

The Blue Earth County

HISTORIAN



Surrounded By History: Spotlighting Our Agricultural Heritage



Join BECHS on March 15 for the second annual "Surrounded By History" fundraiser, see page 4 for details. Photograph is of the William Jones family farm near Lake Crystal, 1888.

Featured Artist



Exhibit featuring Terri DeGezelle's photography now on display, see page 7.

Mankato Baltics



The Mankato Baltics gear up for the 2013 season, see page 17.

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BECHS Mission: To lead in the collecting and promoting of Blue Earth County's history to ensure its preservation for the enrichment and benefit of present and future generations.

The Blue Earth County Historian



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bechs@hickorytech.net
Archives Manager, Shelley Harrison
bechsam@hickorytech.net
Museum Assistant, Penny Wallace
bechsms@hickorytech.net
Archives Assistant, Heather Harren
bechsrc@hickorytech.net
Bookkeeper, Barb Church
Newsletter Editor, Chris Oldenburg

Heritage Center

415 Cherry Street, Mankato, MN
507-345-5566

www.bechshistory.com

Hours

Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

R.D. Hubbard House

606 South Broad Street, Mankato
507-345-4154

Hours

Closed for the season

The Blue Earth County Historian

Winter 2013

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

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Board of Trustees



Mike Lagerquist
President, Board of Trustees

Last year, the Blue Earth County Historical Society Board of Trustees made a special effort to look at who we as are an organization, how and what we do and how we can do it better. In addition to being a year of deep contemplation, it was a year of subtle and larger change.

We began the year with “Surrounded by History”, an event held at the Centennial Student Union ballroom at Minnesota State University, Mankato aimed at celebrating the history that is around us every day and taking special note of its importance in our lives today. It was a deliberate attempt to remind people of the importance of history and how, in ways big and small, we are guided by what preceded today.

After a very successful first year, we will return again to the ballroom on Friday, March 15, to celebrate the role of agriculture in both our history and our present day. Because a relatively few number of people in present-day Blue Earth County are directly involved in agriculture, compared to days gone by, it is often overlooked or minimized as a contributor to who we are. With this event we hope to remember and note the role it plays in who we are as a community.

This celebration of history also seemed an obvious choice as an annual fundraising event. While about 50 percent of our operating funds come from Blue Earth County, for which we are extremely grateful, each year’s budget planning also includes efforts to raise the other half of the money needed to run the organization. The first step in that effort is to increase our visibility in the county community, and “Surrounded by History” does that effectively. As a next step, the BECHS committees have more deliberately incorporated budgetary thinking into their plans for 2013.

Our year-end campaign was better organized this past year and the results have been obvious. We thank everyone who made a donation to the Historical Society during that time, as well as supporting us throughout the year. While money donations are especially visible at this time of year, we thank everyone who contributes throughout the year, not only through monetary gifts but with gifts of time and talent. Those valuable gifts are seen each day in the volunteers who work at the Heritage Center, plan and work at events throughout the county, help create exhibits such as *Remembering Front Street* and participate on committees.

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is each of you! We thank you for what you’ve done and look forward to seeing what you’ve got in store for us in the year just begun.



Director's Notes

Jessica Potter
Executive Director

Wow, what a year! As I reflect on 2012 and look ahead to 2013, that's what comes to mind. 2012 was a banner year for BECHS in regard to promoting and celebrating the past.

January 2012 was the beginning of the 12-month Discover the Dakota educational series. It was an exceptional learning opportunity for everyone involved and created some strong relationships as we (the community) move forward. January was also the beginning steps of Board and Staff strategic planning. At the Annual Meeting in March we introduced a refreshed mission statement and worked throughout the year to lay the groundwork for our 3-year organizational road map.

In February, the Holberg cabin that stood in the basement of the Hubbard House since the 1960s was moved to the Heritage Center museum as an interactive learning experience for kids of all ages. The pioneer cabin exhibit encourages kids to play and discover the tools of a time gone by. This new exhibit has been a hit with our younger audience. We just need a few more items to make the experience richer. See the wish list on page 15 for details on how you can help.

We hosted our first gala event, "Surrounded By History: A Celebration of Who We Are", on March 9, 2012. Wow, what an event! Everyone had a great time and we raised over \$7000 for BECHS operations. Mark your calendar for Friday, March 15, 2013! You won't want to miss this year as we spotlight our agricultural heritage.

Then in September we opened our long-awaited *Remembering Front Street* exhibit in the Heritage Center Museum. Opening weekend was attended by 300 people and hundreds have visited since. The exhibit is scheduled to be on display through 2014. New stories and items will be added as they become available.

We capped off the year with our year-end fundraising campaign and raised over \$16,000 for operations in 2013. Thank you all for your support

through donations, memberships and attending our programs and events.

Now, what's ahead for 2013? First we are taking a little break to catch our breath, whew... Then we will be in the full swing of planning the 2013 "Surrounded By History" event on March 15. You can be part of this great event by purchasing tickets beginning in February, becoming a business event sponsor, or donating an item for the silent auction. If you have any questions on how you can be part of this, just let me know.

As we finish up the Strategic Plan, which will be a road map for the next three years, there are a few initiatives we are looking forward to planning and implementing in 2013: enhancing our K-12 programming including field trips, adding exterior boulevard signage, refreshing the public spaces of the Heritage Center, and updating our volunteer management program. The key to these initiatives is that we need people to assist with planning and implementing. If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please let me know.

Again, let me say "What a year!" Thank YOU for making all of these great things possible. The Blue Earth County Historical Society is a vital, strong, growing organization, because of people like you! Happy 2013 to you from your BECHS staff!

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The Artisan
GALLERY

At the Book and Gift Shop

Penny Wallace, Museum Assistant



Put on your hats and scarves, Minnesota's winter wonderland is upon us with sparkling, glistening snow all around Blue Earth County. Nothing is better on these days of chilly winds and early darkness than to connect with friends and loved ones with letters written on local artist Marian Anderson notecards. Marian's inspiring art is not only available in fine art prints, but also notecards that make writing and receiving them a real treasure.

The Gift Shop has been in a busy, bustling, blurr of motion since our last newsletter. We were delighted to see so many of you at our Anniversary Open House and throughout the holidays. Remember: BECHS members enjoy a 10% discount in the Gift Shop and free admission to the museum. Come visit us soon.

Our wonderful volunteers have donated beautiful, hand-crafted items to our store. You will have to come in and see to believe! This collection contains jewelry, aprons made from vintage fabrics and textiles, and scarves.

