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## SPECIAL EXHIBITS



*Mankato Union Depot, Now  
by Richard Melarvie*

**Then and Now: Blue  
Earth County 2018**  
by The Bend of the River  
Photography Club  
Through Dec. 29, 2018

**1918: Home and  
Abroad**  
Through Nov. 24, 2018

**Why Treaties Matter**  
Dec. 8-Mar. 9, 2019



Hubbard Mill, 1932

## Flying High

"Flying High" has a few different meanings. In a literal sense, it means soaring above the earth. It could also refer to emotions, such as "flying high with happiness." Or if someone or something is excelling at something, we might also say they are "flying high." In this issue of *The Historian* you will come across a few examples of "flying high."

Turn to the main article starting on page 10 and fly back to 1932 Mankato. Author Tim Pulis shares five historic aerial photographs and some of the history behind each location. Tim went to his usual heights when writing an article for BECHS. He interviewed, researched and drove around the countryside in pursuit of these stories. Thanks, Tim!

Emotions have also been "flying high" at the Historical Society, thanks to a generous donor. Read the "Director's Notes" on page 3 to find out more.

As 2018 nears its end, thoughts often turn to the season of giving. As you start making your lists and checking them twice, please consider including a donation to BECHS on your list. In this *Historian*, you will find a giving envelope. Use this to make a one-time donation or maybe you are interested in becoming a sustaining member. Sustaining members received the same benefits as annual members, but your gift also provides consistent and on-going support throughout the year.

However you give to BECHS—membership, donations, volunteering or simply helping to spread the word—thank you for helping us fly high!

## The Blue Earth County Historian



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Archivist@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com  
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Education@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

### History Center & Museum

424 Warren Street, Mankato, MN  
507-345-5566  
[www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](http://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 the season  
Open Weekends in December  
Christmas at the Hubbard House:  
Dec. 1, 3-7 p.m., Dec. 2, 1-4 p.m.  
Walk-in Guided Tours:  
December 8-9, 15-16, 1-4 p.m.

### The Blue Earth County Historian Fall 2018

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

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# Board of Trustees

Julie Lux, Board of Trustees

Why do I support the Blue Earth County Historical Society? Simple. Because I love History!

I have been on the Historical Society's board for a couple of years and I have enjoyed every minute. My passion for history started when I was about 10 years old and I found a series of books my grandfather had purchased right after his time in World War II. He worked for the postal service and would tell my sibling and I all about his experiences delivering mail and packages. He would not share everything, but would tell us about the places he went throughout his service. The book series was a visual depiction of World War II. The pictures came from soldiers who were living this time in history. After reading the 10-part series within a couple of days I was hooked on history.

My passion for history continued with my education and I graduated with a degree in history from South Dakota State University. While I don't work within the history field, I am able to keep my passion alive through my position on the board. To watch the Society grow and flourish with our dedicated staff at the lead is wonderful. Walking into the History Center is like stepping into a familiar place, warm and welcoming and surrounded by history.

One important reason BECHS is able to maintain this familiar place is through generous donors like you. The Annual Giving Campaign is right around the corner and it is because of our donors that BECHS has been able to provide a variety of shared story programs like *Remember When* coffee hour or educational outreach to Blue Earth County schools. Being a donor provides financial support for our collective passion for history and keeps it active and alive within our county. Please use the enclosed giving envelope today to make a difference in the future of BECHS. And please share your passion for history with someone by inviting them to be a part of BECHS too.

## History Center Now Available for Your Next Meeting or Special Event



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

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

# Director's Notes

Jessica Potter, Executive Director

*Legacy: something handed down from one generation to the next.* At the Blue Earth County History Center, we celebrate the legacy of people from the past every day. Some people leave their mark or their legacy through their family, the business they founded, their impact on their community through service or simply by living in Blue Earth County.

Another definition of Legacy is *money or property bequeathed to someone or someplace in a will.* In June, the Blue Earth County Historical Society received a \$540,000 legacy gift from the estate of Edward F. McLean.

Edward F. McLean was born in Mankato in 1942 and graduated from Mankato High School in 1960. He went on to graduate from Hamline University and the University of Oregon. Ed taught mathematics for a short time, then spent the rest of his career working for State Farm Insurance in Bloomington, Illinois from 1970-2007. He retired in Mankato, his hometown. Ed enjoyed traveling, reading and investing in people's lives through mentoring and rich, engaging conversations. He also had a passion for history, music and education and generously named the Blue Earth County Historical Society as a beneficiary of his estate. Ed passed away in December 2016.

Ed was a long-time member of the Blue Earth County Historical Society. While living in Illinois, he made annual visits to the museum while back "home." I enjoyed talking with him about the new ideas or programs at the museum in Bloomington, Illinois, where he was also a member. His annual visits weren't to tell us to do things differently, he just encouraged us with ideas for the future. He held a great affection for his hometown's history and wanted to see it flourish. And today Ed is doing just that with his generous legacy gift.

Ed's gift has come at the most incredible and opportune time in our organization's history. We are finishing up our first year of a three-year Strategic Plan. The Board of Trustees has decided that Ed's gift will not be used for general operating expenses, but instead serve as seed money to dream big and make those dreams become realities. Take a moment to dream with me – imagine an updated and state-of-the-art History Center that attracts and welcomes locals and visitors alike as we celebrate and showcase Blue Earth County's rich heritage through

interactive, engaging exhibitions and programs. That's one of my dreams. What's yours? I would love to hear it.

We need you to help us keep our feet on the ground while we dream big by continuing to support daily operations with your annual donation and membership dues. Your investment today is the foundation for those dreams tomorrow. Ed's passion for this community is what we celebrate today in the legacy he has left behind for BECHS and the many lives he touched. What will your legacy be?

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



**LEAVE A LEGACY® Mankato Area**

*Sponsored By Minnesota Planned Giving Council*

[www.LeaveALegacyMankato.org](http://www.LeaveALegacyMankato.org)

**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.  
Talk to your attorney or financial advisor about  
estate planning and legacy gifts.



