story also means that we value your voice and would like to hear it as we plan for the society's future growth.

I invite and encourage you to lend your voice to one of the upcoming brainstorming session that will take place in August (see dates and times below). Much like my daughter did, let us know what you love about Blue Earth County, and what you love about BECHS; just as importantly, let us know what needs improving. As a member of the Strategic Plan Steering Committee, I look forward to meeting some of you there and hearing what is important to you.

BECHS Brainstorming Sessions

Tuesday, August 1, 3 p.m.

Saturday, August 5, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, August 9, 6 p.m.

Thursday, August 10, Noon

Everyone invited to participate. Pick a day/time that works best for you and RSVP to Info@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com or call 507-345-5566

BLUE EARTH COUNTY FAIR

July 27 - 30, 2017
Blue Earth County
Fairgrounds
Garden City, MN

Visit BECHS at the annual Blue Earth County Fair. You will find us in the newly named Heritage Building. See historic Blue Earth County Fair photographs, Farm Fest memorabilia, images commemorating the centennial of World War I, hands-on history fun activities for all ages, and new this year, demonstrations of historic woodworking tools and techniques.

See you at the Fair!

Volunteers are needed in the Heritage Building. Contact the History Center to sign-up. Thanks to all the volunteers who represent BECHS at this County event.

We couldn't do it without you!



Blue Earth County Fair, Garden City, 1932
Photo courtesy of Jack Madsen



Education & Outreach

By Beth Johnson, Education and Outreach Coordinator

As we head into the middle of summer, remember what it was like to be a kid out of school? It was exciting to be free, but a little perplexing if you were bored. Summer is a time of exploration and contemplation, a time for family and friends. It is also a perfect time to explore the History Center, Discovery Lab and Hubbard House or attend an

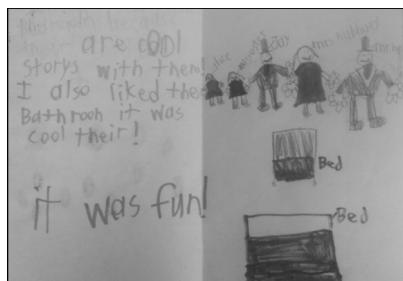


Kindergarten class in the Discovery Lab, having fun with historic hats

event, workshop or class presented by the Blue Earth County Historical Society! Check out the educational activities on our calendar for things to do and see this summer.

Schools Tours

We were very busy with school tours from multiple schools in April, May and June. Over two hundred and fifty students and teachers from Kindergarten through High School came to visit us at both the History Center and the Historic Hubbard House, with more yet to come this summer. Our education volunteers and I love our students and received some very sweet “thank you” notes! BECHS will be reaching out to more schools in Blue Earth County as we create a menu of tours to offer to multiple grade levels.



A “thank you” note with a drawing of the Hubbard family

BECHS Outreach

Education, education, education! We love to share the history of Blue Earth County. This last spring in addition to tours and classroom visits, BECHS partnered with Independent School District 77 to offer after-school History Classes for elementary students. We had a great enrollment of about 50 students and a great time at each session. Four new classes will be offered this coming fall.

Keep an eye out for the Community Education Fall Program Guide for details.

We also had a request for a return visit to the Community Education ACES program. Our “Bones and Stones” presentation to a group of about 120 children and adults was a hit for the second year in a row. A big “thank you” to volunteers Larry and Trixie Kortuem for all of their help.

Education extends to adults too! In May, Rachel James, artist and director of the Waseca Art Center held a printmaking workshop at the History Center. Attendees had a great time making prints and discussing the history of printing.



Printmaking class

In June a large group from the MN Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians toured both the Hubbard House and the History Center. Shelley Harrison spoke to the group about historic architecture in Blue Earth County. The historians were curious, interested and had a great time thanks to our great staff and volunteers.

Also in June, the Hubbard House hosted the annual *Victorian Lawn Party* and the first of this year’s *Gaslight Series* as guests met the Hubbard household as they prepared for Kate Hubbard’s wedding. If you haven’t taken in a living history event at the Hubbard House this season—more *Gaslight Series* and the *Medicine Show* are still to come this summer.



Hubbard wedding party

As we move forward into the summer months, there are a wide variety of educational opportunities for both children and adults. Look to the next page and page 18 for more about our upcoming programs and events. We hope to see you soon!

Exploring History for All Ages

Turn to page 18 for the full calendar of events

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 first 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

August 1 - Summer Sports

September 5 - Childhood Diseases and Remedies

October 3 - National Events Affect Your Life

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 things changed and developed from the late 19th through 20th centuries.

Upcoming Topics

September 9 - Civil War to the End of the Century

October 14 - Turn of the Century to the Roaring 20s

History Bits & Bites

History Bits & Bites is a monthly learning series held the **third 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

July 20 - "Mankato's Streetcars" by Tim Pulis

August 17 - "The Form of Letters" by Brad Coulter

September 21 - The Minnesota Welsh Association

October 19 - MSU, M Common Read: *Out of Chaos*, music of the times by Jim Gullickson and Mark Halvorson

SPECIAL EVENTS

Awesome Women in History! Kid's History Day Camp

Date: Tuesday, August 15 -Friday, August 18

Time: 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Grades: 2-5 (school year recently completed)

Cost: \$99/student, \$89/BECHS member

Participants: 6 minimum, 15 maximum

Travel with us through time and meet some amazing women who helped shape history. Through multiple days of engaging activities, stories, food and more, learn about some of the awesome women who made a big difference in the world including Sacagawea, Amelia Bloomer, Laura Ingalls Wilder and Susan B. Anthony. Call or visit the History Center to reserve your spot by August 10.

Kid's Stained Glass Workshop

Date: Saturday, September 30

Time: 11 a.m.-noon

Cost: Free

Help create a "stained glass" window to decorate the History Center Discovery Lab. Students will learn about historic churches in Blue Earth County while recreating portions of their windows.

