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SPECIAL EXHIBITS



Maple
Seeds

Botanicals

Gerry Tostenson
through June 30, 2018

**Coming of Age:
The 1968 Generation**
through June 16, 2018

1918: A Century Later
July 7 through August 31



Joe Dotson, Karen Hanson and Anne Tolin get a bite to eat at the Country Kitchen, a favorite hangout for Mankato High School students. *Otaknam*, 1965 Yearbook

The Times They Are A-Changin'

Visit the Blue Earth County History Center and say "Hello, Goodbye" to the *Coming of Age: The 1968 Generation* exhibit. You may have "Heard it Through the Grapevine" that this exhibit will come to an end on June 16. So "Run, Run, Run" to the History Center for this exhibit, 50 years in the making!

Just as 1968 was a formative year for many people, 1868 was a transformative year for Mankato as it took a big step from being a frontier town towards what it is today. But before Mankato could become officially incorporated, some order was needed and that came in the form of Ordinance No. 1. "The Times They Are A-Changin'" turn to page 9 to learn more.

"Wouldn't It Be Nice" to have an evening out of "Fun Fun Fun"? Then join BECHS at *Surrounded By History*. This annual fundraiser includes a social hour, silent auction, "Yummy, Yummy, Yummy" dinner and dessert, plus music from the 1960s. So get your "Ticket to Ride" and "Come Together" for *Surrounded By History* on April 27. Tickets are on sale through April 21. See the back page for details. "It's Now or Never"!

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
May: Saturday - Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.
June-August:
Friday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.

The Blue Earth County Historian

Spring 2018

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Director's Notes

Jessica Potter, Executive Director

Happy Spring! Even though this has been a long winter, the trees are starting to bud, the spring flowers are starting to grow and the robins have returned. For BECHS we have two sure signs of Spring—*Surrounded By History* which is our annual spring party (aka fundraiser) and the opening of the Historic R.D. Hubbard House for another season.

Surrounded By History is a celebration of the history all around us. This year our 7th annual event will celebrate the swinging sixties. It's always a fun, entertaining evening with great food, great silent auction items and a great opportunity to support BECHS. Entertainment this year will feature the music of the 1960s performed by XYZ Live. Come dressed to impress in your 60s best - a skinny tie or pencil skirt, bellbottoms or tie dye. I hope to see you there!

Prior to opening the Hubbard House as a historic house museum in 1995 it had served as the main museum since 1938. That makes this the 80th year the Historical Society has been welcoming visitors to this grand home. The new season will begin on Saturday, May 5, 1-4 p.m. Join us on Saturday, May 19 for the Twilight Garden Club Plant Sale. The Twilight Garden Club has been taking care of the Hubbard House gardens for over 50 years. They are always looking for help on Tuesday evenings in the summer at the Hubbard House.

Spring will lead us quickly into summer and come mid-June, BECHS will say goodbye to 1968. If you haven't seen the traveling exhibit *Coming of Age: The 1968 Generation*, check it out now. Also in June, we will bring back the popular Historic Pub Crawl after a five year hiatus. Join us June 8 for this historic walking tour with a twist. Then in July our new exhibit will take us back in time to 1918 for a look at life 100 years ago.

In March, BECHS showed the 1965 Mankato produced film *Man on a Mission*. It was the first time in almost 30 years that it had been shown publicly. It was a really fun evening, in fact it was so much fun we want to do it again. The original *Man on a Mission* film has been preserved in the Archives. As an additional step of preservation, we are having the film digitized.

We are currently raising funds for the project which is taking longer than first anticipated due to the fragility of the film. But once it has been digitized and enhanced, we are planning to do another showing of this local favorite. Stay tuned for details about the date and location. If you would like more information about the digitization project, please feel free to reach out to me.



Seppman Mill is one of the many local sites featured in *Man on a Mission*

Board of Trustees

Kevin Allen, Board of Trustees

Ahhhh...the 1960s. What an interesting time in our nation's history. If you watch how the decade is portrayed in movies and on TV, it seems to be all about the Vietnam War, Woodstock and the Summer of Love. History, however, is like most everything in life – it all depends on one's point of view.

The 1960s looked much different through the eyes of a preadolescent child. I was blessed to be the son of a small-town Korean War Vet and his fresh-off-the-farm wife. I have no recollection of my first



Kevin near Glenwood Avenue

few years – but from photos that my parents took, I know my earliest years were spent playing with friends and family in Mankato's Barracks up by St. Joseph Hospital and then later down on Glenwood Avenue.

Yep – I basically played my way through

Yuri Gagarin going into space, the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Kennedy assassination. While teenagers and adults were worrying about Vietnam and the Soviets, my days were consumed by what games to play, where to ride my bike and, most importantly, how to find someone besides my sisters to play with. All my early to mid-1960s memories are limited to the world of my house, my neighborhood, my school and my grandparents. I had no knowledge of all the battles being waged abroad (Vietnam) or at home in our country (civil rights, school desegregation, etc.).

This all changed in 1968 when my family briefly moved to Illinois. My world began to stretch out, and I became involved in politics. That fall in school, the playground was filled with chants of "Nixon, Nixon he's our man, Humphrey belongs in a garbage can." Well, being that both Humphrey and I were from Minnesota, I decided that I needed to support "my" guy. So, in the



Kevin at the Barracks, 1960

third-grade world of playground debate, the most logical retort was "Humphrey, Humphrey he's our man, NIXON belongs in a garbage can." Hey, if I could say it louder, that must mean I am right. (Boy, some things in politics haven't changed!) I had no idea what either candidate stood for, but I wasn't about to let Humphrey go undefended!

