

The Blue Earth County

# HISTORIAN

Blue  
Earth  
County  
Historical Society

## A Tale of Two Men—Promoting BECHS 100 Years Later



Photograph of Dr. G.A. Dahl taken more than 100 years ago by Mankato's Keene Studios is about to be on display in the Boston, MA as part of the launch of the Digital Public Library of America. See page 9.

### Featured Artist



Exhibit featuring Donna Webb's photography now on display, see page 7.

### Surrounded By History



Annual  
Surrounded  
by History  
Fundraising  
event, see  
page 2.

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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



### Board of Trustees

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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

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

### The Blue Earth County Historian

Spring 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

The second annual “Surrounded By History” spotlighted our agricultural heritage in Blue Earth County. The event was a huge success, raising over \$12,000 for BECHS operations.

While the main goal of the event was to raise money, it was also a chance to spend time with many of our friends at the Blue Earth County Historical Society. The evening was spent with over 150 guests and supporters of BECHS.

In particular we would like to recognize and thank our corporate sponsors who played a key role in the financial success of the event: CHS Inc., Crystal Valley Cooperative, DuPont Pioneer, Gislason & Hunter, LLP, Leonard Street and Deinard, Wingert Realty and Land Services, AgStar Financial Services, NuStar Realty of Mankato, R&E Enterprises, and Radio Mankato.

The event had a traditional silent auction with the many items graciously donated by area businesses and individuals. New this year was the Wine Wall, which quickly sold out, as guests vied for the grand prize, a bottle of Stags Leap wine valued at over \$150.00. The evening was also made extra special by Pete Steiner, who graciously served as emcee.

Our keynote speaker was James L. Gibson, Executive Director of FarmAmerica. Dr. Gibson’s presentation centered around the evolution of agricultural and rural life from early settlement in Southern Minnesota to the present. Dr. Gibson had a number of interesting stories and slides, highlighting the time period.

Did you know that the number of acres planted in corn has changed very little over time? The real change has been with the planting of soybeans (the new crop) and the decrease in planting of oats and wheat. Dr. Gibson’s slides are available online at [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com).

Please mark your calendar for Friday, March 21, 2014 when “Surrounded By History” will spotlight another Southern Minnesota pioneer industry.





## Director's Notes

Jessica Potter  
Executive Director

### Celebrating People in Action

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped in 2012. More than 7,100 reported hours were donated to BECHS by over 120 individuals. Volunteers are truly indispensable to BECHS not only for the fundamental functions of the Society, but also for everything that makes BECHS a unique and culturally rich organization. Volunteers serve on committees and the Board of Trustees, coordinate and assist with special events (like Surrounded By History) and programming, clip and index newspapers, serve as tour guides at the Hubbard House and Heritage Center, assist BECHS staff with daily operations—plus so much more.

If you are a current volunteer, please take a moment when you volunteer to write down your volunteer hours. BECHS uses those numbers as in-kind donations to the Society. Did you know that volunteer time in Minnesota is currently valued at \$21.61 per hour according to *Independent Sector*, a national non-profit advocacy group? That calculates to over \$153,000 of in-kind donations of time to BECHS in 2012. Pretty incredible what a group of people can accomplish when they work together for a local non-profit! Volunteer hours can be recorded in the "Volunteer Log Book" in the Museum Store, sent in via email to [bechsms@hickorytech.net](mailto:bechsms@hickorytech.net), or mailed to the Heritage Center.

We have a few enhancements to our volunteer program this spring. An updated volunteer handbook, a new training tool, and an online volunteer interest form have all been developed. The handbook is available on the BECHS website at [www.bechshistory.com/volunteer](http://www.bechshistory.com/volunteer), or print copies are available to volunteers who prefer that option. In order to update our records, we are asking all of our volunteers to go online and complete a volunteer interest form. This will update your contact information and share with us your interests for volunteering as they may have changed over the years. If you do not have access to the internet, please stop by the Heritage Center to complete a print

version. In the near future, volunteers will be able to update their information via a protected login on our website. You may even be able to record your hours online. We are also developing a monthly electronic newsletter, that will update volunteers of opportunities and news. Watch for that coming to your inbox soon.

To learn more about these tools and the updated handbook, please join us on Monday, April 22 at noon for the Annual BECHS Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. We will recognize everyone for their hard work and dedication as well as honor our top 10 volunteers of 2012. Lunch is on BECHS, so please RSVP by Saturday, April 20 to [bechsms@hickorytech.net](mailto:bechsms@hickorytech.net) to reserve your seat.

If you are not already a BECHS volunteer, but would like to become one, please check out our volunteer opportunities online or on page 14. Then visit our volunteer page online to complete a volunteer interest form. A staff person will follow-up to get you started.

Thank you sincerely for all of your time and talents! BECHS would not be the rich organization it is without dedicated people like you!

2013

Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival

Directed by DANNY PROUD of Wisconsin

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 AT 1:30 P.M.

First Presbyterian Church  
220 East Hickory • Mankato, MN

PERFORMING CHOIR  
St. Peter Choral Society  
DIRECTED BY SARA MCKAY

4-part Congregational Singing of Welsh Hymns (in English)

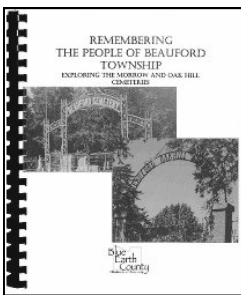
For more information about this and other Welsh events...

