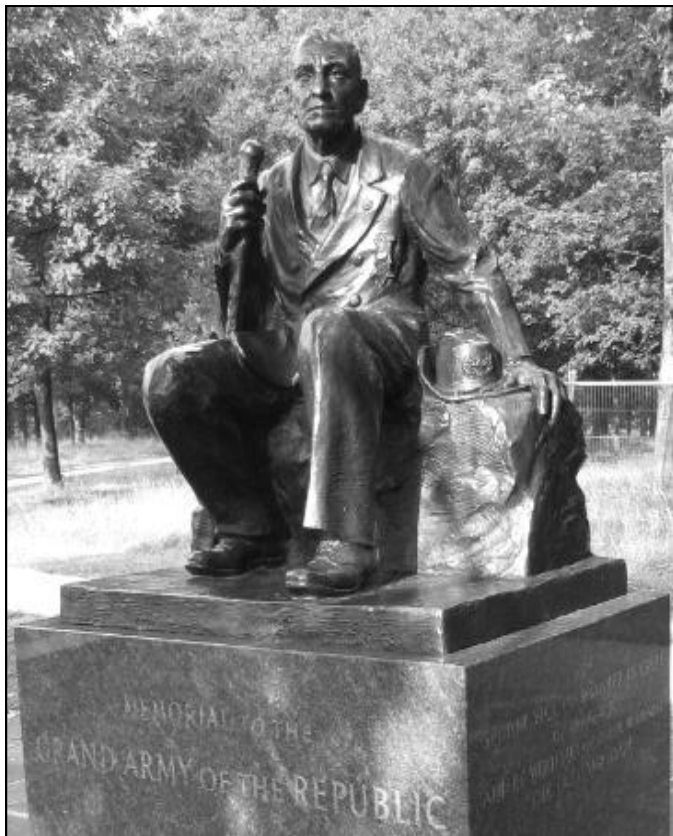


## The Grand Army of the Republic in Blue Earth County



The Monument to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was dedicated on September 12, 1956 at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. At the dedication, Colonel Frederic Bauer, GAR Commander-in-chief, stated: *"We dedicate today a statue of Albert Woolson. He was the last of the Grand Army of the Republic and he was also a son of a veteran. This statue is in many ways unique. Usually statues are dedicated to great and noble men, great military leaders, or men who have given their lives for their country. Here we have a statue of a man who was none of these things. We note that the front of the statue does not bear his name. It bears the wording 'In Memory of the Grand Army of the Republic'. Comrade Albert Woolson symbolizes all the great virtues of the common, ordinary citizen, the citizen who becomes a soldier and then returns to ordinary life."*

Blue Earth County's own Albert Woolson posed for this monument.. See page 11 for more information on Mr. Woolson and the GAR.

Sculpture by Avar Fairbanks.

Photograph by permission of [www.GettysburgSculptures.com](http://www.GettysburgSculptures.com)

### Side by Side: Gerry and Margie Paint Blue Earth County and Beyond



Exhibit featuring Gerry Tostenson and Margie Larson's paintings, see page 15.



### Christmas at the Hubbard House

Mrs. Hubbard (Patrice Hundstad) and housekeeper (Susan Hynes) greet guests at the door for the annual holiday event. See page 5 for more Hubbard House event photos.

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

## The Blue Earth County Historian



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### Heritage Center

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

### Hours

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  
507-345-5566  
**Hours**  
Closed for the season

### The Blue Earth County Historian

Winter 2012

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

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## Director's Notes

Jessica Potter  
Executive Director

*What does the Blue Earth County Historical Society mean to you? Does it mean out-of-the-ordinary places to take your out-of-town guests, like visiting the Heritage Center Museum, the Marian Anderson Art Gallery or the Hubbard House decked out for the holidays? Is it a new way for your children and grandchildren to discover and fall in love with history? Or is it a way for people to connect with each other and with the rich heritage of our region?*

We asked this question in November when we launched our 2011 year-end fundraising campaign, "Give Today. Make History." We had 90+ households answer that question with more than \$13,500 in unrestricted donations plus \$3,700 in restricted donations (special projects and endowment fund). Our goal was to raise \$15,000 of unrestricted funds to cover year-end operating expenses; any remaining funds would be applied to 2012 operations. Thank you sincerely to everyone that supported BECHS in 2011 with your donations, memberships, time and talents!

I'm still curious to know what the Historical Society means to you. Drop me a note sometime to let me know why you support BECHS, what are your favorite programs, what is your main interest or passion. Here, I'll start the conversation – the Historical Society is much more than a job for me; it is where my passion grows, where I engage with people of varied backgrounds, where my two small children learn how fun it is to explore a museum, and where I learn something new every single day. BECHS has been my "home" for more than 10 years now, and I must admit that one of the most exciting years is right in front of us.

This year will be a year of learning, remembrance, new opportunities and experiences as well as a few favorite programs. The Discover the Dakota educational series and the Surrounded by History fundraiser will provide new opportunities for learning, reflection and growth. Watch for more Historic Pub Crawls, the Mankato Baltics 1860s Base Ball tournament and games, plus annual programs at the Hubbard House like the Victorian Tea Party and Victorian Lawn Party, all in 2012. The full 2012 calendar of events can be found online at bechshistory.com.

Want to keep track of all the happenings? Our website is updated regularly with news, family history resources, program announcements and where you can sign-up for our free monthly e-news. Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bechshistory](http://www.facebook.com/bechshistory). Consider joining a committee or the Board of Trustees. Applications are now being accepted for Board positions and committees are always looking for new ideas and new team members. For information on committee or Board opportunities, please contact me directly.

Thank you once again for Making History Happen with your support in 2011! Looking forward to what we can do when we are "surrounded by history" in 2012!

# Board of Trustees



**Mike Lagerquist**  
Board of Trustees President

Blue Earth County and its cities have a lot of great events that honor segments of the population. But there really isn't one that celebrates who we are as a whole.

Until now, that is.

On March 9, 2012, the Blue Earth County Historical Society will host its inaugural "Surrounded by History" event at the newly renovated Centennial Student Union Ballroom on the campus of Minnesota State University, Mankato. Its purpose, as implied by the name and its subtitle — "A Celebration of Who We Are" — is to pause and take a look around us to remind ourselves that we are products of those who came before us and of the buildings, roads, towns and society they constructed. And to honor that.

Surrounding ourselves with history will be made easier by utilizing the nearly 20 projectors in the ballroom to flash images on the walls around us from our county's past that we have in archives. These projections will also help us establish a sense of place for the performance that will happen after dinner, featuring portrayals of those on whom Maud Hart Lovelace's "Betsy-Tacy" characters are based. They will become characters in an innocent "whodunit" story.