Now that my world view had been expanded, my late 1960s memories spread into this wider world. Now living in North Mankato, the decade ended with one of my greatest memories, followed closely by one of my most crushing. July 20, 1969, we landed on the moon! We beat the Russians!! I couldn't figure out why I couldn't see them up there through my binoculars, but I was proud none the less.

Then, less than 3 months later – tragedy strikes. It's the first weekend of October, and my Twins are swept in the ALCS by the Baltimore Orioles. I spent a good portion of games 1 and 2 on the couch watching, cheering and hoping my Twins would win – and then spent some time crying once they lost. For some Americans in 1969, the enemy was the Viet Cong and the Soviets. For this nine-year-old boy, the enemies were much more personal: Boog Powell, Brooks and Frank Robinson and Jim Palmer. Well, I showed them who was boss: I used their baseball cards on my bike and let the spokes of my tires rip them apart!

These are some of my 1960s memories. Many of you will have very different memories of this decade. I look forward to sharing more of mine and hearing some of yours at *Surrounded By History: Celebrating the Swinging Sixties* on April 27, 2018. Hope to see you all there!!

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

SOUTH FRONT STREET

Historic Pub Crawl

Walking Tour with a Twist

Friday, June 8, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

\$20 for Historical Society Members • \$25 for Non-Members

Sponsored by Pub 500

Visit www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com for more details



Education & Outreach

By Beth Johnson, Education and Outreach Coordinator

Happy Spring! At this time of the year we are gearing up for the end of the school year and the beginning of summer. And as winter changes to spring, the change in programs happens at the History Center and Hubbard House as well. We look forward to engaging programming during our summer months as we serve our entire community through education.

In (and out of) the Schools

We are excited to introduce a full menu of new school tours for children in grades Kindergarten through Fifth grade. These tours were created to accompany current education standards, but can be adjusted or changed as needed or upon request. The new tours utilize both of our museum locations and offer all elementary students a chance to engage in history.

Our Kindergarten tour introduces the students to pioneer life. First graders participate in a turn-of-the-century school experience while second graders learn about the Dakota people. The tour for the third grade students is at the Hubbard House where they will learn how



Kindergarteners exploring the pioneer cabin.

entrepreneurship and technology work together. Fourth graders will meet Minnesota historical figures with big stories to tell, and students in fifth grade will examine the bounty and diversity of Blue Earth County.

In addition, we are planning for upcoming school visits with sixth grade classes and look forward to annual class visits from high school students, students in higher education and returning elementary school classes.

We are always happy to have many hands with school tours. If you'd like to be involved in anyway, please let us know.

Discovering History

We are seeing more kids and parents stopping in to experience the Museum and Discovery Lab. It's especially great to see returning families. What fun to see the kids head straight for their favorite spot in the Museum's pioneer cabin or have a tea party in the Discovery Lab.

One of the newest additions to the Historical Society is an American Bison hide. BECHS was able to purchase it with help from private donors and White Fox Fur

& Feather Co. The pelt can currently be seen in the Discovery Lab, but will soon be making appearances at area schools.

The bison pelt, along with fur and bones from other animals, always creates a memorable experience. These touchable objects help children engage directly with natural and Dakota history.

Looking ahead to this summer, we are making plans for the Blue Earth County Fair and a week-long summer day camp for kids. Stay tuned!



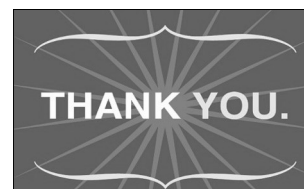
New bison pelt in the Discovery Lab

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR LOCAL MEDIA PARTNERS

Watch KEYC News 12 at Noon the first Thursday of each month for "Throwback Thursday with BECHS." Also catch us the third Tuesday at 6:45 a.m.

Listen to KTOE 1420 AM Pete Steiner's Talk of the Town the fourth Thursday for an update with BECHS

Check out *The Free Press* for regular updates including Sunday's "Glimpse of the Past."



Exploring History for All Ages

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Remember When Coffee Club

Love history? Love to swap stories of the good old days? Looking for a place to connect with other history enthusiasts? **Come to the History Center the 1st Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. for BECHS'**



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

Upcoming Topics

May 1 - Moving to a New Place

June 5 - Changes of Urban Renewal

July 3 - Best Friends

Young Historians

Young Historians is a free, monthly, hands-on history workshop for school-age children. It meets the **2nd Saturday of each month, September through May, 10 a.m. to Noon.** This year, the *Young Historians* theme is "Traveling Through Time." Each month students will explore technology, fashion, war, food and much more, seeing how life changed and developed from the late 19th through 20th centuries.



Upcoming Topics

May 12 - 1990s into 2000s: A New Millennium

Last meeting of the school year

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

Turn to page 18 for the full calendar of events

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

April 19 - Dead Air, Please Stand By: Remembering CCTV with Mark Halverson

May 17 - Family Story Telling with Lori Creighton

June 21 - Decoration Day with Bryce Stenzel

July 19 - Mankato Art History Club

SPECIAL EVENTS

South Front Street Historic Pub Crawl

Friday, June 8, 2018, 6 p.m.

\$20 BECHS Members \$25 Non-Members

Participants will visit three local bars, enjoy some food and drinks, and discover some local history. It's a walking tour with a twist! Food samplings will be served at each of the three stops, drinks not included. More information to be announced soon.