History and Painting at the Falls Plein Air Day at Minneopa State Park

Date: Sunday, October 1

Time: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Cost: The event is free, but vehicles are required to have a park permit, available at the park.

Watch the Outdoor Leisure Painters create scenes of Minneopa Falls (plein air painting is painting outdoors). Learn about Minneopa State Park, outdoor painting and African American artist Robert Duncanson. In the 1860s, Duncanson traveled from Ohio to paint Minneopa Falls and he may have a connection to an unidentified painting hanging in the Historic R.D. Hubbard House. There will also be activities for kids provided by BECHS and Minnesota DNR. This event is co-sponsored by the Blue Earth County Historical Society, the Minnesota DNR and Friends of Minneopa.



Collections & Exhibits

The Saint John's Bible and *Celebrating MSU, M—150 Years*

Shelley Harrison, Archives & Collections Manager

The Saint John's Bible

The Blue Earth County History Center is pleased to present our newest exhibition, *The Saint John's Bible*, on display now through September 1.

Beginning in 1996, the community of Saint

John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota, began planning and working on *The Saint John's Bible*, the first handwritten, illuminated Bible commissioned by a Benedictine monastery in five hundred years. The work of creating the Bible involved countless hours of meetings and artist studio time plus financial support of almost 1,400 individual donors. On May 9, 2011, the last word of the Bible was penned, bringing the almost 15-year production phase to completion.

This unique undertaking combines a tradition of craftsmanship with the latest capabilities of computer technology and electronic communication. The words are handwritten on vellum (calfskin) using hand-cut quills fashioned from turkey, swan or goose feathers, and ancient inks hand-ground from natural minerals and stones such as lapis lazuli, malachite and vermillion. The pages are illuminated with the



The Blue Earth County Historical Society is featuring a replica volume of the Gospels and Acts. Come in and discover these pages in person—the brightness of the inks, the gold and platinum leaf on



Elisha and the Six Miracles, by Donald Jackson

brilliance of 24-karat gold leaf, silver leaf and platinum. The complete work includes 1,127 handwritten pages over 7 volumes and over 160 major artworks.

the vellum, the calligraphers' amazing skill with the ink and quill. Also on display are 25 framed prints of illuminations found throughout this Bible.

The Saint John's Bible is an inspiring undertaking and a beautiful combination of faith, art and history. This exhibition is made possible by the generous support of St. John's Episcopal Church, Mankato and is free and open to the public July 8 – September 1, 2017. The History Center will be open for special viewings on Sunday, August 6 and August 13, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. In addition, join us at *History Bits & Bites* on Thursday, August 17 to learn "The Form of Letters" with Brad Coulter. Coulter is a graphic design professor at MSU, Mankato and has a special interest in typography and type design.

Celebrating MSU, M—150 Years

Our next exhibit will be *Celebrating MSU, M—150 Years*, opening September 23, 2017. Throughout 2017 and 2018, Minnesota State University, Mankato will celebrate its 150 year history and the Historical Society is excited to be a part of the celebration. Together we will honor the college's rich history and role in the community while celebrating its ongoing commitment as a leader in education.

The exhibit will include photographs and artifacts featuring noteworthy individuals and places on campus as well as fun facts and stories about the college and student life.

We need your help in telling this community and college story! BECHS is seeking items and photographs which tell the college's story. Do you have photographs from valley campus or Greek life? Or maybe memorabilia from homecoming or graduation? If you have something you would like to either loan or donate for this exhibit, please contact Shelley.

The exhibit will open on September 23 with a historic walking tour of valley campus. Watch for more details to come. Join us in this celebration of the 150th anniversary of Minnesota State University, Mankato!



Every object has a story...

At the Blue Earth County History Center's Museum, the objects that are 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.

Price Family Welsh Bible, 1885

This large Welsh Bible belonged to the James D. Price family of Cambria. The family Bible was a treasured possession in the 1800s. Many Welsh Bibles were called "Peter Williams Bibles" with each chapter containing commentary by Rev. Peter Williams. Some Bibles also include a Welsh dictionary and helpful notes in English. Bibles were also used to record important family events and personal information including birth, death and marriage dates. Family Bibles can be a wonderful resource for genealogists.

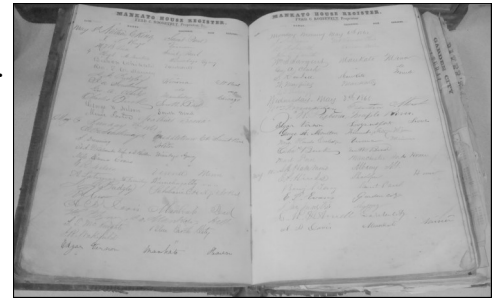


Mankato House Hotel Guest Register 1860-1863

The Mankato House was Mankato's earliest hotel and was in business from 1855 until 1873.

As guests arrived at the hotel, they signed in at this guest register.

In addition to their signature, this large register includes the person's address and a column for remarks. Many of the signatures are from military officers and out-of-town visitors, but there are a number of local residents as well. Entries made in this register were done by dip or steel nib pen point and ink from a bowl or ink well.



The next time you visit the Museum, take a look at these books in the "Welsh Display" and "Remembering Front Street" exhibit and think about all of the people connected with these two books.

HISTORY CENTER ART GALLERY

A Brush of Fresh Air

By the Outdoor Leisure Painters

July 7 - September 27, 2017



Seppman Mill by Martha Elchert

The Outdoor Leisure Painters are a small group of friends: Gerry Tostenson, Margie Larson, Martha Elchert, Nina Preheim and Marjie Laizure. They met through area art events and share a love of being outdoors and painting. The group sets up easels in the out of doors and paints what they see in the moment. "Our work is mainly completed outdoors with only a few hints of highlights done in the studio. We generally like to work in the morning when the light and shadows are at their best. Our love of painting takes us to many places but painting the local area is our favorite. Many people viewing our work recognize where we have set up our easels and enjoy seeing how we have interpreted these scenes in an artistic way."