**1918:  
HOME and  
ABROAD**

**Blue Earth County  
History Center  
Exhibit closes Nov. 24  
Free**





# Education & Outreach

By Beth Johnson, Education and Outreach Coordinator

It's hard to believe it is already Fall! The leaves are beginning to turn color and the weather is crisp. It's a great time to get out and explore your local history. Here at the History Center we are looking forward to the coming months full of activities. From kids to adults, our goal is to serve our entire community through local history education.

## In the Schools

We are working to reach out and serve more schools and children by actively offering more History Education. Our website now includes a new section specifically for Educators. The Educator tab offers educators and others a menu of opportunities from classroom visits to school tours for K-6th grade, plus additional resources found at the History Center. Educators can now easily view a sample of the new offerings at their convenience or browse our website for more educational resources. Help spread the word about our new Education resources on our website! If you know a teacher who is interested in having a BECHS tour or classroom visit, help us connect with them.

We are already getting ready for visits from our schools! Two school tours are planned for October and November. We have large groups coming for both tours and will need our volunteers' help. Tours take approximately one fun hour. We need timekeepers, guides, sweepers and photographers. If you would like to help, we would love to have you. Please contact Danelle at 507-345-5566 to volunteer. We love students and look forward to reaching out to all students in Blue Earth County!

## BECHS Outreach

We had great crowds visit BECHS at the education tent at the annual Mahkato Wacipi (or Powwow). Once again, we brought our *2012 History of the Wacipi* exhibit and had many avid readers! More than 200 visited our booth over the course of the three-day event. We also collected family stories while we were



Sharing stories in the Wacipi Education Tent

there. Thank you to all of the visitors, elders, community members and volunteers!

It's important to tell the multifaceted history of Blue Earth County, so in addition to serving our many visitors to the History Center, Hubbard House and website, we provide educational talks and events revolving around history for every age group. From History Bits & Bites noontime talks,



Fun activities at Minneopa State Park to site visits, to special events like our recent partnership with Friends of Minneopa and the Minnesota DNR for "History and Painting at the Falls: Plein Air Painting Day at Minneopa State Park." This outreach opportunity was busy with over 200 visitors and 60 participants who created their own paintings of Minneopa Falls.

More special events are coming up! Join us on Friday, November 2 as we reminisce with *1918: Home and Abroad, Readings and Song*. Through letters, writings, newspaper accounts and songs of 1918, we will revisit historical events that created cultural change across America.

Starting in December we will be hosting a special traveling exhibit from the Minnesota Humanities Center called *Why Treaties Matter*. Watch for more events connected with this exhibit in the new year.

*Young Historians* has started up for the 2018-2019 school year! Join us on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. as we compare past and present with the theme "Explore the Dakota." This year will be spent learning about Minnesota Native Americans in conjunction with the upcoming exhibit *Why Treaties Matter*.

Also on the second Saturday of each month, at 12:30 p.m., kids and families are welcome to take part in the ongoing Stained Glass Workshop in the Discovery Lab. It's free with museum admission.

We are looking forward to the final months of 2018 and have added many family-friendly activities. From school tours to adult history events, we aim to serve our entire community through education.



# 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



Hilgers Family Thanksgiving, 1951

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

#### Upcoming Topics

**November 6** - Grandma's Thanksgiving Dinner

**December 4** - Favorite Christmas Stories

**January 8** - Favorite "Hang Out Place" Growing Up

### 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's theme is "Explore the Dakota." Over the months, we will learn about the historical, practical, political, cultural and economic highlights of the Dakota from the past and present.



Shawl dancers at the Mahkato Wacipi

#### Upcoming Topics

**November 10** - Native American Heritage

**December 8** - The Ride

**January 12** - Connection to the Land

Special thanks to MinnStar Bank N.A. for their support of Children's Programming in 2018.

### 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, \$7 non-members. Lunch is not provided, but beverages will be available.

#### Upcoming Topics

**October 18** - Alex Oldenburg presents "Service Dogs and Their History"

**November 15** - Allan and JoAnne Starkey present "Camp Patterson Memories"

**December 20** - *Dakota 38 Documentary: Healing Journey of the Dakota People*

### SPECIAL EVENT

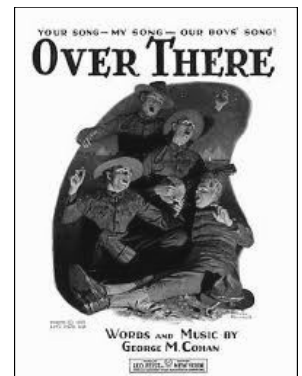
**1918: Home and Abroad, Readings and Song**  
**Friday, November 2, 6:30 p.m.**

History Center

\$10/Adult \$7/BECHS Member \$3/Child (5-17)

Join us in an engaging evening of remembrance through songs and readings from 1918 - the era of World War I, the Spanish Flu, Women's Suffrage, Prohibition and many other changes in American life.

Guest vocalist, Barbara Dunker, has been teaching at Scheitel's Music in Mankato since 2004. Prior to teaching in Mankato, Barbara taught in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Since returning to Mankato, she has been performing with numerous music and theater groups.



**Turn to page 18 for the full calendar of events**

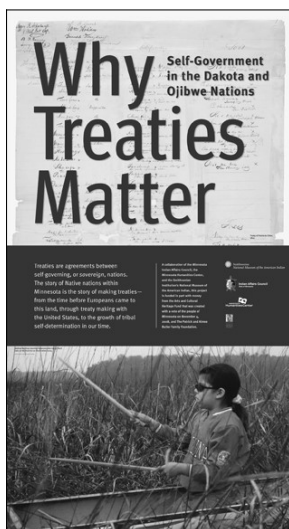


# Collections & Exhibits

## *Why Treaties Matter*

By Shelley Harrison, Archives & Collections Manager

The Historical Society is pleased to welcome our newest traveling exhibit coming in December: *Why Treaties Matter: Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations*. The exhibit explores the Native nations in Minnesota and their history of treaty making with the United States. It highlights the importance of relationships and the value of conversations in any culture. It is both fascinating and informative to anyone with an interest in history and how it affects us today. The exhibit will include historical and contemporary photographs and maps,