CHECK OUR WEBSITES:  
[www.minnesotawelsh.org](http://www.minnesotawelsh.org) & MinnesotaWelshAssociation (facebook)

# At the Book and Gift Shop

The Blue Earth County Historical Society manages three book and gift shops. They are located at the Heritage Center Museum, Historic R.D. Hubbard House, and online at [www.bechshistory.com/shop](http://www.bechshistory.com/shop). BECHS carries souvenir items, art featuring local artists, state and local history books, collectibles, maps, reproduction toys and archival supplies. Reminder—BECHS members receive a 10% discount on most purchases.

## Featured Items - BECHS Publications:

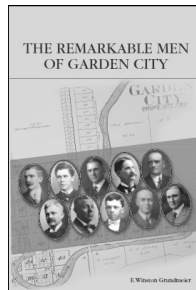


### Remembering the People...

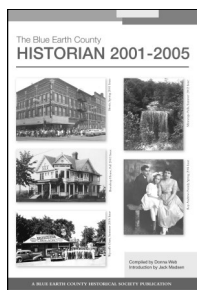
Exploring Blue Earth County cemetery listings. Series features cemeteries in the following townships: Beauford, Butternut Valley, Cambria, Ceresco, Decoria, Lincoln, and Shelby. \$49.95

### The Remarkable Men of Garden City

The late 19th Century was a golden age and the beginning of American industry. We've heard about the great captains of industry like Rockefeller and Carnegie, but Southern Minnesota had its own crop of captains. The village of Garden City, Minnesota, population of 400 in 1900, was home to ten gifted, ambitious and remarkable men. They went on to be significant contributors to modern day industry giants like Piper Jaffray, Archer Daniels Midland and GlaxoSmithKline. \$12.95



### The Blue Earth County Historian 2001-2005



Compilation of the historical articles found in *The Historian* from the winter of 2001 through the fall of 2005. The topics vary widely from articles on innovations in teaching to biographical sketches of some remarkable people, from accounts of the development of local industry to stories of immigration from all parts of the world, plus many more. \$11.95

## Marian Anderson Fine Art Prints

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

Marian's paintings are not just illustrated subjects, but stories within each painting. With each brush stroke a breath of life sets her art apart. As you immerse yourself in the depths of her painting, you will see the beauty of a lifetime of experience. The subjects featured in Marian's work include: Canine, Native American, Nostalgia, Diversity & Landscape, Wildlife and Mountain Men.

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

### Historic House Series



The Historic House series features three grand Mankato homes: Schmidt House, Cray House and Hubbard House. Each house is showcased in a limited edition numbered fine art print. Prices: Artist Proof \$150, Main Edition \$75, and note card packs \$9.50.





# R.D. Hubbard House

Ryan Harren  
Hubbard House Assistant

Here at BECHS we are preparing to open the Hubbard House for what we anticipate will be another amazing season. Over the winter, our wonderful volunteers made several minor changes to the house in order to make it feel like the Hubbard family is still living there in 1905. This truly brings the history of the home to life for all who visit the house.

On opening day, May 4, we are holding the Annual Victorian Tea Party, and this year guests can look forward to a change in the order of events for the day. Living history tours throughout the Hubbard House will be held first, and then afternoon tea will be served at the Emy Frentz Arts Guild. During the Tea Party, a gift basket silent auction will be held in the Carriage House – which will be the perfect opportunity to get Mother's Day presents. More information on the event can be found at [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com).

In addition, throughout May the Hubbard House will host Third grade field trips. We are excited to show the house to so many young children and teach them what life was like over one hundred years ago.

On June 1 the Hubbard House is hosting the annual Lawn Party where visitors can play Victorian games with costumed volunteers, family friendly activities and enjoy refreshments. Of course, the Hubbard House will also be open for tours that day. Beginning in June, we will also have Story Time every Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. Story Time is held every Friday from June 7 until August 30. Children of all ages are invited to come listen to Katherine, Mary Esther, and their friends read stories, make crafts, and play games.

We are always looking for more tour guides for the Hubbard House. Anyone interested in conducting tours during events, special group tours, or school tours should apply as a volunteer at the Heritage Center or contact Jessica at [bechs@hickorytech.net](mailto:bechs@hickorytech.net) or 507-345-5566.

## Historic R.D. Hubbard House

*Where 1900s History Comes to Life*

**May 4, 1-4 p.m.**

### Opening Day and Victorian Tea Party

All ages event includes Living History House Tours with costumed characters every hour, Afternoon Tea at the Emy Frentz Arts Guild, Child's Craft, and Gift Basket Silent Auction. Reserve Tickets today.

**June 1, 1-4 p.m.**

### Victorian Lawn Party

Annual lawn party features games, refreshments, dolly tea party and house tours. Free and open to the public; admission charged for house tours.

**June 6 - August 30, 10:30 a.m.**

### Story Time with the Hubbard Girls

Join Katherine and Mary Esther Hubbard for a special story time on the Hubbard House lawn Friday mornings. Activities include story, crafts and games. Story Time is free and open to all ages.

## Historic R.D. Hubbard House

### Hours of Operation

May and September

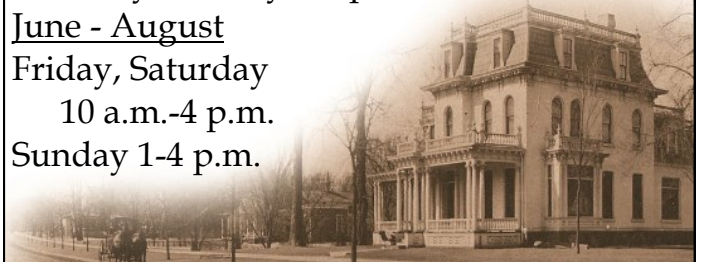
Saturday, Sunday 1-4 p.m.

June - August

Friday, Saturday

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday 1-4 p.m.