Our awesome book selection has enjoyed the company of a very popular new book: *The Wagon Wheel Project* by Dave Engen and John Cross. This is a must-have coffee table book for anyone who has ever dined at the café. A must-read for Maud Hart Lovelace fans is the new book, *Collected Stories of Maud Hart Lovelace and Delos Lovelace*, a collection of 12 short stories written by the couple between 1915-1928. There are over 80 authors and over 150 book titles in the Book and Gift Shop, including a dozen books written and published by BECHS. There's sure to be a good book for any reader.

GIVE TODAY. MAKE HISTORY.

The Blue Earth County Historical Society stands on the 111 year tradition of collecting, preserving and presenting Blue Earth County's rich heritage. You made history happen by donating to the **2012 Year-End Drive**. Over **\$16,000** was donated to help us reach new heights in 2013 with exterior signage, building improvements and expanded programming. **THANK YOU!**

SURROUNDED BY HISTORY

Spotlighting Our Agricultural Heritage

DINNER • SILENT AUCTION • PRESENTATION

Featuring Keynote Speaker

James L. Gibson, PhD, Executive Director FarmAmerica

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2013

Centennial Student Union Ballroom
Minnesota State University, Mankato

\$50 per person.

\$30 of each ticket is a
tax-deductible donation.



For reservations call
507-345-5566.



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Visit www.bechshistory.com for more details or call 507-345-5566.



R.D. Hubbard House

Ryan Harren and Alexandria Oldenburg, Hubbard House Assistants

Now that January has come, the Hubbard House is closed for the season. In December we were open for three weekends to celebrate "Christmas at the Hubbard House". Over 100 people walked through the house during the opening weekend and we had about 50 people visit throughout the remainder of December.

With Christmas behind us now, all of the decorations have been taken down. Did you spot the new, unique items? Did you notice the baby crocodile on the fireplace in Mr. Hubbard's bedroom or the Christmas tree in the maid's



parlor? Did you notice the wheat both inside and outside of the house? For those of you who did not tour the house this Christmas, the house was decorated with a natural and *living* theme. It included dried wheat and several taxidermy animals, including two mischievous cats. We would like to extend special thanks to those who helped make the décor for the 2012 Hubbard House Christmas a sparkling success: Perry Dauer, Bob Wendt, Jeff Dauer, Virginia Shellum, Rick Leverson, Steven and Bonnie Ladd. Thank you for



Connor Oldenburg portrayed Jay Hubbard on opening weekend.

sharing with us those decorations and items that captured the ambience of Christmas in the early 1900s.

The Hubbard House will open for the summer season on May 4 with the annual Victorian Tea Party. Volunteers are now being recruited for spring Hubbard House school tours. If you are interested, please complete a volunteer application found at bechshistory.com or at the Heritage Center.

Marian Anderson Fine Art Prints



As a living legacy, Marian Anderson has donated her entire inventory of fine art prints to the Blue Earth County Historical Society; **100% of all print sales benefits BECHS**. Fine art prints are available to view and purchase at the Heritage Center Book & Gift Shop and online at www.mariananderson.com.

Marian's paintings are not just an illustrated subject but, within each, a story is told. With each brush stroke a breath of life sets her art apart. As you immerse yourself in the depths of her painting, you will see the beauty of a lifetime of experience. The subjects featured in Marian's

work include Canine, Native American, Nostalgia, Diversity & Landscape, Wildlife and Mountain Men.

You can help BECHS raise funds by purchasing Marian Anderson Art for yourself or as a gift.

Pictured here: *Reflections of Days Gone By*, third and final in the Historic House series, available in artist proof prints (\$150) main edition prints (\$75) and note cards.

Collections and Exhibits...

Shelley Harrison, Archives Manager

The weather outside is frigid, so come in to the Heritage Center and celebrate some new exhibits and get one last look at others. The Heritage Center hallways are filled with displays of all types: from art to artifacts to a traveling exhibit. Let me take you on a tour.

We begin with Marian Anderson art. Marian's fine art prints are not just an illustrated subject, but within each, she tells a story. The hallways showcase her paintings that serve as a tribute to the people and places from the area.

One display case features the Victorian era and beckons you to visit the Hubbard House on a summer day. Gaze at the hats, accessories, camera and photographs of a by-gone era. Now is your last chance to view the 1920 Winter Carnival display case featuring photographs from the one-time event.



Check out the oversized 1857 map of Blue Earth County. This is a great way to learn more about Blue Earth County's past without opening a book.

Just down the stairs you'll find the new exhibit that explores the 40-year anniversary of the Mahkato Wacipi. This visual display highlights the history of this annual event held to honor the 38 Dakota Warriors who were executed in 1862.

Next to the big safe is the camera display. Here's one last chance to see the popular Camera Exhibit, which was put together in connection with the museum's outstanding exhibition of local journalist and photographer, John Cross in 2009. It's all about cameras. Our earliest photograph is one of Minneopa Falls taken in the late 1850's. One of our oldest camera is a 1902 Eastman Kodak which

belonged to Bert Burns. The exhibit has been popular, but it's time for a change. The camera display will now re-emerge as a traveling exhibit.

At the end of the hall, check out the Front Street shared case – it gives us a great opportunity to share those items we received from the public about Front Street and were unable to be included in *Remembering Front Street*. Right now we're featuring some of the restaurants on Front Street. What fun memories and fascinating history.

Around the corner is the traveling exhibit *Commemorating Controversy*. This exhibit is about how the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 shaped, challenged and changed the lives of those living in our county 150 years ago. The exhibit will be on display through March 2013. Continuing down the hallway are Paul Hadley's boat and ship models. These are a collection of models ranges from reproductions of the USS Hartford, that dared to sail the ocean a 100 years ago, to steamboats which travelled up the Minnesota and Blue Earth Rivers. Each model chronicles different eras in man's quest to travel the river or sea.

Speaking of models, there is a model of Seppman Mill created by the Minnesota Valley Gem and Mineral Club on display. All of the materials used to create the mill are a form of gem or mineral stones. Seppman Mill will celebrate a milestone in 2014, its 150th anniversary.

Across the hallway, in the Heritage Center Art Gallery check out a stunning collection of 30 photographs by local photographer Terri DeGezelle. Her exhibit "Sojourner of Gratitude" looks at nature in a whole new light. Photography is one of the keystones of art. It is the medium we probably most associate with the 20th century and plays a dominant role in capturing history. The exhibition runs through the end of March 2013.

So stop by and take some time to stroll down the hallways and see the history that surrounds you. BECHS offers something for everyone!

YOUNG HISTORIANS



Hi, my name is Aidan Oldenburg and I'm eleven years old, and this will be my fourth year in Young Historians. This year for Young Historians we have been learning about the 1900s and using a timeline to track the things we learn about each month by decade. We also keep our own journals about things we find important from each time period, creating our own personal views about history.

