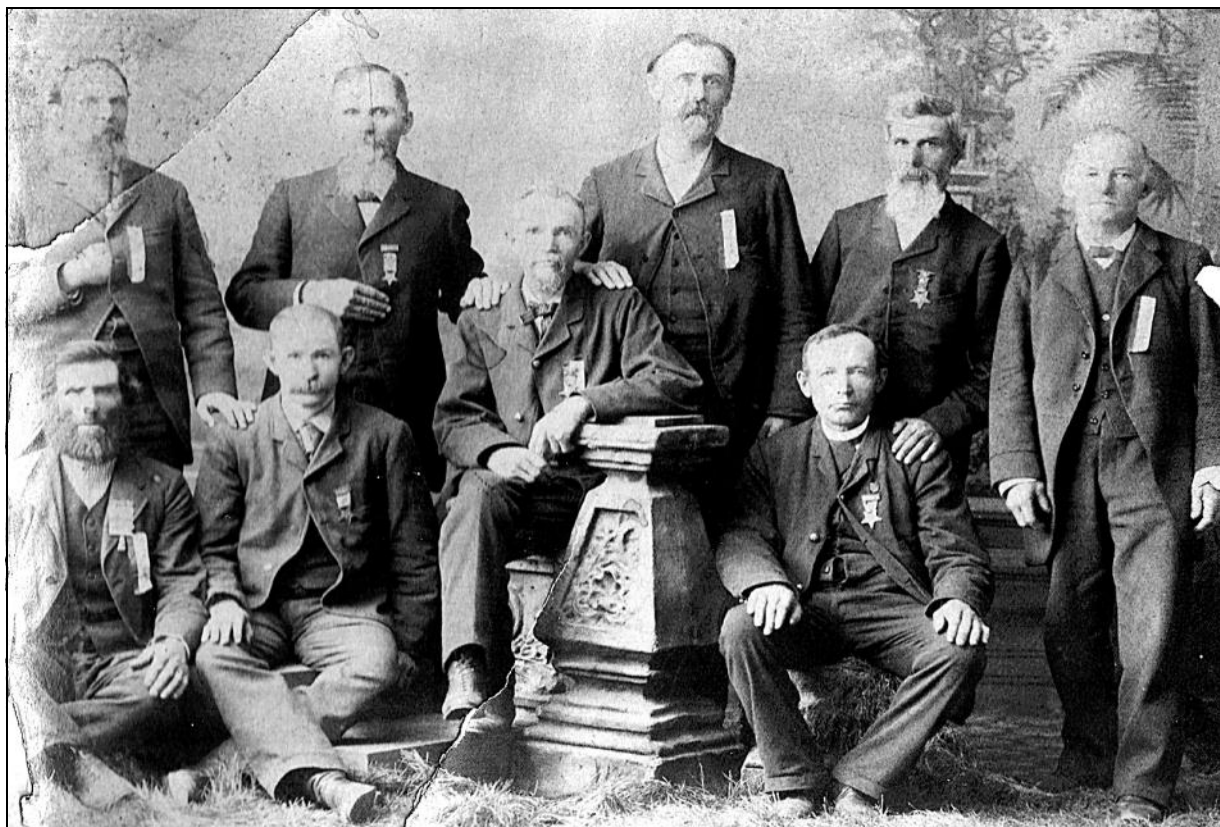


The Blue Earth County **HISTORIAN**



In Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War



Members of the Alex Wilkin Post #19 Grand Army of the Republic, May 27, 1885, see page 9.

Mankato Baltics Base Ball Team



Members of the 2010 Mankato Baltics, BECHS's 1860s base ball team, see page 13.

The Lens Tells the Story



New exhibit featuring the Bend of the River Photography Club, see page 15.

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

The Blue Earth County Historian



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Heritage Center

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

Hours (May-December)

Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

R.D. Hubbard House

606 South Broad Street, Mankato
507-345-5566

Hours:

May and September: weekends 1-4 p.m.
June-August: Friday- Saturday 10 am-4 pm,
Sunday 1-4 p.m.

The Blue Earth County Historian Spring 2011

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

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Director's Notes

Jessica Potter
Executive Director

Spring has sprung and a new season is beginning at BECHS!

The Historical Society has welcomed Cami Hiller as our new Communications and Archives Assistant. This new position combines the daily operation of the Research Center with the need for one person to handle all of the different forms of communication for the Society including our website, Facebook and press releases. Please stop by the Heritage Center to welcome Cami.

After a successful and entertaining Annual Meeting in March, the Board of Trustees has welcomed four new board members: Paula Marti, Roxie Mell-Brandts, Linda Nussbaumer and Shirley Piepho. Each brings their own unique gifts to the organization and I am personally looking forward to working with each of them.

I am proud to announce that the Historical Society has been selected to participate in a National Museum Assessment Program (MAP). Through a guided self-study and on-site consultation with a museum professional, participation in MAP will empower us to better serve the citizens of Blue Earth County. BECHS will use the Community Engagement assessment tool to strengthen operations, build capacity and enhance communication throughout the organization and in response to community needs.

The Assessment Team assembled which will be working on the 3-month self-study portion of the program consists of Leslie Peterson, Mike Lagerquist, Wendy Greiner, Shelley Harrison, JoLynn Crowe and Jessica Potter. In the upcoming weeks, we will need your help in order to complete this assessment. We may be looking for people to serve on focus groups, in a community forum or to complete a survey. We hope we can count on you. Watch for MAP updates and requests for support on Facebook, our website www.bechshistory.com and in the next issue of *The Historian*. If you are interested in the assessment program, please feel free to contact me for more information or to find out how you can be involved.

As always, I thank you all for supporting the Blue Earth County Historical Society with your time, talents and financial contributions. If you are looking for ways to be involved, please see page 7 for our wish list and special projects list and check out page 14 for volunteer opportunities. Every penny counts and every gift is appreciated!

Board of Trustees



Mike Lagerquist
Board of Trustees President

Anyone who has heard Arn Kind talk about the Civil War KNOWS history is not boring. Kind, a longtime teacher in Mankato Public Schools, was the keynote speaker at the Blue Earth County Historical Society's Annual Meeting in March and kept the people in attendance spellbound for 90 minutes. Sure, he brought his props—photos, uniforms, cut-out rifles—but the biggest reason for the engaged audience was his enthusiasm for the subject. You just had to listen!

In a world where every kid has a cell phone and nearly every cell phone is capable of holding more games than the arcades of my youth, getting an audience's attention is more important (and more difficult) than ever. That's especially true when it comes to a subject like history that, in many people's minds, is sadly synonymous with uninteresting.

