

PROGRAM UPDATE

Linda Henry

Easter Wonderland was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Approximately 152 people came to see the bunnies, chickens, and display of children's toys. Toni Kramer was the winner of the large Easter basket and Easter book. A special thanks to everyone for helping make Easter Wonderland a fun time! We are happy to report that \$171.28 was made at the event!!

At the time this newsletter goes to press the Heritage Dinner will not yet have been held, so I will give you a more detailed report in next month's newsletter. I would like to thank Betty Cords for all the time she has volunteered to help make this dinner a most pleasant evening.

Our Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 9, 1992 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at the Hubbard House, 606 S Broad St., Mankato. We will have a lovely assortment of annuals and perennials. Be sure to register for the following door prizes to be given away at the 2:00 pm drawing.

Reg Perm & Cut - Cost Cutters

Gift Certificate - JC Penney

Gift Certificate - Herberger's

Gift Certificate - Patterson's Jewelry

You could also be of help to us by contributing any perennial plants that you now have in your gardens that could be divided at this time of year. Please bring these plants to the Heritage Center no later than Friday May 8, 1992.

BECHS will be sponsoring the raffle of a 35 Sonar Minn-Kota Electric Trolling Motor. The tickets will be 50 cents each and will go on sale at the Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale. The drawing will be held on Friday, June 19, 1992. Johnson Fishing Inc. of Mankato has been kind enough to donate this motor and all proceeds will benefit BECHS. What a wonderful and inexpensive way to give Dad a great Father's Day gift and pick up some flowers for Mom for Mother's Day at the same time!

Membership News

Thank you to the new and renewing members

Tom & Julie Frederick	Virginia Hughes Berg
J. James Hitchcock	Wynn Kearney
Katie Fitzgerald Payton	Joseph M. Dobie
May Low Ballman	Sandra Cole Ganske
Robert Marshall	Garnet Nelson
Ted & Evelyn Roemer	Iona Bursaw
Christine and James Deike	Mrs D. H. Freeman
Mr & Mrs John Norris	Chuck Piehl
Barbara Starboard Rivera	Dr Raymond A. Sanford
Charles & Carol Ries	Margaret Schwankl
Roger & Gail Norland	Dr & Mrs W. D. Wessman
Jerry & Delilah Keenan	Mrs Rachel Wigley
	Lester Anderson

YOUNG HISTORIANS

Jeff Kroke

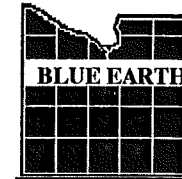
The subject of the May Young Historian program is fishing. John Boutchee, an avid fisherman, will introduce us to the fine art of catching fish. Participants will also make their own lure. The program will take place on the evening of Tuesday, May 12, from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Space is limited so please call the Heritage Center at 345-5566 to reserve your place.

Published monthly by the Blue Earth County Historical Society.
Design and layout by Linda L. Henry
©1992 Blue Earth County Historical Society

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Phyllis Mullin
315 E Jackson St
Mankato, MN 56001



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

May 1992 Calendar of Events

- May 9 *Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. at Hubbard House, 606 S Broad St., Mankato*
- May 10 *Mother's Day*
- May 12 *Young Historians - 6:00 - 7:00 pm Heritage Center, 415 Cherry St., Mankato*
- May 25 *Memorial Day - (observed) Office Closed*

BECHS NOTES

Linda Henry, Executive Director

May is an exciting month, things just seem to be coloring up all around us. We're all eager to get outside to start gardening projects, and just enjoy the great outdoors. BECHS is hoping to capitalize on this feeling by holding our Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale at the Hubbard House, May 9, 1992.

In order for the plant sale to be a success we really need the support of all our members and friends.

The plans for the Heritage Dinner are almost complete and I am happy to report we have already sold 180 tickets at this time.

I would like to thank all our members and volunteers for the great support the Society is receiving. It is wonderful working with our volunteers and I truly appreciate all the hard work they're doing. If you should find you have some extra time on your hands, please come to the Heritage Center and join our friendly volunteer staff. We can always use help with filing, cutting of newspaper clippings, research, programs and much more. Hope to see you soon!

Happy Mother's Day!

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mankato, MN 56001
Permit No. 343

Gathering of Historic Relics Has Real Meaning

W.H. Pay

FACTS ABOUT MOTHERHOOD

The experience of Motherhood is a trying one to most women and marks distinctly an epoch in their lives. Not one woman in a hundred is prepared or understands how to properly care for herself. Of course nearly every woman nowadays has medical treatment at the time of child-birth, but many approach the experience with an organism unfitted for the trial of strength, and when the strain is over her system has received a shock from which it is hard to recover. Following right upon this comes the nervous strain of caring for the child, and a distinct change in the mother results.

There is nothing more charming than a happy and healthy mother of children, and indeed child-birth under the right conditions need be no hazard to health or beauty. The unexplainable thing is that, with all the evidence of shattered nerves and broken health resulting from an unprepared condition, women will persist in going blindly to the trial.

It isn't as though the experience came upon them unawares. They have ample time in which to prepare, but they, for the most part, trust to chance and pay the penalty.

In many homes once childless there are now children because of the fact that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound makes women normal, healthy, strong.