We hope it will be a fun and engaging way to present a small piece of the history of our county.

This first year we'll have our volunteers dressed in historical costumes, and in future years we hope all those attending will join in the fun. We'll let you select your favorite time from the past, so this could be the only place that a 1950s bobbysoxer will be seated next to a Victorian lady. We plan to have some items for sale that reflect the spirit of the time in which the program is set and encourage people to learn more about becoming members, donors, volunteers and promoters of the work done every

day, in every year, since BECHS was founded in 1901.

We also hope that surrounding you with images of these people and places will remind you how important the past is to our present and our future. As a fund-raising event, we want you to see how easily YOU can have an impact on the county's future with your actions today.

For more information about sponsoring a table, making an in-kind donation, buying individual tickets or volunteering for the event — and to discover the many other opportunities available to you every day — visit us online at [bechshistory.com](http://bechshistory.com) or call us at 507-345-5566. What are you doing to celebrate who we are?

## SURROUNDED BY HISTORY A Celebration of Who We Are

**DINNER • THEATRE PERFORMANCE • SILENT AUCTION**

Featuring the History Mystery:  
**The Case of the Missing Sheet Music**

**March 9, 2012**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Centennial Student Union Ballroom  
Minnesota State University, Mankato**

**\$50 per person**

\$30.00 of each ticket is a tax deductible donation. Fundraiser benefits:



For reservations call **507-345-5566**.



**BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Visit [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com) for more details or call 507-345-5566.

# At the Book and Gift Shop

JoLynn Crowe, Museum Manager

Thank you to all who participated in the Holiday Gift Shop Open House and congratulations to those who won a variety of prize drawings, including Marian Anderson note cards of the Hubbard House, gift baskets and Marian Anderson prints. We had a great time, met some new people and the weather cooperated this year! Thanks again.

The Museum Book and Gift Shop has undergone a transformation. If you didn't have a chance to stop by while it was decorated for the holidays, you missed a beautiful sight! Thanks to volunteers, it was redone with wonderful color and style! Who knows what will happen next? A must see!

We are bringing more Marian Anderson prints to the Heritage Center for the viewing ease of our customers and to offer a better selection here. Come check it out! There is a nice variety of framed note cards, as well as larger framed prints and loose prints, plus note card packages featuring mountain men, cities and wildlife. This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the subjects that Marian has painted.

There are also some one-of-a-kind handmade earrings and decorative lapel pins that are uniquely displayed at the checkout counter.

The "Discover the Dakota Culture and Heritage Series" began in January and will continue throughout the year with different topics each month. Check your calendar in the back of this newsletter or the BECHS website for locations, dates and times. We have a wide selection of Dakota related books in the Museum Book and Gift Shop. 2012 will be a great year to learn more about the heritage and history of the Dakota.



Dakota and U.S.-Dakota Conflict related items available in the Book & Gift Shop and online at [bechshistory.com/shop](http://bechshistory.com/shop).

In February will host a book fair featuring local authors that have written about the Dakota or U.S.-Dakota Conflict of 1862. The event will include author's readings and book sales.

Be sure to check out our BECHS website at [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com) for more details to come and remember to check out the Shop on our website. Convenience at your fingertips!



## BECHS BOOK FAIR

### Author's Perspectives of the Dakota and the U.S.-Dakota Conflict of 1862

**Saturday, February 25, 2012**  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
BECHS Heritage Center

**Admission \$5**  
Includes admission to  
Heritage Center Museum

Visit [bechshistory.com](http://bechshistory.com)  
for more details or call  
507-345-5566.







# R.D. Hubbard House



The Historic R.D. Hubbard House, a 1905 historic house museum, played host to some memorable living history events in 2011. The season began with the annual Victorian Tea Party on April 16. This all-ages event welcomed ladies and gents for afternoon tea at St. John's Episcopal Church (the Hubbard family's church) followed by a guided tour of the beautiful home. Guests were enlightened about Victorian beauty secrets, language of the fan and Victorian underclothing. Mark your calendar for the next Victorian Tea Party on April 28 – Victorian hats and gloves optional.

In May, the house officially opened to the public and for school tours. For generations, third graders from Mankato's District #77 have visited the historic house for their spring fieldtrip. In the recent past, the number of classes has dwindled due to education standards, busing costs and lack of information to new teachers. Ask anyone who grew up in the Mankato area about their third grade field trip to the Hubbard House, and they will give you details that only a child's mind can remember. Hubbard House field trips have great impact even 20 years later. How can we increase our local students' exposure to the history of Blue Earth County? We need to develop an education program for the schools with the schools. We need volunteers: teachers, educators, parents. If you are interested in helping to develop education programs or interested in becoming a tour guide or history-in-the-classroom participant, please contact JoLynn at 345-5566. Together we can give kids experiences that will stick with them for a lifetime.

The annual Victorian Lawn Party took place in June; lawn games, croquet, lemonade and cookies were enjoyed by all. June was also the beginning of Story Time with the Hubbard Girls every Friday morning through August. Children were entertained with a story on the Hubbard House lawn followed by a small craft activity led by "Katherine and Mary Esther Hubbard."



A new event was introduced in August, Katherine Hubbard's Wedding Reception. Katherine was married on September 21, 1910 to much local fanfare; it was quite the community social event of the time. Volunteers portrayed the wedding party and families in 1910 appropriate attire with elaborate decorations and wedding cake. No detail was left out including the two locals that tried to get a sneak peek of the wedding party.

In October, the 25th annual Ghosts from the Past entertained guests at the house with Victorian Mourning Customs. The two-day event ushered nearly 200 people through the house where they observed a séance, listened to some clever epitaphs, met Edgar Allen Poe and learned about mourning customs from clothing to Jello.

December featured the Hubbard Family Christmas on December 4 and 5. Guests were entertained with costumed characters throughout the house, with music and refreshments. The home was elegantly decorated by Perry Dauer this year.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that made all of these events, tours and seasonal operation's possible. BECHS is always looking for volunteers to serve as tour guides, costumed characters, or gift shop attendants. Also, seasonal paid positions are available beginning May through September. If you are interested in volunteering or participating in anyway, please contact JoLynn at [bechsms@hickorytech.net](mailto:bechsms@hickorytech.net).



## Historic Series Commemorates 1862 U.S. – Dakota Conflict

The Blue Earth County Historical Society, in partnership with Dakota Nation leaders, will together mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S.-Dakota Conflict in an extraordinary year-long dialogue and cultural hands-on learning opportunity. Jessica Potter, executive director of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, announced the launch of a 12-part commemorative series to begin in January 2012. In a joint effort to move forward from the tragic events of 1862, Potter explained, “This historic opportunity provides a teachable moment and continues our commitment to building respectful relationships between non-Dakota and Dakota people that will rise above the darkest days of the Minnesota River valley’s history.”

