

The Blue Earth County

HISTORIAN



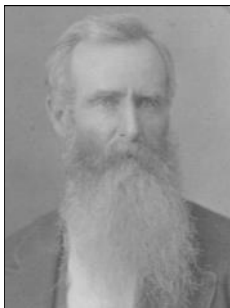
Surrounded By History: Blue Earth County Street Names



Humphrey Street in Lake Crystal is named after early settler Henry Humphrey. Wondering about the origins of other Blue Earth County street names? Read more on page 9.

Ghosts From the Past

A slough full of stories



Fri. Oct 18 and Sat. Oct 19, Get tickets today, see page 17 for details.

Pictured: James Tinkcom.

Featured Artists



Exhibit featuring art by the Mueller family on display now, see page 15 for details.

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

The Blue Earth County Historian



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Heritage Center

415 Cherry Street, Mankato, MN
507-345-5566
www.bechshistory.com
Hours
Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

R.D. Hubbard House

606 South Broad Street, Mankato
507-345-4154
Hours
Closed for the season.

The Blue Earth County Historian Fall 2013

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

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Board of Trustees



Randy Zellmer
President, Board of Trustees

To our many members and friends of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, in the near future you will receive our annual Year-End Campaign letter. You may wonder why there is a need to raise funds. The annual operating budget of BECHS is approximately \$200,000. The largest source of funds is the direct gift from Blue Earth County, for which we are eternally grateful. Our next largest source of funds comes from gifts and donations followed by membership dues. It may surprise many of you that members' dues, while an important source of income, is a rather modest sum overall as it relates to BECHS' financial needs. It has always been a goal of the BECHS' Board to keep the membership dues affordable so that the benefits of the organization are available to all who wish to join.

With this in mind, I hope that when you receive the BECHS' Year-End Campaign letter you will give to the organization, whether it be \$10 or \$10,000, as every amount helps. This is especially true at this time as BECHS is exploring options for financing the purchase of VINE's interest in the Summit Heritage Center building. The purchase would mean additional operating expenses that come with owning 100% of the building and the additional expenses from the potential expansion of services once BECHS has use of the entire building.

BECHS is dedicated to "Preserving Our Past. Protecting Our Future." But in order to do so, it takes money. So please be generous with your year-end gift to BECHS.

I thank you for your ongoing support of this fine organization.

SURROUNDED BY HISTORY

Save the Date

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2014

For more information call 507-345-5566.

www.bechshistory.com

Join us at this annual fundraiser to benefit BECHS





Director's Notes

Jessica Potter
Executive Director

Thank you to those of you who joined us on September 27 for the Member Appreciation Night at the Museum. We enjoyed showing you around the facility and giving you a glimpse into the work we do every day behind-the-scenes. We value all of our members. Your continued support allows us to make local history accessible to all ages through hands-on exhibits, educational programming and living history experiences.

Through your past support, the Blue Earth County Historical Society moved in 1988 to 415 Cherry Street to expand the museum, research center, collections and gift shop after calling the Hubbard House home for 50 years. This move allowed the Hubbard House to be restored and reopen as a 1905 historic house museum in 1995. None of this would have been possible without the support of our dedicated members and donors.

Here is a look at our growth over the past 25 years:

- Our collection of three-dimensional objects has increased by 150% from 8,400 objects in 1988 to 21,000 objects today. Many of you who attended the Member Appreciation event saw the growing collection firsthand with guided tours of our storage areas. It's hard to understand the scale of what we do every day until you see collections' storage. Here's a peek for those who were unable to attend the event.



- Our annual operating budget has increased 150% from \$80,000 in 1987 before moving to our present location to \$200,000 in 2013. We currently have four full-time staff and two seasonal Hubbard House staff. Along with our increased budget has come increased support from Blue Earth County, our members, donors and the public's use of our services.

Now as we reflect on 25 years of steady growth, the Society faces an exciting opportunity for our future. BECHS is exploring options to expand our facility and services beginning July 2014 by purchasing VINE's interest in this building. That will mean an additional 6,000 square feet for future exhibits, programs and storage. At this time, the details of cost, phases and overall scope of the project are still being evaluated; however, two points are known:

1. To assist with increased operating expenses, we will be seeking to lease a portion of the building to another non-profit that needs office and/or programming space. If you have any ideas, please let us know and please spread the word.
2. BECHS will need to enter into a major fundraising campaign in order to purchase the building and then remodel and expand the facility. We are currently seeking individuals to serve on a Building Task Force to develop short and long-term building improvement plans in preparation for the fundraising campaign in the next couple of years.

We ask for your continued support as we look ahead to our future. This is an exciting time to be part of the one organization dedicated to collecting and promoting Blue Earth County's history for the enrichment and benefit of present and future generations. Consider making a donation today toward the building fund, give a gift membership to build our base of supporters, shop in our gift shop or pass along this newsletter to someone who is not a member and encourage them to join. Together we will realize our dream of a bigger, better, more accessible Blue Earth County Historical Society.

At the Book and Gift Shop

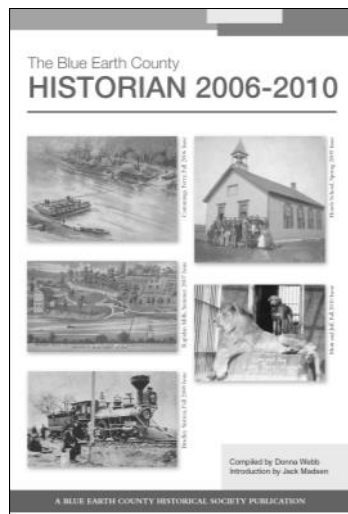
Danelle Erickson
Museum Assistant

As the weather starts to turn colder, our minds often turn towards the holiday season. Christmas is my favorite holiday, and getting ready for the festivities can be just as much fun as the actual gatherings with family and friends. I love the decorating, the baking and, of course, the shopping! I especially enjoy being able to find unique presents for the people on my list, and we have some great gift ideas here in the Museum Gift Shop.

