

The Blue Earth County

HISTORIAN

Blue
Earth
County
Historical Society

The Vikings Are Coming



This summer marks the 50th consecutive Minnesota Vikings Training Camp in Mankato. This is the longest continuous relationship between an NFL team and a host city. Read more about a special History Center exhibit opening on July 17 and 18 on page 6. Photo courtesy of Mankato Free Press.

See you at the Fair!



Volunteers needed to help BECHS at the Blue Earth County Fair, July 30-Aug. 1, see page 14.

Mapping Minnesota



Discover Mankato and "Minnesota on the Map," see pages 9 and 11.

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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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History Center & Museum

424 Warren Street, Mankato, MN
(New Main Entrance)
507-345-5566
www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com
Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

R.D. Hubbard House

606 South Broad Street, Mankato
507-345-4154
Hours
June-August:
Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.
September: Saturday & Sunday 1-4 p.m.

The Blue Earth County Historian Summer 2015

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Board of Trustees

Randy Zellmer
President, Board of Trustees

With the arrival of summer our gardening volunteers have been busy weeding, pruning and sprucing up the landscape around the History Center. You may have noticed the new signage and canopy identifying our building. We are working to make the History Center a more visible and beautiful part of the community.

The Vikings are coming! BECHS, in partnership with the Minnesota Vikings, will be hosting a new exhibit, *Celebrating 50 Years of Vikings Training Camp: A Mankato Tradition*. BECHS Staff and volunteers have been busy collecting memorabilia from the 50 seasons the Vikings have held training camp in Mankato. For many Vikings fans, summer in Mankato meant spending time on the MSU campus watching the Vikings practice. I'm sure many of you have a special story to tell or a fond memory of visiting training camp.

On Friday, July 17 from 4-7 p.m. BECHS will host the opening night of the Vikings Training Camp exhibit. Please consider purchasing a ticket to this exclusive event. (See page 7-8) You will be the first to view the exhibit and have the opportunity to meet Minnesota Vikings Alumni, with a special appearance by Viktor and the Vikings Cheerleaders. This is not only an opportunity for BECHS to showcase the History Center, but all proceeds from the event will remain with BECHS. The exhibit opens to the general public on Saturday, July 18. There will be door prizes and food available from Prairie Pride Farm catering. A perfect event for the whole family.

Last, I would like to thank our dedicated staff and many volunteers. BECHS would not be what it is today without you.

BECHS Member Appreciation

**Friday, August 28
5-7 p.m.
History Center**

Join Us for:

- *Appreciation meal*
- *Member's receive 15% off most items in Gift Shop*
- *Door prize drawings*
- *Guided behind-the-scenes building tours*



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Visit www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com or call 507-345-5566.

Director's Notes

Jessica Potter, Executive Director

On the first of this month, I had the great privilege of speaking to a group about the past, present and future of the Historical Society. It's a program I have done before, but this time was different. This time, I stood there talking about our present and realized that one year ago that day, a major milestone for the organization took it's first step—History Center expansion. It was one year ago this month that we started the process of buying out Vine's ownership interest in the building. And what a year it has been.

There has been a lot of new paint on the walls, a lot of furniture and boxes have been moved and a lot of weeds have been pulled from the gardens. We have hosted four traveling exhibits, 600 6th graders for field trips and countless others for tours, programs and meetings.

I am a list person and enjoy crossing things off my list, but I must say I also rewrite my list on clean paper. I wish I would have kept some of those crossed off lists to remind myself how much we really have accomplished in one short year. This entire building is now our home. It is still taking people a little bit of time to realize we have moved our main entrance down to Warren Street under the blue awning, but we are here and loving the additional space.

That is our past, present and future all wrapped into one; how exciting is that! I can't wait to see what our future holds. More facility improvements? Additional staff? A growing base of supporters? New state-of-the-art exhibits? Can you imagine? The future is ours. We just have to work hard and share our passion for ensuring that our past is preserved for our future. Are you with me?

How can you help? One of the easiest ways to support BECHS is through membership. If you are not already a member, please join. Invite your family, friends and colleagues to join. Consider making a financial contribution beyond your membership dues and see how quickly we can grow. Visit the new History Center and Hubbard House, especially if it's been a while. If you have out-of-town guests visiting, bring them here to explore the

rich history of our county. You will have such pride showing your guests around a place you support.

And volunteer. We need a lot of extra volunteers this summer at the Blue Earth County Fair July 30-August 1 and for our special Vikings Training Camp exhibit July 25-August 13. The Fair schedule is broken into four 3-hour shifts with three people per shift per day. That's 36 volunteer shifts that need to be filled. For the Training Camp exhibit we need 12 people daily to cover four hour shift over 13 days. A lot of numbers, I know, but the bottom line is we need YOU. You do not need to have previous volunteer experience. You can come alone or as a couple or in a group. There's an opportunity for everyone! Please consider donating your time and being a part of this really exciting experience. For more information about volunteering, please contact Danelle.

Thank you to all of the people who have made this last year possible: our Board of Trustees, members, donors, volunteers, visitors, and our dedicated, hard-working staff. Wow, what a year—imagine the possibilities another year will bring!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Crystal Valley Co-operative's Courtney Hennis presented BECHS with \$2,000 from Crystal Valley Co-op and Land O'Lakes to aid in the purchase of new meeting room chairs.

Darlyne and Mary Deopere, representatives from the Cambria 4th of July Committee, presented BECHS with a check for \$2,000.