"Living history"—these two seemingly oxymoronic words, when put together, can create an event that grabs people's attention. Arn knows that. And we at BECHS know that. That's why for years when you've attended a BECHS event you're likely to be greeted by someone in a costume from a bygone era, speaking words and ideas that haven't been heard or expressed in decades. Living history, like an Arn Kind talk, is tougher to ignore.

This was proven again in late March with our "Sips of History" event at City Center Hotel. Nearly 100 people gathered to hear about Prohibition from Andrew Volstead, the Minnesota legislator whose name was attached to the act that enforced the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution outlawing alcohol creation and consumption. They got to taste whiskey that was made in the same way early settlers to Minnesota made it centuries ago. And they got to hear about current wine-making techniques from County vintners. Oh, and they got to sample those wines because sometimes history engages all of the senses!

We will continue to strive to bring history alive in our events, but we encourage you to do the same in your own lives. This summer when you bring family

members together for a reunion, invite some of your senior members to talk about when they were young. What was a typical school day like, for instance, or ask them to talk about their home life. Like Arn, use a prop such as a family photograph or their wedding dress or military uniform to prompt memories.

Then sit back and be engaged!

CELEBRATING 55 YEARS OF ART

Marian Anderson
Art Gallery
1560 Adams Street, Mankato

Please Join Us Enjoy art, refreshments, and prizes!

for the **Grand Opening** celebration of the **Marian Anderson Art Gallery.**

**Saturday, May 14, 2011 and
Sunday, May 15, 2011**
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
1560 Adams Street, Mankato

Special Appearance by Marian Anderson

The Marian Anderson Art Gallery is a partnership between
Marian Anderson, Meyer Financial & Consulting and the
Blue Earth County Historical Society.

110 YEARS OF HISTORY
Blue Earth County
Historical Society

meyer FINANCIAL & CONSULTING, LLC

Marian Anderson Art Gallery Hours

May - October

1st Saturday of each month 1-5 p.m.

3rd Thursday of each month 5-8 p.m.

View the new Marian Anderson painting of Minnesota State University, Mankato on display May 14 - August 1

BECHS Welcomes New Heritage Center Staff



Hello! My name is Cami Hiller and I am the new Communications and Archives Assistant for the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

I grew up in the small town of Good Thunder with my parents, Jay and Polly, and one sister,

Kati. When I was 16, my family moved to Mapleton, where my parents still live today. I graduated from Maple River High School in 2005 and will graduate from Minnesota State University, Mankato this spring with a bachelor's degree in Public Relations.

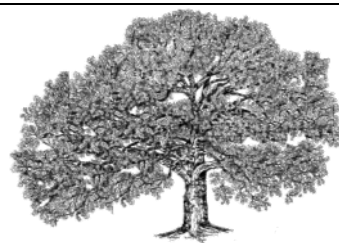
Since starting this position in February, I have assisted with press release distribution such as "Sips of History" and "Presidents, Purses and Politicians." My other duties include updating our website calendar, Facebook, posting to greatermankatoevents.com and kato411.com. When I am not taking care of the communications side of things, I am in the research center helping visitors with their research and other needs.

I recently bought a house in North Mankato with my fiancé Ryan. We are getting married in August, so in my spare time I find myself planning and organizing the wedding. I enjoy watching the Minnesota Twins, traveling and spending time with my friends and family.

I am very excited to take on this new position and I look forward to helping BECHS get the word out about all the wonderful programs and events it has to offer!

Heritage Center Summer Hours *May-December*

Tuesday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wednesday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



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

Sunday, June 26, 2011
Morgan Creek Vineyards

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Celtic Music

Food, beverage, wine and winery tours

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Eisteddfod

Five of Minnesota's Finest Poets

performing in competition

for a hand-carved oak Bardic Chair,
 under the Wisdom Oak

Presented by:

League of Minnesota Poets

Morgan Creek Vineyards

Blue Earth County Historical Society

140th Cambria Township 4th of July

The largest settlement of Welsh immigrants in Minnesota built their farms, churches, schools, and centers of commerce in the combined townships of Cambria, Butternut, and Judson all of Blue Earth County, along the southern banks of the Minnesota River valley.

The 140th Cambria Township Fourth of July Program and Celebration will be held on July 4, 2011 Festivities in the Cambria community include a **1:00 p.m.** parade in Cambria. The entire event will **2:00 p.m.** Historic Marker Ceremony at Wagner's Grove and official 4th of July Patriotic Program featuring the Cambria Township Rural Schools Reunion.

5:00 p.m. old fashion fancy cake auction and a community hog roast hosted by the Dave and Carol Strenge Family who currently own the historic site.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Paula Marti 507-947-3547; martimcv@aol.com.

...at the Museum Store

JoLynn Crowe, Museum Manager

Warmer weather is slowly creeping upon us and the area farmers are preparing their fields once again for the planting of their crops. And so, the cycle continues! At the Museum Store we have a wonderful hardbound book that features area century farms. The title is *Blue Earth County Century Farms*. Many times when a person picks up the book their comment is, "Oh I know so and so and their farm was just down the road from ours!" It's worth checking out. There is also another book at the store put out by the *The Land* titled *Reflections of Rural Minnesota* which contains many great farm photographs. This is another wonderful selection.

This year is the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. At the Museum Store we have a variety of Civil War books to choose from, especially, if you are interested in learning more about Minnesota's part in the Civil War. Stop by the museum store or check online at bechshistory.com and click the shopping cart icon to view the selections we have.

On another note, our current store featured item is



a selection of American Girl books. The variety of what we have on hand may surprise you! You can choose from single story books to story collections, cooking books to paper dolls. The American Girl series features girls from a time period that a young girl you know might be interested in learning about. Or your decision to

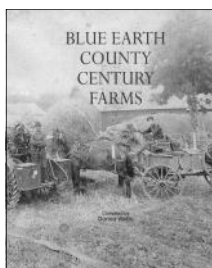
purchase the book may be about how much one of the American Girl's looks like the young one who is going to receive the book. It is a fun, but also insightful way to learn about a certain time frame in our history.

We are looking forward to the R.D. Hubbard House opening for the season in May and on through the summer months. Be sure to stop by and check out the gift shop located inside the Carriage House.

The birds are singing and so should we. Spring is here! If you are out and about enjoying the weather, stop by the museum store to see what it has to offer. We'll be looking forward to seeing you!

