

The Blue Earth County

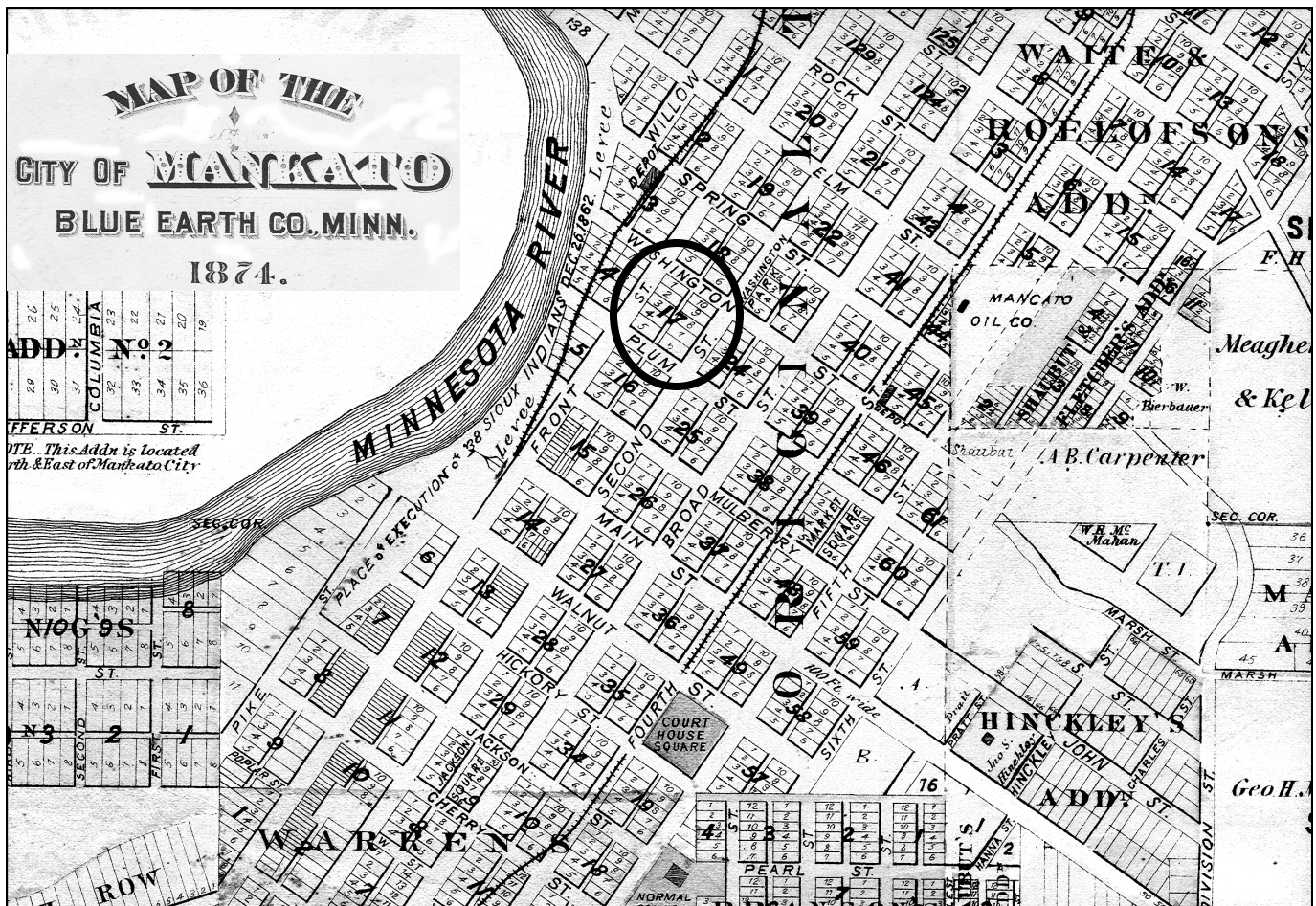
HISTORIAN



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Visit our Research Center to find information on your family or on many other topics that may be of interest to you.



The building that is the subject of "Don't Let the Research Center Scare You" is within the circled area on this map of Mankato in 1874. Reprinted from the 1874 Atlas of Blue Earth County owned by BECHS.

Our Mission: To collect, preserve, and promote the history of Blue Earth County for present and future generations.

Historian



Blue Earth County Historical Society

415 Cherry Street, Mankato, MN
507-345-5566
www.bechshistory.com

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The Blue Earth County Historian Spring 2010

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Board of Trustees

Mike Lagerquist
Board of Trustees President

To me, history has never been distant memories stored in dusty books or in the minds of the elderly to be accessed only when feeling nostalgic. To me, it has always been a living, breathing thing that surrounds us everyday.

When I was a reporter at *The Free Press*, many a slow news day would find me wandering down to the Hubbard House which is where the archives were stored at the time, “way back when”—and opening a file drawer in search of a story. Sometimes it was a building or an event that sparked my curiosity; many other times, I was looking for inspiration within the file drawers. No matter what the incentive, I was always rewarded with a story.

Now, as I begin my term as President of the BECHS Board of Trustees, not only is my curiosity still piqued but so is my enthusiasm for the organization that I’ve been a part of for so long. BECHS has an incredibly strong history of its own. The current board is a 50-50 mix of experienced, returning members and new, and we’ve got our generous corps of volunteers to help us move forward into an exciting future. The stars are in alignment.

BECHS has several projects and programs that have also come of age. With Young Historians we seek to instill in youngsters, those with no real history of their own yet, an appreciation for what has already happened, what is happening around them right now, and what will happen in the future. Today’s events are the raw materials of tomorrow’s history, after all. And someday in that future, someone may be asking them to “remember when.”

Our first two Historic Pub Crawls are working to bridge the perceived gap between yesterday and today by putting a social bow around it. So far we’ve wandered down the memory lanes of North Riverfront and Front Street as defined by the current Mankato Place, and we’ve found many people eager to take that walk with us. Some longtime residents also “remember when,” while others have always wondered or didn’t know what those areas were like “way back when.”

Finally, Dave Engen from Minnesota State University, along with BECHS, is hoping to capture in audio and photographs the memories of average folks who remember when Front Street was the heart of Mankato’s business district. It could result in a book and certainly will be featured in a future exhibit.

We invite you to come along on all of these journeys and prove to yourself that history is indeed all around us and can get your heart revving. We’re here as a resource for you and, just as importantly, YOU are a resource for us! Let’s go forward together.

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Please consider the BECHS Endowment Fund or a legacy gift, also known as a planned or estate gift. To learn more about giving opportunities, contact Jessica Potter, Executive Director at 507-345-5566

Blue Earth County Historical Society 2009 YEAR IN REVIEW



Jessica Potter
Executive Director

2009 was another active year for the Blue Earth County Historical Society. Over 28,000 people visited the Heritage Center, Hubbard House and BECHS website, participated in programs and events and used the services of the Research Center. We welcomed the addition of 60 new members to the organization. Thank you to everyone who made 2009 a success. Check out what we have been up to and what we are looking forward to in 2010.

Heritage Center

In March 2009 BECHS unveiled a new donor wall honoring the 1988 Capital Fund Campaign donors whose contributions made it possible for BECHS to move to the Heritage Center. The new donor wall also included the previous year's donors. The new donor wall, installed on the large window by the Museum, will be updated annually with the previous year's donors. Look for a new donor wall at the 2010 Annual Meeting.



R.D. Hubbard House

The 2009 season at the R.D. Hubbard House was kicked off in May with a 20-Year Tribute. We celebrated 20 years of historic restoration with the completion of the most recent exterior restoration projects. The historic house's well-known white exterior was replaced with the original buff tones of the house circa 1900. The stunning restoration/

transformation was cause enough for a celebration. A new Heritage Plaque was also installed detailing the history of the house and R.D. Hubbard.