and a 10-minute video titled, “A Day in the Life of the Minnesota Tribal Nations.” In August 2010, a unique partnership of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, the Minnesota Humanities Center, and the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. made it possible for the exhibition to be developed as an educational tool for Minnesota audiences. It’s a collaboration between all 11 sovereign

nations in Minnesota. Since 2010, the *Why Treaties Matter* exhibit has received national attention, including several awards. We are excited for the opportunity to gather, take in and reflect on the full story from the past to the present. It’s an honor to be included as a partner in this important collaboration. The exhibit shows how Dakota and Ojibwe treaties with the U.S. Government affected the lands and lifeways of the Indigenous peoples and explains why these binding agreements between nations still matter today. It is meant to share important cultural information with all Minnesotans, that they may better understand the true circumstances surrounding Minnesota land, its use and the treatment of the land’s Indigenous peoples today. “In order to create the vibrant Minnesota of the future we need to understand the importance of the agreements—the treaties—between the sovereign Indian nations and the United States,” says Minnesota Humanities Center President, David O’Fallon. “Understanding these treaties is important now—it affects how we

live—and will shape the future.”

Along with the exhibit, BECHS will be hosting several related events including a program on cross-cultural understanding and a Native American panel discussion. There will also be hands-on activities such as games and crafts.

*Why Treaties Matter* focuses on building and strengthening relationships, the power of story, learning from community voices and discovering community solutions. The main purpose of the exhibit is to bring people together.

*Why Treaties Matter* is free and open to the public and will be on display December 8 – March 9, 2019. For more information, please contact Shelley at [archivist@blueearthcountyhistory.com](mailto:archivist@blueearthcountyhistory.com).



“A Deep Connection to Place”

# Why Treaties Matter

**Self-Government in the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations**

Explore how Dakota and Ojibwe treaties with the U.S. government affected the lands and lifeways of the Indigenous Peoples of the place now called Minnesota and why these binding agreements between nations still matter today. Free.

**December 8 - March 9, 2019**

**Blue Earth County History Center**

424 Warren Street,  
Mankato

# Every object has a story...

At the Blue Earth County History Center, the objects showcased tell the varied stories of Blue Earth County's past. Every object has a different story—who owned it, how it was made, where it came from.

The organization known today as Greater Mankato Growth has seen a number of changes, including name changes, over its 150-year history; from “The Mankato Board of Trade” to “Mankato Chamber of Commerce” and “Mankato Area Chamber and Convention Bureau,” just to name a few. Here is a bit of their history that is currently on display in the History Center's pop-up exhibit *Celebrating Greater Mankato Growth's 150 Years*.

## Photographs of the Stunt Nite Bunch, 1928

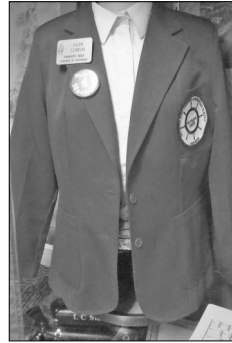


The Stunt Nite Bunch were members of the Mankato Chamber of Commerce who

performed a vaudeville act as a community fundraiser.

## Captain's Crew Blazer, 1990s

The Captain's Crew (now called the Cavaliers) was a volunteer group of professionals who welcomed new member businesses and encouraged member involvement and networking in the community.



## Scissor, 2000s

These large, oversize scissors were made especially for the Mankato Area Chamber and Convention Bureau by South Central Technical College machine tool career program and were used at multiple ribbon-cutting events. They still work!



The next time you visit the History Center, stop by to see these items and more in this pop-up exhibit *Celebrating Greater Mankato Growth's 150 Years* on display through December.

## HISTORY CENTER ART GALLERY

### *Then and Now: Blue Earth County 2018*

By Bend of the River Photography Club  
October 6 - December 29, 2018



Main St. Amboy after 1940  
Fire, BECHS Collection

Now by Randy Wood

*Then and Now: Blue Earth County 2018* is a collaborative project between The Bend of the River Photography Club and Blue Earth County Historical Society to document places in Blue Earth County through camera images. For this project, Photo Club members chose a historic image from the extensive collection at the History Center. They photographed buildings and locations around Blue Earth County by standing where another photographer stood years prior. They reference past photographs to document what exists in that place now.

The Photo Club is documenting history today. Years from now the photographs, printed and carefully stored at the History Center, will be available for the next generation. “We hope they will enjoy our photographs as much as we have enjoyed recreating the ones from the past.”

**Gallery Reception: Saturday, November 10, 2-4 p.m. Free.**

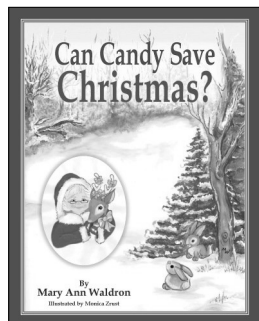


# Gift Shop & Art Gallery News

By Danelle Erickson, Development Manager

The History Center Gift Shop will soon be in the holiday spirit for BECHS' Anniversary Open House. Not only are November 2 and 3 a celebration of the founding of BECHS, but its also the kick-off to some great holiday shopping! Plus, BECHS members receive a double-member discount.

As part of the Anniversary weekend, BECHS is happy to welcome some local authors to the History Center on Saturday, November 3. First, from 1-3 p.m. in the Gift Shop, author Monica Zrust will be signing copies of her book *Can Candy Save Christmas?* Visitors can also meet our special guest, Mrs. Claus, and even have their photo taken with her! Then, starting at 2 p.m., join us for the book release *The Boy in Blue: Blue Earth County Minnesota's Civil War Memorial*. See page 13 for more details.