Meet the Artists Reception

Saturday, September 23

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.



Gift Shop & Art Gallery News

Danelle Erickson, Development Manager

Out of Chaos

In its eighth year, the Minnesota State University, Mankato Common Read program strives to bring the community together through the use of the written word. Each year, students, faculty and the community alike are encouraged to read the same book and join together for discussion and activities. This year, as the university looks towards celebrating its 150 year history, a book centered around the school was selected. *Out of Chaos: Reflections of a University President and his*

Contemporaries on Vietnam-era Unrest in Mankato and its Relevance Today by James F. Nickerson was originally published in 2006 and has been republished in a special sesquicentennial edition.

The book includes a detailed timeline, recollections from President Nickerson and first-hand remembrances from school administrators, faculty, students and local residents. Pick up your copy from the History Center Gift Shop today (\$15.00) and watch for Common Read activities on campus and at the History Center.

The Saint John's Bible

To accompany *The Saint John's Bible* exhibit at the History Center, now through September 1, the Gift Shop has some beautiful items featuring this unique Bible. Reproduction volumes of the Bible have been published and the Gift Shop has copies of the Gospels and Acts (\$69.95). This is the same volume on display in the exhibit. If you are interested in purchasing the entire seven volume set, ask BECHS staff for more information.

The History Center also has other books and artwork from *The Saint John's Bible*. One title, *The Art of the Saint John's Bible*, includes copies of many of the illuminations, as well



Saint John's Bible Note Cards

as insight into the techniques, themes and composition that went into each image. There are also a variety of notecards (pack of 10 for \$16.95) and prints (size 11x14, \$20.00) available, that feature the illuminations found throughout this Bible.

Historic Photographs

Also new in the Gift Shop is a selection of local historic photographs (5x7, \$10.00). Subjects include the Saulpaugh Hotel, Mankato's Front Street and the Blue Earth County Courthouse. These photos are reproduced from BECHS' collection. Other photographs, along with different sizes and formats, can be ordered through the Research Center.



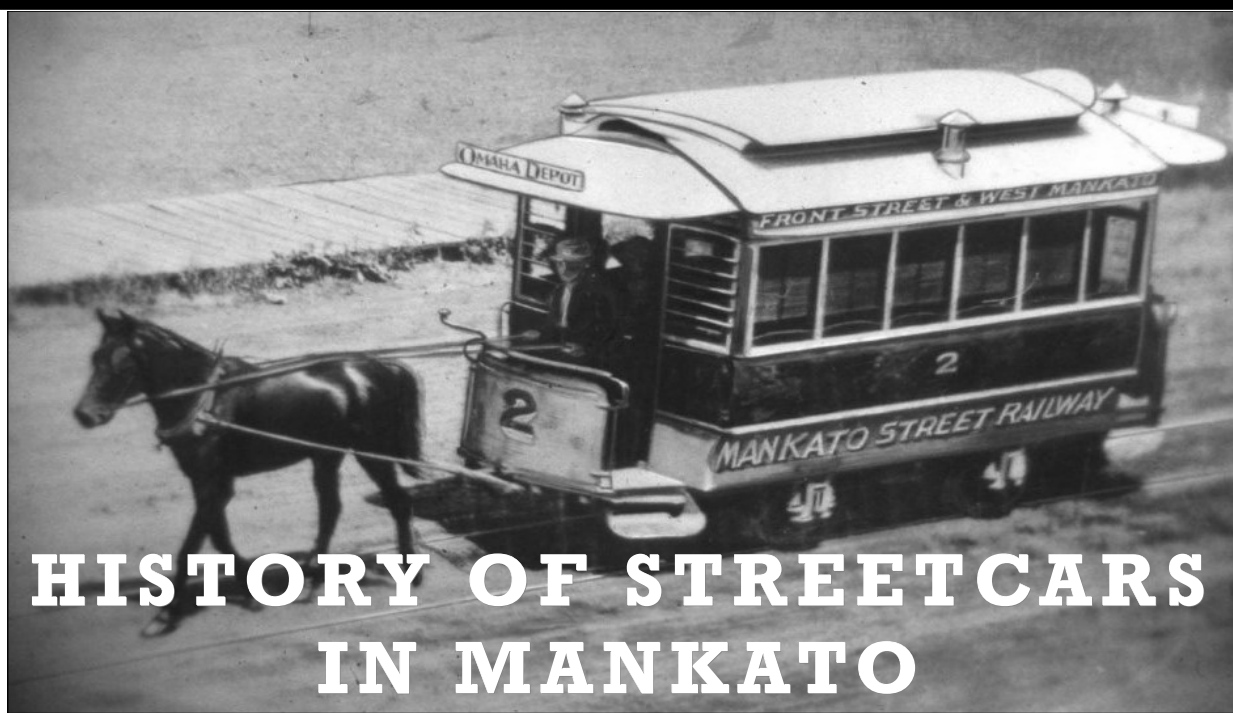
Saulpaugh Hotel

Marian Anderson Fine Art Prints



Northern Awakening

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.



HISTORY OF STREETCARS IN MANKATO

By Tim Pulis

Horse-drawn Streetcar in Mankato

Today the concept of a streetcar seems pretty tame. After all, we've put a man on the moon, sent a space probe to Pluto and have jets carrying people to every corner of the world. But in an era of horse and oxen travel of a hundred plus years ago, the streetcar system of Mankato had to have been a very novel and exciting event.

Streetcars operated in Mankato during two different eras for a total of 32 years. The Street Railway Company ran from 1886 until 1895. A 13-year stretch then occurred with no streetcar line. In 1908 the Mankato Electric Traction Company began and was in business until 1930. The companies were two very different entities and will be given essentially separate stories here. The only similarity is they ran on some of the same streets.