Featured Local Books Available at the Museum Store

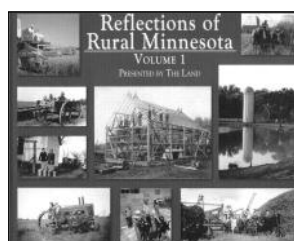
Blue Earth County Century Farms



The agriculture story of Blue Earth County through the eyes of the farm families who lived it. Between 1876 and 2004, 178 Blue Earth County farms became registered Century Farms. These farms have been owned and operated by the same family for at least 100 years, some of them for 150 or more years. Through the pages of this

book, meet these families, read their stories, learn about their lives and farms, their successes and failures, joys and sorrows. Hardbound, \$39.95

Reflections of Rural Minnesota



The Land magazine presents this collection of more than 300 photographs capturing life in rural Minnesota. The photos and stories come from *The Land's* readers who opened their family scrapbooks and memories about the early days of agriculture

through modern times. The purpose of the book is to capture the rich heritage of rural Minnesota through the travails and successes we all share. Hardbound, \$39.95



The Front Street Project

The Historical Society is looking forward to the next phase of the Front Street Project. This project started in 2009 with the simple question, what was Front Street like in its heyday? Oral Historian, Dave Engen, took that question and went out to find the stories and memories that would make Front Street come to life. He collected many incredible oral recollections and through a partnership with the Free Press, the Historical Society collected many written memories. That was great, but not enough. The next phase is to create an interactive exhibit at the Heritage Center accompanied by a coffee-table book of photographs and memories so everyone can experience Front Street in its heyday. The exhibit and book are anticipated to be complete this year.

How can you be part of this community project? We are still looking for people to share their talents with the construction of the exhibit to researching and writing the book. We are also in searching for Front Street photographs and memorabilia like menus, building fixtures or posters (just to name a few examples).

We also need financial support to make our plans a reality. We are looking for Front

Street Project partners to help fund this incredible project. The projected budget for the interactive Front Street exhibit is \$10,000. Initial exhibit plans include many reproduction photographs, which create the illusion that you are walking on Front Street, interactive sound and visual pieces that bring the stories to life and the re-creation of Front Street buildings and businesses. The projected budget for printing the coffee table photograph and memory filled book is \$10,000. To date, \$6,500 has been raised through support from the Mankato Area and HickoryTech Foundations and individual donors. Please consider becoming a Front Street Project Partner with a gift of \$1,000 or more or a Front Street Project Donor with a gift under \$1,000). If you need additional information about supporting the project financially or with items, please contact Jessica at 507-345-5566.



100 Block of South Front Street, Saulpaugh Hotel



300 Block of South Front Street, Brett's Department Store

The Front Street Project Partners



The Free Press



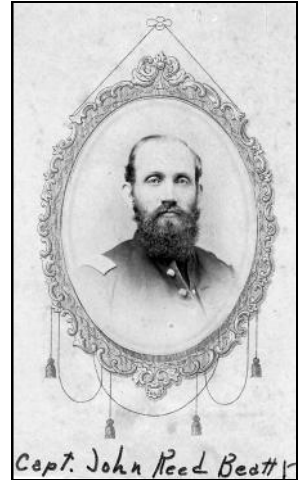
Collections and Exhibits

Shelley Harrison, Archives Manager

Every object tells a story...but Civil War era objects are rare. They had to survive not only the war, but also time—150 years. Here we present some objects that tell the story of John R. Beatty's participation in the Civil War.

The Historical Society is fortunate to have a photograph of John Beatty. He was a man who came to Mankato in 1857 to teach. When the war broke out, he enlisted from Blue Earth County as a private in Company H, 2nd Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry where he soon rose through the ranks to Captain.

We have the letters he wrote to a former student, Laura Maxfield. He returned home from the battlefield to marry her in 1864, before leaving again to see the War through. Never once in any of the letters addressed to "Dearest Laura" does he mention any of the battles like Chickamauga or Missionary Ridge.



His red sash, made of silk net, which is the only thing that remains from a well-worn uniform can be found here. At that time men were given one dark blue uniform to be worn for all duties. The sash was very likely worn down Pennsylvania Avenue in the Capital's Grand Review.

BECHS also has a newspaper clipping dated 1893 from the *Mankato Review* stating that "Capt. John R. Beatty returned from Chattanooga last night, where he had been for several weeks assisting a national commission of army officers in locating the positions of various troops in the memorable battle at that place. The Captain is a member of the Minnesota commission appointed to mark the position of our troops and erect a monument to the memory of the Minnesotans killed on the battlefield." This tiny piece of yellowed paper captures an honorable leader trying to preserve history, so that none of the brave acts of his men are forgotten.

If you piece all of these objects together, you are left with a story of an uncommon soldier and dedicated veteran. What will the objects you leave behind tell about you?

Down on the Farm exhibit to close June 1



"Down on the Farm: The Agricultural Story in Blue Earth County" opened at the Heritage Center in 2005. The exhibit will come down in June to make way for the new Front Street exhibit scheduled to open later this year. Don't miss your chance to experience this hands-on display before it's gone.

Wish List

Items or cash donations will be gratefully accepted.

- Tabletop camera tripod
- Office Max or Q Computers Gift Cards
- Archival supplies for collections storage (*on-going preservation expenses*)
- Flat panel monitors
(*in good to excellent working condition*)

Special Projects

- Front Street Project Exhibit and Book
(*need \$14,000*)
- Young Historians Table and Chairs project
(*need \$2,400*)
- Heritage Center Landscaping Phase 2:
trellises and more plants (*need \$3,000*)

THANK YOU!



R.D. Hubbard House

After a long winter, the Hubbard House is preparing to open for another season on May 7.

to the Lawn Party is free with regular admission charged for house tours.

On April 16, the house came to life for the annual Victorian Tea Party in partnership with St. John's Episcopal Church. After a lovely afternoon tea at St. John's, guests were greeted at the historic house by Victorian ladies sharing information about turn of the century beauty secrets, women's clothing and food and beverage preparation for an afternoon tea. The all ages event raised money for future restoration projects at the house.



One such project that has been in the works is the historical interpretation of the property. The house represents life in 1905, the year the Hubbard's redecorated their home and the year that R.D. passed away. The furnishings and interior design reflects that time period, but some of the details are missing. A group of volunteers that include Linda Nussbaumer and Grace Keir have come together to work on the 1905 details to make the house truly come to life, like towels in the bathroom, cookbooks in the kitchen and personal affects in the library.

