

## Curation Notes

Audrey Burmeister-Hicks

Just as with other dolls, paper dolls are being unearthed after a long rest in attics and are becoming more appreciated, both for their beauty and for their wealth of information about costumes and customs of the past.



This appreciation was evidenced in the last few weeks as the public became aware that BECHS was assembling an exhibition of paper dolls. Several individuals brought us their treasured dolls for inclusion in the exhibit and many more related to us stories of their favorite paper dolls and the elaborate or simple procedures they used when playing with them. We have learned that playing with paper dolls was a creative 'art' which gave free rein to the fresh, vivid imagination of young children.

We thank the following who have contributed dolls for the exhibit and for permanent inclusion in the museum collection: Patricia Pond of Beaverton, Or. and Fyrne Haugen, Norma Hanson, and Eileen Rago, all of Mankato. We thank the following for sharing their dolls with the public for this exhibition: Mary Fralish, Eagle Lake; Anna Burmeister Uhlhorn, Askov; Gregg Peterson, Mankato; and former Mankato residents Kristin Dooley and Diane Roberts Floria.

The exhibit, entitled "Paper Dolls Cut Through the Years", may be viewed in the BECHS Heritage Center Museum, 415 Cherry St., Mankato.

### Our Appreciation

The BECHS Collections staff expresses great appreciation to Randy Lamb, Mankato, who has continually provided us with technical assistance and advice on our computer system. Randy has contributed immensely to our ability to provide care for the museum collections and services to the public.

*A very big THANK YOU to all who helped to make For the Love of Betsy! a successful event. Over 60 people attended the afternoon celebration of Maud Hart Lovelace at the Hubbard House on February 16th. Thanks to all who donated time, acting talents and baked goods. We couldn't have done it without you!*

## Membership News

Mary Brown

### New Members

Welcome to the following new members:  
Rick Crume, Glyndon, MN  
Rita Schoenstedt, Mankato  
Carla Kronberger, Mankato  
Bradley E. Blume, North Mankato  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Zaragoza, Mankato

### New Sustaining Life Members

Many thanks to the following Life Members for upgrading to an annual Sustaining Life Membership:  
Mrs. Marion Kooser, Mankato

### Donations

Berneeta Campbell, Mankato  
Ruth Schellberg, Mankato  
Jo Schultz, Madison Lake  
Tom Marks, Mankato  
Katie Fitzgerald Payton, Dallas, Tx.  
Mary Dotson, Mankato  
Alma Severson, Mankato  
Billings S. Fuess, Jr., Summit, NJ

### Memorials

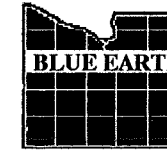
*Darlene Kear*  
*Stanley Simonett*  
Given by Don & Marge Meredith  
*Albert J. Roemer*  
*Howard Kenward*  
Given by Dean & Ruth Wykoff  
*Ellen Foley*  
*Robert Mundahl*  
Given by Vernon & Norma Carstensen

*Please Note: If we received your memorial, membership, or donation after the 15th of the month when our newsletter goes to press, your name will appear in next month's newsletter.*

Blue Earth County Historical Society  
415 Cherry Street  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001  
(507)345-5566

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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**NEWSLETTER**

## March 1991 Calendar of Events

March 19 & 26 *Antiques International - A seminar by artist and collector Arnoldus Gruter*

*Paper Dolls Cut through the Years - An exhibit of paper dolls past and present. At the Heritage Center until April 30.*

*Heritage Center Exhibit Gallery  
Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 1-5 p.m.  
Hubbard House  
Hours: Saturday & Sunday 1-5 p.m.*

## BECHS Notes

Kathy S. Kremer, Interim Executive Director

It is truly remarkable when we examine the history of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, and realize how far we have come. In the early 1900's our artifacts and archives were stored in a vault in the Odd Fellows Building, and even spent a period of time in the basement of the old Carnegie Public Library. We have certainly grown. We now have a professionally designed exhibit gallery, and an impressive archives and artifact research and storage area. And of course, we have the historic Hubbard House, which will soon begin Phase I of its' restoration.

This growth would not have been possible had it not been for our members. Your continued support has helped us arrive at where we are at, and will move us into the future. Your support is needed in many ways. We need volunteers for special events and for BECHS committees. Financial support through your membership, and special gifts is always needed. In whatever ways you are able to give, your support is greatly appreciated, and is necessary for the continued growth of the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

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design and layout by Kathy S. Kremer.  
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## A Tale of Two Good Thunders



Chief and Mrs. Good Thunder

The death of the wife of Chief Good Thunder as recorded in the November 13, 1909 Mankato Daily Review, brought forth information to clarify who the two Chief Good Thunders were, and their roles in area history.

