

THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORIAN

Fall 2019

A Blue Earth County Historical Society Publication

Vol. XXV No. 4



811 South Second Street, Mankato, 1969

If These Walls Could Talk 811 South Second Street, Mankato

By Tim Pulis

What has been known for over a hundred years as the Hunt House is located at 811 South Second Street in Mankato. It has been getting a lot of attention lately with a story on local television and an article in the *Mankato Free Press*. It has also been on the Lincoln Park historic house tour the last two years. In recent years the house has been looking pretty run down and seemed like a candidate for demolition and replacement, likely with an apartment building.

Fortunately for local history buffs and lovers of old structures, Chris Crowell and his wife Kristin Fisher have purchased the house and are turning it into a bed and breakfast. Despite ornate fireplace mantels previously having been ripped from the walls, some stamped metal ceiling tiles stolen and decades of deferred maintenance, the restoration process is currently in full swing with talented and dedicated craftsmen performing the work. The main floor will feature lots of historic items

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History Center & Museum

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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. 7, 3-7 p.m., Dec. 8, 1-4 p.m.
Walk-in Guided Tours:
December 14-15, 21-22, 1-4 p.m.

The Blue Earth County Historian

Fall 2019

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Jessica Potter, Executive Director

In the fall my mind tends to turn to thoughts of gratitude. Maybe it's because the holiday season is right around the corner; but it seems to be bigger than that. It's gratitude for those beautiful fall days when the sun shines through the colorful trees. It's gratitude that the kiddos are back in school. Gratitude that it's not winter - yet. Gratitude for my family and friends. And heart-felt gratitude for all of you!

You make a difference to our Blue Earth County Historical Society and to me. You make it possible for generations to come together to discover the rich history of our county. Your gifts of time and talents make it possible for our artifacts and stories to be saved and protected. Your gifts of kindness and generosity make it possible for our staff to have a place where we can share our passions for local history every day. Together we are preserving stories and the legacy of our county.

Each year it takes a minimum of \$280,000 for BECHS to share stories, store artifacts and provide the only place to discover the rich history of our county. As of today, we've received \$220,000 of philanthropic support. It will take just \$60,000 to close the gap this year between what we have received and the real cost of maintaining and growing the Historical Society.

So, we are launching a fall campaign and invite you to join. When we raise 60K in 60 Days we will close this year's funding gap AND take the next step in our future by hiring a staff person dedicated to helping us reach our goal of expanding the History Center.

Imagine a History Center where all generations can interact with our rich past through interactive displays in a larger exhibit space. Imagine a history museum where our Model A or 1916 Fire Truck can be on display. Imagine how many more Blue Earth County stories we can share.

You are one of our History Heroes, but a hero's work is never done. There is always more history to be remembered, discovered, preserved, collected, and most importantly, shared. Please consider joining our 60K in 60 Days Campaign. You will find more information about the campaign on page 10 and there's an envelope tucked in this newsletter for your convenience.

Invest in the Future of History and be a History Hero today!



THESE WALLS Continued from page 1

accurate to the homes' early years, while the second floor bedrooms are having bathrooms added to accommodate a bed and breakfast.

The 1886 home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is an ornate, unusual example of the Queen Anne style which is rendered in brick. It has picturesque massing that is dominated by projecting gable ends and a two-story round tower at the southwestern corner. There is also an impressive bay window with glass reportedly from the French Pavilion at the Chicago's World Fair from 1893.

We know the status of the Hunt House today, but now it is time to take a journey back 133-years and discover who lived in this historic dwelling over the years.

The first owners and builders of the house were Lewis P. and Lisbeth (Lizzie) Hunt. A detailed history of the couple is featured in the *Heritage of Blue Earth County*. Lewis was born in 1854 in New York and his family moved to Iowa in 1863. In 1867, at the age of 13, he began learning the printers' trade and just two years later became foreman of a small county printing office in Earlville, Iowa. In 1874, he married Lisbeth Putnam in Iowa. They never had children. In 1880, Lewis went into business for himself in Lanesboro, Minnesota and was also in charge of several printing offices in Iowa and Illinois.

