

The Blue Earth County **HISTORIAN**



What's In A Name?



Mankato. Good Thunder. Garden City. Did you ever wonder how Blue Earth County and the places within it received their names? Read more on page 9 to find out!

Featured Artist



Exhibit featuring Craig Groe's art now on display, see page 7.

Meet Us At The Fair!



Join us at the Blue Earth County Fair August 1-3 in Garden City, see page 18 for details.

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

The Blue Earth County Historian



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www.bechshistory.com

Hours

Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

R.D. Hubbard House

606 South Broad Street, Mankato
507-345-4154

Hours

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 2013

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Director's Notes

Jessica Potter
Executive Director

History has come full circle for the Blue Earth County Historical Society and members of the Piper and Warner families. In 2003, Historical Society volunteer Winston Grundmeier wrote a booklet titled *The Remarkable Men From Garden City* chronicling the lives of ten men from Garden City who rose to fame and fortune in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The booklet was printed by BECHS and is sold in the Gift Shop.

The little booklet went through a revision in 2009 which included the addition of photographs, a beautiful new cover and registered ISBN number resulting in a 50 page soft-cover book retitled *The Remarkable Men of Garden City*. I had the honor of working with Win on the revision; digging deep into archival materials to help discover more about these remarkable men.

Shortly thereafter, I was contacted by a member of the Piper family regarding their ancestor appearing in this book. He wanted more information and was quick to share with me more about George F. Piper and the legacy he founded. Then another family contacted me to learn more about the Warner family's connection to the story. Turns out some of those Garden City men had joined forces in business and land deals along the way and some of those early 20th century deals are still in place. Wow! It was so exciting to see how the past is so prominent in the present.

As members of the family discovered the book and learned more about their heritage, they began to plan a family reunion around coming home again.



On Saturday, June 29 members of the Piper and Warner families visited Mankato and Garden City to see where the *Remarkable Men* came from. From this group, descendants represented four of the ten *Remarkable Men*. The group of 60 traveled from all across the United States to attend the reunion. During their visit they toured the Historic R. D. Hubbard House and the Heritage Center Museum before taking a bus tour through

Garden City and a visit to the Garden City Cemetery. The group was welcomed and escorted by BECHS staff, Board of Trustees members and volunteers as well as Mankato Mayor Eric Anderson, Councilman Jack Considine and Blue Earth County Commissioners Will Purvis and Mark Piepho.

About the Remarkable Men

The Piper Family. Jefferson Piper settled his family in Blue Earth County in the 1850s. Jefferson had three sons: Charles W., Clarence H. and George F. and two daughters: Clara and Harriet (who married Amos L. Warner). Charles went into the lumber industry in North Dakota, Clarence stayed in Blue Earth County in agriculture and George began his career in Mankato with the Mankato Linseed Oil Company. He later moved to Minneapolis in 1894 where he was involved in many business ventures including serving as the financial backer for the brokerage firm Piper and Jaffray. George is featured in the book.

The Warner Family. Amos Warner settled his family in Blue Earth County in the 1850s building the first saw mill in Garden City. The three Warner sons appear in the book: Eli, Amos L. and Ellsworth. Each was raised in Garden City, worked for a time in Mankato and then went onto their fortunes across Minnesota. Eli and Amos both served in the Minnesota Legislature. Eli was a founder of McGill-Warner Printing Company, which is well-known for their Minnesota Road Maps. Amos, with wife Harriet Piper Warner, made his home in Duluth and was involved in real estate. Ellsworth began his career with the Mankato Linseed Oil Company and later become the founder of the Midland Linseed Products Company, which incorporated with Archer Daniels in 1923. The Amos Warner Family also had two daughters: Josie and Effie.

Other *Remarkable Men* featured in the book include Henry Wellcome, George Palmer, Carlos Boynton, Chelsea Rockwood, Adoniram Judson Rockwood, and Dr. Florado H. Wellcome. They all started from humble beginnings in the small Blue Earth County town of Garden City and rose to riches across the United States and Europe.

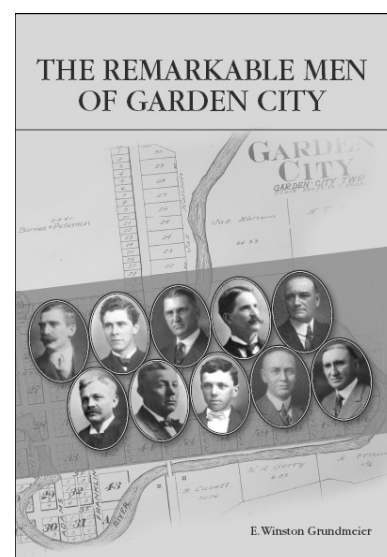
Connection to R.D. Hubbard

As we were preparing for the reunion, we did

more research into a possible connection to these remarkable Garden City men and our own remarkable R.D. Hubbard. We had planned to take the group to the beautifully restored Hubbard House, but wondered if there was a connection beyond the tour of a historic house. Through a little digging, we discovered a fantastic connection between R.D. and both families – the Mankato Linseed Oil Company. The Mankato Linseed Oil Company was organized by J.A. Willard, R.D. Hubbard and J.A. Hubbell in 1872. George Palmer (*Remarkable Man*) served as bookkeeper, followed by George F. Piper (*Remarkable Man*) and then Ellsworth Warner (*Remarkable Man*). Hubbard sold his interests to George F. Piper in 1883. Ellsworth took his interest in linseed oil and founded the Midland Linseed Oil Company in Wisconsin. The Mankato Mill was closed in 1899 by the National Linseed Oil Co.

Another connection is George Palmer. He was Hubbard's business associate for many years first at the Mankato Linseed Oil Company and then with Hubbard Milling Company. However, did you know that Hubbard and Palmer were neighbors? Hubbard lived at 606 South Broad Street and Palmer at 709 South Broad Street. I'm sure many of you knew that, but did you know that George F. Piper lived in the Palmer house in the 1880s before Palmer moved in?

Oh how I love history! This has been a wonderful journey learning about our local story and the people who shaped it. A special thank you to all who participated in the reunion. If you would like to know more about the story, read the book *The Remarkable Men of Garden City* which is available at the Blue Earth County Historical Society's Heritage Center gift shop and online at www.bechshistory.com/shop.



At the Book and Gift Shop



Danelle Erickson
Museum Assistant

Greetings!