Horse-drawn streetcars had been operating in hundreds of cities before Mankato finally got around to putting one in. The Mankato Street Railway was organized in 1886 with \$50,000 of capital stock by W.M. Farr (President), J.C. Noe (Secretary and Treasurer), J.A. Willard and several others. Construction of the horsecar line was completed in July 1886. It ran for 20 blocks along Front Street from Vine Street south to Willard Street where the streetcar barn was located on the north side of the street. At five places spaced apart every 3 to 4 blocks there was a siding so two streetcars traveling in opposite directions could pass each other. When the end of the line came, the streetcar wouldn't turn around, but rather the driver would unhook the horse and hook it up on the other end of the car. Four horsecars operated daily from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m.

The streets of Mankato in those days were rutted and muddy especially after rainy days and during the spring snow melt. To ride on a streetcar running on smooth rails, traveling from one end of town to the other would have been a dream. According to historian Thomas Hughes, the number of fares for the first three days of operation were 966, 1033 and 1455 respectively. It turned out that except for circus days and other citywide events these were the biggest usage days ever. Low usage plagued the endeavor for its entire existence.

To increase ridership two extensions were added the next year. The first ran from Front Street north on Washington Street to the Omaha Passenger Depot. The second ran from Front Street east on Liberty Street and

into the Lincoln Park Neighborhood. This last extension proved unprofitable and was taken up in 1890 and used to extend the Front Street line to Sibley Park and Woodland Avenue. The 1890 U.S. Census indicated 3.5 miles of 3'6" narrow gauge track was owned along with 5 horse cars and 17 horses. The rails were 27 lb. steel rail, the lightest made.



Mankato streetcar token, photo by Tim Pulis

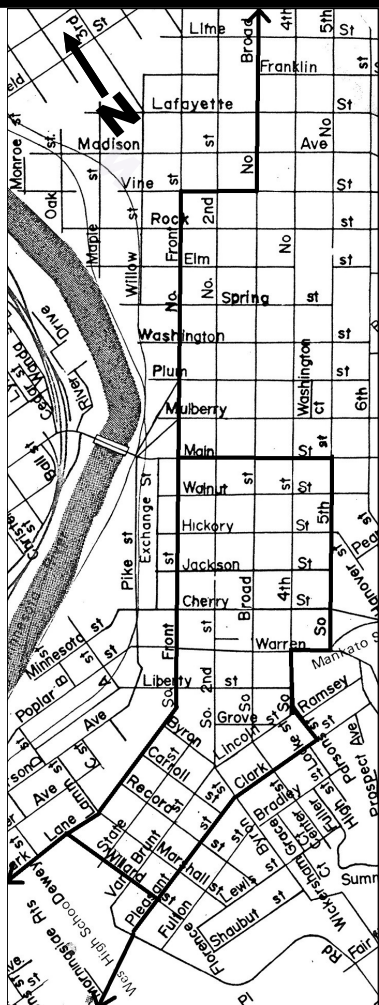
There were problems with horsecar systems. The average speed was a slow 5 to 6 miles per hour, derailments were frequent, travel in snow and going up and down hills was difficult, up to five times as many horses as cars were needed and horses were subject to many physical ailments from the hard work and were

good for only 3 to 5 years. In addition, the problem of manure created sanitation issues.

In the meantime, on the national scene electric streetcars were beginning to replace the horsecars. For example, around 1890 all the smaller gauge track in Minneapolis was replaced by the wider 4'8.5" track and electric overhead wires were put into place. Talk of renovating the Mankato system was discussed from both a financial aspect and regulatory one, but no changes were made. The horsecar system continued to limp, along losing money every year until operations ceased in 1895. At that point the tracks were taken out and creditors were satisfied. The company lost about \$75,000 or \$12,000 per member.

Nothing remains from this era of the streetcar except some fare tokens, one photo of a horse and streetcar and, most remarkably, the ledger book from the years the company existed. 132 years old and still in excellent shape, this ledger can be found in Research Center at the Blue Earth County History Center. It shows how much the Street Railway Company paid for feed, horseshoeing, harnesses and the horses themselves, plus interest paid to shareholders, money taken in by the drivers, attorney fees for various cases, drivers' wages and the cost of maintaining the track.

Thirteen years went by with the Mankato community trying to start a streetcar business, but always coming up short with either capital or willpower. With cities like Winona, St. Cloud, Duluth, Minneapolis and Stillwater having successful electric streetcar systems, Mankato was overdue for business. Finally in 1907 things came together. Under the direction of W.L. Hixon (President), Mr. Ewing (Vice



Mankato map showing some of the electric streetcar lines.

President), W.D. Willard (Secretary-Treasurer), and H.E. Hance (General Manager) construction began on the tracks plus a streetcar barn and offices located at 1103 North Broad Street.

One track line on North Broad Street ran south from Mabel Street and on to Front Street by way of Vine Street and then to Sibley Park. On Front Street between Main and Cherry Streets, double tracks allowed for cars going in opposite directions to pass. A second line ran from Front Street up Main Street Hill to 5th Street where it passed in front of the teacher's college and continued to Warren, 4th, Pleasant and Willard Streets.

Citizens were asked to help bankroll the endeavor by buying subscriptions (stock) and a list of over 200 subscribers was published in the *Mankato Free Press*. Current Mankato resident John Hallman still has the original 1907 stock certificate his great grandfather purchased for \$100, about \$2,500 in today's money.



Original stock certificate for the Mankato Electric Traction Company; courtesy of John Hallman

May 1, 1908 was declared "Streetcar Day" in Mankato as the lines opened for business. It would go down in history as "the greatest that ever was" according to the *Mankato Free Press*. A 28-piece band played in the street, a horse-racing program was held at Sibley Park and the fairgrounds played host to a baseball game between Mankato and Madison Lake. There was an evening banquet at the Saulpaugh Hotel, a masque carnival on Front Street and all downtown merchants left their showroom lights on all evening.