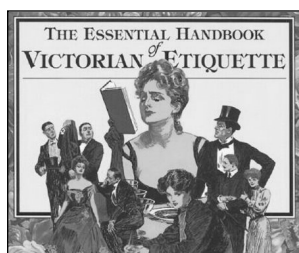


Another holiday highlight in the Gift Shop is "Shop Small Saturday" on November 24. This is a joint effort to encourage people to "shop local." The History Center will be joining other local retail shops to offer fun and festive shopping, prizes and more in partnership with Mankato's City Center Partnership. Watch for more information



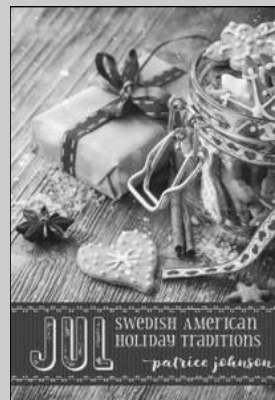
## Have a Merry Victorian Christmas

With many of BECHS' activities surrounding the Hubbard House and its Victorian setting, it's probably not surprising to find a selection of Victorian-inspired items available at the History Center and Hubbard House Gift Shops. Fun Victorian etiquette books, paper dolls, coloring books, and a variety of other unique items are available. If someone on your shopping list has a love for history, especially the Victorian era, be sure to stop by!



And for even more Victorian Holiday fun, don't miss the annual *Christmas at the Hubbard House*, December 1-2. See page 16 for details.

Last winter, the Minnesota Historical Society Press released a new book titled *Jul: Swedish American Holiday Traditions* by Patrice Johnson. As a fan of Christmas traditions and recipes, and having Swedish roots myself, I ordered a few copies for the Gift Shop, knowing I would purchase one of them for myself. I wasn't disappointed.



The stories and traditions were so familiar—I almost wondered if the author had talked to some of my relatives. The recipes I tried were great. (The krumkake was especially delicious and made my kitchen smell amazing!) I look forward to trying a few more recipes this year.

Not only did I find the content enjoyable, but the book itself is beautiful with its Swedish-inspired design and delicious-looking photographs. It would make the perfect gift for a holiday-enthusiast—whether they are Swedish or not. Or you can do what I did and buy a copy for yourself!

Available at the Blue Earth County History Center Gift Shop. \$24.95, hardcover.

## Marian Anderson Fine Art Prints



*Timeless Moment*

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. Marian Anderson Fine Art Prints are available exclusively at the History Center and online at [MarianAnderson.com](http://MarianAnderson.com).

**100% of All Sales Benefit  
the Blue Earth County Historical Society**



# Holiday Gift Ideas from the Gift Shop

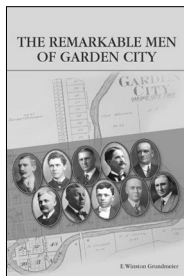
Visit the Blue Earth County History Center Gift Shop this holiday season. You are certain to find the perfect gift for everyone on your list.

## **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.

***The Remarkable Men of Garden City*** by Win Grundmeier. An inspiring story of ten boys from Garden City who grew up to be men of wealth and influence. \$12.95

**Other titles include:** *Blue Earth County Century Farms*, *Fire!*, *Meet the Hubbards*, *The Multifaceted Carp*, *Rapidan Dam*, and *Unique Mankato Stories*.

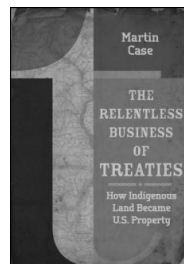


## **Dakota History**

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

***The Relentless Business of Treaties*** by Martin Case. Case was one of the developers of *Why Treaties Matter*, the exhibit coming to the History Center in December. \$17.95

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



## **Maps**

Perfect as historical references or décor for the home—or both!

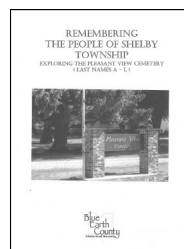
Individual **Plat Map pages** of various townships from 1914 or 1929. \$9.99-\$14.99

**Ethnic Background map** is color coded map showing 1880 ethnicity in Blue Earth County. \$4.95

**Other maps include:** early vegetation, railroad land grants, Blue Earth County in 1865 and a bird's eye view of downtown Mankato in 1888. \$3.95-\$4.95

## **Cemetery Transcriptions**

***Remembering the People*** compiled by Corey Hugg. These 9 books not only include cemetery marker transcriptions but also obituaries and other biographical information. \$49.95 each

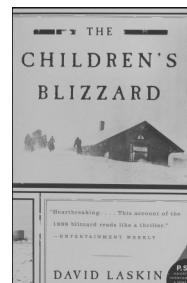


## **Popular Titles**

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

***Bundt Cake Bliss*** by Susanna Short. With recipes from sweet to savory, this fun cookbook will have you reaching for a Bundt pan to give them a try! \$16.95

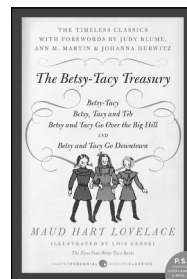
**Books on local history** with topics including: Red Jacket Valley, Lake Crystal, Mankato trivia, Maple River and St. Clair



## **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

**"Museum Mysteries" series**  
Four museum-loving friends work together to find out what happened to missing statues, vandalized paintings and more. \$6.95 each



## **Unique Gifts**

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

**Local art** by Marian Anderson, John Cross and more.



**Give the Gift of History  
this Holiday Season!**  
*Memberships, Art, Gift Certificates  
available at the History Center*

# FLYING HIGH: EARLY AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF MANKATO



John Kollman farm, 1932

By Tim Pulis

I've been fascinated by aerial photographs ever since I took an Interpretation of Aerial Photography class at Minnesota State University in 1974. So when John Hallman recently showed me some photos his father took of the Mankato area in 1932 from an open cockpit biplane at very low altitude, I was very interested, to say the least.

I met John about a year ago when I was researching an article on the streetcars of Mankato. He had an original stock certificate from 1907 when the electric version of the company was formed. He also had a nice photo of a streetcar on Pleasant Street. While at John's house, he started bringing out some amazing photos—photos that became the basis of this article.

John Hallman's father, Paul, was born in Mankato in 1905. He was an adventuresome lad, as at the age of 13 he ran away and joined the Navy. After about a year they figured out his age and sent him home, but not before he had



Pilot and photographer Paul Hallman and wife Ruth

been stationed on both coasts. When he was only 19 years old, he built a house in West Mankato that is still standing today. It was soon after this that he acquired an interest in flying, and by the late 1920s he obtained his pilot's license. Eventually Paul became a local flight instructor and sales rep for the Alexander Eaglerock Airplane Company for which he himself flew a model A-15 biplane.

