

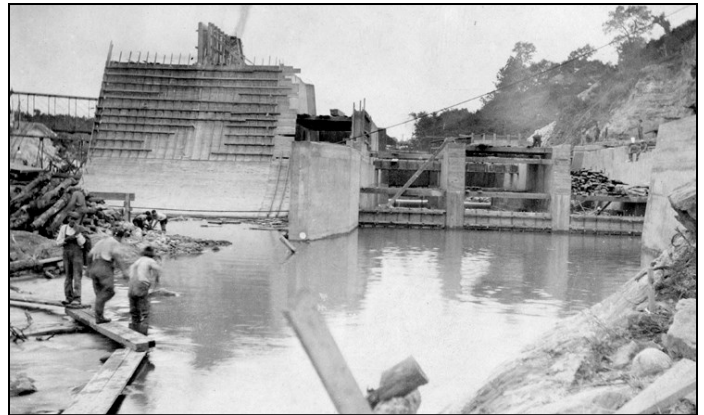
The Blue Earth County

# HISTORIAN



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**The Rapidan Dam was built in 1909-1910. Join the Centennial Celebration at the Dam on August 14th**

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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Jessica Potter, Executive Director  
bechs@hickorytech.net  
Shelley Harrison, Archives Manager bech-  
sam@hickorytech.net  
JoLynn Crowe, Museum Assistant  
bechsms@hickorytech.net  
Marsha Heinze, Archives Aide  
bechsrc@hickorytech.net  
LaDonna Tollefson, Museum Aide  
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### Newsletter Production

Donna Webb, Editor

## *The Blue Earth County Historian* Summer 2010

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

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# Board of Trustees

Mike Lagerquist  
Board of Trustees President

Groucho Marx is often quoted as saying he wouldn't want to join any club that would have him as a member. Obviously he was never a member of the Blue Earth County Historical Society! As an organization, we encourage everyone to become an ACTIVE member, adding your names to the ranks of membership and showing your interest and support by attending as many of the events we present as possible. When joining or renewing, you have the opportunity to show your support by adding a donation or joining at a level above the individual level. We love to see families and businesses join and share a membership as a bonding experience.

A certain credit card company proclaims, "Membership has its privileges," and the same is true with BECHS. Membership gifts, discounts on event admission and purchases at the Museum Store, receipt of our quarterly *Blue Earth County Historian* newsletter and notification (and reminders) about upcoming special events are all things you receive with your membership. For BECHS, your membership equates to more than just a warm feeling inside. It also provides a baseline in our budget that allows us to better plan for the year ahead, as well as giving us a tangible measurement of involvement and support for who we are and what we do. For that we thank you!

Many members have already received their annual membership renewals request, others will receive theirs on their anniversary date (new this year). We hope you will quickly and generously respond with your renewal. In addition, we ask that you consider an extra donation (donations above membership are tax-deductible) and look at our list of projects for which we seek funding. Jessica and her able staff do a lot with very little, but with each gift beyond the minimum, you make it possible for them to do more and look farther. Becoming and staying more visible in the community, for example, is extremely important to maintain a vibrant Historical Society. So please consider a designated donation toward one OF the many upcoming projects and future needs.

Going back to Groucho, let me say that we appreciate all of our current members, welcome our new members and hope you will ALL make the duck fall by saying the magic word: Renewal.

## 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.

# Director's Notes



**Jessica Potter**  
Executive Director

Spring has been a season of renewal and change for the Blue Earth County Historical Society. With the addition of five new Board members at the Annual Meeting in March, the Society has been embracing organizational changes involving our committees. BECHS proudly employs three full-time, two seasonal and two Minnesota Valley Action Council employees. But there is much more work to be done than could ever be tackled completely by the staff, so we utilize the expertise and dedication of our many volunteers in day-to-day operations and committee work.

In May, the Board of Trustees approved the reorganization of the Society's committee structure. Some committees needed more focus on their purpose, some committees did not exist and some committees just are not needed right now. The following is a list of the current committees along with a brief description:

- **Board of Trustees** – governing body for the Society, new members elected at Annual Meeting in March (3 positions will be open in March 2011)
- **Executive Committee** – composed of the officers of the Board of Trustees
- **Facilities Committee** – focuses on the long-range planning for building needs (committee members needed, newly formed committee to hold its first meeting in August)
- **Finance Committee** - oversees the annual operating budget and BECHS funds, creates the 3-year planning budget (committee members with finance background needed)
- **Development Committee** – focuses on the annual fundraising and membership drives as well as member and donor cultivation (committee members needed)
- **Collections Management Committee** – responsible for the Society's archival and three-dimensional collections (committee members must be a volunteer for the Archives or Collections departments)

- **Exhibits Committee** – this committee will research, design and create the upcoming Front Street exhibit to open in the spring of 2011 (committee members with varied backgrounds needed, newly formed committee to hold its first meeting in August)
- **Hubbard House Restoration Committee** – plan and implement the restoration and furnishing plan for the R.D. Hubbard House (committee members needed)
- **Communications and Marketing Committee** – focuses on creating and implementing the communications and marketing plan for the Society (committee members with communications or marketing background needed)
- **Museum Store Committee** – works with the Society's store items at the Heritage Center, Hubbard House, online and off-site locations (committee members with merchandising background needed)
- **Programs and Outreach Committee** – creates and implements the Society's educational, income-generating and outreach programs (committee members needed)
- **Publications Committee** – responsible for the creation and editing of all BECHS publications including the *Historian* (committee members with researching, writing and proofreading experience needed)
- **Technology Committee** – responsible for the long-range technology needs for the Society (committee members with a technology planning background needed)
- **Website and Social Networks Committee** – responsible for maintenance of bechshistory.com and the Society's Facebook page (committee members interested in assisting with social networks needed)

As you can see, much of what makes BECHS possible is achieved through the hard work and dedication of our committee volunteers. If you are interested in contributing your talents to a committee, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would like to say a sincere thanks to all the wonderful people who currently serve on BECHS committees. The staff and the Board also thanks you for your time and talents!



# Museum Store

**JoLynn Crowe**  
Museum Assistant

Aha, summer is here, the flowers are blooming, the birds are singing and it is backyard Bar-B-Q time or maybe just a lazy afternoon to kick back and read a book while enjoying the great outdoors! Ladies, if you are hosting a get-together, stop by the Museum Store and check out the beautiful aprons made by Grace Keir. We also have great limestone paperweights (large and small) in the shape of our state of Minnesota that could easily be used to hold down items that might blow away. And, of course, there are the snapshots of your fun times together, so why not check out the unique picture frames we have available, like the one that looks like an antique metal ceiling square or the cream-colored scrolled antique-looking one or the tall black frame that will hold four photographs. The Museum Store also carries antique scrolled easels that would hold a beautiful, special print. And don't forget all of the wonderful prints we have to choose from!