Sponsored by Pub 500

1960s Counter Culture: Tie Dye

Saturday, June 16, 2018

History Center

Free, fun for all ages

One of the most popular visuals from the 1960s is Tie Dye! Join BECHS for one final 1960s "hurrah" as we say goodbye to the *Coming of Age: The 1968 Generation* exhibit. Basic fabric will be available to tie dye, but you are welcome to bring your own t-shirt to dye.



Collections & Exhibits

Coming of Age: The 1968 Generation

By Shelley Harrison, Archives & Collections Manager

The Historical Society is honored to be hosting the temporary exhibit *Coming of Age: The 1968 Generation* from the Minnesota Historical Society which is now currently on view at the Blue Earth County History Center. Added to the displays are artifacts, photographs and memorabilia from Blue Earth County. The exhibit builds on the history and stories of a tumultuous time: civil rights, the women's equal rights movement and environmental issues. But nothing loomed larger over the 1960s than the Vietnam War.

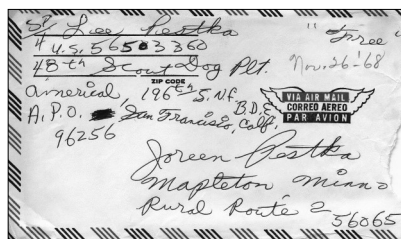
1968 was a pivotal year in the Vietnam War with the Tet Offensive, a Presidential race and the start of peace talks between the United States and North Vietnam. As we commemorate a half-century, we want to share a few artifacts from BECHS' collection from the Vietnam War in 1968.

- A Commendation Medal presented to Specialist Jerry H. Evans, United States Army, for the performance of exceptionally meritorious achievement in support of the United States objectives in the counterinsurgency effort in the Republic of Vietnam. Evans, a Mankato native, served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969.



Jerry Evans' medal

- A letter from Lee Pestka to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pestka. In the letter, postmarked November 26, 1968, 19-year old Pestka writes home telling his family he had made corporal and recounts an ambush he had just survived. Pestka was a native of St. Clair and served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969.



Lee Pestka's letter home, 1968

- A scrapbook from the Walter H Strand Post No. 950 Auxiliary. This 1968 scrapbook contains newspaper clippings and memorabilia, like notes of thanks sent to Auxiliary members for the care packages they sent to Blue Earth County men serving in Vietnam.

Each of these artifacts is a part of a bigger story; these stories assure that those who served in Vietnam

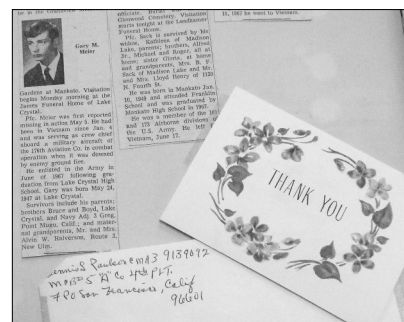
will not be forgotten.

Also included in the exhibit is a media kiosk that invites visitors to gain a deeper understanding of the 1960s. Look back at the music, movies and events, including a firsthand

account from Blue Earth County's Tom McLaughlin and other Vietnam Vets. The best part of this exhibit is it helps tell the stories of the 1968 generation—the good, the bad and the ugly.

Coming of Age is at the History Center through June 16, 2018. This exhibit is free and open to the public.

Coming of Age: The 1968 Generation was created by the Minnesota Historical Society's "Exhibits to Go" program which brings Minnesota history to communities statewide. The program is made possible by the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008.



A "thank you" card from the Auxiliary scrapbook

Coming OF AGE

The 1968 GENERATION

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

Don't miss it—

Blue Earth County History Center

December 9, 2017 - June 16, 2018

Free

A traveling exhibit from the Minnesota History Center.

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 was it made, where did it come from? Here is a closer look at some items currently on display in the History Center.

Here is just a glimpse into our temporary exhibit:
Coming of Age: The 1968 Generation

Prom Dress, 1964

This dress belonged to Kathleen Burns Rosen. This pale blue evening dress with sweetheart neckline and scallop trim was made by Kathleen's mother, Inella Burns. The dress was worn to the 1964 Mankato High School prom. The students danced to the music of the Bob White Orchestra while enjoying a "Camelot" themed event, complete with a castle.



Honda Motorcycle, 1965

This motorcycle belongs to Larry Kortuem. Specialist 4 Kortuem bought this motorcycle after



returning from Vietnam in 1968. He bought it from Miller Motors for \$275. On loan courtesy of Larry Kortuem.

United States Army Uniform, 1968-1969

This service uniform was worn by Specialist 5 Jerry H. Evans during his service in Vietnam. One of his medals can be seen on the previous page.

So the next time you take a spin through the History Center, you'll know a little more of the story. On display until June 16.



HISTORY CENTER ART GALLERY

Botanicals

By Gerry Tostenson
April 7-June 30, 2018



Burgundy Iris

Gerry has been a long-time member of the Outdoor Leisure Painters Plein Air painting group and works in oil and watercolor. Recently she has turned her attention to the beauty of botanicals using colored pencils and graphite. Gerry has recently received a Prairie Lakes Regional Artist Career Grant to purchase materials to complete this new work.

Special Event: Minnesota Florals with Edenvale Nursery

Saturday May 19, 2-3 p.m., History Center, Free

Join us at the History Center for a spring celebration in partnership with Edenvale Nursery and artist Gerry Tostenson. Kim Sogaard, Edenvale Nursery employee and Landscape Designer, will present *Gardening with Minnesota Natives and Their Cultivators*. She will have additional information about Minnesota's non-native flowering favorites. Kim received her Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from the University of Minnesota and is a longtime Edenvale Nursery employee.