With this vast experience in the business, in 1881 Lewis purchased part interest in the *Free Press* in Mankato and a year later became the sole owner. In 1887, he organized the Free Press Printing Company and turned the weekly *Free Press* newspaper into a daily with himself being the editor and general manager.

A year before this, Lewis and Lizzie built their house on Second Street where they would reside for over twenty years. While Lewis was making a name for himself, Lizzie was his support. According to a 1946 *Mankato Free Press* article by Lucy Pope Taylor, who grew up across the street from the Hunts, Lizzie was a most devoted wife. "Devoted to the nth degree to a husband of great personal charm, she waited on him hand and foot. She went with him everywhere and 'could go to Europe on five minutes notice'. She not only laid out his clothes, laundered his shirts just as he wanted them, but she put the studs and

collar buttons in and tied his ties – even helped him in his bath." Lizzie once said that "Why sure, if I didn't wash his back, it wouldn't be done until the undertaker did it."

Lewis was lucky to have such a woman at his side. But Lizzie wasn't content to sit in the shadows. She proved to be an intellectual dynamo and a fine business person in her own right. Lizzie was the general contractor for the construction of four houses in the Lincoln Park neighborhood through the years. Lewis might have supplied the cash, but she was the ramrod for getting the houses built. Lizzie worked from 7 a.m. till 6 p.m.

overseeing the workers. No one dared put anything over on her. According to Taylor, people were afraid of her and she enjoyed that. Wearing an old felt hat of her husband's and her hands crammed into the pockets of one of his discarded

overcoats, she would stride up the alley or around the corner with an air of authority. But on the other hand, Taylor wrote, "In evening dress of black lace or velvet, diamond earrings, thick natural waves of whitening hair and black eyes - [Lizzie] was beautiful."

In 1896, Lizzie was instrumental in forming the Mankato Art History Club along with Jennie Cordelia Andrews and Florence James, "three women with brilliant minds and an urge for self-improvement." Besides meeting regularly to discuss art history, the group was civic-minded, arranging English language night classes for Syrians in Tinkomville (James Avenue area of Mankato) and making sure public schools practiced fire drills. The Mankato Art History Club is still active today.



Both Lizzie and Lewis Hunt worked with the post office. Here is Lizzie as Mankato postmistress alongside fellow employees Bruno Bierbauer and B. Frank Pay in 1883-84. Lewis was Mankato postmaster from about 1898-1902. Lizzie was also postmistress after the couple moved to Alaska.

Lizzie also encouraged an interest in art in the public schools and lead a fund drive with school children donating pennies to erect a statue of "Hiawatha" in bronze at Minnehaha Falls Park. Lizzie was also a member of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and was a strong proponent for making the Showy Lady's Slipper Orchid the state flower of Minnesota. An early photo of the Hunt House

shows extensive landscaping around the property.

The 1900 US Federal Census shows



Hunt House, 1895

that in addition to Lewis and Lizzie living in their house, a young female servant and Lizzie's mother resided there as well. The 1900 Mankato City Directory stated that Lewis Hunt was the owner of the Free Press Publishing Co. and editor of its daily newspaper as well as postmaster at the Mankato Post Office. At the age of 46, in the prime of his life, Lewis Hunt had two prestigious jobs, lived in one of the nicest homes in Mankato and was married to the talented Lizzie Hunt. Then in 1902, he sold his interest in the *Free Press* and resigned from being postmaster. He continued to live at his house and wrote occasional articles for the newspaper. In 1908 the Hunts moved to Alaska to run a canning factory with several other people from Mankato. This raised a few questions and a few eyebrows. Perhaps Lewis was just financially secure and ready to try something new after 30+ years in the publishing industry. Another curious thing is that in Thomas Hughes' 1909 *History of Blue Earth County*, Lewis Hunt is mentioned hardly at all, despite his very prominent role in Mankato's history. His brother Frank who purchased the *Free Press* from Lewis, has a full-page portrait and biography in the book.

The couple moved from Alaska to Seattle, Washington and it was there that Lizzie died in 1912 at 56 years of age. In the 1946 *Mankato Free Press* article, Taylor stated that Lewis was broken-hearted, utterly lost and desolate. He had never done anything without Lizzie. He simply didn't know how. When he came back to Mankato for a visit after her death, he looked at

Taylor with tears in his eyes and said "You know how much Lizzie meant to me." Lewis died in Seattle in 1922 at the age of 67.