The traveling museum store will be at the Blue Earth County Fair from July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>. BECHS would welcome volunteers for the fair, either helping out in the store or schoolhouse. There will be a schoolhouse program on Saturday, July 31 at 1:00 p.m. with dismissal for recess to go cheer on the Mankato Baltics at the Wellcome Memorial School at 3:00 p.m. The Vintage Base Ball Game is sure to be a crowd pleaser!

If you are a more of the stay-at-home type, the museum store has a great selection of books for some summer afternoon reading. A new additional companion to the publication titled *Hidden Front*

*Street* is the booklet *Rediscovering Front Street*. It is the story of the 400 and 500 Blocks of Mankato's South Front Street and was the subject of the last Pub Crawl. The next Pub Crawl is already slated for September 24th, 2010. Tickets should be available soon; remember to reserve your's early.

Be sure to check out everything BECHS has to offer on our website at [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com) or at our store locations at the Heritage Center and the historic R.D. Hubbard House.

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Blue Earth County Fair**  
volunteers needed for our building and schoolhouse activities

**Vintage 1860s Base Ball Players**

**Tour Guide** for the Hubbard House and Heritage Center

**Writer** for publications and newsletter

**Committee Members**

Plus Many Other Opportunities

Please contact JoLynn at 345-5566 or [bechsms@hickorytech.net](mailto: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

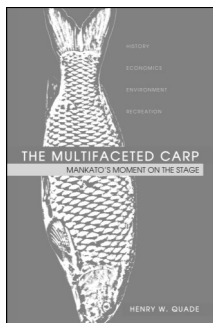
**Members receive a 10% discount on most items available in the Store.**



## Featured Museum Store Items

### 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



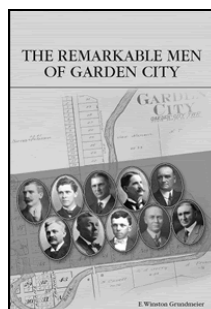
### John Cross Photography

John Cross's favorite photographs taken during his 34 years at the *Mankato Free Press* are on display at the Heritage Center through

September 1, 2010. The exhibit is open during regular business hours. Some of the displayed photographs are available for purchase ranging from 8x10" for \$49 to 24x36" framed for \$269. A portion of the proceeds will be donated back to the Historical Society thanks to the generosity of Brian Fowler of the Artisan Gallery, Mankato.

### The Remarkable Men of Garden City

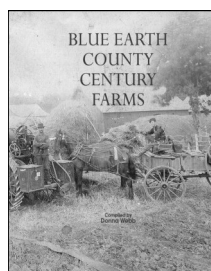
By E. Winston Grundmeier



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

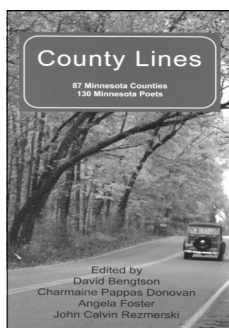
### Blue Earth County Century Farms



The story of the development of agriculture in this county through the eyes of the farm families who lived it. Between 1876 and 2004, 178 farms in our county became registered Century Farms. These farms have been owned and operated by members of 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, and about their successes and failures, joys and sorrows.

Hardbound, \$39.95

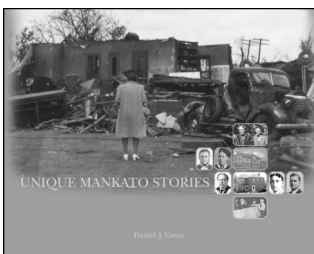


### County Lines

The League of Minnesota Poets introduces an anthology of Minnesota poetry celebrating Minnesota history, legends and prominent landmarks in commemoration of the Minnesota Sesquicentennial. Paper \$13.95

### Unique Mankato Stories

by Daniel Vance



Relive the incredible forgotten stories of Mankato including those of Moses Wickersham, Maud Hart Lovelace, Julia Ann Sears, Sinclair Lewis and the Green Gables tornado.

These hidden gems span the first 100 years of Mankato history. Paper, \$19.95

### Unique Picture Frames

For *unique* picture frames, the Museum Store is the place to shop. We carry three different types of frames: wood, metal and replica tin. Prices range from \$6.95 to \$25.95.



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





# Research Center

Marsha Heinze  
Archives Aide

Did you know that the Research Center has indexes to many useful genealogical references? These resources are often overlooked but could be of great help when a researcher hits that wall which we all have done at some time during our search.

Some great references include:

1. The Blue Earth County Naturalization Index:  
This gives a listing of people in Blue Earth County who have been given their naturalization papers, where to get a copy and how much it costs.
2. Marriage Announcements Index 1947 and 1948:  
Did you know that Norman K. Grams married Betty Lou Fischer on May 5, 1947? This index was compiled from the *Mankato Free Press*.
3. Blue Earth County Will Index 1858 - 1973: This is an alphabetical list of probate wills that are available at the Research Center for viewing or \$10.00 per copy.
4. Index of Obituaries 1949 -1954: Perhaps you have had trouble finding your family member's obituary. Check this notebook and see if it is listed. This index was compiled from the *Mankato Free Press* and many of the obituaries are not available in our comprehensive Obituary files.
5. Mapleton, Blue Earth County Enterprise Index to Obituaries 1887 - 1986. Is your family from the Mapleton area? Check out these files for more information.

Perhaps one of these sources is just what you have been looking for. Come into the Research Center and spend some time looking them over. The more resources a researcher has at their fingertips, the sooner they will find the answer.



## Visit BECHS

**July 29 - August 1**  
**Blue Earth County**  
**Fairgrounds**

*Gift Shop and Exhibits*  
*Schoolhouse Activities*

**July 31st at 3 p.m.**  
**Vintage Base Ball Game**  
**Mankato Baltics vs.**  
**Blue Earth County Deputies**

Please visit us at the Fair, and please consider volunteering. Contact JoLynn



### 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

One of our members was looking in the Garden City Social Notes when she came to me with a question. (Garden City Notes, MFP 11/16/1929; 3:6) Have you heard of the DeCoster Hospital in Mankato and where was it located? Anyone with information contact Marsha at (507) 345-5566 or bechsrc@hickorytech.net.

### *Follow up on last issue's mystery:*

Thanks to all who contacted me. There was no "Button Factory" in Mankato; however, the oyster shells from the Minnesota River were sold to buyers. These buyers came to New Ulm and sold to "Button Factories" out East.