Next Art Gallery Exhibit: ***Since 2006*** by Rachel Compart-Gemlo, July 7 through September 29



Gift Shop & Art Gallery News

By Danelle Erickson, Development Manager

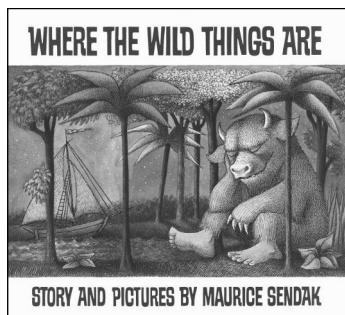
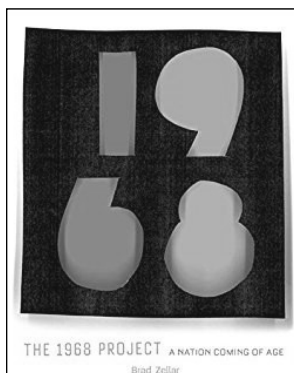
1960s Books

Traveling exhibits at the Blue Earth County History Center bring with them an opportunity to add new items to the Gift Shop. *The 1968 Project* for example, is an obvious addition to the Gift Shop. This book was created by the Minnesota Historical Society as a companion book to its 1968 traveling exhibit currently at the Blue Earth County History Center. Interested in politics? There's a book about the turbulent 1968 presidential election on the Gift Shop Shelves. And for the young-at-heart, check out *Toys of the 50s, '60s and '70s*.

The 1960s is often remembered for pushing boundaries and some of its literature was the same. The response to these books sometimes led to public outcry, leading to some books being removed from libraries and educational settings.

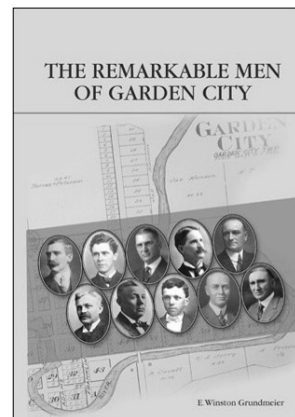
While considered great literature by some, other readers questioned the moral implications of books such as *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Catch-22*. It was feared *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* would lead to crime and violence. Even books written for children were banned.

Where the Wild Things Are was thought to contain images too dark and scary for children. Curious? Stop by the History Center Gift Shop for some of these banned titles and see what you think!



History Center Gift Shop Best Selling Books

1. The Remarkable Men of Garden City
2. The Multifaceted Carp
3. Blue Earth County Century Farms
4. Unique Mankato Stories
5. Meet the Hubbards
6. The Dakota War of 1862
7. The Blue Earth County Historian, Volume 1
8. Skol! Vikings 50
9. Images of America: Blue Earth County
10. The Betsy-Tacy Treasury



A bit more about #1: *The Remarkable Men of Garden City* started over 150 years ago as ten young men got their start in rural Blue Earth County. These gifted, ambitious and remarkable men went on to be significant contributors to modern day industry giants like Piper Jaffray, Archer Daniels Midland and GlaxoSmithKline. \$12.95.

Hubbard House Gift Shop

Taking a tour of the Hubbard House this spring? After your tour, make sure you visit the Carriage House with its selection of books and gifts. One of the most popular titles is *Meet the Hubbards* which gives readers a chance to learn even more about the Hubbard family.



Marian Anderson Fine Art Prints



Spring

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.

**100% of All Sales
Benefit the Historical Society**



MANKATO ORDINANCE NO. 1

By Katherine Hughes

230 South Front Street, Mankato, 1862

On March 6, 2018 the City of Mankato celebrated the 150th anniversary of its incorporation. Certainly this was a significant milestone, but 1868 was not Mankato's first organizational effort. Between the settlement's founding in 1852 and its city status in 1868 the town went through a village phase that changed it from a frontier town to a full-fledged municipality.

On May 2, 1865 an Act of the Legislature incorporated the Village of Mankato. The citizens elected a Board of Trustees. The village trustees met on May 25 and their first ordinance addressed the immediate problems of the community. An idea of what Mankato was like before the ordinance can be deduced from the conditions the ordinance attempted to correct.

Most of the ordinance had to do with the regulation of horses and conveyances. Drivers obstructed sidewalks, crosswalks and other walkways by hitching their wagons and draft animals to awning posts while conducting business. Owners also "parked" their wagons and animals on public grounds while they ran their errands. They rode and drove their horses and wagons on the sidewalks. They raced vehicles and horses in the public streets.

Even without the nuisances of animals and

vehicles, the sidewalks were hard to use. Each resident and store owner built their own sidewalk and these walkways varied in width, height, and material. The photo above shows how varied the sidewalks could become. Those stores with awnings placed them at different heights above the walkway and put the support posts at different distances from the buildings. Proprietors cluttered streets, sidewalks, and other public byways with stacks of lumber, merchandise, firewood, and other items, as well as the aforementioned vehicles. Snow, ice and trash accumulated on the sidewalks for hours or days.

The town had other problems. Smells wafted from butcher shops, tanneries, chandlers, soap makers, stables and privies. Residents removed trees from public grounds. Gun owners fired their weapons after dusk. Horses, pigs, cattle and sheep roamed unattended through the streets.