New BECHS Publications

Three new books were published by BECHS in 2009: *Unique Mankato Stories* by Daniel Vance, *The Multifaceted Carp* by Henry Quade and (new and revised) *The Remarkable Men of Garden City* by Winston Grundmeier. Other new books available through BECHS include three new editions of the *Remembering the People*, series which include a compilation of cemetery transcriptions, obituaries and census information for people buried at Cambria Cemetery, Butternut Valley Cemetery and Lincoln Baptist and Lutheran Cemeteries. For a complete list of BECHS books, visit the Heritage Center and Hubbard House gift shops as well as online at www.bechshistory.com.

Historical Society Staff

In 2009, BECHS said goodbye to Archives Assistant Gabriela Rodriguez and hello to two new Minnesota Valley Action Council employees: Marsha Heinze in the Research Center and Glenn Stryker at the Hubbard House.

Programs and Events

Perennial favorites, Ghosts from the Past and Christmas at the Hubbard House, were continued in 2009. New favorites were added, which included the 1860s Vintage Base Ball game at the Blue Earth County Fair in August, Historic Old Town Pub Crawl in September and the Holiday Book Festival in December.

All three events will be repeated and expanded in 2010.

BECHS was proud to be a part of the Blue Earth County Fair's



Ghosts from the Past characters explored the history of J.R. Brandrup, founder of the Mankato Commercial College, and family.

Sesquicentennial program this year that included an historic walking tour and placement of historic Fair photos in our building. In October, we opened a new exhibit featuring the photography of *Mankato Free Press* photographer, John Cross. The photographs have been a welcome addition to the Heritage Center Meeting Room and are available for sale with proceeds benefiting BECHS.

BECHS and the World Wide Web

The Society's website continues to grow and evolve. In 2009, thanks to the support of the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation and the talents at Que Computers, an online shopping cart was added to the Society's website at www.bechshistory.com. Shoppers from across the United States took advantage of this new feature during the holiday season. The next phase for the shopping cart is the development of e-newsletters/updates including an electronic version of the *Historian* for members. BECHS has also become one of many nonprofit organizations in Minnesota to take advantage of the new website, www.GiveMN.org for processing online donations. Over \$2,000 was raised for BECHS in a single day in November.

Society Committees

Committee work significantly enables that staff and the Board of Trustees to accomplish the goals of the organization. New committees were created in 2009 to manage the goals for the following areas: Museum Store, Website Development and Membership. There are openings on all committees for people interested in furthering the mission and goals of the Historical Society. For more information about a specific committee, contact the staff at the Heritage Center.

What's ahead for 2010?

The Front Street Project tops the agenda for 2010. The multi-layered project includes the collection of oral and written histories about Front Street stories and memories, a book and an exhibit at the Heritage Center. 2010 will be a year of gathering and compiling the memories and stories with the book and exhibit to debut in Spring of 2011. Volunteers are needed on all layers of the project, to assist with the collection of stories, to take the time to record


your own stories, to compile information for the book and to help with the construction of the exhibit. If you or someone you know is interested in helping with The Front Street Project, contact the staff at the Heritage Center.

Mark your calendars for 2010 Events

- Hubbard House and Betsy-Tacy Society Victorian Lawn Parties on June 5th
- Cambria Eisteddfod on June 27th at Morgan Creek Vineyard
- Historic Mankato Pub Crawl (watch for details in June and September)
- 1860s Base Ball Game at The Landing in Shakopee on July 4th and Game at the Blue Earth County Fair on July 31st (players and spectators needed)
- Victorian Garden Party at the Mapleton Library on August 7th
- Rapidan Dam Centennial Celebration on August 14th
- Ghosts from the Past in October
- 10th Annual South Central MN Genealogy Expo on October 30th
- Christmas at the Hubbard House on December 5th and 6th



2009 Mankato Baltics at the Blue Earth County Fair

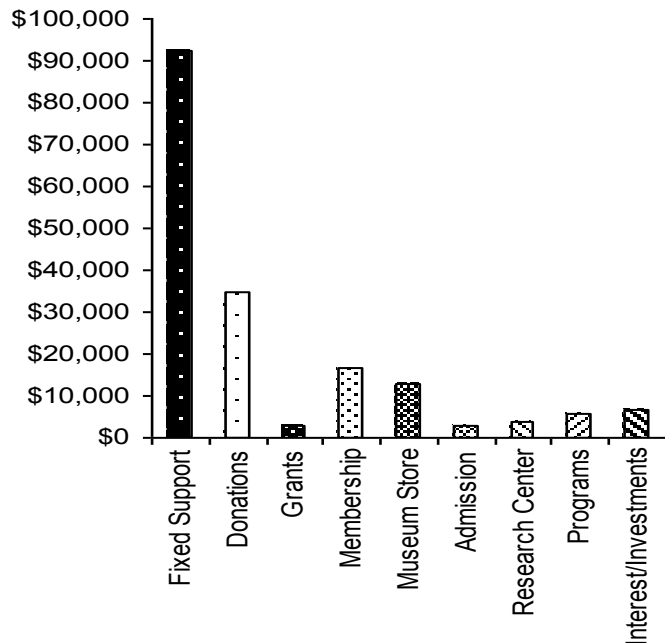


BECHS On the Air

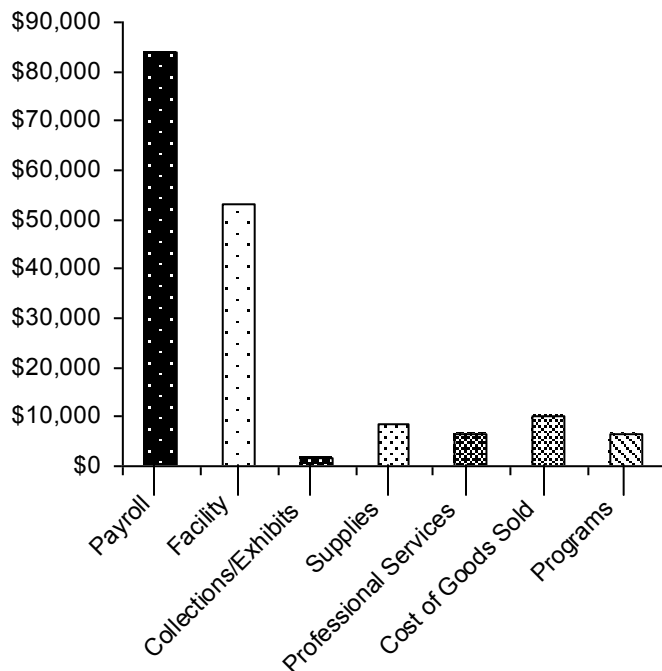
Listen to KTOE 1420 AM the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month 4:10-4:40 p.m.
BECHS update with Trish.

Blue Earth County Historical Society 2009 OPERATING REVENUE AND EXPENSES

2009 Operating Revenue



2009 Operating Expenses



The 2009 Year in Review and 2009 Operating Income and Expenses reports are from the 2009 Annual Report. Copies of the full report available at the Heritage Center or can be viewed on www.bechshistory.com.

shop.bechshistory.com

BECHS Home Store Home Customer Service My Account

Your purchase supports the programs of the Blue Earth County Historical Society

Become a Member and Receive 10% Off of Future Store Purchases

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Returning Customers: Please Log In

Email Address:

Password:

[Forgot your password?](#)

New? Please Provide Your Billing Information

Create a login profile with Blue Earth County Historical Society which allows you to shop faster,...

Search

Go

Advanced Search

Categories

- Archival (10)
- Books (51)
- Books (Categorized)-> (55)
- Gifts/Collectibles (43)
- Maps/Prints (63)
- Photographs (3)

BECHS Website Resources

Have you registered yet for the BECHS online store? We are pleased to report that some supporters of the Blue Earth County Historical Society have already done so. If you haven't, here is your invitation to join.