Every month at the end of each Young Historians session we take a little notecard and write down a few things we have learned. For our meeting on the topic of the 1920s, we learned about the build-up to the stock market crash, how the nation recovered from WWI and prohibition. In our studies of the 1930s, we learned that the Ritz Cracker Company and Velveeta Cheese Company were first started in the 1930s and how they remain very popular even today. Something else from the 1930s is that the famous book called "The Hobbit" was first published in 1937.

We've had lots of fun learning all about history (and having snack time), and we never know what we'll learn at our next meeting. This will be the first year that our group covers more modern history, such as the 1990s.



Young Historians will always welcome anybody who wants to learn more about history.

Young Historians meets monthly on the 2nd Saturday from 10 a.m. to Noon.

Upcoming workshops:

February - 1950s

March 9 - 1960-1970s

April 13 - 1980s-1990s

Pre-registration required to attend the free hands-on history youth workshops. Contact Heather for more information.

HERITAGE CENTER ART GALLERY FEATURED ARTIST

Terri DeGezelle: *Sojourner of Gratitude* January - March 2013



Author and photographer, Terri DeGezelle has more than 60 children's non-fiction titles published as well as 100 magazine articles and several photos in national publications. She continually strives to blend her two art forms of writing and photography. Terri is a presenter at Young Writers' and Young Artists' Conferences around the Upper Midwest. She enjoys doing school visits and inspiring students to follow their dreams while explaining a day in the life of an artist. She recently won The Shabo Award for Children's Picture Book Writers. This award is to help the writer develop "nearly there" manuscripts into publishable pieces. In Terri's perfect world, she is reading, writing, spending time with her adult children, playing with her grandchildren and photographing the world around her.

Pictured here: "Yellow Road". Front cover: "Tree"

Artist's Reception, Thursday, February 21 @ 6 p.m.

Next Featured Artist: Donna Webb - Nature Photography (April - July)



Fingerprints and Footnotes

Fingerprints and Footnotes had a great 2012 with a lively spring and an exciting summer. In November we took a behind-the-scenes tour of the *Remembering Front Street*



Shelley leads group through new exhibit.

exhibit and other exhibits that visitors see every day. It was in December that we invited Curtis Dahlin to present his book *The*

Dakota Uprising: A Pictorial History. What a great discussion we had on one of our area's most significant topics. And we started 2013 off on the right foot with a stroll down Front Street with Dave Engen and John Cross when they discussed their fabulous new book, *The Wagon Wheel Project*.

As always the meetings are entertaining as well as educational, and a delightful time is had by all. Newcomers are always welcome. If you have ideas for discussion topics or an interest in presenting a topic, please let Shelley know.

Future Meetings

February 5

Aftermath: The effects of the U.S.-Dakota War in the Blue Earth County area

March 5

No meeting. But please join us at the BECHS Annual Meeting for a presentation on "Maud Hart Lovelace's Front Street"

April 2

Clues in the 1940 Census

May 7

Front Street Walking Tour

Footnote in History: January 10, 1913

P.J. Hawley and John McCloskey sawed their way out of the Blue Earth County Jail! The bars in their cells were sawed through, but how the two escaped the premises puzzled the sheriff and his deputy. It seems they would have had to move a heavy steel door between their cells and the Sheriff's office. The door was locked by the Sheriff that night and was locked the next morning leaving no sign of the escape. It was reported in the newspaper that "neither of the escaped prisoners ever indicated in any way that such an idea as breaking jail had occurred to them". Both Hawley and McCloskey were in jail on felony charges. With blood hounds on their trail, and the Sheriff offering a reward of \$25.00 each for capture, freedom was short-lived. P. J. Hawley was arrested in St. Cloud just four days later and brought back to Mankato. John McCloskey returned to Mankato on January 18, eight days after his escape and was soon arrested. An interesting twist, they were both charged with grand larceny for theft relating to their escape, and they were transported to the State Prison together to serve out their sentence.



THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO THE

2013 Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 3, 2013 @ 2:00 p.m.

BECHS Heritage Center

415 Cherry Street, Mankato

**Member's business meeting followed by
"Maud Hart Lovelace's Front Street"
presented by Julie Schrader and Jessica Potter.**

Museum opens at 1 p.m. to visit "Remembering Front Street" exhibit and behind-the-scenes Heritage Center tours.

Please RSVP to 507-345-5566 or bechsms@hickorytech.net by March 1

Preserve Our Past, Protect Our Future

“I Cannot Hang Men for Votes”

Abraham Lincoln’s Moral Dilemma

By Bryce O. Stenzel

Abraham Lincoln remains the best known, but perhaps least understood American president. He was a man of contradictions. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the complexity of Lincoln’s decision-making process regarding the fate of the 303 Dakota warriors sentenced to death for their participation in the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. At the time, Lincoln was severely criticized by many newspaper editors, leading politicians and even private citizens for the leniency he exercised in pardoning 265 of the warriors; these Minnesotans wanted vengeance against *all* the Dakota for the actions of a few, which resulted in the killing of 400-800 white settlers on the Minnesota River valley frontier. On the other hand, many modern, historical revisionists (both Dakota and Euro-American) have severely criticized Lincoln for the opposite reason—he should have not allowed *any* of the Dakota warriors to be killed (the remaining 38 were hanged in the nation’s largest mass-execution on December 26, 1862, at Mankato). These warriors were only defending their homes, families and cultural practices from destruction by a selfish group of white government agents, traders and settlers intent on stealing Dakota land for themselves. Neither of these extreme points of view offers objective, reasoned and truthful insights into either Lincoln’s thinking process or this significant, but seldom told chapter of Lincoln’s career as president. For that, a more balanced historical interpretation is required.

1862 was the most trying year of Lincoln’s presidency, both personally and politically. On February 20, eleven-year-old Willie Lincoln died of typhoid fever, leaving both his parents devastated with grief. General John Pope replaced General George McClellan as Commander of the Army of the Potomac, after he [McClellan] failed to capture the Confederate capital of Richmond in the ill-fated “Peninsula Campaign.” Arrogant and incompetent, Pope attacked Confederate forces under General Robert E. Lee and suffered a humiliating defeat at the Battle of Second Bull Run. Lincoln returned McClellan to command just in time for him to oversee the single bloodiest day of the Civil War—the Battle of Antietam. When news of the outbreak of hostilities in Minnesota reached him in Washington, Lincoln sent Pope west to lead efforts in putting down a full-scale Dakota Indian uprising against white settlers on the Minnesota River valley frontier. It was General Pope who conceived the decision to try the Dakota prisoners by military commission, as a means of restoring his tarnished military career, by proving himself to be an “Indian fighter.” If that weren’t enough, Lincoln was in the process of drafting his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation and weighing the consequences of it becoming the cornerstone of the Union’s war effort. It would have been easy, even understandable, for Lincoln to have been so overwhelmed by all the pressures he faced that he simply ignored his own conscious decision not to hang men for votes. To his credit, he did not.¹

Lincoln’s first indication of the trouble brewing in Minnesota came to him by way of a telegraph message, sent by Minnesota Governor, Alexander Ramsey to the War Department on August 26:

SAINT PAUL, MINN., August 26, 1862—7 p.m.