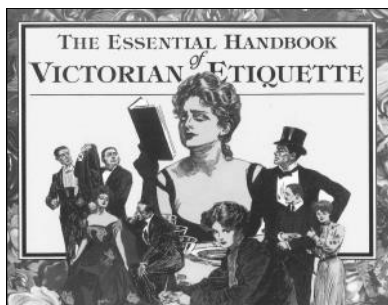


Gift Shop & Art Gallery News

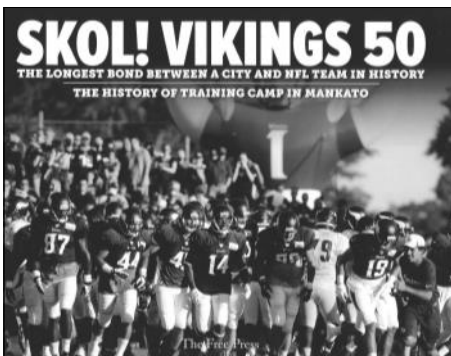
Danelle Erickson, Museum Manager

Summer is in full swing and the History Center and Gift Shop are excited to welcome visitors from near and far!

One of the newest books in the Gift Shop is *The Essential Handbook of Victorian Etiquette*. (\$8.95) Taken from etiquette advice written over 100 years ago, this book includes the “dos and don’ts” of social calls, how to behave at a ball, and tips on whom to marry. Whether you put the tips into practice is up to you! You can also impress your friends at your next dinner party by setting a proper table according to Victorian standards, thanks to *The Essential Handbook of Victorian Entertaining*. (\$9.95)



Looking for Minnesota souvenirs to send to out of state relatives or friends? The Gift Shop now has Minnesota postcards, magnets and keychains. We have also added a few Minnesota Vikings items as we prepare for the opening of the new exhibit,



Celebrating 50 Years of Vikings Training Camp: A Mankato Tradition. We are also excited to have available *Skol! Vikings 50*. Written and published by the Free Press Media,

this book is packed with great photos and stories. Perfect for any Vikings fan! (\$39.95)

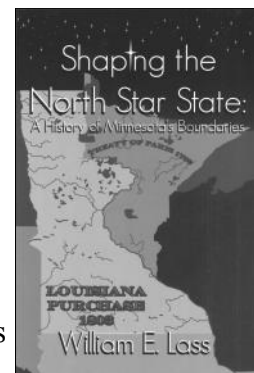
Dr. William Lass writes much more than great *Historian* articles (see page 9). He has also written a number of books on Minnesota history, including *Shaping of the North Star State*, available in the Gift Shop (\$14.95). The book talks about how Minnesota got its recognizable shape. Stop in for a copy and

make sure you visit the *Minnesota on the Map* traveling exhibit while you are here.

Have you taken the time to really look at Marian Anderson’s nostalgia prints? The details are simply amazing. Take North Mankato’s *Yesteryear*, for example. Over a dozen businesses along Belgrade Avenue can be picked out by name in the picture.

And the next time you see *Partners in Progress*, be sure to take a close look. Do you see the ghostly images waiting for the train at the Mankato Union Depot?

The Marian Anderson Art Gallery has similar historic prints for other towns in the area as well, including Chatfield, Madelia, New Ulm, Nicollet, Rapidan and Sleepy Eye, as well as the Church of Saints Peter and Paul, Mankato. To view or purchase these prints, please visit www.MarianAnderson.com or the Marian Anderson Art Gallery at 424 Warren Street, Mankato.



Partners in Progress
Museum edition available for \$200

BECHS Needs You!

Volunteers are occasionally needed in the Gift Shop and Research Center. See page 14 for more information. Please contact Danelle at 507-345-5566 if interested.



Historic R.D. Hubbard House

Tiffany Jenson and Elizabeth Kramer, Hubbard House Assistants

The Historic R.D. Hubbard House has been a busy place this summer with guests from near and far! Many out-of-town and out-of-state visitors have stopped in for a tour after seeing this historic site online and on social media. Other visitors have lived



Hubbard House seasonal staff, Elizabeth Kramer and Tiffany Jenson.

in Mankato for years, driven by the Hubbard House countless times and yet never came to visit until this summer. Perhaps they were drawn in by the sounds of the dulcimer playing or the sight of little

Victorian girls dressed up for a tea party. The summer began with the Victorian Tea

Party in May followed by the Victorian Lawn Party in June. Children of all ages are invited to Story Time at the Hubbard House every Friday morning, now through August. It is always a treat to have Mary Esther Hubbard come to share stories and crafts with the children.

The volunteers have amazed our guests this summer. The Hubbard House came alive as music filled the house and gardens, a mystery thief was caught as a disguised servant and Mrs. Hubbard showed us the hard work that went into getting dressed in Victorian attire. Our volunteers are priceless and their love of history is made clear at each event.

Our summer is far from over! Come to the Hubbard House on July 25 and see how Victorian people communicated socially before texting or Facebook! Visitors will learn how to communicate using hand-held fans, make calling cards and enjoy some refreshments. On August 22, join us for the popular Medicine Show. Come see how a sly snake oil salesman will try to empty your pockets, have a fortune teller predict your future and listen to historic music.

Historic R.D. Hubbard House

Where 1900s History Comes to Life

June 5 - August 28, 10:30 a.m.

Story Time at the Hubbard House

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

July 25, 1-4 p.m.

Victorian Social Media

Forget Facebook, Twitter and Instagram; learn how friends and family connected within their "social networks" during the Victorian Era with calling cards and the secret language of the fan. Program free; admission charged for house tours.

August 22, 1-4 p.m.

Old Time Medicine Show: Hucksters, Humbugs and Oddities

Come one, come all! Violet McNeal and her cohorts will be back in town for an entertaining one day only show. You just never know who will turn up at this colorful, free, family friendly afternoon of fun!

Historic R.D. Hubbard House Hours of Operation

June - August

Friday, Saturday

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday 1-4 p.m.

September

Saturday, Sunday 1-4 p.m.



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com



Collections & Exhibits

The Vikings are Coming to the History Center

Shelley Harrison, Archives & Collections Manager

The Blue Earth County Historical Society has something special for Vikings fans. A special, limited time exhibit, *Celebrating 50 Years of Vikings Training Camp: A Mankato Tradition* kicks off Friday, July 17 with an exclusive fan event and Saturday, July 18 with a free public event at the History Center. The exhibit will bring together memories and memorabilia from local Minnesota Vikings fans and will explore the 50 year history between our NFL team and the community they visit for three weeks every summer.