BECHS has a number of books that we have written and published which are only available in the gift shop or through our online store. Our newest BECHS publication is now available. ***The Blue Earth County Historian 2006-2010*** is a compilation of the main articles from our quarterly newsletter, *The Historian*, from winter 2006 to fall 2010. The book was compiled by Donna Webb with the introduction by Jack Madsen.

Mills, elevators and threshing; murder, gangsters and bootleggers; authors, fashion and photography; forgotten towns, lost brick walls and stolen churches, these are just some of the topics you will find in the twenty articles that make up this great book. This is the second volume of compilation articles. The previous volume covered the articles from 2001-2005. Each volume is available for \$14.95.

Marian Anderson, a local and nationally-acclaimed artist, generously donated her entire inventory of fine art prints to BECHS back in 2010, making our gift shop the only place to purchase many of Marian's beautiful prints. Some of the categories of Marian's work include: canine, Native American, mountain men, nostalgia and wildlife. Our shop also carries a variety of notecards and other items that feature Marian's work.



The BECHS publications and Marian Anderson art are just two examples of items you can find exclusively at our gift shop. We also have a selection of vintage and handcrafted items. One of the newest additions is a selection of pendants made using images from BECHS. Subjects include the beautiful Tiffany chandelier and stained-glass windows of the R.D. Hubbard House and Betsy-Tacy items from the Museum. You can also purchase a pendant with a map of Blue Earth County as a whole or one that features a specific town in the county.

We are excited to introduce the first Christmas ornament made especially for BECHS! Created for us by artist Tina Steenerson, this painted glass ornament will make a perfect addition to anyone's Christmas tree. Limited quantities are available.

Not sure what to buy? We have gift certificates and gift memberships available as well!

Along with the articles, stories and events you usually find in our newsletter, this issue brings you something else – our Holiday Gift Catalog. In it you will find descriptions and photos of many of the items in our Gift Shop including a full list of the BECHS publications.

Be sure to stop by the Gift Shop during our Holiday Open House and Anniversary Celebration on November 8 and 9, BECHS is celebrating 112 years! Join us at the Heritage Center for refreshments and door prizes. BECHS members will receive a 20% discount on all non-consignment items in the store. As part of the open house, we are offering free admission to the museum. What a great way to introduce friends and family to BECHS and the history of our county! See page 13 for more details.

The Gift Shop is open Tuesday through Saturday. We hope you can stop by and visit us soon.

**Give the gift of History
this Holiday Season!**
Memberships, Art, Gift Certificates
**Browse the enclosed Holiday
Gift Catalog for Ideas**



R.D. Hubbard House

Ryan Harren and Alexandria Oldenburg
Hubbard House Assistants

Now that October has rolled around, the Hubbard House is closed for the season, but we have had quite an eventful summer. This year we hosted an event every month except September. September, however, did see a wedding ceremony held in the park at the end of the month. This was the second wedding event on the grounds this year. There were also numerous wedding parties, families and individuals who came to the grounds all year long to take photos in the beautiful gardens surrounding the Hubbard House and Carriage House.

In August we hosted the Big Magic Medicine Show: Mysteries & Mendacities Revealed. Although this is the second year in a row that we have had a old fashioned medicine show event at the Hubbard




House, they each have had different themes and characters and provided different looks at medicine shows. This year's Big Magic Medicine Show focused on swindlers who hired Native

Americans to sell their products and claim it was a healing potion from their tribe. The event also featured different characters such as a palm reader, sword dancer and card shark.

About 800 visitors came to the Hubbard House this year, including some special visitors from around the country and the world. We greeted visitors from England, Germany and Norway, as well as from many different states. Almost 80 children and adults came for Story Time with the Hubbard girls on Friday mornings between June and August. Story Time once again featured costumed re-enactors portraying the Hubbard girls and their friends.

The house will reopen in December for our annual Christmas at the Hubbard House event on Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8. We will have open house the following two weekends. If you were unable to visit this summer, want to see the house all decorated for Christmas or maybe have some guests from out of town coming for the holidays, who would enjoy a tour, be sure to stop by and see us on one of those weekends! The house will then close until the new season starts in May of 2014. Thanks to all of you who visited and made this year so wonderful. We will miss sharing the history of the Hubbards and their home with you until the house opens again.



Christmas at the Hubbard House


An Annual Mankato Holiday Tradition

A Hubbard Family Christmas

Saturday, December 7
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.


Sunday, December 8
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Costumed Characters · Holiday Gift Shop · Refreshments
Adults \$7.50 / Children 5-17 \$5
BECHS Members & under 5 FREE



OPEN FOR TOURS
December 14-15 and 21-22, 1-4 p.m.
Adults \$5 / Children 5-17 \$3
BECHS Members & under 5 FREE

606 South Broad Street
Mankato, MN



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Visit www.bechshistory.com for more details

Collections and Exhibits...

Shelley Harrison, Archives Manager

BECHS collections include more than 21,000 objects, 3,000 books and thousands of photographs ranging from pre-settlement to the present day, representing virtually every aspect of our county's history and life. Historical objects can tell as much about history as any written word and they make history more tangible and engaging. Our collection reflects the lives of Blue Earth County people, past and present and includes victrolas, dolls, Gage Tower Note Cards and everyday objects from red hats to teapots! We invite the community to contribute any items they deem significant to the history of Blue Earth County.

BECHS Collections are full of artifacts marking time and place. We use them to tell stories and remind us of what has happened in the past. Take, for example, this past summer's commemoration of the August 28, 1963 "March on Washington" or the anniversary of the death of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963. To many this may seem like just yesterday, but 50 years have passed. These events make us ask the question, what does BECHS have from 1963? The answer: very little. We do have local school yearbooks, but otherwise we hold only a few artifacts with the date of 1963. If we have very little from 1963, we have next to nothing from the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.



Mankato Free Press, November 22, 1963

1963 Loyalty Day Button



This button commemorates the celebration of Loyalty Day in 1963. The first Loyalty Day was celebrated on May 1, 1921 as a counter to the Communists celebration of the Russian Revolution also on the first day in May. In 1958 Congress proclaimed Loyalty Day a permanent fixture on the nation's calendar.