Hon. E. M. STANTON:

When the Indian outbreak was first known here, on the 20th instant, I at once called upon the people everywhere to mount horses and with what arms they had to march to the scene of difficulty. Hundreds have done so, and so they should be mustered as well as can be at once, and I would suggest Maj. Howard Stansbury, a retired officer of the Regular Army, resident here for that purpose, and report to me.

ALEX. RAMSEY.

A flurry of telegraph messages followed, confirming the fact that white settlers were being killed on the Minnesota River valley frontier:

SAINT PAUL, MINN., August 26, 1862—10 p.m.

President LINCOLN:

With the concurrence of Commissioner Dole I have telegraphed the Secretary of War for an extension of one month of drafting, &c. [sic] The Indian outbreak has come upon us suddenly. Half the population of the state are fugitives. It is absolutely impossible that we should proceed. The Secretary of War denies our request. I appeal to you, and ask for an immediate answer. No one nowhere can conceive

the panic in the State.
ALEX. RAMSEY,
Governor of Minnesota.

SAINT PAUL, MINN., August 27, 1862—10:30
a.m.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:

We are in the midst of a most terrible and exciting
Indian war. Thus far the massacre of innocent white
settlers has been fearful. A wild panic prevails in
nearly one-half of the State. All are rushing to the
frontier to defend settlers.

M. S. WILKINSON.

W.P. DOLE.

JNO. G. NICOLAY

EXECUTIVE MANSION, August 27, 1862.

Governor RAMSEY, Saint Paul, Minn.:

Yours received. Attend to the Indians. If the draft
cannot proceed of course it will not proceed.
Necessity knows no law. The Government cannot
extend the time.

LINCOLN

John Hay:

SAINT PAUL, MINN., August 27, 1862.

Hon. E. M. STANTON:

The Indian war grows more extensive. The Sioux,
numbering perhaps 2,000 warriors, are striking
along a line of scattered frontier settlements of 200
miles, having already massacred several hundred
whites, and the settlers of the whole border are in a
panic and flight, leaving their harvest to waste in the
field, as I myself seen even in neighborhoods where
there is no danger. The Chippewas, a thousand
warriors strong, are turbulent and threatening and
the Winnebagoes are suspected of hostile intent.
The Governor is sending all available forces to the
protection of the frontier, and organizing the militia,
regular and irregular, to fight and restore
confidence. As against the Sioux it must be a war of
extermination. The Governor needs six field pieces
complete with horse equipment and fixed
ammunition; six 12-pounder mountain howitzers;
arms, accoutrements, and horse equipment for 1,200
cavalry; 5,000 or 6,000 guns, with 500,000
cartridges to suit; medical stores for three regiments
and blankets for 3,000 men. He earnestly asks that
you send these, or so much thereof as possible. I am
satisfied that I state facts correctly. Colonel Aldrick
is just in from the Sioux country and confirms the

worst news.

JNO. G. NICOLAY.²

Lincoln was aided in verifying the accuracy of these
telegraph messages, due to a fortunate happenstance:
just prior to the outbreak of hostilities in Minnesota on
August 17, 1862, when five settlers were killed in
Acton Township, Meeker County, Lincoln had
dispatched his personal secretary, John Nicolay to
Minnesota. He was sent there to assist in negotiating a
new peace treaty with Ojibway chief and famed orator,
Hole-In-The-Day. There had been many rumors
circulating that the Ojibway were on the verge of going
on the warpath; it must have come as quite a shock to
realize that a faction of the Dakota, under the leadership
of Chief Little Crow, had attacked white settlements
instead.³ As revealed by his telegraphed replies,
Lincoln's immediate response to Ramsey's pleas for
federal troops to put down the uprising was that he had
none to spare. Lincoln, however, at this juncture made
two crucial decisions that were to have long-lasting
consequences. First, Lincoln issued Ramsey the
proverbial "blank check" by stating, "attend to the
Indians." Ramsey did so by appointing former
Governor, Henry H. Sibley to lead the military
expedition against the Dakota. Second, in the aftermath
of the Second Bull Run debacle, Lincoln ordered that
General Pope oversee the entire military operation in
putting down the Indian uprising. It was a way for
Lincoln to remove a military officer who had proved
troublesome on many occasions without actually firing
him.

Both decisions would come back to haunt Lincoln;
because Pope, Ramsey and Sibley all believed that
vigorous punishment of the Dakota was entirely
appropriate. For General Pope, punishment was a means
to redeem himself. Being an "Indian fighter," was
popular with the masses. For Governor Ramsey, harsh
treatment of the Dakota paved the way for ultimate
removal of the entire tribe from the state, guaranteeing
future political success of the Republican Party from a
grateful populace. For Colonel Sibley, punishment of
the Dakota was personal. He had enjoyed a long,
profitable association with these Indians as a fur trader;
but he saw the war as a betrayal. It was Pope who
ordered Sibley to arrest as many of the Dakota as he
could, when they surrendered their white captives
(mostly women and children) at Camp Release on
September 26. It was also Pope who conceived the idea
of the sham military trials, which resulted in as many as
42 cases being tried in a single day. Altogether, 393

trials were conducted, 323 Dakota warriors were convicted and 303 were sentenced to be executed. Word of that decision reached Lincoln's desk on November 7. He was "disturbed" by Pope's talk of hanging the Indians: it was a major point of discussion at a cabinet meeting Lincoln held that day, a testament to the importance Lincoln placed on what was happening in far-off Minnesota. Lincoln replied to Pope, ordering him to suspend any plans for an execution without his [Lincoln's] sanction. No doubt, Lincoln had been influenced by a face-to-face conversation he had earlier (late September) with Episcopal Bishop Henry Whipple of Minnesota. Whipple pleaded with Lincoln to reform the rampant corruption found in the Indian System—corruption that Whipple believed was the root cause of the Indians' discontent and rebellion, rather than simply because they were "savages," the prevailing attitude among many whites. Whipple also understood from his own frontier upbringing and brief military service in the Black Hawk War of 1832, that due to this same prejudice, white treatment of Indians was often grossly unfair. General Pope's use of the Dakota military trials to coerce convictions resulting in death sentences were just one of many examples of this trend.