On July 14, 1966, Minnesota Vikings Training Camp opened for the first time in Mankato. The



Training Camp, 1966 with Vikings Paul Flatey. Photo courtesy of Shirley Terbeest.

camp was 44 days long; unlike this year's 20 days. Previous to coming to Mankato, the Vikings held their summer training camp at Bemidji State. A big factor for moving the camp to Mankato was that the coaches, players and media disliked traveling 300 miles north to Bemidji.

The proximity to the Twin Cities and vibrancy of the community were a

draw for Mankato. During the early years, the community pulled out all of the stops to welcome the team from a banquet at the Kato Ballroom in 1966 and Sports-O-Rama, a city-wide celebration in 1967.

The special History Center exhibit will explore five decades of Training Camp history with a mixture of memorabilia, history and photos. Community members have helped make this exhibit possible with their generous contributions of personal Vikings memorabilia. Highlights include

photos, autograph books, signs and rare documents.

The enthusiasm for training camp is still high 50 years later, as indicated by the large and diverse group of fans – old and young – who attend camp every year. Players come and go, but even the best of them are unlikely to surpass the anticipation of a winning season. Exhibit will be on display at the History Center through September 4.

Pre-Game Show: Exclusive Fan Event Friday, July 17, 4-7 p.m.

The evening includes an exclusive opportunity to meet Vikings Alumni, team mascot Viktor and Vikings Cheerleaders. There will be door prizes and food and cash bar provided by Buffalo Wild Wings. Be the first to score a ticket to this VIP event. Tickets are \$50.00 per person and are available at the History Center or online.



Vikings have donated display cases created for their 50th Anniversary. This is a timeline from the exhibit.

Kick-off Exhibit Opening Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The public exhibit opening will feature door prizes and kid's activities. Exhibit admission and activities are free; food available through Prairie Pride Farm.

Cruisin' Back to the '60s Vintage Car Show Saturday, August 1, 1-5 p.m.

History Center will be open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Reminisce about the 1960s when Training Camp first came to Mankato with a 1960s vintage car show at the History Center. Exhibit admission and activities are free; food available through Prairie Pride Farm.

For more information about the exhibit, events or to purchase Pre-Game Show tickets, go to www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com.

HISTORY CENTER ART GALLERY

Bend of the River Photo Club "Present History"

October 1 - December 31



Dodd Ford Bridge by Randy and Rachel Wood

Started in 2008, Bend of the River Photo Club is a group of people passionate about photography. Whether photography is a hobby or a profession, Bend of the River Photo Club invites people of all skill levels to join them. The club meets monthly the 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Primrose Retirement Center. *This exhibit was scheduled to open in July, but was moved due to a scheduling conflict.*

Interested in displaying your art? Contact Shelley at bechsam@hickorytech.net for more information.

WISH LIST
Here are a few items we could use. New or used; item or cash to purchase.

- Electric Kettle**
to use for heating water for tea, etc.
- Used Printer Ink Cartridges**
to be recycled for Office Depot credit
- Keurig K-Cups**
Any flavor.
For use with the new Keurig 2.0 in the new public coffee nook.

WISH LIST FULFILLED—MINI FRIDGE
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

Celebrating 50 Years of Vikings Training Camp: *A Mankato Tradition*

July 18 – September 4, 2015

Blue Earth County History Center
424 Warren Street, Mankato

FREE – OPEN TO PUBLIC

OPENING EVENTS

Pre-Game Show Exclusive Fan Event
July 17, 4-7 p.m.

Tickets \$50

Space limited to the first 150 people.

Evening includes:

- An exclusive opportunity to meet Minnesota Vikings Alumni, Cheerleaders and team mascot Viktor.
- A chance to win door prizes from the Minnesota Vikings and local businesses
- Grand prize drawing for two pre-season game tickets against the Oakland Raiders on August 22
- Food and cash bar provided by Buffalo Wild Wings
- The golden opportunity to be among the first to view the new exhibit

Visit www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com to buy your tickets today!

Proceeds benefit the History Center and Museum Expansion

Exhibit Kick-Off Event
Open to the Public – FREE
July 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Door prizes, food available and fun for the whole family!



**BUFFALO
WILD
WINGS**



www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com • 507-345-5566



Education & Outreach

Making Local History Accessible to All Ages

Heather Harren, Education and Outreach Manager

The Mankato Public School 6th grade field trips to the History Center went outstandingly well. The students learned more about Blue Earth County's history, the Hubbard House and Hubbard Milling. They also had a chance to examine artifacts. The favorite stop among the students was the artifact station where they were able to examine objects they don't see in their day-to-day lives. Some of the students knew what they were seeing before it was revealed to them and some had many guesses before the leader told them the correct answer. We look forward to having more students visit the History Center and Museum.



6th Graders examine a hand corn planter as part of their spring field trip to the History Center

In case you missed it, we have a new website design! With more people using smart phones and tablets, BECHS needed to make our website more mobile friendly. With our new design, our website looks great and is functional on whatever size screen you are using. Upcoming events circle through the slider on the front page, and the menu at the top and bottom of the page will help you quickly find what you are looking for.



Take a look around the website and see some of the changes that have been made. We are always working towards making our website the best and most convenient it can be. If you cannot locate something or you find something isn't working, please let me know and I will get it fixed.

Monthly Educational Programs

Our History Matters

Monthly educational series promoting and celebrating local history; fourth Thursday at 6 p.m. Free for BECHS Members, \$5 Non-members.

Upcoming Programs

July 23 – “Skol! Vikings 50: The History of Vikings Training Camp in Mankato” Book Talk by Mankato Free Press

August 27 – Roger Stoufer, author of *A Tale of a Teacher*

September 24 – Bison at Minneopa State Park with Scott Kudelka

October 22-23 – Ghosts from the Past: Blue Earth County Ghost Towns



Hugh Belgard shared the history of base ball and the Mankato Baltics at May's Our History Matters.