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

# Collections and Exhibits...

Shelley Harrison, Archives Manager

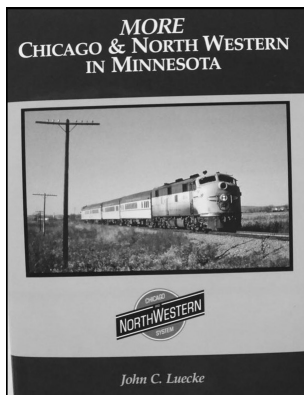
What exciting news! One of the Blue Earth County Historical Society's photographs, which was digitized by the Minnesota Digital Library (MDL), has been chosen from a large field of participants to be displayed as part of the Digital Public Library of America in Boston. All of Boston will be able to see one of BECHS's photographs displayed on a digital mural at WGHB Studios.

This is spectacular, but that's not the only place you can see images from our collection.

Our images have been used for books like the *History of Angling in Minnesota* by Tom Uehling, *More Chicago & North Western In Minnesota* by John C. Luecke, and a book on Norwegian Customs by Kristian Tredten, soon to be

published. The images have appeared in state and local publications such as the Betsy-Tacy Society newsletters and Minnesota Street Car Museum publications. Local media, such as KEYC and The Free Press, use the BECHS photograph collection frequently for their stories. You can even see our images in an upcoming Twin Cities Public Television documentary airing in the fall of 2013.

You have probably seen our photos displayed in other places as well. The images in the old KFC on Broad Street, are now hanging in the Madison East Center. BECHS photos have also been displayed in the Mankato



A BECHS photo was used in a Minnesota Street Car Museum publication



BECHS photographs at the Madison East Center

Intergovernmental Center, Applebee's, the Brett's Building, and now you can look for new photos on display at the Mankato Event Center. Check out our images in the entrance to the Union School Building, Blethen, Gage and Krause Law Office, and the new Bremer Bank on Victory Drive. These photographs show us that history is everywhere.

Our photograph collection provides images for Historical Society exhibits, publications, web displays, and educational materials. The BECHS Photograph Collection is also used on an ongoing basis by a variety of institutions and individuals, scholars and researchers, educators and students, and BECHS members. Some of our members have used our images in family histories, reunion booklets, scrapbooks and even on wedding invitations.

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) and WGBH in Boston found our photograph the same way you are able to access them; by checking out the MDL website at: <http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/blue>.

Hopefully we are rising to the challenge and making our photograph collection user friendly. Enjoy our Blue Earth County photo album.

# YOUNG HISTORIANS



Sebastian  
Winstead

Hi - my name is Sebastian Winstead and I am nine years old. I am a member of Young Historians. This is my first year. Young Historians is all about learning history. I enjoy Young Historians for many reasons. These are three of my favorite reasons: friends, acting, and the speakers.

I like being with friends who are school aged. If you like friends, Young Historians is for you. I like the acting because it makes me more interested in the time period. I have always enjoyed acting and I thought that the acting at the Hubbard House was great. I learn a lot from the speakers about the past. I learned that computers came out in the fifties from a speaker.

I hope you can see why I enjoy Young Historians. The acting was so fantastic that more would add to the experience. I am so excited to go to the Village of Yesteryear for the end of the year trip in May. More field trips would also be so nice. I think Young Historians is a fun place to go on Saturdays.



Dale Ehlenfeldt and Dale Benefield participated in the February meeting about the 1950s.



Larry Kortuem presented at the March meeting about the 1960s and 1970s.

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

## HERITAGE CENTER ART GALLERY FEATURED ARTIST



### Donna Webb: "...and beauty surrounds you..." April - July 2013

#### Artist's Reception, Thursday, April 18, 5-7 p.m.

Two of my favorite activities are traveling and photography. I find that it isn't necessary to travel the great roads or see grand places like Yellowstone or Yosemite to see our country's beauty. We like to take the back roads and byways, the "road less traveled." Traveling there we find many lovely and interesting sights along the way, around many bends and over many hills. And, when I find these places, sometimes, everything comes together and the lens of my camera sees what the lens of my eye see and I capture the beauty and a memory.

*Lower falls* by Donna Webb

**Next Featured Artist: July-October 2013  
Craig Groe**



# Fingerprints and Footnotes

Fingerprints and Footnotes is for you—whether you are interested in researching your house, your town, your family, or any subject that you find intriguing. Newcomers are always welcome.

In February we invited everyone to join us as Jane Tarjeson presented “The Aftermath of the U.S.-Dakota War in Blue Earth County area from 1863-1865.” We looked at the effects is



Jane presenting to the group

had in the Blue Earth County area.

In March we skipped our regularly scheduled date and

everyone join BECHS for

our Annual Meeting. We strolled down Maud Hart Lovelace’s Front Street with Julie Schrader, Laura Garlow as Betsy, and Jessica Potter.

In April we searched for clues in the 1940 Census. Few other records give better leads as we track

down our ancestors.

What a great snapshot of time, right between

hard times and war time.

If you have any ideas for topics or tours or if you are interested in presenting a topic, please let Shelley know.



## Finger Tips:


Did you know that the 1940 census asked your salary for 1939 and your employment status, including if you worked in “emergency work,” such as the WPA or the CCC?

## Future Meetings

**May 7** Second Stories Walking Tour: Fun Facts from Front Street’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Floors

**June 11** History of the Winnebago (HoChunk) People in the Upper Midwest presented by Tom Hagen

**July 2** “Boy in Blue” Patriotic Concert in Lincoln Park (150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and the fall of Vicksburg)



**Historic R.D. Hubbard House**

# *Victorian Tea Party*

**Saturday, May 4, 1 - 4 p.m.**

**R.D. Hubbard House, 606 S. Broad Street, Mankato**

*Wear your best hat to the annual Victorian Tea Party at the Historic R.D. Hubbard House and Emy Frenz Arts Guild.*

All ages event includes Living History House Tours every hour, Afternoon Tea at the Arts Guild, Children’s Craft, and Gift Basket Silent Auction.