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

[www.facebook.com/bechshistory](http://www.facebook.com/bechshistory)

## Wish List

*Items or cash donations will be gratefully accepted.*

- Heritage Landscaping – seeking gift cards to area greenhouses or drought tolerant perennials (see Jessica for complete list of plants needed)
- Office Max or Que Computers Gift Cards
- Archival supplies for collections storage (ongoing preservation expense)
- See enclosed 2010 Wish List for other wishes

### Wishes fulfilled:

- Three used legal-size filing cabinets for collections records from Randy Zellmer
- 3 ft. step stool for Hubbard House from Donna Resner

**THANK YOU!**



## Fingerprints and Footnotes

Fingerprints and Footnotes had a rip-roaring, eye-popping Spring. In May we got a closer look at the Society's archaeological collection by handling, examining, comparing, and discussing our archaeological artifacts. We have some mega Mauls! In June we were going to discuss the upcoming 150th Anniversary of Minnesota entering into the Civil War with Civil War enthusiast John "Johnny K" Kvasnicka, but we had to cancel the event so check your calendars, we'll reschedule! In July the club learned about migrating your family history into the 21<sup>st</sup> century so that future generations can hear, see and enjoy it! As always the meetings are entertaining as well as educational and an enchanting time is had by all. Newcomers are always welcome.

If you have any ideas for discussion topics or any interest in presenting a topic, please let Shelley know.

### Future Meetings

- August 3rd – "A River Trip" presented by John Cross
- September 7th – "The Dakota Conflict" presented by Steven Ulmen
- October 5th – The Darker Side of Victorian Books at the Hubbard House

### Finger Tips:

Want to know what year your person immigrated to the USA? Check census records of 1900, 1910, 1920 or 1930. By finding the year of immigration, one can often find the ship's manifest records that list the place of origin of the immigrant.

*- Provided by Beth Zimmer*



### BECHS On the Air

Listen to KTOE 1420 AM the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month 4:10-4:40 p.m.  
*BECHS update with Trish.*



# R.D. Hubbard House

The R.D. Hubbard House has been quite busy this summer! The season began with an elegant

Victorian Tea Party held on May 1<sup>st</sup> at St. John's Episcopal Church, where guests were received by Mrs. Frank Hubbard (aka Patrice Hundstad) as hostess and served a variety of teas and delicacies made from the kitchens of BECHS volunteers. Guests made May Day baskets, took old-time photographs, and enjoyed a "Victorian Woman" themed tour of the Hubbard House. Watch for announcements of the next tea party in May 2011.

The annual Victorian Lawn Party was held on June 5<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association and the Betsy Tacy Society. Guests enjoyed croquet, baked goods and lemonade, and tours of the historic home between the rain drops.

A new feature at the Hubbard House this summer is a weekly event for children called

"Storytime with the Hubbard Girls," which began on June 11th. Long-time volunteers Laura Garlow (aka Mary Esther Hubbard) and Alex Oldenburg (aka Katherine Hubbard) host a story and craft activity for children every Friday at 10:30 am. Children of all ages have enjoyed the activities on the lawn of the Hubbard House.

"A Day in the Life of the Hubbards," a living

history event weekend, is planned for August 20 and 21. It will include historical demonstrations of daily Victorian life, games, activities, and refreshments as well as tours of the historic house. Volunteers are needed; please contact JoLynn if you are interested in participating.

If you have visited the Hubbard House this summer, you may have noticed two new faces. Heather Lowe and Abigail Bourman have joined the seasonal staff of the historic house. They are not only working on programming and tours, but have also been working with members of the Restoration Committee to re-evaluate the little details in the Hubbard House that make it a true living historic house museum. Watch for changes (large and small) in the upcoming months.



## Congratulations to Susan Hynes and Laura Garlow, recipients of the 2010 Jefferson Good People Awards!



*Susan serves on the Board of Trustees, Outreach Committee and is active in living history programs at the Hubbard House and Ghosts from the Past.*

*Laura is a Junior Historian and has volunteered at the Hubbard House since she was in third grade.*



### 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





# The Shady Lady from South Bend

BY STEVE ULMEN

Well you got trouble, my friend, right here  
I say trouble right here in river city...

Professor Harold Hill popularized these lyrics in the 1962 hit film, *The Music Man*, but they applied just as well to Blue Earth County back in the bootlegging days of the 1930s. Not only was the manufacture, sale, and distribution of moonshine rampant in the county, but also, Blue Earth County found itself used as a hideout by gangsters on the lam.

Driving south along Highway 169 from Mankato, you cross the Blue Earth River just beyond the CHS complex. Continuing south takes you through LeHillier and past the suburb known as South Bend, a quaint community of homes and light industry on the old trail toward Minneopa Park. What is not obvious while traveling this route is that in the 1920s and 1930s and extending up into the 1950s, South Bend was a regular Peyton Place peopled by gangsters, moonshiners and bootleggers plying their illegal trade or laying low in a notorious safe house until the heat was off.

Why would bootlegging still be active in the 1950s when prohibition was repealed decades earlier?

Think about it. Back then nothing was open on Sunday except filling stations, drive-ins and cafes, or the Farho sisters' little grocery on South Front Street. Bars quit selling at midnight and places like the old 169 Club, north of town, and the Junction Inn, west of town, were bottle clubs that stayed open till everyone went home, usually 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning. So if you wanted a bottle after hours, you drove out to South Bend.

Undoubtedly the most famous gun moll in this area was a woman named Isabelle Mathilda (Andersen) Born. Isabelle, or "Belle" as she was called, was born in 1888 in South Bend Township to Christian and Caroline Andersen. Her parents, and three of her siblings, emigrated from Denmark to the U.S. in 1885 and built a log cabin on the corner of Clarion and Third Street. Shortly after their arrival, the oldest daughter, Sadie, died of scarlet fever, and a year later, their third oldest daughter, Hilda, died of typhoid. The remaining daughter, Mae, born in 1878 in Denmark, moved out of the Mankato area and lived elsewhere until her death in Butte, Montana in 1959. Only then did Mae return to Mankato; she is buried on the family plot at Minneopa cemetery.

In 1886, Ole Andersen was born, followed on August 13, 1888, by the birth of the future shady lady herself, Isabelle Mathilda. Three months later, Christian died of typhoid fever, which he contracted while tending to typhoid patients at the Jorgensen house in Mankato. Penicillin had not yet been invented, so epidemics and such deaths were common.

By the ripe old age of 34 years, and only three years after leaving her home country, Caroline Andersen, illiterate and unable to speak English, found herself a lone widow raising three children. She supported herself and her children by working as a domestic, a scrub woman, in hotels and homes in the area. She eventually built a new house on the original property, where she lived until her death in 1931. Ownership of this property then passed to her daughters, Isabelle and Mae. As time passed, Isabelle acquired more property and eventually owned a block of land in South Bend.