In 1911, George and Agnes Atchison bought the former Hunt house. George dealt in real estate, doing extensive business in southern Minnesota. His obituary describes him as being a veteran in civic circles. He was a trustee of the First Presbyterian Church for 12 years, on the City Council, a director and active member of the Commercial Club and served several terms as the director of the Chamber of Commerce.

George was also responsible for the founding of the Mankato Fair Association and later was a member of the State Fair Board. When horseracing was popular in Mankato he was listed among several people who owned racehorses. At his funeral, friends from all parts of the state attended. The mortuary was unable to accommodate everyone inside and many remained outside during the service.

George and his wife Agnes were both born in Ireland. They lived in Mankato for 38 years until his death in 1934 at the age of 74. He and Agnes were wealthy enough to be able to have a live-in maid according to the 1920 Census. After George's death, Agnes moved to Des Moines, Iowa to live with their only child, Mrs. Laverne Barlow, and two grandchildren.

The Hunt House entered a six-year period during which it was foreclosed on and was either vacant or had sporadic occupants. Finally in 1940 Henry and Betty Webb rented the house and a year later purchased it. For the next 75 years the house stayed in the family. Betty was a hairstylist and had her beauty parlor on the main floor of the house. It was known as the Moulin Rouge Beauty Shop.



The front window sign during the home's beauty parlor days.

In 1974, Betty passed away and her daughter Cecelia Hanson bought the house. It was this year that the house was painted red and all the trim white. Cecelia continued running the beauty shop. Amazingly this business was in existence for over 60 years. I put a request out on "Mankato Memories" Facebook page seeking reminiscences of the Moulin Rouge Beauty Shop

and dozens of people responded positively. Here are just a few of the memories shared:

- * *I had my hair done there the day before my wedding in 1954.*
- * *Cecelia cut my hair as a little girl and she did my Mom's hair every week.*
- * *My Mom went there for many years. Cecelia was a nice lady.*
- * *I went there with my Mom. I remember the beautiful woodwork. I loved that old house.*
- * *It was a beautiful place in its day and Cel was a beautiful lady.*
- * *I remember having my hair put up with tiny rose buds when I was 4. I was in the wedding of Sue Heiser and Randy Wood. I still remember the day the bridesmaids and bride got their hair done.*
- * *I remember riding the bus to the "Castle House" so my Mom could get her hair frosted.*

At one point, three generations of Hanson's lived in the house at once. The house was put on the market in 2015 and Cecelia died the next year at the age of 98. Developers bought it with the idea of perhaps tearing it down and putting up an apartment building. The City of Mankato was not keen on this idea as there were already apartment buildings on both sides and it would be too much population density for the area.

What will be the fate of this old house? In 2017, Chris Crowell and Kristin Fisher bought the house with the idea of bringing it back to its original glory and turning it into a bed and breakfast. I visited with them recently and their



The house undergoing renovations, 2019. Their passion and enthusiasm really impressed me. As we walked through the house, they pointed out what had been done and what needs to be done. It is a combination of doing the restoration with historical integrity and yet making it a usable place for visitors to spend the night and enjoy a nice breakfast. They have some exciting ideas and yet are realistic about the obstacles they face. They are going to call it "The Moulin Rouge House."

I've changed my driving route now and make

sure to go by the house to check on its progress. I really wish them luck. It is awesome that this 133-year-old home will continue be witness to stories and memories for years to come. Go Chris and Kristin!



Chris Crowell and Kristin Fisher, current owners of the house.

Sources:

- Ancestry.com website
- Blue Earth County Historian*, 1984
- The Heritage of Blue Earth County* by Julie Schrader
- Personal interview with Chris Crowell and Kristin Fisher
- Polk City Directories
- Sanborn maps 1888
- Vertical Files BECHS

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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

YEARS OF HISTORY

A celebration of more than a century of our past.

Anniversary Open House

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

Fri., November 1, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sat., November 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

History Center is located at 424 Warren Street, Mankato

Give History for the Holidays
Marian Anderson Art · Collectibles
Books · Unique Local Handcrafted Items
Memberships · Donations

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



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Visit www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com for more details.

