

## CURATORIAL NOTES

Jeff Kroke

The past six months have been challenging and interesting. Challenging because of the amount of work and interesting because of the large and varied collection our society has and the county's interesting history. We have accomplished much since I began as Collection Manager. The computerization of our collection is up to date, many new and interesting artifacts have been accepted as donations, artifacts have been added to the exhibit gallery, and the indexing of our newspapers has moved steadily along. It would have been impossible to accomplish this alone. The volunteers who were here when I arrived Ken, Orville, Jo, Edith, and Win were an immense help in accomplishing what we have so far. Also, the new volunteers have begun to be a great help in the archives and artifact areas.

This coming year is just as exciting and challenging. New exhibits are planned and, of course, there is the never ending task of caring for our collection. With the help of volunteers old and new this coming year will be a successful year in the collection area.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to ask anyone who feels they have a skill, an interest in history, or just time on their hands to give me a call (345-5566) and volunteer.

## YOUNG HISTORIANS

Jeff Kroke

Young Historians for the month of January will be a program about Maud Hart-Lovelace and her Betsy-Tacy series of books. The program will take place January 25th from 2:00-4:00 at the Heritage Center. The program is free to members and \$1.50 for non-members. Spaces are limited so please call the 345-5566 to reserve a place.

## THANK YOU

A special thanks to all the wonderful people who helped make our bake sales and our Holiday Open House a success! We could not have done it without you!

### Donations

Thanks to the following for donations this past month:

Hy - Vee  
American Banks  
Hilltop Florist  
D L S Designs  
Holiday Inn  
Best Western  
Harpies Bazar  
Jim Mead  
Confer Family Charitable Trust  
Bretts  
Mary Dooley  
Chesley Kroon & Chambers- Attorneys at Law

### Membership News

Thank you to the new and renewing members

Leola Sontag	Robert Layman
Mary Pay Johnson	The Thro Co
Joanne Bierbauer De Witt	Donna Butler
Judy Voss	Elouise Olson
Joyce & Ray Schoettler	Luella Rose
Security State Bank	L.H. Ireland
G.W. & Dena Fischer	Marilyn Birbeck
C. & Olga Vaubel	Viola Holbrook
Irene Burlison	Vern Lundin
John & Eleanor Wittrock	Ernest Hansen
Marian Anderson	Crysteel Mfg.
Harley & Ruth Mohr	Judy Vosbeck
Bill & Margie Ries	Carl Peterson
Darrell & Lucy Apitz	Harry Smith
Nadine Brown	L.W. Andreas
Braam Accounting	Harold Natvig
Anita Stone	Doug Johnson

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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**NEWSLETTER**

## January 1992

### Calendar of Events

Jan 1 Office closed

Jan 25 Young Historians, 2:00-4:00 at the Heritage Center

### BECHS Notes

Linda Henry

The closing of 1991 will soon be upon us and bringing with it a fresh new year. The staff at BECHS have high hopes for 1992. We would like to build our membership, enhance our exhibits, and expand our programs. These goals cannot be accomplished without your help!

It is evident that non profit organizations will see more funding cuts during 1992. BECHS must increase their membership to help cover these cuts. Blue Earth County has approximately 60,000 residents. Only 600 of these residents are members of the Blue Earth County Historical Society. If anyone might be interested in volunteering time towards a membership drive, please call me at the Heritage Center office. (345-5566)

I would like to wish you and your families a safe and Happy New Year!

Published monthly by the Blue Earth County Historical Society.  
Design and layout by Linda L. Henry  
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## WHAT IS THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY?

by Jo Schultz

One of the misconceptions about our historical society is that it is a County agency. Another is that it is run by a permanent group of people. Both statements are incorrect. Actually, you, the members are the Blue Earth County Historical Society. This is the message we need to get before the public.

If a person enjoys history and wants to preserve historically significant items, join, and as a member you will be part of the Society. The Society or Association is run by a Board of Trustees and is made up of 18 citizens of Blue Earth County. Their terms of office are generally for three years. The duties of the trustees are:

- a. to transact the business of the association.
- b. to create committees and approve their plans of work.
- c. to prepare and submit yearly budgets for approval of the association..
- d. to approve routine bills within budget limits .
- e. to be responsible for the development of policies to carry out the purposes of the Society.