Not much is known of Isabelle's childhood years. We do know that in the early 1900s she married William Born, a U.S. Army Major during World War I. She lived with him at a variety of military bases around the country. They later divorced, they had no children.

Belle moved into her mother's house after Caroline died in 1931, and she remained in South Bend for the rest of her life. It was also in the 1930s when the rumors began to circulate about her connection to organized crime, and she became the notorious albeit mysterious Belle Born.

Two widely reported kidnappings occurred in Minnesota in the early 1930s. The first was William Hamm, of Hamm's brewery fame, in 1933, and the second was the abduction of Edward Bremer, a banker, in 1934. These two kidnappings led to the arrest of Alvin Karpis, the nation's Public Enemy #1, who was a member of Ma Barker's gang, and also Charles Fitzgerald, an ex-convict and acquaintance of Belle Born. In April of that year, Belle also made headlines in the *Mankato Free Press*.

Wednesday April 22, 1936  
**MRS. BORN CALLED IN A KIDNAP  
PROBE**

Thursday April 23, 1936  
**MRS. BORN LIKELY BE GIVEN  
RELEASE TO TESTIFY LATER**

“Testimony of Mrs. Isabelle Born of South Bend before the federal grand jury in St. Paul which last night indicted 7 men, including Alvin Karpis for participation in the kidnapping of William Hamm in 1933, closed two days of presenting evidence to the jury.

Mrs. Born, well known in Mankato, testified before the grand jury that she had lived with Charles (Big Fitz) Fitzgerald, Los Angeles convict indicted last night in the grand jury’s report, in Chicago and other cities.

The South Bend woman is being held as a material witness in the Hamm case. She testified attired in a red dress and carrying a broken arm in a sling. Her release today under bond of \$2,000 was expected.”



Mrs. Belle Born leaving the St. Paul Court House. Reprinted from the *Mankato Free Press*

Friday April 24, 1936  
**RUMOR MRS. BORN MAY FACE  
CHARGE**

“Indictment of Mrs. Isabelle Born of South Bend in connection with the William Hamm Jr. \$100,000 kidnapping case was seen as a possibility

today as two ‘mystery witnesses,’ a man and a woman, were brought to the department of justice offices in St. Paul late yesterday for questioning, the Associated Press reported.

The pair, closely guarded by three federal agents as they were brought into the federal building in St. Paul, reputedly are acquaintances of Chas. (Big Fitz) Fitzgerald, one of seven men indicted by the grand jury as participants in the kidnapping.

It is believed that the ‘mystery witnesses’ were questioned regarding Mrs. Born who was released from custody late yesterday under bond of \$2,000. Mrs. Born has been held as a material witness in the case, and in testifying before the grand jury, she admitted her association with Fitzgerald in Chicago and other cities.

A.R. Pfau, Jr., and A.R. Pfau III, Mankato attorneys, have been in St. Paul since Tuesday as representatives of the South Bend woman who is known here. Mrs. Born, Nellie Anderson before her marriage, occupies a lavishly furnished home in South Bend 3 miles west of Mankato on Highway 169.”

These indictments led to a nationwide manhunt conducted by the FBI and led by J. Edgar Hoover himself. The May 2, 1936 edition of the *Mankato Free Press* carried a large article detailing the capture of Alvin Karpis, Public Enemy #1. The headlines screamed:

**NO. 1 GANGSTER RUSHED NORTH BY  
PLANE AFTER ARREST IN NEW ORLEANS**

It read in part: “Alvin Karpis, the nation’s No. 1 criminal who boasted he ‘wouldn’t be taken alive,’ but who was ‘scared to death’ when federal agents closed in on him in New Orleans, was held today in the federal building while authorities questioned him regarding three kidnappings and other crimes.”

Karpis and others were indicted, and the subsequent trials dragged on for months. The July 17, 1936 edition of the *Mankato Free Press* ran the following rather colorful story:

**MRS. BORN ON STAND YESTERDAY  
TOLD OF CONNECTION WITH KARPIS  
AIDES**

“Mrs. Belle Born of South Bend, Mankato

suburb, testifying as a government witness yesterday revealed the activities of certain members of the Barker-Karpis gang following the \$100,000 kidnapping of William Hamm Jr., St. Paul brewer, on June 15, 1933, the Associated Press reported.

Mrs. Born, who admitted on the stand she lived with Charles Fitzgerald, confessed kidnapper, told of going to the cottage of Freddie Barker, slain gangster, at Long Lake, Illinois, near Chicago, where the government contends the ransom money was split up.

Mrs. Born said she met and lived with Fitzgerald for six years, part of the time in several Chicago apartment houses. She identified a photograph of Fred Barker, whom she said she knew as 'Mr. Anderson' at that time. On her visit with Fitzgerald to the lake cottage, she testified she saw "Anderson" and his girl friend, Paula Harmon.

Asked by George F. Sullivan, U.S. District Attorney, whether any other persons were there, she mentioned a woman named 'Edna' and 'another man.' The 'Edna' the witness referred to, according to the prosecution, is Edna 'Rabbits' Murray, known as the 'kissing bandit' who will take the stand as one of the government's principal witnesses."

The outcome of the 1936 trial is as follows:

- Charles Fitzgerald – pled guilty to the Bremer kidnapping. Sentenced to life imprisonment at Leavenworth. Died in prison in 1939.
- Alvin Karpis – Public Enemy #1 after John Dillinger's death in 1934. Pled guilty. Sentenced to life imprisonment at Leavenworth. Transferred to Alcatraz. Paroled in 1969.
- Jack Peifer – St. Paul nightclub owner of "Hollyhocks." Committed suicide by taking cyanide while in jail.
- Edward Bartholmey – Postmaster in Bensonville, Illinois. It was his place that was used as a hideout after William Hamm was kidnapped. Pled guilty. Sentence unknown.
- Arthur "Doc" Barker – Sentenced to life at Alcatraz.
- Fred and "Ma" Barker – killed by federal bullets in Oklawaha, Florida in 1935.
- William Sharkey – committed suicide.

- Elmer Farmer – Bensonville, Illinois tavern owner sentenced to 20 years in Leavenworth.

In the end, Belle Born was never convicted of anything. She was released from custody and returned to South Bend, where she lived until her death in 1968. But her notoriety grew, and stories about her connection to organized crime flourished in this area.

The most popular of these stories was the one about the bullet proof glass windows she had installed in her house on Clarion Street. Hers was considered a safe house where gangsters could lay low when the heat was on until such time as it was safe to venture out again and resume their criminal activities.

