

The Blue Earth County Historian

Blue Earth County Historical Society Winter 2002

Water Power at Rapidan *Has Long Been Utilized*

Pioneer Grist Mill Built on Site of Present Power Dam About 1863; Mankato Businessman Recalls Boyhood at Mill, History of Place

This article is reprinted from the February 25, 1939 Mankato Free Press. The spelling and punctuation remains as it appeared originally. We hope you enjoy it. - Editor

Blue Earth county was a milling center as far back as the ox-cart and candlelight days in Minnesota. This county being one of the most abundantly watered regions of the Northwest, with seven rivers flowing over its expanse, the early settlers took advantage of the rapidly flowing streams by harnessing them for waterpower.

In pioneer days, many gristmills were built in this county. Among these was Rapidan mill, which went through many hands before the property upon which it was founded was acquired by the Northern States Power company in 1910. The large accompanying cut was made from an artist's sketch made in 1876, long before a bridge across the Blue Earth River was built at that point. The mill shown in the larger illustration was later destroyed by fire. The smaller picture shows the same site many years afterwards. The flat-roofed building on the extreme left near the river was known in later years as the Thomas Rodgers mill. After the completion of the Northern States Power company dam, this mill was razed, together with the other buildings nearby, and over where they stood is now sixty feet of the waters of Rapidan lake. The iron bridge seen in the cut was removed after the dam was built.

Ellsworth W. Willard, who lived at Rapidan when he was a boy, in an interview given to the Free Press has the following to say in regard to the early history of milling at that point:

By ELLSWORTH W. WILLARD

Traveling west from Rapidan station, you soon arrive at the hill leading down to the Rapidan dam and bridge. Perhaps you pause a moment to drink in the beauty of the scene that lies before you, perhaps you park your car for a moment and walk out on the bridge to get a view down the river gorge or of the lake above. More than likely you just drive on, little realizing the early natural beauty, the romance and history that lies buried beneath the waters of Rapidan lake.

Let us turn back the pages of time to March 1854. A young surveyor, Basil Moreland, while on a hunting trip up the Blue Earth river in the Winnebago Indian reservation, came out of the timber at the top of the bank on the east side of the river and lo, at his very feet lay a kingdom, as he thought, just for the taking. A great horseshoe bend in the river, a mile of foaming rapids, the outside or the horseshoe, steep banks and the inside a hundred acres or more of beautifully timbered hardwood forest. Here he realized was one of the finest natural waterpowers he had ever seen. There was timber for his home, for saw mill and gristmill buildings with the necessary brush and timber dam, game in the forest and an abundance of fish in the river.

He knew he stood upon forbidden ground and that this was Indian land—a part of the Winnebago reservation, but he reasoned that the Indians could not use the water power and he could, so, with customary regard shown the Indians at that time and believing that the reservation would some time soon be opened up for settlement anyway, he made up his mind then and there to own it. Within a few weeks he had built a substantial log house and taken complete possession, planning the building of a mill on the lower end of the rapids, but a dark shadow in the form of the long arm of Uncle Sam's Indian agency overtook him. He was ordered off the land, but naturally, he refused to go. Nevertheless, in the fall of 1856 he was evicted by the United States government.

Rapidan Dam continued on Page 3.

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The Blue Earth County Historian is published quarterly for the members of BECHS. BECHS has the mission of collecting, preserving and publishing material relating to the history of Blue Earth County.

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Please consider joining BECHS. Members receive free admission to the Heritage Museum, free access to the research center, free admission to the R. D. Hubbard House non-event tours, reduced admission for special events, quarterly newsletter, discount on many items in the museum shop, and the ability to help preserve the heritage of Blue Earth County!

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Please write your Name, Address, Phone number and e-mail address on a card and send it along with your check payable to BECHS and send it to BECHS 415 Cherry Street, Mankato MN 56001. Your e-mail addresses will be used to send notices of programs, exhibits and other BECHS news. It will not be given or sold to anyone.

Please contact us at: 507-345-5566 or by e-mail at:
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From the Executive Director

This winter has been a very busy time for us at BECHS. We have been involved in several aspects of the sesquicentennial celebration. The entire year will be filled with activities relating to the anniversary of the arrival of the first settlers to move to the bend of the river following the opening up of the land under the treaty of Traverse des Sioux.

