

Curation Notes

Jeff Kroke, Collections Manager

I would like to use my first Curation Notes column to introduce myself to those of you in BECHS who I have not met.

I am just completing a Master of Arts Degree in Public History from St. Cloud State University. In addition to the M.A., I have a Bachelor of Science in Public History and a Bachelor of University Studies from North Dakota State University. I have also worked in a variety of museum settings, including the State Historical Society of North Dakota, Clay County Historical Society, and Stearns County Historical Society.

My wife Elizabeth, daughter Kaia, and I are very excited about our move to Mankato, and we are looking forward to settling in and meeting many of you.

Finally, I would like to say how excited I am with the opportunity to work at BECHS. I am impressed with the facilities and collections at BECHS, and I think that the potential in these areas is very promising.

CEMETARY PROJECT - Volunteers will be needed to begin indexing the Glenwood Cemetery Wednesday, June 26th. Those interested in participating in this project should meet at the Heritage Center parking lot at 9:00 a.m. A short training session will be held at the cemetery for new volunteers.

Young Historians

Young Historians will meet on July 20th at 11:00 am, at the Hubbard House. This month's lesson will be soap making, instructed by Mary Harris. Mary will demonstrate soap making, and participants will shape bars to bring home and receive their own recipe for making soap.

To register for the July Young Historians, call the Heritage Center at 345-5566 during business hours.

Membership News

Welcome to the following new and renewing members

<i>Mike & Peg Lawrence</i>	<i>Nancy Hamer</i>
<i>David Pederson</i>	<i>Jerry Hagen</i>
<i>Phyllis Mullin</i>	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Donald Monk</i>
<i>Marilyn Ringheim</i>	<i>Catherine Klugherz</i>
<i>Alice Gerth</i>	<i>Bernice Jones</i>
<i>Herbert Kraus</i>	<i>Mark & Shirley Piepho</i>
<i>Arthur Hogenson</i>	<i>Roger & Monika Leas</i>
<i>Roberta Bartholdi</i>	<i>Dr. & Mrs. William E. Lass</i>
<i>JoAnn Kastner</i>	<i>Robert & Glee Robinson</i>
<i>Waldo Jaax</i>	<i>Burdelle & Leighton Lloyd</i>
<i>Lee & Loretta Snilsberg</i>	<i>Michael & Cheryl Eigen</i>
<i>Peg Ganey</i>	

Thanks to the following for their donations to the
Blue Earth County Historical Society

Mrs. Fred Just
Roger Norland

Memorials

*In memory of Murial Hubbard, given by
The Family of Murial Hubbard*

*In memory of Charles R. Butler, given by
Jerome & Bernita Cumiskey
Louis & Florence Kitsis*

*In memory of Ed Dunlop, given by
Louis & Florence Kitsis*

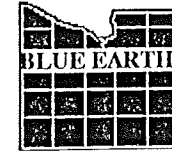
*In memory of John Turner, given by
June Lee*

*In memory of Lois Purrier, given by
The Family of Lois Purrier*

Blue Earth County Historical Society
415 Cherry Street
Mankato, Minnesota 56001
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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

June & July 1991

Calendar of Events

- June - *What A Time We Had . . . Celebrating*
July 7 *Southern Minnesota - An exhibit of photographs made at small town celebrations and other summer events by photographer David Morano. At the Heritage Center Exhibit Gallery.*
- June 29 *Fifth Annual Tour of Homes - Open House tour of five local homes and Old Main Village, all known for their historic significance or unique character.*
- July 20 *Young Historians - Soapmaking at the Hubbard House, 11:00 a.m.*

Heritage Center Hours:

Exhibit Gallery 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday - Sunday

Research Archives 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday - Friday

Hubbard House Hours: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday - Sunday

BECHS Notes

Kathy S. Kremer, Interim Executive Director

To our membership it must seem that BECHS has become an ever-changing entity, and to add to that it is time for me to say good-bye. When I was asked to serve as the Interim Executive Director for the Society, I agreed to do so for only a six-month period. That time will come to a close at the end of July. The past few months have been very challenging, and I hope that I have provided the leadership needed to keep the organization intact during a time of evaluation and change. Thank you for the opportunity to share your history!

Notes from the Board of Trustees

New Board Members

On May 30th the 1990 Annual Meeting of the Blue Earth County Historical Society was held. At that meeting three individuals were elected to our Board of Trustees for a three-year term. New to the Board are Elmer Goodrich, Lona Falen, and Joyce Schoettler. We would like to welcome each of them to the Board, and look forward to working with them in their new positions.

Also new to the Board is Win Grundmeier. Win was appointed by the Board of Trustees at their May meeting to complete the term of office for a vacant Board position.

Retiring Board Members

The trade-off for new Board Members is that we say good-bye to individuals who have played important roles on our Board, and whose terms are now complete. Kay Lamb, Lyle Jacobson, and Helen Jones have now gone off of the Board.

We would like to express our appreciation to each of these individuals. They have been very involved in the work of the organization, and provided us with necessary leadership in our recent growth. Although they now all have the third Tuesday of each month free, we hope that they will remain involved in the work and events of BECHS.