Local residents report that Belle had both red and green lights installed in her front window, which was a signal to let watching gangsters know if the coast was clear to enter. Belle had a contact person in northern Wisconsin who could provide safe travel information to these gangsters on the run from the law. Rumor had it that then sheriff Frank Cords had an agreement with the South Bend bootleggers. If they behaved themselves, so would he, unless the FBI intervened, and then he and his deputies would have no choice but to step in and do whatever was necessary.

The folklore surrounding Belle Born also sheds light on another side of her personality. During the depression years of the 1920s and 1930s, she helped out lots of local people who were hurting and living in poverty. The story is often repeated of the time she drove out to a residence with a gentleman friend, most likely a gangster, and asked the young lad there who was about 6 or 7 years old at the time if he could catch a couple chickens for her. The boy did as requested, bringing the chickens to her. She then asked him to butcher the chickens, which he reluctantly did. After the heads were chopped off and the chickens bled out, he handed them over to Belle. She promptly flipped up her skirt, took out a roll of bills from her bloomers, and gave the boy two ten dollar bills for the chickens. Twenty dollars was a windfall during those depression years. The boy promptly gave the money to his father, and the family undoubtedly celebrated by having ice cream for a treat that night! That was Belle; she always paid neighbors in need generously for goods she could have bought much cheaper in a store.

Living next door to Belle was an old hermit, an

alcoholic with a badly scarred face named Frank Halvorson. Several South Bend residents have commented how Belle took this old drunk under her wing and tended to him.

Belle coexisted amiably with other bootleggers in the area. The place was frequently staked out by the authorities in hopes they could catch Belle and the others in incriminating circumstances. Lynn Thro owned a stable of fine race horses near LeHillier, but so the story goes, much more was stored in the stable besides horses. Locals would joke that whenever a Thro horse trailer came down the hill, chances were there were no horses in them. Thro pled guilty to violations of Minnesota liquor laws in federal court in 1929 and paid a fine of \$350.00, a tidy sum in those days.

Dick Evans was another South Bend bootlegger going back to the 1920s. In 1956, he was arrested and convicted of selling liquor without paying the federal tax, and served six months in jail.

To this day, other stories abound about Belle's

bootlegging operation. Moonshiners would frequently make deliveries to her house. The liquor was taken to her cellar, and from there moved back through a tunnel to a cave in the hillside behind the house. Belle stored the moonshine in the cave until she could move it onto the black market.

One of the main drop-off points was across Highway 169 and down a dirt road, which went under the railroad trestle and from there to the old steamboat landing on to the banks of the Minnesota River. This delivery spot was used under the cover of darkness, and once the moonshiner got to the landing, he would signal with a flashlight across the river to the other side. The flashlight signal would be repeated by a like signal from the other side, and soon thereafter, a boat would cross the river to the landing and take on the cargo. The boat would then return to the Judson Bottom road, and from there, the shine would enter the distribution chain.

Another of the favorite area stories was the gangster sightings at Belle's house. Bootleggers reported that one time when they stopped at the house with a load of shine, they found a bunch of men sitting around her kitchen table laughing and

talking and having a drink. The bootleggers were cordially invited to join the party. The leader turned out to be the famous John Dillinger, accompanied by several men from his mob. Yes, right here in river city!

Whether John Dillinger ever paid a visit to Belle Born remains a mystery to this day. But as recently as 1997, Ken Berg, retired former editor of the *Free Press*, wrote an article verifying that Dillinger's car spent some time in Mankato back in 1934. Berg wrote in part: "Three days following Dillinger's final gun battle in St. Paul and two days before the injured Dillinger skedaddled to Indiana; a Hudson Super-Eight was driven to Clements Auto Company on Mankato's main street."

The driver wanted the sedan repainted. He also ordered new tail lights and license plates attached with wing nuts for easy removal.

The job ticket was written to a "Mister Holmes."

The FBI was informed and staked out the car, but no one ever came back to claim it, so it was confiscated. The FBI later deduced that Holmes was an alias, almost certainly Tommy Carroll (a gangster), familiar with Mankato's businesses. But the car indeed was Dillinger's, abandoned by Dillinger and inherited by Carroll.

Berg concluded his article by saying: "Yes, Dillinger's car had been here, but not John."

The big, fancy car was eventually turned over to Sheriff Cords, who reportedly enjoyed driving it around town for a while until it was put up for sale.

In 1968, Belle became terminally ill with cancer and eventually had to be moved to the hospital. When the nurses came to check on her shortly after she was admitted, she reportedly had a loaded revolver hidden beneath her pillow. The nurses had quite a struggle trying to get it away from her. Obviously she was still scared after all these years. But when the end finally came, it was cancer that killed her, not a bullet.

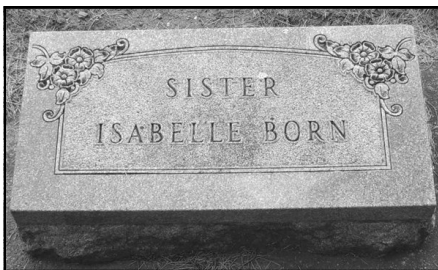
What led Isabelle Andersen Born, youngest daughter of modest Danish immigrants Christian and Caroline Andersen, to mature into a gun moll for the gangsters and bootleggers of the 1930s? Did she do this willingly or was she coerced? On her deathbed, did she still fear for her life because she testified against some of the most powerful crime families in America? How did she get tangled up with the mob in the first place? It seems logical to



Evans on left.

assume she was introduced to gangsters in St. Paul, as that was a wide open and crime-ridden town when Belle was a young woman. It is hard to say.

Probably the only person who can tell the story all the way through is Belle herself, and she took her secrets with her to her grave in the family plot in the Minneopa cemetery. But her legend lives on, and no



doubt, Isabelle Born will go down in history as one of the most colorful citizens of South Bend and Blue Earth County.

# BECHS Donations

April-June 2010

## Up to \$50

Chalgren, Marcia  
Klinder, Gary  
Lake Crystal Area Historical Society  
Sassenberg, Eunice  
Sassenberg, Karl  
Straka, Rick and Stacey

## \$50-\$100

Cambria Township  
Crow River Senior Center  
Fitzloff, Shirley  
Lime Township  
Rapidan Township