I am very excited to have joined the staff here at BECHS. I have always had a love for history and spend much of my spare time researching my family tree (I've even come across some distant connections to Mankato). I love working in a place where those around me have an appreciation for history, too. I grew up in Dassel, MN (just north of Hutchinson, MN) and have only recently moved to the Mankato area. I'm getting to know the area and history bit-by-bit, but could always use some suggestions. So stop in and say "Hi" and tell me some of the "must-sees" of Blue Earth County!

For someone just starting to learn the area and its history, working in the Museum Store is a great place to start. We have a wonderful selection of books about towns around the County. Maybe you are a newcomer yourself, or maybe you have lived here your whole life; either way I can guarantee there are some stories in these books that will be new to you!

Unique Mankato Stories by Daniel J. Vance, \$19.95
Ten accounts make up this book that focuses on some of the forgotten moments in the history of Mankato. In 2008, Minnesota State University, Mankato opened the Julia Sears Residence Community. Who was Miss Sears and what impact did she have during her short time in Mankato? President William Taft was the first president to visit Mankato. Was his visit a success? Find out here!

Did They Think We Would Remember? Ordinary Legends: People from Lake Crystal, Minnesota 1900 to 1950 by Maggie Jones, \$10.00
This delightful book contains 34 profiles of some of the people of Lake Crystal. It includes stories about Miss Brown who would chase pestering children with her butcher knife; Charlie, a creamery worker,

who hated oleomargarine but loved chocolate milk; and druggist Bill who held an annual party for all the new 12-year-olds in the area. Set alongside photos of the era, this book presents a snapshot of what the community was like in the first half of the 20th century.

The Remarkable Men of Garden City
by Winston Grundmeier, \$12.95

In the 1850s and 1860s, Garden City was home to 200-400 people, yet out of that area came 10 men who would go on to make an impact throughout Minnesota and beyond. Ten boys, sons of farmers, preachers and storekeepers, grew up to become great landowners and capitalists, presidents of banks and businesses, and founders of industry giants still in existence today.



Two other great local history books are: ***Where the Winding Maple Flows, A History of Mapleton, Minnesota and Surrounding Area*** by Ronald J. Newell \$19.95 and ***Years of Memories, St. Clair, Minnesota 1855-2005*** by Myrtle Westphal \$30.00. Discover photographs of buildings and businesses in Mapleton and read through the year-by-year highlights of St. Clair. Both books include sections which discuss the schools, churches and businesses, as well as the Native Americans who first lived in the area.

Remembering the People of Blue Earth County
compiled by Corey Hugg, \$49.95
The books in this series each feature township cemeteries and include not only a list of those buried there, but also obituaries and other information. Each book is printed upon request and can be ordered through the museum gift shop or online. The books are available for the townships of: Beauford (Morrow and Oak Hill Cemeteries), Butternut, Cambria, Ceresco (Zion Lutheran and St. John's Lutheran North Cemeteries), Decoria, Lincoln (Lincoln Baptist and Lincoln Lutheran Cemeteries), and Shelby (St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran and Willow Creek Pioneer Cemeteries).



R.D. Hubbard House

Ryan Harren and Alexandria Oldenburg
Hubbard House Assistants

The Hubbard House is open once again for the summer season, and Alexandria Oldenburg and Ryan Harren have returned as Hubbard House Assistants for their second year. So far we have had a busy season with three events already this summer including a wedding reception in the park.

In May we hosted the annual Victorian Tea Party at the Emy Frentz Arts Guild with tours of the Hubbard House. The first weekend of June we celebrated the annual Victorian Lawn Party where guests played checkers, croquet, hoop games and sack races on the lawn next to the house while children had a tea party on the front porch. On July 5 and 6, the Hubbard House was decorated for the holiday and hosted an Independence Day celebration. The event included contests for the most patriotically dressed visitors both days, two story time events on Friday, and a picnic on Saturday.



Victorian Lawn Party
volunteers Cyrus
Braveheart & Luke Lehne.

The Hubbard House will host one more event this summer – a medicine show to be held August 17. This year will include a historical medicine show showcasing Native American medicines. The show will be followed by a debunking of the medicines and methods used in the show.

Our weekly story time with the Hubbard girls continues at 10:30 a.m. every Friday. After re-enactors read several stories to the children, they do a craft that fits with the theme of that week. Story time with the Hubbard Girls will continue every Friday at 10:30 a.m. through the end of August, so make sure to stop by!

New additions to the Carriage House Gift Shop include several types of vintage candy, such as twelve flavors of stick candy, rock candy and taffy. Marian Anderson's print of the Hubbard House,

"Reflections of Days Gone By," is available in note cards, small prints and limited edition fine art prints. for sale. Our gift shop also includes hand-painted slate shingles salvaged from the Hubbard House roof that portray the Hubbard House and Carriage House.

Historic R.D. Hubbard House

Where 1900s History Comes to Life

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

Story Time with the Hubbard Girls

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

Saturday August 17, 1 - 4 p.m.

Big Magic Medicine Show:

Mysteries & Mendacities Revealed

Step right up! Traveling medicine of the early 1900s is back in town and you are invited. This time with emphasis on Kickapoo Sagwa Remedy history. Free and fun for all!

Historic R.D. Hubbard House

Hours of Operation

May and September

Saturday, Sunday 1-4 p.m.

June - August

Friday, Saturday

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday 1-4 p.m.



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.bechshistory.com

Collections and Exhibits...

Shelley Harrison, Archives Manager

In the last *Historian* we discussed some of the places you could see our photographs. Other items from BECHS are also out and about, but you just might not have realized it. For example, when The Mankato Symphony performed "The Typewriter Song" by LeRoy Anderson for a concert, they used a typewriter from our Study Collection.

The Study Collection at BECHS gives educators and organizations the chance to take the BECHS's collection out into the county. The annual meetings of HickoryTech and AAUW both featured "on loan"



Phone displayed at the HickoryTech meeting

objects from our collection that showcased their business and organization histories. BECHS lends collection objects as a means of encouraging and developing a greater understanding and appreciation for the history in our county. If you are interested, we will try to accommodate your request with a few weeks advance notice.