Potter’s reference to the river valley’s “darkest days” occurred December 26, 1862 when the City of Mankato, seat of Blue Earth County, became the epicenter of the largest mass execution in U.S. history. Authority for the final order of execution by hanging came from President Lincoln, who approved death sentences for 39 of the 303 Dakota prisoners captured during the conflict. Historical accounts tell that *“One of the 39 was later reprieved and 38 were hung. More than 1400 soldiers of 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Volunteers and of the First Minnesota Mounted Rangers were on hand to maintain order among a crowd of hostile citizens.”*

This commemorative 12-month series entitled, *“Discover the Dakota Culture & Heritage: A Monthly Educational Series Celebrating the Dakota People”* was co-created by the Blue Earth County Historical Society and the Hereditary Chief of the Mdewakanton Nation and its leaders. The *“Discover the Dakota”* series has been in the making since early 2011 when Blue Earth County Historical Society staff organized a meeting with Hereditary Chief Ernest Wabasha and his wife Vernell, along with other local leaders and Dakota community members to discuss the historic anniversary of the U.S. – Dakota Conflict. The conversation led to a decision to observe the historic anniversary through a series of relationship building activities for all ages that will strengthen mutual understanding and use the opportunity to create a teachable moment for both

cultures. Vernell Wabasha commented, “It is our hope that the Dakota people will also take this opportunity to participate and learn about their heritage.”

In a unique opportunity, BECHS staff has collaborated with Dakota community members to enlist a wide range of cultural workers, including speakers from Upper Sioux, Lower Sioux, Prairie Island and Devil’s Lake

Reservations. Also, the nationally acclaimed Maza Kute Drum Group of the Santee Sioux Reservation in Santee, Nebraska and the National Eagle Center of Wabasha, MN will be participants. These presenters will speak on Dakota experiences in the areas of traditional storytelling; Dakota language and sign; basket weaving, quillwork and beading; Dakota games; food storage and preparing for winter. The film “Dakota Conflict of 1862” and the *Commemorating Controversy: U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 Traveling Exhibit* will be special features of the year-long series and provide important context for informed community dialogue and discussion.

In addition to this comprehensive project, an oral history with Chief Wabasha and his wife Vernell will be conducted by Daardi Sizemore, Minnesota State University Mankato Archivist. The interview with these influential elders of the Native American community and Dakota Nation will be recorded, transcribed for the BECHS Archives and made available to the Dakota Nation.

This project has been made possible in part by a grant from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2006, administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.

For information, contact BECHS at 507-345-5566 or visit online at [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com).



Storyteller Joe White Hawk enlighten the crowd at the January series program.



# Discover the Dakota Culture & Heritage

*A Monthly Educational Series  
Celebrating the Dakota People*

*In recognition of the U.S. - Dakota Conflict of 1862 Sesquicentennial*

**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
January - December 2012  
Free • Open to All Ages**

## **SERIES SCHEDULE\*:**

### **January 7**

The Tradition of Storytelling

### **February 4**

Language: Spoken and Sign

### **March 3**

Dakota Crafts: Basket Weaving, Beading, Quillwork and Sewing

### **April 7**

Maza Kute Drum Group and Dancers

### **May 5**

Dakota Games

### **June 9-10 at Riverfront Park**

Arts by the River Festival featuring Dakota Artisans

### **July 7 at R.D. Hubbard House**

National Eagle Center Traveling Program

### **August TBD at Reconciliation Park**

Unveiling of Heritage Plaque at Reconciliation Park

### **September 14-16 at Mahkato Wacipi**

40th Anniversary Mahkato Wacipi Traveling Exhibit

### **October 6**

Food Storage and Preparing for Winter

### **November 3**

Film "Dakota Conflict of 1862"

### **December 1**

"Commemorating Controversy" Traveling Exhibit

All events will be located at the Heritage Center,  
415 Cherry Street, Mankato unless otherwise noted.

\* Schedule and topics are subject to change.



This project has been made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008. Administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Visit [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com) for more details or call 507-345-5566.

## Join the Fun! Join the Team! Make History Happen! Volunteer Today!

### **Board of Trustees Member**

Assist with the governance and long-range planning for this vibrant, growing non-profit organization. Multiple seats open; 3-year term commitment. Applications accepted through February, to begin March 2012.

### **Handy Work**

Help needed with light construction, painting, repairs and various projects, including the Front Street Project exhibit, Hubbard House and Heritage Center improvements.

### **Tour Guide**

Lead large and small groups through the Hubbard House and Heritage Center Museum. Training session April 10 @ 4 p.m. or April 14 @ 1 p.m. All Tour Guides must attend training session.

### **Newsletter Editor**

Responsible for the layout and design of the quarterly Historian, working with newsletter authors, as well as proofreading and editing.

**Contact JoLynn for details: 345-5566 or  
[bechsms@hickorytech.net](mailto:bechsms@hickorytech.net)**

## **BECHS Annual Meeting & Dakota Crafts Festival**

**Saturday, March 3, 2012  
Heritage Center, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**Dakota Crafts Festival 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

*Basket weaving, beading, quillwork and sewing demonstrations and items available for purchase*

**Refreshments 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**BECHS Annual Meeting 3 - 4 p.m.**

*Annual membership business meeting with speaker*

**Watch [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com) for details**

# BECHS Donations

## October-December 2011

Ange, Tanya and Shawn  
Anonymous  
Bartholdi, Roberta  
Baxter, Kathleen  
Belgard, Hugh and Vail  
Bergerson, Ruth and John  
Bishop, Mary Louise  
Brekke, Rosemary  
Brennan, Mike  
Brown, Bob and Susan  
Casella, Donna  
Cavett, Christopher  
Chalgren, Marcia  
Church, Barbara  
Coleman, Mary  
Confer, Ogden W.  
Confer, Richard P.  
Craig, Nancy  
Crowell, Kathleen  
Crowe, Jody and JoLynn  
Davis, Donald and Lois  
Day Family  
Dooley, Mary  
Doyle, Preston  
Duffey, Danielle - *In honor of Leon and Mary Goebel*  
Eick, Aileen  
Embacher, Barb  
Evans, Brian  
Farham, Malda and Joe  
Frederickson, Dennis and Joan  
Gabriel, Diana  
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Goff, Harley and Janet  
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Haefner, Scott  
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Harmer, William  
Havelka, Karen  
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Hiniker, Char  
Hoehn, Pat  
Hoehn, William  
Hottinger, Fr. Ted  
Huebsch, Tim