Story Time with the Hubbard Girls is an interactive story time for pre-school to elementary age children. Katherine (aka Alex Oldenburg) and Mary Esther Hubbard (aka Laura Garlow) entertain children every Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. with stories, crafts, games and sometimes snacks on the Hubbard House lawn. The program runs from June 17 through August 26 and is free and open to the public.



If you are interested in assisting with any aspect of the interpretation of the Hubbard House, from interior details to living history programs and historic house tour guides, please contact JoLynn at bechsms@hickorytech.net or 507-345-5566.

As we look ahead at the 2011 season, we look forward to the annual Victorian Lawn Party and Story Time with the Hubbard Girls. The Lawn Party is an all ages event that includes croquet and other lawn games, refreshments, tours of the house, costumed characters and a children's play tea party. The annual Victorian Lawn Party will be held on Saturday, June 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission

Hubbard House Hours

May and September

Saturday 1 - 4 p.m.

Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.

June - August

Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.



Artist's sketch of the 2nd Minnesota Infantry capturing Confederate guns atop Missionary Ridge, Tennessee.

Blue Earth County and the Civil War: Company H 2nd Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry

E. Winston Grundmeier

the residents were tested. In 1861 the first Union volunteer regiment to be committed upon Lincoln's request for 75,000 troops was the First Minnesota Infantry, also known as the "Lumberjacks", and included 1,000 men. Soon after, the 2nd Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry was raised, recruiting mainly from the Dodge County and Rochester area. However, Company H recruited right here in the Mankato area and grew to 110 men.

The men from Blue Earth County in the 2nd Minnesota Infantry served in the Army of General William Rosecrans at the bloody and destructive battle in northwest Georgia called Chickamauga.

On the morning of September 19, 1863, 30 members of Company H went into battle that lasted for two days, were entrenched in the thickest of the fighting, but never left the line. Six soldiers from Company H were killed in battle, two others received wounds that would eventually end their lives and nine other soldiers were wounded. U.S. Karmany was captured by the Rebels and sent to the infamous prison camp in Georgia at Andersonville for 20 months.

The bravery with which the 2nd Minnesota Infantry fought attracted the attention of the colonel commanding the Third Brigade, and he commended the "conduct and sturdy valor" of Lovilo N. Holmes and the 14 non-commissioned officers and privates of Company H for the heroic defense made by them at Nolinsville. The colonel desired that the names of "these worthy men and brave soldiers be preserved." In 1897 the following men each were awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor: Livilo Holmes, William Clark, Milton Hanna, Samuel Wright, Joseph Burger, James Glanigan, John Vale and Byron Pay. The following men, although designated, were not awarded the medal because of death or unknown location: Charles Kraus, Louis Loudrosh, Homer Barnard, Samuel Loudon, Nelson Crandall, Charles Liscom and Samuel Leslie.

Late in 1863, Company H and the 2nd Minnesota Infantry distinguished themselves as part of the most spectacular and heroic actions of the Civil War: the spontaneous charge up the steep slopes of Missionary Ridge which led to the total rout of General Braxton Bragg's Confederate Army.

From July 15, 1861 until July 11, 1865, members of Company H served their country. While many people might assume that such a northern state would not have participated so fully in the battles that raged in the south, men who lived right here in Blue Earth County emerged as heroes after their service in the Civil War.

Many of these soldiers came back to the Mankato area to live, raise families, start businesses and lead full lives in the wake of the war. What happened to these heroes and veterans? Here are the stories of a few of them.



Monument to the 2nd Minnesota Infantry on Missionary Ridge in Tennessee.

Born in Austria in 1848, Joseph Burger immigrated to the United States in 1854. In 1861, at age 14, he enlisted as a Private in Company H. He received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service in the February 15, 1863 action at Nolinsville. He later became a Captain. After the war, he became an attorney and practiced in Mankato and later in St. Paul. His grandson was U.S. Supreme Court Justice Warren E. Burger. He died January 3, 1921 and is buried in Oakland Cemetery, St. Paul.

Captain L.N. Holmes was born October 10, 1830 in Farmersville, NY and moved to Mankato in 1858. He enlisted as a Private in Company H in 1861 and served during the entire war, reaching the rank of Captain. On June 16, 1867, he married Amanda Gail in Mankato, later entering the contracting business for 20 years. Captain Holmes was a member of the Christian Church and served as Deacon for many years. He died on May 7, 1914 at his home on North Broad Street.

S. DeWitt Parsons was born in Cook County, Illinois on January 16, 1846. He enlisted in the 2nd Regiment on July 15, 1861. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant on February 28, 1863 and mustered out on October 30, 1864. He died at the home of his son, Judge Charles F. Parsons at Hilo, Hawaii, on January 18, 1916.

Born in Kenosha, Wisconsin on April 12, 1841, Lewis Bennett came to Minnesota with his parents in 1856, moving first to Tivoli where he lived until 1870. Bennett enlisted at the beginning of the Civil War in Company H and served until near the end when he was discharged for disability. He married Sarah Dickerson March 29, 1865, and they had seven children. He died at his Eagle Lake home April 27, 1905.

William A. Clark was born July 24, 1828 in Pennsylvania, moved to Indiana in 1851 and to Blue Earth County in 1855. He was the second person to take a claim in Shelby Township. He was decorated for the action at Nolinsville, Tennessee, with the Medal of Honor and he continued to serve in the 2nd Minnesota Volunteers until the end of the war. He returned to Mankato and in 1866 married Lorana Keene. They moved to a farm in Belgrade Township in 1869. Clark died on his farm of cancer and complications of his age on January 10, 1916.

William C. Durkee led a short, but very full and

active life. Born May 27, 1842 in St. Lawrence County, New York, he came with his parents to Mankato in 1856. In 1861 he enlisted as a private in Company H, but in the spring of 1862 was discharged on a surgeon's certificate of disability. However, not to be held back, William reenlisted in Company E of the 9th Minnesota in August of the same year. He was later promoted to Captain in the 62nd U.S. Colored Troops. After the close of the rebellion William studied law, graduating in 1868. He returned to Mankato and was admitted to practice the bar. He was elected to the office of Clerk of District Court, which post he held to the day of his death.

Born in Wayne County, Ohio in 1833, William A. Ford moved to Mankato in 1854. He enlisted in Company H in 1861 and served until discharged two years later. He returned to Mankato to recuperate his health, then enlisted in Company E of 2nd Minnesota Heavy Artillery. There he remained until mustered out at the close of the war. William resided in Mankato until 1870 when he returned to his relatives and old home in Iowa. William was accredited the best marksman in 2nd Minnesota Infantry. He died January 29, 1893.