Registering does not mean that you have to make purchases through the online store. Instead, it will enable you to receive our e-newsletter and updates on events, store items and even sales. In the future, it will give you the option of receiving your quarterly newsletter *The Historian* electronically rather than in paper and will provide the opportunity to purchase event tickets in advance.

This is a secure site and no information will be shared with other electronic mailing lists. Please note that BECHS members have not automatically been signed up. If you should have any questions about signing up or would like help, please feel free to contact JoLynn by phone at 345-5566 or by email bechsms@hickorytech.net.

Lake Crystal Area Historical Society Annual Meeting

April 26, 7:00 PM
Meixell Room of the
Lake Crystal Area Recreation Center

Speaker: Jessica Potter,

BECHS Executive Director



Museum Store

JoLynn Crowe
Museum Assistant

Spring has sprung! Right now the Minneopa Falls are rushing and roaring in their entire splendor, and it is well worth the drive out to the park to see. A wonderful remainder of the day could be stopping by the Museum Store and checking out our selection of items about the falls.

At the Museum Store we have a beautiful tapestry of Minneopa Falls for sale as well as a great book by Gordon Herbst titled *Minneinneopa – 150 Year History of Minneopa State Park*.

Now that the sun is shining on a more regular basis, you might need some head gear. The Museum Store has baseball caps and visors for sale as well as t-shirts for that short sleeve weather. Put some spring in your step and walk on into the Museum Store to see what's here!

If you are doing some spring cleaning and want to keep your treasured keepsakes in good condition, check out the archival products we carry. If you need an archival box to store items or tissue paper to wrap a garment, or need page protectors and more, we have it.

Our newest publication titled *Hidden Front Street* is now available. It is the story of the 300 and 400 Blocks of Mankato's South Front Street and was the subject of the last Historic Front Street Pub Crawl. The next pub crawl is already slated for June 18th, 2010, and will continue down South Front Street. Be sure to check out the BECHS website for details in the near future.

The Hubbard House and Carriage House Gift

Shop will open for the season in May. Both of our store locations feature the prints for the Historic Home series: the Hubbard House, the Cray Mansion and the Schmidt House as framed prints, artist's proof prints, main edition prints and splendid note cards.

The Museum Store is now online and at the BECHS website: www.bechshistory.com. It is a great way to see what we have to offer in the store! Whichever way you choose to shop, be it online or by coming in to the store, the Museum Store has many unique gift ideas for you!

Volunteer Opportunities

Tour Guide for the Hubbard House and Heritage Center
(training provided)

Events help is needed with all upcoming summer events

Writer for BECHS publications and the quarterly newsletter

Vintage 1860s Base Ball Players

Plus Many Other Opportunities

Please contact JoLynn at 345-5566 or bechsms@hickorytech.net.



Heritage Center Museum and Store Hours: Tue. 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Wed. - Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Closed Sunday & Monday

Museum Admission: \$5 adults, \$2 students (age 5-17); BECHS Members and children under 5 Free

Members receive a 10% discount on most items available in the Store.

Featured Museum Store Items

Reflections of Days Gone By by Marian Anderson

The print will capture for all time the beautiful Hubbard House as it was in years gone by, with the restoration ensuring that it will be around for many more years to come! Third and final in the Historic Home Series.

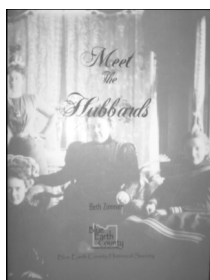


\$150 Artist Proof
\$75 Main Edition

All proceeds benefit BECHS Capital Improvement Fund

Meet the Hubbards by Beth Zimmer

R. D. Hubbard became the founder of Hubbard Milling Company, the largest flour mill in Southern Minnesota. This book covers the family's life here in Mankato through story and photographs. Paper \$14.95



Note Cards

Spring is a good time to sit down with pen and card to send a cheery note to someone! There is a large selection of note cards to choose from and the prices range from \$1.50 for one to \$9.00 for a package of six.



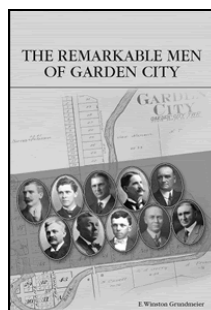
Archival Supplies

Most of us have many photographs stored in various locations. How should you go about preserving these valuable memories for future generations to enjoy? Your answers can be found at the Museum



Store. The Store has archival materials to help you make sure that your photographs will always be a part of your treasured family history for years to come. Stop in today.

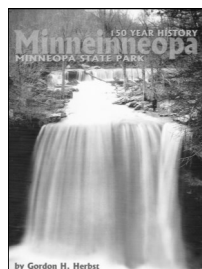
The Remarkable Men of Garden City By E. Winston Grundmeier



Did you know that southern Minnesota had its own crop of captains of industry? This book highlights ten remarkable men who had their beginning in the village of Garden City, Minnesota, population of 400 in 1900. It was this select group of ten gifted, ambitious and remarkable men who went on to become significant contributors to modern day industry giants like Piper Jaffray, Archer Daniels Midland and GlaxoSmithKline. Paper \$12.95

Minneinneopa - 150 Year History of Minneopa State Park

by Gordon Herbst

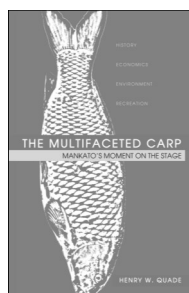


How many of us have taken the time to see the beauty virtually in our own back yard? This book covers the many facets of Minneopa State Park which offers beauty, a place to relax and enjoy nature.

Wonderful photographs along with information about this resource in our

own area. Paper, \$19.95

The Multifaceted Carp Mankato's Moment on Stage by Henry W. Quade



Mankato had a "moment on stage" as the result of local entrepreneur Armin Kleinschmidt's idea that canned carp could provide a delicious and valuable food source during WWII. Once a popular immigrant food source, today carp is considered by some as a valuable recreational and food source and by

others a pest and a danger to the environment. Here the author gives us a historical perspective on carp, and discusses the environmental impacts and entrepreneurial ventures regarding carp today. Paper, \$12.95

BECHS accepts the following credit cards for store purchases, membership dues or donations.





Research Center

Marsha Heinze
Archives Aide

Remember when I said you could find anything here at the Blue Earth County Historical Society? Here is an example of just what I meant.

Broom: A sweeping implement having a brush of twigs, straw, or plant stem attached to a stick or handle, originally made with twigs of the broom plant. (*College Edition; New Webster's Dictionary of English Language* p. 197)

This story is about one of the owners of our very own broom factory here in Mankato. At one time the Mankato Broom Works was located at 132 Liberty Street. The proprietors were Charles and R.G. Bachertz. R. G. worked there for 58 years and, during that time, only missed work twice, once when he had the flu in 1920 for four months and again in 1934 when he took his wife and daughter to Chicago for a week to see the World's Fair. (*Mankato Free Press* May 9, 1946 "How Brooms are Made in Mankato").

R.G. Bachertz started making brooms at the age of 12 in Winona and moved to Mankato eight years later. His work day began at 7:30 a.m., and it usually ended around 10:00 p.m. He could sew two dozen brooms an hour. He made regular brooms, toy brooms for little girls, "Miss" brooms for bigger girls, as well as whisk brooms. The Mankato Broom Works made five kinds of regular



R. G. Bachertz

brooms--Little Daisy (the most popular), Fancy Parlor, Favorite, Liberty and Warehouse.

In the early 1920's R.G. Bachertz was in business with his brother Charles W. Bachertz. The factory at that time was on Patterson Avenue. The operating cost was \$350.00 per month. (*Mankato Free Press* November 19, 1921).