Chief and Mrs. Good Thunder were Sioux Indians who probably had seen the village of Good Thunder on only one occasion, July 4, 1889, when they were the principal attraction at the christening of the village of Good Thunder. Chief Good Thunder had been the trustworthy scout of Henry Hastings Sibley. He demonstrated his loyalty to the whites by warning them of the Sioux Uprising in 1862. Mrs. Good Thunder had been the wife of a renegade chief who was executed at Mankato on December 26, 1862 with thirty-seven other Indians. She was later married to Good Thunder, and under the instruction of Bishop Whipple they became Christians and built a church called Saint Cornelia. During the July 4, 1889 celebration, Chief Good Thunder was honored in the rechristening of the village in honor of him.

There was another Indian chief also named Good Thunder. He was a Winnebago Indian for whom the village may have been originally named. During the days of the Winnebago Reservation, this Chief Good Thunder occupied the log buildings and fields which had constituted the homestead of Noble G. Root in Section 10 of Lyra Township of Blue Earth County. Here was an excellent ford of the Maple River which, after the

Chief, was called "Good Thunder Ford". During the years 1861-63 Chief Good Thunder and a few hundred braves occupied these bottomlands. They were a peaceful group and were in no way connected to the Sioux Uprising. The Winnebago tribe had formerly resided in Blue Earth County. Their lands were bought by the government and the tribe was moved in May, 1863 to Nebraska where Chief Good Thunder died. When the Wells Railroad was located in 1869-1870 the proprietors arranged to have a depot built and a town site platted near Good Thunder Ford.

So it would seem that two Indian chiefs named Good Thunder contributed to the naming of the village, each in a very different way: the Winnebago Good Thunder, who lived on the Winnebago Reservation near a ford on the Maple River which was named for him, and where later a town site was called Good Thunder; and the Sioux Good Thunder who was a faithful scout for General Sibley. It was in his honor that the village of Good Thunder was rechristened on July 4, 1889.

Submitted by Gail Palmer

#### Principal Sources:

*Mankato Daily Review*. November 13, 1909, page 1.

Thomas Hughes. *History of Blue Earth County*, pp. 172, 263-265

## Gift Shop News

Jane Fossen

In conjunction with the current paper doll exhibit, our gift shops now have antique paper doll books. The ever popular "Shirley Temple", "Dolly Dingle", and "Antique Childrens Dolls" are just some of the few that are now available. Another new arrival is the *Liberty Workshop* jewelry collection. Designs taken from our historic past, and hand crafted into fine solid-brass jewelry of the present. Stop in to see these unique gifts!

#### Gift Shop Hours

Heritage Center: Tues. - Sun., 1-5p.m.

Hubbard House: Sat. & Sun. 1-5 p.m.

## Tour Guides

As we prepare for our busy spring and summer season, we find ourselves in need of several tour guides. BECHS tour guides provide assistance to groups of all ages as they go through either the Hubbard House or Heritage Center. Our tour guides are provided with a \$4.25 stipend per tour. If you are interested, please pick up an application at the Heritage Center Gift Shop, or call Jane Fossen at 345-5566.

## BECHS Staff Wish List

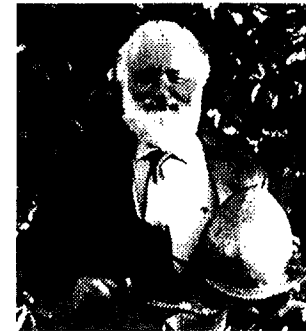
If you have any of the following items, and are willing to donate them to the Blue Earth County Historical Society, please contact Kathy Kremer at 345-5566.

Telephone answering machine  
computer paper (all sizes)  
tall kitchen trash bags  
8-1/2 x 11 20# bond copier paper  
paper boxes with telescoping lids  
IBM compatible computer/printer  
adding machine tape

## Program Update

Jane Kolars

## Antiques International



Back by popular demand, BECHS presents the second annual *Antiques International* seminar conducted by artist and collector Arnoldus Gruter. Mr. Gruter has graciously offered to share his personal art collection including oil paintings, stained glass, manu-

scripts, ceramics, coins and much more. The seminar will take place on two Tuesday evenings at Mr. Gruter's home, March 19 & 26, from 7 - 9:30pm. The Gruter collection emphasizes European objects, but also includes items from Africa, the Middle East, China and New Guinea. Please plan to join us for this very special event. For seminar information and reservations, contact Jane Kolars at 345-5566. All proceeds will benefit BECHS.