BECHS PROGRAMS

Remember When Coffee Club

First Tuesday, 10 a.m., History Center
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 for Remember When Coffee Club.** There is no formal program, just a conversation topic to get the group started. Coffee and light refreshments are provided. Free.

Upcoming Topics

- November 5 - Memorable Relatives
- December 3 - The One Thing You Wanted for Christmas
- January 7 - The Coldest I've Ever Been

Talking Ancestors Genealogy Group


First Saturday, 10 a.m., History Center
Genealogy is a great hobby, but sometimes it helps to talk with others and share successes, tips or brick walls. **Come to the History Center for Talking Ancestors.** There is no formal program, just general topics. Free.

Upcoming Topics

- November - No meeting; see page 11 for details on the Genealogy Workshop
- December 7 - Historical Timelines
- January 4 - Documenting Your Sources

Behind the Scenes: History Center Nooks & Crannies

Monday, November 18
6 p.m.



Do you know where this is?

Take a unique tour of the History Center with Executive Director Jessica Potter exploring the nooks and crannies of the former Newman Center and learn about future dreams for the building. Space is limited. BECHS Members \$20/person. Call 507.345.5566 to reserve your spot today.

Young Historians

Second Saturday, September – May
10 a.m.-Noon, History Center

Young Historians is a free, monthly, hands-on history workshop for school-age children. This year's theme is "The Story of U.S." Young Historians will explore the founding of the United States traveling through history to present day. This program is geared toward first through sixth grade, but all school-aged children are welcome. Free.



Upcoming Topics

- November 9 - 1850-1900
- December 14 - 1900-1910s
- January 11 - 1920-1930s

Special thanks to MinnStar Bank N.A. and Xcel Energy for their support of Children's Programming in 2019

Book Your Next Meeting, Special Event or Holiday Party at the History Center



The Blue Earth County History Center has a number of rental options, perfect for your next special event.

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



Historic R.D. Hubbard House

Where 1900s History Comes to Life

A special "thank you!" to our great Hubbard House staff, Robert Dickinson, Shayla Schumacher and Jonathan Soucek for their wonderful work this summer.

The House is now closed for the regular season, but will reopen for the first three weekends in December. We hope to see!

Christmas at the Hubbard House *Stitches Missing in Time*

December 7, 3-7 p.m.

December 8, 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*. You can also take part in a history mystery. Something has gone wrong at the Hubbard House! Can you untangle the mystery? 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 for your tickets before continuing to the house. We look forward to seeing you at this wonderful annual holiday event! Cost: \$10/Adult; \$7/BECHS Member; \$5/Children (5-17)

December Walk-in Guided Tours

Saturdays, December 14 & 21, 1-4 p.m.

Sundays, December 15 & 22, 1-4 p.m.

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

VOLUNTEERS MAKE HISTORY

Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for something new to do? Consider volunteering with BECHS! There are many ways you can get involved; below are just a few. Call or visit the History Center to learn more or to get started, sign-up online at BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/volunteer

- **Kiwanis Holiday Lights** volunteers are needed to help at this community event on behalf of BECHS. Volunteers are needed on Sunday, December 1, 4:30-9 p.m. and for tear-down on Sunday, January 5, 1-4 p.m.
- **History Writers** to research and write articles on local history. Resources are available in the Research Center and topics are often left open to the writer.
- **Archives Processor** to catalog and number items such as photographs. Must have small, precise handwriting. While the hours are flexible, BECHS asks you commit to a minimum of 2 hours a week, for at least six months.
- **Rental Hosts** to assist meeting room evening and weekend rentals, stay on-site during the event and lock-up when done. Schedule varies.
- **Visitor Services Attendant** to tend the front reception desk, greeting visitors and answering general questions. Training is provided.
- **Committee Members:** Now accepting new members for the Development Committee and Special Events Committee.