**TICKETS**

**Adults \$15 or BECHS Members \$10**

**Children 5-17 \$5**

**Children under 5 FREE**

*Tickets can be reserved or purchased at 507.345.5566 or 415 Cherry Street.*



**BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Visit [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com) for more details





# A Tale of Two Men

## Promoting the Blue Earth County Historical Society 100 Years Later

By BECHS Staff

This photograph of Dr. G. A. Dahl taken by Keene Studios circa 1900 is about to be seen by many people in Boston, Massachusetts.

Why you ask? This photograph was chosen from the Minnesota Digital Library (MDL) to show their involvement in the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). The DPLA is collaborating with WGBH, a public TV and radio station in Boston, in presenting this and many other images on a 30 by 40 foot digital mural that projects images on the exterior of their building.

It was a great honor not only for an image from MDL to be selected, but this is also a great honor for BECHS to have one of our photographs seen by many people. Knowing this photograph will be seen by such a large crowd got us thinking: What do we

know about Dr. G.A. Dahl and Keene Studios? What other information could we learn about their professions over a century ago?

### Dr. G. A. Dahl

Gerhard A. Dahl was born June 23, 1872 in Dell, Minnesota, Faribault County, to Reverend and Mrs. T. H. Dahl. The Dahls were early settlers in Faribault County. G.A. attended



The Dahls at home, 1940s



Luther College in Decorah, Iowa before attending Hanneman Medical School in Chicago, Illinois. In 1897, G.A. came to Mankato where he worked with Dr. William A. Beach who had also recently moved to Mankato after finishing medical school. The original office of Beach and Dahl was at 429 South Front Street. They later moved to 402-404 South Front Street. This eventually became the location of the S & L Company. On August 29, 1903, Gerhard married Alma Hanson in Mankato. They never had children, and were both highly involved in the community.

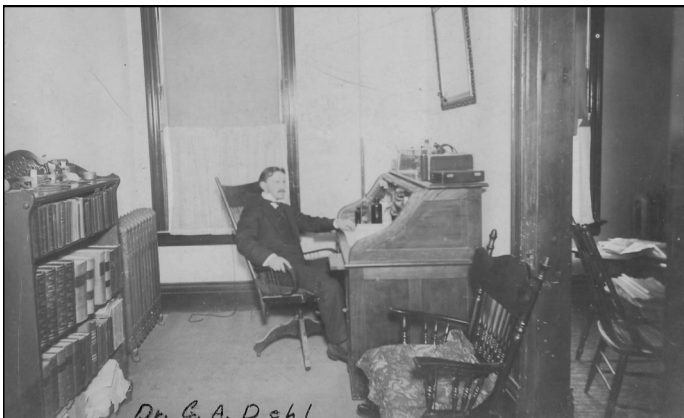
In 1916, Dahl was one of the founding members of the Mankato Clinic, working with well-known Mankato doctors such as J.W. Andrews, R.N. Andrews, and A.J. Wentworth. There were more than eight doctors who formed the Mankato Clinic in the beginning. The clinic started on the second floor of the National Citizen's Bank, with all of the doctors continuing their own practices under the name Mankato Clinic.

In 1920, the Mankato Clinic merged with the Holbrook-Sohmer Clinic, but maintained the Mankato Clinic name. With the expansion of the business, the Mankato Clinic moved to the corner of Main and Broad Streets in 1926 and remained there until 1964 when they moved to Holly Lane. In 1992 the clinic moved to their current location on Main Street.

The year 1918 was monumental for G. A. Dahl. He joined the Minnesota National Guard as a medical officer and remained in this position until 1936. Dahl also became the Blue Earth County Coroner starting in 1918. The last record of Dahl as the coroner was in 1947, almost thirty years after he started and a year after he retired from his medical practice.

Mrs. Dahl was just as involved with the community as her husband. Before she married, Alma attended the Mankato State Normal School where she was trained in elementary teaching. She taught in the area for several years. During her married life Alma was an active member of her church, the treasurer of the YWCA, and a volunteer with the Immanuel Hospital Auxiliary.

Dr. G.A. Dahl died in 1953 followed by Alma in 1962. The Dahls are buried in Glenwood Cemetery.



Dr. Dahl in his office, c. 1900

Even though he was a doctor by training, Dahl seemed to be fascinated with photography. He had interior photographs taken of his home and office, in a time when photographs of living spaces were rare. Here is an example of Dr. G.A. Dahl working in his office.

Photography in the early 20th century quickly became the most popular method of documenting the changes in a growing society. Although photography was invented in the first half of the

19th century, the beginning of the 20th century marked extraordinary changes. For the first time in history, inexpensive hand-held cameras gave ordinary people the opportunity to create their own visual images. Suddenly pictures were everywhere: on passports, in the developing picture press, in science, and capturing images from World War I. Advertisers also embraced photography as a new way of reaching the masses.

### Keene Studios and Early Photography

Keene Studios took our featured photograph, so we also wanted to also learn more about the studio and early types of photography.

George E. Keene was born in 1858 on the family farm in Nicollet County and moved to Mankato in 1861 while his father served in the Union Army. The family moved back to the farm when the



Keene Studio in Mankato, c. 1890s

war was over. However, Keene moved back to Mankato as a young adult to pursue his interest in photography. In 1882, George Keene married Mary Puhl who had recently moved to Mankato from St. Paul, Minnesota. Keene Studios first opened in Mankato in 1885, the business quickly grew to 14 studios throughout Southern Minnesota.