Speeches extolling the eight officers of the Mankato Electric Traction Company went until midnight. Guests were supplied with Mankato made cigars, each of which was encased in a vellum wrapper bearing a picture of streetcar No. 5, Mankato's first trolley car. One speaker said that even if the company



"Streetcar Day," 1908

never turned a profit, the overall economic benefit to Mankato would be tremendous. "Good feeling prevailed and if up-town and down-town factions still exist, they are united in one thing at least-that the trolley line will return great benefits to Mankato." The streetcars, it was believed, would provide customers easier access to downtown shopping and the reliable transportation

for the workforce would be a boost for businesses. At a cost of 5 cents a ride it was affordable for most everyone. For the first two years of operation, the company reported they had collected 1,545,708 fares and \$11,800 dollars of profit after expenses, interest payments and taxes.

Different sources reported varying numbers of equipment the company owned, but in general there were five motor cars and seven trailers plus one sweeper car used in the winter to clean the tracks of snow. The cars were 30 feet long and could run in both directions so when a car reached the end of a line, the motorman would simply turn the connecting pole on the top of the car to face in the opposite direction to interface with the live electric wire running overhead. Streetcars ran from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily with times running every 12 to 20 minutes between cars. Each car could accommodate 30 passengers comfortably, but on circus days and during other big events up to 120 people would pack in. On these busy days, 3 or 4 open trailers could be attached to the motor car to accommodate 11,000 fares throughout the day. The trailers were discontinued in 1914 as they proved to be more bother than they were worth.

Like any business, the streetcar company had its share of memorable characters and events. Veteran conductor Ferd Buchholz knew what time the customers on his line should be up in the morning and often awakened them by ringing his bell on the way to the end of the line. On his way back they would then be waiting for him to pick them up to go to work.

The *Mankato Ledger* thought it newsworthy to report on a streetcar conductors' 1913 vacation. "Emil Thyce one of the popular conductors on the streetcar line is enjoying a vacation at the home of his parents,



Streetcar on the median of Broad and May Streets
Photo courtesy of Minnesota Streetcar Museum

near Fergus Falls. There is good duck hunting up there."

There were troubles too. The streetcar company and the police were at a loss to prevent hooligans from causing mischief for the business. One day some young people pulled up a post near the courthouse and tried to derail the streetcar as it came along by placing the post and a large stone on the tracks. The motorman saw the obstacles and killed the current

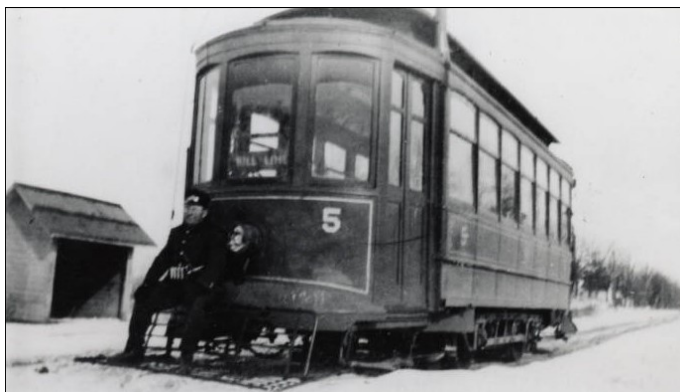
to avoid major damage, but not before running over the post. On Halloween one year troublemakers greased the tracks on Main Street Hill but, thankfully, the act was discovered in time. The company requested the police hire a plain clothed detective to capture the wayward youths.

Even without mischief-makers, the streetcars saw their share of accidents from cars jumping the tracks to collisions between the streetcars and automobiles. Another danger came from the overhead electric wires, as streetcar electrician William Lestico found out. The local paper reported when Lestico "grabbed onto the wire he instantly froze to it. After swaying back and forth he freed himself, but not before the full force of 550 volts went through his body. Later at the hospital he said he could hear his flesh fry. He suffered blistered hands and numbness in his ankles, but feels lucky to be alive."

The Mankato Electric Traction Company was constantly searching for ways to increase ridership. In 1913, tracks were added to Pleasant and Willard Streets. In 1919 Pleasant Street was extended to Baker, up Baker to Moreland and down Moreland to the railroad tracks. At this point the Willard Street connection was taken up. Just over five miles of track was used for the streetcar line.

Hoping to attract more fares out to Sibley Park on the west end of the line, the company bought three monkeys for the zoo and paid the electric bill for new lights at the park. They also offered free movies at the park until the movie theaters in town cried foul because of unfair competition.

Each car was operated by a conductor and a motorman, but around 1915, the company started employing only motormen, a sign of possible financial troubles for the streetcars. Beginning in 1922 the company steadily operated at a loss. Also at this time and for the next eight years, there was tension between the company and the city. The city claimed the streetcar company was responsible for the upkeep of the pavement between the tracks, which they had no money to fix. Also with the increase of the number of automobiles, the Front Street section became crowded.



Conductor Ferd Buchholz with Streetcar #5 takes a break
Photo courtesy of Minnesota Streetcar Museum

Imagine having cars parked on both sides of the street plus two streetcar tracks in the middle and then cars coming and going in both directions with pedestrians crossing the street at random. It had to be crowded and unsafe.

After a few years, the steel wheels on a streetcar need to be replaced because they start to develop flat spots. In the 1920s the company didn't have the money to spend on wheel replacements. A *Mankato Ledger* article in 1924 stated "People who live within a couple blocks of the Electric Traction Company tracks do not need an alarm clock after 5:30 in the morning when the cars begin operation. The whanging, banging and jarring of the flat wheeled cars make such a commotion it wouldn't be necessary to give some fellow a bonus to kiss the sleeping beauty to awaken her."

In addition, the Mankato Electric Traction Company could not set its own rates, but was at the mercy of the city council. The rate was five cents even back in the horse-drawn era. In 1925 the company requested an increase from a nickel to a dime. People were furious and said the company could make a profit at two rides for 15 cents. Obviously, a nickel meant a lot more then than now.