You might not think of the historical society as showoffs, but we are. What we like to do best involves sharing our collections with you and our communities. Sometimes we show off our collections in exhibits like the "Remembering Front Street" exhibit now on display at the Heritage Center, at educational events or fundraisers like Zonta Club Fashion Show and P.E.O. spring event, or in traveling exhibits like those in the City Center Hotel and at Lincoln Community Center. We are not able to display the thousands of great collection objects which BECHS has collected and cared for during the last 113 years. We are limited by our space in showing off what we have, but we are always willing to take our collection out into the county. Families are welcome to request to view their donations if they are not on public display. In 2010 and again this summer we were excited to

display the wedding dress belonging to Barbara Krause for the Krause/Robinson Family reunion.

The best thing about having a museum in

your county is that everything that we collect belongs to the county. Our collection is your collection, so come and enjoy it!

Share Your Story

The Historical Society would like to start an oral history project in connection with the "Remembering Front Street" exhibit. The project would explore the history of this street with an emphasis on the post-WWII period up to the present. The interview recordings and transcripts provide valuable additions to the existing collection of written and photographic materials in the Archives. The information from these interviews may be shared more broadly through print articles and an upcoming book. The interview materials would also be accessible online. Like any primary source material, oral history is a unique account; and, as such, it may be deeply personal. By capturing the flavor of businesses, events and personalities, the oral histories can provide details and viewpoints that are not often found in traditional records. This will also add a multimedia element to the Front Street exhibit.

We are looking for participants in this project. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in being interviewed as part of this project, please contact Heather at bechshh@hickorytech.net. We are always looking for items, documents and photographs for the "Remembering Front Street" exhibit. If you have any materials to donate, please contact Shelley at bechsam@hickorytech.net.



Wedding dress display for Krause/Robinson Family reunion

Board of Trustees



Randy Zellmer
President, Board of Trustees

The life blood of every organization is its members. BECHS is very fortunate to have many active members who regularly support and participate in our organizational activities. It is through your membership that BECHS is able to capture and record our storied past. As an organization we need to grow our membership in order to continue and expand our activities and programming and to meet future financial challenges.

The BECHS Development Committee has launched a membership drive which runs through August 31, 2013. The goal is to add 50 new members and renew 50 memberships that have lapsed. This is a rather modest goal. If each member would recruit just one new member the goal will be easily achieved.

The cost of a basic membership is very reasonable at \$20.00 for an individual senior membership and \$35.00 for Household membership. Less than one night out to dinner.

When reaching out to a potential new member, highlight the many benefits a membership brings:

- Free Admission to the Heritage Center Museum, Research Center and Hubbard House.
- Discounts on Museum Gift Shop purchases
- Invitations to exhibit openings, lectures and educational events like the Historical Pub Crawl and Christmas at the Hubbard House.
- Helping to preserve our rich cultural heritage

I encourage you to take the time and reach out to potential new members and encourage them to join BECHS. Tell them why you continue to support this growing organization and invite them to be part of the excitement. With an increased membership base, BECHS will continue to Preserve Our Past and Protect Our Future. Join us on Friday, September 27 for our Member Appreciation Event which includes dinner, guided building tours and one-on-one time with staff and Board members.

A Gift of a Lifetime
Consider BECHS
in your estate planning

HERITAGE CENTER ART GALLERY FEATURED ARTIST



"Buffalo Ridge"

Craig Groe: "21st Century Abstractions " **July - September 2013**

"This show is a collection of work mostly from 2000 to the present. I have tried to show the variety of images which I have derived through abstract painting processes. I am very much a traditionalist in my methods, sticking mainly to drawing on paper or painting on canvas or board. I usually begin a picture by improvising brushstrokes (or pen/pencil strokes) and let the image formulate through an intuitive act of what I call "cloud-gazing" where forms begin to suggest things like animals, humans, landscape elements or inanimate objects. Sometimes the result is purely a collection of colored shapes or, alternately, infused with recognizable imagery. Any meaning in my art can be elusive so I leave that up to the viewer's own interpretation."

Next Featured Artist: October-December 2013
Generations of Art: Sue Mueller and Family



Fingerprints and Footnotes

Fingerprints and Footnotes had an exciting spring. In May, in association with our exhibit “Remembering Front Street”, we put our walking shoes on and explored the second stories of South Front Street buildings. We heard tales of the people and businesses that made their lives and livelihood on South Front Street. All of these buildings have a story or two to tell.

In June, we had a presentation and engaging discussion on the history of the Winnebago (Hochunk) People in the Upper

Midwest presented by Tom Hagen. What good timing to reconsider the events that occurred 150 years ago and shaped our county’s history. In July,



an evening was spent in Lincoln Park listening to patriotic music on the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. The Mankato Area Community Band gave a wonderful musical tribute honoring our Minnesota soldiers.

The meetings are entertaining as well as educational. Newcomers are always welcome. If you have any ideas for discussion topics or an interest in presenting a topic, please let Shelley know.

Future Meetings

August 6 – Neighborhood Night Out with Rapidan Heritage Society in Rapidan

September 17 – Minnesota Archaeology Week
Note the date change!

October 1 – Second Stories Walking Tour: North Front Street (*watch for details where to meet*)

YOUNG HISTORIANS

The 2012-2013 Young Historians had a great year. For the first time, the group covered topics that spanned up to 2000. Thank you to all our presenters, special guests and to the families who came each month. The timeline that was worked on every month turned out great. In May, the Young Historians visited the Village of Yesteryear in Owatonna. We got to visit the Dunnell House and several historic buildings that are not common today in comparison to how we live in 2013.

We are busy planning the 2013-2014 schedule, as the first meeting of the year will be September 14 at 10 a.m. Young Historians runs September through May and meets the second Saturday of the month



from 10 a.m. to noon. The hands-on history program is geared toward school age children. Young Historians is free, we just ask that you RSVP so we have enough supplies for everyone.