BECHS doesn't focus on one period of history. Our collection is heavy with 19th century objects and light on the decades post-1950. Those artifacts are still in use or in your basements or attics. It may surprise you to know we are always interested in modern-day artifacts, which are most often overlooked. We are constantly building our collection and want our artifacts to tell relevant stories. History should include items and events of today as well as yesterday. These seemingly everyday objects represent the stories that make up our past.

Check out our new hallway mini-exhibit!

This past summer a BECHS volunteer set up a mini-exhibit featuring Seppman Mill. It showcases Louis Seppman's 1864 grinding mill. The exhibit is in line with the 150th anniversary of the mill in 2014. The exhibit will be on display until next summer.

If you have items representing Blue Earth County's last 50 years, please consider donating them. Feel free to contact Shelley at bechsam@hickorytech.net or 507-345-5566 if you have any questions.



A North Woods Nutcracker

The Fine Arts School of Ballet in Mankato, with assistance from the Blue Earth County Historical Society, is performing a 1921 historical adaptation of the traditional holiday ballet *The Nutcracker*. *A North Woods Nutcracker* incorporates the history of Mankato, New Ulm and St. Paul and includes a historic cast of characters, most notably F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Mankato-born soprano Florence Macbeth, the Hubbards and Maud Hart Lovelace.

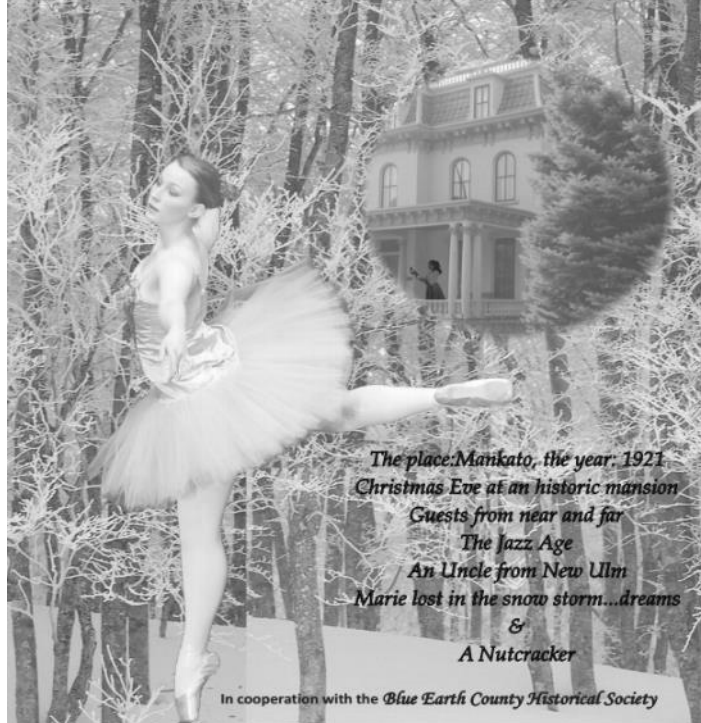
In the first act of the ballet, a lively Christmas Eve party scene is set against a backdrop of the interior of the Hubbard House. Uncle Drosselmeier, from New Ulm, presents his niece Marie with a Bavarian style Nutcracker he carved. The gift carries with it an idealistic hope for a world of peace, health and freedom. When it starts to snow, Marie and her friends go sledding down Main Street hill. When the storm turns into a blizzard, a terrified Marie loses her way and is surrounded by coyotes and cougars. Suddenly, the Nutcracker comes to life as her brave Prince and summons up troops of both American and German soldiers. They join forces to protect Marie. An aviator crashlands and joins the battle; and a Red Cross nurse appears to treat the young soldier, as well as the wounded on all sides. While stranded on the half-frozen river, Marie sees a vision of the Ice Palace from Mankato's 1920 Winter Carnival; and the aviator and nurse are transformed into the Ice King and Queen.

Freezing in the brutally cold Minnesota winter, Marie dreams of the perpetual spring in the hothouse of the Como Park conservatory, where she visited just before the Christmas party. The audience is transported to St. Paul in Act Two, which represents Marie's pleasant reverie and showcases the diverse heritages within Minnesota, from the Welsh Singers of Cambria to the gymnasts known as the New Ulm Turners. Also in Act Two, Zelda Fitzgerald finally realizes her dream of becoming a professional ballet dancer when she assumes the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy in the ballet.

BECHS has been working closely with Director Annmarie Carlson Drake in providing historical research and photos, as well as historically-accurate costuming and backdrop details.

Fine Arts Youth Dance Theatre

A North Woods Nutcracker



Sunday, November 24th 2:30 pm & 7:00 pm
Mankato West Auditorium
\$15 Adult; \$12 Youth and Senior
www.fineartsballet.org

Tickets are available at the door. For ticket information and reservations, please e-mail: ydt@fineartsballet.org.



Moving? Snowbird?
Please let us know!

If you are moving to a different address, please let us know. It costs over \$2 for each returned newsletter that can 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.



Fingerprints and Footnotes

Footnotes and Fingerprints is always growing and newcomers are always welcome. In August we had a rousing adventure with the Rapidan Heritage Society. They hosted a National Night Out potluck in the Rapidan Township garage. The Good Thunder Fire Truck even made an appearance. It was a great time with just a little bit of history sprinkled in.

In September we had an excellent program with Dr. Ronald C. Schirmer, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Minnesota State University, Mankato and his graduate assistants, Jason and Andy presenting. Everyone had an opportunity to learn more about the artifacts they had discovered.



This month, in association with our exhibit Remembering Front Street, we laced up some comfortable shoes and off we went ...exploring all of the unique stories along North Front Street's neighborhood.

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

Future Meeting

November 5 - History of Marysburg presented by Larry Korteum

December 10 - Dr. William E. Lass will present Camp Lincoln and the Aftermath of the U.S. - Dakota War

January 7 - Social Media and the Blue Earth County Historical Society

Finger Tips

When using a census index, don't always expect your ancestor's name to pop up with the spelling and the name by which you knew him. Census takers had to know how to read and write, but only barely. They wrote the names as they heard them. Think of various ways to spell a last name. Some letters sound alike; you might find Wanger spelled Vanger, for example. It was common to call a person by their second name. Be aware that not all census indexes list the names of all family members.