Mankato's Ordinance No. 1 attempted to change all these conditions. It specified the proportions, materials and construction methods of sidewalks and regulated the height and depth of store awnings and the manner of their support. It required sidewalks to be kept clear of ice, snow and garbage, and prohibited the use of sidewalks for parking, storage or driving. Businesses and residences that emitted

odors had to correct the problem and no new such businesses were to be started within the village limits. It did not regulate privies, however.

Some sections of the ordinance covered public safety and property. It limited gunpowder possession to fifteen pounds or less and required that gunpowder be kept in a container with a tin cover and not be opened after "candlelight." The village appointed a fire warden to inspect potential sources of fire and penalties could be imposed for hazardous conditions. The ordinance made it illegal to cut down trees or otherwise deface public property. It stipulated horses and pigs had to be penned and cattle were allowed to wander only between 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

The village ordinance also covered social matters. All public entertainments, such as exhibitions, theater performances, music programs and lectures had to be licensed, as did all billiard halls, bowling alleys, saloons, bars and liquor stores. No boy under the age of seventeen could live or work in one of these establishments. One more public nuisance was made illegal: no longer could anyone bathe in the public view between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.



This 1873 view of Mankato (present day Mulberry and N. 5th Street towards Washington Park) shows just how closely people with their livestock and gardens lived to their neighbors.

It would appear that the most immediate problem was loose livestock. On June 10, 1865 the *Mankato Record* reported, "A number of complaints have been entered against the running at large of cows within the village limits after night which is prohibited by Ordinance No. 1. Damages to gardens and other property are the basis of these complaints. Owners should hereafter take the precaution to keep their cows [locked] up at night."

On June 17 another report appeared in the *Record*. "N. C. Conner was appointed pound master, and in connection with the President, constituted a committee to select a suitable site for and procure the erection of an animal pound. In addition to a fine of

50 cents for each horse, mule, ox, or cow found running at large in violation of Ordinance No. 1, the pound master was authorized to charge 15 cents for receiving and discharging any animal from the pound, 50 cents for each twenty-four hours such animal shall be kept, and 25 cents for the pay of any person or persons driving said animals to the pound." Similar rules and fines were laid out for wandering hogs and sheep. A forty foot square pound was erected and by July 1 many cattle and hogs were impounded "to the no little relief of owners of good gardens."

With this ordinance, the character of Mankato began to change. It was no longer a frontier settlement, independent in spirit and permissive in nature. It was starting to be a full-fledged town, with a desire for order and responsible behavior.

Only three years after receiving its village charter, the community recognized that its growth warranted more extensive governing powers itself. Consequently, on March 6, 1868, the Minnesota Legislature granted a city charter to Mankato. Under this charter, which was adopted on March 26, the city was able to levy taxes. This meant the problems of street paving, sewer, water and lighting could be addressed through the issuance of bonds.

Mankato used its new bonding capability almost at once. On June 3 the city sought voter approval of a \$15,000 bond issue to purchase rights of way and depot land for the Minnesota Valley Railroad. The railroad promised, in turn, to have connections to Mankato completed by December 1. Citizens approved the issue by a margin of almost three to one. True to its word, the railroad completed the line and ran its first train into the town on October 3. Mankato's desire for rail service had always been centered on its role as an area commercial center. The first train to leave Mankato, on October 8, was a freight train carrying flour. Passenger service began four days later, on October 12.

While the railroad reduced Mankato's isolation from state, national and world events, it could not provide instantaneous communication. That need was answered two weeks after the first train arrived, when the Northwestern Telegraph Company connected its wire to Mankato. The first message, sent out on October 17, 1868, symbolized the end of Mankato's early developmental stages.

The results of the 1870 decennial census showed how very different the community had become. In 1853 there were about 148 people; in 1870 there were 4,736. Instead of twenty dwellings and one hotel, there were 694 dwellings, five hotels and one boarding house. The number of families had grown

from twenty-two to 867.

Business and agriculture had expanded also. Forty-one businesses had annual production of \$500 or more, contrasted to the twenty businesses listed in 1860. Among those listed in 1870 were six blacksmiths, five lumber businesses, five boot and shoe makers, four harness makers, three flour mills, three breweries, three stove pipe and tin ware businesses, three wagon makers, two chair makers, and a barrel maker, a furniture maker, and a fanning mill, as well as businesses supplying lime, limestone, and rocks.



By the 1870s, Mankato offered a wide range of businesses including a dry good store, gunsmith, hardware store and a millinery shop as seen here in the Museum's Mankato diorama.

Mankato's current City Ordinances, updated on January 30, 2018, reflect the significant changes that growth, history, and technology have made to the city since its first ordinance in 1865. However, many of the "old" problems are still addressed, such as streets and sidewalks, refuse collection, and ice and snow removal. There are ordinances addressing dangerous weapons, domestic animals and public nuisances. Other topics, like utilities, traffic and parking, subdivision and development, and housing and construction codes, have been added. Thanks to the ground rules laid down by the Village of Mankato, the City of Mankato continues to be a stable, growing community.

Sources:

Mankato Record, various articles.

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

Lundin, Vernard E., *At the Bend in the River*, 1990.

Reichwald, Glenn E., "A History of Transportation in Mankato: 1852-1870," 1963.

1870 U.S. Federal Census

City of Mankato, Code of Ordinances, January 30, 2018

Great Overland Expedition TO MONTANA!

MANKATO, MINNESOTA,

THE POINT OF OUTFIT FOR

Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana,
and the Eastern States.