Young Historians



Young Historians explored technology changes from the Progressive Era to today during the 2014-15 season.

Monthly, free, hands-on history workshops for school-age children, 2nd Saturday of each month, September thru May, 10 a.m. to Noon. This upcoming year Young Historians will explore the ethnic groups that called Blue Earth County home, from the Dakota and Winnebago

to our modern day immigrant groups. For more information visit: www.bechshistory.com/programs/young-historians.

Upcoming Workshops

September 12 - Native Americans

October 10 - Norwegians in Blue Earth County

The Naming and Spelling of Mankato, Minnesota

By William E. Lass

According to a commonly circulated Mankato fable, the city's name resulted from a misspelling of the Dakota Indian name Mahkato. In its Mankato article, the online encyclopedia *Wikipedia* acknowledges this oral tradition by noting that "a popular story says that the city was intended to have been named Mahkato, but a typographical error by a clerk established the name as Mankato."¹ It is an interesting story, but there was no typographical error and the clerk who supposedly made it is fictitious. There is, however, proof different spellings have been used for the place we know today as Mankato, Minnesota.

The source of the supposed transformation from Mahkato to Mankato is none other than Thomas Hughes, a Mankato attorney and avocational historian. In writing about the St. Paul company that started Mankato in February, 1852, Hughes observed that company investor Daniel A. Robertson was the first person to suggest the new town be named Mankato. Hughes reported that Robertson "had taken the name from Nicollet's book in which the French explorer compared the 'Mahkato' or Blue Earth River with all its tributaries, to the water nymphs and their uncle in the German legend of 'Undine.'"²

The Nicollet mentioned by Hughes was Joseph N. Nicollet (pronounced Nicolay), a French-born cartographer. From 1836-40, while working variously in both United States army expeditions and privately sponsored trips, Nicollet explored much of present-day Minnesota including the lower Blue Earth River Valley. His greatest accomplishment was a highly detailed map titled "Hydrographical Basin of the Upper Mississippi River." This map, published in 1843, was the first comprehensive portrayal of Minnesota's landscape. It was soon widely accepted as the authoritative source regarding Minnesota geography and place naming. "Nicollet's book" Hughes referred to was *Report Intended to Illustrate a Map of the Hydrographical Basin of the Upper Mississippi River*.

In both his report and map, the only Dakota Indian name Nicollet used for the Blue Earth River was spelled consistently "Mankato." It is likely that Nicollet got his information about the name Mankato from Sleepy Eyes (whom he called Sleepy Eye), the Sisseton Dakota chief, who served as his guide in the Blue Earth River Valley.³

Hughes had obviously never consulted either the map or report, but merely repeated what someone had told him about Nicollet using "Mahkato" as the Dakota name for the Blue Earth River.⁴ Unfortunately, Hughes not only originated the misspelling myth, but inadvertently provided verification for those who sought a written source for the notion that Mankato was a misspelling of Nicollet's purported Mahkato when he included the tale in his *The History of Blue Earth County*.

The misspelling myth does illustrate there was seldom a lone version of an Indian name. The writer of the Mankato article in *Wikipedia* assured readers the Dakota "called the [Blue Earth] river *Makato Osa Watapa* (meaning the 'river where the blue earth is gathered.')" But that rendering is found only in the writing of William H. Keating, the diarist and naturalist of a United States Army expedition commanded by Brevet Major Stephen Harriman Long. In 1823, the expedition traveled from Fort Snelling to the United States-Canada boundary by generally following the valleys of the Minnesota and Red Rivers.⁵

Keating's main source for the origin and meaning of Dakota Indian names was the expedition's principal guide/interpreter Joseph Renville. A mixed-blood of French Canadian-Dakota parentage, Renville had spent



Joseph N. Nicollet, 1786-1843, French Explorer. Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



Joseph Nicollet's map "Hydrographical Basin of the Upper Mississippi River." Map from Wikipedia Commons. Inset map shows the naming of "Mankato River or Blue Earth River" north of Winnebago, MN.

his entire life among the Dakotas. Based on information from Renville and other unspecified expedition guides, Keating wrote the Dakota name for the Blue Earth River was "Makato Osa Watapa, which signifies the river where the blue earth is gathered."⁶

On his 1835 exploration of the Minnesota River Valley, the Anglo-American geologist George William Featherstonhaugh (pronounced Fanshaw) reported the Dakota name for the Blue Earth as "Mahkato," which he noted was a combination of mahkah (earth) and toh (blue). But, the name was spelled "Makato" on the accompanying map in his book *A Canoe Voyage up the Minnay-Sotor*. Featherstonhaugh's guide/interpreter Henry Milor,

like Renville, was a mixed-blood offspring of a French Canadian father and a Dakota Indian mother.⁷

Nicollet, Keating, Featherstonhaugh's book and his map had four different spellings of the Dakota name for the Blue Earth River. This variance illustrates the inherent difficulties in putting an oral language into writing. These explorers had to listen to native pronunciation and enunciation and then write down what they thought they heard. Consequently, some allowance has to be made for varying pronunciations by Dakota speakers, the skill of the interpreters and the recorder's acuity.

Different spellings of any given Indian name was the rule rather than the exception. For example, Featherstonhaugh thought the Dakota name for what was then named the St. Peter's River was Minnay-Sotor. This same river was called Minisotah on Nicollet's map and later appeared as Minasota and Minesota during the first congressional consideration of forming a territory northwest of Wisconsin.