-Provided by Beth Zimmer, local family historian

Marian Anderson
Fine Art Prints

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

As a living legacy, Marian Anderson donated her entire inventory of fine art prints to the Blue Earth County Historical Society;

100% of all print sales benefit BECHS.

Fine art prints are available to view and purchase at the Heritage Center Book & Gift Shop and online at www.mariananderson.com.

Thank you for your support!



"Summer" by Marian Anderson

Surrounded By History:

The People Behind Blue Earth County Street Names

By Morgan O'Hara

In our last issue of *The Historian*, we featured the naming patterns used for Blue Earth County towns and villages. There were four primary themes: people, places, nature and Native American words. These same patterns were used in naming many of the streets in those towns and villages. For example, Madison Lake names its streets for trees while Garden City uses the names of presidents. Many towns use a combination of themes when naming their streets.

Maple, Pine, Madison, Warren, Robinson, Dakota, Winnebago, Agency—these are all familiar street names. You may live on Maple, take Madison to work every morning or Robinson may be the street where you rode bike as a kid. But when we take a look around and wonder “Why is this street named Robinson or Warren or Troendle—Who was that?” we begin to see the story of Blue Earth County’s history in our everyday lives. Here are a few Blue Earth County street names and the people behind the names.

Humphrey Street in Lake Crystal is named for Henry Humphrey, an early resident who built one of the first homes and several businesses during his time in Lake Crystal. Humphrey was born in Indiana in 1837 and moved to Mankato in 1854. In 1862 he enlisted in Company E, Ninth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He settled in Lake Crystal in 1869 dealing in grain, lumber and general merchandise. He also served as postmaster. After establishing his legacy, Humphrey eventually moved west and died in California in 1921.

Robinson Street in Lake Crystal is named for one of the towns founders, William R. Robinson. He settled on a plot of land in 1854 near Lucius O. Hunt. Originally from New York, Robinson moved to Minnesota because he heard about great

opportunities for land. Robinson played an active role in the town he helped to settle. The first church service was held in his house, and he also gave away some of his land to promote settlement. One of his defining moments came in August 1862. A Native American came to his home to warn him that a massacre would occur in the town and that he and his family should leave. Robinson went that night to eavesdrop on the Native American tribe and get confirmation of what he had just been told. Upon discovering that there was going to be an attack, he quickly headed home. He alerted the town and the townspeople were able to evacuate to Mankato.

Robinson was a pivotal member of Lake Crystal, from involvement in its founding, to helping it grow, to keeping it safe.

Early Mankato, similar to today, was composed of colorful people and characters who gave the town its charm. **Jackson Street** in Mankato is named for Henry Jackson, who came to Mankato in 1852. Jackson made a name for himself in 1846 when he became the first postmaster of St. Paul. In 1852, he was among a group of early settlers who founded Mankato. Jackson owned one of the first general stores and called Mankato his home until his death in 1857.



Hubbell Street was named after James B. Hubbell, another of these early “characters” that helped to make Mankato the place we know today. He moved from Connecticut to Georgia in the 1850s at the height of the tension that would soon divide the nation. Being a Yankee, he was unpopular with

his fellow residents. He headed north in 1857, where he made Mankato his home.

Once in Mankato, Hubbell was elected Blue Earth County Register of Deeds and later became a licensed trader to the Winnebago Indians. In 1863, Hubbell accompanied the Winnebago to their new reservation on the Missouri River. He went so far as to help transport 800 oxen from Mankato to the reservation in Nebraska to prevent starvation amongst the tribe.

Above all, Hubbell was a man of business. In the early 1860s, he organized the Northwestern Fur Company. He was one of the founders of the First National Bank in Mankato. With the help of John A. Willard and Rensselaer D. Hubbard, he later founded the Linseed Oil and Tow Company. Hubbell is attributed with introducing flax to southern Minnesota. In 1871, he went on to the state legislature and fought hard for the Internal Improvement Land Bill that was, in the end, vetoed by the governor. Hubbell died in December 1905.

Warren Street is named for Dr. Thomas D. Warren, who moved to Mankato in 1853, making him one of the early settlers. He owned one of the first stores in Mankato, just south of what is now Cherry Street. Warren continued in the real estate business laying out Warren's First, Second and Third additions to the city which make up much of downtown Mankato. Warren was an influential person in the town and was known for his strong will and colorful character. Warren died on May 20, 1879.

Marsh Street owes its name to the Marsh brothers, George and John. The brothers were born in New Hampshire. George arrived in Mankato in 1853. A true pioneer, he began building his store immediately making it the first general store in the Minnesota River Valley. His brother, John, came that winter with supplies for the store; and they ran the store together. They also held the contract to carry mail between Mankato and St. Paul. Both men became significant figures in the community. George died in 1902, and John in 1915.

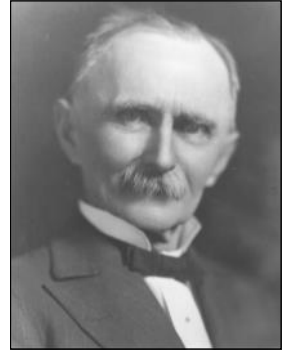
It is hard to imagine Mankato without Sibley Park. Whether you like to walk around, take your family to the playground, or attend various events such as the Kiwanis Holiday Lights, it is an integral part of our town. Albert R. Pfau was the man responsible for this little piece of Mankato and was

the man for whom **Pfau Street** is named. Pfau was born in Prussia in 1847 and left for America with his parents in 1849. Unfortunately, he lost both parents on the voyage here. He was raised in New York by friends of the family. From an early age, Pfau felt an obligation for civic duty.

Towards the end of the Civil War, he enlisted to fight for the Union. Though he did not fight for long, friends say that his time in the war left an impression on him.