Captain Jerome Dane was a veteran of the Mexican War and served in the Civil War as 2nd Lieutenant of Company H. After service in the South he returned to Mankato, organized Company E of 9th Minnesota and was elected its Captain. For years after the war, Jerome was Postmaster at Eagle Lake. Captain Dane died on February 12, 1908 at his home in Brainerd. His remains were interred in Eagle Lake Cemetery.

Henry C. Tibbitts served in Company H, 2nd Minnesota and was with General Sherman's march to the sea in Georgia. He was also one of the older settlers of Mankato and later died at St. Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis on February 6, 1908 at age 75.

Milton Hanna was born July 16, 1842 in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, and came to Mankato with his parents in 1853. On July 1, 1861 Milton enlisted in Company H, continued to serve until the end of the war and mustered out in July 1865. Milton saw the campaigns of Chattanooga, Chickamauga and Atlanta and was seriously wounded at Chattanooga. He returned to Mankato after the war and lived here until he was sent to the Soldier's Home. He was an active member of the G.A.R., the Mankato Fire Department,

and for many years he operated a grocery store on South Front Street and later a restaurant. He died on January 22, 1913 at the Soldier's Home in Minnehaha after a long illness.

Born in Maine on January 7, 1842, Henry Hilton was living in Mankato in the 1850s and became interested in saw-milling before he joined Company H. After the rebellion, Henry took up farming and milling in St. Clair, as well as civil engineering. He married Katherine Donahue of Illinois in 1866, and their Hilton house was the first residence in St. Clair. Hilton died at his home in St. Clair on January 22, 1901.

Born February 18, 1827 near Lebanon, Pennsylvania, young Uriah S. Karmany came west with his uncle in the spring of 1853 and arrived in Mankato December 20, 1853. He made a claim on Agency Hill, but left to work for Nathan Myrick on a flatboat which plied the Minnesota River. On July 15, 1861 he enlisted in Company H. On September 21, 1863, while on hospital duty at Chickamauga, he was captured by Confederates. Uriah suffered the horrors of rebel prison life for 20 months – at Libby in Richmond, Savannah, Milan, Blackshire and two stretches at infamous Andersonville. Uriah developed blood poisoning and gangrene in 1909 which ended his life on December 6.

Josiah Keene was one of the first settlers of Mankato, dating to early spring 1853. He set up a blacksmith shop here and enlisted in Company H in June of 1861. He was severely wounded during service, losing an arm and suffering other injuries. After the war Josiah was employed in the Treasury Department in Washington, from whence he moved to California and engaged in the fruit business. At the time of his death in October 1899, he was 72.

Byron E. Pay was born in Watertown, New York, then moved to Illinois and Iowa before coming to Mankato. He enlisted in Company H and was wounded in the battle of Chickamauga. For his valiant service he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. After the rebellion Byron associated with Mr. Hubbell of St. Paul in furnishing supplies for Indians in the northwest and also associated with Hudson Fur Company. He died at his home in Volga, South Dakota on February 19, 1906.

Billings P. Sibley, who wrote frequently to his family back in the Mankato area, served in Company

H and also in the 2nd Minnesota Infantry Band. The Band played so well that it was able to refit itself with new instruments from Cincinnati. This Mankato drummer boy also doubled on medic duty.

Born on the Isle of Man in 1833, Thomas G. Quayle arrived in Minnesota in 1858 and enlisted in Company H on July 15, 1861. He had a good record in the service and was promoted to 1st Lieutenant on July 8, 1863. He was mustered out in 1865 and was an active member of the Sully Post, G.A.R. Mr. Quayle, formerly from Garden City, was found dead in the office of his Blue Earth agricultural implement business on February 3, 1885 of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He was survived by his wife and four children.

The soldiers from Blue Earth County who served in Company H were engaged in some of the hardest fought battles of the war and came back to live in the Mankato area as veterans of the United States of America. From the fields that were plowed, to the families who were born, to the businesses that were developed, these veterans served their country, then came back to serve as settlers and pioneers right here in our backyards.

Sources

Blue Earth County Historical Society vertical files and archives

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Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars, 1861-1865/compiled, edited and published under the supervision of the board of commissioners appointed by the act of the Legislature of Minnesota of April 22, 1892, 2nd Edition, Pioneer Press Company, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1899



Billings P. Sibley

New Board Members



L to R: Linda Nussbaumer, Paula Marti, Roxie Mell-Brandts, Shirley Piepho

Linda L. Nussbaumer, received her BS and MS from Minnesota State University, Mankato and doctorate from the University of Minnesota. She taught interior design at South Dakota State University (SDSU) and served as Program Coordinator and Assistant Department Head. She now holds the title, Professor of Interior Design Emerita. Recently, Linda began researching and writing interior design textbooks.

Linda's thesis for her MS degree at MSU focused on the Hubbard House restoration. Using the BECHS archives, the Hubbard House and other sources, Linda developed recommendations for its restoration—many of which have been used. Since 1992 Linda has served on the Restoration Committee.

In Lake Crystal, Linda is a member of the Garden Club, Chamber of Commerce and is active in the First United Methodist Church.

Paula Marti came to Mankato in 1965 as a freshman at Good Counsel Academy for Girls, and at an early age became an oboist with the Mankato Symphony, with which she performed until 1985.

Since purchasing a farm site in 1991 with her husband Georg, she has been involved in the emerging Grape Industry in Minnesota. They were the first to establish a commercial vineyard in Blue Earth County in 1993 and opened a fully operational

winery, Morgan Creek Vineyards, in 1999. She is now president of Morgan Creek Vineyards and oversees the management of the vineyard and winery operations full-time.

She has lived in Cambria Township since 1977, where she and her husband raised four children. Music, gardening and yoga are her favorite disciplines. Cooking, reading Popular Science and photography are her greatest personal pleasures.

Roxie Mell-Brandts is married with six children. She lives in rural Blue Earth County between Garden City and Vernon Center. The family is engaged in both grain and livestock farming. Until recently Roxie was owner of a Mankato trucking company.

She is the co-founder of the Welcome Manor Family Services inpatient treatment facility for women in Garden City. The treatment program is unique in that the children live with their mother through treatment.

Roxie is a former School Board member for Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial school district and a strong advocate for Garden City and Vernon Center communities. She continues to create opportunities and events to keep the communities vibrant and alive including an annual manger scene with live actors and animals each Christmas. She owns and operates Formerly Crane's coffee shop in Garden City, which is open a few mornings a week so locals can gather.

