



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March/April 1995

Blue Earth County Historian

The Dethloff Family



The Dethloff Family. Standing, left to right: Lois Dethloff, K.C. Rueter, Dick Dethloff, Hazel Dethloff Ratcliffe, and Shelby Rueter. Seated, left to right: Karl, Kelly, and Allegra Rueter

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The Blue Earth County Historical Society is proud to announce that the 1995 Annual Heritage Family Dinner will honor the Dethloff family of Amboy, Minnesota.

From Fredrick and Katharine Dethloff's purchase of the Oak Ridge farm in 1898, to Dick and Lois Dethloff's farming and operating "The

Villager" today, this family has been and continues to be very active in Amboy.

Honor the Dethloff family at the Heritage Dinner on Tuesday, April 18, at Mick's Place in Amboy. Cost is \$10.50 per person. Social hour is at 6:00 p.m. and dinner is at 7:00 p.m.



Blue Earth County Historian

The *Blue Earth County Historian* is published bimonthly by the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is a non-profit organization and has been collecting and preserving artifacts of historical value to the people of south central Minnesota since 1901.

BECHS is the only organization or institution entirely dedicated to the collection, preservation and exhibition of Blue Earth County History.

Blue Earth County Historian Staff

Editor: Michelle Maaack Friedrichs
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Please direct any inquiries or submissions to the Newsletter Committee:

Blue Earth County Historical Society
Heritage Center
415 Cherry St.
Mankato, MN 56001

BECHS also operates the historic R. D. Hubbard House. Built in 1871 by Rensselaer D. Hubbard, founder of Hubbard Milling Company, the elegant mansion and nearby brick carriage house contain many displays and artifacts which are open to the public.

The Hubbard House is owned by the city of Mankato and has been operated by BECHS since 1938.

The Hubbard House is being restored. It is listed on the State Historical Record, as well as the National Register of Historic Places.

Hubbard House
606 S. Broad St.
Mankato, MN
Closed for restoration

Dethloff Family History

Note: the following article is taken from Kelly Rueter's, "Dethloff Family History" in *The Heritage of Blue Earth County, Minnesota* (1990).

Fredrick Dethloff, son of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Dethloff, was born on September 24, 1859, in Mecklenberg, Germany. Along with his parents and two sisters, Fredrick came to the United States in 1869 and lived on a farm in LaSalle County, Illinois.

On October 25, 1880, Fredrick Dethloff married Katharine Strobel, in Ransom, Illinois. Katharine, daughter of

Joseph and Elizabeth Strobel, was born on June 18, 1860, in Ohio. Fredrick and Katharine's son, Joseph Christian Dethloff, was born on November 23, 1881, in Ransom, Illinois.

In the fall of 1898, Fredrick and Katharine Dethloff purchased the Oak Ridge Farm in Shelby Township, Blue Earth County, Minnesota, from Johannes Baumgartner. On February 8, 1899, Fred moved his family--wife Kate, son Joseph, father Christian, and adopted daughter Julia--to the farm. Although the original home on this farmstead was a



The Dethloff Family of Oak Ridge Farm (1940)
Standing, left to right: Hazel Hicks Dethloff, Oscar Dethloff, Betty Hoag Malchow, Bessie Dethloff Hoag, Glen Hoag, Joseph Dethloff, Nellie Bussie Dethloff. Seated, left to right: Katharine Strobel Dethloff, Richard Dethloff, Fredrick Dethloff

log cabin, the Dethloffs' moved into a large two-family farmhouse.

On October 19, 1904, Joseph Christian Dethloff married Nellie Ida Busse on the Busse Farm, northwest of Amboy. Joseph gave his bride an opal ring, along with a gold wedding band. He also chose blue, his favorite color, as the



Dick and Lois Dethloff
July 19, 1953

color of Nellie's wedding gown. The wedding gown was made by his mother, Katharine. Joseph's favorite flower was lily-of-the-valley, and even though they were not available in October, he wanted his bride to wear them at their wedding. Artificial lily-of-the-valley were used in Nellie's bouquet and veil. Along with the veil and a wedding portrait, these flowers are preserved in a beautiful gold shadow box frame. In later years, Nellie told of her

wedding day as a very festive occasion with a lot of merriment and feasting.