After the war, in 1868, he moved to Wisconsin for a short time and passed the Bar exam. He moved to Mankato where he practiced law and was a county attorney for seven years. He was a democrat; and in 1887, he ran for mayor for the first time. He served for two years and went back to practicing law. In 1897, ten years after his first term as mayor, Pfau ran for a second time. He did not expect to win, but he did. This term he was set on lowering the debt of Mankato. Under his administration, the land for Sibley Park was purchased and plans for the park were solidified. He was also responsible for building Mankato's central fire station and establishing the water and sewer system. He used much of his own money to build up the city of Mankato. At the end of his term, Pfau returned to practicing law until, in 1907, he was appointed judge of the 6th District by Governor Johnson. It was a seat he held for 12 years. Pfau died in 1918 at the age of 71.

Albert Pfau is not the only Mankato mayor who has a street named after him. Among others is **Carney Avenue**, named after Patrick H. Carney, who was mayor of Mankato from 1886-1888. Carney was born in Ireland in 1838 and moved to Buffalo, New York in 1844. He resided in Buffalo until 1856, when he moved to Illinois and later Indiana. It was finally in 1866 that Carney called Minnesota his home when he moved to Minneapolis. He resided there for another five years until 1871, when he settled in Mankato. Carney engaged in the mercantile business dealing with wine, liquor and cigars. He was an alderman in Mankato until 1886, when he was elected mayor. In 1888, Carney was appointed Postmaster by President Grover Cleveland. In 1890, he became the manager of Mankato Cement Works,



where he made various improvements and helped to build the company. Carney died in 1912.

Val Imm Street runs appropriately behind Minnesota State University Mankato. Val Imm was born in Wisconsin, grew up in Nebraska and eventually moved to Rockford, Minnesota. In 1926, Imm bought the weekly *Mankato News* from his father and brother. In 1930 he got his first taste of politics when he ran for Mankato City Council. In 1932, he began his long career as a statesman, where he served for 34 years. Many of the improvements to the then Mankato State Teachers College were made during his time in the State Senate including the push for upper campus and changing the teacher's college to university status. Imm died in 1981.

Stoltzman Road honors the Blue Earth County servicemen that lost their lives in the Vietnam War. Like many young men in the 1960s, as George Stoltzman graduated from Mankato High School he was drafted. He rose to be a Corporal in the Marines and was injured in the line of duty. For this, he received honors, but eventually returned to finish his tour of duty. In 1965, at the age of 19, Stoltzman stepped on a land mine and was killed in action. He was the first of 28 servicemen from Blue Earth County who would lose their lives during the conflict. In 1988, the Vietnam War Memorial, along Stoltzman Road, was dedicated to those that served and those that died.

Truwe Street in Amboy is named after Benedict Truwe, one of the early pioneers of the town. Truwe was a shoemaker from Switzerland. At the age of 21, he moved to Minnesota. He owned a large lot of land on the south side of Main Street in Amboy. He died in 1923 leaving a strong family legacy.

Borchert Street in Mapleton owes its name to William Borchert who moved from Germany to Mapleton in 1899 at the age of 18. He bought land and built a lucrative coal business in Mapleton. He was an active resident of the town, holding various offices including mayor, county commissioner, and president of the Board of Education. Borchert died in 1918.



Mapleton's **Troendle Street** is named after German born Lucas Troendle. Born of humble beginning in 1830, Troendle was orphaned by age ten. He earned an apprenticeship at fourteen with a tailor. By the time he was 24, he had saved enough money to come to America landing at Castle Garden, New York. After working a time, he saved enough money to head westward. He moved to Indiana and opened a little tailor shop. His brother-in-law talked him into moving to Mapleton, Minnesota; and in 1872, Troendle bought three plots of land and built his store. Troendle became the president of the



National Bank of Mapleton and remained an active resident until his death in 1917. His grand home on Second Street still stands as a testament to the American Dream.

Kendall Street in Vernon Center is named after one of its early residents, Elnathan Kendall. He moved to Shelbyville in 1856 and married Louisa Richardson. Theirs was the first marriage in Shelbyville. Kendall's land became part of the town of Vernon Center where he owned a general store. Kendall died in 1899 while wintering in Oregon.

Blue Earth County would not be the place that it is today were it not for the people like Robinson, Pfau, the Marsh Brothers and Troendle. It is with a great sense of reverence that we remember these people who left their mark on Blue Earth County. Next time you go to Sibley Park, remember Albert Pfau and his dedication to making Mankato a better place to live. When you walk down Val Imm Street, think about the role he played in improving higher education in Mankato. When you drive down Troendle Street, think about the struggles of a young orphan and how he built himself up. History surrounds us. One just has to ask the question and sometimes a beautiful story unfolds.

Sources:

- Hughes, Thomas, *History of Blue Earth County*, Chicago: Middle West Publishing Co., 1909

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- *Mankato Free Press*, various issues
- Blue Earth County Historical Society vertical files

Education & Outreach

Heather Harren

Education and Outreach Manager

In our last issue I shared information on the social media sites where you can find BECHS; did you locate us on any of the sites? We have great content that is going out on Twitter and Facebook almost daily, and we take suggestions if there is other content you would like to see. Subscribe to our YouTube channel to ensure you get all of our videos. For quick links to our social media channels, visit our website at www.bechshistory.com.

Over the past few months, we have created a blog on the Society's website. There is not much content there at the moment, but I have great ideas for future posts. Any staff member at BECHS can add to our blog, so the content will not always be related to the Research Center or social media. At the moment, you can find an article about how to use the website, written by our summer intern. You can also find a post with a few genealogy tips that anybody can use. The latest post has to do with Facebook and getting all of BECHS' status updates. Included with this post is a short video that walks you through the steps for using any page.

One part of my job, that I have not talked much about, is K-12 Educational Programming. We are in the process of revamping BECHS' educational programming to better meet the needs of the schools and the standards to which the schools must conform. Included in this revamp will be updated History-to-Go Kits, sometimes called Museum in a Trunk.

These kits will include ideas on how teachers can use the objects in their classrooms, as well as activities that will go either with the time period or with the objects in the kits. We will also be updating the materials for students who go through the R. D. Hubbard House and the Heritage Center Museum. Check back for more updates on BECHS's Educational Programming.