Shirley Piepho and her husband Mark have two children, Marcus and Elizabeth, and two dogs, Zoie and Harpo. Shirley received her BS and MS degrees from Minnesota State University, Mankato. She has been employed at MSU, M for 36 years and is currently the Assistant Director of University Event & Meeting Services. Currently, she serves as Chair of the Greater Mankato Convention & Visitors' Board, GMG Board Member, Schola Board Member and Finance Committee Member at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church. Previously, Shirley was involved with the YWCA Cray Mansion Restoration, History Fest, People's Fair, Festival of Trees, Eclipse, Minnesota Valley Community Concert Series, Bend of the River Festival and MSU's Campus Fund Drives.

The Historical Society's Mankato Baltics Base Ball club plays base ball matches using rules adopted in 1860. The game is fundamentally the same as baseball today, however, differences in rules, strategies, and equipment are portrayed and duplicated as accurately as possible.

The Mankato Baltics will play six 1860s games this season and participate in events with the St. Paul Saints and Mankato Moon Dogs.

Join the team on Monday, May 23 for "Night at the Museums of Minnesota" with the St. Paul Saints. The Baltics, along with the Minneapolis Millers, St. Croix Base Ball Club and various Minnesota museums, will be on hand for demonstrations of 1860s Base Ball, historical characters and a chance to win free admission to museums in Minnesota. General admission tickets are \$8 and available at Midway Stadium. Game time is 7:05 p.m.

The Baltics will be at the Mankato Moon Dogs game on Sunday, June 5 as a fundraiser for the team. Tickets are \$6 for general admissions with \$3 of the ticket price supporting the team. Tickets are



available at the Heritage Center. Game time is 6:05 p.m. at Franklin Rogers Park.

Here is the Baltics schedule:

- **Sunday, June 19**, Triple-header Baltics vs. Halsey Hall Quicksteps at 10 a.m. followed by Baltics vs. Rochester Roosters at Noon at The Landing in Shakopee. Cost is admission to The Landing.
- **Saturday, June 25**, Baltics inaugural Vintage Base Ball

Tournament in Mankato. Vintage Base Ball clubs include the LaCrescent Apple Jacks and Arlington Greys for this round-robin tournament. Watch for details to be announced!

- **Saturday, July 16**, Triple-header in Afton, MN Baltics vs. Afton Red Socks, followed by Baltics vs. LaCrescent Apple Jacks.
- **Saturday, July 30**, Baltics vs. Team TBA at the Blue Earth County Fair, 3 p.m. at the Wellcome Manor field in Garden City.

Please join us as a spectator or a player. It is a fun game to watch and/or play. If you want more information on any of these events or to join the Baltics, please contact Brad Hawker 317-2234 or Hugh Belgard 420-6934. GO BALTICS!

Sterling Congregational Church Memorial Day Program

The Sterling Congregational Church and Cemetery welcomes you to its 44th Annual Memorial Day program on May 30, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

The program includes a flag presentation, singing of the National Anthem, a reading of the Gettysburg address and church history, an inspirational message, a roll call of veterans buried here, playing of taps and children will place flowers on graves. Refreshments will follow the program.

Sterling Church is located on Blue Earth County Road 151 near its intersection with Highway 30 between Amboy and Mapleton. The church was built in 1867 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

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<p align="center"><i>Proud Supporter of the</i> Blue Earth County Historical Society!</p> <div>  I&S GROUP <small>One firm - start to finish™</small> </div> <p align="center">ARCHITECTS • ENGINEERS • PLANNERS • LAND SURVEYORS • SCIENTISTS</p>	<p>MANKATO: 1409 N Riverfront Dr Mankato, MN 56001 507.387.6651</p> <p>FARIBAULT: 1415 Town Square Ln Faribault, MN 55021 507.331.1500 www.is-grp.com</p>

Every object has a story...

The three dimensional artifacts in Blue Earth County Historical Society's permanent collection consists of over 22,000 objects, preserving the broadest culture presentation of Blue Earth County history. The collections have evolved to reflect, document and illustrate the history and development of Blue Earth County's past. Here is a glimpse into our collections.



This is a vintage “coming attractions” poster advertising what was playing at the Grand Theatre in Mankato. The piece is from the 1950s, back when theaters not only showed movies but also featured musical acts. Adult evening ticket prices were 40 cents. The poster was found in an attic; it seems the home owner had plastered several of these between the rafters. You never know where you’ll find history.

The tintype process was invented in 1853. Tintypes were extremely popular during the Civil War era. Tiny 'gem' tintypes about 1-inch by 1-inch were made starting in 1863. These were often sold in bunches and put in albums like this one belonging to Amos Messer.



These objects were donated by members of the Blue Earth County community. Interested in donating a piece of Blue Earth County history, please contact Shelley Harrison, Archives Manager.

Join the Fun! Join the Team! Volunteer Today!

Gift Shop Attendant

Help needed at Heritage Center, Hubbard House and Marian Anderson Art Gallery. Schedule varies.

Speakers Bureau

Looking for individuals to assist with monthly speaking engagements in Blue Earth County

Tour Guide

Lead large and small groups through the Hubbard House and Heritage Center Museum.

Gardening

Seasonal Heritage Center garden maintenance.

**Contact JoLynn for details: 345-5566 or
bechsms@hickorytech.net**

Coming in the July issue of *The Historian*:

“There was something hauntingly familiar about the stories I was reading about the involvement of Minnesota families during the Civil War. It was as if someone had blown the dust off of a book and the cover unearthed was my family tree. The very first obituary card I read at BECHS told me that I was about to discover that history has a way of reaching out to us and grabbing hold, if only we take a moment to listen to the stories.”

Author Chris Oldenburg will share the stories of her Blue Earth County family's involvement in the Civil War in our next issue.

BECHS Donations

January - March 2011

Anderson, Mavis and Wayne
Beauford Township
Cords, Betty Lou
Frederick, Sal
Garden City Township
Grundmeier, Winston and Shirley
Hiniker, Char
Jacobson, Lyle and Kay
Lamphier, John
Lime Township
Marks, Tom
Schultz, Jo
Wood, Caroline

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Arnold Bentdahl
Vee, Harlan

In Memory of Katherine Thro Frost
Richards, Marcia Jones

In Memory of Beatrice McLean
Richards, Marcia Jones
McGregor, Byron and Karen

In Memory of Mary Ellen How
Confer, Ogden W. and Jane

In Memory of Ed Senska
Grundmeier, Shirley

In Memory of Bob Simmonds
Durenberger, Paul and Kathryn

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Endowment Fund

Marti, Helen
Preska, Margaret and Daniel

Front Street Project

Harmer, William R.
Pommerenke, Marlene Cutkosky

Programs

Crowe, JoLynn

Technology

Gerrish, Don
Ryan, Thomas L.