BECHS Volunteers—mark your calendar for the **Annual Volunteer Holiday Potluck.**

Monday, December 9, Noon at the History Center.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

Shelley Harrison, Curator/Archivist

The Historical Society is pleased to present our newest exhibition: *Blue Earth County's Believe It or Not, Our Strange and Curious Collection*. The popular Ripley's Believe It or Not franchise is

celebrating 100 years of "curioddities" and was the inspiration to our exhibit. With a nod to weird and wonderful collections, BECHS created an exhibit that explores the role our collection plays in telling the stories of Blue Earth

County. It also shows how our collection has changed through the years. At first glance the items seem strange, but they are gateways into a deeper understanding and appreciation of the history of both the county and the Historical Society. Here is a fun and fascinating look at our unusual and curious collection. Do you believe?

This exhibit also tells the story of BECHS' collections, starting with our first exhibit in 1902. These items were on loan to BECHS, but years later, some of the same items were donated and can be seen in the exhibit today!

Discover ways the Historical Society's collection has changed over time, and how we have been committed to collecting pieces of Blue Earth County's past for over 118 years.

Visitors will encounter items from the collection that are quirky, surprising and unusual with some kooky and unique histories. This strange exhibit showcases over 50 rare or



curious objects. We are excited to show off some of our little oddballs of history, many of these objects are on display for the first time, like the birdcage complete with a blue canary!

Other items are not significant in themselves but tell us a little about life in the past. Visitors are encouraged to go beyond the curiosities and are asked "Do you Believe" the stories that accompany these quaint relics from our County's past? Is this object what it seems or is nothing

what you might think it is? In this exhibit, there are no certainties.

We will be hosting several programs surrounding the exhibit. Join us on Saturday, November 16 at 1 p.m. for "A Closer Look at Our Strange and Curious Collection." There is also a special showing of the documentary "Ripley's Believe It or Not" on Friday, December 13, at noon at the History Center.

Come and celebrate the strange and unusual with us, at the Blue Earth County Museum. Come and see if you Believe It or Not. This Exhibit is free and open to the public and will be on view now through December 31, 2019.



Can you guess what animal this jaw bone came from? Visit the exhibit to find out!

A CENTURY OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MINNESOTA

**Opens January 11, 2020
History Center**

In celebration of the 19th Amendment's centennial year, BECHS is excited to welcome a traveling exhibit from the League of Women Voters Minnesota.



EVERY OBJECT HAS A STORY...

In the Blue Earth County Historical Society's collections, we have objects that tell the stories of Blue Earth County's past. These objects are quite diverse, with only about ten percent of the collection on display at any given time. Here is a glimpse at some of our strange and curious objects currently on display in the Museum:



Schostag Mill painting by Amy Ostegard Goodrich, 1922
According to Thomas Hughes's *History of Blue Earth County*, this Danville Mill was believed

by its owner, Gottlieb Schostag, to be haunted. The evil spirit left, but Schostag refused further entrance in to the gristmill for fear of things going awry again. It is said that the artist also felt an uneasiness about her subject matter.



Paving Brick, 1900s
Wooden paving bricks like these were used on most of the streets in Mankato in the 1890s. The wood was soaked in

creosote to make the blocks "waterproof" and prevent moisture from causing wood rot. By the 1960s most paving stones were removed from the city streets, but it is rumored that a few still exist in Mankato today.

Neck Yoke, 1880s



This yoke was brought from Norway by Gust Johnson. Unlike most yokes we think of, this was used on people to pull or carry things, not oxen or horses.

So, the next time you take a spin through the Museum, see if you *Believe It or Not*.

HISTORY CENTER ART GALLERY

THEN AND NOW: BLUE EARTH COUNTY 2019

By Bend of the River Photography Club
October 5 - December 31, 2019

Then and Now: Blue Earth County 2019 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 23, 1-3 p.m.



Amboy School
1900 and 2019

BECHS DONORS, MEMBERS AND SPONSORS

July - September 2019

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Jake's Stadium Pizza
Patricia Jones
River Rock Coffee Bar
Mary Walker

*Roof donations made since the last *Historian* issue. Thank you to all our donors who gave to BECHS new roof!