The primary type of photograph that Keene Studios printed into the early 1900s was called a Cabinet Card. Cabinet Cards were photographs mounted on card stock, nearly four times the size of previous photographs on card stock. By the early 1880s, Cabinet Cards almost replaced all other forms of prints and were the dominant portrait format until the end of the century. The most popular mount sizes were: Carte-de-visite (4 1/4" x 2 1/2"), Cabinet Card (6 1/2" x 4 1/2") and Stereograph (3" x 7").

In 1900 there were seven photo studios in Blue Earth County. In Mankato were the following studios: Snow, Blissenbach, Davis and Keene. In

Blue Earth County were Burke and Meade in Lake Crystal, and Burnett from Amboy. Many photographers and studios have come and gone over the years, but one thing remained relatively the same—film developing.

The process of developing film has not changed much in the past century. With the correct mixture of chemicals and a dark room, most people could still develop their own film today, if they still used rolls of film instead of digital photography. These chemicals need to be applied to the negative in a certain order for the photograph to develop correctly. The negative is then exposed to the paper that the image will be produced on and then the paper has to go through many of the same chemical steps the negative had to go through.

In 1921, George Keene was injured by a chemical accident and could no longer take photographs. This is when he became an original investor in the River Sand and Gravel Company. This company later became Guaranteed Sand and Gravel. The last mention of Keene Studios in the city directory is in 1929.

Mary Keene died in 1944, followed shortly thereafter by George in 1948. The Keenes are also buried in Glenwood Cemetery.

### **Minnesota Digital Library and the Digital Public Library of America**

The Minnesota Digital Library (MDL) began in 2001 with the idea that they could help smaller archives, local historical societies, and museums digitize their photo collections, as many of these smaller organizations did not have the resources to do so themselves. Over the past 12 years, many organizations have worked together to make this project successful by submitting content to the ever growing MDL. Starting in 2003, MDL began collecting material from different organizations across Minnesota, either through scans they have done themselves or by the organizations sending their photographs to a designated location to be scanned and then returned.

The Blue Earth County Historical Society was among the many groups that

participated in the first phase of the project. As of October of 2012, MDL had over 120,000 images and they are now working on adding audio files to their collection as well. BECHS has participated in different phases and currently has over 1400 images and the 1914 Standard Atlas of Blue Earth County available online. We encourage people to visit <http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/blue> to view our collection.

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) is just getting started, although the idea of a national digital library has been a topic since the early 1990s. As of March 12, 2013, the National Archives began initial stages of the DPLA with the goal to provide a central location for America's cultural and scientific history free of charge and open to anyone with access to the internet. The launch for this national project will be April 18-19, 2013. With this launch, over 1.2 million images ranging from the beginning of photography through the National Archives' 1970s photograph project will be made available. Several smaller digital libraries, such as MDL, will have their collections included in the DPLA launch on April 18 and 19.

This is how two men from over a century ago are helping to promote the Blue Earth County Historical Society as representatives of the Minnesota Digital Library. The photograph of a turn-of-the-century photograph studio and an amateur photographer will soon be projected over Boston. We don't also have the fortune of seeing behind the scenes or in this case behind the lens. If you happen to be in Boston over the next few months, look for the digital screen to see what image is being used that day. It may be ours!

If you would like to follow the images posted on the WGBH digital mural, visit [www.wgbh.org/about/mural.cfm](http://www.wgbh.org/about/mural.cfm). There you will find a link for the current image of the day as well as information on past images.



The outdoor screen in Boston, MA where the photograph of Dr. Dahl will be displayed

# Education & Outreach

By Heather Harren  
Education and Outreach Manager

At the beginning of February, I was promoted to the Education and Outreach Manager of the Blue Earth County Historical Society. With this new title, I am responsible for finding tour guides for educational tours, managing information about all of our programs, and updating our social media sites and the website. I was doing much of this before the promotion and the new aspects of the job have been enjoyable.

You may have noticed over the past few months the changes to our website. We have converted our website to a new system and there have been a few changes to how our information is shared. The biggest change has to be our upcoming events. This area used to have text about events or other important information about BECHS. This area now lists our next five events with date and time. If you click on the event, it will take you to the event page where there is more information, such as where the event will be held or if there are different opportunities at the same event to watch a performance or game. Check our calendar for our full year's worth of events to see which events of ours you would like to attend. Be sure to check back often to see if there have been any new developments.

We are also getting ready for school tours both at the Hubbard House and at the Heritage Center Museum. The tour guide manual for the Museum has been updated to include our new exhibit, "Remembering Front Street" and the pioneer cabin, which was moved last winter to the Heritage Center. For anyone interested in being a tour guide, please fill out a volunteer application on our website at [www.bechshistory.com/volunteer/signup](http://www.bechshistory.com/volunteer/signup). Training will be provided to anyone interested.

We currently have over 420 "Fans" on Facebook. Have you liked us yet? Our goal is 500 "Likes" by the end of 2013. Have you noticed that we have been posting more content on Facebook over the past few months? Leave us a comment on one of our posts or on our wall and let us know what you think.