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Brekke, Rosemary
Coughlan Company
Country Inn & Suites
Gustavus Adolphus College
I&S Group
Red Door Creative

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Technology, \$2500 for
Promotional Materials

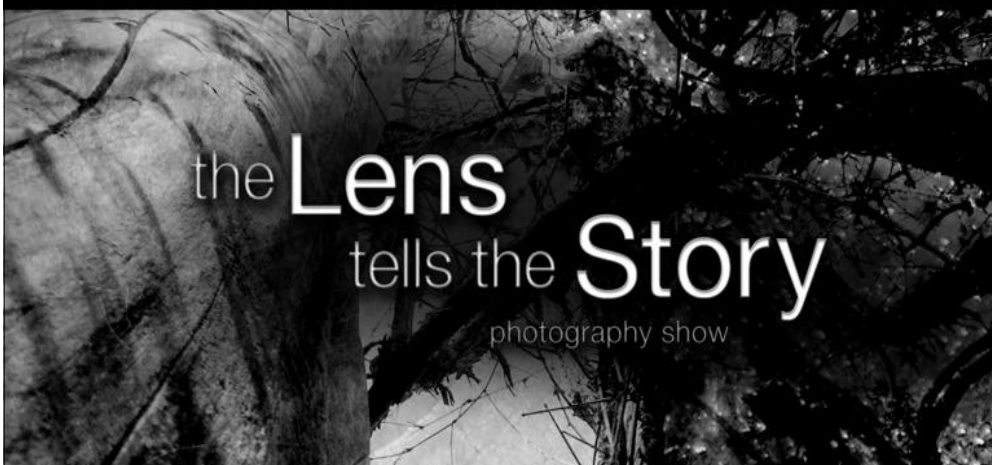
HickoryTech Foundation, \$2500
for the Front Street Project

MATCHING GIFTS

CenterPoint Energy GIVE
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General Mills Foundation \$300

BEND OF THE RIVER PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB



the **Lens**
tells the **Story**
photography show

PHOTOGRAPHS ARE DISPLAYED APRIL - JUNE 2011

 Blue Earth County Historical Society
415 East Cherry Street • Mankato, MN

FEATURED ARTISTS

The Bend of the River Photography Club's new exhibit at the Heritage Center features 26 stories through the lens of club members. The Club is a collaboration ranging from professional photographers to individuals out for a good shot. The exhibit will be on display at the Heritage Center through June.

Next Exhibit:

Denice Woller

"Looking Back:

10 years of Photography"
July - September 2011

Around Blue Earth County



2010 Year in Review

Rapidan Heritage Society began its ninth year by choosing our seventh piece of Red Wing pottery, a water pitcher featuring the Rapidan Dam. The dam was chosen because of the upcoming Dam Centennial Celebration in August.

The annual meeting was held on February 18, with Ryan Weisz, Western Regional Manager for North American Hydro, speaking about the current operations of the Rapidan Dam and sharing facts and statistics about the dam. It was an interesting presentation on one of our most significant historical assets to Rapidan Township.

Our Memorial Day celebration saluted the past and present troops with the presenting of Colors by the North Mankato American Legion Post. Win Grundmeier, author of *The Remarkable Men of Garden City*, talked about his book and told several stories about these amazing local men. After the morning program, our guest speaker, Harry Peterson, shared many stories about railroad days in this area; standing on the depot and caboose platforms, he explained functions of the caboose and depot duties. To finish the program, a wonderful lunch was served by RHS to all who chose to join us in the township garage. Thanks to all who made that day a great get-together event.

RHS again decided to host a neighborhood event called "National Night Out" in Rapidan on August 3. Neighbors from Rapidan and the surrounding area came with dishes to pass and smiles on their faces. The Sheriff's Department stopped by early to answer questions, show their squad cars and talk with kids of all ages. Everyone had a great time, so keep the first Tuesday evening in August open as RHS will host this event again in 2011.

On August 14, RHS hosted the Centennial Celebration of the Rapidan Dam – what a day! We had music, crafts, historical presentations, rides on the Wells Fargo Stage Coach, a fishing contest, canoe rides, horseshoe tournament, and so much more. To end the day we had a grand show of fireworks that could be seen many miles away. Wow! Thank you to all of the great volunteers, vendors, and non-profits who came and made this event such a success. Without you the event would not have been what it was. Thank You, Thank You!

Many young and old visited the Depot again this year on Halloween night. We were lucky the weather

cooperated in giving us such a nice evening for the tricks or treaters. We handed out many bags of goodies along with cookies and bars to parents and drivers who were willing to venture up to our door. After a fun evening of special guests, we gathered in the township community room for some great food and socializing.

A big thank you to the volunteers who were at the Depot on Election Day handing out cookies and hot beverages to all who stopped and toured the museum after voting. Our volunteers were busy in November when we again participated in the Madison East Non-Profit Bake Sale with great success. Our tables were popular with many who were buying goodies for the upcoming holidays. Bread and doilies were big sellers!

As usual, we had a great time with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Depot with many little visitors and friends bringing in the holiday cheer. Afterwards, we had our annual Holiday gathering at the township hall. We celebrated the holiday season with wonderful food and great friends.

Your continued support of these fundraisers and donations are necessary and so very important to our heritage society. We really appreciate all of your support at our meetings and events throughout the year and hope that in this new year you will continue to help support our organization in whatever way you feel comfortable.

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

Liz Madsen, President



Rapidan Heritage Society Bus Trip to Wasioja Civil War Days June 25, 2011

Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime re-enactment of Minnesota's entry into the Civil War.

Experience the daily life of the 1860s as Americans from North and South re-enact the lives of real people from that era. Commerce, fashion, games, transportation, weapons of war and combat will all be demonstrated.

The Battle of Chickamauga will be re-enacted.

Call 507-995-1185 for details.