## \$100-\$500

McLaughlin, Tom and Theresa  
Medo Township

## Memorials

*In Memory of Norma Carstensen*  
Koehn, Larry and Sarah

## In-Kind

Hugg, Corey  
Resner, Donna  
Schultz, Jo  
Zellmer, Randy

MANKATO

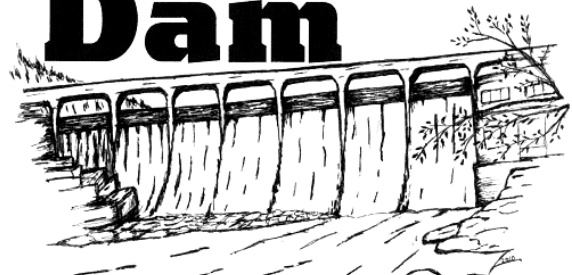
# Farmers' Market



**Visit BECHS at the  
Mankato Farmers Market  
Saturday, August 4th  
8 a.m. to Noon**

**Activities and Fun for All Ages!**

## THE RAPIDAN Dam



1910 - 2010

# Centennial Celebration


**Saturday, August 14, 2010**  
*11:00am - dusk at the Rapidan Dam County Park*

**Fun Activities for All**

- Hog Roast Dinner
- Canoe Rides above the Dam
- Fishing Tournament / Horseshoe Tournament
- Arts & Crafts / Antique Vehicles
- Historical & Informative Displays
- Entertainment Stage Opens at 1 P.M.
- with a dam play, music and speakers

**Featuring:**

4 P.M. Sonny Bryant, formerly of the "Platters"  
7 P.M. Ferguson Bros.



Rapidan Heritage Society

---

**"Rapidan Dam: A Living Landmark"**  
**Video Premiere**  
**Tuesday, August 10 at 7 p.m.**  
**at BECHS Heritage Center**



# BECHS Volunteers

**April - June 2010**

Affolter, Ron  
Atwater, Michael  
Baures, Lisa  
Belgard, Hugh  
Belgard, Vail  
Benefield, Dale  
Bergman, Barb  
Beyer, Jessica  
Boettcher, Brad  
Bourman, Abigail  
Bouma, Jana  
Brown, Jason  
Brown, Joan  
Brugman, Doug  
Bunde, Margo  
Burns, Inella  
Burton, Kale  
Cords, Betty  
Coleman, Mary  
Crowe, Jody  
Doyle, Preston  
Engen, Dave  
Fairchild, Cheryl  
Fors, Anna-Kjersten  
Fors, Deborah  
Frisch, Carlienne  
Garlow, Laura  
Garlow, Sandi  
Goff, Harley  
Green, Iva  
Greiner, Wendy  
Grundmeier, Shirley  
Grundmeier, Win  
Gullickson, Jim  
Hanson, Kathryn  
Havelka, Karen  
Hebert, Jessica  
Herbst, Gordon  
Howieson, Bob  
Hugg, Corey  
Humphrey, Mary  
Hundstad, Patrice  
Hustuft, Carol  
Hynes, Susan  
Jansen, Steve

Johnson, Mary H.  
Johnson, Nick  
Keir, Grace  
Kind, Arn  
Klages, Alaena  
Klinder, Gary  
Klinder, Kurt  
Kozan, Clayton  
Kuettel, Andrew  
Ladd, Robyn  
Lagerquist, Mike  
Lavitschke, Jo-an  
Lowe, Heather  
Madsen, Jack  
Madsen, Liz  
Madsen, Timothy  
McComb, Mary  
Milbrett, Juanita  
Mork, Kathy  
Nienow, Tricia  
Ohlenkamp, Ora  
Oldenburg, Alex  
Olson, Kay  
Osborne, Linda  
Peterson, Leslie  
Potter, Brad  
Quade, Henry  
Rezmerski, John  
Rodriguez, Gabriela  
Sassenburg, Eunice  
Schaub, Shirley  
Schevers, Paula  
Schultz, Jo  
Shortall, Christina  
Sizemore, Daardi  
Starcher, Sarah  
Straka, Stacey  
Stromswold, Todd  
Tarjeson, Jane  
Thom, Andrew  
Webb, Grace  
Webb, Donna  
Wendt, Bob  
Winter, Jamie  
Zellmer, Randy

**facebook**

Email: donna.webb@yahoo.com Password: \*\*\*\*\*

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Sign up for Facebook to connect with Blue Earth County Historical Society.

**Blue Earth County Historical Society** Like

Wall Info Photos Events Video Links

**Blue Earth County Historical Society** Storytime at the Hubbard House today --- Thank you to Mya for coming to celebrate her Birthday with us!!!! We read about Curious George - and in one book Curious George Flies a Kite, so we made our own little kite decorations!!!!

06-25-10 Storytime at the Hubbard House

26 new photos

June 25 at 10:44am · Comment · Like

Alex Oldenburg, Laura Garlow and Dixie Baldwin like this.

**Blue Earth County Historical Society** The Hubbard Girls took their Story time to visit the Mapleton Library on June 23rd. Thank you to all who joined them & welcomed them to Mapleton. They read Jack & the Beanstalk & stories about dads & grandfathers. Then everyone planted their own beanstalk to take home.

75 People Like This

## BECHS Web Resources

BECHS is on Facebook and, before you can say that it is just for kids, and I know who you are, it's not! Facebook is a social networking website that connects people with common interests. On our Facebook page you can check out information about upcoming events, view photographs of past events or speakers and have a conversation with BECHS friends around the country. So check us out at [www.facebook.com/bechshistory](http://www.facebook.com/bechshistory). There is also a link on our homepage at [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com). Become a BECHS Facebook friend. We can never have too many friends!

Also, watch for updates to our home page at [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com). We are looking forward to adding some new features that will make finding information much easier.



### LAST CHANCE

to view the John Cross photography exhibit "Faces and Places of South Central Minnesota." Display will close on September 1st. See John present "A River Trip" on Tuesday, August 3rd at 6 p.m.

*New Exhibit to debut September 17th, part of Twin Rivers Council for the Arts: Arts Festival.*



# Collections & Exhibits

**Shelley Harrison**  
Archives Manager

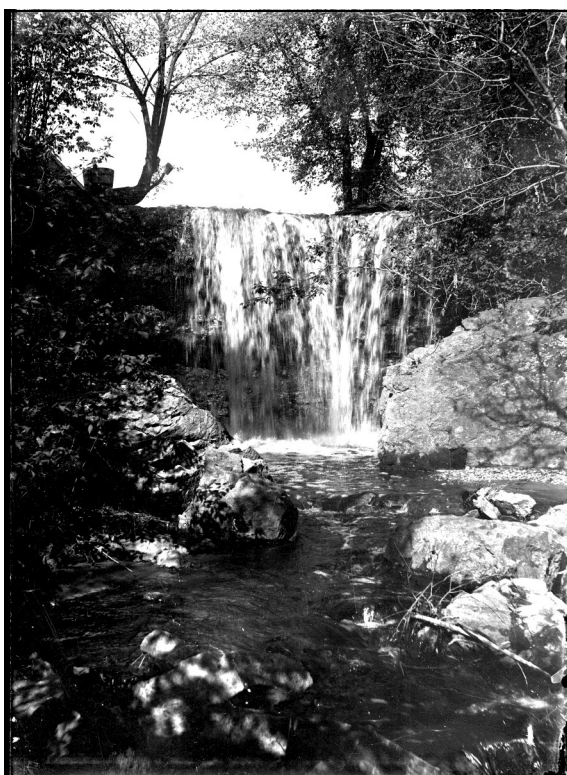
The Historical Society has an incredible glass plate negative collection. With the help of Jack Madsen and his marvelous digital scanner, we have been able to rediscover these almost-lost images. I'll let Jack tell you what he found.