Hugg, Robert and Corey  
Hustoles, Paul and Mary Jo  
Hynes, Susan  
Jones, Ellis and Janet  
Jones, Helen and Eldon  
Just, John Sr.  
Kalvig, Ann  
Karow, Linda  
Kearney, Michael and Jane  
Kearney, Wynn and Ginnette  
Keir, Grace and Richard  
Kind, Arn and Meg  
Kunkel, Mike and Denise  
Lamont, Sally and Earl  
Lavitschke, Jo-an and Dean  
Lindemann, Coleen  
Lund, Kay  
Lutes, Duncan  
Madsen, Elizabeth and Tim  
Madsen, Jack  
Marshall, Olga "Polly"  
Mathiason, Renee  
McComb, Mary  
McGregor, Byron and Karen  
McLaughlin, James  
McLaughlin, Tom and Theresa  
Medalen, Ethel  
Meredith, Don  
Mortier, Mary  
Nelson, Bill and Mary  
Nienow, Patricia and Dick  
Nordgren, Lee and Donna  
Norland, Dick and Kris  
Norland, Matt  
Norman, Beth  
Nuessle, Ruth  
Nussbaumer, Linda  
Ohlenkamp, Ora  
Olson, Susan  
Otto, Ruth  
Pengra, James and Joan  
Piepho, Shirley and Mark  
Pommerenke, Marlene - *In honor of Harry J. Cutkosky*  
Potter, Brad and Jessica  
Reisdorf, Richard  
Rezmerski, John  
Richards, Marcia  
Richardson, Kristin Scott  
Rosenberg, Mary Jane

Ryan, Thomas  
Sassenberg, Karl  
Sawina, James  
Schaub, Shirley  
Schrader, Julie  
Schultz, Jo  
Seigfreid, Glen and Thelma  
Sizemore, Daardi  
Smith, H. Roger  
Steele, Richard and Ramona  
Stokesbary, Christine  
Surprenant, Chad  
Swanson, JoAnn - *In honor of Bill Fasnacht*  
Tacheney, Leon and Delores  
Taylor, Brett and Gretchen  
Wagner, Helen Marie - *In honor of Mary and Francis Wagner*  
Ward, Mary  
Webb, Donna and Jerry  
Wilmes, Brad  
Wilmes, Ken and Linda  
Wingen, Dale and Carol  
Zellmer, Randy  
Zimmer, Elizabeth

## MEMORIALS

*In Memory of Martha Arndt*  
Michael Frederick

*In Memory of Alvis More*  
Karl Friedrichs, Dean and Jo-an  
Lavitschke, Brian and Kym  
Lavitschke, and Michael and Amy  
Draper Lavitschke

*In Memory of Harlow Norberg*  
Randy Zellmer

*In Memory of Dorothy Volk*  
Gary and Clare Ferguson

## IN-KIND

Bailey, Jo Guck  
Garlow, Sandra  
Henrickson, Kim  
Keir, Grace  
Lagerquist, Michael  
Pro-Fabrication and Philip Rothmeier  
Red Door Creative





Bronze Markers like these were placed on the graves of Civil War veterans throughout the U.S.

## The Grand Army of the Republic

by Shirley Grundmeier

The GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) was established in Illinois in 1866 and was composed of Union veterans of the Civil War. One of these was my paternal great-grandfather, Joseph Mautner, a typical Minnesotan in 1862. He was 26 years old, married, with two children. He and his father farmed a small acreage in LeSueur County. The Mautners were first-generation immigrants, as was one out of every four men who enlisted.

Like many others, when he heard Lincoln's call for volunteers, Mauntner set out to join the 4<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Infantry Regiment at Fort Snelling. The 4th would serve from July 1861 to April 1865. Nearly 25,000 of Minnesota's best young men heeded the call and wore the blue uniform proudly from 1<sup>st</sup> Bull

Run to Vicksburg, from Gettysburg to North Carolina. Ten percent of them would never return. And of those who survived, the majority would carry with them weakened bodies from disease or exposure or a wound received in hand-to-hand combat. Joseph did that—living the rest of his life limping from a minie ball wound to his leg.

Initially, the GAR faced a rocky road ahead. Many veterans were sick of war and wanted nothing to do with each other. They had put away their medals, their uniforms, their diaries and their memories to get on with their lives. But as the years went by, many more found that they needed and wanted to be able to “talk about it, reunite with their comrades.” The GAR was prominent in being there for them, and time was a great healer. The GAR was there when the veterans realized the power there was in uniting again. By 1880, the GAR was the prime advocacy group in American politics, advocating veteran benefits and pensions, supporting rights for black veterans, lobbying Congress and supporting Republican candidates. Their endorsements were highly sought after and they helped elect Presidents Ulysses S. Grant and William McKinley.

By 1890, the GAR had 490,000 members. Membership was limited to honorably discharged veterans of the Union forces who had served from April 1861 and April 1865. The huge organization had three levels. The first was a local “Post” named for a deceased veteran. There were Posts in every state as well as overseas. Overseeing the local Posts were state “Departments,” with a delegate from each Post, who met at annual “Encampments” to discuss the larger questions and procedures. They were so successful that, from 1866 to 1949, there were “National Encampments.” These Encampments were held each year at major cities—Minneapolis or Washington D.C. for example—and were three-day affairs with all the excitement they could muster, rivaling any political convention ever held, complete with brass bands.

More important to the veterans, though, were the local Posts and, by 1890 there were 41 in Minnesota. These Posts were where veterans could get together once a month and share memories of the past and plans for the future. Local Post #19 in Mankato was named for Alexander Wilkin of the 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He was later commissioned a Captain in the regular army and was temporarily a Lt. Colonel on the staff of General Sherman. Colonel Wilkin was killed at the Battle of Tupelo, Mississippi while diverting attention from his troops, who then reached safety. Among the charter members were General George Mead, Milton Hanna, David Dackins, Captain Lovilo Holmes, Captain Clark Keysor and former drummer boys Billings Sibley and Albert Woolson.



Mankato Alexander Wilkin Post #19 memorial ribbon

GAR Post #25 Eagle Lake, formed in 1883, was named for William C. Durkee of Mankato. He was a Corporal in Company H of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Minnesota Infantry. He later enlisted in Company E of the 9<sup>th</sup> Minnesota and was promoted to First Sergeant. He became a Captain in the 62<sup>nd</sup> United States Colored Infantry. While on duty in Texas, he participated in the last battle of the Civil War, which occurred on May 13, 1865. Captain Durkee died in 1882.

GAR Post #74 at Mapleton honored a young Sterling Township soldier who mustered into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Minnesota Infantry, Company H in 1861. His name was Samuel Loudon, and he was with the company in the attack on Missionary Ridge in Chattanooga in November 1863. In the attack up the “impossible hill,” the 2<sup>nd</sup> Minnesota suffered 23% casualties. Among them was Samuel Loudon.