2013-2014 Schedule

September 14: Native Americans
October 12: Revolutionary War
November 9: Pioneer Life
December 14: Civil War
January 11: Victorian Era
February 8: Industrial Revolution
March 8: World War I
April 12: Great Depression
May 10: World War II

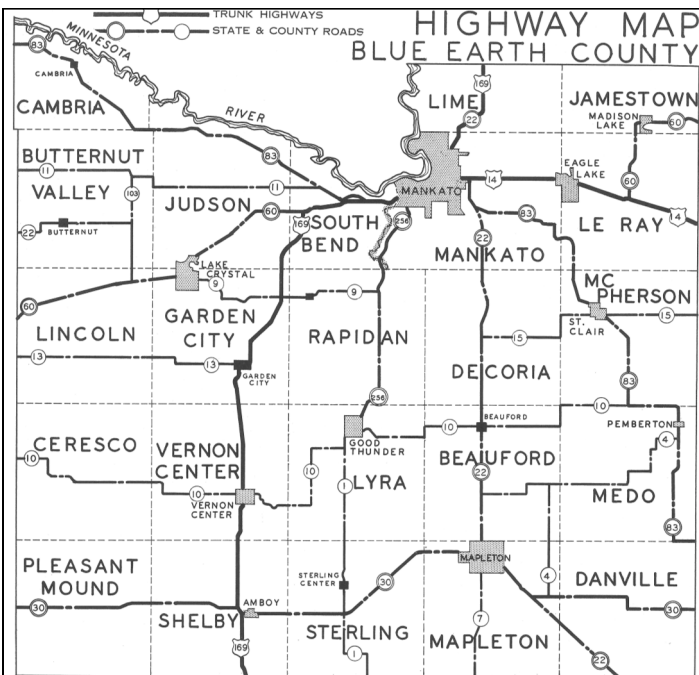
Please contact Heather at 507-345-5566 or bechshh@hickorytech.net if you have any questions about the upcoming year.

What's in a Name?

Blue Earth County's Geographic Names

By Grace Webb

Mankato. Good Thunder. Garden City. Did you ever wonder how Blue Earth County and the places within it received their names? Some names are fairly obvious such as Jamestown or Lake Washington. On the other hand, some names are a bit less intuitive: Mankato, LeSueur, and Decoria, to name a few. What about Blue Earth County itself? How did settlers come up with site names all those years ago? The geographic names found within Blue Earth County (and really all of Minnesota) can be placed in four basic categories: translations/words from the Native American tribes who lived in the area, names of people, names of original towns or places from which the settlers emigrated and nature.



1952 Blue Earth County Plat Map

Names originating from Native Americans

Many places within Minnesota have been named either by Native Americans or by settlers using translations for Native American words. In fact, of the 87 counties in Minnesota, more than a fourth of

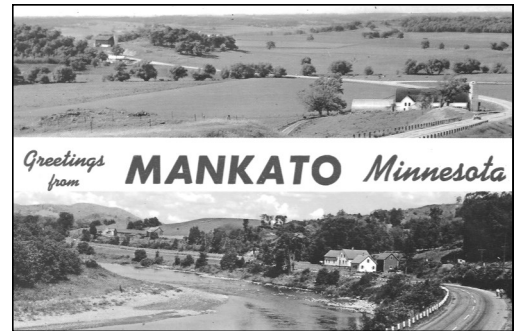
them—27—have names stemming from Native American words or translations of those words.

Blue Earth County was established March 5, 1853 and named after the Blue Earth River. The river in turn had received its name from the Sisseton Dakota because of the bluish-green earth around the area. Their word, *Mahkato*, signified blue/green earth (to can mean

either blue or green). When French explorer Pierre-Charles LeSueur traveled through the

area in the late 1600s, he probably translated the name used by the Dakota and used it. For some time, settlers also used the name *Mahkahta* for one of the original nine counties of Minnesota, and the settlement of Mankato was eventually christened with a version of the original name.

Within Blue Earth County, several townships and villages were named after Native Americans or words. Decoria Township was named April 6, 1858 after Winnebago chief “One-Eyed Dekora,” who, along with his tribe, had helped settlers caught up in the Black Hawk War of 1832. In the same way, Good Thunder (located in Lyra Township) was named in April 1871 after another friendly Native American. Some debate remains as to which “Good Thunder” the settlers had in mind when the area was named. One Good Thunder, a Winnebago chief, had stood with the settlers against the Dakota during their outbreak against the newcomers in 1862. Another Good Thunder, this one a Dakota, had been General Sibley’s chief of scouts during his expeditions after the outbreak. It seems likely that the Dakota Good Thunder was honored with the sites naming, since it was rechristened during his 1889 Fourth of July visit



to the village.

The first settlement of Mankato was in 1852 and in 1858 a township connected to it was established and also named Mankato. The choice of name had been given to Mrs. Parson King Johnson (wife of the first settler in the area in 1852) and Mrs. Henry Jackson (whose husband organized the Blue Earth Settlement Claim Association in St. Paul) and they selected Mankato. A popular legend suggests that the city clerk accidentally typed “Mankato” instead of the Dakota word, “Mahkato” in the official document, which may be why Mankato is named the way it is.

The township of Medo was named in April 16, 1858 after the Dakota word signifying a species of plant, *Apios tuberosa*—also known as the potato bean. The plant grew liberally in the area and was used by Native Americans as food.

In addition to town names, Minneopa State Park also received its name from local Native Americans. Before becoming a park in 1905, the area had been a townsite and railway station, named in 1870 through a contraction of the Dakota words *minnehinhe-nonpa*, which mean “water falling twice” or “two waterfalls.” In the same way, Wita Lake, in Lime Township, means “Island Lake” in Dakota, named for its two islands.



originally named Hilton, had its name changed in 1886 to St. Clair by officers of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. The origin of the name is uncertain but it could have been named for a Revolutionary War leader or a town of a similar name in Michigan or Pennsylvania.

Judson Township, organized in 1858, was

named after the famous missionary Adoniram Judson, who worked in Burma and translated the Bible into Burmese. McPherson Township was named in honor of General James B. McPherson, who had commanded in the Civil War. The township had originally been named Rice Lake, but was changed through an act of the state legislature in 1865.

Like the townships, geographical areas within Blue Earth County were also sometimes named after people. The Big Cobb River and Little Cobb River were most likely named for a member of the surveying party that came through the area, while Lake Lura was supposedly named by the early settlers because of the name “Lura” they found carved onto a tree near its shore.

Jackson Lake is not, as one might think, named for President Jackson but rather for Norman L. Jackson, the first settler of that township. There are many other references to pioneer settlers: Ballantyne Lake (named for a school teacher and homesteader), Gilfillin Lake (named for a soldier from the area who was killed in battle), Kilby Lake, Armstrong Lake, Dackins Lake, Lieberg Lake, Solberg Lake, Mills Lake, Morgan Creek, Rogers Lake, Lake Alice and Albert Lake, to name a few.