BECHS will be putting on additional exhibits and programs to tie into the events. It is a time to reflect upon where we have come from. While this is often on the minds of the staff and volunteers of BECHS, having this as a major theme for the next 12 months is a very exciting situation.

I encourage you to look into these events and take some time to reflect upon what the development has meant to different people, both from a positive and in some cases a negative perspective.

I have often been involved in discussions about what is history and what parts of history are important and should be told. Some people want to sugar coat history and only remember the positive. Others have argued that it is offensive to celebrate something that is painful for some. To this I agree wholeheartedly, but as a historian I think that commemorating history is different from celebrating it. We can and should look to the past to learn not only from our mistakes but also from our successes.

The sesquicentennial provides the opportunity for everyone to reflect upon the past while looking to the future. We at BECHS look forward to continuing our mission of preserving the past for the next century and beyond.

James C. Lundgren
Executive Director

Rapidan Dam continued from page 1.

Forced Off Land

A legal battle started. He regained possession again in 1861, but in 1863, this land was sold and Basil Moreland was forced off the land, as was the Basil of Evangeline exiled from the land he loved. Some 50 years later, Mr. Moreland, then an old man living in California, received \$2,012 as payment for his buildings—from a just government. Showing that there was inefficiency in government in those early days, they took a property (for which Basil Moreland had been offered \$25,000 if he could deliver deed, and for which the Indian department had been offered \$1,000 per year for a 30 year lease) and sold it with other land to the law firm of Willard and Barney for \$1,212 at public sale.

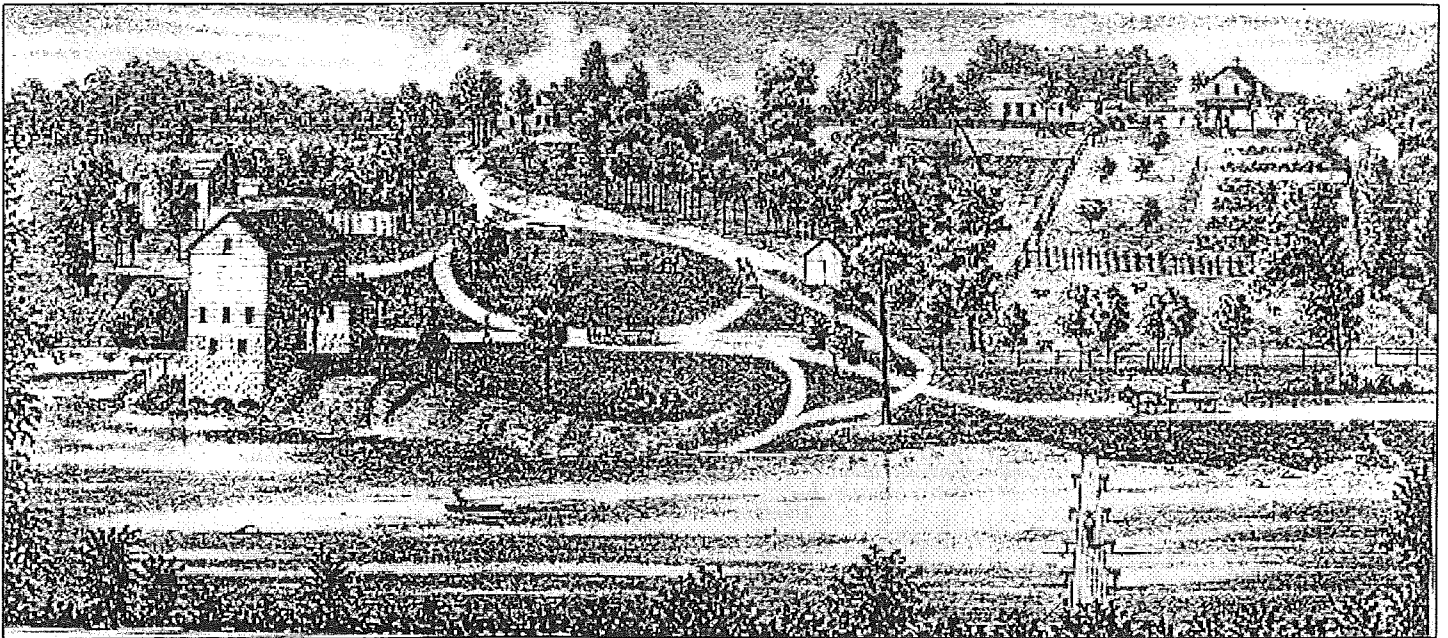
In 1864, the property was purchased by Silas Kenworthy who in partnership with his sons-in-law, James B. Swan and H. W. Mendenhall, started the construction of a flour mill at the lower rapids in the winter of 1865 and 1866. It was a very fine mill for those days, built of timber frame, 30 feet by 40 feet, four stories high with two runs of four-foot stone buhrs for grinders. The completed mill and timber dam was put in at a cost of \$15,000. (This is the mill shown in the picture) Kenworthy and