Finally, Lake Crystal Post #108 honored Andrew J. Murphy, an Ohio-born soldier. In 1862, A.J. mustered into Company F, 34<sup>th</sup> Ohio Voluntary Infantry. As Acting Captain of the 34<sup>th</sup>, he was honorably discharged at the end of hostilities. A. J. moved to Lake Crystal in 1867 and died there in April 1885. He is buried at Lakeview Cemetery.



*Albert Woolson*

Image of Albert Woolson, reprinted from *Life Magazine*, August 2, 1856. His autograph from a recent BECHS donation.

father, Willard, was a carpenter and a musician in a traveling band. When Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers in 1862, the whole band enlisted as a body. Not hearing from Willard Woolson for a year, his family traced him to a hospital in Minnesota,

And now we come to the soldier who outlived every other member of the GAR, Albert Woolson. He died on August 2, 1956 at the age of 109. At his death, Woolson was the officially listed last survivor of more than 2,675,000 Union survivors of the Civil War, as well as the last remaining GAR survivor.

Albert Woolson was born on February 11, 1847 on a small New York state farm. His

where they found him suffering from a leg wound received at the Battle of Shiloh, and from which he later died.

Albert and his mother stayed on in Minnesota, coming to Mankato. By now Minnesota was dealing both with meeting its quota for the Union forces for fighting in the Civil War and for holding back the Indians who went off the reservation in 1863. Albert finally got his mother’s consent to enlist when he turned 17 and was accepted into Company C, First Minnesota Volunteer Heavy Artillery, with his service commencing on October 10, 1864.

Albert enlisted as a rifleman but was also a bugler-drummer. After training, he was transferred to Company C as a rifleman. While this company already had a drummer-bugler, Woolson said he got the job by “knocking his block off!”

While he did not see battle, Woolson drummed many others to their graves. Later he recalled the burying details: “Going out we played proper sad music, but coming back we kinda hit it up, telling people that now we’d taken care of the dead, we were cheering up the living.”

By the spring and summer of 1865, the veterans of both North and South were beginning to return to civilian life, and among them, Woolson. Soon he would learn of an organization that “would make the wearers of the blue the most potent force in their country’s politics for the next twenty years.” (New York Times)

Albert Woolson didn’t join the GAR in 1866, at its founding, as was common among the younger men. For one thing, there were secret rituals and taking oaths and following orders, and they’d had enough of that. But as it became one of the principal means for keeping the Republican Party in power and for getting pensions and job preferences, as well as the social benefits, it began to look a lot more interesting.

So, by 1890, Woolson was a member of the Wilkin Post #19. Although not as politically influential as in the 1880s, the GAR would continue to be a force to be reckoned with until the turn of the century. By then, the GAR focus had turned to the establishment of monuments, markers and benefits to the soldiers, including the first Soldiers’ Home, and to remembering veterans whenever possible (one of the first groups to observe Memorial Day).



Wilkin Post #19 GAR band jacket.

Woolson kept up with his old bugler-drummer friends too: he and a buddy from the Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry formed a drum and bugle corps in 1867. They appeared at many GAR Encampments, as well as playing in Memorial Day parades. And, of course, they wore

their regulation GAR blue uniform and slouch hat. Woolson attended the final National Encampment on August 1949 where the last survivors voted to disband.

Politically, Woolson liked to say that he was born Republican and voted for President Lincoln at age 17 with a special dispensation that gave the ballot to soldiers. He admitted he did vote for a Democrat once—when Franklin D. Roosevelt made his first bid for the Presidency.

When Albert Woolson died in August 1956, the Grand Army of the Republic died with him. Its records were turned over to the Congressional Library, and its flags, badges and official seal to the Smithsonian. Just six weeks before his death, he had posed for the model of the Union veteran on the GAR monument at the Gettysburg Military Park.

Historian Bruce Catton, writing in *Life Magazine* the week of Woolson's death, treated his subject as an "ordinary soldier," which he was, but for the 109 years he had lived. And, like the three "ordinary" soldiers of the Confederate States, brothers in spirit with those who: ... "on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary (of the battle) camped once again on the fields around the little Pennsylvania town, shook hands over the low stone wall...and for a few days brought back to life a little of the history they had made."

Catton also emphasized that, "the ability to lead free people...was bought in the Civil War...Be it noted too that North and South did not win this from each other; perhaps we won it for each other."

In 1890, a monument to the "ordinary soldier" was placed in Mankato's Lincoln Park. This statue of the "Boy in Blue" is long gone, together with many other reminders of the veterans of the Civil War. But now, plans for a new memorial are in the works. Once more, he may stand guard over the city of Mankato and be an inspiration to all.



If you are interested in learning more about the GAR and the part Minnesotans played in the Civil War, you might want to visit one or both of these locations. Litchfield's, Frank Daggett Post #35, housed in the first GAR Meeting Hall built in Minnesota. The unique hall, built in 1885, is still standing. It is on the National Historic Register and remains a memorial to Civil War veterans. It houses Civil War artifacts and original furnishings. The other is the GAR Meeting Hall built in Grand Meadow in 1891 by Booth Post #130. This building also houses GAR and Civil War memorabilia.

#### Sources:

Bircher, William. *A Drummer Boy's Diary: comprising four years of service with the Second Regiment Minnesota Veteran Volunteers, 1861-1865.*

Blue Earth County Historical Society, vertical files and archives

Carley, Kenneth. *Minnesota in the Civil War*, foreword by Richard Moe

Catton, Bruce "Death of the last union soldier and of an era: muffled roll for Grand Army." *Life Magazine*. August 20, 1956. Vol. 41 No. 8

*Mankato Free Press*, various issues

*New York Times*. August 2, 1856

Norland, Roger. "Composite Membership Rosters Blue Earth County GAR Posts 1989". Unpublished paper available at the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

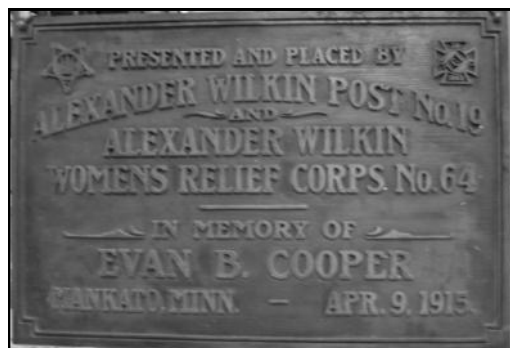
# Collections and Exhibits...