Joseph and Nellie Dethloff were blessed with two children: both born on the Oak Ridge Farm. Oscar Arthur arrived on October 25, 1905, and Bessie Rosella on November 30, 1907.

Joseph, Nellie, and the children lived in the family home on the Oak Ridge Farm. Fredrick and Katharine lived in the northwest side of the house, and Joseph and Nellie lived in the the southeast side. In the 1920's, Nellie remodeled her home and was proud of how it looked. However, in January, 1926, a chimney fire began in the house which was impossible to put out. It burned slowly for hours, and many friends and neighbors came to carry out the possessions from the ground floor.

During the building of the new Dethloff house, the family lived in the farm shop. A new house was built as a two-story family home. The south side was Fred and Kate's (or Pap and



Four Generations:
Left to right: Nellie, Hazel, Kelly, and Lois

Grammy as they came to be called) and the north side was Joe and Nellie's.

The tastes of the two generations of Dethloff women are still evident in the home today. Nellie, who loved beautiful things, installed oak woodwork, an open stairway, *"Dethloff," continued on pg. 4*



Dick, Lois, and Kelly Dethloff

"Dethloff," continued from pg. 3 and pillars with a built-in china hutch and desk between the living room and the dining room. Kate, who was unconcerned with fancy things, had her side of the home built with pine woodwork and no extra frills.

Fred and Katharine Dethloff celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on October 25, 1940, with four generations of their family at the farm.

On April 10, 1941, Fred died at his home from a heart ailment. The *Amboy Herald* referred to Fred as being "of sturdy and energetic pioneer stock and his life symbolized many years of hard and honest farm work, reflected in a most sterling character admired and respected by both family and friends." Katharine Strobel Dethloff died at her home on March 16, 1943. Fred and Kate are buried in Pleasant View Cemetery.

Joseph Dethloff raised prize poultry for many years. In 1951, he was selected as the outstanding farmer-sportsman in Blue Earth County. Joe, his son Oscar, and grandson

Richard, were three generations of charter members of the Redhead Sportsman's Club of Amboy. (The club began on November 7, 1946.)

Joseph passed away on November 8, 1952. Nellie

Malchow, who was born on May 24, 1927, and a foster daughter, Arlien Marsh Kosiolek.

Oscar married Hazel Hicks, daughter of Edward and Luella Louer Hicks, on February 11, 1930, in Mankato. They had

one son, Richard Dale, who was born on May 14, 1933, at the Oak Ridge Farm.

Richard Dethloff married Lois Jean Boesch at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Amboy. Lois was born on November 1, 1933, and is the daughter of Richard and Olinda Boesch. Both Dick and

Lois graduated from Amboy High School in 1951. They have one daughter, Kelly Jo, who was born in Mankato on her grandfather's birthday, October 25, 1954.

The family home on the Oak Ridge Farm became a three family home for many years. After a new kitchen was built onto the deck, Dick's family lived on the second floor.

Dick served in the Army from November 1954 until 1956, when he came home to farm with his father. Oscar
"Dethloff," continued on pg. 8



Left to right: K.C. Rueter, Lois Dethloff, Allegra Rueter, Dick Dethloff, and Shelby Rueter

Dethloff continued to be an active member of many church and community organizations, as well as keeping her own house. In the spring of 1974, when she was 88 years old, she entered the Winnebago Home, and later the Mapleton Community Home. She passed away on February 13, 1983, in Mapleton.

