

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.

Memorials

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

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

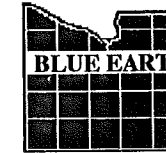
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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

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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The Frederick Family History

The Blue Earth County Historical Society will honor the Nicholas, Jr. and Mary Frederick Family of Madison Lake at our annual Heritage Dinner on April 16, 1991.

Nicholas Frederick, Senior (3/13/1828 - 11/2/1910) was born in Elsass-Lorraine on the French-German border. In 1853, at the age of 25, Nicholas married Rose Buckstal (4/10/1832 - 3/26/1903). Eventually to this union 16 children were born (seven boys and nine girls). Shortly after the marriage, Nicholas, Rose, and six-week old infant son Stephan came to America. The family first settled in Toledo, Ohio. Three more sons were born there: Nicholas (died in infancy), John, and Peter. In 1863 the family came to Minnesota. They bought 160 acres of mostly forested land in LeRay Township near Madison Lake. A great amount of labor was required to clear the land for cultivation. There were no nearby railroads, and supplies had to be carried overland from Mankato. It was on this farm that twelve more children were born: Joseph, Nicholas Jr., Mrs. Joe Klaseus, Mrs. Henry Potz, Mary O'Malley, Mrs. Frank Volk, Mrs. K.A. Wethall, Katie Filling, Anna Cavanaugh, Caroline Deelman, Henry (died in infancy), and Theresa (died in infancy).

Nicholas Jr., the man and his family that we are honoring, had the distinction of having special honor by his father. The first son Nicholas, died as a child. His father wanted a namesake, thus the third son born was our Nicholas. Everyone in the years following called him "Nick" Frederick. We will do the same.

Nick was born on his dad's farm near Madison Lake in Blue Earth County September 17, 1866. It was one-half mile west of the farm on which Nick eventually lived for the rest of his life. Nick was married to Mary Kramer (1/15/1880 - 1/28/1956) of the Cleveland, Minnesota area in September of 1896. Mary had been a country

school teacher at age 16. Nick started farming on forty-two acres he had purchased from his dad's 160-acre-homestead April 27, 1896. He paid \$500 for the land. Later, with the help of his eight boys (Mary and Nick raised eight boys and four girls), he farmed over 500 acres with fourteen horses. He never used a tractor.

After a few years, to house his growing family Nick moved a large farmhouse two miles to his farm using twelve teams of horses. As his family still grew, he had Neubert Construction Co. of Mankato build him a larger, 5-bedroom house, it's cost complete - \$3,000. The year was 1917. Nick's youngest son, Clete, and his wife Valeria now live in that house. Clete says "I was born in that front bedroom; I still sleep in it."

The stories of Nick around Madison Lake are legend. He was a good mixer, a good farmer, a good provider, a good church man and a good neighbor. He never missed attending a funeral. He was a member of many Madison Lake organizations, among them the St. Joseph Society, the German Aid Society, and the Catholic Order of Foresters. His wife and children, of German heritage, were blessed with musical talent. For years Mary was organist at All Saints Catholic Church, and all their children attended All Saints School and sang in the choir. Lizzie (Mrs. Herman Muellerleile) was an especially gifted contralto. When she sang the "Ave Maria", Father Scheid would stop the Mass so all could listen.

Clete Frederick also was exceptionally gifted. His timing was excellent on the drums and he played with many area bands, and eventually organized his own band - "The Cavaliers". He played over a span of 52 years, and he is still playing.

The early "Dirty Thirties" were the worst farming years Nick once said. Grain prices were on the rocks; drought and dust; a continual plague. Nick lost seven horses those years. They called it sleeping sickness, but once a vet opened one of the horses up and it's lungs were filled with dust. Nick loved his horses.

In his lifetime, Nick owned three autos - a 1918 Buick, a Studebaker, and a Paige - but he never drove a car.

Of Nick and Mary's twelve children - Ernie, Eva, Lizzie, William, Otto, Ray, Adeline, Clare, George, Paul, Angeline, and Cletus - seven are still living. Nick and Mary were blessed that most of their children settled in Mankato or around the home farm, thus they could have frequent family gatherings - and they did. They had twelve children, ninety-two grandchildren, and seventy-five great-grandchildren. Nick and Mary are buried in All Saints Clavary Cemetery.

This family has been as prolific in numbers as it has been in accomplishments. The Frederick family boasts many award winning farmers, a founding chancellor of a university, restaurant entrepreneurs, two Sisters in the Catholic faith, a renown auctioneer, successful missionaries, political activists, attorneys, veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and community and church leaders. The Nicholas and Mary Frederick Family of Madison Lake has made significant contributions to Blue Earth County History and the larger community.

-- Written by Ted Roemer

The Blue Earth County Historical Society has compiled a booklet on the Frederick Family. Included in the booklet is the Frederick Family history, stories filled with memories from family members, old photographs, and a listing of family members. Booklets are available from BECHS for a cost of \$10 per booklet. They will be available at the Heritage Dinner, or can be purchased at the Heritage Center.



Nicholas, Jr. and Mary Frederick

Program Update

Jane Kolars

Heritage Dinner

Call in today to reserve your tickets for the 6th Annual Heritage Dinner. BECHS will be honoring the Nicholas and Mary Frederick Family of Madison Lake on Tuesday, April 16, at the Mankato Holiday Inn. Social Hour begins at 5:30 p.m., Dinner and a program will follow at 6:30 p.m. Betty Cords has worked with the Frederick Family to develop a wonderful Reader's Theatre presentation for the program. Dinner will be served with your choice of either ham or turkey. Tickets are \$22.50 each and must be picked up at the Heritage Center by April 11. This annual event is a major fundraiser for the society, so please call 345-5566 to reserve your tickets for this entertaining evening.

Annual Plant Sale

The BECHS Plant Sale is set for Thursday, May 23, 3:00-8:00 p.m. on the Hubbard House grounds. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to purchase some hard-to-find perennials and some pretty annuals just in time for Memorial Day planting. As you thin out your perennial gardens this spring, think of BECHS, and bring the excess to the Heritage Center or the Hubbard House as donated goods for the Plant Sale. We can also use volunteer workers for the day of the sale. Please call Jane at 345-5566 if you would like to donate plants or assistance for the sale.

Thank-you.....

... to Arnold and Rita Gruter for graciously opening their home for the Antiques International Seminar. It proved to be an interesting, informative, and entertaining time.

... to Win Grundmeier and Jo Schultz for appearing on CCTV and KMSU discussing BECHS volunteer opportunities.

... to our new Program Committee Members, Shirley Grundmeier, Bryce Stenzel, Kathryn Hanson, and Peg Ganey. They join Marion Lichtenberg, Eleanor Wittrock, and Lorraine Wright in helping to plan and staff BECHS programs.

... to out-going Program Chair Kay Lamb for your dedication and support of BECHS programs.