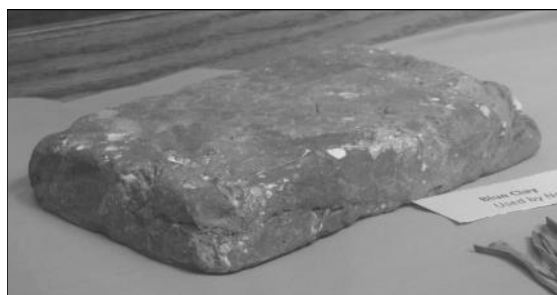
On August 26, 1848, the delegates to the Stillwater Convention, who petitioned Congress and President James K. Polk to organize Minnesota Territory, concluded they should also standardize the spelling of the Dakota name for the river after which

the territory was to be named. Consequently, a resolution was approved and the elected delegate to Congress presented the standard spelling of the new territory to be Minnesota.⁸

By the time Nicollet completed his map and report, missionary Stephen Return Riggs and several of his colleagues were developing Dakota as a written language. The capstone achievement of Riggs' long career as a Dakota language scholar was the 1852 publication of his *A Dakota-English Dictionary*. So Riggs was the first Dakota language expert to spell the Dakota words for the Blue Earth River.

Riggs' dictionary defined the Dakota noun "maka" as ground or earth and the adjective "to" as

“blue, green and the intermediate shades.” But in explaining maka, Riggs observed: “Considerable discussion has taken place in regard to the proper pronunciation of this word. Some say it should be written man-ka; but it appears rather to be maka.” Since maka was a word used by some Dakotas, it is quite understandable that Nicollet used that version



Visit the History Center to see this sample of Blue Clay on display in the museum, or visit BECHS' blog at BlueEarthCountyHistory.com to see a color image.

and combined it with “to” to get Mankato for Blue Earth.⁹

But, if Riggs had combined “maka”

and “to” he would have undoubtedly concluded the correct Dakota name for the Blue Earth River was Makato. In dealing with the Dakota name for the Minnesota River, Riggs showed it as “Minisota,” which he defined as “whitish water.”¹⁰

If Riggs' dictionary had preceded the naming of Mankato and Minnesota, the place might be known today as Makato, Minisota.

Sources

1. Accessed 20 March 2015.
2. Thomas Hughes, *The History of Blue Earth County* (Chicago: Middle West Publishing Co., [1909]), 36.
3. For a biographical sketch of Sleepy Eyes, see Thomas Hughes, *Indian Chiefs of Southern Minnesota* (Mankato: Free Press Company, 1927), 66-71.
4. J[oseph] N. Nicollet, *Report Intended to Illustrate a Map of the Hydrographical Basin of the Upper Mississippi River* (Washington: Blair and Rives, printers, 1845), 17-10 and map titled *Hydrographical Basin of the Upper Mississippi River* (Washington: Published by order of the U. S. Senate, 1843).
5. For primary records of the Long Expedition, see Lucile M. Kane, June D. Holmquist and Carolyn Gilman, eds., *The Northern Expeditions of Stephen*

H. Long: The Journals of 1817 and 1823 and Related Documents (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1978.)

6. William H. Keating, *Narrative of an Expedition to the Source of the St. Peter's River . . .* (Reprint of original 1824 ed.; Minneapolis: Ross & Haines, Inc., 1959), 355. For biographical information on Renville see E[dward] D. Neill, “A Sketch of Joseph Renville,” in *Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society*, vol. 1 (St. Paul, 1872), 196-206.

7. George W. Featherstonhaugh, *A Canoe Voyage up the Minnaya Sotor . . .*; With an Introduction by William E. Lass (Reprint of original 1847 edition; St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1970), 1: 301, map between 288 and 289.

8. “Organization of Minnesota Territory,” in *Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society*, vol. 1 (St. Paul, 1872), 59.

9. Stephen Return Riggs, *A Dakota-English Dictionary*, edited by James Owen Dorsey, reprint of 1892 edition (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1992), 305, 472.

10. Riggs, *A Dakota-English Dictionary*, 316.

Minnesota on the Map

A traveling exhibit from the Minnesota History Center.

SEE WHAT MAPS of Minnesota have looked like from the late 1600s to the early 2000s in this exhibit featuring reproduction maps and atlases, a video station and even a giant map jigsaw puzzle.

Don't miss it—

Blue Earth County History Center & Museum
June 2 – September 19

\$5/Adult, \$2/Child,
 Free BECHS Members
 and Children under 5

A detailed historical map of Minnesota, showing the state's outline and internal features like rivers and lakes. The map is labeled with various place names and geographical terms in a historical font.

Every object has a story...

The Blue Earth County Historical Society's artifact holdings number over 42,000 objects. These items vary from one-of-a-kind to everyday items. Together these objects help us to interpret the stories of Blue Earth County.

One of the most popular objects is our dugout canoe. A dugout canoe is made from one log rather than a series of planks. It is literally dug out. The canoe first came to the Historical Society sometime before July 1932, when it was donated by Morgan Brooks. He found the canoe in Lime Township where he homesteaded in the late 1800s. The canoe began its journey with the Society when it was first put on display at the Sibley Park Pavilion. Between 1938 and 1942, it was brought to the R.D. Hubbard House Museum where it was displayed in the basement. It survived the fluke Warren Creek flood in August 1968 and in 1988 the canoe was put on display in the Museum Gallery at the History Center where it can still be seen today.

Sometimes donors may not be able to provide a complete history of an item which means BECHS is constantly researching and learning about our collection. That is why we were truly excited when Maritime Heritage Minnesota (MHM) contacted us about the Minnesota Dugout Canoe Project. Through this project, the MHM located ten dugout canoes housed in Museums and Historical Societies throughout Minnesota and set out to document the history of some of Minnesota's oldest known watercrafts.

MHM measured, photographed, and conducted condition assessments on each canoe. They also analyzed accession data, searched newspapers for pertinent information, and consulted historical accounts of Native American dugout canoes. Small samples of

wood from each canoe were sent to a lab to be tested using radiocarbon dating. The oldest canoe in the project dates to AD 1025-1165.

Our canoe was closely examined as part of the follow-up project to MHM's Minnesota Dugout Canoe Project of 2014 and while not all of the canoe's history can be verified, the study presented us with some exciting results. The radiocarbon dating test dates our canoe to AD 1665-1786, placing it in the Early Historic Period/Early Contact Period. This also means the canoe is the fifth oldest in Minnesota. How cool is that! To help place the canoe in historical context, the study used drawings from Captain Seth Eastman's collection. His drawings documented the everyday way of life of the Dakota from the 1840s-1850s. Look at the similarities between our canoe and the drawing by Eastman of a Dakota dugout canoe from the 1850s.