Names based on different places

Often, nostalgic settlers would christen their new land after their old homes or in honor of places of historical or particular meaning to the namer. One obvious example is Jamestown, named in 1858 after the first English colony in Virginia. Amboy was named by its first postmaster, Robert Richardson, for a town in his former home in Illinois. Beauford and Butternut Valley were both named in 1858 after

Names stemming from people

Another popular way to name geographic areas is to christen them after



important settlers, presidents and other influential people. Presidential names are probably the most obvious: Lincoln Township (named in 1865), Madison Lake (both the lake and the village), Lake Washington and Lake Jefferson. However, many other places were named for early settlers or other important people. Pemberton, in Medo Township, was platted in 1907 and named for a Chicago and Northwestern Railway official. Another town,

previous homes of the settlers: Beauford after a “town in the east” and Butternut Valley after Butternuts, New York.

Cambria was named in 1867 by Robert H. Hughes, who had lived previously in Cambria, Wisconsin. That Cambria was, in turn, named after the ancient Latin word for Wales, the country that many of the settlers in that area had left to come to America. Ceresco is

another place with a name borrowed from Wisconsin, named by Isaac Slocum in 1858 for his former Ceresco, Wisconsin home.

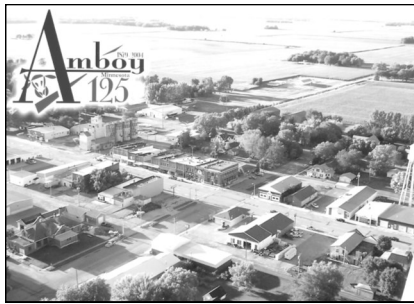
Lyra Township, first named Tecumseh, then Winneshiek, both Native American names, was finally name Lyra, in 1866, after a town the Rev. J. M Thurston had come from in the east.

Danville Township, named in reference to Danville, Vermont, the hometown of the settler Lucius Dryer, actually started off with the name Jackson but, was changed in 1858 since another, older Minnesota town was already called Jackson. Le Ray Township also had several name changes before settling in 1860 on its current title, most likely in reference to Le Ray, New York. Shelby Township, originally called Liberty, was renamed by Rev. John W. Powell after his hometown of Shelbyville, Indiana, which was named for Isaac Shelby who had served honorably both in the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 and as governor of Kentucky.

Vernon Center was named in 1855 for Mount Vernon, Ohio, from which many of the settlers had emigrated. Rapidan Township was originally named De Soto but was renamed Rapidan in 1865 for the Rapidan River in Virginia, the scene of severe fighting during the Civil War.

Names originating from nature

The last category when it comes to site names is when places are named for things in nature. South Bend was named in 1854 because of its location on the bend of the Minnesota River, while Sterling was named in 1860 for the “sterling” quality of the surrounding soil and people. (Originally, the idea



was to name the town Stirling after a site of historical significance in Scotland, but settlers instead favored the different spelling.) Lime Township received its name in 1858 because of the many outcrops of limestone in the area—which were quickly used as quarries by the new settlers. Eagle Lake was named for the nearby lake, which had been titled that after surveyors noticed how many bald eagles nested in trees along the shore.

Garden City also received its name because of the nature surrounding it. At first, it was called Watonwan after a nearby river. However, in 1858, it was renamed Garden City by Simeon P. Folsom, who said, “Even to this day, in the spring the surrounding country is like a garden of wild flowers.” At the time, it was the only town with that name besides one in New York.

Many lakes and rivers were also named for nature. Maple River was named for all the maples that surrounded it. Willow River was named for the willow trees along its shores. Crystal Lake received its name because of the “unusual brilliancy and crystal purity of its waters,” according to the survey crew that explored it in 1838 and the town of Lake Crystal name from the lake it bordered.

Pleasant Mound Township was first named Otsego then changed to Willow Creek. The village of Pleasant Mound was settled in the area in 1857 and a post office established in 1863. The name was derived from a nearby series of glacial hills called kames. In 1865 when the township was organized, it took its name from these same hills.

Other places include Cottonwood Lake, Duck Lake, Long Lake, Mud Lake (there are two), Fox Lake, Perch Lake, Perch Creek, Lily Lake, Loon Lake, Rice Lake and Rush Lake, to name a few.

Blue Earth County is full of places with interesting names and histories. Whether they were named for presidents, plants, Native American tribes or memories of the past, every place in the County is worth a visit! If you are curious about other historical topics of Blue Earth County’s villages, towns, houses, buildings, farms, businesses or families, stop by the Blue Earth County Historical Society Research Center and discover the resources we have available.


Source: Upham, Warren. *Minnesota Geographic Names*, 1969.


Education & Outreach: BECHS & Social Media


Heather Harren
Education and Outreach Manager

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is on many social media sites; some that you may not know about. Here is a quick guide to help you find BECHS on the web.

Our website is www.bechshistory.com. From here you can easily get to four of our social media sites: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest. Our website is also a great resource that can be used for finding information before you visit BECHS through our indexes page or learning about our upcoming events through our calendar.

 The main outlet that we use for social media is Facebook. We can be found on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bechshistory. On Facebook we not only promote our upcoming events, we also provide light historical content to get a moment of history in during the week. This can range from tidbits of information from the newspapers to fun historical photographs.

 Another site that we use is Twitter. We can be found on Twitter at www.twitter.com/bechshistory or by searching @BECHShistory. All of our posts from Facebook feed into Twitter. We also have short posts at different times such as “This day in History” posts. I am just beginning to get a feel for Twitter, so if you have any advice, please tweet it to us!

 A relatively new site that we are using is Pinterest. We can be found on Pinterest at www.pinterest.com/bechshistory. We only have a few boards at the moment, but we are constantly adding to the boards that we have. Pinterest is a pinning site where, when you find great ideas on different websites, you can “pin” them to your board so you may go back to them later. Each image needs to lead back to a website to be able to give credit to where the image was found, so Pinterest is a great way to guide people to our website.



YouTube is another site that we are working at adding more content. Find us on YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/bechsms. Now that we have a video camera, we have used it to capture many of our events over the past year. Short clips of these events are on YouTube, as well as other videos that promote BECHS. Make sure to subscribe to BECHS on YouTube so you do not miss new videos.



BECHS can also be found on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/blue-earth-county-historical-society. At the moment, we are still adding information to the page and learning more about the functions of the business page.



Did you know that BECHS is on FourSquare? We have both the R. D. Hubbard House and the Heritage Center as locations on FourSquare. Next time you visit, check in on FourSquare.