Finally, the city said enough and revoked the franchise. On March 1, 1930 the last streetcar stopped operating and thus the second street railway ceased to exist. The automobile proved to be its demise. While the citizens in the end were not sad to see it go, for a few years of glory the streetcars served an important and fascinating role in the towns' history.

Once the bankrupt streetcar company officially closed their doors, the City of Mankato had to take over and pay for the removal of the five miles of rails. The city ended up selling some of them for \$4 per thirty foot rail. After the rails were removed from the streets, the city had to purchase 30,000 paving bricks to replace missing and broken bricks.

After the streetcars stopped running, the streetcar barn on North Broad Street sat neglected before being used by a couple local businesses. Then in 1950, when the congregation of Our Savior's Lutheran was looking



Former streetcar barn, now part of Our Savior's Lutherans church, photo by Tim Pulis

for a church home, they turned to the streetcar barn. After much sweat and blood, the church created a building its members are most proud of and still use today.

Evidence of streetcar tracks were found when the city did a big redo of Baker Avenue in 2002. While digging, the contractor tore up dozens of wooden ties.

Even seventy-two years after its demise, the streetcar's footprint was still evident.

While researching streetcars, the author hoped to interview someone who remembered riding on one of the Mankato streetcars. Although it has been 87 years since the end of the streetcars, he was fortunate to meet Helen Erickson. Erickson was born in 1915 and from the time she was five years old until 1930 she would ride the streetcar from near her home on Van Brunt Street to her grandmother's home on the far north end of town. She paid 5 cents for the ride there which included a transfer to a different streetcar at Front Street. Her grandmother would pay her 5 cents for helping to clean gooseberries to pay for her ride home. Erickson admits that sometimes she would run home and use the nickel to purchase ice cream (orange sherbet was her favorite).



Helen Erickson shares memories of the streetcars, photo by Tim Pulis

The eventual failure of both street railway companies in Mankato was not the fault of any individuals running the companies. Outside forces changed the landscapes. First for the horse-drawn streetcar, the relatively small population of Mankato didn't provide enough ridership to make a profit. Give them credit for trying. The electric streetcar did, in fact, make a profit for a dozen years, but eventually the coming of the automobile was just too much competition. Hundreds and hundreds of electric streetcar companies went bankrupt about the same time Mankato's did. What is unique for Mankato is the 13 year gap between the two streetcar eras. Other cities transitioned quickly from horses to electricity. Why Mankato did not is a historical curiosity.

Sources

Hughes, Thomas, *History of Blue Earth County*, 1910
Olson, Russell L., *The Electric Railways of Minnesota*, 1976

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, *50th Anniversary 1950-2000*

Photographs courtesy of the Minnesota Streetcar Museum and Tim Pulis

"Twin Cities Lines," Minnesota Streetcar Museum Quarterly, Fall 2012

Vertical files and photograph collection, Blue Earth County Historical Society



Around the Research Center

Heather Harren, Communications Manager

In the weeks leading up to Memorial Day, several people called or visited the Research Center looking for where their relatives are buried in Blue Earth County. One out-of-town couple, unable to find what they wanted online, came to the Research Center for help. Using cemetery transcriptions, completed by BECHS volunteers, they were able to locate a number of burial locations in different cemeteries before the holiday.

One day the couple located family in Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Mankato. The next day brought them to cemeteries in Minneopa and Lake Crystal.



Lyra Township Cemetery

Through the use of Google Maps, we were able view Minneopa Cemetery online before they left the Research Center and pointed out the old section of the cemetery.

Our cemetery transcriptions have helped many researchers find the grave they were looking for. As volunteers documented the cemetery information,

they often included notes to help better locate individual grave markers. For large cemeteries, our records include a map with section numbers. In addition, the Research Center will gladly help with directions to the cemeteries. (I admit I am directionally challenged – hence the use of online maps!) While our website indicates which cemetery people are buried in, www.bechshistory.com/research/indexes, you can also visit the Research Center for the full transcript and help in locating other family members final resting place. Cemetery transcripts are available to anyone who visits the Research Center.

Volunteers are needed: Some of our cemetery information could use an update. Volunteers are needed to physically walk cemeteries, record new markers and locations. Ask at the Research Center how you can help.

Blue Earth County Trivia

1. What type of vehicle was Tugboat Annie?
2. What does Medo mean in the Winnebago language?
3. Mankato native Harvey Anderson was known for what?

Answers can be found on page 18.

WISH LIST

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

Laser Printer
Gently used, working condition.

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

Industrial Strength Metal Shelving for collections storage, call for more info.

Velvet Fabric
5-10 yards to use to make drapes

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

Bison Hide
The bison hide lent to the Discovery Lab has been returned. In 2016, over 500 children explored the history of Native American life with the bison hide. Seeking a replacement hide.

Historic R.D. Hubbard House

Where 1900s History Comes to Life

This summer, the Hubbard House has come to life with a lawn party, a wedding mystery and guided tours. The two new Hubbard House assistants love to dress up in the fashion of the time period and show off this beautiful and fascinating home. Meet the Hubbard House

assistants who welcome visitors as they step back in time: Jonathan Soucek has a bachelor's degrees in both History and Political Science from



Minnesota State University, Mankato. Jon has done a substantial amount of research on the late 1800s and early 1900s and hopes to go to graduate school and focus on this time period. His work at the Hubbard House has given him a newfound appreciation for local history and continues to further his knowledge on Mankato history.

Morgan Muldoon is a junior at Gustavus Adolphus College, majoring in both History and Classics. Her favorite thing about working at the Hubbard House has been learning new things about Mankato history, the Victorian Era and the Hubbard Family.

Upcoming Hubbard House Events

Medicine Show: Cherry Sisters Encore and More August 19, 1-4 p.m.

Come and see what shenanigans are happening at this year's Medicine Show! Free and open to public; admission charged for house tours.

Gaslight Series, Farmer-Labor Rally, 1918: Preserving Our Civil Liberties September 13, 7 p.m.