Shelley Harrison, Archives Manager

The National Woman's Relief Corps was organized on July 25 and 26, 1883 in Denver, Colorado and incorporated by Public Act of the 87th Congress on September 7, 1962. The Grand Army of the Republic saw that the need to assist veterans, their widows and orphans was so great in those years following the Civil War that they requested the creation of the Relief Corps. It was a patriotic organization with the express purpose of perpetuating the memory of the GAR and its heroic dead. The Woman's Relief Corps is different from the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Daughters of the Grand Army of the Republic, since the Relief Corps consisted of all women, friend or family, who wished to assist those who served our country.

A noble patriotic society, the Woman's Relief Corps was the first women's organization to carry out charitable deeds outside of the Church Aide Societies. They blazed a trail for all women's groups that followed after them.

The Alexander Wilkin Woman's Relief Corps Post #64 was organized on November 21, 1889. They held their meetings with the GAR at the Odd Fellows Halls until a fire destroyed the building in 1897. In 1915, they were presented with a bronze tablet in memory of a fallen Blue Earth County Civil War soldier, E. B. Cooper. It commemorated Cooper Memorial Hall (located in the old Armory), which became the Woman's Relief Corps' new home.



For many years, the Woman's Relief Corps was the largest patriotic relief society in the world. Their greatest numbers and duties accrued in the years surrounding the turn of the last century. In 1905,

the statewide organization raised \$133,979 in cash relief.

The Blue Earth County chapters played an



Mrs. M. E. Plymat

important role in recruiting members and hosting annual conventions. In 1906, the statewide membership reached 4257, with Mrs. M. E. Plymat, the Department President, representing Mankato at six District Conventions. Blue Earth County had three chapters: Mapleton, Lake Crystal and Mankato.

The Lake Crystal chapter even hosted the nineteenth annual convention in 1918. In 1919, the Alexander Wilkin Woman's Relief Corps Post #64 received the state championship flag, given to the chapter with the largest membership in the state. Mankato won it twice.

The Corps' main project of support was the Minnesota Soldier Home. Before World War I they organized Memorial Day services, including laying wreaths in the county cemeteries. They also at one time provided American flags to all the schools, churches, courtrooms and other public buildings throughout the county and worked to help promote patriotism.

Unlike the Grand Army of the Republic which ceased with the death of the last Civil War veteran, the Woman's Relief Corps is still very active. The National Woman's Relief Corps celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2008.

Check out the new Heritage Center hallway exhibit showcasing many of our artifacts relating to the Women's Relief Corps in Blue Earth County.



**Symposium on  
Blue Earth County's  
Civil War History  
“...We Cannot Escape History...”**

**Saturday, March 24, 2012**

**9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Heritage Center and Summit Center**

415 Cherry Street, Mankato

Presentations, costumed re-enactors, storytelling and interactive exhibits, panel discussion, Civil War era music, gift shop, lunch, and more.

As the Sesquicentennial observance of the Civil War continues, you are invited to join us as we try to understand the role Blue Earth County and its citizens played in this tragic period of our history.

Presentations include:

***Boys in Blue: Blue Earth County in the Civil War***, Roger Norland

***A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier***, Arn Kind

***Discovering Our Civil War Ancestors***, Susan Hynes

***First Minnesota Regiment in the Civil War***

***Campaigns of 1862***, Jefferson Spilman

***Lincoln's Trials by Fire***, Bryce Stenzel

Advance Registration fee:

\$25.00 (includes lunch and BECHS Museum admission)

\$20.00 (does not include lunch)

More information and registration forms will soon be available at [www.mnheritage.com](http://www.mnheritage.com) or [bechshistory.com](http://bechshistory.com). Questions? Contact [julie@mnheritage.com](mailto:julie@mnheritage.com)

All proceeds to benefit the  
Boy in Blue Memorial Project.

Co-hosted by  
Boy in Blue Memorial  
Project Committee and  
Blue Earth County  
Historical Society.



## Research Center

Heather Harren, Archives Assistant

Happy New Year! I hope your holiday season was as great as mine. The past three months have taught me so much about the Research Center and all the resources that it has to offer.

One very interesting resource in the room is the Ledbeter murder scrapbook; the story of a notorious local murder and trial in 1909. The scrapbook contains newspaper clippings that chronicle the arrest of Grace Ledbeter and Frank Smith for the murder of her husband, Holland (Holley) Ledbeter, including the trial and the verdict. The newspaper articles span the years 1909 through 1910.

A resource that has been added to the Research Center recently is a collection of information on the different old settlers associations that existed in Blue Earth County. This collection consists of information on four different old settlers groups and is divided between two binders. The Territorial Historical Society of Mankato binder contains articles covering the different events this group held and shares tales of the early days of the county. In addition to the newspaper articles, there are also the group's meeting minutes.

The other binder contains information on three different groups: The Old Settlers Association of Blue Earth County, Old Settlers Association of Mankato and Mankato Settlers Association. A section for each of these groups contains newspaper articles documenting their meetings, events and activities. Both of these books have an index including article name, date and page within the binder.

Starting with the New Year, I will also be taking on more of the communication responsibilities, such as sending out news about upcoming events, updating Facebook and working on the BECHS website, so look for more communication news as the year progresses.

Whether you have specific questions about people, places or events or are just curious about life in Blue Earth County over the last 150 years, come on in and browse around. I'm confident you will find something interesting that you might want to pursue. I'll be glad to help with that.





The Front Street Project began in 2009 with the goal to reconnect people to the once thriving, now hidden, Front Street in downtown Mankato. Through the time and talents of Dave Engen, numerous oral histories have been collected; in addition, many written recollections have also been donated to BECHS. The Front Street Project's next phase is a three-dimensional exhibit at the Heritage Center and a photograph based book with memories. We are excited about this next phase, but our efforts have been delayed by too many pulls on staff's time and the need for a volunteer project leader to move the exhibit forward.

We hope to work on the exhibit over the winter months and open in the spring with the book to follow. How can you help? BECHS is looking for volunteers to help with design, construction, painting, research and writing. We are also looking for items that tell the story of Front Street to be used in the exhibit.

If you are interested in assisting with the exhibit or the book or have an item to share, please contact Shelley at 507-345-5566. Thank you to our partners who have made the Front Street Project possible thus far: HickoryTech Foundation, Mankato Area Foundation, The Free Press and many personal financial donations.

## YOUNG HISTORIANS



My name is Aidan Oldenburg and I am 10 years old. This is my third year in Young Historians, and I have been doing some historical re-enacting and participating in plays in the community about history.

This year Young Historians will focus on the different ethnic groups that are part of our family history, especially those who moved to Minnesota. Usually my brother Connor is more interested in general history than I am, but I've discovered that I really like learning about family history.