THE LARGEST OVERLAND EXPEDITION
ever organized, will positively leave Min-
nesota, the

FIRST OF JUNE NEXT,

under the command of

Captain P. B. DAVY,

Mankato Record, March 30, 1867

Mankato: On the Edge

For many years, Mankato was truly on the edge of the frontier. Settlers and gold prospectors wishing to cross the plains needed an outfitting point close to their point of debarkation where they could purchase everything required for the trip, from wagons and oxen, to guns, cooking utensils, tools, clothes, and food. Mankato was conveniently situated for those leaving from Minnesota, especially those who went through the port at St. Paul. Those joining wagon trains farther west would often outfit in Mankato before joining the main party.

In March 1867, Mankato was designated as the headquarters and an outfitting point for Peter B. Davy's summer expedition to Montana. Settlers from Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and other eastern states were encouraged to purchase the necessary equipment and supplies in Mankato where "can be obtained every article necessary for a complete outfit for the journey and mines, as cheap as can be had at any other town or city west of the Mississippi River." The travelers would then continue to Big Stone Lake where they would rendezvous with groups from Minneapolis, St. Cloud and Hastings and form a caravan onward to Montana.

BECHS Volunteers Make History Happen

The spring flowers in the History Center are growing and the need for volunteers is also growing! For the past few years, BECHS has been blessed to have a handful of dedicated gardeners, but they could use your help. As the saying goes, “Many hands make light work!” Gardeners of all skill levels are welcome and for any amount of time or schedule. So stop by the History Center to lend a hand (and get a bit of fresh air). Questions or don’t know where to begin? Just ask - BECHS staff is happy to help you get started.

One of three garden beds around the History Center tended to by Volunteers. Come spend an hour or two pulling weeds or clearing trash and leaves. We need you!



Volunteer Opportunities

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 gardeners are welcome.

Hubbard House Tour Guides

Tour guides are needed this spring and summer at the Hubbard House. New guides are welcome! Contact Danelle for more information. Training is provided.

Facilities Committee

Looking for individuals interested in developing three-year building maintenance and improvement plans for both the History Center and Hubbard House. Facilities Committee will meet regularly beginning in June.

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 in June.

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, and Windows Server 2016 is preferred.

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.

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 | Marketing Office Work |
| Graphic Design | Photography |
| Light Construction | Writing and Research |
| Living History Events | |

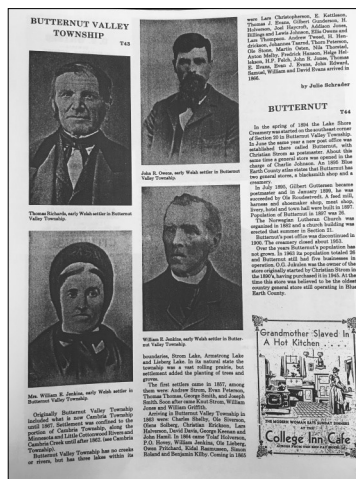


Around the Research & Genealogy Center

Heather Harren, Communications Manager

The genealogy classes held this winter and spring at the History Center have been a great success! Throughout the classes, family genealogists have learned more about using newspapers and legal resources in their research and organizing their findings. The final class will be held Saturday, April 21 at 2 p.m. and will give tips and ideas on conducting oral histories. It was great hearing from people who got new ideas on where to look for their family. Thank you to everyone who attended one or more classes. We look forward to holding these classes again next winter. If you have a topic you would like to see covered, let us know!

General history books for Blue Earth County have always been a great resource for people in the Research & Genealogy Center. Books like *The History of Blue Earth County* by Thomas Hughes [1906] and *The Heritage of Blue Earth County* by Julie Schrader [1990] are great examples of general history books. The beginning of both works start with a general history of the County and look further into each township. Both follow with information on people or families who resided in the county, many whom still live here today.



A page of Butternut Valley Township history from *The Heritage of Blue Earth County*.

Even if your family isn't included by name in these books they are still valuable because researchers can find information about where their families lived. They may discover there was once a country school house close to the family farmstead. Or for the early families, there may have been a town that disappeared when the railroad bypassed that section. All this information can piece together what life was

like and how families lived. A great help if there are few records, letter or newspaper accounts to help fill in the gaps. Copies of these books and more are available in the Research & Genealogy Center. Take a look the next time you are in to see if you can discover more about your family or town.

WISH LIST

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

1960s Photos of Blue Earth County People, Events and Places to be donated to the Archives Photo Collection

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

DVD Player to use in the Museum

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.

Garden Tools
New or slightly used trowels, small rakes, garden clippers, etc. for volunteer gardeners at the History Center. Gardeners also needed.

Historic R.D. Hubbard House

Where 1900s History Comes to Life

The Historic R.D. Hubbard House will open for its 22nd season as a Historic House Museum. The House will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m., starting May 5 and 6.

This season the Hubbard House will be filled with walk-in, guided tours and new and returning favorite living history programs. Mark your calendar for the special programs below and watch for more to be announced

June 2, 1-4 p.m.

Victorian Lawn Party



The annual lawn party features Victorian lawn games like croquet and three-legged races, refreshments and a doll tea party. Free and open to the public; admission charged for house tours.

See the Hubbard House in a different light with the **Hubbard House Gaslight Series** monthly June-August 2nd Wednesday evenings.

June 13, 7 p.m.

Hubbard House Gaslight Series Victorian Superstitions: Mirrors, Ladders and Black Cats

Many of today's superstitions have ties back to the Victorian Era. Discover their origins and decide how superstitious you want to be. Costumed characters will share some of the strange, curious or familiar superstitions. \$10/adult, \$7/member, \$5/child (5-17).

July and August program topics to be announced.