**Booster Level Memberships and higher.

In Memoriam

*In Memory of
Suzanne Browne*
Bob and Eloise Layman

*In Memory of
Harvey Hanel*
Randy Zellmer

*In Memory of
Bernard Kunkel*
Darrell & Sandi Garlow

*In Memory of
Lauren Johnston*
Bob and Eloise Layman

*In Memory of
Stanley Stutz*
Bob and Eloise Layman

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

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

60K

**IN 60
DAYS**

BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

As our closest friends, we want YOU to be the first to know about OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF HISTORY! IMAGINE a larger History Museum featuring Blue Earth County's rich heritage through interactive exhibits where all ages can be inspired, engage, and connect to our rich history. That vision can become a reality with your help.

This year, we have received \$220,000 in financial contributions from people like you. It will take just \$60,000 in additional donations by December 31 (60 days) to close the gap between what we've received and the REAL cost of maintaining and GROWING our Historical Society.

JOIN OUR \$60K IN 60 DAYS CAMPAIGN TODAY TO BRING THIS VISION TO LIFE! See the enclosed envelope or our website for details.

BE A HISTORY HERO!

RESEARCH & GENEALOGY CENTER

Heather Harren, Communication & Archives Manager

Happy Fall! As the days are getting shorter, it leaves you plenty of time in the evenings to work on your family history. But, maybe you have hit a wall or fallen into a funk over all the names you keep seeing, but can't place. We have just the opportunity to breathe some life into your genealogy or to help you find your enthusiasm once again.



On November 2, BECHS is hosting an all-day Genealogy workshop. Doors open at 9 a.m. with the first sessions starting at 9:30. The workshop offers attendees a chance to listen to four different presentations, with two options for each session. You can also purchase a

catered box lunch if you pre-register by October 30. Cost is \$50/Adults, \$40/BECHS Members. Lunch is an additional \$10. Register online or contact the History Center.

Genealogy Workshop Schedule at a Glance

Room 1	Room 2
Online Resources	Beginning Genealogy
Using Social Media and Apps	Oral Histories
DNA	Norwegian American Women Telling Stories
Minnesota State, Mankato Library Resources	Ask an Archivist

*See full schedule on our website.

Blue Earth County Historical Society's GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

**Saturday, November 2, 2019
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Blue Earth County History Center
424 Warren Street, Mankato

This full-day workshop includes four sessions for every level of Family Historian. Sessions include *Beginning Genealogy*, *Online Resources*, *DNA* and more! Full schedule and registration available online at BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

REGISTRATION

**\$50/Adults
\$40/BECHS Members**



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR LOCAL MEDIA PARTNERS

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

Watch **KEYC News 12** at Noon the first Thursday for "Throwback Thursday" and at 6:30 a.m. the third Tuesday for "History To Go"

Listen to **KTOE 1420 AM** Talk of the Town with Lisa Kaye the 4th Thursday

BlueEarthCountyHistory.com | 507-345-5566

GIFT SHOP & ART GALLERY

Danelle Erickson, Operations Manager

The holiday season is always an exciting time for retailers, and the Blue Earth County History Center Gift Shop is no exception. We have some fun events coming up and are looking forward to helping shoppers find some great gifts—whether for others or themselves!

The first holiday event is our **Anniversary Open House, November 1 and 2, 9 p.m.-5 p.m.** Stop by for our kick-off to holiday cheer with Christmas décor and holiday gifts making an appearance in the Gift Shop. There will also be some treats, door prizes and free admission to the Museum.

Another holiday event is **Shop Small Saturday on November 30.**



BECHS is once again participating in the City Center Partnership's Passport promotion. It's a great day to shop local.

Both the Anniversary Open House and Shop Small Saturday will include gift shop specials, including double member discounts. That's 20% off most items in the Gift Shop.

Also on November 30 and December 1, BECHS and Marian Anderson Art will be at the GSR Fine Art Festival. Stop



by our booth to see some of the art by Mankato artist, Marian Anderson. Visit GSRFineArtFestival.com for more information. And for more about Marian Anderson Fine Art, visit MarianAnderson.com

CELEBRATING ARTS IN MANKATO



Saturday, November 30
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday, December 1
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Mankato Civic Center

Be sure to visit our booth featuring Marian

*Anderson Fine Art prints and notecards.
100% of all purchases support BECHS.*

BECHS WISH LIST

A few things BECHS could use, new or used or funds to purchase.