Any woman who would like special advice in regard to this matter is cordially invited to write Mrs. Pinkham at Lynn, Mass. Her letters will be held in strict confidence.

Reprint from Mankato Free Press - date unknown

Blue Earth County is about to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of its founding, and except for the writings of Thomas Hughes there has been little concerted effort to preserve the history of the brave men and women who came into this valley when it was a wilderness, and laid the very foundation stones of the civilization that we now enjoy.

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is coming into the field very late. The first pioneers are going or gone and their works are but a fading memory. Their fierce conflict with cold and hardship and poverty and savage men is remembered like a tale that is told. The deposit of their hope and courage and perseverance and splendid trust in God is in danger of being swept away by the tide of time, if some effort is not made by this generation to preserve it. We need the memory of these strong daring God fearing people, their joys and their griefs, their wisdom and their folly and their altogether human and kindly ways in a day that is drifting toward the hard and materialistic.

There is hardly a family settled in the country before 1900 that has not some tale of courage or tenderness or daring to relate, or that does not possess some object around which clusters revealing memories.

We have not yet a proper place to store such objects, but the Historical Society would ask you to guard in your homes every article of historic value for the day when we will have a place to preserve them. In this way you will waken in yourselves and your children a historic sense which is the very roots of a race, and when you find that your houses are bursting with treasure it will be no hard task to persuade you to make an appropriation for a proper treasure house. In the matter of preserving historic material a sensible discrimination is necessary. A thing may be a curiosity without being a relic, or it may be old without having any historic value.

For a thing to be worth while to build a place for and care for it must have intrinsic, educational, or historic value. An old axe picked up at somebody's woodpile, is not worth preserving of itself, but if it is the axe that felled the first tree in the settlement of Mankato, it is a thing of historic value. It is as if it were a page of early history.

A bell of itself is not worthy of a place in a historic

collection, but if it is a bell that was brought up the river to Redwing and hauled from there by one of our first pioneers with an ox-team, and hung in the little Indian mission church in St Clair and was the first bell that ever sent out its notes on the air of our country calling the people to the worship of the true God. It becomes at once historic and educational.

It often happens that an object by itself has little value but if taken in series it is highly educational. A spinning wheel is not so rare as to be valuable from the fact alone but if we could reconstruct the primitive method of making cloth the wheel should have its place. There are without doubt in this county today, some of them perhaps made by hand here in the county, The cards for carding wool, the wheel for spinning the reel for making it into skeins, the dyes of the various nuts and barks and weeds that were used in coloring, the quills and the quill wheel for winding the yarn, the shuttle, the loom with its heddles and treadles and reed, the warping bars, and even the garment or piece of cloth.

There are candle molds and such an object would become the centre of a collection showing the evolution of the "dip" a wick floating on a saucer of oil, the candle with its candle sticks and snuffers, the old kerosene lamp, and at last the electric bulb. There are mottoes, pictures wrought with worsted in beautiful colors. There are even little figures made from the earth of the Blue Earth River, and delicately colored to be found in the country, and there are here and there articles made by the Indians of rare value.

Besides all these there is a wealth of anecdotes of the early settlers. The stories they used to tell, the songs they used to sing, their dances, their fights, their horse races, their war with the Indians, their churches and schools, their quiet old age and their passing. Can we not yet serve some shreds and glimpses of these days, and the dear human kindly people to help us to "carry on" in our own day.

The assembling of genuine relics will be greatly facilitated by the great home coming event in June and every root family in the county should see to it that they are in some way represented in the "treasure hall" that Blue Earth County will have in the near future.

Curatorial Notes

Jeff Kroke

Many people collect newspapers and clippings of special events in their lives or important events in history. The paper used in newspapers is the most difficult type of paper to save. The process used to make newsprint and other lower quality papers creates impurities in the paper itself, causing preservation problems. The impurities found in the paper will become active under certain environmental conditions and hasten the decomposition of the paper.

The environmental factors which effect the life of newsprint are light, heat, humidity, and handling. High amounts of light and heat will cause the chemical impurities in the newsprint to activate and decompose the paper at a faster rate. A good example of this process is a newspaper which has been left near an open window in direct sunlight. The paper will yellow quickly and become brittle. The factors of light and heat can be easily controlled by keeping the newsprint stored in a cold dark area. Humidity can also have an effect on newsprint, if the humidity is too high mildews may form and ruin the paper; and if the humidity is too low the paper will become brittle and began to decompose. The best relative humidity is from 30 to 40%. When handling the papers or clippings ensure that you have clean hands to keep from transferring anything on your hands to the newspapers.

Also, it is important to avoid fluctuations in temperature and humidity. Changes in these factors will speed the decomposition of the paper.

Another more permanent method of preserving an item is encapsulation. The paper is sandwiched between two sheets of clear mylar plastic. The paper which is encapsulated should be put through the process of deacidification prior to encapsulation. Deacidification can be performed with materials found in most drug stores. For the "recipe" for deacidification contact me at the Heritage Center. The simplest and most effective method of preserving the information is through xeroxing. The importance of a newsclipping is not in the piece of newspaper, but the information it contains. Xeroxing on quality paper will preserve the information much longer than the original paper it was printed on.

If anyone needs more information about preserving their paper heirlooms such as scrapbooks, clippings, or newspapers please call me at the Heritage Center.