Whatever the reasons, Lincoln's decision to suspend the executions was extraordinary, especially when viewed in their proper historical context. Lincoln was swimming against the current of popular sentiment demanding retribution, at a time when he could least afford to lose Minnesota's loyal political support. Minnesota had been the first state to offer its troops in defense of the Union. 1862 was a non-presidential election year. In order for the Lincoln Administration's political agenda to move forward (particularly its brand-new policy to emancipate the slaves), there had to be either a Republican majority in Congress or at least a viable coalition of Republicans and War-Democrats. Even as Lincoln telegraphed Pope to suspend the executions without his sanction, and later (November 7) ordered him [Pope] to provide a "full and complete record of their [condemned prisoners'] convictions," along with a "careful statement indicating the more guilty and influential of the culprits,"⁴ Lincoln must have known he was risking a great deal for the sake of a people who had no power or inclination to reward him in return. Lincoln was playing with fire, and he knew it. He was too shrewd a politician not to. Why, then, did Lincoln intervene when he didn't have to? All he would have had to do was sign the death order, based on the findings of the military commission. The work was already done. In fact, this is what Pope, Ramsey and

Sibley expected Lincoln to do. As far as they were concerned, the execution was a done deal. It only required Lincoln's signature as a legal formality; because the work of the military commission fell under Lincoln's jurisdiction as Commander-in-Chief.

The answer lies in Lincoln's humanity, as well as in his determination to make policy, rather than to be dictated by someone else's social agenda. Lincoln's own explanation for his intervention, seen by many Minnesotans as unnecessary interference, was: "I cannot hang men for votes." Aided by his own legal training, Lincoln struck a delicate balance between those who demanded retribution and those who advocated clemency. Lincoln realized that to stop the executions entirely was impossible; however, if he could establish a more stringent criteria needed to secure a death sentence, he would be able to exercise his legendary pardoning power, already being used to save the lives of many soldiers fighting in the Civil War.

Lincoln appointed a legal team to review each and every conviction, using murder and rape as the only criteria worthy of meriting the death sentence. Of the 303 Indians sentenced to death, only two fit the criteria. Knowing full well that executing only two of the prisoners would never satisfy those clamoring for vengeance, Lincoln then determined to draw the line by executing those who had participated in "massacres," as opposed to those who had simply participated in "battles." There were 40 men who fit this description. One of these (Godfrey) had already been recommended by the military commission for clemency, because he had been instrumental in turning states evidence against several of the other prisoners.

On December 6, 1862, Lincoln finally issued his order of execution for 39 of the original 303 Dakota warriors sentenced to death. The execution was to take place on December 19, but due to a shortage of rope, and the logistics associated with building such a large scaffold, the execution had to be postponed to the 26.⁵ On Christmas night, December 25, Colonel Stephen Miller, in charge of protecting the prisoners until the execution could take place, received an order from President Lincoln postponing the execution of Ta-ti-mima (David Faribault). Originally, he had been convicted of murder as well as the capture of women and children, but there was strong doubt about his guilt of murder, a suspicion strengthened by new evidence.⁶ The next day, December 26, 1862, the 38 remaining, condemned prisoners mounted the steps to the scaffold, singing their death song. Hoods were placed over their heads, and nooses were placed around their necks. The warriors,

their arms bound with cords, managed to grasp hands, just before the rope was cut, sending them plunging to their deaths, simultaneously.⁷ It was a moment in time many people would never forget, or (in the case of the historical revisionists) forgive.

Far from being the “Great Executioner,” as some modern historical revisionists have unfairly labeled him, President Abraham Lincoln did what he could, under very trying circumstances, to pardon as many of the Dakota warriors as possible (265), right up to the night before the execution. As Lincoln himself put it: “Anxious to not act with so much clemency as to encourage another outbreak, on one hand, nor with so much severity as to be real cruelty on the other, I ordered a careful examination of the records of the trials to be made...”⁸ It was a delicate balancing act that Lincoln undertook to satisfy both political realities and humanitarian concerns. As in so many other instances of his leadership, Lincoln proved he was up to the challenge. He worked through his moral dilemma over the fate of the Dakota warriors sentenced to death (a situation Lincoln himself did not create) through his mastery of the art of compromise.

A final question on this subject worth noting is why Mankato was chosen to be the site of the Dakota hanging? Several factors played a key role, not the least of which was geographic size and location. Mankato was the largest community left intact between the raw Minnesota River valley frontier, where the fighting had taken place, and St. Paul. It’s strategic, central location, at the great bend of the Minnesota River, provided a major source of transportation, allowing badly needed supplies to be shipped to the refugees that flocked in from outlying communities such as New Ulm, as well as isolated farms. The 265 Dakota prisoners Lincoln pardoned were deported from Minnesota aboard the steamboat *Favorite* that docked in Mankato. It was cheaper to transport the prisoners by water than overland, so this was the preferred method of deportation. The same was true for the Winnebago, a tribe that had not participated in the fighting. However, the farmland on the tribe’s reservation in eastern Blue Earth and western Waseca counties was considered by many whites as too good for Indians to possess. In 1863, the Winnebago reservation was dissolved, and these Indians were deported from Minnesota aboard a steamboat, the same way the Dakota prisoners had been. Mankato was the home of United States Senator, Morton Wilkinson, who championed harsh punishment for the Dakota, as well as the dissolution of the Winnebago Reservation. He may have even considered

it an “honor” to have the hanging take place in his adopted hometown. Lastly, Mankato provided the infrastructure necessary for the 1,400 soldiers sent to maintain order (martial law was declared in Mankato), hundreds of civilians that flocked in to witness the spectacle of a mass-hanging and the Indian prisoners themselves. Originally, an army encampment dubbed “Camp Lincoln” was constructed to house the 303 prisoners awaiting execution. On December 4, 1862, two days before President Lincoln issued his execution order for only 39 prisoners, an armed mob, composed of citizens of Mankato and nearby South Bend tried to lynch the prisoners. They were stopped by Colonel Stephen Miller and his troops. For security reasons, all the prisoners were moved to a log structure in Mankato, adjacent to the execution site, at Front and Main Streets. Once there, the 39 prisoners condemned to death were separated from the others, and remained so until they were marched to the gallows on the morning of the 26.⁹

Sources:

¹Bryce O. Stenzel, *Back Cover*, “...We Cannot Escape History...” *Abraham Lincoln’s Trials by Fire*, (Mankato, Minnesota: Minnesota Heritage Publishing, 2012).

²Ibid., 8-10.

³Ibid., 10.

⁴Ibid., 50.

⁵Ibid., 24.

⁶Ibid., 25.

⁷Kenneth Carley, *The Sioux Uprising of 1862*, (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1976), 73.

⁸Stenzel, “...We Cannot Escape History...”, 24.