Farmers and Laborers faced social, political and economic problems that were very different from any faced by people like the Hubbard family. Come and experience a historic look at a typical 1918 rally with folk music, dances and fiery speeches.

Last day for the season, October 1

Christmas at the Hubbard House, December 2 and 3 Save the date! More details to come.

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.



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

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

BECHS Volunteers Make History Happen

Volunteers bring history to life at the Blue Earth County Historical Society! Some volunteers share their passion for history in giving presentations, writing articles or dressing-up in historic costumes for events at the Hubbard House, while others greet visitors at exhibits or special events. And you don't have to know a lot about history to help—just an excitement to meet people or an interest to learn something new.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact the History Center. New volunteers and ideas are always welcome!



Volunteers bring history to life!

Volunteer and Employment Opportunities

BECHS at the County Fair

The Blue Earth County Fair at the fairgrounds in Garden City will be held July 27-30. BECHS volunteers are needed to help with displays and hands-on activities and to promote the Historical Society. 3-hour shifts available throughout the fair. Sign-up at the History Center or visit www.signup.com/go/ymKiacY

Gardeners

The gardens around the History Center are growing fast! Volunteers are needed to help with cleaning the flower beds, weeding and general upkeep. Flexible schedule and all gardening levels are welcome.

Cemetery Transcripts

Many of our cemetery transcripts are in need of an update. Volunteers needed to physically walk Blue Earth County Cemeteries, recording new markers and locations. See "Around the Research Center" on page 13 for more about this valuable resource or contact the Research Center to help.

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.

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.

Rental Facilitator

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

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

Committee Service
Exhibit Research and Design
Graphic Design
Light Construction
Living History Events

Marketing and Communications
Office Work
Photography
Writing and Research

BECHS Donors, Members & Sponsors

April - June 2017

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In Honor of
Joe Farnham
Hilda A. Parks

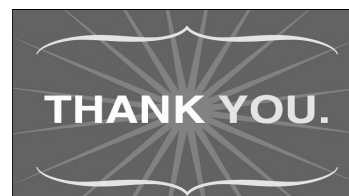
In Memory of
Harriet Hager
Darrell & Sandi Garlow

In Memory of
Dave Heil
Penny Banwart

In Memory of
Marsha Heinze
Jane Haala

In Memory of
Marlene Cutkosky Pommerenke
Dorothy Anthony

In Memory of
Berneda Ward
Darrell & Sandi Garlow



**BE A HISTORY HERO!
SAVE HISTORY!**

History Heroes help save and preserve our past through financial support by ensuring the continuation of engaging exhibits, high-quality educational programs for all ages and preservation of our irreplaceable artifacts.

You can be a History Hero by:

- Making a financial contribution
- Signing-up for the Monthly Giving Program and your automatic donation will provide support throughout the year.
- Becoming a BECHS Member

Donations and memberships can be made online at www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com, by mail to BECHS, 424 Warren Street, Mankato or in person at the History Center.

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SURROUNDED BY HISTORY

Blue Earth County on the Move



Surrounded By History, the Historical Society's 6th annual fundraiser was held on April 28 and was a



celebration of Blue Earth County's transportation history. Over 200 people attended the evening which included roving historical characters, dinner, wine wall, silent auction and raffle. New this year was three rounds of transportation trivia by the Savants of Question. The winning trivia table even won new (toy) cars!

Over \$35,000 was raised that evening to support the Historical Society's goal to offer history experiences for all ages at the History Center, Hubbard House and in our local schools. *Surrounded By History* continues to grow each year and continues to raise significant funds for BECHS' operations—over \$125,000 in six years.

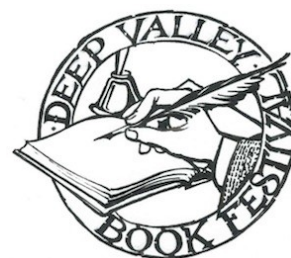
Thank you to everyone who attended and made the evening memorable. Thank you to those that donated items for the auctions and wine raffle. And



thank you to our sponsors who made this event possible! Mark your calendar now for *Surrounded By History* 2018 on Friday, April 27!

Deep Valley Book Festival

BECHS is excited to announce we will be participating in the Deep Valley Book Festival this fall! The book festival has re-organized and is moving to a new venue. It will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2017 at the Mankato Event Center in downtown Mankato. Watch for upcoming news about how BECHS will be participating and how you can support us by attending.



Registration for authors, illustrators, publishers and literary organizations and participation in the Young Writers and Young Illustrators competitions are now open. For more information visit www.mnheritage.com and click on Deep Valley Book Festival. Register by September 1, 2017.

Also new this year is an *Authors and Appetizers Gala* on Friday, October 6 at the Mankato Event Center. Proceeds from the Gala will help to keep the event affordable to authors and the book festival free for attendees.

The Deep Valley Book Festival connects readers and writers in a celebration of literature and literacy. This free, day-long festival brings people together to celebrate our vibrant literary culture. In addition to books and authors, there will be speakers, panel discussions, music, children's activities, food, contests, raffle prizes and more. The Deep Valley Book Festival gets its name from the setting of the beloved children's books (*Betsy-Tacy*) written by Mankato-born author Maud Hart Lovelace. The Deep Valley Book Festival is sponsored by Minnesota Heritage Publishing with the Mankato Free Press as Media Sponsor.