As a way to make some additional money, Paul would take photos from his plane of farmsteads and then sell them. While flying over Mankato, he was able to take some amazing photos of the town in the early 1930s that are valuable historical moments in time. While there is a statewide series of aerial photographs from 1938-39 that includes Mankato, those photos were taken from a high altitude. Paul's photos were taken from around a 250-foot altitude or so and give some real intimate views of the area.

One of Paul's photos is wonderfully pastoral, with rows of corn shocks in front of a farmstead with a hillside in the background. All I knew of the photo when I scanned it to my computer was it was taken in the early 1930s, the farmer's name was John Kollman and the dried lakebed in the distance was Indian Lake. Finding out just where this farm stood soon became a quest for me.

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is a great place to start any local research. It was in the Research Center that I found the 1929 plat book for Blue Earth County. It showed that just south of Indian Lake Road was a plot of land owned by John



Kollman. I took a drive one day along Indian Lake Road, looking for the old farm site and saw a driveway heading up a hill in the area where I thought the farm should be located. I decided to take a chance and drove up and came upon a small home with a pickup truck parked next to it. After knocking on the door a voice inside the house informed me they didn't want what I was selling. After a bit, I convinced the man to look at my photo. Lloyd True invited me in and after some conversation, we realized I had actually played basketball in high school with his younger brother Don. What a small world it can be. The True family had farmed in the area for many generations.

While this wasn't the farmstead featured in the photograph, Lloyd said the barn in the distance in the picture was still there. We got in my car and drove over to check it out and it proved to be true. (You can see this barn just under "Early" in the title photo on the previous page. Also, just below "Photographs" was once the location of Indian Lake. It was drained in the 1920s.) Things were starting to add up. Lloyd said the farm site in the photo was one he didn't recognize, but I should talk to his older brother Bob for more information. I called Bob, who lives in North Mankato and headed over that evening for a nice two-hour chat. Bob remembers the name of the farmer that lived near them was, in fact, John Kollman.

I was getting close, but had still not found where the farm was. My next step was to check out the 1938 aerial photo of the Indian Lake area. With a good idea on what angle and direction the photo was taken from, I zoomed in on a likely spot that had a farm field in front of it and Indian Lake in the background and found what I had been searching for. Now that I knew exactly where the farm was, I went to the current Google Maps aerial photo and discovered that a modern house now sits on what was the John Kollman farmstead.

After looking for John Kollman's farm, I had become curious about the man himself. After a search on Ancestry.com, I learned he was born in Germany in 1866, came to the United States in 1885, married a local Mankato woman and they had ten children. His first job in Mankato was running a bar for a few years so he could save enough money to

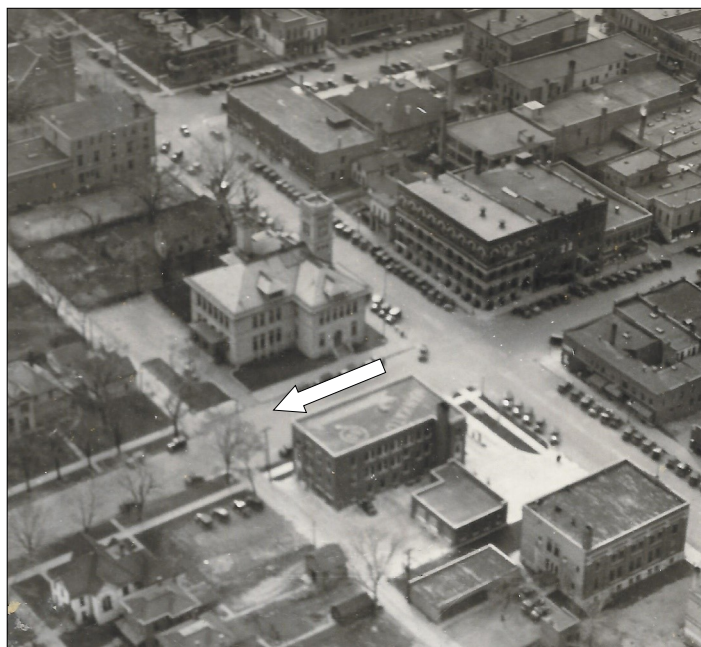


John Kollman family, c. 1905. Shared by Ancestry.com user lyndeebear1.

purchase the farm in the photo. A photo of his growing family taken soon after the farm purchase around 1905 was available on Ancestry.com. To find out more details on the Kollmans, I utilized the biography card catalogue at the BECHS Research Center. Here I was directed to two newspaper articles that I located on microfilm. The first article told how his business at 324 S. Front Street burned to the ground in 1900 and the second article explained how an automobile accident in Shakopee had taken

Kollman's life in 1929, at the age of 63. John Kollman wasn't even alive when the aerial photo was taken in 1932. His widow Amelia and children were working the farm at the time and what a great job they were doing, based on the look of the straight rows of corn shocks and neat farmyard. I wonder if the family ever bought a copy of the photo that Paul Hallman took one fall day in 1932. Being a history detective is really a fun hobby and the Historical Society has many tools and experts to assist you.

Another interesting photo belonging to Paul Hallman is of the Mankato Post Office and surrounding buildings. The original post office was remodeled in 1932 with an addition added to the south and the clock tower removed. This photo was taken before the remodel and was likely early 1932.



Downtown Mankato, 1932. The inserted arrow runs parallel to the arrow on top of the Standard Oil Building.

Other buildings in the photo include the YMCA, the Odd Fellows building, Minneopa Garage and the Standard Oil Building.

I scanned this photo into my computer at a high resolution that allowed me to zoom into the photo. On the roof of the Standard Oil building one can see a large white arrow and the word "Mankato" in white letters. This was done so that pilots flying over the town knew which way the airport was located. The airport in Mankato was built in 1928, and before that for a couple of years it was located off Third Avenue. At that time, according to a 1926 Mankato Free Press article, the local American Legion aviation committee painted the name of the city on the roof of the George Brett Company building. Aviators during this time frame didn't have all the modern navigation equipment we have today and visual aids on the ground were utilized to get their bearings. It is likely that the local Legion was responsible for the painting of the roof of the Standard Oil Building when the airport was moved. This later

became the building that City Hall was located in until 1998.