⁹Carley, *The Sioux Uprising of 1862*, 70 & 72

Bryce Stenzel is a native of Mankato. He holds a B.A. in Education and M.A. in History. His most recent book, “...We Cannot Escape History...” Abraham Lincoln’s Trials by Fire, was published in 2012. It may be purchased in the BECHS gift shop, or by ordering online at www.mnheritage.com. The book, written in dramatic play form, details President Abraham Lincoln’s personal involvement in the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862; specifically, how Lincoln reached his final decision to pardon 265 of the original 303 Dakota warriors tried, convicted and sentenced to death for their participation. The remaining 38 were hanged at Mankato on December 26, 1862, in the nation’s largest mass-execution. For a complete list of Mr. Stenzel’s books, please visit www.mnheritage.com.

BECHS Donations October - December 2012

Anderson, Mavis and Wayne
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Baxter, Kathleen

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Bowen, Patrick

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Buscher, Robert and Marilyn

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Norman, Beth

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Olson, Steve - MinnStar Bank N.A.

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Steil, William

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Votca, John and Phyllis

Wallace, Brian

Ward, Howard and Mary

Werner, Marnie

Wilmes, Ken and Linda

Zellmer, Randy

Zimmer, Beth

SPECIAL GIFTS

*In Honor of the Marriage of Emily
Green & Daniel Dinsmore*

Anzures, Paula

In Honor of Jack Madsen

Keir, Grace and Richard

MEMORIALS

*In Memory of Hildegard Denn
Frederick, Michael*

In Memory of Marcel (Sal)

Frederick

McLaughlin, Tom and Theresa

In Memory of William Fields

Lamont, Earl and Sally

In Memory of Renee Forseth

Zellmer, Randy

In Memory of Eugene Linde

Lamont, Earl and Sally

IN-KIND

Brunner, Pat

Garlow, Sandi

Insty Prints of Mankato

Keir, Grace

Kramer, Boyd

Mock, Marvin

Piepho, Mark and Shirley

Red Door Creative

Snilsberg, Thomas J.

2012 Discover the Dakota Culture & Heritage Educational Series

BECHS was honored to host the Discover the Dakota educational series in 2012. The purpose of the series was to explore, understand and celebrate Dakota culture and heritage in the 150th anniversary year of the U.S.-Dakota War.

The series was well attended – over 700 people throughout the year. It was also well received. This series was funded by a Legacy Amendment grant, therefore evaluations were completed by participants at each program as part of the grant

requirements. Comments included: “excellent”, “wonderful learning experience”, “more, more, more”. The only constructive comments were in reference to having the speaker use a microphone or hopes that an unavailable speaker would be rescheduled. The series was an overall success.

Every month explored a different aspect of Dakota culture and heritage. Some of the highlights from the series included the Dakota Arts and Crafts Festival in March with seven learning stations plus Dakota food available for purchase. Maza Kute Drummers and Dancers in April entertained a crowd at Minnesota State University, Mankato Ostrander Auditorium. This enlightening program shared information about regalia, and types and meaning of dances and music. Dakota Games in June was held on the Hubbard House lawn with many game stations and a tipi for participants to explore. The National Eagle Center program in July was well attended by an all-ages audience. Angel, the bald eagle, was a huge hit. She even took time to pose for pictures after her program. In December, the *Commemorating Controversy* traveling exhibit made



its stop at the Heritage Center. The exhibit explores the complexity of the U.S.-Dakota War. Due to popular demand, the exhibit has been extended through March 2013.



In addition to the programs, the Heritage Center hosted American Indian Artisans in the Art Gallery from October through December. Artist and Historian, T. Carter, displayed her “Dakota 38: A Quilted Dance Shawl” and spoke on December 20 about her journey to create this fabric art piece. 2012 was also the anniversary of the Mahkato Wacipi, and BECHS celebrated that milestone with an exhibit about the history of the powwow. This exhibit will be a permanent part of the Heritage Center exhibits. In addition, Museum exhibits were enhanced with Dakota objects never before displayed including a buffalo headdress and a beaded buckskin dress.

BECHS also participated in the memorial event on December 26, 2012. BECHS staff and board members were among the crowd of over 500 people to celebrate Dakota culture, remember the past and dedicate the new “Dakota 38” memorial.

Thank you to all who attended the series, assisted with the programs in one way or another and in the end supported the work of the Blue Earth County Historical Society. Even though the sesquicentennial is over, we hope you will continue to explore, discover and experience Dakota culture and heritage.



Every object has a story...

The three-dimensional artifacts in BECHS's permanent collection consist of over 31,000 objects, preserving the broadest culture presentation of Blue Earth County history. The collection has evolved to reflect, document and illustrate the history and development of Blue Earth County's past. Most of the objects in our collection were donated by individuals and families. These are people who want to make sure Blue Earth County's story, and their own are never forgotten. Please contact the Archives Manager if you would like to make a donation.

Here is a glimpse into our collections.

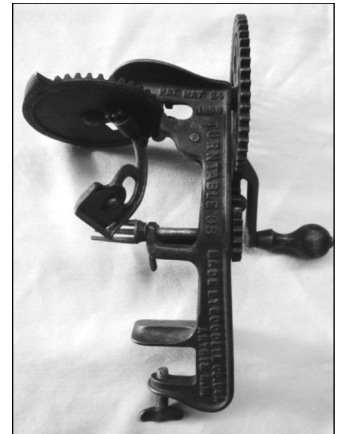


Brandt Change Machine, 1906, First National Bank of Good Thunder, MN

This is a mechanical change maker. You would fill the front slots with pennies, dimes, nickels, quarters, and half dollars. Then you would press the desired change amount, such as \$1.35, and the machine would automatically dispense the correct combination of coins. This was used in the First National Bank of Good Thunder which was a branch of The Lake Crystal National Bank and in 1992 the company name was changed to MinnStar Bank National Association. The bank closed its doors October 17, 2012.

Turntable Peeler for Apples and Other Fruit, 1898, made by the Goodell Company

This cast iron peeler has a hand-driven gear that rotates two spur gears to turn the fork holding the apple or other fruit. These popular kitchen tools could be found in most households in the 18th and 19th century when apples were a winter staple for both food and drink. Apples needed to be processed for winter storage, and paring, coring and cutting enough apples for winter was difficult and time consuming. This belonged to the Wilbert Kramer family from Good Thunder.



Both of these items represent the people and places of Good Thunder, MN. If you are interested in donating a piece of Front Street or Blue Earth County history, please contact Shelley Harrison, Archives Manager.

WISH LIST

Pioneer Cabin Items for kids to play with: plush hen (similar to animal puppets in exhibit), nest and eggs, water pump and wooden bucket, and a butter churn. Items or financial support to purchase toys or reproduction items.