Broom corn came mostly from Oklahoma and the Panhandle of Texas. After the corn was received, it was run through electrically driven machinery, and the seed, which resembles sugar cane seed, was removed and the different lengths of straw were sorted out. The straw naturally fades from the effects of the sunlight, but in order to have all of the material a uniform shade it is colored with a solution and then dried. (*Mankato Free Press* November 19, 1921 "How Brooms are Made in Mankato")

In the late 1930s or early 1940s, R.G. Bachertz became sole proprietor of the Mankato Broom Works. R. G. continued his broom business for another twenty years. He died in 1949 (BECHS Obit Book 55 B-7)

Again I say, "You can find anything at the Blue Earth County Historical Society." Your ancestors may not be the owner of a broom factory, but you never know what they did unless you check things out. Come in and open the door to your past.



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/bechshistory



Research Center Hours:

Tue. 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Wed. - Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.,
Closed Sunday & Monday

Admission: \$5 adults, \$1 students (age 5-17); BECHS Members Free

Genealogy Day 4th Saturday of each month - Free Admission

Research Fees: Copies 25¢,
Contracted Research \$15/half hour



History's Mysteries

At the Annual Meeting, one of the board members had asked if anyone remembered anything about the "Button Factory" here in Mankato? They said that they had been told that the factory made buttons out of shells.

Okay, put on those thinking caps and let's see if someone out there has our answer. Anyone with any information, please contact Marsha at bechsrc@hickorytech.net, or you can reach her by calling the Research Center at (507) 345-5566

Follow up on last issue's mystery:

Thanks for the comments that you shared with me regarding last issue's picture of Curtis Dart. In the 1865 Minnesota State Census, Vernon Center, Blue Earth County lists the Adolphus Dart family. (Information courtesy of Sue Olson)

Curtis H. Dart was the brother of Herbert, Lafayette and Clara Dart. He and friends, George Lathrop and William Stoneman, started their journey west on October 15, 1879. No more information on Curtis was found. (*The First Hundred Years 1879-1979* by Kathrine Treffry Highberg p. 151)

By Marsha Heinze, BECHS Archives Aide

Wish List

*Items or financial donations
will be gratefully accepted.*

- *Urgent Need:* 4-drawer legal-size filing cabinet, new or used, for collections records
- Tabletop Photo Studio, used or new (\$150)
- Landscaping for the Heritage Center
- 3 ft. Step stool for Hubbard House
- Past Perfect Virtual Exhibit Software \$350
- Cordless Drill
- New tables and chairs for meeting room (need approximately \$5,000)
- Office Max or Que Computers Gift Cards
- Archival supplies for the recently donated architecture collection (\$500)



Fingerprints and Footnotes

Fingerprints and Footnotes, the History and Genealogy Club, is always growing, and newcomers are always welcome. In February, Renee Wendinger was with us and we discussed her book *Extra, Extra The Orphan Train and Newsboys of New York*. We learned that this is a phenomenal part of American history that many people don't know about. Did you know that between the years of 1854 to 1929 an estimated 200,000 children from New York were sent on trains to the Midwest in hopes of finding families, some even to Mankato?

In March, Grace Keir hosted "The History of Aprons." We all discovered that apron strings tie us to our past and tucked into every pocket of an apron is a story. The evening was made spectacular by all the charming aprons people shared.

In April, we were lucky to be included in the "Decoding Lincoln's Legacy" film series. If you are interested, the exhibit at the MSUM Memorial Library opened April 19 and runs until May 20.

These and many other interesting tidbits can be learned at our meetings. If you have any ideas for topics or tours, or if you have any interest in presenting a topic, please let Shelley know

Future Meetings

May 11th (*note date change*) Minnesota's Archaeology Week - Examining the Blue Earth County Historical Society Archaeological Collection

June 1st - "150th Anniversary of Minnesota Entering into the Civil War" presented by John *Johnny K*" Kvasnicka

July 6th - "Migrating Your Family History"

Footnotes In History

On April 24, 1833: Patent granted for first soda fountain. 100 years later, in 1933, Mankato had six soda fountains including the American Beauty Candy Shop at 101 South Front Street.



R.D. Hubbard House

The Hubbard House opens on Saturday, May 1st with A Victorian Tea Party for all ages and kicks-off the summer at the Annual Victorian Lawn Party on Saturday, June 5th. Join the fun at the Historic Hubbard House.

A Victorian Tea Party

Saturday, May 1,
Afternoon Tea begins at 1pm, 2pm or 3pm

Hosted by the Blue Earth County Historical Society. Join us for a Victorian Afternoon Tea at St. John's Episcopal Church followed by tours of the Historic R.D. Hubbard House. All-ages event includes Afternoon Tea, Silent Auction, May Day Crafts and Victorian Keepsake Photographs.

\$15 BECHS Members/\$20 Non-Members

\$10 Children 5-17 \$5 Children under 5

Seating is limited. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Proceeds to benefit Historic Hubbard House Restoration

HELP WANTED: items or gift baskets for the silent auction and volunteers to help with the tea



Annual Hubbard House Victorian Lawn Party

Saturday, June 5th

Noon - 4 p.m.

Lawn Games ~ Costumed Characters ~ Refreshments ~ Tours of the Hubbard House

Spend the Afternoon in Mankato's Historic Silk Stocking Neighborhood.

Event in coordination with the Betsy-Tacy Society and Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association.

Historic House Tours available for \$15 Adult, \$10 ages 6-16, Free under 5.

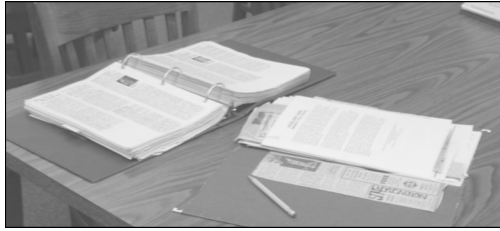


Hubbard House and Carriage House Gift Shop Hours:

May and September: Saturday and Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.

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

Admission: \$5 adults, \$2 students (age 5-17); BECHS Members and children under 5 Free



DON'T LET THE RESEARCH CENTER SCARE YOU!

by
Doug Brugman

It doesn't matter if you just bought an old house, were wondering about Grandma's story about the man who committed suicide with dynamite back in 1921, or just love hundred-year-old gossip, there are any reasons to come to the Blue Earth County Historical Society's Research Center than just genealogy. Learning the history of your family's roots is OK too.

In the Research Center, you start with the basics. Define your field of research. Families, buildings, or events are narrow enough subjects to really feel you can know your subject matter. Cities, eras and ethnic groups are more like the core of a book. The history of the Syrians in Mankato is a thirty year epic. Try it one family at a time. Remember you can expand your base later. Decide your research style. Let it match the way you do everyday things. Laptop or legal pad? Note cards or notebook? And of course you'll need two pocket folders, highlighters and a labeling system. Tape and markers work just fine for labels.

Always start with "who," in the who, what, when, where and why equation. It not only brings the subject to life, but will be the easiest part of your project. For family research, make a family tree. Start with what you and your family members know. Make it complete with siblings, maiden names, dates and places of birth. As you work backwards, don't forget to keep track of all details. This includes jobs, childhood addresses, church and schools. These are details that give depth to the past and allow you to make connections with people who appear to have little else in common. This is also a way you might find out how Grandma and Grandpa met.

If you're doing non-family research, you'll have to dig harder at the beginning. Either way, obituaries are a good place to start. In the Research Center you start at the card catalogue. This will reference you to a BECHS Obit Book and page number. Obituaries range from very detailed in the modern era to almost cryptic notes in the 1880s. Included, remember to note church, cemetery and pallbearers. Making a copy (remember your pocket folders) will guarantee you don't miss anything. When confused, don't be afraid to look up other people with the same last name and earlier death dates. This will sometimes bring out siblings, parents and cousins.

This is a good time to make use of the City Directories BECHS owns. In the years after 1929, there is also a reverse directory, so you can see who the neighbors were (again a good time for a copy). The directory frequently will list occupation and place of employment. This is the best way to start the history of a building or address. If you want to follow up on actual owners of a property, use the city atlas to find the name of plat or addition, block and lot number. With these you can do a county records search.