Compare the BECHS canoe (above) to the Seth Eastman depiction (below). Images courtesy of MHM.

After all of this time, we keep discovering the stories behind the objects in our collection. You are always welcome to visit this and other artifacts with interesting stories on display at the Museum.

We would like to thank Maritime Heritage Minnesota (MHM) for helping us tell this object's story. For the full, detailed reports about this project, please visit www.maritimeheritagemn.org/mdcproject.html.



Ann Merriman, PhD and Christopher Olson, MA examining our canoe.



Around the Research Center

Heather Harren, Education and Outreach Manager

If you have not stopped by the new Research Center, I recommend you take a peak next time you are at the History Center. Our new microfilm readers have been installed and are ready for people to use them. Not only can these new readers print, but they can also save your documents as a PDF or digital image to your flash drive. All printed copies are still 25 cents per page while digital images are 50 cents per page due to the higher quality image.

The Blue Earth County Historical Society has many items on microfilm. The most commonly used microfilms the newspapers from around Blue Earth County. BECHS has all of the newspapers printed newspapers for Blue Earth County from 1857 through 2009, which is when the Minnesota Historical Society stopped microfilming newspapers. The microfilmed papers are a great resource if you are looking for events that happened on specific dates or need additional information not available in our vertical paper files.

Our microfilm reels also include census records. We have the Minnesota State Census from 1865 to 1905 and the Federal Census from 1860 to 1940, with the exception being the 1890 census. Census

records can provide a wealth of information about your ancestors including names, ages, occupations and sometimes property and income data. As you follow your ancestors through the census records, a picture of their lives begins to develop.

BECHS also has microfilmed records that include city directories, church and burial records, and Mankato vital statistics from 1913-1915. For more details about the records available, please contact the Research Center.

Next time you visit the Research Center, check out one of the many resources available for both family and local historians.

Blue Earth County Trivia

1. Name the Minnesota Vikings Purple People Eaters.
2. When was the construction of Seppman Mill started and when was it completed?
3. What was Vernon Center originally named?

Answers can be found on page 19. Like Blue Earth County trivia? More can be found on our website and Facebook page.

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CRUISIN' BACK TO THE '60s VINTAGE CAR SHOW

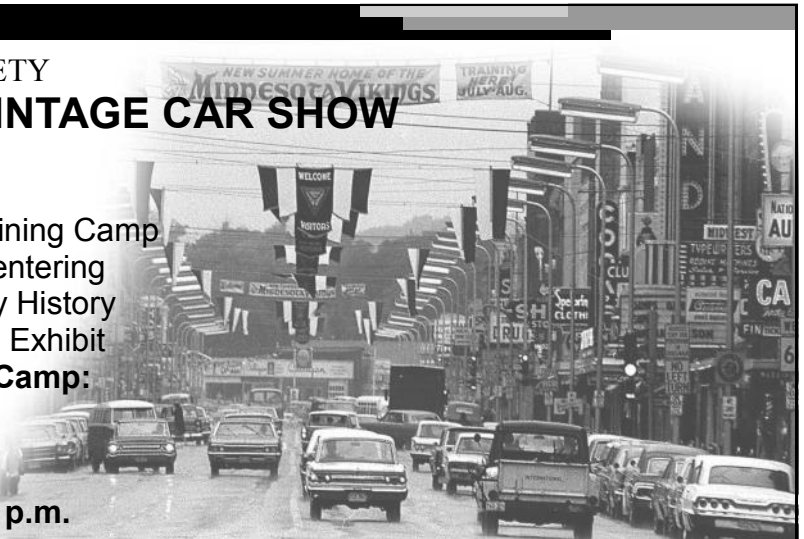
Saturday, August 1, 1-5 p.m.

Let's go back to the 1960s when Vikings Training Camp was new to Mankato and muscle cars were entering their golden age. Visit the Blue Earth County History Center for a 1960s car show and the Special Exhibit **Celebrating 50 Years of Vikings Training Camp: A Mankato Tradition** open 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Car Show and Vikings Exhibit are FREE!
Food available by Prairie Pride Farm 12-6 p.m.

1960s Vintage Vehicles Needed!

Space is limited. A complimentary 1-year Historical Society membership will be provided to the owner or driver of participating vehicles. Please contact 507-345-5566 to reserve your parking spot. Event will be cancelled in case of rain.



BECHS Volunteers Make History Happen

Summer is always a busy time at the Historical Society and this summer is no exception. Between the building projects, new Vikings Exhibit, tours at the History Center and Hubbard House, and the Blue Earth County Fair, we know we can rely on our amazing volunteers to lend a hand.

Below you will find some volunteer opportunities available now. If you are interested in helping with any of these opportunities or would like more information about volunteering with BECHS, please contact Danelle, our volunteer coordinator, at bechsms@hickorytech.net or visit www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/volunteer. New volunteers are always welcome!



The History Center gardens are beautiful, thanks to the hard work and dedication of a few volunteers. We need more people to lighten the work load.

Volunteer Opportunities

Vikings Exhibit

Extra people are needed at the History Center during Vikings Training Camp, July 25 through August 13. Volunteers are needed to greet and assist visitors, help with light food service and in the gift shop. It's a great opportunity for individuals and groups.

Blue Earth County Fair

BECHS needs volunteers to help cover shifts at the Blue Earth County Fair, July 30-August 1. Volunteers will visit with people, answer basic questions about the Society and watch over various displays. See sign-up sheet with Danelle.

History Center Gardeners

The History Center has a number of flower beds, all of which are cared for by our volunteers. Whether you have been gardening for years, want to learn or somewhere in between, new volunteers are always welcome and much needed. Schedule is flexible.