- **Laptop**, Windows 10, new or slightly used
- **Canister Vacuum**, newer model such as Eureka NEN200C
- **Speakers** with micro SD slot
- **Fiberglass step ladder**, 6-8 feet tall
- **Electric Typewriter**, in working order. Preferably with typewriter ribbons.

give TO THE **MAX** 

NOV. 14, 2019

Join **BECHS** for
Minnesota's Annual Day of Giving
at www.GiveMN.org!

CALL FOR ARTISTS

BECHS has openings for local artists to be featured at the History Center Art Gallery. All mediums are welcome. Work must be able to be hung on a wall and be family-friendly.

Contact Shelley at 507-345-5566 or Archivist@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com.

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

BECHS staff and volunteers have written and published a number of books on Blue Earth County history through the years, and they are exclusively available in the Gift Shop. This includes our “best-seller,” *The Remarkable Men of Garden City*. It’s an inspiring story of ten boys from Garden City who grew up to be men of wealth and influence, \$12.95.

Another popular title is *Blue Earth County Century Farms*, with over 100 local farms and their histories, \$25.00.

Other titles include *The Historian, Vol 1 and 2, Fire!, Meet the Hubbards, The Multifaceted Carp, Rapidan Dam, and Unique Mankato Stories*.

Dakota History

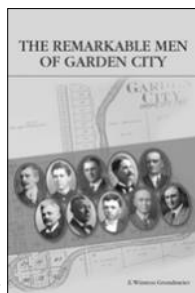
Visit our selection of books on Dakota history and culture. Topics range from historic narratives and events to more contemporary themes. Titles include: *Through Dakota Eyes, Being Dakota, The Dakota War of 1862* and the popular *Everything You Want to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask*.

Cemetery Transcriptions

Remembering the People compiled by Corey Hugg. These 9 books include cemetery marker transcriptions plus many obituaries and other biographical information. Great for the family historian! \$49.95 each

Local History

Included on the shelves are many books written about local history by local authors.



Topics including: Red Jacket Valley, Lake Crystal, Mankato trivia, Mapleton and St. Clair.

Minnesota Cookbooks

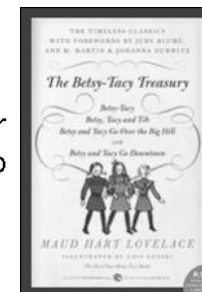
What could be more “Minnesotan” than a cookbook full of hot dishes? Check out *Hot Dish Heaven* along with some other fun cookbooks including *Bundt Cake Bliss, Potluck Paradise* and *A Cook's Tour of Minnesota*. \$16.95-19.95.



For the Young and Young-at-Heart

The Gift Shop has books for all ages, including *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.

Another fun series are the “*You Choose*” books with interactive history adventures where the reader decides what happens next in the story, \$6.95.

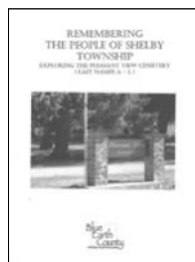
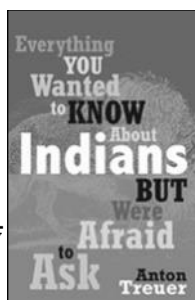


Unique Gifts

Vintage-inspired **Christmas ornaments, local art** by Marian Anderson, **handmade candles, hand-painted slates** from the R.D. Hubbard House and many other unique gifts!



Give the Gift of History this Holiday Season! Memberships, Art, Gift Certificates are available at the Blue Earth County History Center and online at BlueEarthCountyHistory.com



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2019 – January 2020

NOVEMBER

- 1 60K in 60 Days Campaign begins
- 1-2 Anniversary Open House, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., History Center, Free
- 2 Genealogy Workshop, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., History Center. Pre-registration is encouraged. \$
- 5 Remember When Coffee Club: Memorable Relatives 10 a.m., History Center, Free
- 9 Young Historians: 1850-1900 10 a.m.-noon, History Center, Free
- 14 Give to the Max Day Join Minnesotans in raising money for local nonprofits.
- 16 A Closer Look at Our Strange and Curious Collection, 1 p.m., History Center, Free
- 18 Behind the Scenes: History Center Nooks and Crannies, 6 p.m., History Center, \$
- 23 Gallery Reception: Then and Now, Blue Earth County 2019, 1-3 p.m., History Center, Free
- 28-29 History Center Closed Happy Thanksgiving!
- 30 Shop Small Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., History Center. Great Holiday Shopping!
- 30 GSR Fine Art Festival, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Mankato Civic Center, Free. Visit our booth!