## ***Lost—and Found in Time*** *by Jack Madsen*

*How often have we said it? If only we had a Time Machine by which we could go back in time to find some scrap of information that would answer our questions and help us to understand more of our past!*

*Now the good news BECHS has to offer is that while no such Time Machine exists, we have discovered a slight crack in the immutable finality of time that allows us to at least have a peek at what was and bring it back to the present for our amazed perusal.*

*Glass plate negatives! Boxes and boxes of them! How long have they lain there on our shelves, unnoticed, almost forgotten, holding their secrets like*



*selfish children, only now to be brought back to the light of day?*

*Now, through the magic of a digital scanner, we have breached a door once closed to our past, and we can express our gratitude to those who gave us those negatives, glass and cellophane, back when we had no idea how we would be able to make use of them.*

*By means of those glass plates, we now know exactly what Minneopa Falls looked like before there were roads, bridges and fences around it. We can see for ourselves the humble beginnings of our county and how it was transformed to what it is today.*



*We can say to Mr. J. Sexe's little girl, "Your puppy is still here, curled up on your lap in Mr. Snow's studio. Do you remember having your hair curled and getting all dolled up for the occasion?"*

*There are over 1,000 images available to those who would like very much to look back in time.*

We believe this collection belonged to J.R. Snow, who established his studio in Mankato in 1892. He operated for thirty-three years, at which time he sold the business to his son, C.J. Snow. The collection was nearly discarded. There is no known donor; according to our records, it was found among items in the Carriage House in 1974. The negatives were waiting patiently for modern technology to make it easy to view these images. A selection of the images are on display at the Heritage Center and the entire collection

Please support the following Blue Earth County businesses that have supported BECHS with a Business Membership ranging from \$100-\$500



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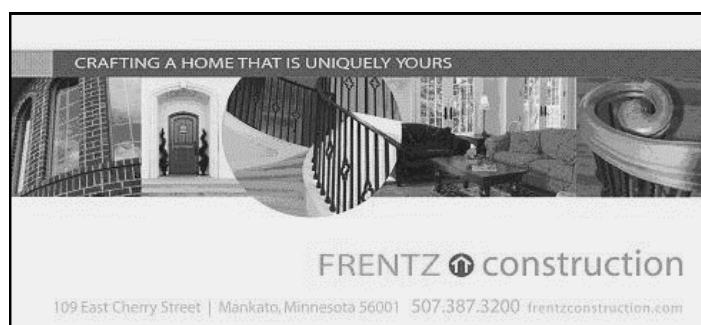
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Email: [mankatofarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:mankatofarmersmarket@gmail.com)

## Burkhardt & Burkhardt, Ltd.

Certified Public Accountants

(507)387-1338  
430 South Broad Street, Suite 100  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001



## Vikings Invade Mankato



Do you have photos of the Minnesota Vikings during their 45-year history of Training Camp in Mankato? If so, we'd love to see them, especially those that include star players like Fran Tarkenton, Alan Page, Carl Eller, Chuck Foreman, etc., from the early glory years (1966-80). Of special interest are those that feature classic Mankato landmarks: Gage Hall, Blakeslee stadium, Jake's Stadium Pizza, etc., or the fans enjoying their Vikings.

If you have a picture you'd like to share with the Blue Earth County Historical Society, please contact Mike at: [vikingspictures@charter.net](mailto:vikingspictures@charter.net)

# Historic Front Street Pub Crawl

Friday, September 24, 2010, 6 p.m.  
South Front and Walnut Streets



\$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.

# BECHS Membership

**April - June 2010**

## New Members

Alishouse, Kevin and Carol  
 Brekke, Rosemary  
 Campbell, Drew and Dawn  
 Cole, Marilyn  
 Dietz, Charlton  
 Elvebak, Laura  
 Essling, Ann  
 Fairchild, Cheryl  
 Frentz, Brand  
 Funfsinn, Roger  
 Granger, Jim and Danelle  
 Hawker, Brad and Ariane  
 Holmquist, LeAnn  
 Horton, Bill and Jane  
 Hundstad, Jeff and Patrice  
 Klinder, Gary  
 Krosch, Lucinda  
 Lamp, Jerry and Melva  
 Lee, Dustin and Tricia  
 Marra, Amber  
 Meixell, Glenda  
 Miller, Peter C.  
 Seigfreid, Glen and Thelma  
 Thorson, Carrie  
 Wolff, Gerald and Mary  
 Ziegler, Robert and Debra

## New Business Members

Mankato Farmers Market

## Renewed Business Members

Burkhardt & Burkhardt, Ltd. CPA's  
 Voyager Bank

## Renewed Members

Allen County Public Library  
 Anderson, Elaine  
 Anderson, Wayne and Mavis

Biedermann, Heather  
 Boroski, Betty  
 Broadwell, Donald  
 Carroll, Patrick James  
 Chalgren, Marcia  
 Davis, Judith  
 Eick, Aileen  
 Fitzloff, Shirley  
 Fleming, Dan  
 Florey, Jim and Cara  
 Goelz, Nicholas

Grundmeier, Winston and Shirley  
 Hesse, Norla  
 Higginbotham, Marla  
 Hollingsworth, Alice  
 How, Mary Ellen  
 Hustoles, Paul and Mary Jo  
 Karow, Linda  
 Klugherz, Catherine  
 LaTourelle, Mary  
 McCollum, Ginger  
 McLaughlin, Tom and Theresa  
 McNear, Virginia  
 Neitge, Judie  
 Resner, Donna  
 Ryan, Thomas  
 Salk, Robert and Carolyn  
 Sassenberg, Eunice  
 Sassenberg, Karl  
 Sawina, James  
 Schaub, Shirley  
 Schmitz, Joan  
 Schrader, Julie  
 Schutz, Kelly  
 Snilsberg, Lee and Loretta  
 Swenson, Helenrachel  
 Ward, Howard and Mary  
 Williams, Jerry and Vee M. G.

## Updated Member Gifts

BECHS is excited to announce updated member gifts available with memberships of \$100 or more. Items are also available for purchase in the Museum Store or online.