Receptionist/Gift Shop Assistant

Seeking individuals interested in greeting visitors, answering basic questions about BECHS, and ringing up sales in the gift shop. Must be comfortable with computers. Training is provided.

Building Projects

There are countless projects at the History Center needing volunteer support, from painting to handyman projects to moving furniture.

Research Center Assistant

Do you enjoy researching family or local history? We are looking for people to help in the Research Center, assisting visitors and fulfilling research requests. Training is provided; however, previous research experience is preferred.

Photo Processing and Data Entry

Seeking detailed oriented individuals with good handwriting and good computer skills. Must be willing to commit to minimum 2 hours per week.

Volunteer Stories

You may have seen some of our "Volunteer Story" videos on Facebook or YouTube. We are looking for more volunteers to share their stories of why or how they started volunteering at BECHS, what they enjoy the most or maybe specific memories about volunteering. The videos are informal and can be as long or short as you would like them to be. If you are interested in sharing your story, please let us know.



Blue Earth County Historical Society's 1860s BASE BALL CLUB

The Blue Earth County Historical Society's vintage base ball team, the Mankato Baltics, brings history alive on the field. Getting their start in June 2007, the Baltics are now members of the Vintage Base Ball Association, VBBA. The Baltics wear vintage uniforms, use vintage equipment and play by 1860s base ball rules. And yes, "base ball" was two words back then.

Watch the Baltics all summer long around Minnesota and Wisconsin.



For the Baltics full schedule, visit www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Baltics and follow them on Facebook.

SAVE THE DATE

28th Annual Ghosts From the Past Blue Earth County's Ghost Towns

**October 22 and 23, 2015
6 - 8 p.m.**

**Blue Earth County History Center
424 Warren Street, Mankato**

Tickets will go on sale October 1. Visit www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com for details.

BLUE EARTH COUNTY FAIR

**July 30 - August 1, 2015
Blue Earth County
Fairgrounds
Garden City, MN**

Visit BECHS at the annual Blue Earth County Fair. You will find us once again in Building A. See historic Blue Earth County Fair photographs, Farm Fest memorabilia, a mini-exhibit of *Minnesota on the Map* and images commemorating the centennial of World War I. Fairgoers can also see displays from the Maple River Heritage, Inc., Madison Lake Area Historical Society and Blue Earth County in Building A.

See you at the Fair!

Volunteers are needed in our building. Contact Danelle to sign-up. Thanks to all the volunteers that represent BECHS at this County event. We couldn't do it without you!



Blue Earth County Fair, Garden City, 1932.
Photo courtesy of Jack Madsen.

Membership Makes a Difference

Our members bring big smiles to our faces! Won't you join us?



Every member helps BECHS preserve local history and present our stories and memories through exhibits, educational programs and living history events. A huge "Thank You!" to current and renewing members for your continued support.

New or renewing members can pay member dues by mail using the form found on the back page of this issue or visit www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

Member benefits include:

- Free annual pass to the History Center and Museum, Research Center, R.D. Hubbard House and more
- 10% off most items in the Gift Shop and Marian Anderson Art Gallery
- *The Historian* in your mailbox or inbox four times a year
- The knowledge that you are supporting the one organization dedicated to Blue Earth County's history



YOU make local history accessible through your annual membership dues. Your investment connects the present to the past. Thank you!

BECHS Membership

April - June 2015

New Members

James Augustin
Viva Bowen
Mary Deopere
Roger and Cornelia Eberhart
David and Mary Jo Franske
Janice Fredericksen
The History Writers
Erica and Shawn Honken
James Hummer
Robert and Sherry Lorentz
Joshua Mark Ploghoft
Daniel Sargent
Dennis Sonnabend
Suzanne Olson Weir
Loretta Williams
Ron Williams

Renewing Business Members

Guentzel Family Farms, LLC
Pub 500

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

SURROUNDED BY HISTORY

Education in Blue Earth County

SAVE THE DATE

5th Annual BECHS Fundraiser

Friday, April 29, 2016

Minnesota State University Mankato Ballroom

Sponsor Opportunities Available Now

BECHS Donations

April - June 2015

Donations

Beauford Township
Mary Louise Bishop
Blue Earth County
Township Association
Marilyn Buscher
Cambria Township 4th of
July Committee
Patrick Carroll
Crystal Valley Co-op
Decoria Township
Preston and Judy Doyle
Garden City Township
Elizabeth & Chris
Harstad
Char Hiniker
Jason & Amy Hoehn
Marilyn Lehnert
Leray Township
Robert & Sherry Lorentz
Jack Madsen
Theresa & Tom
McLaughlin
Medo Township
Pleasant Mound
Township
Karl Sassenberg
Jo Schultz
Vernon Center Township
Marti Weisgram
Randy Zellmer

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Brenda Anderson*
Randy Zellmer

*In Memory of
Bonita Bartsch*
Jane Haala

*In Memory of
Mike Cartwright*
Sandi Garlow

*In Memory of
Karl Duncanson*
Sandi Garlow

*In Memory of
Bob Nelson*
Randy Zellmer

In-Kind

Sandi Garlow

Mankato Baltics Sponsors

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New York Life, Ron
Meyer
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Pub 500
Ullrich Construction

Remember When Coffee Club

Love history? Love to swap stories of the good old days? Looking for a place to connect with other history enthusiasts? **Come to the History Center the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. for BECHS's Remember When Coffee Club.**



BECHS started an informal opportunity to share memories and photos with fellow local history

enthusiasts at the newly expanded History Center in May. Attendance and rich conversation continues to grow. There is no formal program, just a conversation topic to get the group started. Coffee, tea and light refreshments are provided.

Join us for these upcoming Conversation Topics

August 4 - County Fairs
September 1 - School Days
October 6 - Fall Harvest
November 3 - Veterans
December 1 - Holidays

**Monthly, First Tuesday
10 a.m.
at the History Center**



Blue Earth County Fair, 1999

Blue Earth County Historical Society Monthly Giving Program



The Monthly Giving Program is an easy way you can help provide steady support for the ongoing work of BECHS. Enroll online or at the History Center.