Used Ink Cartridges to be recycled for Office Max store credit to offset office supply expense.

Flat Panel Computer Monitors (working order)

Laser Printer (used, working order)

Exterior Signage need funds to develop a boulevard sign for the Heritage Center.

Since the last issue, the following wish list items have been donated: office chairs, microwave, lights for the Kiwanis Holiday Lights tree and computer monitors. Thank you!

If you have an item to donate, please drop off at the Heritage Center during business hours. If you are interested in fully or partially supporting one of these projects, please indicate your wishes on your check.

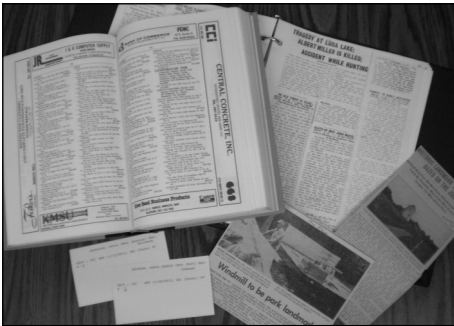
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Research Center

Heather Harren, Archives Assistant

It is the start to another year. Make sure that on your first stop to the Research Center this year you fill out the Research Room Registration form. The form has been updated and is on the sign-in table right inside the Research Center door. While you are at the table, please sign in on the clipboard. This will help keep track of accurate numbers for the number of people that visit each year. Did you know that in 2012 over 800 people used the Research Center; either in person, via email, mail or phone?

For the people who have not visited the Research Center in a while, or have never visited before, here



are some of the resources available in the room for people to utilize in their research. For the past 25 years, we have had volunteers clipping

newspapers for obituaries, social notes and for our vertical files. The obituaries and social notes are noted on index cards in our card catalog system and are very easy to locate. The clippings that have gone into our vertical files are sorted between subject and biography files and have then been filed. We have a list for the subject folders that researchers can use to find the topic they are looking for, and the biography file is in alphabetical order. We also have all the Blue Earth County newspapers on microfilm to locate articles dating back to 1859 and through 2009, when the Minnesota Historical Society stopped microfilming newspapers.

Another resource in the Research Center are the Polk City Directories from 1871 through 2000. These are a great resource because they tell you where people lived and their occupation. This is just the beginning of where your research can take you in the Research Center. Stop by soon and see what treasures you can discover for yourself.

As an update, we currently have 370 “Fans” on Facebook! Let’s continue this trend and get 500 “Fans” by the end of 2013!

BECHS Board of Trustees Applications Now Being Accepted

The BECHS Board of Trustees is the governing body of the member-supported non-profit organization. Board terms begin in March 2013 and run until March 2015. The Board is composed of 12 to 20 members with a variety of backgrounds and expertise. In particular, the Board is looking for individuals strong in non-profit governance, fundraising and development, financial management, and/or human resources. For an application, please visit www.bechshistory.com or contact Jessica at bechs@hickorytech.net.

BECHS Membership

October - December 2012

New Members

Benjamin Carey
Steve Dreyer
Candace Foster
Susan Graham
Barb Haayer
Cathy Hanson
Mark and Tracy Harvey
Jim Hofflander
Boyd H. Kramer
Rochelle Major
Roger Noyes
Artur and Magdalena Pietka
Todd, Amy and Kofi Wing
Shirley Zimprich

Renewing Business Members

Brennan Companies
Morgan Creek Vineyards
Hoehn Drainage & Excavating, LLC
Q Computers
Red Door Creative

***To our new and renewing members,
THANK YOU for your continued support.***



Best wishes and many HUZZAHS to you throughout this new year. The Mankato Baltics had a wonderful 2012 season finishing with a 16 and 3 record. We traveled to

Columbia Heights, Shakopee, Rochester, Afton, La Crescent and Arlington. We also played in the annual "Snow Ball Match" at the Arli-dazzle in Arlington on December 1, but there was no snow! After battling 12 innings in a very tight match, we lost 3-2, but greatly respect the Greys and tip our hats to them. It is a pleasure to share the field with the ballists from other clubs and we appreciate the camaraderie.

The Mankato Baltics take great pride in playing vintage base ball to entertain and educate cranks about the gentleman's game and the 1860s rules. We have a great opportunity to learn more and meet other vintage ballists from other states at the 2013 Vintage Base Ball Association convention, March 8-10 in Rochester, MN! The program includes a Make A Base Ball Workshop, a speaker who is the premier expert in Minnesota baseball history, a silent auction and much more. We will also play a match or two at the "bubble", which is an indoor facility located at the Rochester Community & Technical College. We are thrilled to be at this event as we consider it as a bit of spring training before our season begins!

We open our season with our annual Striker-to-the-Line event at Erlandson Park in Mankato on Saturday, April 27 by hosting the Afton Red Socks and Roosters of Olmstead County. The 2013 schedule is set, and we hope you can enjoy a match or two with us. You can find us on Facebook and on the BECHS website at www.bechshistory.com/baltics for more details. The Mankato Baltics look forward to traveling to new destinations, meeting new friends and sharing our love for the game...the way it was meant to be played! Thank you to our fans and sponsors!

Join the Fun! Join the Team! Make History Happen!

Volunteer Opportunities

Committees

Seats available on BECHS committees: Communications/Marketing, Collections Management, Development, Finance, Outreach/Programs.

Newsletter Layout and Design

Layout and design of quarterly newsletter. Knowledge of Microsoft Publisher required.

IT Support

Routine maintenance on PCs and network, including, updates, troubleshooting, etc.

Education Programs

Looking for educators (retired or still working) to assist with development of curriculum to accompany school field trips to the Hubbard House and Heritage Center Museum.

Data Entry

Entering information into museum management databases. Must be detail-oriented and accurate.

Volunteer Coordination

Assist staff with development of volunteer program as well as recruitment, orientation and coordination of BECHS volunteers.

Audio/Visual

Assist with conversion and editing of audio and video files from Discover the Dakota series. Creation of Society promotional videos.

Writer and Editors

Looking for writers and researchers for regular article series and BECHS publications. Also, looking for individuals strong in editing and proofreading.

To volunteer, stop by the Heritage Center or go online at bechshistory.com to complete a volunteer application.

Around Blue Earth County



Did you see Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus in Rapidan? RHS was honored to host the jolly old soul and his kind-hearted wife to the depot December 7.

Little's Tree Farm generously donated a tree to grace the corner of the depot. Thanks to the muscular elf with the big truck that cut down and delivered the tree to the depot and to the RHS elves that spent a Sunday afternoon decorating the tree and depot. The outside lights on the ramp railing outlined a magical walkway into the depot for the anticipated meeting with Santa!