## Heritage Dinner

On April 16, the Blue Earth County Historical Society will honor the *Nicholas and Mary Frederick Family* of Madison Lake for their significant contributions to Blue Earth County history. Please plan to join us for this entertaining evening and fundraising event. You will find ticket information enclosed in this newsletter.

## Program Committee

BECHS Programs are an important way to involve the general public in BECHS, and get the word out about what we have to offer. We are looking for interested people to serve on the Program Committee. We meet once each month to plan the BECHS events. If you are interested, please call Jane Kolars at 345-5566.

## Curatorial Notes

Audrey Burmeister-Hicks

As the seasons change from winter to spring and summer, the BECHS Collections staff changes to reflect the activities of our volunteers. Our 'snow birds' will be returning from winter vacations in the south and our gardeners, golfers, and summer travelers will be spending less time indoors with us.

Ryan Ihrke, Madison Lake, who has entered artifact data on the computer after school through the fall and winter, has left us to join his school's track team. We thank Ryan for his valuable contribution to BECHS, wish him luck in track, and hope he will rejoin us again next fall.

Mankato State University student David Grabitske is serving an internship with BECHS this spring quarter through MSU's History Department. Dave is working in the BECHS Archives where he will receive practical experience in historical research and the preservation and cataloging of research materials.

We welcome back volunteers Elmer Goodrich, Pemberton, and Ora Ohlenkamp, Mankato, both of whom have been hospitalized recently. We wish them a speedy recovery so they may return to two of their favorite springtime activities, golfing and volunteering at BECHS.

BECHS offers many opportunities for enjoyable, fulfilling, and important volunteer work. We invite you to stop at the Heritage Center weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to visit with the volunteers about their current projects and with a staff person about projects of interest to you.

*Do you have a special talent or interest that you would like to share? The BECHS Program Committee would like to start a seminar/workshop series using local experts as presenters for a monthly series.*

*For example.. one month could be a workshop on "soapmaking", the next could be a presentation on the Civil War or the history of Lake Crystal. Any idea or special talent is welcome. Please call Jane at 345-5566 if you are interested in this project.*

## Gift Shop News

The Gift Shops at the Hubbard House and the Heritage Center continue to offer hand-crafted items, books, post-cards, jewelry, posters, and numerous other items. As we prepare for the summer season, we will be adding items to our existing stock to prepare for our summer visitors. We hope to add t-shirts and sweatshirts with a Mankato area design (including a picture of the Hubbard House), and a stock of old-time candy. In addition, we are always looking for hand-crafted items to be donated to the Gift Shop, or sold on consignment. If you are interested in either of these possibilities, please contact Kathy Kremer at 345-5566.

As you think about Mother's Day, Father's Day, or birthday gifts, keep in mind the BECHS Gift Shops. Gift Certificates for shop merchandise or BECHS memberships are always available. Keep in mind, that the BECHS Gift Shops are another way that we generate income for the general operating costs of the Hubbard House and Heritage Center.

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### Memorials

*In memory of Josephine M. Rausch  
given by Evelyn Raw Johnson*

*In memory of Myrtle Prokopec  
given by Evelyn Raw Johnson*

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### Thank You

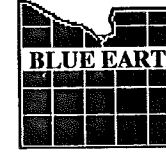
to the following townships  
for their donations:

Decoria Township  
Garden City Township  
Shelby Township  
Cambria Township  
Lime Township  
Mapleton Township

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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**NEWSLETTER**

## April 1991 Calendar of Events

April 16 *Heritage Dinner honoring the Nicholas and Mary Frederick Family of Madison Lake.*

April *Special Exhibits at Heritage Center*  
*--Antique Paper Dolls through the Years*  
*--"50 Years Ago Today"*  
*--Exhibit of Recent Acquisitions*

### BECHS News

Kathy S. Kremer, Interim Executive Director

The past month has been very busy at the Blue Earth County Historical Society. In addition to preparing for the summer months and the increase in visitors that the vacation season brings, we have been developing new programs and exhibits to enhance what we have to offer. Over the next few months you will notice the announcement of several temporary exhibits in the museum at Heritage Center. These exhibits will include many of the items in our collection that you do not see in the permanent display. The new programs that are being developed will include an opportunity for our members to become more involved in sharing their talents and experiences through a monthly seminar/workshop series. Other programs will focus on the interests of our members and others. I invite you to share in these exhibits and programs that will be announced in this and future newsletters.

I would also like to remind you to reserve your tickets for our annual Heritage Dinner. This year's dinner, honoring the Nicholas and Mary Frederick Family, promises to be an evening to remember. I hope to see you there!

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