For the Young Historians project we are supposed to be researching our family trees. I have really gotten into this, and I now feel more like a detective than like I am researching family history. For several months I have been going to the Research Center at BECHS to find out more about my family. Most of the time I go with my grandma, but now she is in Arizona so it is kind of hard to work on the project together. One thing that we do is email each other about it. She sometimes sends me requests and then I go back to BECHS and try and find out the information.

Something I often notice when researching at the Research Center or wherever I am researching history is, when you find something new, it leads you to another piece of information and it keeps going for a while. Then it finally stops and you have found a lot of information, and maybe you have found another new starting point. Another good thing to have is your grandma with boxes full of sheets and sheets of your family history!

At the Research Center I use the obituaries, phone books, maps, and newspaper clippings to help me. One of my favorite finds was an article with a picture of my great-great-great-grandfather, who used to own a cigar shop on 413 North Front Street. Even all of my grandma's boxes didn't have one of those!

I found the site at [www.Myheritage.com](http://www.Myheritage.com) is useful for keeping all the records, family tree and pictures of family. It emails you about something called *smart matches*. That is where the website finds other family trees with possible matches to someone in your family tree. It's very helpful to have death dates and birth dates to compare and easier to verify whether or not you're related to them. That is my next new mission for the BECHS Research Center!

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# Fingerprints and Footnotes

Fingerprints and Footnotes had a busy and lively fall. In November, Roger Norland presented "Boys in Blue: Blue Earth County in the Civil and Indian Wars 1861-1865." He has done extensive research into the lives of the forgotten men, forgotten boys from a time long past, who fought in a war now obscured by myths and romanticized by selected memories.

In December, we discovered the history behind the beloved holiday classic "The Night Before Christmas." Our very own author, poet and storyteller, John Rezmerski, brought new life into an old poem; it was a great way to kick off the holiday season!



In the New Year Dr. Chuck Lewis presented "Wise Decision: A Frontier Newspaper's Coverage of the Dakota Conflict." It was the first of many great discussions we will have this year on one of the area's most significant events.

As always, the meetings are entertaining as well as educational, and an enchanting time is had by all. Newcomers are always welcome. If you have any ideas for discussion topics or any interest in presenting a topic, please contact Shelley at: [bechsam@hickorytech.net](mailto:bechsam@hickorytech.net).

## **Future Meetings:**

**February 7** Larry Kortuem presents the amazing story of area resident Charles McCarthy.

**March 6** Win Grundmeier and postcards, postage stamps and post offices

**April 3** John Isch presents his book: *A Battle for Living, the Life and Experiences of Lavina Eastlick*

Fingerprints and Footnotes is held the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Heritage Center. Program admission is \$5 per program or free with the \$10 annual Club membership.

## Finger Tips ~

The birth location of an individual can be found in all census records starting with 1850. Beginning with the 1870 census, one can discover the birth location of each of the individual's parents.

- Provided by Beth Zimmer

## **BECHS Membership October-December 2011**

### **New Members**

Boone, Katie  
Bosin, William  
Cady, Susan  
Coleman, Cheryl  
Eggersdorfer, Brian  
Faber, Marianne and Dr. Jim Lucas  
Gens, Donna  
Hughes, Erick  
Jones, Michael  
Mathews, Lois  
Miller, Janet  
Prybylla, Jennifer  
Voda, Terese Marie  
Wandrie, Lucas and Jessica  
Woie, Marion

### **New Business Members**

Gene's Repair

### **Renewing Business Members**

Brennan Companies—Mike and Cathy Brennan  
Frentz Construction—Tony Frentz  
Mankato Free Press  
Paulsen Architectural Design, Inc.  
Quality 1HR. Foto—Brian Fowler  
Red Door Creative—Stacey Straka  
Voyager Bank

### **Educational**

Department of History, MSU-Mankato  
Urban and Regional Studies, MSU-Mankato

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

# Every object has a story...

The three-dimensional artifacts in BECHS's permanent collection consist of more than 31,000 objects. Most of the objects in our collection are donated by individuals and families, people who want to make sure Blue Earth County's story, and their own, are never forgotten. Your grandfather's World War II letters or your aunt's graduation photo can be as important as a rare piece of 19th century furniture. Anything that can help BECHS preserve the memories and experiences of Blue Earth County's diverse people is valuable. Here is a glimpse into our collections.

## **Snowplow Shoe Form**

Created for the Blue Earth County highway department by Little Giant Co., now called Dotson. The form was used by Little Giant to make the snowplow shoes. The shoes were used by Blue Earth County starting in the 1940s and were still in use until a few years ago. The shoe is made of iron and is flat. It was bolted to the underside of a V-type snowplow in the center and was used when plowing gravel roads. The purpose was to prevent the plow blade from digging into the road, especially in early spring when thawing occurred, to prevent loss of gravel and to prevent wearing away of the steel plow by gravel.



## **Beaver Fur Coat**

A man's full-length beaver fur winter coat. These coats were great for our cooler climate; known for their superior warmth and durability. This would have been worn when horse drawn sleighs were the popular form of winter travel in the county and even with the first automobiles (no heater back then). This coat belonged to Anton Penhiter, from the Mapleton area.

Think warm thoughts and, if you are interested in donating a piece of Blue Earth County history, please contact Shelley Harrison, Archives Manager, at 345-5566.

# Marian Anderson Fine Art Prints

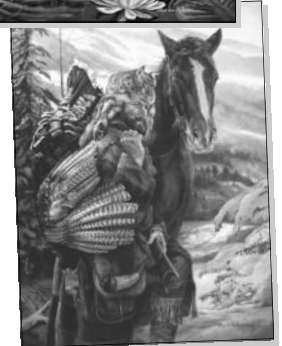
As a living legacy, Marian Anderson has donated her entire inventory of fine art prints to the Blue Earth County Historical Society; 100% of all print sales benefits BECHS. Fine art prints are available to view and purchase at the Heritage Center Book & Gift Shop and online at [www.mariananderson.com](http://www.mariananderson.com).

Marian's paintings are not just an illustrated subject but within each a story is told. 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.

A gallery of Marian's work is now on display throughout the Heritage Center. The Marian Anderson Art Gallery at 1560 Adams Street will no longer be open due to staffing constraints. However, some Marian Anderson originals will remain at the office of Meyer Financial & Consulting for public viewing which is open during regular business hours.

Thank you to Marian Anderson and Rod Meyer for the generous opportunity in 2010 and 2011. A new exciting chapter has open in 2012, come check it out.