Singing of Welsh Hymns

(English and Welsh in 4-part congregational singing)

2017 Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival

Sunday, September 24th at 1:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, 220 East Hickory, Mankato MN

VISITING CONDUCTOR **PERFORMING CHOIR**
Danny Proud of Wisconsin **St. Peter Choral Society of St. Peter, MN**

Free Admission and Te Bach (Refreshments) after hymn sing.
For more information about this and other Welsh events, check the website:
<http://mnwelshassociation.weebly.com> and www.facebook.com/MinnesotaWelshAssociation

Calendar of Events July - October 2017

JULY

- 20 **History Bits & Bites, Mankato's Streetcars**, Noon-1 p.m., History Center *3rd Thursday*
- 27 **Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*
- 27-30 **Blue Earth County Fair**, Garden City Fair Grounds. Visit BECHS at the fair for fun history exhibits and hands-on activities

AUGUST

- 1 **Remember When Coffee Club: Summer Sports**, 10 a.m., History Center, Free. *First Tuesday*
- 1 **BECHS Brainstorming Session**, 3 p.m., History Center, please RSVP
- 3 **Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 5 **BECHS Brainstorming Session**, 10 a.m., History Center, please RSVP
- 6 **The Saint John's Bible Exhibit**, special Sunday hours 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 9 **BECHS Brainstorming Session**, 6 p.m., History Center, please RSVP
- 10 **BECHS Brainstorming Session**, Noon, History Center, please RSVP
- 13 **The Saint John's Bible Exhibit**, special Sunday hours 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 15-18 **Awesome Women in History! Kid's History Day Camp**, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. each day, Reserve your spot by 8/10/17
- 17 **History Bits & Bites, The Form of Letters**, Noon-1 p.m., History Center *3rd Thursday*
- 19 **Medicine Show**, 1-4 p.m. Hubbard House, Free
- 24 **Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*
- 25 **BECHS Annual Member Appreciation**, 5-7 p.m., History Center. RSVP by August 22.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **The Saint John's Bible Exhibit closes**
- 2 **History Center Closed**; Labor Day Holiday; Hubbard House Open 1-4 p.m.
- 5 **Remember When Coffee Club: Childhood Diseases and Remedies**, 10 a.m., History Center, Free. *First Tuesday*
- 7 **Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 9 **Young Historians, Civil War to the End of the Century**, 10 a.m.-Noon, History Center
- 13 **Hubbard House Gaslight Series, Farmer-Labor Rally, 1918: Preserving Our Civil Liberties**, 7 p.m. Hubbard House

- 21 **History Bits & Bites, Minnesota Welsh Association**, Noon-1 p.m., History Center *3rd Thursday*
- 21 **Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town* (*note: special day*)
- 22-24 **Mahkato Pow Wow**, visit BECHS in the Education Tent, visit www.mahkatowacipi.org for more information
- 23 **Celebrating MSU, M-150 Years Exhibit Opens**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., History Center
- 23 **Historic MSU, M Valley Campus Walking Tour**, 10 a.m.-Noon, History Center
- 23 **Meet the Artists Reception**, 1-3 p.m., History Center Art Gallery
- 30 **Stained Glass Workshop for Kids**, 11 a.m.-Noon, History Center

OCTOBER

- 1 **History and Painting at the Falls: Plein Air Day at Minneopa State Park**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 3 **Remember When Coffee Club: National Events Affect Your Life**, 10 a.m. History Center, Free. *First Tuesday*.
- 5 **Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 7 **Deep Valley Book Festival**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Mankato Event Center, visit www.mnheritage.com for more information
- 14 **Young Historians, Turn of the Century to the Roaring 20s**, 10 a.m.-Noon, History Center
- 19 **History Bits & Bites, Out of Chaos: Music of the Times**, Noon-1 p.m., History Center. *3rd Thursday*
- 26-27 **Ghosts from the Past: 150 Years of MSU, Mankato**, 6-8 p.m., History Center, tickets will go on sale October 15.

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.

Answers to Blue Earth County Trivia on page 13:

- 1. An Over the Engine International tow truck
- 2. "Small Potatoes"
- 3. Canoeing and Ski Haven (Now Mount Kato)

Membership Makes a Difference

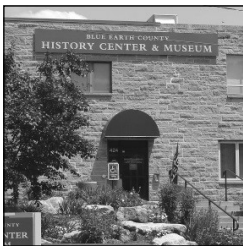
BECHS members come from all walks of life. Different ages, backgrounds, beliefs and more. There are probably just as many reasons why people become members of the Historical Society—some people join for events and unlimited access to the Museum or Research Center or to ensure they don't miss an issue of *The Historian*, while others renew each year as a way to financially support the Society.

Whatever the reason for membership, it all boils down to the belief that history and the work done by the Blue Earth County Historical Society are important.

In addition to renewing your annual membership,

there are two other things you can do that would greatly help BECHS. First, invite other people to check out the Society. Ask them to an exhibit, or the Hubbard House or to become members themselves. Second, talk to us! As Jessica mentioned in the "Director's Notes," BECHS is approaching an exciting time of Strategic Planning. Consider taking part in one of our brainstorming session (see page 3). This is your organization—let your voice be heard!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS.
**JOINTODAY.
MAKEHISTORY.**



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.

Annual BECHS Member Appreciation

**Friday, August 25
5-7 p.m.
History Center**

Join us for:

- *Appreciation meal*
- *Door prizes*
- *An unique journey around the History Center to discover what your membership support makes possible*
- *Member-only specials in Gift Shop*
- *Last chance to see The Saint John's Bible*



Together We're Making History!

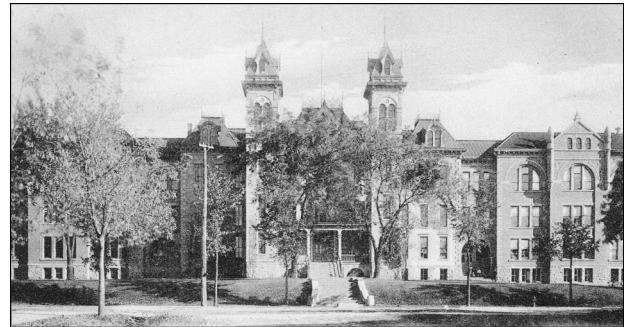
BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Visit www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com or call 507-345-5566.

SAVE THE DATE Ghosts From the Past

From Normal School to University:

150 YEARS OF MSU, MANKATO

**October 26 and 27, 2017
6 - 8 p.m.**



Tickets will go on sale October 15.
Visit www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com
for details.



Blue Earth County Historical Society

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Mankato, MN 56001

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