Water Bottle



Mankato Montage print



Shopping Tote



Mahkato Wacipi 2  
-disk CD

# Around Blue Earth County



## Rapidan Heritage Society

A time to pause, bow our heads and give thanks for all the brave military men and women who have or are serving this great nation. Memorial Day in Rapidan started with a moving service in Rapidan Memorial Park. RHS then invited everyone to the depot area for coffee and donuts provided by St. John's Lutheran Church of Rapidan. Speakers for the morning were Win Grundmeier, author of *The Remarkable Men of Garden City*, and Dr. Harry Petersen, sharing his vast railroad experience. (We discovered that the rail laid by the depot was made in 1908! This discovery was made as we laid on the ground, squinting at the inside of the rail looking for raised lettering!)

You are invited to a centennial celebration! Come, celebrate and enjoy with us the Rapidan Dam on August 14. Built in 1910 as a hydroelectric dam, it filled the need of Mankato for increased electricity. Mankato was the main feed, but the ripple effect was that the surrounding towns and farms also benefited from the dam's production of electricity. RHS will be celebrating 100 years of dam history on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, with a fishing contest, canoe rides on the reservoir, music, speakers, displays, crafts, horseshoes and a hog roast. Lots of good food will be available – plus Dam Store Pie!

The canoe rides are provided by the Mankato Paddling and Canoe Club. I was fortunate to be on one of their rides and it was great! The dock at the Dam Park was soon left behind as we concentrated on the melody of the paddles dipping into the water and birds singing. On the alert for wildlife, we were rewarded by spotting several different water fowl. The reservoir had flooded Rapidan Mills a century ago - instead of walking the streets of Rapidan Mills we were gliding 50 feet over the village!

The 2010 Red Wing 2-quart pitcher featuring the Rapidan Dam is here! Pick up your collectible pitcher at the Depot. The Depot is open Sundays from 1 – 4 p.m. Pitchers will also be available on August 14<sup>th</sup> at the Dam Park.

Come celebrate history with us!

Jane Tarjeson  
RHS Secretary

## Artifacts & Archives Donations April - June 2010

Adolphson, Cheryl	Keir, Richard
Matzke-Annis, Beverly	Klaseus, Don
Burdeinei, Mistiny	Lamson, Barbara
Clouse, Dawn S.	Lawrence, Bud
Durenburger, Kathryn	Layeux, Tim
Fechter, Ken	Lindemann, Coleen
Flynn, Patrick	Lutzi, Joyce
Frederick, Mike	McComb, Mary
Frederick, Tom	Milbrath, Mary
Funfsinn, Roger	Mohr, Harley
Garlow, Sandi	Nelson, Bill
Gatchell, Audrey	Nunn, Cindy
Haefner, E. Anne	Penhiter, Judith
Hageman, David	Reich, Judy
Hagen, Tom	Reinttes, William A
Harmon, Mark	Resner, Donna
HickoryTech	Rettmer, Georgia
Hogan, Bernard	Sandee, Wayne
Howe, Mike	Schultz, Jo
Ikier, Doris	Steiner, Pete
Jones, Ellis	US Bank
Kagermeier, James	Warner, Wayne
Keir, Grace	Webb, Donna

## Mapleton Library Garden Party

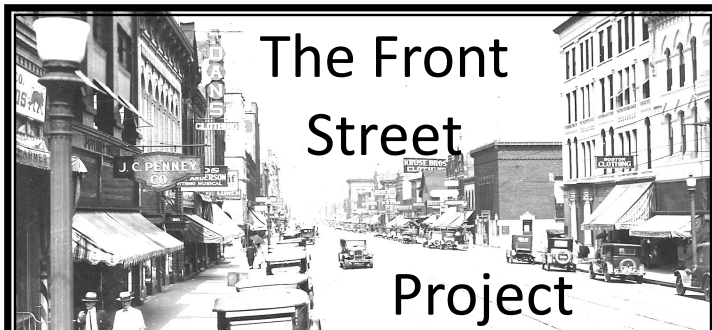
104 First Avenue  
Mapleton



**Saturday, August 7  
1-4 p.m.**

*Celebrate the Library's Centennial with an Afternoon Garden Party! Play croquet and other lawn games, enjoy and visit with Victorian characters.*





## The Front Street Project

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 is the collection of oral and written stories that will be used to develop a book by the Blue Earth County Historical Society and an interactive exhibit at the Society's Heritage Center to open in 2011.

### How can you be a part of the Front Street Project?

- Donate Front Street artifacts to BECHS (from photos to matchbooks to old movies)
- Write a story about Front Street
- Record a Front Street memory by calling the project phone line at 507-389-5537
- Encourage your friends and family to participate in the project
- Volunteer to help with exhibit planning and construction or writing for the book.

Volunteers are needed for the Front Street Project Exhibit Committee and Front Street Project Book Committee. Please contact Jessica at 507-345-5566 or [bechs@hickorytech.net](mailto:bechs@hickorytech.net) if you are interested in being a part of this community project. We are currently collecting written or recorded memories and soon will be calling for memorabilia and photographs. Watch [bechshistory.com](http://bechshistory.com) and the *Mankato Free Press* for updates.

## YOUNG HISTORIANS

We had an exciting end to our Young Historians year. In April we were led by Arn Kind who taught us about World War II. We learned about the history of the War by watching parts of the movie *Band of Brothers* and learned about paratroopers and did our own "jump".

On May 7th the Young and Junior Historians hosted a reception to present their History Day projects that they had worked on this past year. The 18 Club members did projects based on the 2010 National History Day theme "Innovation in History: Impact and Change." Projects covered a wide range of subjects, including: Photography, Salvation Army, Penicillin, Civil War Submarines, Sewing Machines, Navajo Code Talkers, John Deere Plow, Washburn Mill Explosion, Thomas Edison's Light Bulb,

Women's Suffrage and The New Deal.

On May 8th we concluded our year with a trip to the Minnesota History Center to explore the Greatest Generation exhibit. Our favorite part was the airplane



**Young Historians at the MN History Center**

simulation of a group of Paratroopers; it was just like what Arn Kind taught us in April. We also saw the MN 150 exhibit and found things from Blue Earth County! In the Ben Franklin exhibit, we saw some of his inventions, worked a printing press, and we even got to play with electricity. We all had a great time and can't wait to go back!

Many of our members have been volunteering at the Hubbard House this summer and hope that you have had a chance to join us for *Storytime with the Hubbard Girls* on Friday mornings. Please watch for us at other upcoming events. Young Historians will start up again on Saturday, September 11th with a hands-on workshop about Native Americans. If

you are interested in learning more about Young Historians, talk to Jessica.

*Laura Garlow*  
10th Grade,  
Maple River High School



## Blue Earth County Historical Society

415 Cherry Street  
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Visit us on the web:  
[www.bechshistory.com](http://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

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

**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](http://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.