Your credit or debit card will be charged automatically each month.

www.bechshistory.com/monthly-donations

Around Blue Earth County



Visit RHS at the Blue Earth County Fair! RHS will be staffing the Garberg Cabin during the fair, July 30 – August 1. Toliv Garberg built the cabin on the Garberg farm in Rapidan Township in the 1860s. Through the generosity of his granddaughters, Helen and Eleanor Tronvold, the cabin was moved to the fairgrounds and restored. Helen and Eleanor graduated from Rapidan High School. Helen became a teacher and taught in Sugar Grove country school, Rapidan Elementary and Union School in Mankato. Eleanor remained on the farm with her father, managing the farm and was the “Avon Lady” for the Rapidan area. They were members of the Sons of Norway and their strong Norwegian heritage is shown in the cabin.

Join us for National Night Out in Rapidan on Tuesday, August 4. A potluck supper will be held in the Rapidan Town Garage from 6 - 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Page through your cookbooks for a new recipe to make and share or bring a family favorite. Oh yes, and bring your appetite! The Good Thunder Fire Department and Blue Earth County Sheriff will be represented and this will be a great opportunity to meet and chat with them.



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Moving? New Address? ***Please let us know!***

It costs over \$2 for each returned newsletter that cannot be delivered. Please help the Society reserve funds and assure that you get your *Historian* by notifying us of your new or seasonal address.

CONGRATULATIONS



on your June 11 Museum Grand Opening!
The Mapleton Museum is now open
Wednesday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 6:30-9 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. or by appointment

Located at 203 Silver Street, Mapleton
Call 507-524-4469 for more information



2015 Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival

Sunday, September 27 at 1:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, 220 East Hickory, Mankato MN

VISITING CONDUCTOR

Betty Cullingworth
of Toronto, Ontario, Canada

PERFORMING CHOIR

Windom Area Chordhustlers
Windom, MN

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

For more information about this and other Welsh events, check the website:
<http://mnwelshassociation.weebly.com> and [www.facebook.com/ MinnesotaWelshAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaWelshAssociation)

Support BECHS on AmazonSmile

You can support BECHS by shopping through AmazonSmile when you do your online Amazon shopping. Visit www.smile.amazon.com, login to your Amazon account and enter “Blue Earth County Historical Society” as your charity of choice to get started! It’s that simple. Then always shop at www.smile.amazon.com to support BECHS.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Calendar of Events July - October 2015

JULY

- 17-18 **Celebrating 50 Years of Vikings Training Camp: A Mankato Tradition** Exhibit Opening weekend. See page 6 for details.
- 23 **Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on Talk of the Town
- 23 **Our History Matters: "Skol! Vikings 50" book discussion by Mankato Free Press staff**, 6 p.m., History Center, \$5 adults, members free
- 25 **Victorian Social Media**, 1-4 p.m., R.D. Hubbard House
- 30-August 1 **Blue Earth County Fair**

AUGUST

- 1 **Cruisin' Back to the '60s Vintage Car Show**, 1-5 p.m., History Center. See page 13 for details.
- 4 **Remember When Coffee Club: County Fairs**, 10 a.m., History Center
- 4 **Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 22 **Old Time Medicine Show: Hucksters, Humbugs and Oddities**, 1-4 p.m., Hubbard House, shows at the top of the hour
- 27 **Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on Talk of the Town
- 27 **Our History Matters: A Tale of a Teacher Author Talk by Roger Stoufer**, 6 p.m., History Center, \$5 adults, members free
- 28 **Story Time at Hubbard House**, 10:30 a.m., Hubbard House, Last Friday of the Summer
- 28 **BECHS Member Appreciation**, 5-7 p.m., History Center, Please RSVP by 8/21/15 to 345-5566 or bechsms@hickorytech.net



SEPTEMBER

- 1 **Remember When Coffee Club: School Days**, 10 a.m., History Center
- 1 **Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 5 **History Center Closed**—Happy Labor Day
- 12 **Young Historians: Native Americans**, 10 a.m., History Center, Pre-registration encourage
- 19 **Minnesota on the Map** closes
- 24 **Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on Talk of the Town

- 24 **Our History Matters: Bison at Minneopa State Park with Scott Kudelka**, 6 p.m., History Center, \$5 adults, members free
- 27 **Last Day Hubbard House open for season**, 1-4 p.m.

OCTOBER

- 6 **Remember When Coffee Club: Fall Harvest**, 10 a.m., History Center
- 6 **Watch KEYC News 12** at Noon for monthly BECHS Update
- 10 **Young Historians: Norwegians**, 10 a.m., History Center, Pre-registration encouraged
- 22 **Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on Talk of the Town
- 22 - 23 **Ghosts from the Past: Blue Earth County's Ghost Towns**, 6-8 p.m., History Center, Tickets on Sale October 1

A Look Ahead

NOVEMBER

- 6-7 **Holiday Open House**
- 7 **Electrifying Minnesota** Traveling Exhibit opens

DECEMBER

- 5-6 **Christmas at Hubbard House**

Three easy ways to stay up-to-date:

- Check out www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.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.

Electronic Version of *The Historian* Now Available

If you would like to receive *The Historian* via email rather than traditional mail, please contact Danelle at bechsms@hickorytech.net or 345-5566.

Answers to Blue Earth County Trivia on page 13:

1. Alan Page, Carl Eller, Jim Marshall, and Gary Larsen, later replaced by Doug Southerland
2. 1862, 1864
3. Montevideo

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 _____

Email _____

Membership Levels

Individual Senior (62+) \$20

Individual \$25

Household \$35

Contributor \$50

Supporter* \$100

Booster* \$250

Advocate* \$500

Benefactor* \$1000

*Business memberships available

Please send this form and check to:

BECHS Membership

424 Warren Street

Mankato, MN 56001

OR

Complete your membership form online
at www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com

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



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