## SURROUNDED BY HISTORY

Spotlighting Our Agricultural Heritage

### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

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2013 Surrounded By History Attendees

### SAVE THE DATE:

Surrounded By History 2014 - March 21, 2014

*A Gift of a Lifetime*

*Consider including BECHS  
in your estate planning*

# BECHS Donations January - March 2013

## Donations

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Foundation  
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Payton, Katherine

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Saffert, Kenneth  
Salk, Carolyn and Robert  
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## Memorials

*In Memory of Margaret Williams  
Carr*  
Cords, Betty  
Richards, Marcia

*In Memory of Dr. Joseph Von  
Drasek*  
Tarjeson, Jane

*In Memory of Jeff Haefner*  
Zellmer, Randy

*In Memory of Joan Simonett*  
McGregor, Byron and Karen

## Welcome to New BECHS's Board Members



New 2013 BECHS Board of Trustees Members Wendy Greiner and Jessica Beyer. Wendy is the Web Department Manager and Software Specialist at Q Computers Mankato. Jessica Beyer currently serves as communications manager and business analyst for Blue Earth County where she manages all public relations and marketing initiatives including external and internal communications. Wendy and Jessica join 13 other members responsible for the Society's governance.

## MORGAN CREEK VINEYARDS

Tours, tastings, events, live music & private events.

Winery hours Thurs 4-9 pm  
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# **“Boy in Blue” Blue Earth County Civil War Memorial**

*By Boy in Blue Committee*

A groundbreaking ceremony for the first phase of the memorial project was held on April 16, 2013 and construction for the bottom pool base of the memorial fountain has begun. The base and pool are being constructed of local Minnesota stone from Vetter Stone Company.

There are many ways you can help raise funds needed to return the “Boy in Blue” to his post in historic Lincoln Park. Pavers will be used to build a walkway surrounding the new statue and fountain. The sales of engraved pavers will contribute to the construction of the “Boy in Blue”, leaving a permanent legacy of your contribution to the re-creation of this historic memorial to Blue Earth County’s Civil War veterans during the sesquicentennial observance of America’s Civil War (2011-2015).

Another way to help is to “Adopt a Veteran”. There were 707 Blue Earth County men who enlisted in the Civil War. To honor these brave men, their names will be engraved in granite on the top cap of the stone base of the memorial by stone sculptor Tom Miller. Help memorialize a veteran by purchasing a name engraving for \$40. Veteran names can be found at [www.boyinblue.org/Donate.html](http://www.boyinblue.org/Donate.html). When the memorial is completed, a brochure will be created with the names of the veterans and the donor who adopted their name for the memorial.

For more information regarding future fundraising efforts, visit [www.boyinblue.org](http://www.boyinblue.org) or [www.facebook.com/BoyinBlueProject](https://www.facebook.com/BoyinBlueProject).

## Upcoming “Boy in Blue” fundraising events

### **May 30 @ 6-8 pm**

Decoration Day at Lincoln Park

Re-enactment of a Decoration Day ceremony in Lincoln Park circa 1900 with costumed historical interpreters. Dedication of the first phase of the “Boy in Blue” Memorial Project.

### **July 2 @ 7:30 pm**

Boy in Blue Patriotic Concert, Historic Lincoln Park  
Concert by the Mankato Area Municipal Band

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

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

#### ***Gardening***

Assist with maintenance of the Heritage Center’s flower beds by weed control, planting, and general care

#### ***Newsletter Layout and Design***

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

#### ***IT Support***

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

#### ***Education Programs***

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

#### ***Volunteer Coordination***

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

#### ***Audio/Visual***

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

#### ***Writer and Editors***

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

**To volunteer, stop by the Heritage Center or go online at [bechshistory.com/volunteer](http://bechshistory.com/volunteer) to complete a volunteer application.**

# Every object has a story...

The Society's permanent collection includes paintings, textiles, posters, photographs, books, letters and ephemera from the middle of the 19th century through the 21st century. Here is a glimpse into our collections.

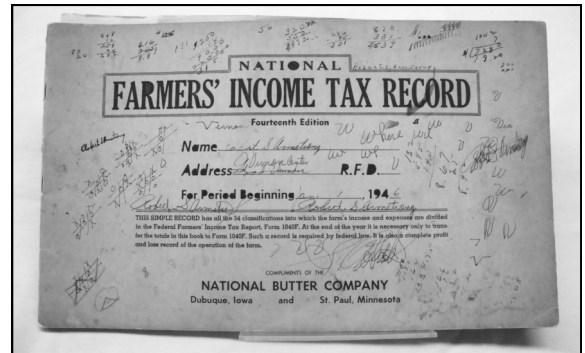


Glass Side Adding Machine by Standard Adding Machine Company, 1901

In 1901 William Hopkins founded the Standard Adding Machine Company, which was the first company to release to the market a successful 10-key adding machine. This model is similar to the original model which won an international grand prize during the 1904 Saint Louis World's Fair and was heralded as a "modern life preserver" in an office journal. Standard Adding Machine Co. closed in 1921.

The Farmer's Income Tax Record book was created to assist farmers with their record keeping. The income and expenditures segments of this book had been revised to correlate directly with the income tax reporting format as established by the Internal Revenue Service. It is an

account of their income and everything spent right down to the penny; sales and purchases of livestock, grain, hay and fuel. This book belonged to Robert Armstrong of Vernon Center.



Farm Income Tax Ledgers from 1946-1947

Did you know that the original income tax filing deadline was March 1? In 1918 Congress pushed the date to March 15, where it remained until the tax overhaul of 1954, when it was moved to April 15.

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

## WISH LIST

**Gift Baskets for the Victorian Tea Party Silent Auction** Looking for items to fill baskets, baskets and completed theme gift baskets. All proceeds of silent auction to benefit Hubbard House Restoration and Programming.

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

**Laser Printer** (used, working order)

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

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

*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!**

# Research Center

Heather Harren  
Education and Outreach Manager

Did you know that there are many research tools available on our website? The newest resource is a link to the Historic Preservation Reference Collection that is in the Research Center. We wanted to get this on the website for a while, and during our conversion process it seemed to be a great time to finally get this page on the website. As we discover websites with preservation information, we will also add them to the page.