Attention BECHS Online Donors:

Each year generous supporters like you join us for the exciting 24 hour annual Give to the Max Day. Your generous support makes a meaningful difference to collecting, preserving and presenting Blue Earth County's rich history.

Every gift made on November 14 helps our chances of winning a \$1,000 Golden Ticket! By partnering with GiveMN, an online giving website for Minnesota nonprofits, BECHS will have 25 chances to maximize your gift on Give to the Max Day November 14!

Here's the really exciting part: **At the end of Give to the Max Day, one donation from across Minnesota will be randomly selected for a \$10,000 Super-sized Golden Ticket!** The more gifts we receive online on November 14, the greater our chances increase to receive that magical Golden Ticket!

Make your gift on November 14 by visiting www.givemn.org/blueearthcountyhistoricalsociety Follow us on Facebook – www.facebook.com/bechshistory so you can share in the excitement of the giving day.

BECHS Donations

July - September 2013

Donations

Blume, Darwin
Bourbonnais-Tapia, Sue
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Judson Township
Kalvig, Ann
Karow, Linda
Keir, Grace
Kunkel, Denise
Lutes, Duncan
McLaughlin, Tom & Theresa
Natrakul, Mara
Nussbaumer, Linda & Jerry
Pfau, John
Piper, J. Carter

Salsbery, Tom
Sassenberg, Eunice
Smith, H. Roger
Voss, Judy
Werner, Marnie
Zellmer, Randy

Memorial

In Memory of Winston Grundmeier
Smoley, John

In Kind

Hugg, Corey
Red Door Creative

YOUNG HISTORIANS

The Young Historians began another great year on September 14 with a presentation about Native American culture and the importance of the Earth in their culture. The kids had fun selecting a rock to put in a leather pouch that they made for the craft.



As a part of the program this year, kids will have an opportunity to share something they have learned or teach about an historical topic at the start of every meeting. One Young Historian wants to cover presidents this year, and presented on George Washington at the September meeting.



In October, the Young Historians learned more about the Revolutionary War. They were able to take a step back in time to see why the country went to war for independence. They also learned about Abigail Adams and her role in the Revolutionary War.

Upcoming hands-on-history workshops:

November 9 - Pioneer Life
December 14 - Civil War
January 11 - Victorian Era

The full schedule can be viewed at www.bechshistory.com/education/young-historians.

Please pre-register for each Young Historians by calling 507-345-5566 or by emailing bechshh@hickorytech.net.

112 YEARS OF HISTORY

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A celebration of more than a century of our past.

Anniversary Open House

Join us at the Heritage Center for refreshments, door prizes, **FREE Museum admission** and Holiday Gift Shop Specials including **double shopping discount** for BECHS Members.

Fri., November 8, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Sat., November 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Christmas in Deep Valley and Book Signing by Julie Schrader 2 p.m.

Heritage Center is located at 415 Cherry Street, Mankato

Give History for the Holidays

Marian Anderson Art • Collectibles
Books • Vintage Holiday Décor
Memberships • Donations

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



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Visit www.bechshistory.com for more details.

BECHS Volunteers Make History Happen!

September marked the first issue of our monthly *Volunteer Newsletter*. The letter was sent to our great volunteers via email with print copies also available. This is a great way for our volunteers to stay informed about upcoming opportunities and other volunteer news. Check your mailbox for your latest update. Thank you to all the volunteers who attended the BECHS Volunteer Trainings in September. If you volunteer in the past and were unable to make the meeting, please contact Danelle to receive your updated *Volunteer Handbook* and additional information about volunteering with BECHS.

Below are some volunteer opportunities for which we are currently seeking help. If you are interested in helping or would like more information about volunteering with BECHS, please contact Danelle, our volunteer coordinator, at bechsms@hickorytech.net or visit www.bechshistory.com/volunteer. Also, check out our volunteer stories on our website for a glimpse into why and how people volunteer with BECHS.

Volunteer Opportunities

Building Committee

Looking for individuals to assist with short and long-range facilities planning and improvement. Individuals must have experience with design and/or construction projects.

BECHS Board of Trustee Members

Looking for individuals interested in joining the BECHS Board of Trustees. Terms run from March 2014 to March 2016. The Board is seeking individuals strong in non-profit governance, fundraising and financial management. For an application, please visit www.bechshistory.com or contact Jessica at bechs@hickorytech.net.

Newsletter Layout and Design

Seeking individuals to work with the layout and design of the quarterly newsletter. Knowledge of Microsoft Publisher required.

Writers and Editors

Looking for writers and researchers for regular article series and BECHS publications including main *Historian* articles. Also, looking for individuals strong in editing and proofreading.

Kiwanis Holiday Lights

Looking for volunteers to represent BECHS at the community Kiwanis Holiday Lights in Sibley Park on December 15, 5-9 p.m. A variety of shifts and duties will be available.

Madison East Bake Sale

Seeking individuals to work at the BECHS table at the Madison East Bake Sale on November 16 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Volunteers are needed to assist customers with their purchases as well as helping with set up and take down after the event. Short shifts are available.

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 *The Artisan*
GALLERY

Every object has a story...

The three dimensional artifacts in Blue Earth County Historical Society's permanent collection consist of over 21,000 objects, preserving the broadest cultural representation of Blue Earth County history. The collections reflects, documents and illustrates the history and development of Blue Earth County's past. Here is a glimpse into our collection.

1926 Pontiac Landau Coupe



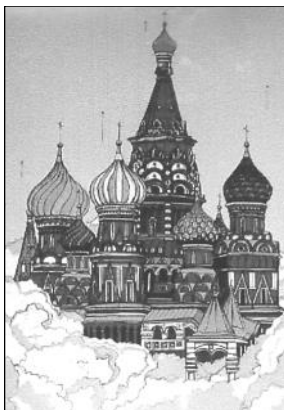
This is the first line of Pontiacs ever manufactured. Its first owner was A.W. Lieske, who purchased the car in Arlington, MN. The Pontiac automobiles were sold at the Oakland Motor Car Company, located on the 500 block South Front Street in Mankato. When this car was new it had a price tag of \$895.00; and it only came in one color, light sage green. This 1926 Pontiac is on display at the Carriage House

We invite you to cruise down Front Street through our exhibit Remembering Front Street where you'll encounter old-fashioned storefronts and businesses---like the Saulpaugh Hotel, Stan A Smith Jewelry Store or the Mandarin Café.