## BECHS FEATURED ARTIST

### Gerry and Margie Side by Side



Two Artists Painting Plein Air

January through March - 2012

Opening Reception Thursday, January 19 - 5 to 7 PM

*Inspired by local scenes, the changing seasons and light—always the light—Gerry Tostenson and Margie Larson look around and see paintings everywhere. Gerry is very strong with painting buildings and, when it is her turn to choose the place, Margie can count on it including a barn or a house or a falling-down factory. Margie, on the other hand, is inspired by water, winding roads and paths leading on to the future.*

**Next Exhibit:**

April-July 2012

Sue Miller, Portrait Restorer



# Around Blue Earth County



As winter approaches, I wonder what our parents and grandparents did to fill the long days of winter without Facebook and all the social networking we are accustomed to? The 1930s Rapidan social notes in the *Good Thunder Herald* opened a window to the happenings of the day!

Sundays and evenings were spent visiting neighbors and relatives. Birthdays, parcel showers, weddings, anniversaries and funerals were all occasions to socialize.

Card parties were a favorite neighborhood event; 500 was played with high and low prizes awarded. At midnight a very fine lunch would be served and enjoyed by all. Other games played were Bunco and Rook.

The Rapidan Creamery Annual Meeting at the creamery hall was a huge success every year. The speakers were informative and oyster stew was always served - one year more than 150 people attended!

February 1934: "The Sandons will play at the hard-time dance Saturday nite in Rapidan. Everyone is expected to dress in 'hard-time costume,' which should not be so hard to do. It promises to be a night of real fun for all who attend."

Feather bees, quilting bees, butchering bees and sleigh ride parties were held. The Norwegian Aide, Sewing Club, Community Club, Young Peoples Society, Neighbors Aide, Lutheran Ladies Aide and Home Demonstration Group were active and met often.

December 1937 told of ice-making at the Rapidan Dam - of a couple men drawing an ice plow, some sawing it out and others drawing it from the water into trucks to be hauled to the creamery, to neighboring towns or private icehouses.

The school was busy with basketball games (playing Good Thunder, Amboy, Garden City, Lake Crystal), along with declamatory and oratorical contests. The school Dramatic Club presented one-act plays: "Sauce for the Goslings," "The Calamity Howler" and "Rooting for Ruth" were successes in 1938.

## Mankato West High School History Club

This year at Mankato West High School, students and teachers came together to form the school's first History Club. As one of our activities for the year, we are going to visit the "1968 Exhibit" at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul.

We're interested in learning more about this time period from a Mankato perspective, and thought we could begin to collect oral histories about the late 1960s and early 1970s in Mankato. We decided to collaborate with the Blue Earth County Historical Society on this project. We're looking for people or interesting stories to pursue for the oral histories in our exhibit; please let us know if you or someone you know is interested in assisting us with this project.

Matt Moore, Mankato West History Club Advisor

Phone: 507-207-3842

E-mail: [mmoore1@isd77.k12.mn.us](mailto:mmoore1@isd77.k12.mn.us)

## WISH LIST

### Flip Video Camcorder with Tripod—\$200

A digital camcorder could be used by BECHS to record events or speakers and then make presentation available online.

### Meeting Room Tables and Chairs—\$3,400

The Society is in need of new tables and chairs to replace the well-worn 20+ year-old equipment. Cost of project: 6 folding tables, \$950, 75 chairs with caddy, \$3,400 (+\$650 shipping). To date \$1600 has been raised, cost of tables and shipping.

*These special projects and items are not within BECHS's annual operating budget. If you are interested in fully or partially supporting one of these projects, please indicate your wishes on your check. Please contact Jessica at 345-5566 with any questions about these projects or other opportunities.*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



# Calendar of Events January-May 2012

## JANUARY

- 26 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on Talk of the Town

## FEBRUARY

- 4 Discover the Dakota: Language - Spoken and Sign**, Heritage Center 10 a.m.
- 7 Fingerprints and Footnotes**, The Amazing Story of Charlie McCarthy by Larry Kortuem, Heritage Center, 6 p.m.
- 11 Young Historians They Chose Minnesota: German**, Heritage Center, 10 a.m. *Pre-registration required.*
- 16 Third Thursday Gallery Walk** Heritage Center Art Gallery 5-7 p.m.
- 23 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on Talk of the Town
- 25 BECHS Book Fair: Author's Perspectives of the Dakota and the U.S.-Dakota Conflict of 1862**, Heritage Center, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

## MARCH

- 3 Discover the Dakota: Dakota Crafts Festival and BECHS Annual Meeting** Heritage Center, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 6 Fingerprints and Footnotes**, Postcards, Stamps and the Post Office by Win Grundmeier, Heritage Center, 6 p.m.
- 9 Surrounded by History: A Celebration of Who We Are**, Centennial Student Union, 6 p.m. *Call to purchase or reserve your tickets today.*
- 10 Young Historians They Chose Minnesota: Swedish and Norwegian**, Heritage Center, 10 a.m. *Pre-registration required.*
- 15 Third Thursday Gallery Walk** Heritage Center Art Gallery 5-7 p.m.
- 22 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS Update on Talk of the Town
- 24 We Cannot Escape History: Symposium on Blue Earth County Civil War History**, Heritage Center, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

## APRIL

- 3 Fingerprints and Footnotes, A Battle for Living, the Life and Experiences of Lavina Eastlick**, by John Isch Heritage Center 6 p.m.
- 7 Discover the Dakota: Maza Kute Drum Group and Dancers**, 10 a.m., Location to be announced.
- 10 Hubbard House Tour Guide Training**, 4 p.m. Contact JoLynn to register for training session.
- 13 Barnes and Noble Book Fair**, Special Young Historians program 4-8 p.m. at Riverhills Mall Barnes and Noble. *Book Fair voucher available on [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com). Portion of your purchase will benefit BECHS.*
- 14 Young Historians They Chose Minnesota: Syrian/Lebanese**, Heritage Center, 10 a.m. *Pre-registration required.*
- 14 Hubbard House Tour Guide Training**, 1 p.m. Contact JoLynn to register for training session.
- 16 BECHS Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event**, Heritage Center, 5:30 p.m. BECHS volunteers will be honored for their time and talents with dinner and awards. RSVP to JoLynn at 345-5566.
- 19 Third Thursday Gallery Walk, Artist's Reception for Sue Miller**, Heritage Center Art Gallery 5-7 p.m.
- 28 Victorian Tea Party**, St. John's Episcopal Church and R.D. Hubbard House, 1-4 p.m.

## MAY

- 5 Discover the Dakota: Traditional Games**, Heritage Center, 10 a.m.
- 5 Hubbard House opens for season**, 1-4 p.m.
- 12 Young Historians, They Chose Minnesota: Family History Day**, Heritage Center, 10 a.m.

Check out [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com) for full event details and updates! Sign-up for our new monthly e-news to receive updates between *Historian* issues! Follow BECHS on Facebook and Twitter.



## Blue Earth County Historical Society

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\*denotes Business Member levels

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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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