Historic R.D. Hubbard House Hours of Operation

May and September

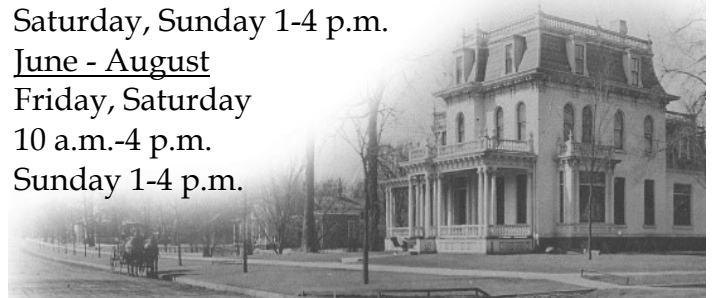
Saturday, Sunday 1-4 p.m.

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.



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**Need a Space for a Meeting or
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**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 for more information on rates or contact the History Center for availability.

Around Blue Earth County



Rapidan Heritage Society

The Rapidan Heritage Society annual meeting was held in March with elections of two board members. RHS is very fortunate to have Rich Garman and Joel Brude continue on the board. Their dedication is appreciated. Joel Botten gave a musicians tour of the lakes, mountains and fjords of Norway, a country where some of the early settlers of Rapidan Township were from.

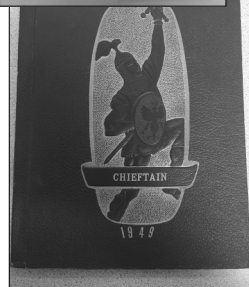
Memorial Day Services will be held May 28 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Memorial Park in Rapidan. We are honored to have the North Mankato American Legion presenting the Colors. This service will be followed with coffee, a speaker and a sloppy joe lunch (free-will offering).

The coming of spring means it is graduation time! Rapidan was fortunate to have a school in the village from 1922 thru 1992. (The High School was in operation until 1969, later years were elementary grades only.)

How many students attended the Rapidan School? We don't know – yet! RHS is compiling information on all students who attended. Next year will mark 50 years since the last graduating class walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. An All-School Reunion is planned for September 20-21, 2019.

Your help is needed! Many school records were lost throughout the years. Please contact us if you have any of the following yearbooks: Nadipar (Rapidan) pre-1951; Wildcat (Garden City) or the Memories booklet (Vernon Center & Rapidan) 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1980, 1985. School annuals are a wealth of information and if you have one of the above for us to borrow, it would be greatly appreciated! We are also looking for copies of school pictures, sports, plays, etc.

The Depot will be open Sundays from 1-4 p.m. from June 3-September 2, 2018.



Maple River Heritage, Inc. invites you to



June 7-10, 2018

Come to Mapleton for the parade featuring Grand Marshall John Landsteiner, a native of Mapleton who won a gold medal for the USA Curling Team at the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics!

While you're in Mapleton, come to the Heritage Center to see historical displays. New this year at the Heritage Center is a display celebrating curling featuring Olympic gold medalist John Landsteiner! There is also a town history walking tour, with historic displays at the Post Office, St. Teresa's Catholic Church and the Public Library.

For more information please visit our website, <https://mapletontownandcountrydays.com>.

Celebrating the
Swinging Sixties

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Sponsors as of April 15

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January-March 2018

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

In Memoriam

In Memory of Wes Ario
Patricia Zumwalt

*In Memory of
Bea Freeburg Buckley*
Byron and Karen
McGregor

*In Memory of
Lana Hynes*
Audrey Gatchell
Ken and Julie Schrader
Beth Zimmer

*In Memory of
Bud Lawrence*
Randy Zellmer

*In Memory of
Bill Maher*
Harold and Pam Gremis

*In Memory of
Mike Schneider*
Randy Zellmer

*In Memory of
Dolores Wingert*
Randy Zellmer

**Please consider memorial or tribute gifts to the
Blue Earth County Historical Society.**

Ask family and friends to donate to BECHS as a
birthday or anniversary gift. Or remember someone
who has passed away by making a gift in their name.
It is our privilege to share word of your generosity
with those you are honoring.

Make a Difference In the Lives that Follow



LEAVE A LEGACY® Mankato Area

Sponsored By Minnesota Planned Giving Council

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.

Welcome to Our New Board Members

At the Annual Meeting in March, the following individuals were elected to serve on the BECHS Board of Trustees for 2018-2021. Meet your new Board members.

JO Guck Bailey has been active in the radio business in the Mankato area for 25+ years. She is Vice President and General Manager of Radio Mankato, which is part of Minnesota Valley Broadcasting. In addition, JO is part of many community boards and projects. She also assists several non-profits with planning and special events. JO is a local business owner of Sign Pro Custom Signs and Graphics and Mankato Sign Service. She is married to Chuck and has 2 children and 5 grandchildren.



Kathy Depuydt is married to Jerry Depuydt and has a son Bradley. Their family owns Bradley's on Stadium and Kathy is also a Real Estate agent. She is a member of the downtown Kiwanis, on the South Central College Foundation Board and excited to be a new board member of Blue Earth County Historical Society.



Erin Kragh is the Women's Leadership Program Manager at YWCA Mankato where she directs the Elizabeth Kearney Women's Leadership program and serves as the Event Lead for the annual Women's Leadership Conference. Erin is also a member of the Zonta Club of Mankato, an organization focused on empowering women through service and advocacy. Erin earned her Bachelor's Degree in History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her Juris Doctor from Rutgers School of Law-Newark. She feels honored to serve on the Blue Earth County Historical Society's Board of Trustees.