Paul Hallman (left) at the Seppman Hangar

Before airports, pilots tended to land in a variety of places. In May 1926, Gust Imm, a local pilot, flew from Minneapolis to Mankato in just 55 minutes, a new record. He landed on the top of Windmill Hill at the end of Rhine Street. This is near where Hilltop Florist is located today. Paul Hallman utilized the Seppmans' farm field where the bison at Minneopa State Park reside today. The Seppmans also provided a hangar to store his plane for a modest monthly fee.

In 1932, George Palmer, president of the Hubbard Milling Company of Mankato, hired Paul Hallman to take an aerial photo of the mill (see front cover). The photo was used on the company's Christmas card that year and was featured in an article in the *Mankato Free Press*. In the article, it says how an "aeroplane piloted by Paul Hallman accompanied by Lloyd S. Larson of the Hubbard Milling company" flew low over downtown Mankato and that the Mankato Photo Shop made the Christmas card with the photo on it. Some of the buildings in the photo are long gone, but several of the buildings, including the mill and most of those opposite on Front Street (now North Riverfront Drive) still remain.

The photo of four small cabins with a gas station

and car repair shop is of the Green Gable Motel and was also taken in 1932. The motel was located near the junction of highways 68 and 169, just north of Minneopa Golf Course. This business was later expanded to 26 cabins and has a very interesting history. In August 1946, the deadliest tornado in Blue Earth County history occurred. All the cabins were swept away leaving only the foundations. Eleven people died and dozens were injured. The next day an estimated 60,000 cars drove by to assess the damage.

A teenage girl named Valerie (Sandvik) Vogel and her friend Patricia were in the shower building when the tornado hit. This building was the only one left standing. Today Val is 88 years old and recently I interviewed her about the experience. She said the noise was incredible as the 250-miles-per-hour wind destroyed all of her world. When she eventually poked her head out of the door, the devastation was total. She started yelling for her mother and younger brother and found them severely injured but alive. They would both have long roads to recover.

The Green Gable Motel was rebuilt the next year with only ten cabins this time. A little over ten years later, the highway 169 expansion took them out. When you are heading west on highway 169/60 and you have Minneopa Golf Course on your left, underneath your wheels would have been the site of the motel and so much destruction 72 years ago.

Once again, the Blue Earth County Historical Society provided me with the newspaper articles from their vertical files on the 1946 tornado. For those old enough to remember the Green Gable Motel, the 1932 photo of its early days should prove



Green Gable Motel with four of its cabins to the right, 1932

to be fascinating.

The final Paul Hallman photo is again from 1932 and features Roosevelt Elementary School, located in West Mankato. The school at this time is only five years old and what is noteworthy is how few houses are in the photo and how bare the landscaping is around the school. The long building to the right of





Roosevelt Elementary School, 1932

the school is the Mankato Ice House. Blocks of ice were cut from the Blue Earth River in the winter and stored for use to cool people's refrigerators. There were several such ice companies in Mankato until the advent of the electric refrigerator.

The church kitty-corner from the school was known as the West Side Chapel at the time, a non-denominational entity. It was built in 1912 and is now a private residence. When it was built it had a Baptist Church connection, but I have been unable to determine if it was connected with any of the three Baptist Churches in Mankato at the time. In the foreground is the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad. This is now the city of Mankato's portion of the Red Jacket Trail that leads to Rapidan. Also in the photo is John Hallman's grandparent's grocery store which today is a parking lot.

These old photos from 1932 could be the oldest aerial photos from the Mankato area. I want to thank John Hallman for lending them to me so they can now be part of the public record. I also want to thank the Blue Earth County Historical Society and the wonderful people working there for assisting me in researching the history of what the photos reveal. It's a great joy to be a history detective. I wonder what my next history mystery will be.

#### Sources:

Aerial and Hallman family photographs courtesy of John Hallman

Ancestry.com, various census and other records

Various articles from the *Mankato Free Press*

Vertical files and microfilm resources from the Blue Earth County Historical Society Research Center

# 117

## 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 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**Sat., November 3, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**Book Signing:** *Can Candy Save Christmas?* Nov. 3, 1-3 p.m.

**Book Release:** *The Boy in Blue: Blue Earth County Minnesota's Civil War Memorial* Nov. 3, 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  
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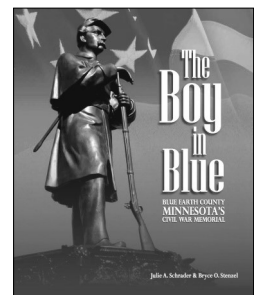
BECHS member 20% discount at History Center Gift Shop this weekend ONLY. Does NOT include consignment or sale items, online purchases, memberships or to be combined with any other offer.



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Visit [www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](http://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com) for more details.

## Around Blue Earth County

The new commemorative book, *The Boy in Blue: Blue Earth County Minnesota's Civil War Memorial*, co-authored by Julie Schrader and Bryce Stenzel, will be released on November 3 at the Blue Earth County History Center. This limited edition, full-color, hardcover book details the history of the original monument erected in Mankato's Lincoln Park in 1893, its demise and the effort to reconstruct it during the recent sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. Filled with history and photographs, this book is a chronicle of the re-creation of Mankato's oldest war memorial. A short program will begin at 2 p.m., followed by a book signing by the authors. A portion of the proceeds from this book will be donated to the maintenance fund for the Boy in Blue Civil War Memorial.





# BECHS Volunteers Make History Happen

BECHS wants to extend a special and heartfelt “THANK YOU” to the dozens of volunteers who had a part in a very successful summer at the Hubbard House. Whether you were a costumed character, leading a tour, helping in the Carriage House or pulling weeds with the Twilight Garden Club—you made this summer truly a memorable one!

To see some of these talented volunteers in action, you won’t want to miss *Ghosts From the Past* or *Christmas at the Hubbard House*. See page 16 for details.