The City Directories are also a good tool for helping with the census reports. You will find these on microfilm. Federal census reports are only done every ten years, but they list children, which the directories don't. If you don't have a general idea where people lived, the census can be a long ordeal. The payoff is that they contain in depth data on your subject. Not just place of birth, but parents' place of birth. As you expand your knowledge, check the article folders in the Research Center. They are like mini-research projects waiting for you. These contain clippings on families, businesses and events. It's always worth a try. There is also a book listing the veterans of WWI from Blue Earth County. When you get to this time frame, don't forget to look here.

The local newspapers on microfilm are not for the faint of heart. Gleaning information from them can take multiple tries. Birth announcements take 3 days to appear. It can also be incredibly rewarding. For many years there are gossip listings (in the 20's it was called "Nubs of News.") If you look in the days preceding a death it sometimes lists people being sick and with what. Look for things like honor rolls and graduations. Schools and

teachers are frequently the subject of very detailed articles. Weddings were covered like news stories for many years, listing friends and family from out of town. Don't forget to make a copy! It's also a way to put people from the past in context with events of the time.

The last step for researchers and the first stop for quick genealogists in the research room will be the cemetery directory. You can find people who are not listed in the Obit Books. People are listed in alphabetical order. This is another chance to see who is related (family plots are common). There is a cemetery code and plot number. The physical lot location is available from maps in the books.

By now you've had a big day in the Research Center, time for a field trip. Visit old addresses, see where they're buried (it tells a lot about people) and who is buried around them. Try to see what they saw. Many of Mankato's old neighborhoods still stand intact. For rural Blue Earth County use the old county atlas and a new county map. South Bend Township is a great example of when the old map is a must for finding past sites.

Now, let's put all this to work on a classic Old Towne building. 313 North Riverfront is a beautiful old building right across from Hubbard Mill. It has a wonderful decorative stone front and high windows. First we go to the City Directories. In 1990, it housed River City Dental, in 1986 Video Palace and in 1984 the Old Town Galleria. The building is listed as vacant for several years before that, but I know there was a barbeque place there that burned down in the early 1980s. We'll come back to that. From around 1975-80, it was Kiffe's Old Town Liquors. Through the 60s and early 70s, it had Softly of Mankato (water softeners) and Allie's Leather and Upholstering. It also sat empty off and on.

Then we strike history pay dirt. From the late 20s to the 50s it was Reedfield's Costume Shop. George and Nora Reedfield are listed as living upstairs. Nora Reedfield was nationally famous. We'll follow up. She briefly shared the space with Charles Meyer's barber shop. Before the Reedfields, Frank Kronfeld lived upstairs, he and his brother ran the billiard parlor next door at 311.

We now reach a block. There are no more reverse directories. If you go back to the 1888 city directory (the year on the front of the building), we



Reedfield's Store, July 1940. Photograph property of Blue Earth County Historical Society.

find, in the business listings, 313 was Kohler's Shoe store. It was also the residence for Bernhard Kohler. In later years, (1890-1905) it's home to Albert, Charles and Bertha Kohler.

Now let's go to the card catalogue. The first card under Nora Reedfield tells you there is a Reedfield file in the Biography vertical files. There is a card listing her obituary in the Emerson scrapbook on page 168. It lists as survivors a granddaughter, Mrs. Willie Knopff. She is listed in the city directory as living at 313 ½ North Riverfront in 1955. For George Reedfield, there is a card for Emerson scrapbook, page 105 and another card listing Obit Book 51, page R7. There are several personal scrapbooks in the research room. The Emerson scrapbook has obituaries and news items from the 40s and 50s.

Under Bernhard Kohler there are two Vertical File Listings (Old Settler Association and Mankato History) and two Obit Book listings. Bernhard Kohler was born in Germany in 1827 and enlisted during the Uprising of 1862. It lists the names of his married daughters (Bertha and Emma), which will come in handy later at the county records office. Charles is a surviving son. Again, remember to make a copy! There is also a card for the son (Albert) who ran the store for him and died in 1916.

The Vertical File has a complete folder of clippings for Nora Reedfield. Before moving to the 313 North Front St. building, she had a millinery and costume shop at 624 North Front St. She also ran resorts on both Madison Lake and Lake Washington. At the resort on Madison Lake, she annually held

family picnics. There are listings of attendees for three of them. Mostly there are articles about her nationally famous Native American costumes worn in parades from Mardi Gras to Manhattan. The local Legion chapter was all the rage in parades across the Mid-West in their Reedfield costumes. She also worked closely with the Native American community on authenticity and cross culture relations. I found a past BECHS newsletter article from 1981. It covers the Reedfield story and has a picture of 313 North Front as it appeared then.

In the Mankato History file you find Bernhard Kohler's name, on the Mankato Home Guard listing, as a private during Civil War. There is also a picture taken in 1890 from atop the Hubbard Mill looking South showing 313 North Front. In it, North Front is still a set of mostly wooden buildings. In the Old



300 block of North Front as it appear in the late 60s. Photograph property of Blue Earth County Historical Society.

Settlers file is Kohler's obituary on the annual remembrance list.

Remember the fire from the 1980s? In the file marked Fires-Mankato, I found three articles from the summer of 1982, listing the business (Western Bar BQ) and the investigation that followed the fire. This is the file for the date of the fire no one can quite remember.

Now a quick trip to the county records office. You'll find records at the old court house building on South Fifth Street. 313 South Front Street works out to be the South 24' of Lot 3, Block 17 of the Bruener survey. It may take you a couple of tries, but you'll

be surprised how easy it is to figure out. You go to Lot Book 1, find the page for Block 17 and the history of the building comes out in deeds and probates. The building was owned by Kohler until his death in 1920 and then by his daughter (Emma Olsgood). She sold to Albert Pluto, who flipped the building, selling to Nora Reedfield (no joint ownership). Reedfield sells it to her granddaughter before her death for \$1. Anyway you get the idea. The Probate Books are a great source for the inside family history.

Now it's time for the field trip. Getting to know Old Towne is a must for Mankato history buffs. While South Front Street history was retail and high end, North Front was working class and light industry. A large number of the buildings have housed saloons at one time or another. The first two blocks of the old Front St. were removed to make way for the Public Library and the "new" bridge, so let's start with the 300 block. On the even numbered side (the river side) is the long-time home to American State Bank and Hubbard Mill. The mill is something you've driven by a million times, but may have never looked at closely. On the odd side, on the corner with Plum St. is the Stahl House building. Along with our building it remains remarkably unaltered. The smaller buildings in between have been an endless turnover of barbers, dry good stores and family businesses. Some of the businesses on the north end of the block still have ads painted on their sides.

Your Old Towne tour should include a look at the Mankato Creamery Assoc. Building at 515 North Riverfront. Built in 1922, it was the modern center piece of a growing industrial base back then. Next, take a trip to Riverside Park on West Rock Street. From this view, you can see how large the rail yard and industrial part of the north end was. It's easy to forget that this was a railroad town.

The Research Center is as much a part of the Blue Earth County Historical Society as the photos, the artifacts or the collections. It's this paper world that gives detail and depth to the old photo of a farm site or shop keeper. Learning to dig through the books and microfilm is learning to enjoy our county's history.

New Board Members

Deborah Fors

Deborah's interests are in history, especially family history. She has an undergraduate degree in Scandinavian Culture and Folk Arts with a concentration in Office Administration for Non-Profit Organizations. She retired from fundraising in 2008, and is now able to pursue her interest in family history on a full-time basis. Deborah's non-profit management experience along with her experience and knowledge of genealogy and family history will benefit the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

Sandi Garlow

Sandi is a rural Mapleton resident, has three children and four grandsons. She has been serving on the BECHS Outreach Committee for the past two years, is active with the Young Historians program, and involved in her church and Maple River School activities. Sandi would like to see increased involvement from communities outside of Mankato and even further involvement of our youth, as they are our future.