Joe and Nellie Dethloff's children, Oscar and Bessie, grew up on the Oak Ridge Farm. Bessie married Glen Hoag on April 11, 1926. They had one daughter, Betty Hoag

On February 16, 1920, a group of fifteen young matrons-- Mrs. Lorin Cray, Mrs. H.M. Currier, Mrs. R.O. Eberhart, Mrs. H.H. Fuller, Mrs. A.D. Goss, Mrs. B.A. Harrup, Mrs. G.S. Petterson, Mrs. George Palmer, Mrs. C.D. Snow, Mrs. E.S. Selle, Mrs. W.A. Streator, and Mrs. G.R. Willard--met at the home of Mrs. Currier to

75 Years of Continuous Reading: Thursday Reading Club of Mankato

organize a book study club, which would give the women something to think about other than social activities. They agreed to meet in members' homes on the first and third Thursdays from the first of

the study of literature."

Meetings began with one member hosting the event and another member reviewing a book. In the early years, the Program Committee chose and *"Thursday," continued on pg. 6*

October to the first of April, and to limit the membership to twenty. Members paid dues of one dollar. Their stated purpose was "to promote culture by



Thursday Reading Club 60th Anniversary, 1980:

Standing, left to right: Nancy Hamer, Dorothy Lindsey, Norma Thomas, Marge Meredith, Patty Lloyd, Margaret Lewellen, Jan Van Sickle, Bea McLean, Marian Christianson, Margaret Setzer, Irene Mueller, Julie Miller, Ann Snilsberg. Seated, left to right: Carol Blethen, Eleanor Meagher, Bernetta Youel, Amber Van Eaton, Mart Hapke, Kathy Bristol, Meridel Kellogg, Hollie Rockey, Fern Williams, Marcia Richards

"Thursday,"

continued from pg. 5

assigned books for members to review. Since 1969, each member has chosen her own book. The other members are usually not aware of what book has been selected until the afternoon of the meeting, and are frequently delighted with the surprise of hearing a review of a book that offers education, entertainment, or insight.

Often, the theme selected for the hostess and reviewer proves to be very interesting. This year, each is asked to tell of a prejudice, myth, ritual, point of view, belief, or practice that she has noted changes in over the years.

Today there are twenty-five members, dues are two dollars a year, and meetings are on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from late September until early April. Since 1981, their specific purpose has been "to provide information, entertainment, and fellowship through the sharing of book reviews."

In general, the meetings are comfortable, educational, stimulating, and full of conversation. Members read a variety of books. Recent titles



Thursday Reading Club 70th Anniversary, 1990:
Back row, left to right: Marcia Richards, Patty Lloyd, Eve Hughes, Linda Berkland, Karen McGregor, Julie Miller, Nancy Hamer, Marcia Hason, Dorothy Lindsay. Middle row, left to right: Toy Blethen, Margaret Setzer, Cathy Bristol, Marti Ryan, Norma Thomas, Bea McLean, Marge Thomas, Margaret Lewellyn. Front row, left to right: Sanky Smith, Georgia Rettmer, Jean Lander, Sue Tolin, Bev Smith, and Amber Van Eaton

include *A Woman of Egypt*, *The Pueblo Storyteller*, *Life and Legends of Buffalo Bill*, *A Jewish Girl's Christmas*, *A Cookbook from the Melting Pot*, *Life and Death in Shanghai*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *Mama Makes Up Her Mind*, and *The Jack Benny Story*.

Each year the Thursday Reading Club presents at least one book to the Minnesota Valley Regional Library as a memorial or a gift. In honor of their 75th anniversary, they are contributing one-hundred dollars and two books: *A Dictionary of American Proverbs* and *A Celebration of American Folklore*.

Beginning the first year--1920-21--a President's

Luncheon has been held as the final meeting of the season. This year the members will have their President's Luncheon on April 13, at the Country Pub. This will be the official celebration of the 75th anniversary. Featured speaker, Lynne Hamer, who has her Ph.D. in folklore from Indiana University, will present the results of her project in writing a history and ethnography of the

Thursday Reading Club.

Current club members include Linda Berkland, Toy Blethen, Catherine Bristol, Ginny Danish (president), Lenore Else, Nancy Hamer, Kathryn Hanson, Elizabeth Kearney, Merideth Kellogg, Margaret Lewellyn, Dorothy Lindsay, Donabel Linney, Marcia Mason, Karen McGregor, Bea McLean, Julie Miller, Mary O'Sullivan, Georgia Rettmer, Marcia Richards, Nina Runck, Margaret Setzer, Florence Sponberg, Marge Thomas, Norma Thomas, and Sue Tolin. Reserve members include Jean Lander and Irene Mueller. Bernetta Youel is an honorary member.