For a fun time to celebrate everything BECHS volunteers have done this year, volunteers are invited to the **Annual Volunteer Holiday Potluck** at the History Center, Monday, December 11 at noon. Bring a dish to share! Sign up at the Reception Desk.



Volunteers were ready for the 1918 Pandemic during July’s Gaslight Series

## Volunteer Opportunities

### **Kiwanis Holiday Lights**

BECHS volunteers are needed to help with Kiwanis Holiday Lights setup at Sibley Park on Sunday, October 28, 1-4 p.m. Volunteers are also needed for BECHS night at the park, Sunday, November 25, 5-9 p.m. and for tear-down starting on January 1st.

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 23 through December 31.

### **Education/Classroom Activities**

Enjoy helping kids explore history? We are looking for individuals to assist with classroom visits, 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.

### **History Writers**

Volunteers are needed to research and write articles on local history. These articles could be used in future *Historians*, for BECHS blog posts or for BECHS contributions to the *Mankato Free Press*’ Sunday column “Glimpse of the Past.” Resources are available in the Research Center and topics are often left open to the writer.

### **Archive Processor**

A volunteer is needed to help catalog items such as photographs by writing numbers on each item. Must have small, precise handwriting. Computer skills are not required. While the hours are flexible, we ask that you commit to 2 hours (or more) a week for at least six months.

### **Development Committee**

Oversees public understanding of our mission and acquires financial support for its programs with a focus on annual fundraising drive, membership drive, and member and donor cultivation. Committee will meet regularly beginning soon.

### **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, and Windows Server 2016 is preferred.

### **Speakers Bureau**

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

Exhibit Research and Design  
Graphic Design  
Light Construction  
Living History Events

Marketing Office Work  
Photography  
Research  
Writing



# Around the Research & Genealogy Center

Heather Harren, Communications Manager

I know where all the bodies are buried.

I know all the family secrets.

Ok, maybe I don't know everything, but the information in the Research Center is a good place to start if you are looking for interesting family stories – especially those that involve a crime. If you think an ancestor was part of a crime, chances are it was mentioned in the local newspaper. And murder cases, as you might expect, had a vast amount of media coverage, including full coverage of many trials.

One infamous Blue Earth County murder case was the Balzer Murder in November 1896. Recently, and at different times, family members have visited the Research Center, curious about this murder. One of our files contains all of the case information, making it easy for researchers to learn all the gritty details. For those not familiar with this case, Louis Balzer was convicted of killing his wife at the American House (hotel) in Mankato.

The most “famous” case detailed in the Research Center is the Ledbeter Murder. The case began in May 1909 with the disappearance of Holland Ledbeter. After his body was found the following month, his wife Grace Ledbeter and farmhand Frank Smith were accused of his murder. The trial that

followed exposed an affair between Smith and Mrs. Ledbeter and included much finger-pointing. In the end, Smith was charged with first-degree murder and Mrs. Ledbeter was acquitted, to the surprise of many.

When a researcher with connections to the Ledbeter family visited us, he was impressed with all the information we had on hand. Everything from the first hints of wrongdoing, to arrests, from jury selection, to the public's reaction to the verdicts were included in the Ledbeter family folder.

These newsworthy stories and more are available in the Research Center. And if you are looking to follow the trail to the end and see where your relatives, infamous or otherwise, are buried, we can help! Because like I said, I know where the bodies are buried (and I have a cemetery index).



A search party, looking for the remains of Holland Ledbeter, June 1909.

## WISH LIST

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

**Blue Earth County High School Yearbooks**  
Specifically, all Mankato East or from any school, years 1980 and newer for BECHS archives.

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

**Heavy duty extension cord.**  
3 outlet, 25 feet or longer.

**Animal Pelts and Bones** for hands-on activities in the Discovery Lab

**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

*Where 1900s History Comes to Life*

The regular season for the Hubbard House has come to a close. Thanks to all our visitors, volunteers and Hubbard House Assistants, Patti Lilienthal and Kaylee Mischke, 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, there are two great annual events at the Hubbard House yet to come!

## Upcoming Hubbard House Events

### **Ghosts From the Past: Victorian Stranger Things**

**Thursday, October 25, 6-8 p.m.**

**Friday, October 26, 6-8 p.m.**

Bizarre medical practices, hazards of the Victorian household, séances and certain women's unmentionables were part of normal life for these "ghosts." Costumed characters will tell of the stranger side of the Victorian Era at this 32nd Annual family-friendly event.



Cost: \$10/Adult; \$7/BECHS Member; \$5/Children (5-17). Ticket pre-sales are now available at the History Center. Tickets will also be available at the door.

*Hour-long living history performances begin every 15 minutes; final performance begins at 8 p.m.*

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

**Saturday, December 1, 3-7 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 2, 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*. Visitors will delight in the holiday sights including this year's theme: Historic Toys.

You can also take part in a history mystery.

Something has gone wrong at the Hubbard House! 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: \$10/Adult; \$7/BECHS Member; \$5/Children (5-17)

### **December Walk-in Guided Tours**

**Saturdays, December 8 & 15, 1-4 p.m.**

**Sundays, December 9 & 16, 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: \$7/Adult, \$3/Children (5-17) and Free/BECHS members.

**The R.D. Hubbard House is open for tours May through September and for special events. Visit our website for details.**



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



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ENROLLED ORGANIZATION

***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.

# BECHS Donors, Members & Sponsors

July - September 2018

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**THANK YOU FOR BEING  
A HISTORY HERO!**

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Jane Haala

### *In Memory of Shirley Grundmeier*

JoLynn Crowe  
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### *In Memory of Maury Haefner*

Randy Zellmer

### *In Memory of Dennis Just*

Randy Zellmer

### *In Memory of Jo-an Lavitschke*

JoLynn Crowe

### *In Memory of Jack Madsen*

JoLynn Crowe

### *In Honor of Katherine Hughes*

Steve and Steph Stoffel

**Thank you for memorial and tribute gifts to the  
Blue Earth County Historical Society.**



**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](http://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com), by mail to BECHS, 424 Warren Street, Mankato or in person at the History Center.

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Join BECHS for  
**Minnesota's  
Day of Giving on  
November 15 at  
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One more easy way  
to make an online  
donation to support  
BECHS.