James Gullickson

Jim Gullickson, aka "Gully" has worked nearly 30 years as a professional broadcaster, with most of those years in the commercial radio realm. He now serves as General Manager of KMSU-FM at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He is married to Shannon with four children: Chris, 23; Chad, 20; Sean, 12; Erin, 9. Gully is interested in helping the BECHS gain a higher profile in the greater Mankato community.

Linda Osborne

Linda has lived in the Mankato area going on 15 years. Originally from central Minnesota, Linda moved to Mankato to finish her education degree from Mankato State. She has been an active member in MN State 4-H, her hometown American Legion Auxiliary, and the lives of her 37 nieces and nephews! Linda was named the Director of Sales at the Country Inn & Suites in Mankato. She has

settled herself into our community with her husband Stacy, her cat named dog and her dog named pony. In all aspects of her life, Linda's goal is to take a look at the big picture and then create actionable items. She is excited to begin using this skill with the members and board members of the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

Randy Zellmer

Randy and his wife Sandy grew up in Mankato. They have two daughters, both of whom are married and have given them two grandsons. Randy has been a practicing attorney since 1981, with his focus primarily on real estate, estate planning, business and tax planning. His hobbies are long distance running, attending stock car racing events, and spending time with his grandsons. Randy will bring to the Board his expertise in the legal field as is needed. Over the years he has served on and chaired a number of non-profit organizations and understands the financial commitment, time commitment as well as the time



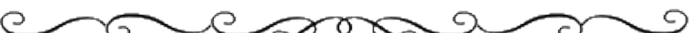
Celebrate May 2010

National Preservation Month

Events hosted by the Mankato Heritage Preservation Commission and BECHS
every Thursday in May
from 7-9 p.m.

Minnesota Archaeology Week May 8-16

Special BECHS Event:
May 11th, 6 p.m. at Heritage Center
*Examining BECHS'
Archaeological Collection*



BECHS Donations

January – March 2010

Donations

Up to \$49

Crowe, Jody and JoLynn

Craig, Nancy *Collections/Exhibits*

\$50-\$99

Anonymous

Belgard, Hugh

Duncanson, Kristin and Patrick

Lavitschke, Jo-an and Dean

In honor of the marriage of Juanita Smith and Skip Webster and the marriage of Katherine Kurth and Kevin Krosch

Sterling Township

\$100-\$499

Beauford Township

Hadley, Paul *Collections*

\$1,000-\$10,000

Jacobson, Lyle and Kay

Jones Page Jacobson Family Foundation

Grundmeier, Winston, Shirley

Memorials

In Memory of Norma Carstensen

American Legion

Auxiliary Unit 11

Bensen, Jean

Boyer, Wally and Brenda

Dauw, Dennis and Rita

Freyberg, Steven and

Lynette

Goldencrown, Barbara

Hanson, Kathryn

Hinkle, Jeff and Martha

Jacobson, R. Peter and

Louann

Jensen, Mary Ann

Karstens, Geneen

Kitek, Paul and Teresa

Leiferman, Elaine

Ludeman, Beverly



In Memory
Norma Carstensen
February 10, 2010
BECHS Supporter and
former Board of
Trustees member

Our condolences to
her family and friends

Manske, William and Barbara

Nagel, James and Marcia

Oberlie, Mr. and Mrs. R.R.

Ollrich, Teddy and Jane

Palmer, James and Susan

Peterson, Mrs. A.V.

Piepho, Mark

Quick, Lance and Donna

Sandersfeld, Dennis and Karen

Sassenberg, Florence

Sprague, Lynn and Timothy

Styndl, Joesph W. and Jane

Ubl, Charlene

Witz, Mary Jane

Williams, Jerry and Vee

In Memory of Tom Coleman

Coleman, Mary

Schultz, Jo



In Memory
Helen Griffith
March 8, 2010
BECHS Volunteer, friend
and supporter

Our condolences to
her family and friends.

In Memory of Helen Griffith

Grundmeier, Winston and Shirley

Lillo, Thea

Shultz, Jo

In Memory of Orville Jensen

Crowe, Jody and JoLynn

Kinne, Dale and Rosemary

Lloyd, Diann

In Memory of Francis Walters

Madsen, Jack

In-Kind Donation

Red Door Creative Design Services

2009 BECHS Volunteers

Over 7,000 of reported hours were donated to the Blue Earth County Historical Society by the volunteers listed below. Volunteers are truly indispensable to BECHS, not only for the fundamental functions of the Society like preservation and cataloging, but for everything that makes the Society a unique and culturally rich entity for our visitors and community at large. Volunteers serve on committees, coordinate and assist with special events and programs, clip newspapers, and serve as tour guides at the Hubbard House and Heritage Center plus much more. In 2009 special volunteer projects included updating the Blue Earth County Cemetery index, transcribing the 1875 Minnesota State Census, and processing 400 photographs and the 1914 Blue Earth County Atlas to be added to our collection on the Minnesota Digital Library website.

Affolter, Ron	Garlow, Laura	Kloster, Rebekah	Rezmerski, John
Andrusko, Andrew	Garlow, Sandi	Kloster, Sarah	Robertson, Emily
Bartholdi, Roberta	Geibel, Roger	Kloster, Troy	Rodriguez, Gabriela
Baures, Lisa	Goff, Harley	Kramer, Darby	Sassenburg, Eunice
BEC Sheriff's Dept.	Grabitske, Paul	Krassin, Sara	Schaub, Shirley
Beiswanger, Joshua	Gruenstein, Sandy	Lagerquist, Mike	Schevers, Paula
Belgard, Hugh	Grundmeier, Shirley	Lavitschke, Jo-an	Schultz, Jo
Belgard, Vail	Grundmeier, Win	Lloyd, Ken	Shortall, Christina
Benefield, Dale	Hanson, Kathryn	Lundin, Gary	Sinn, Baerbel
Beyer, Jessie	Havelka, Karen	Madsen, Jack	Sinn, Gunter
Botten, Joel	Heaney, Kelly	Madsen, Liz	Smith, H. Roger
Botten, Maureen	Herbst, Gordon	Madsen, Timothy	Starcher, Sarah
Bouma, Chandra	Hodapp, Louise	Mattick, Jason	Steil, William
Bouma, Jana	Howieson, Bob	McComb, Mary	Steinhauer, Bernie
Brown, Joan	Hugg, Bob	McGowan, Jack	Straka, Stacey
Bunde, Margo	Hugg, Corey	Nienow, Dick	Straub, Don
Burns, Inella	Hugg, Leslie	Nienow, Tricia	Stromswold, Todd
Carlberg, Ann	Hugg, Nathan	Nelson, Pat	Tarjeson, Jane
Carlson, Bruce	Humphrey, Mary	Nussbaumer, Linda	Thom, Andrew
Carlson, Carla	Hundstad, Patrice	Ohlenkamp, Ora	Ulmen, Ida
Clement, Jeri	Hustuft, Carol	Oldenburg, Aiden	Ulmen, Steve
Clobes, Abby	Hynes, Susan	Oldenburg, Alex	Warman, Tiffany
Clobes, Joshua	Jensen, Mary Ann	Oldenburg, Connor	Webb, Grace
Clobes, Nathan	Jensen, Orville	Olson, Paul	Webb, Donna
Cords, Betty	Johnson, Mary H.	Olson, Phyllis	Wendt, Bob
Coleman, Mary	Kapadia, Ajay	Owens, Dean	Wilker, Lin
Crowe, Jody	Keir, Grace	Peterson, Leslie	Wilker, Roger
Darling, Brad	Keir, Richard	Peterson, Rachel	Winter, Jamie
Dickey, Phil	Kennedy, Gloria	Quade, Ann	Youngerberg, Brooklyn
Doyle, Judy	Kind, Arn	Quade, Henry	Youngerberg, Emy
Doyle, Preston	Klinder, Kurt	Quam, Brandon	Youngerberg, Lucas
Engelsrud, Ernie	Kloster, Jeremieh	Reichel, Jason	Zeigler, Ken
Engl, Jane	Kloster, Joshua	Reinbold, Bianka	Zimmer, Beth
Frisch, Carlienne			Zwickey, Nancy

Thank you for your time and talents!