The pages featuring our newsletter, *The Historian*, have also been updated as well as the index for 2009. We plan to have through 2012 up before the next issue of the newsletter comes out in July. The social notes indexes have been updated and Lake Crystal, LeHillier, Lime, Lincoln, and Lyra Townships have been added. This is another great resource for people to look through before visiting the Research Center.

We are currently in the process of updating the large indexes like the Cemetery and Will indexes. Keep checking the indexes page on our website to see what new materials may appear in the future.

BECHS is currently looking for donations of Polk city directories from 1870 through 1940, and 2000-present. We have several gaps in our collection and this valuable resource helps researchers find where their relatives lived, what their occupations were, and if they were farmers, the values of their farms.

We are also looking for "Welcome to (insert city name here)" postcards. These postcards are a great way to highlight Blue Earth County communities. If you have any city directories, postcards, or other materials related to Blue Earth County, please contact Shelly Harrison.

The Friends of Minnesota Barns are hoping to do a fall Barn Tour in Blue Earth County, but they need help locating historic barns. We are looking for help researching and locating historic barns in Blue Earth County. Please contact Shelley if interested in helping.

## BECHS Membership

**January - March 2013**

### New Members

CHS  
DuPont Pioneer  
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Charles Eggert  
Steve and Karen Flo  
Mary Fowler  
Gislason & Hunter LLP  
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Alice Laukkonen  
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### Renewing Business Members

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



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By Brad & Ariane Hawker

Vintage Base Ball Season is Here!

The Mankato Baltics are entering another season and are proud to have three home events for our loyal cranks (fans). The first is our annual "Striker-to-the-Line" event on Saturday, April 27 at Erlandson Park in Mankato. The Baltics will be hosting two fine Minnesota vintage clubs, the Afton Red Socks and the Roosters of Olmsted County. The first pitch is at noon against the Roosters and matches follow at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Vintage base ball is fun for ALL ages and our events are FREE!

The Mankato Baltics are an enthusiastic group of gentlemen who are happy to entertain and educate spectators about the customs and 1860s rules of base ball, "the way the game was meant to be played". Our field is an open grass area and the distance between bases is 90 feet. There are no gloves, balls are hurled (pitched) underhand, and if a batted ball is caught on one bounce by the fielder, the runner is out. No stealing, lead offs, bunts or strike outs. Vintage base ball is competitive, however most play for the love of the game and camaraderie between members of the clubs (teams) displays a high level of sportsmanship. It is a gentleman's game and the judge (umpire) can fine players for un-tucked shirts or swearing. Wouldn't that be fun to see in major league baseball!

In May, the Baltics will have a scrimmage at the corner of 5th & Cherry Streets, across from the Heritage Center. You will have an opportunity to watch a match and are welcome to take a couple swings of the willow (bat) and hit the onion (ball). Ballists (players) will be at the BECHS Pub Crawl on June 28 to answer any questions about vintage base ball and promote the annual Mankato Baltics Festival which is Saturday, June 29. Two adversaries joining us at Erlandson Park are the Arlington Greys and Blue Caps of Menomonie, WI.

Five Mankato Baltics will have the honor of joining the Union Base Ball Club of Minnesota when they travel in May to Milwaukee to play a double header against the Milwaukee Cream Citys who are celebrating their 10th season. E-Train, Quickstep, Worm, Light Hitter, and Captain Hotstepper are looking forward to representing the Mankato Baltics.

A fun schedule of matches this summer is ahead as we travel to Columbia Heights, Shakopee,

Rochester, Stillwater, Afton, Menomonie (WI) and Arlington. On September 8, we will be at the Farmamerica Fall Festival for a match against a "picked nine" team of various players from MN clubs. December 7 is the Snow Ball match during Arlington's Arlidazzle celebration.

The Mankato Baltics are excited to play and invite you to bring your family and friends to experience vintage base ball.



Mankato Baltics

### Baltics 2013 Schedule

- April 27** - Striker-to-the-Line @ Erlandson Park, Mankato, Noon-3 p.m.
- May 19** - Scrimmage @ Corner of 5th & Cherry Streets, 3:30
- June 1** - Baltics vs. Quicksteps, Columbia Heights, 11 a.m.
- June 16** - Baltics vs. Roosters @ The Landing, Shakopee, Noon
- June 29** - Mankato Baltics Festival @ Erlandson Park, Mankato, Noon-3 p.m.
- July 6** - Roosters Exhibition @ Schmitt Field, Rochester, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- July 20** - St. Croix Festival @ Old Athletic Field, Stillwater
- August 4** - Scott-Carver Harvest Festival @ Scott County Fairgrounds, Jordan
- August 10** - Baltics vs. Blue Caps, Rassbach Heritage Museum, Menomonie, 1:30 p.m.
- August 25** - Red Socks Exhibition @ Pettit Field, Lake St. Croix Beach, Noon
- September 8** - Farmamerica Fall Festival @ Waseca, 1:30 p.m.
- September 14** - Greys Exhibition @ Arlington Park, Arlington, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- December 7** - Arli-dazzle @ Arlington Park, Arlington, 3 p.m.

# Around Blue Earth County



Rapidan Heritage Society

2012 was Rapidan Heritage Society's 11th year. Two of Rapidan's churches were featured on a Red Wing Pottery creamer and sugar set. The annual meeting was held on February 16, 2012 with Larry Kortuem, a local historian, speaking on "Bringing Charlie McCarthy Home".

Our Memorial Day celebration started with a salute to the past and present troops with the Presenting of the Colors by the North Mankato American Legion Post. Jane Tarjeson spoke on the aftermath of the 1862 uprising, the effects it had on our area and the settlers who lived here. A lunch followed.