# Calendar of Events October 2018 - January 2019

## OCTOBER

- 18 History Bits & Bites: Alex Oldenburg and "Service Dogs and Their History"** Noon, History Center. *3rd Thursday* \$
- 25 Tune to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*
- 25-26 Ghosts From the Past: Victorian Stranger Things**, 6-8 p.m. Hubbard House. Performances start every 15 minutes with the last one beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets on sale now. \$

## NOVEMBER

- 1 Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for "Throwback Thursday"
- 2-3 BECHS 117th Anniversary Open House**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. History Center
- 2 1918: Home and Abroad, Readings and Songs**, 6:30 p.m., History Center \$
- 3 Book Signing** with Monica Zrust, author of *Can Candy Save Christmas?* 1-3 p.m. History Center Gift Shop
- 3 Book Release and Signing** with Julie Schrader and Bryce Stenzel, co-authors of *The Boy in Blue: Blue Earth County Minnesota's Civil War Memorial*, 2 p.m.
- 6 Remember When Coffee Club: Grandma's Thanksgiving Dinner**, 10 a.m. History Center, *First Tuesday*.
- 10 Young Historians: Native American Heritage** 10 a.m.-Noon. Free.
- 10 Kids Stained Glass Workshop**, 12:30 p.m., Discovery Lab. Ongoing art project, free hands-on activity with Museum admission.
- 10 Gallery Reception: Then and Now: Blue Earth County 2018** by the Bend of the River Photograph Club, 2-4 p.m., History Center Art Gallery, Free.
- 15 History Bits & Bites: Allan and JoAnne Starkey and "Camp Patterson Memories"** Noon, History Center. *3rd Thursday* \$
- 15 Tune to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*
- 22-23 History Center Closed** Happy Thanksgiving!
- 24 Shop Small Saturday**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., History Center. Come for great holiday gifts!
- 24 1918: Home and Abroad exhibit** - last day
- 25 BECHS Night at Kiwanis Holiday Lights**, Sibley Park, 5-9 p.m. Sign-up now to volunteer.



Kiwanis Holiday Lights runs November 23 through December 31 at Sibley Park.

## DECEMBER

- 1 Christmas at the Hubbard House**, 3-7 p.m.
- 2 Christmas at the Hubbard House**, 1-4 p.m. *An Annual Holiday Tradition*
- 4 Remember When Coffee Club: Favorite Christmas Stories**, 10 a.m., History Center, Free. *First Tuesday*
- 6 Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 7 Why Treaties Matter Special Member's Only Exhibit Opening**, 5-7 p.m.
- 8 Young Historians: The Ride**, 10 a.m.-Noon. Free.
- 8 Why Treaties Matter Public Exhibit Opening**, 1-4 p.m., History Center
- 8-9 Hubbard House Open** 1-4 p.m.
- 10 Annual Volunteer Holiday Potluck**, Noon, History Center. All BECHS Volunteers are invited. Bring a dish to share. Sign-up with Danelle.
- 15-16 Hubbard House Open** 1-4 p.m.
- 20 History Bits & Bites: Dakota 38 Documentary: Healing Journey of the Dakota People**, Noon, History Center, *3rd Thursday*, Free
- 22-25 History Center Closed** Happy Holidays! Open regular hours December 26-29
- 27 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*



## JANUARY

- 1 History Center Closed** Happy New Year!
- 3 Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 8 Remember When Coffee Club: My Favorite "Hang Out Place"** 10 a.m. History Center, Free. *First Tuesday*.
- 12 Young Historians, Connections to the Land**, 10 a.m.- Noon, History Center

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

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

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# Membership Makes a Difference

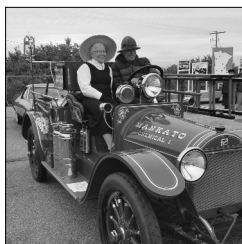
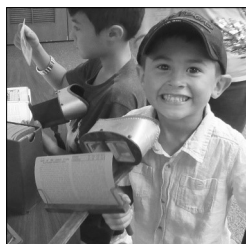
Earlier this fall, BECHS was excited to take part in Minnesota State University, Mankato's Homecoming Parade as they celebrated their 150-year history. While the temperatures were a little chilly, the staff and volunteers were filled with warmth—thanks to the many BECHS members we saw along the parade route. What fun to see so many familiar faces giving us a wave and “hello” as we passed by.

But there are so many other ways you, our members, warm our hearts! When you visit the History Center, include kind words with your membership renewals or share stories of history with us—you bring BECHS and our staff “warm fuzzies.” Thank you!

## Member Referral Program

One of the best ways members help BECHS grow is by telling family, friends and neighbors about the Historical Society. Now, when current members refer a new member, you will both automatically receive 2 extra months added to your annual membership!

Share a copy of *The Historian*, bring someone to an event or personally invite them to become a member. All they need to do is include the name of who referred them and you both get 2 additional months of membership.



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

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### Membership Levels

Individual Senior (62+) \$30

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Household \$50

Contributor \$75

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Booster or Business \$250

Advocate \$500

Benefactor \$1,000

Please send this form and check to:

**BECHS Membership**  
**424 Warren Street**  
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# Ghosts From the Past

## VICTORIAN STRANGER THINGS

Bizarre medical practices, household hazards, séances and certain women's unmentionables were part of normal life for these "ghosts."

Costumed characters will tell of the stranger side of the Victorian Era at this annual family-friendly event. Hour-long living history performances begin every 15 minutes.



**October 25 & 26, 6-8 p.m.**  
Historic R.D. Hubbard House  
606 South Broad Street, Mankato

TICKETS  
\$10/adult  
\$7/member  
\$5/child (5-17)

[www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](http://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com) 507-345-5566

**SAVE THE  
DATE**

## Christmas at the Hubbard House

**December 1,  
3-7 p.m.**

**December 2  
1-4 p.m.**

Join us for a history  
mystery, vintage toys  
and colorful characters.



**Blue Earth County Historical Society**  
424 Warren Street  
Mankato, MN 56001

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Non-Profit Org.**  
U.S. Postage  
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Mankato MN  
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**Membership  
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