That last phrase, "to carry out the purposes of the Society", is worth review. The Blue Earth County Historical Society was incorporated on May 24, 1916 by 13 county citizens interested in the preservation of our history. Some of the names of the founders include Judge Lorin Cray, Attorney and historian Thomas Hughes, George Palmer of the Hubbard Mill, Dr. John W. Andrews and newspaper editor, Charles Wise. This group of citizens and the early members of the Society have left us a trust. . . to maintain the purposes of the Society. Just what have we been charged to do?

- a. to collect, preserve and publish materials relating to the history of Blue Earth County.
- b. to collect biographic sketches and portraits of its pioneers and prominent citizens.
- c. to record the settling of the County and the growth of its towns and institutions.
- d. to gather a museum of articles to illustrate the condition of settlement and the history of the County.

- e. to collect and maintain for public use, a library of books, maps, pamphlets, manuscripts on the local history.
- f. to provide for the marking and preservation of historical sites and buildings.

We have approximately 600 members. We will only be as strong as our membership. We need to grow and each of us has a part in assisting with the purpose of the Society. We need your assistance, both in financial support and in using your time and talents. Read through our purpose again. How can you help meet this purpose? Good progress has been made over the years. Let's dedicate 1992 toward making the Blue Earth County Historical Society better than ever!

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## HUBBARD HOUSE

Our sincere thanks to Joyce Hubbard Brau for giving the Society the Hubbard dining room table. It is wonderful to have original pieces belonging to the Hubbard Family back in the Hubbard House. We hope to have the table on display early this Spring after Fred and Betty Cords have refinished the table.

Katie Fitzgerald Payton also brought in many original lace doillies and table linens used in the Hubbard mansion. The Society is able to have these items on a loan basis to use for exhibit during special events held at Hubbard House. Our thanks to the Fitzgerald Family.

## Program Update

Linda Henry

The Holiday Open House was a fun filled day even though the weather was a bit nasty. Arnold Gruter played Santa again this year, and of course was a hit with all the children. We were also fortunate to have Dick Chambers taking pictures of the children with Santa. Dick not only volunteered his time, he also supplied the film free of charge. We would also like to say thank you to the following people for volunteering their time: Kathryn Hanson, Kathy Trauger, Marian Lichtenberg, Karen Volling, Susie Wilson, Harley & Janet Goff, Tom & Bridget Weigt, Fred & Betty Cords, Joyce Schoettler, and Shirley Grundmeier. Open House would not have been a success without YOU! Following are the winners of the door prizes:

Jeanie Ward - \$100 Savings Bond -American Bank  
Wynn Kearney - Save Mor gift certificate  
Rita Schoenstedt - Best Western gift certificate  
Ruth Wilson- Hy-Vee gift certificate  
Roger Reinhart- Holiday Inn gift certificate

We do not have any programs scheduled for the month of January. The month of February will be a busy one. We will have Hubbard House decorated with Valentine decorations. If anyone might have any antique Valentine Cards or Valentine candy boxes they would like to display please call me at 345-5566. We also hope to have a doll collection and a bear collection on display. There will also be a Betsy-Tacy exhibit on the second floor of Hubbard House.

On February 16th, the Heritage Center will host the program Abraham Lincoln and Blue Earth County. There will be hourly skits of various stages of Abraham Lincoln's life and his involvement with Blue Earth County. We are also in need of memorabilia relating to Abraham Lincoln. If you might have any items call 345-5566.

I would like to give special thanks to the Program Committee for all their hard work during the last year. They are a strong committee and always willing to help. We would love to hear any suggestions or ideas you might have for any new programs for 1992.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

## The Man in the Glass

When you get what you want in  
struggle for self  
And the world makes you king for a day.  
Just go to a mirror and look at yourself  
And see what *that* man has to say.  
For it isn't your father or mother or wife  
Whose judgment upon you must pass,  
The fellow whose verdict counts most  
in your life  
Is the one staring back from the glass.  
Some people might think you're a  
straight-shootin' chum  
And call you a wonderful guy.  
But the man in the glass says you're  
only a bum  
If you can't look him straight in the eye.  
He's the fellow to please, never mind  
all the rest  
For he's with you clear to the end,  
And you've passed your most  
dangerous test  
If the guy in the glass is your friend.  
You may fool the whole world down the  
pathway of years  
And get pats on the back as you pass,  
But the final reward will be heartache  
and tears  
If you've cheated the man in the glass.

-Author Unknown