If you are interested in donating a piece of Blue Earth County history, please contact Shelley Harrison, Archives Manager.



HERITAGE CENTER ART GALLERY FEATURED ARTIST



Sue Mueller-Story and Family "Generations of Art" October - December 2013

Artist Reception, Thursday, October 19th 5-7p.m.

"Generations of Art" contains artwork from six generations, from 1879 to the present. This creative family has continued to create art, generation after generation, using a variety of mediums. It's family history captured in a vivid and meaningful way. We hope you enjoy this exhibit with your family and that it sparks some imaginative ideas for you and yours.

Family Member Artists: John Goetz; Pauline (Goetz) Seitz; Georgina (Marcou) Steinbauer; Cecilia (Seitz) Steinbauer Mueller-Story; James Steinbauer; John Steinbauer with Family: Josh, Eli, Jake, Sarah, Maggie, Becky Steinbauer; Kathleen (Steinbauer) Black with Family: Dan, Faith, Crystal (Black) Cunningham; Bernadette (Steinbauer) Wilking Wilson with Family: Angela (Wilking) Bryant, Valerie (Wilking) and their children Quincy II, Deonte' and Olivia Moe

Next Featured Artist: January – March 2014
Blue Earth County Historical Society's Art Collection

Around the Research Center

Heather Harren
Education and Outreach Manager

Over the past few months, many people from all over the country have visited the Research Center researching their families. All of these people left the research center with more information than they expected and a few new relatives to look into.

The one thing that all of these researchers had in common was that they were able to do what they thought would be a day's worth of research in a fraction of the time.

There are many ways we have made doing research easier; here are a few of those ways: when people enter the Research Center, my first question is, "How can I help you today?" Many people that are visiting for the first time are looking for their relatives, and the first place I direct them to is the card catalog drawers. Most of the time people just want obituaries. Any obituary that has been put into an obituary book has a corresponding index card. The obituary book system saves people many hours of going through microfilm to locate the obituaries. We do, however, have all of the Blue Earth County newspapers on microfilm; and, if a page is missing out of the obituary books, we can still find obituaries that way.



Another great resource is our filing cabinets full of newspaper clippings. As our volunteers were cutting out the obituaries, they also clipped articles from the newspaper about everything and anything in Blue Earth County. If people knew one of their relatives owned a business, we can check the filing cabinets to see if we have more information about the business to add to the history of the person for whom they are searching.

These are just two of the many resources available in the research center. As colder weather approaches, stop by the Research Center and see what new family members you can uncover.

BECHS Membership

July-September 2013

New Members

Jo and Chuck Bailey
Jessica Beyer and Kurt Klinder
Rebecca Bryden
Laura Busch
Drew FitzHenry
Laura Garlow
James and Kenna Gibson
Travis and Brittni Horn
Mary Ihrke
Scott and Rachel Moeller
Ruby Nelsen
Mandi Nelson
John Pfau
Radio Mankato
Joe and Molly Reinemann
Heather Schoensedt
Daniel and Kim Scott
Vance Stuehrenberg and Mary Styndl
Jim Tetzloff
Anna Thill
Stephen Urban
Carla Wendt
The Wow! Zone

Renewing Business Members

Burkhardt & Burkhardt
Voyager Bank
Insty-Prints of Mankato
Goodrich Construction
Hoehn Drainage & Excavating LLC

As a new benefit to our business members, we are now offering to place your business website link and other information on our website. We value your membership and want the visitors to our website to view your support as well! Contact BECHS for more information.

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



By Brad & Ariane Hawker

Huzzah to our loyal cranks for another outstanding season! The Mankato Baltics finished with a 16-4 -1 record (tie match due to time limit) and put our 7th year in the books. We enjoyed playing new clubs this year such as the Rum River Rovers from Anoka County and Menomonie Blue Caps from Dunn County, Wisconsin. We also met the Ohio Muffins at a festival in Rochester and were honored to take the field with the highly respected club. Our hottest matches were played in Afton at the end of August where the temps were in the high 90s and the heat index was hovering around triple digits. Our club participated in the Scott Carver Harvest Festival in Jordan, a new event for us, and the Fall Festival at Farmamerica in Waseca. The final two matches of the season were at a festival. But wait, we have one more match this year, our annual "Snow Ball" match against the Arlington Greys during the Arlidazzle celebration will be played the afternoon of Saturday, December 7 in Arlington!

It is always a pleasure to introduce our love of the game to spectators. It definitely sparks interest of those passing by the pasture as we stand in our 1860s replica uniforms with no gloves while tipping our hats to our opponents showing that it is indeed a gentlemen's game. We have heard many people say how refreshing it is to watch compared to today's sports and even though we have many "spirited" matches, it all comes down to having fun with our comrades playing the game as it was meant to be played. There have been matches where we have picked people from the crowd to join us and we are proud to say that some get hooked. In fact, the Mankato Baltics added a few new recruits to the roster this year and hope to see more in the Baltics uniform!

One exciting event was sending four of the Baltics to play with the Union Base Ball

Club of Minnesota at the Ohio Cup over Labor Day weekend! "Light Hitter", "Hotstepper", "Cooter" and "Hunter" joined members from the Roosters (Olmsted County) and St. Croix clubs to form a club to represent Minnesota in Columbus, OH. They played 7 matches in 3 days and had an absolute blast meeting ballists from all over the country who gathered for the love of the game.



Mankato Baltics

As we try to get the grass stains out of our uniforms and hang up our cleats, we want to thank our generous sponsors and everyone who has supported our club. Please check the website or our Facebook updates for more information. See you in the spring! Huzzah, Huzzah, Huzzah!



GHOSTS FROM THE PAST A Slough Full of Stories

The History of Place: Rasmussen Woods, Stoltzman Road, Tinkomville, Municipal Golf Course and the Orphanage

Friday, October 18, 6-8 p.m.
Saturday, October 19, 5-8 p.m.