Collections & Exhibits

Shelley Harrison
Archives Manager

A tiny little tale from Collections about how some things are not what they appear to be. The Douglas County Historical Society found this small booklet printed about Eagle Lake. They called us and



asked if we were interested, and I said, “Yes - you betcha! “Any additional information about one of our communities in Blue Earth County would be wonderful. So this booklet came and it turned out to be a program, all in Swedish! It appeared that Eagle Lake once had a Swedish Lutheran Church with quite a large congregation of Swedes. This church

was so large that they were celebrating their 50th Anniversary in 1921 with a three-day event. Or at least I think this is what it says – it’s in Swedish

There is not a lot of history in the program, but it includes names – which is always great, because it documents who was in Eagle Lake in 1921. And there are photographs of the church and pastors. What a great piece of history! So, I asked one of our many super talented volunteers – “Is this Swedish?” hoping she would know. Did I mention they are super talented volunteers, with keen powers of deduction. She said yes, so I’m all excited, because of what we have – Yeah!! And then she says it – wham! Like a sock right between the eyes. “Something doesn’t seem right, a large congregation of Swedes in Eagle Lake?

So we start researching. First we look through

Thomas Hughes’ book; *The History of Blue Earth County* – nothing, then to Julie Schrader’s book; *Heritage of Blue Earth County* – nothing. We tried our small collection of church records for the county, and still nothing. Next we looked up all of the names listed as deacons of the Church and not one of those people were listed in the city directories. This wasn’t looking good, but I was still hoping that maybe we had the only piece of information about a church in our county that once existed – a girl can hope. Then we found it; there it was, another Eagle Lake (shocking, I know), but this Eagle Lake is a township in Otter Tail County which is right next to Douglas County. So really, this fabulous little piece of history belongs in Otter Tail County, which is some 170 miles away. Yes we really do this much research on items we are considering for donation into our collection, and I could not do it without the whiz bang bunch of volunteers in Collections and Archives. They don’t let anything get past them- these people really do their homework. So this booklet is on its way to Otter Tail County and the lesson we learned: Don’t judge a book by it’s cover, even if it says Eagle

Artifacts & Archives Donations January - March 2010

Blue Earth County	Hughes, Thomas L
Benefield, Dale	Lavitschke, Jo-an
Benton, Robert	Le Sueur Museum
Blue Earth Co. Library	Oelerich, Marjorie
Braun, Mary	Ozuna, Jane
CHS	Penhiter, Judith
City of Mankato	Rice County Historical
Coleman, Mary	Society
Craig, James W	Roth, Rev. Victor & Leona
Crowe, JoLynn	Saffert, Ken
Deutchman, Jan Strege	Sorenson, Rebecca
Fossen, M	Tarjeson, Jane
Frederick, Michael	Towne, Nathan
Grundmeier, Shirley	Webb, Donna
Herbst, Gordon	Wendinger, Renee

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MANKATO

BECHS Membership

January - March 2010

New Members

Chantler, Ann
Conrad, Ronald and Judy
Gardner, Jill
Gerrish, Don
Hunter, Jan
Koppen, Ardis
Reisdorf, Richard and Georganna Kramer
Stoufer, Roger and Beverly
Waskosky, Don and Becky

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Mankato City Center Hotel
Mankato House
Q Computers

Renewed Members

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Craig, Nancy G.
Dorn, John and Kathy
How, Mary Ellen
Howard, Don
Kind, Arn and Meg
Lancaster, Mary Ann C.
McGowan, Jack and Diann
Neilsen, Bill
Neitage, Catherine
Ringheim, Marilyn
Smith, H. Roger and Anne
Thiesse, Sylvan and Rosalin
Troemel, Clarinda
Wagner, Helen
Wingen, Carol

YOUNG HISTORIANS

In January, the BECHS Young Historians learned about immigration at the turn of the century with special guests, Dani Kroon, Daardi Sizemore and Terri DeGazelle. We went through stations as the immigrants did when they entered Ellis Island.

In February we were led by our Junior Historians and learned about World War I and the Women's Suffrage Movement. It included two debates on Remaining Neutral vs. Joining the War and For vs. Against Women's Suffrage.

In March we were again led by our Junior Historians and learned about the roaring 20's and the Great Depression of the 1930s. In April we learned about World War II from guest speaker, Arn Kind.

Young Historians have been participating in various fundraisers throughout this year. We are raising money for our field trip to the Minnesota Historical Society on May 8th to see the Greatest Generation Exhibit.

In addition, Young Historians Club members are working hard on their History Day Projects. These will be presented to the public on Friday evening, May 7th, from 7-8 pm. Please join us.

Many of our members are also working with Bryce Stenzel, on their parts in his Abraham Lincoln Play, "His Truth is Marching On." We have also been asked to participate in Mapleton Public Library's 100th Birthday Celebration in May, and we are looking forward to other upcoming events for the Historical Society and the Hubbard House. Please look for us.

Laura Garlow

9th Grade,

Maple River High School

Young Historians History Day Reception

Friday, May 7th
7:00-8:00 p.m.

BECHS Heritage Center

*Meet the Blue Earth County Historical Society's
Young Historians and view their History Day
projects in the Museum.*

What Goes Into Creating an Exhibit? The New Hubbard Mill Display at the Hubbard House Carriage House

By Patrice Hundstad, BECHS Intern

When I started volunteering, I had no idea what went into putting together a display. I didn't realize the hours and days that are put into every part of the display creation process. It took at least a day to find and note the locations of potential items in the collections database. After determining storage locations for potential display items, it took a day or so to retrieve all of the items from storage. We looked at what we had gathered and found more items would be needed to fill the display. This sent us back to the database. Once we had pulled all of the items, it was time to pack them up and take them to the Hubbard House Carriage House. Upon arriving there, we spent the day cleaning and painting the display cases and stands.

After cleaning, it was finally time to put the display itself together. There wasn't much time, because the glass would be put on the case by 3:00 p.m. that day,



and we needed to be finished before then. Initially, I wasn't sure there were enough items for all of the displays, but after spending an hour or two

stuffing flour bags, I was pleasantly surprised. I took over one of the displays and things seemed to be going pretty quickly at first, but then I hit a roadblock. I had a lot of trade show items I wanted to use in the display, but that part of it began to look more like a flea market than a display. So, I removed that portion and took a fresh approach; it worked like a charm. Next we had to quickly catalog all the items used in the display. We finished just in time for the glass to be installed.

Once back at the Heritage Center, I was surprised to find there were quite a few things we hadn't used. Now we had to go back to our notes and put these items back in the Archives. Then it was time to fill out our log book noting the location of all the items used in the display; this took another day. In the end I was really astonished at how much time creating this display had required; it's harder than it looks.

2010 Season for Mankato Baltics Vintage 1860s Base Ball



2010 Season

- June 19, 8-Team Tourney, Land of Memories Park, 10 AM-4 PM
- July 4, The Landing, Shakopee
- July 31, BEC Fair, Garden City

**Need Players, Need Tourney Teams
and Need Spectators.**

For more information on how you can participate, contact Hugh or Vail Belgard at 507-546-3162 or hugybear@wildblue.net.

Happy 100th Birthday Mapleton Public Library

104 First Avenue NE
Mapleton



Centennial Events

May 4th - Library Open House, 7-9 p.m.

June 11-13th - Town & Country Days

Parade on Saturday, June 12th

August 7th - Victorian Lawn Party at Library

BECHS will be involved in all of these events. If you are interested in volunteering, talk to JoLynn.