Thank you Jessie Beyer, Joe Farnham, Bill Steil and Marnie Werner for your years of service on the Board.

Twilight Garden Club Plant Sale



May 19, 2018

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Hubbard House Gardens

Rain date: May 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Celebrate spring and the blossoming of the Hubbard House Gardens!

Plant sale with hardy Minnesota perennials grown by Club members, including annuals and hostas, plus garden décor.

Visitors can learn more about the Twilight Garden Club, enter for a door prize, and receive \$1 off Hubbard House tour admission with each purchase.

Support BECHS on AmazonSmile

You can support BECHS while shopping on Amazon.com by shopping via **AmazonSmile**.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), select a charity (search: BECHS), then simply shop while logged in and a portion of eligible purchases will be donated directly to BECHS.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Calendar of Events April - July 2018

APRIL

- 19 History Bits & Bites: "Dead Air, Please Stand By: CCTV with Mark Halverson and Special Guests"** Noon, History Center. *3rd Thursday* \$
- 21 Genealogy Class: Oral Histories**, 2 p.m., History Center \$



- 21 Last day to purchase tickets for *Surrounded By History***. Call or visit the History Center or go to BlueEarthCountyHistory.com
- 27 Surrounded By History: Celebrating the Swinging Sixties**, 6 p.m., Social Hour, Dinner, Silent Auction, Wine Wall, Raffle, "Music of the 60s" performed by XYZ Live, MSU, M Centennial Student Union Ballroom.



Don't miss *Surrounded By History*; get your tickets now.

MAY

- 1 Remember When Coffee Club: Moving to a New Place**, 10 a.m. History Center, *First Tuesday*.
- 3 Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 12 Young Historians, 1990s to 2000s: A New Millennium**, 10 a.m., History Center *Last meeting of the school year*
- 12 Kids Stained Glass Workshop**, 12:30 p.m., Discovery Lab. Ongoing art project, free hands-on activity with Museum admission
- 17 History Bits & Bites: Family Story Telling with Lori Creighton** Noon, History Center. *3rd Thursday* \$
- 19 Botanicals Event: Minnesota Florals with Edenvale Nursery**, 2 p.m., History Center
- 24 South Front Street and Urban Renewal Walking Tour**, tours begin every 30 minutes 4-5:30 p.m., in collaboration with the Mankato Heritage Preservation Commission, for more information call 311
- 26 History Center Closed**; Memorial Day Holiday Weekend; Hubbard House Open
- 31 Tune to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*

JUNE

- 2 Victorian Lawn Party**, 1-4 p.m., Hubbard House Lawn, Free
- 5 Remember When Coffee Club: Changes of Urban Renewal**, 10 a.m. History Center, *First Tuesday*.
- 7 Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 8 South Front Street Historic Pub Crawl: Walking Tour with a Twist**, 6 p.m. See page 5 for details \$
- 9 Kids Stained Glass Workshop**, 12:30 p.m. \$
- 13 Gaslight Series—Victorian Superstitions: Mirrors, Ladders and Black Cats**. 7 p.m., Hubbard House \$
- 16 Coming of Age: The 1968 Generation** exhibit closes
- 16 1968 Counter Culture: Tie-Dye**, History Center, more information to come
- 21 History Bits & Bites: Decoration Day with Bryce Stenzel**, Noon, History Center. *3rd Thursday* \$
- 22 Tune to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*

JULY

- 3 Remember When Coffee Club: Best Friends**, 10 a.m. History Center, *First Tuesday*.
- 4 History Center Closed; Independence Day**
- 5 Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 7 1918: A Century Later** exhibit opens
- 7 New Art Gallery Exhibit Opens: *Since 2006***, by Rachel Compart-Gemlo
- 11 Gaslight Series**, 7 p.m., Hubbard House \$
- 14 Kids Stained Glass Workshop**, 12:30 p.m. \$
- 19 History Bits & Bites: Mankato Art History Club presents**, Noon, History Center. *3rd Thursday* \$
- 26 Tune to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on *Talk of the Town*
- 26-29 Blue Earth County Fair**

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.

\$=Admission Charged

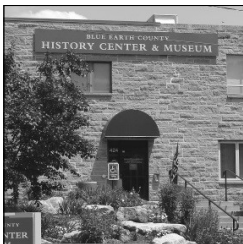
Membership Makes a Difference

As you may know, one of the things BECHS looks to accomplish with each issue of *The Historian* is to keep our members and donors, as well as visitors, informed about happenings at the Historical Society. Everything that happens at BECHS is made possible by you, our supporters, and we want to make sure you are “in the know.” With each issue, you can see for yourself the history you are saving and sharing through preservation, exhibits and events. Plus the “Calendar of Events,” found on the previous page, gives a quick reference for upcoming activities.

To fill any gaps between issues, BECHS has created a monthly e-newsletter. In this email you will find a full list of upcoming events and exhibits, plus

important updates. Not receiving the emails? You can sign up at BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/connect or send a request to Museum@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

If you aren't a member, please consider joining. Along with receiving your copy of *The Historian* each quarter, members also receive free and reduced admission to exhibits and events, and discounts in the Gift Shop. See below to sign up!



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

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.



Celebrating the Swinging Sixties

BY SURROUNDED
HISTORY

APRIL 27, 2018

6:00 p.m.

Centennial Student Union Ballroom
Minnesota State University, Mankato

Tickets available March 1. \$50.00

**SOCIAL HOUR
DINNER
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