*First Congregational United Church of Christ
150 Stadium Court, Mankato*

TICKETS

\$7.50/adults \$5.00/children 5-17

Advance tickets on sale now. Limited tickets available at door.

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Around Blue Earth County



Rapidan Heritage Society

Jane Haala, RHS Secretary

The depot is now closed for winter. Harvesting on the farms has begun in earnest, and combines, farm trucks and semis can be seen in many fields harvesting soybeans or corn and hauling grain. All the local elevators are busy, working long hours into the evening.

As I watch the farm trucks lining up to unload at the Rapidan Elevator, I marvel at the changes in harvesting over the years. In days of old, wagon loads of corn arrived at the elevator pulled by horses. Most farmers sold their corn "on the cob" and shelled it at the elevator. After weighing the load, the corn was shoveled into a sheller by the runway. After it was shelled, the cobs were then shoveled back into the wagon or left for the elevator to give away (used for starting fires in the kitchen stoves and furnaces).

It wasn't that long ago that long lines of tractors pulling flare box wagons formed at the elevator waiting to unload. Each wagon held about 100 bushels of grain and the wait to unload could be hours. The flare box wagons used in the past would appear to be miniatures next to the huge hopper grain wagons now seen in fields; wagons that now are capable of holding up to 1,500 bushels – enough to fill two semi loads!

Combines have advanced from a 2 or 4 row picker to a 12 row corn head 30 feet long! A combine that once held 40 bushels is now replaced with a 500 bushel tank. These are huge machines, so please watch for farm trucks, combines and tractors pulling equipment on the roads. They are slow moving vehicles and take up more of the road!

Upcoming RHS Events:

- Ghosts in the Depot – Spooks in the Caboose! The Depot will be open on October 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. to treat visitors of all ages.
- Santa at the Depot on December 6, 5-7 p.m. Young and young at heart are invited to visit with Santa and enjoy cider and cookies in the town hall. All are invited.

**GIVETODAY.
MAKEHISTORY.**

The Blue Earth County Historical Society stands on a century long tradition of collecting, preserving and presenting Blue Earth County's rich heritage. You can make history happen today by donating to the **2013 Year-End Drive to raise \$25,000**. Donations will support remaining 2013 expenses and help us reach new heights in 2014 with expanded program and building opportunities. Invest in the future of BECHS today.

**Watch your mailbox for details or give today at
www.bechshistory.com**

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Visit www.bechshistory.com for more details or call 507-345-5566.

WISH LIST

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

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

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

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

Calendar of Events October 2013 - January 2014

OCTOBER

- 17 Third Thursday Gallery Walk: Artist Reception**, Heritage Center Art Gallery, 5-7 p.m.
- 18 Ghosts from the Past: A Slough Full of Stories**, 6-8 p.m. Get Tickets Today! See details on page 17.
- 19 Ghosts from the Past: A Slough Full of Stories**, 5-8 p.m. Get Tickets Today!

NOVEMBER

- 5 Fingerprints and Footnotes: History of Marysburg**, Heritage Center, 6 p.m.
- 8-9 Anniversary Open House**, Heritage Center, Friday 10 a.m.-7 p.m. or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 9 Young Historians: Pioneer Life**, Heritage Center, 10 a.m. Pre-registration required.
- 9 "Christmas in Deep Valley" Program and Book Signing** by Julie Schrader, Heritage Center, 2 p.m.
- 14 Give to the Max Day at www.GiveMN.org** Minnesota's one day non-profit fundraising campaign.
- 16 Madison East Non-Profit Holiday Craft & Bake Sale**, Madison East Center 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 21 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on Talk of the Town
- 21 Third Thursday Gallery Walk**, Heritage Center Art Gallery, 5-7 p.m.
- 24 A North Woods Nutcracker by the Fine Arts Youth Dance Theatre**, see ad on page 7.
- 28-30 Heritage Center Closed, Happy Thanksgiving!**
- 29 Kiwanis Holiday Lights Parade and Opening Night**, 6 p.m. Can you find BECHS's holiday tree?



- 15 BECHS Night at the Kiwanis Holiday Lights**, 5-9 p.m., Sibley Park—volunteers needed
- 19 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on Talk of the Town
- 19 Third Thursday Gallery Walk**, Heritage Center Art Gallery, 5-7 p.m.
- 20-21 Historic R.D. Hubbard House Open**, 1-4 p.m.
- 24-26 Heritage Center Closed**
- 27-28 Heritage Center Open Holiday Hours** 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



JANUARY

- 1 Heritage Center Closed, Happy 2014!**
- 7 Fingerprints and Footnotes: Social Media and BECHS**, Heritage Center, 6 p.m.
- 11 Young Historians: Victorian Era**, Heritage Center, 10 a.m. Pre-registration required.
- 16 Third Thursday Gallery Walk: Opening Reception**, Heritage Center Art Gallery, 5-7 p.m.
- 23 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on Talk of the Town

Three easy way to stay up-to-date:

- Check out www.bechshistory.com for full event details and updates!
- Sign-up for our free monthly e-news to receive updates between *Historian* issues
- Follow BECHS on Facebook and Twitter.

DECEMBER

- 7-8 Christmas at Hubbard House**, Historic R.D. Hubbard House, Saturday 3-7 p.m. or Sunday 1-4 p.m.
- 7 Mankato Baltics at Arlington Arlidazzle**
- 10 Fingerprints and Footnotes: Camp Lincoln & Aftermath of 1862**, Heritage Center, 6 p.m.
- 14 Young Historians: Civil War**, Heritage Center, 10 a.m. Pre-registration required.
- 14-15 Historic R.D. Hubbard House Open**, 1-4 p.m.

BECHS Annual Membership

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

Name _____

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Membership Levels

Individual Senior (62+) \$20

Individual \$25

Household \$35

Contributor \$50

Supporter* \$100

Booster* \$250

Advocate* \$500

Benefactor* \$1000

*denotes Business Member levels

Please send this form and check to:

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Complete your membership form

online at www.bechshistory.com

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



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