One site we are working on is Google+. We can be found on Google+ at www.gplus.to/bechshistory. Are you a big fan of Google+? Follow us and converse with about what you like about the site.

As new social media avenues become available, know that the Blue Earth County Historical Society will look into them and have a presence if appropriate. Next time you are on one of our social media sites, comment on a post, like a photograph, or just say “hi.” Thank you to all the people who already follow BECHS on one or more of our social media sites.



BECHS Donations April - June 2013

Donations

Bishop, Mary Louise
Burch, Harold
Carroll, Patrick
Fitzloff, Shirley
Hanson, Kathryn
Higginbotham, Shirley
Hinrichs, William
Hubbard, John Jay
Keir, Grace and Richard
Mankato Free Press
McGowan, Jack and Diann
Medo Township
Nussbaumer, Linda
Othoudt, Marsha
Piepho, Shirley and Mark
Piper, Cynthia
Pleasant Mound Township
Preston Doyle State Farm
Rapidan Township
Sassenberg, Karl
Schmitz, Joan
Uracius, Kenneth
Zellmer, Randy

Sponsorship

Welsh Heritage Farms
Ullrich Construction

Special Gifts

*In Honor of Tom and
Theresa McLaughlin*
Schorer, Mary

Memorials

In Memory of Victor
Allenburg—Zellmer, Randy

In Memory of Denis
Haefner—Frederick, Mike

In Memory of James Mason
McGregor, Byron & Karen

In Memory of Winston
Grundmeier
Affolter, Ronald
Alinder, Steve and Kim
Anderson, Wayne & Mavis
Bartholdi, Roberta

Bateman, Doris
Bauer, Jan
Beetsch, Jean
Belgard, Hugh and Vail
Berg, Charles and Virginia
Bessler, William
Bieber, Duane and Pat
Bjerke, Luverne
Bock, Claire
Boelke, Joanne
Booth, Ellsworth
Borchert, Pam
Botten, Joel
Buchle, Catherine
Bunkers, Suzanne
Burch, Harold
Burns, Inella
Campbell, Drew & Dawn
Cole, Joyce
Coleman, Mary
Comstock, Wayne
Cords, Betty
Croce, Nancy
Dahms, Lorraine
Dauw, Rita and Mike
Dittrich, Anita
Doering, Bernita
Elker, Yvonne
Ellis, Bernie
Ellis, John P.
Ender, Linda and Family
Englehorn, Roger
Evans, David and Kerry
Evans, Peter and Gina
Farnham, Joseph & Malda
Fitterer, Marjorie
Frederick, Michael
Frey, John and Anne
Frydendall, Karen and
Merrill
Gage, Kelton and Dorothy
Gallagher, Bonnie
Garlow, Darrell and Sandi
Gildemeister, Earl
Goff, Harley and Janet
Hachfeld, Gary and Linda
Hanson, Carol
Hanson, Kathryn
Hart, Tom and Kathy
Haslip, Hanne

Hauch, Betty
Hinckley, Heidi
Hoffner, Kathryn
Holden, John and Nancy
Hollenhorst, Mary Ellis
Hugg, Corey and Bob
Huntley, Mary
Hustoles, Paul and Mary
Hynes, Susan
Jensen, Margie
Jensen, Mary Ann
Johnson, Dean & Marilyn
Johnson, Steve and Lois
Jones, Ellis
Just, Sr., John
Kakeldey & Koberoski
Karow, Linda
Keir, Grace and Richard
Kintzel, Martha
Kitzmann, Lois & Merle
Klingel, Tim and Nina
Kramlinger, Richard
Krummel, Jane
Kudela, MaryLou
Larson, Craig & Madeline
Larson, Elaine
Larson, Rodney
Lavitschke, Jo-an & Dean
Layman, Eloise & Robert
Leech, Don and Ronnie
Leipold, Lance
Lewis, J. Weldon
Lisle, Margery
Lloyd, Ken and Donna
Machin, Rosie
Madsen, Jack
Malcolm, James
Mankato German Club
Marks, Tom
Mason, Marcia
Mathiason, Renee
Matteson, James
McComb, Mary
McGuire, Jim and Ann
McKay, Sara and John
MEI Total Elevator
Miller, Lloyd and Mary
Mocols
Mussett, Lois
Neir, Stephen and Helen

Nelson, Bill and Mary
Nelson, June
Nelson, Karen
Nelson, Michael and Judith
Norland, Richard
Novak, Rebecca
Oldenburg, Chris and Alex
Olseth, Jennifer
Ostrom, Eleanor
Padilla, Betty Lou
Panzram, Pat
Pepper, Donna
Peterson, Patricia
Petty, Al and Caryn
Piepho, Mark and Shirley
Pierce, Becky and Jim
Popowski, David & Sharon
Potter, Jessica and Brad
Pribyl, Mary
Reed, Lois
Richards, Marcia
Robbins, James and Dianne
Rosenberg, Mary Jane
Ruble, Bruce
Saffert, Kenneth
Scatt, Bob and Margaret
Schindle, Martha
Schrader, Julie
Schreyer, Margaret
Schultz, Jo
Schwartzkopf, Louis
Seigars, DeeAnn and Gary
Shirk, Craig and Cindy
Spear, Rosalyn and Dale
Squires, Marie
St. Onge, Janis
Stenzel, Bryce
Stoufer, Beverly and Roger
Thomas, Joanne
Thompson, Mary
Utermohlen, C. Robert
Vetter, Willard
Webb, Donna
Winslow, Charlotte
Winter-Ewert, Donna Jean
Witz, Mary Jane
Wold, Philip and Jane
Yezzi, Ronald
Ziebarth, Orville & Renee
Zimmer, Beth

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Building Committee

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

Development Assistant

Seeking individual(s) to assist Executive Director and Development Committee with activities such as grant writing, donor relations and fund drive.

Newsletter Layout and Design

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

IT Support

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

Education Programs

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

Writer and Editors

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

These are just a few opportunities now available. To volunteer, stop by the Heritage Center or go online at bechshistory.com/volunteer to complete a volunteer application.

VOLUNTEERS, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Thursday, September 19 at 7:00 pm

or

Saturday, September 21 at 10:00 am

Join us for a short meeting for new and existing volunteers on either Thursday or Saturday. We will briefly cover our new Volunteer Handbook and orientation process. We are also interested in your feedback on how we can all make volunteering for BECHS the best it can be! Please RVSP to Danelle by phone at 507-345-5566 or by email at bechsms@hickorytech.net as to which meeting you will attend.