Each visitor had their picture taken with Santa and received an old-fashioned treat bag of an apple, peanuts and candy. A magical snowfall highlighted the evening and the children, after renewing their energy with hot cocoa and a cookie, frolicked happily in the light snow covering – vainly trying to make a snowman. Meanwhile, the parents were patiently waiting for Santa's picture to print and enjoyed a cup of Wassail and fellowship in the Rapidan Town Hall.

Remember *your* meetings with Santa? Did you hesitate to sit on his lap or hop eagerly on his knee? What did you ask for? Was it a Hill Coaster, Sno-King Sled, pine skis, black hockey skates, or perhaps a velocipede (1954 specials at Bruske Hardware Store in Good Thunder - \$10.95 for 10", \$12.45 for 12", \$13.95 for 16"). Or perhaps a wish for a swell Schwinn Spitfire Bicycle like the one in Bruske's window for \$46.95. For the dainty feminine visitors perhaps it was for white figure skates, a jewel box or a glass relish dish to start or add to a hope chest.

The Christmas programs at the school were always very well attended. The younger grades put on a play, Christmas carols and recitations. At the end of the program Santa Claus would make his entrance, boisterously making his way through the audience to the delight of young and old. Special gifts might be handed out and every child received a bag of nuts and candy with an apple or orange. A magical evening indeed!

The Depot Museum is closed for the season, but we look forward to seeing you in 2013, opening with a Memorial Day program on May 27.



Madison Lake Area Historical Society 2012 Happenings

Our 30th Anniversary Year was celebrated with fun monthly events.

January – Jerry Schaefer presented where and how wild rice is grown.

February – Mary Buschkowsky discussed the Rural Electrification Association (REA) and what electricity meant to farmers when it arrived.

March – Peter Blethen, a surveyor with Bolton and Menk Surveyors, illustrated surveying equipment.

April – Jim Cervin talked about the history of communications from the postage stamp to the telephone.

May – Corrine Sprague told about Nicollet and Blue Earth County's poor farms.

June – Visit to Don and Jim Nelson's farm to tour their house and a shed filled with toy tractors and various other items of their large collection.

July – Larry Kortuem gave a tour of antique vehicles stored at the Hubbard House Carriage House. This month members also participated in Paddlefish Days and the Blue Earth County Fair.

August – Potluck at the Greg and Dorothy Wolff garage on their farm with Lonesome Ron's cowboy songs.

September – Larry Kortuem gave a presentation on the Dakota Conflict and gave a tour in the area known as Marysburg.

October – Mike Peters displayed equipment from Condux International and discussed electricity.

November – Larry Kortuem told us how settlers traveled West using oxen, mules and horses.

December – Christmas Potluck was enjoyed by about forty-five people in Scheid Hall.

Looking ahead to 2013:

January 2, Twin Cities Artists to discuss painting

February 6, Kathy Lamont - immigration

March 6, John Rezmerski - pioneer cooking

April 3, Merrill Freyendell - birds

May 8, Antique Fair with Steve Alinder

June 5, Scot Ziegfried - prairie restoration

Madison Lake Area Historical Society consists of about seventy members. Meetings are at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month in Scheid Hall, All Saints Church, Madison Lake. All are welcome to join. Annual dues are \$10 to be paid in January. Current officers of the club are Mike Peters, President; Mary Buschkowsky, Secretary; Corrine Sprague, Treasurer. The Board of Directors consists of Michael Frederick, Laura Busch, Bob Lamont, and Jim Cervin.

Calendar of Events January - May 2013

JANUARY

- 24 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS update on Talk of the Town

FEBRUARY

- 5 Fingerprints and Footnotes, Aftermath:** The Effects of the U.S.-Dakota War in the Blue Earth County area by Jane Tarjeson, Heritage Center, 6 p.m.
- 9 Young Historians: 1950s,** Heritage Center, 10 a.m. *Pre-registration required.*
- 21 Third Thursday Gallery Walk: Artist Reception for Terri DeGezelle,** Heritage Center Art Gallery 5-7 p.m.
- 28 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on Talk of the Town

MARCH

- 3 BECHS 2013 Annual Meeting,** Business meeting followed by "Maud Hart Lovelace's Front Street", Heritage Center, 2 p.m., *Please RSVP by 3/1/13. See page 8.*
- 9 Young Historians: 1960s-1970s,** Heritage Center, 10 a.m. *Pre-registration required.*
- 15 Surrounded by History: Spotighting Our Agricultural Heritage,** MSU Centennial Student Union, 6 p.m. *Call to purchase or reserve your tickets today. See page 4.*



Surrounded By History 2012

- 21 Third Thursday Gallery Walk** Heritage Center Art Gallery 5-7 p.m.
- 23 Civil War Symposium: 1863 - The Turning Point,** fundraiser for the Boy in Blue Memorial Project, www.boyinblue.org

- 28 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS update on Talk of the Town

APRIL

- 2 Fingerprints and Footnotes,** Clues in the 1940 Census, Heritage Center, 6 p.m.
- 13 Young Historians: 1980s-1990s,** Heritage Center, 10 a.m. *Pre-registration required.*
- 18 Third Thursday Gallery Walk, Artist's Reception for Donna Webb,** Heritage Center Art Gallery, 5-7 p.m.
- 22 BECHS Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event,** Heritage Center, 5:30 p.m. BECHS volunteers will be honored for their time and talents with dinner and awards. *Please RSVP by 4/19/13 to 345-5566.*
- 25 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS update on Talk of the Town
- 27 Baltics Striker-to-the-Line event,** Erlandson Park, Mankato.



Victorian Tea Party 2012

MAY

- 4 Hubbard House Opening Weekend and Annual Victorian Tea Party,** R.D. Hubbard House and St. John's Episcopal Church, 1-4 p.m., *Tickets on sale 4/1/13.*
- 7 Fingerprints and Footnotes: Front Street Walking Tour,** 6 p.m. *Details to come.*

Check out www.bechshistory.com for full 2013 event calendar, details and updates.

Sign-up for our new monthly e-news to receive updates between *Historian* issues!

Follow BECHS on Facebook and Twitter.

BECHS Annual Membership

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is a member supported non-profit organization. Membership dues make up a growing portion of the annual operating budget. Thank you for your support.

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership Levels

Individual Senior (62+) \$20

Individual \$25

Household \$35

Contributor \$50

Supporter* \$100

Booster* \$250

Advocate* \$500

Benefactor* \$1000

*denotes Business Member levels

Please send this form and check to:

BECHS Membership

415 Cherry Street

Mankato, MN 56001

OR

Complete your membership form
online at www.bechshistory.com

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



Blue Earth County Historical Society

415 Cherry Street

Mankato, MN 56001

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