At the May meeting of the Board of Trustees, Board President Susan Stevens Chambers announced her resignation from the Board and the office of President. It was a difficult decision for Sue to make. She has been on the Board for several years, and decided that there were other areas of her life that she needs to devote some time to. Sue has been a valuable asset to the organization, and has led us through some challenging and busy times. The Board and Staff of the Blue Earth County Historical Society would like to thank her for her commitment and contributions to BECHS.

BECHS Members -

Last month we conducted the annual meeting of BECHS. I want to thank those of you who were able to attend. The annual meeting is an excellent opportunity to express any concerns or questions you may have dealing with matters of your Historical Society. As a board member, all input is valued and necessary to continue to foster a strong vibrant society.

Two very important issues were raised at the meeting that are of special interest to all society members. One is the status of the Building Fund, where are we at in regards with past and future expenditures. The second deals with the health of the operating budget.

There will be a special meeting, open to all members of BECHS, to address these two issues in detail. The meeting will be held at the Heritage Center, Tuesday August 20th at 7:00 p.m. Please note this is a change from the meeting date set at the annual meeting.

Tom Weigt, Acting President
BECHS Board of Trustees

What A Time We Had Celebrating Southern Minnesota

An exhibit of photographs made during the state-wide Celebrate Minnesota 1990! series of special events. The images by Minnesota photographer David Morano introduce you to Minnesotans being themselves at small town celebrations, threshing shows, parades, and other summer events.

This exhibit is on display at the Heritage Center Exhibit Gallery through July 7th. We invite you to visit the gallery to share this special photography exhibit.

We're always changing and adding to our inventory at the Hubbard House and Heritage Center Gift Shops. Right now we have a wonderful selection of period post cards, honey that is processed in Blue Earth County, Mankato Area t-shirts and sweatshirts, and a large selection of jewelry and hand-made items.

Stop in to see the new merchandise that is available.

Fifth Annual Tour of Homes

Plan to spend a fascinating day touring homes in the Mankato area at the Blue Earth County Historical Society Tour of Homes, Saturday, June 29, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. We have selected a variety of homes that reflect both our history, and our ability to approach our way of living in a unique and individualized manner. The homes on the tour this year are located at:

1302 North Fourth Street, Mankato
823 South Second Street, Mankato
Old Main Village, Mankato
R.D. Hubbard House, Mankato
2029 Red Ridge Rd., Good Thunder
Cedar Knoll Farm, Good Thunder

Tour Programs and Tickets will be available at the Hubbard House the day of the Tour. Plan to join us for this annual Blue Earth County Historical Society event.

Hubbard House Update

You may recall that in the May BECHS Newsletter I put out a plea for volunteers to staff the Hubbard House on the weekdays during the summer months. One of our members, after reading the request, decided instead to provide us with the funding that we need to pay a museum aide to staff the Hubbard House on the weekdays through Labor Day. This was fantastic news for us, as it allows us to have the Hubbard House open to the public Tuesday - Sunday, from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Plan on visiting the house this summer, and bringing your summer guests to tour the historic home.

Another exciting development is the return of original Hubbard House furniture to the home. Two separate families, descendants of R.D. Hubbard, have contacted us regarding pieces of furniture that they have, and would like to see returned to the house. This makes the restoration of the Hubbard House an even more exciting project.

The Benjamin D. Pay Family

Many Mankato families are noted for starting businesses in this area, but one family, the Benjamin D. Pay family, had several entrepreneurs. Benjamin D. Pay was born in Dover, England and came to the United States at the age of six. He moved to Mankato in 1856 and then to Garden City where he farmed for eight years. In 1862, Ben Pay moved back to Mankato and started a livery business. He organized the Pay Candy Company and established the Ben Pay Hotel.

Benjamin D. Pay and his wife, Mary, had four children. William H. Pay, the eldest son was associated with his father in the Ben Pay Hotel. Benjamin "Frank" Pay organized a building material company under the name Fowler and Pay. It was located near the Coughlan quarry and sold a variety of cement, block, and limestone products. What wasn't made at the site was purchased from other suppliers, many of whom were from this area. The company had limestone kilns and a stone sawing plant. Benjamin D. and Mary's youngest daughter, Mary Louise, worked at the

Fowler and Pay Company for her brother

Daughter Nellie associated with a friend, Nettie Porter, and started "Porter and Pay", an art-needle and gift business. Each fall the two would take a buying trip to New York where Nellie's cousin, John Reed, fashion editor of the Delineator Magazine, squired them on their sightseeing trips around town. The business ran until 1926 when both members of the firm retired. Neither Nellie or Mary Louise ever married. They lived at 427 So. Broad Street in a house that was moved from Second Street in 1925. The brick veneer house is still located at the corner of Broad and Cherry Streets in Mankato.

-Submitted by Georgia Enfield Schultz

A display of hand-held fans used by the women of the Pay Family is located at the Heritage Center. The fans were donated by Mary (Pay) Johnson of Mankato. The display will be up through the end of July.