Marian Anderson
Fine Art Prints



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

As a living legacy, Marian Anderson donated her entire inventory of fine art prints to the Blue Earth County Historical Society; **100% of all print sales benefit BECHS.**

Fine art prints are available to view and purchase at the Heritage Center Book & Gift Shop and online at www.mariananderson.com. Thank you for your support!

Every object has a story...

The two dimensional artifacts in BECHS's permanent collection consist of over 31,000 objects. Most of the objects in our collection were 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 and 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.



Souvenir Folding Card of Mankato, MN

These postcard booklets featured an accordion-style strip of different postcard views of a particular place. In this case, Mankato, Minn. features the Public Library, St. Joseph's Hospital, etc. These postcards could be folded up into their cover and mailed just like other postcards, but they required more postage. Or they could be separated and mailed individually.

Souvenir from Butternut, MN

The Historical Society has a rich collection of postcards that not only provide pictures of our communities in the past, but they also highlight the history of this unique form of communication. The postcard on the right was sent to Blanche Cleveland Othoudt, of Lake Crystal MN in 1908 and kept in her postcard collection until it was recently donated to BECHS.



You are welcome to take a tour of some of these images by visiting the BECHS website www.bechshistory.com or stopping by the Research Center. There is no better time than summer to have a great adventure and discover something new.



Blanche Cleveland
Othoudt

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

WISH LIST

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

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

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

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Research Center

Heather Harren
Education and Outreach Manager

You can tell it is summer once again. The Research Center attendance has gone up in the past few months as people take trips, often to discover their family history. It has been great to see so many happy people leave the Research Center after finding relatives they had no information about before coming here.

Family history is not the only type of research done in the Research Center. We have many great resources to learn more about the towns and townships in Blue Earth County. A great place to start learning more about your community, or any of the towns, is the subject files. Inside these filing cabinets are great newspaper clippings that help tell each community's story. We also have several books that were written about the different towns and places within the towns, that are not available for sale in the Museum Store. Examples here include different church histories, books about the schools and general histories that were written by people in Blue Earth County.

Social notes are another great way to learn more about the towns and townships in Blue Earth County. As volunteers were clipping the newspapers for obituaries and general news articles, they also clipped the social notes for the county. These clippings were pasted into binders according to their town or township. Many of these binders have been indexed, and the index is available online. Social notes can tell people a story of what life was like in the late 1800s through the mid-1900s. Many researchers that visit the Research Center enjoy looking through the social notes to locate their relatives and often find information they did not know. Next time you visit, peruse the social notes for a while and see what you can find.

We are still looking for Polk City Directories prior to 1950 and after 2000. If you know of anyone that is looking for a good home for their old Polk City Directory, pass along this message.

BECHS Membership

April - June 2013

New Members

Troy and Melissa Banse
Jon and Diane Case
James Chouanard
Country Inns and Suites, Mankato
Hilton Garden Inn, Mankato
Barb Huebsch
Maggie Jones and Bruce Nowlin
Eric and Kitt Klompenhower
Caryn Lindsay
Rebecca Novak
Mary Pascua
Hunter Piper
Mark and Kathy Rosen
Swanson Hinsch & Company
Kenneth Uracius – Stone & Lime, Inc
Margo Wheeler

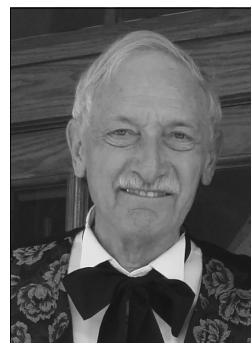
Renewing Business Members

Mankato City Center Hotel
ProGrowth Bank

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

NEW: As a new business member benefit, we are now offering to place your business website link and other information on our website. We value your support! Contact Danelle for more information.

IN MEMORY



Winston Grundmeier
1929-2013

*Friend, Active Volunteer,
Longtime Member and
Generous Donor*

*He will be greatly missed by
his BECHS family!*



By Brad & Ariane Hawker

Our season is well underway, and so far we are 4-3 on the season. Our May scrimmage was played in a steady rain, but we commend our cranks for

coming out to watch! We really lucked out with our April Striker-to-the-Line season opener and our June festival as both days provided plenty of sun and a nice breeze...perfect base ball weather! We traveled to Columbia Heights to play the Quicksteps in a match that included unrestricted fielding and base running, which means stealing was allowed. It took a while to get used to and provided good entertainment! It was a fun match to watch and play, and we congratulate our adversaries who were claimed the victor.

On Father's Day we traveled to Shakopee to take part in The Landing's Ma & Pa Day playing a double header against the Roosters of Olmsted County. We enjoyed another beautiful day and two wins! Our greatest joy is the camaraderie on and off the field as we share the game "as it was meant to be played" with new and current cranks. The Mankato Baltics festival brought in the familiar Arlington Greys and a new club, Blue Caps, who traveled from Menomonie, WI. The Baltics went 1-1 and all clubs did a fine job. The passion of vintage base ball was apparent in all who took the field.

July is a busy but fun month as we travelled to Rochester on July 6 to join the Roosters and La Crescent Apple Jacks in welcoming the Ohio Muffins for a full day of base ball. The Ohio Muffins were one of the very first vintage clubs that started up in the 1980's, so we are excited to participate in this festival. The following weekend we walked in the North Mankato Fun Days parade on Saturday, July 13 and travelled to Stillwater on July 20 for Lumberjack Days! This event is a first for our club.

We have more traveling to do in August. We make our way to Jordan for the Scott-Carver Threshers 50th Annual Harvest Festival on Sunday, August 4. This event displays vintage farm equipment, a daily parade, live music, a flea market and more. On August 10 our travels take us to Menomonie, WI for a double header against the Blue Caps at their Family Fun Day, and we close out the month with the Afton Red Socks and three other clubs on August 25 at Lake St. Croix Beach.

We look forward to joining our friends in base ball and hope to see you as well! We have had a nice group of cranks at our events, and we greatly appreciate the support! For more information, please visit the website or check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MankatoBaltics.