BECHS Membership

January - March 2011

New Members

Amboy Area Community Club
 Benjamin, Carolyn
 Burhop, Nancy
 Caven, Eleanor
 Costine, Mark and Hall, Kevin
 Grems, Harold and Pam
 Haefner, Scott
 Hanna, Karolyn
 Harter, Edward and Margo
 Horrisberger, Paul and Carol
 Isch, John
 Kelliher, Margaret Anderson
 Kleppe, Denise
 Lowe, Heather
 Madden, Patrick
 McComb, Karlene
 Nimmerfroth, Mary
 Peterson, Melissa
 Richardson, David and Kristin
 Riley, Gretchen
 Schmillen, Jane
 Schmitz, Mike and Christine
 Schoeppner, Ted
 Sebald, Greg
 Stenzel, Laurie
 Swanson, Sonja
 Weiler, Roger

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YOUNG HISTORIANS



Connor Oldenburg, YH Co-President

The Young Historians have been busy in 2011! We have been covering the Victorian era, the transcontinental railroad and westward expansion. Our club members are also getting their History Day projects ready.

History Day projects explore history at a deeper level, and the theme this year is debate and diplomacy. Some of the project topics club members are researching include 9/11, JFK assassination, Homestead Act, Title IX and more. Members will compile their information and present their projects as displays. If you would like to see the projects and learn more about history, come to the Historical Society on May 14 at 1 p.m.. Members will be at the Heritage Center to display their projects and answer any questions.

The Young Historians are also keeping busy in history outside of the club. Some of the members are participating in an Abraham Lincoln play, and others will be training for and acting as tour guides for the Hubbard House this spring. I recently participated in a Paul Revere memoir writing contest for the Daughters of the American Revolution and read my essay to the DAR on April 9.

Young Historians have also been working hard to raise enough money to buy new tables and chairs for the Historical Society. The tables and chairs that BECHS has right now are old and worn, and there aren't enough for our growing size. In the fundraising efforts by Young Historians, we have raised \$1,600 through donations, the Barnes and Noble book fair and the Herberger's Community Day Sale, but we still need \$2,400 to reach our goal. Any help would be appreciated!



Fingerprints and Footnotes

Footnotes and Fingerprints, the History and Genealogy Club, is always growing and newcomers are always welcome. In February we researched clues found in census records. Few other records give better leads as we track down our ancestors. In March we discovered a new way of looking at unidentified photographs. Grace Keir did an excellent job presenting the program and thank you to everyone who brought along *instant relatives*.



Ted and Margaret Schreyer

This month we were excited to have Margaret Schreyer discuss the Marigold Dixielanders, the Blue Ox Jazz Babies and everything in between. The banjo has played an integral role in American history and culture. It has inspired an

eclectic array of artists and Blue Earth County is lucky to have its fair share.

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

Future Meetings

May 3 - Minnesota Archaeology Week with Dr. Ronald Schirmer

June 7- A Woman's Perspective on the Civil War presented by Susan Hynes

July 5 - A Guide for Military Research

Footnote in History

May 30, 1889 (122 Years Ago)
Memorial Day becomes a legal holiday in Minnesota.



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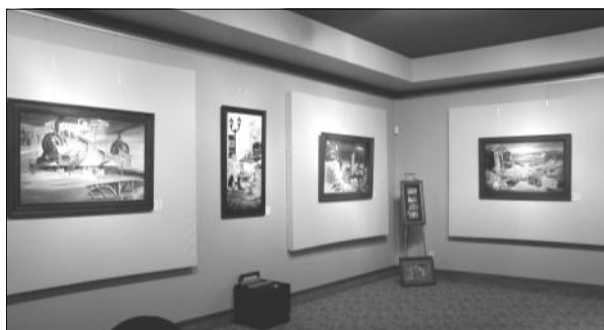
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- Snow Plowing, Removal & Sanding

Calendar of Events May - July 2011

MAY

- 3 Fingerprints and Footnotes**
Minnesota Archaeology Week by
Dr. Ronald Schirmer, Heritage Center, 6 p.m.
- 7 Hubbard House Opens for season**, 1-4 p.m.
- 7 Marian Anderson Art Gallery Open**, 1-5 p.m.
- 10 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 4:10 p.m.
- 14-15 Marian Anderson Art Gallery Grand Opening**, 1-5 p.m.



- 14 Young Historians**
Workshop, 10 a.m. & Reception, 1 p.m.
- 19 Third Thursday Gallery Walk**
Heritage Center Art Gallery and Marian Anderson Art Gallery Open, 5-8 p.m.
- 23 Night at the Minnesota Museums**
Mankato Baltics @ St. Paul Saints, 7:05 p.m.
Limited number of tickets available at BECHS
- 24 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 4:10 p.m.
- 28 Heritage Center Closed**

JUNE

- 4 Victorian Lawn Party**
R.D. Hubbard House, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 4 Marian Anderson Art Gallery open** 1-5 p.m.
- 5 Mankato Baltics @ Mankato Moon Dogs**
Franklin Rogers Park, 6:05 p.m.
Tickets available at Heritage Center
- 7 Fingerprints and Footnotes**
A Woman's Perspective on the Civil War by
Susan Hynes, Heritage Center, 6 p.m.
- 14 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 4:10 p.m.
- 16 Third Thursday Gallery Walk**
Heritage Center Art Gallery and Marian Anderson Art Gallery Open, 5-8 p.m.
- 17 Story Time with the Hubbard Girls**
Friday mornings 10:30 a.m.
June 17 – August 26

- 19 Mankato Baltics vs. Halsey Hall Quicksteps**
@ 10 a.m., Baltics vs. Rochester Roosters @
Noon, The Landing in Shakopee
- 25 Mankato Baltics Vintage Base Ball Tournament @ Mankato** details TBA
- 26 Cambria Eisteddfod**
Welsh Poetry and Music Festival at Morgan Creek Vineyards, 2 p.m.



- 28 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 4:10 p.m.
- TBA Historic Front Street Pub Crawl**
Watch for details to be announced

JULY

- 2 Heritage Center and Marian Anderson Art Gallery Closed**
- 4 Cambria Fourth of July Celebration**
- 5 Fingerprints and Footnotes**
A Guide to Military Research,
Heritage Center, 6 p.m.
- 12 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 4:10 p.m.
- 16 Mankato Baltics vs. Afton Red Socks**
Afton, MN
- 21 Third Thursday Gallery Walk**
Heritage Center Art Gallery and Marian Anderson Art Gallery Open, 5-8 p.m.
Artist Reception for Denice Woller
- 26 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 4:10 p.m.
- 28-31 Blue Earth County Fair**
- 30 Mankato Baltics at the Blue Earth County Fair**,
Garden City, 3 p.m.

Check out
www.bechshistory.com
for full event details
and updates!
Become a BECHS
Facebook Fan
for weekly updates!





Blue Earth County Historical Society

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