Upcoming Events

Heritage Dinner

Honoring the Dethloff
Family

Tuesday, April 18
Social hour at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
Mick's Place, Amboy

Shimmers of Summer

Benefit Style Show

Thursday, April 27
7:00 p.m.

Best Western Garden Inn,
North Mankato

Tickets - \$8.00
Purchase at Creeger Coat
Company, from Ginny
Hanel at 947-3485, or at the
door.

Mother's Day Plant Sale

Saturday, May 13
9:00 a.m. -- 1:00 p.m.
Hubbard House Gardens

Membership News

Thank you to the new and returning members.

Virginia Addleman
Elaine Anderson
Hugh Belgard Family
John and Faith Close
Dr. and Mrs. G.W. Fischer
Mr. and Mrs. Sal Frederick
Marlene Fredricks
Katherine Frost
Jack and Shirley Higginbotham
Max and Dorothy Hoxie
Richard F. Huettl
Lyle and Kay Jacobson
Robert Junge
Arn and Margaret Kind
Don Kvasnicka
Neal and Kay Lund

Iris Nigg Lundeen
Bette Manke
Karen McGregor
Mr. and Mrs. E.D. McLean
Ethel R. Medalen
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Meyer
Marsha Qualset
Tom and Marcia Richards, in
memory of Robert J. Lloyd
Michael Schullin
Gary Schweim
Mrs. Leona Schweim
Thomas Schweim
Stanley Steel
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Thompson

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Heritage Center

415 Cherry St., Mankato
(507) 345-5566

Exhibit Gallery

Tuesday-Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

Research Center

Tuesday-Saturday, 1-4 p.m.

Hubbard House

606 S Broad St., Mankato
closed for restoration

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

"Dethloff," continued from pg. 4
Dethloff passed away on
December 17, 1957.

During the 1950's and
1960's, Lois worked at Boesch
Insurance Agency in Amboy
and Dick drove buses for
Amboy Bus Service. In the
spring of 1970, Dick and Lois
began a new business venture
by starting "The Villager" family
clothing store. The endeavor
was so successful, that the gift
section of the store was moved
across the street in 1974, and
became "Villager II." This store,
managed by their daughter,
Kelly, was sold in 1977 so that
she could devote her time to
her new family. Throughout all
of these years, Dick continued
to work on the family farm.

On May 15, 1976, Kelly
Dethloff married Karl George

Rueter at the Immaculate
Conception Church in St. Clair.
In January, 1977, Karl and
Kelly purchased a home on
South Street West in Amboy.
Karl farmed with his family
near St. Clair and worked in
auto body repair. He operated
Amboy Auto Body in the late
1970's and early 1980's. Karl
now farms with his father-in-
law, Dick Dethloff, on the Oak
Ridge Farm. Karl and Kelly
have three children: Karl
Christian (born on September
29, 1977), Shelby Caroline
(born on April 12, 1979), and
Allegra Ann (born on March
16, 1985).

The Rueter family is also
carrying on an old family
tradition by becoming involved
with the Amboy community.
Karl serves on the Amboy Fire

Department. He and his son,
K.C., belong to the Redhead
Sportsman's Club. Kelly served
as executive secretary of the
Amboy Area Chamber of
Commerce and, along with
her mother, co-chaired the
Amboy Centennial Celebration
in 1979. Kelly wrote a book of
Amboy's history, entitled,
*Amboy, Minnesota--A Heritage
Rooted in Rural America.*

On April 18, the Dethloff
family will be honored at the
Heritage Family Dinner. This
event will be at Mick's Place in
Amboy. Social hour begins at
6:00 p.m. and dinner is at 7:00
p.m. Cost is \$10.50 per person
for a buffet dinner, which
includes turkey, pork chops,
dressing, mashed potatoes,
gravy, carrots, salad, and
dessert.