Mankato Baltics

Baltics 2013 Schedule

- August 4** - Scott-Carver Harvest Festival @ Scott County Fairgrounds, Jordan
- August 10** - Baltics vs. Blue Caps, Rassbach Heritage Museum, Menomonie, 1:30 p.m.
- August 25** - Red Socks Exhibition @ Pettit Field, Lake St. Croix Beach, Noon
- September 8** - Farmamerica Fall Festival @ Waseca, 1:30 p.m.
- September 14** - Greys Exhibition @ Arlington Park, Arlington, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- December 7** - Arli-dazzle @ Arlington Park, Arlington, 3 p.m.

2013 Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival

Directed by DANNY PROUD of Wisconsin

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

First Presbyterian Church
220 East Hickory • Mankato, MN

PERFORMING CHOIR
St. Peter Choral Society
DIRECTED BY SARA MCKAY

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

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

CHECK OUR WEBSITES:

www.minnesotawelsh.org & [MinnesotaWelshAssociation \(facebook\)](https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaWelshAssociation)



Around Blue Earth County



Rapidan Heritage Society

A time for remembering and honoring... Memorial Day broke with a grey sky and forecast of rain, so the decision was made to move all activities into St. John Church. Coffee and donut holes were provided by St. John Church, and Mike Pulis spoke about his experience as an escort for the 2010 Honor Flight of southern Minnesota WWII veterans to the WWII monument in Washington, DC.

Jim Norland then spoke about his family's involvement with the Rapidan bank in the 1960s. He told of the famous bank robbery in 1969 when burglars used a torch to break into the vault. An estimated \$20,000 was stolen. He also shared pictures of the bank.

The Farmers State Bank of Rapidan was chartered in 1913 with capital stock of \$10,000 with a surplus of \$2,000. The bank was robbed three times. In May 1930, \$2,498 was stolen, but the robber was apprehended within 6½ hours! In March 1942, burglars burned open the vault during the night, but apparently amateurs they only took \$500 in scorched silver coins. Some of the coins left were melted together and practically all the currency was partly burned. Loss in cash and damage to the bank was \$1,600. In September 1969, thieves stole an estimated \$20,000. The culprits were never found.

The charter was transferred to Mankato in 1969 and Farmers State Bank of Rapidan changed its name to Security State Bank of Mankato, which opened in November 1970. The bank building had many uses over the years, including a barber shop, library, post office, township meeting room, voting precinct, religion release time and even as living quarters. The building is now a private residence.

RHS is sponsoring a National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6 with a potluck supper. Plan on gathering at the Township garage in Rapidan at 6:30 p.m. – it's a great time to visit with your neighbors and meet new friends! Everyone is invited.

The Rapidan Depot is open to visitors Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. until Labor Day. Feel free to drop in and check out our little depot!

Jane Tarjeson, Secretary

BLUE EARTH COUNTY FAIR

August 1-3, 2013
Blue Earth County
Fairgrounds
Garden City

Visit the Historical Society at the Annual Blue Earth County Fair. You will find us in a new location this year: Building A, just a few steps back from the arcade building.

See historical Blue Earth County Fair photographs and an exhibit on FarmFest. There will also be a display of historical vehicles featuring the 1916 Buick Mankato Fire Truck and other historic vehicles. There are activities for children of all ages.

See you at the Fair!

Volunteers are needed, contact Danelle to sign-up. Thank you to all the volunteers that represent BECHS at this County event. We couldn't do it without you!



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

Calendar of Events August - October 2013

AUGUST

- 1-3 Blue Earth County Fair**, stop by our new building for fun at the fair. Volunteers Needed.
- 4 Baltics at Scott-Carver Harvest Festival**, Jordan
- 6 Fingerprints and Footnotes: Neighborhood Night Out with Rapidan Heritage Society**, Rapidan, 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Baltics at Menomonie, WI**
- 15 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM** at 1 p.m. for BECHS update on Talk of the Town
- 15 Third Thursday Gallery Walk**, Heritage Center Art Gallery, 5-7 p.m.
- 17 Big Magic Medicine Show: Mysteries and Mendacities Revealed**, Hubbard House, 1-4 p.m.
- 25 Baltics at Red Socks Exhibition**, Lake St. Croix Beach
- 30 Last day for Story Time at the Hubbard House**, 10:30 a.m. (*Fridays thru August*)
- 31 Heritage Center CLOSED, Hubbard House OPEN**

SEPTEMBER

- 6 Amboy's Annual Arts 'n' More Festival**, Details to come.
- 8 Baltics at Farmamerica Fall Festival**, Waseca
- 14 Young Historians: Native Americans**, Heritage Center, 10 a.m., Please RSVP
- 14 Baltics at Greys Exhibition**, Arlington
- 17 Fingerprints and Footnotes: Minnesota Archaeology Week**, Heritage Center, 6 p.m. *Note the date change!*
- 19 Third Thursday Gallery Walk**, Heritage Center Art Gallery, 5-7 p.m.
- 26 Tune in to KTOE 1420-AM**, 1 p.m. for BECHS update

- 27 BECHS Member Appreciation Event**, Heritage Center, 4-7 p.m. Please RSVP
- 29 Last Day Hubbard House Open for Season**, 1-4 p.m.

OCTOBER

- 1 Fingerprints and Footnotes: Second Stories Walking Tour of North Front Street**, 6 p.m.
- 4 Historic North Front Street Pub Crawl**, 6 p.m. *Tickets available 9/1/13.*
- 12 Young Historians: Revolutionary War**, Heritage Center, 10 a.m., Please RSVP
- 17 Third Thursday Gallery Walk, Artist's Reception for Generations of Art: Sue Mueller and Family**, Heritage Center Art Gallery, 5-7 p.m.
- 18 Ghosts from the Past**, United Church of Christ, Mankato, 6-9 p.m. *Tickets available 9/1/13, details to be announced.*
- 19 Ghosts from the Past**, United Church of Christ, Mankato, 5-9 p.m.

Check out www.bechshistory.com for full 2013 event calendar, details and updates.

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

Blue Earth County Historical Society MEMBERS APPRECIATION EVENT

Friday, September 27, 2013
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Heritage Center

Join us as we celebrate you, our members, with guided building tours, Q&A with staff and Board members, as well as light meal.

RSVP by September 20th
to bechsms@hickorytech.net



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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

*denotes Business Member levels

Please send this form and check to:

BECHS Membership

415 Cherry Street

Mankato, MN 56001

OR

Complete your membership form

online at www.bechshistory.com

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



Blue Earth County Historical Society

415 Cherry Street

Mankato, MN 56001

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Permit No. 343

**Membership
Expiration**

Preserving and sharing Blue Earth County's history since 1901