A big thank you to Mel Hage for taking on the big project of painting the Depot for us. He did a fabulous job!

RHS hosted the Blue Earth County Fair Tractorcade on July 28. Forty-seven tractors stopped for their morning break at the Rapidan Township Hall and visited the Depot.

RHS hosted "National Night Out" August 7 in Rapidan with a potluck in the township garage. In September the Good Thunder Fire Dept hosted their pork dinner and dance in Rapidan.

We had "Ghosts in the Depot" again last year with many young and old visiting our Depot on Halloween night. As usual in December, we had a great time with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Depot with many little visitors and friends bringing in the holiday cheer.

Your continued support of these fundraisers and donations are necessary and so very important to the Rapidan Heritage Society. RHS would like to thank everyone who made a monetary donation or donated Rapidan memorabilia to our organization in 2012. With all your wonderful gifts, our mission of preserving the past one piece at a time will continue to grow. Thank you.

~ L. Madsen, President

**The depot will open on Memorial Day 2013.**

## *A letter from a friend...*

I noticed you have a post card of Squad 5 (a 1954 Dodge Fire truck) from Mankato, MN. I am the current owner of the same fire truck and thought you might like to have a current photo of it.



I live in Port Orchard, WA and bought it several years ago from the gentleman who rescued it from a farm in

Minnesota and drove it out to Washington state. It was in pretty tough shape cosmetically but still in great mechanical condition.

We enjoy displaying it at local car, truck, and tractor shows and driving it in our local parades (usually promoting a local charity) and use it to promote our family business.

The truck has a special place in our family as the truck and I have a unique date in common... November 6, 1954 which was the day I was born and the day the truck was delivered to the Mankato Fire Department.

Thanks for preserving history and keep up the good work for future generations to see and enjoy.

Tim Roller

Engine 5 Photo & Design Transfers



An Operation Appreciation initiative from  
Blue Star Families in partnership with  
the National Endowment for the Arts.

BECHS will participate with the National Endowment for the Arts Blue Star Museum Program, a collaboration with Blue Star Families' "Operation Appreciation." BECHS is one of more than 1,500 museums nationwide to offer free admission to active duty military personnel and their families Memorial Day through Labor Day. Visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov) for more information.



# Calendar of Events April - July 2013

## APRIL

- 18 Third Thursday Gallery Walk, Artist's Reception for Donna Webb**, Heritage Center Art Gallery, 5-7 p.m.
- 22 BECHS Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event**, Noon, Heritage Center, Volunteers will be honored for their time and talents with lunch and awards. *RVSP by 4/20/13*
- 25 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS update on Talk of the Town
- 27 Baltics Striker-to-the-Line Season Opener**, Noon-3 p.m., Erlandson Park, Mankato.

## MAY

- 4 Hubbard House Opening Weekend and Annual Victorian Tea Party**, R.D. Hubbard House and St. John's Episcopal Church, 1-4 p.m., *Tickets on sale now.*
- 7 Fingerprints and Footnotes: Second Stories Walking Tour**, 6 p.m. *RSVP to Shelley at [bechsam@hickorytech.net](mailto:bechsam@hickorytech.net)*
- 11 Young Historians Field Trip** to Steele County Historical Society, RSVP by 4/30/13.
- 16 Mankato Heritage Preservation Commission City of Mankato Historic Bus Tour**, 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., RSVP to Jon Noerenberg at 507-387-8571 by May 11
- 16 Third Thursday Gallery Walk**, Heritage Center Art Gallery, 5-7 p.m.
- 19 Baltics Scrimmage** on the corner of 5th and Cherry Streets, 3:30 p.m.
- 25 Heritage Center Closed**
- 30 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS update on Talk of the Town

## JUNE

- 1 Annual Victorian Lawn Party** at Historic R.D. Hubbard House, 1-4 p.m.
- 1 Baltics vs. Quicksteps**, Columbia Heights, 11 a.m.
- 7 Story Time with the Hubbard Girls** every Friday 10:30 a.m. through August
- 11 Fingerprints and Footnotes: History of the Winnebago (Hochunk) People in the Upper Midwest**, Heritage Center, 6 p.m.

- 16 Baltics vs. Roosters**, The Landing in Shakopee, Noon
- 20 Third Thursday Gallery Walk**, Heritage Center Art Gallery, 5-7 p.m.
- 27 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS update on Talk of the Town
- 28 Historic Front Street Pub Crawl**, 6 p.m., *Tickets on sale 6/1/13*

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

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SOUTH FRONT STREET

## Historic Pub Crawl

*Walking Tour with a Twist*

**Friday, June 28, 2013, 6:00 p.m.**

\$15 for Historical Society Members • \$20 for Non-Members

**Participating Locations and Details to be Announced.**

Visit [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com) for more details.

- 29 Mankato Baltics Festival**, Erlandson Park, Mankato, Noon-3 p.m.

## JULY

- 2 Fingerprints and Footnotes: Boy in Blue Patriotic Concert** in Lincoln Park, 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Heritage Center CLOSED**
- 6 Baltics at Rochester Roosters Festival**, Schmitt Field, Rochester, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 18 Third Thursday Gallery Walk, Artist's Reception for Craig Groe**, Heritage Center Art Gallery, 5-7 p.m.
- 20 Baltics at St. Croix Festival**, Stillwater
- 25 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS update on Talk of the Town

**Check out [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com) for full 2013 event calendar, details and updates.**

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

**Follow BECHS on Facebook and Twitter.**

# BECHS Annual Membership

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Membership Levels**

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\*denotes Business Member levels

Please send this form and check to:

BECHS Membership

415 Cherry Street

Mankato, MN 56001

**OR**

Complete your membership form

online at [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com)

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



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