Around Blue Earth County



Rapidan Heritage Society

2009 Year in Review

Rapidan Heritage Society began its 8th year with choosing our sixth piece of Red Wing Pottery, the stein. We chose the Rapidan Elevator as our historical building to display on the new collectible pottery piece.

The annual meeting was held on February 19, 2009, with Michael Eckers, the author and speaker on Minnesota's involvement in the Civil War. He spoke in detail about the life and times of soldiers who lived during that period. He also described some of the people and events that occurred during the war. He was dressed in period costume and portrayed a Civil War Officer. Mr. Eckers promised to return for our Memorial Day celebration and to bring guests from the South.

Our 2009 Memorial Day celebration was again a big success. The day started out with our salute to the past and present troops, with the presenting of the Colors by the North Mankato American Legion Post. After the morning program, BECHS took a few moments to announce the release of the "Blue Earth County Century Farms" book. Several area farms are mentioned in this book. Our main guest speaker, Michael Eckers, who again spoke about Minnesota's involvement in the Civil War. He brought several friends from that period who wandered around the crowd that morning in costume. Later he introduced them, and each explained his character's involvement in the Civil War. To finish off the day we had a wonderful lunch served by RHS to all in the community that chose to join us in the township garage. Thanks to all who made that day a great get-together event.

RHS has started their planning of the upcoming Centennial Celebration of the Rapidan Dam. Make sure to reserve August 14, 2010 for a grand celebration at the dam. There will be music, crafts, historical presentations, rides through the County Park, a fishing contest, food and much more.

RHS hosted the Blue Earth County Historical Society's Fingerprint & Footnotes Club in July 2009. We had a walking tour of some of Rapidan's historical buildings. Jane Tarjeson spoke about our community as this large group walked up and down our sidewalks and parks. Refreshments were served afterwards in the town hall.

In 1009, RHS decided to host a neighborhood event called "National Night Out" August 4th in Rapidan. WOW!!! What a great event we had! Neighbors from throughout Rapidan and the surrounding area came with dishes to pass and smiles on their faces. We ate and laughed all evening. The Sheriff's Department stopped by with several squad cars for the kids to explore and answered questions from the crowd. Everyone had a great time and said we should do it again next year.

As usual, we had a great time with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Depot with many little visitors and friends bringing in the Christmas cheer and holiday fun. After we said our goodbyes to Santa and Mrs. Claus, we had our annual RHS Christmas dinner at the town hall. Talk about some wonderful foods! We have some great cooks in our community. Many attended with much socializing and visiting, and, oh yeah, overeating of these great selection of foods.

RHS would like to thank everyone who made a monetary donation or donation of Rapidan memorabilia this year. With all your wonderful gifts, our mission of preserving the past one piece at a time will continue to grow. Thank you!

Liz Madsen,
RHS President

The Rapidan Depot Museum
will be open Sundays from
Memorial Day thru Labor Day
from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Lake Crystal Area

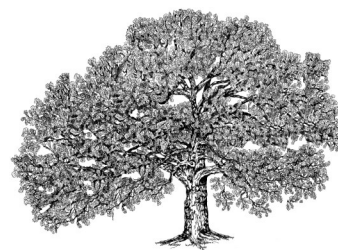
This group will be holding their annual meeting on April 26 at 7:00 PM in the Meixell Room of the Lake Crystal Area Recreation Center. This facility is handicapped accessible, and we welcome anyone interested in Lake Crystal history to attend. You don't have to be a member to come and learn some local history.

Ms Jessica Potter, Executive Director of the BECHS will be our guest speaker for the evening. We are all looking forward to hearing from her.

Recently we acquired a tape of reminiscences of Roderick Dodds, son of Dr. Dodds, long time veterinarian in Lake Crystal. Mr. Dodds was a grandson of Dr. W.R. Cullen, a physician for 42 years in this town. Roderick Dodds, who was born in 1917, reflects on growing up in Lake Crystal in the 1920s and 30s. At the time the tape was made, Mr. Dodds was 90 years old. His father, brother, and uncles were all veterinarians, but his mother, Jennie Cullen Dodds, thought that he should do something else, so he became an engineer and worked in this field all of his life.

We found his recollections most interesting, but since tape players are becoming almost extinct, we are having the cassette transcribed to a CD. Our plan is to place it in the Lake Crystal Library, so that anyone interested may check it out to hear Mr. Dodds memories of an earlier time in Lake Crystal.

Sylva Kubicek
LCAHSSecretary



PRAIRIE STORIES & RIVER RHYMES

Celebrate The Wisdom of the Oak
CAMBRIA EISTEDDFOD
A Celebration of the Celtic Heritage of Poetry, Song and Story

Sunday, June 27, 2010
Morgan Creek Vineyards

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Potluck and Celtic Music

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Eisteddfod ~ Poetry Contest and
Welsh Chairing of the Bard

Directions to Morgan Creek Vineyards

West on Hwy. 68 out of Mankato to

Blue Earth Co. Road 47

Winery Tours and Tastings

Available Noon-4 p.m.



For more information, contact

Blue Earth County Historical Society at 507.345.5566 or
Morgan Creek Vineyards at 507.947.3547

Historic South Front Street Pub Crawl

Friday, June 18, 2010, 6 p.m.

\$15 for Historical Society members

\$20 for non-members

Space is limited! Call BECHS today to reserve your spot! 507.345.5566

Walking Tour with a Twist ~ Appetizers ~ Great Drink Specials ~ Souvenir Glass

Ticket price does not include the cost of drinks. Drink purchases are not required to participate. Attendees must be over 21 and show photo I.D.



The Front Street

Project

“It was our street...”

Joan Johnson Brown, Mankato resident

Front Street was indeed *our* street. Your street. Mankato’s street.

The Front Street Project has a simple goal: to capture, preserve, and present the stories of Front Street from the early beginnings as a core downtown business district in Mankato to urban renewal to present day revitalization.

The Front Street Project consists of oral histories, written histories, a book and an interactive exhibit at the Heritage Center to open in 2011.

Please consider contributing to the project by...

- Donating Front Street artifacts to BECHS (from photos to matchbooks to old movies)
- Writing a story about Front Street
- Recording a Front Street story by calling the project phone line at 507-389-5537
- Encouraging your friends and family to participate in the project
- Completing the Front Street Project Memory form
- Volunteering to assist with oral histories, writing, exhibit design, etc.

If you are interested in volunteering for The Front Street Project or would like to share your memories, please contact Jessica at 345-5566 or bechs@hickorytech.net or leave a message on the Front Street Project Line at 507-389-5537. Front Street Project Memory forms are available at the Heritage Center and online at www.bechshistory.com.

The Front Street Project is a collaboration of the
Blue Earth County Historical Society www.bechshistory.com and
Voices from the Valley www.voicesfromthevalley.com



Blue Earth County Historical Society

415 Cherry Street
Mankato, MN 56001

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Visit us on the web:
www.bechshistory.com

Preserving and sharing Blue Earth County's history since 1901

The Blue Earth County Historical Society's
Heritage Center Gallery, Museum Store and
Research Center are open

Tuesday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Wednesday through Saturday
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Hubbard House and
Carriage House Gift Shop

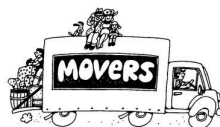
May and September
Saturday and Sunday 1-4 p.m.

June - August
Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday 1-4

giveMN.org
Click. Contribute. Change Your World.

Help the Blue Earth County Historical Society continue to collect, preserve, protect and present the history of Blue Earth County. The GiveMN.org website makes donating easy and quick. Just visit us at www.bechshistory.com and click

DONATE NOW



***Moving? Snowbird?
Please let us know!***

If you are moving to a different address, please let us know. It costs over \$1 for each returned newsletter that could not be delivered. Please help the Society reserve our funds for educational exhibits and programs and assure that you get your copy of the *Historian* by notifying us of your new or winter address, or letting us know to suspend mailing your newsletter if you are going to be away for a long period. Your help is appreciated.