DECEMBER

- 1 GSR Fine Art Festival, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Mankato Civic Center, Free. Visit our booth!
- 1 BECHS Night at Kiwanis Holiday Lights, 5-9 p.m., Sibley Park, Free. Sign-up to volunteer.
- 3 Remember When Coffee Club: The One Thing You Wanted for Christmas, 10 a.m., History Center, Free
- 7 Talking Ancestors Genealogy Group: Historical Time Lines, 10 a.m., History Center, Free.
- 7 Christmas at the Hubbard House, 3-7 p.m. *An Annual Holiday Tradition*
- 8 Christmas at the Hubbard House, 1-4 p.m.
- 9 BECHS Annual Volunteer Holiday Potluck, Noon, History Center. All BECHS Volunteers invited to bring a dish to share. Sign-up with Danelle.
- 13 *Ripley's Believe It or Not Documentary*, Noon, History Center, Free
- 14 Young Historians: 1900-1910s 10 a.m.-noon, History Center, Free
- 14-15 Hubbard House open for guided holiday tours
- 21-22 Hubbard House open for guided holiday tours
- 24-25 History Center Closed Merry Christmas!
- 31 Last day for *Blue Earth County Believe It or Not* exhibit, closes at 4 p.m.
- 31 Last day to join the 60K in 60 Days for BECHS!

JANUARY

- 1 History Center Closed Happy 2020!
- 4 Talking Ancestors Genealogy Group: Documenting Your Sources, 10 a.m. History Center, Free
- 7 Remember When Coffee Club: The Coldest I've Ever Been, 10 a.m., History Center, Free
- 11 *A Century of Civic Engagement: League of Women Voters Minnesota*, Traveling Exhibit Opens, History Center, Free
- 11 Young Historians: 1920-1930s, 10 a.m.-noon, History Center, Free

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/Contact
 - Follow BECHS on Facebook and Instagram
- \$=Admission Charged

MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

If holiday gift buying stresses you out, the Blue Earth County Historical Society can help. A BECHS Annual Membership is the perfect gift for just about anyone on your list!

- If you have someone who...
 - ... **is a History Geek**, a BECHS Membership includes access to exhibits, programs, research and much more.
 - ... **loves books**, the Gift Shop has a unique selection, plus discounts for members.
 - ... **can't get enough drama**, there are BECHS living history events throughout the year.
 - ... **enjoys the finer things**, the Hubbard House and Marian Anderson Art are up their alley.

... **has kiddos**, there's the Discovery Lab, Cabin and Barn in the Museum for hands-on history fun, plus family-friendly events.
... **is a genealogy guru**, the Research Center is not something they would want to miss.

To purchase a Gift Membership, use the form below and include a note with the name and address of the recipient. You can also buy a membership online or stop by the History Center. BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/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 _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Gift for: _____

Include name and address

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
BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/membership

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

Christmas at the Hubbard House

Stitches Missing in Time



Saturday, December 7

3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 8

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Special Display of Historic Textiles
& Handiworks • Holiday Gift Shop
Living History Characters
Live Music • Refreshments
Untangle the History Mystery*

Adults \$10 / BECHS Members \$7
Children 5-17 \$5 Kids under 5 FREE
Open for Guided Holiday Tours
December 14-15 and 21-22, 1-4 p.m.



www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

BECHS
BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
424 WARREN STREET
MANKATO, MN 56001

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

EXHIBITS

**Blue Earth County's Believe It or Not:
Our Strange and Curious Collection**
through December 31

**A Century of Civic Engagement:
League of Women Voters Minnesota**
opens January 11

ART GALLERY

Then and Now: Blue Earth County 2019
featuring Bend of the River Photography Club
through December 31



St. Teresa Catholic Church, Mapleton
c. 1900 and 2019

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mankato MN
56001
Permit No. 86

**Membership
Expiration Date**