company, as their firm was called, enjoyed a very fine business.

At the same time that the mill was built, Mr. C. P. Cook acquired a small tract of land near the mill and laid out a town site calling it Rapidan after the river then famous in war history in Virginia. So here about this pioneer mill grew up the little community of Rapidan which for many years played an important part in the development of Blue Earth county and our glorious state of Minnesota.

Discouraged by Damage

In the year 1884, Mr. Kenworthy died and the mill was operated by Mendenhall, Swan and Knutson. Mr. Kenworthy had sold his third interest to Hans Knutson several years before his death. Mr. Knutson, however, was discouraged because of the damage done by the high water of 1880, which washed out their milldam, and he sold out his interest to Mendenhall and Swan. In September 1885, James B. Swan sold his interest in the property to S. H. Baker for \$7,700. A year later, Mr. Baker sold the entire property to a corporation whose stockholders were Frank Pipers, B. E. Baker, E. S. Warner, Can Piper (father of Dr. Monte Piper), Joe W. Dilley and S. H. Baker. These men made great improvements spending \$50,000 on the



Sketch of the Rapidan Dam area from the 1874 Illustrated Atlas of Minnesota

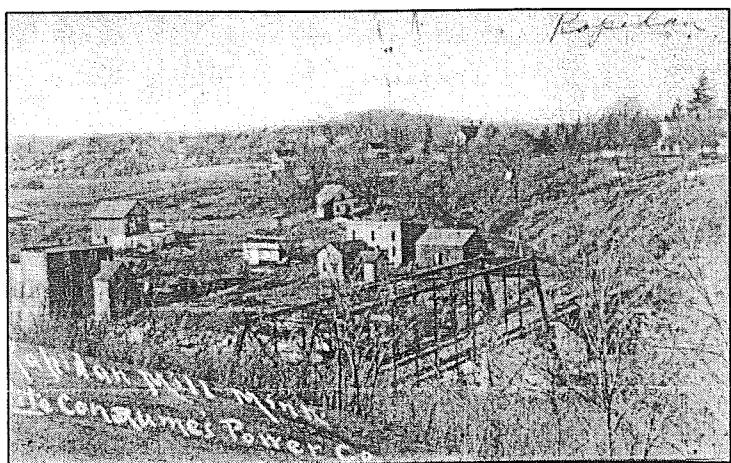
property. The waterpower was entirely changed. The power for the old Kenworthy mill was developed the same as most all the early water powers. About eight hundred feet above the mill a timber and brush dam was built and the water backed up to the depth of eight feet. The water was then diverted through a millrace or canal with head gates to control the flow to the old type vertical turbine water wheel that turned the millstones.

The new company had money and wanted more power. They hired the Widell company of Mankato to blast a tunnel 1,108 feet long from the mill site

great rocks were carried downstream. This dam was never rebuilt nor was it needed, for they still had all the power they wanted as the new tunnel provided power even in the lower water of summer through its 21-foot fall.

Mill Enlarged

Early in 1890, the new company built a linseed oil mill and elevator near the flourmill and enlarged the capacity of the flourmill by installing new type machinery. At this time 25 men were employed, 75 barrels of flour were milled, and 300 bushels of flax crushed per day. Truly, a thriving industry run by waterpower that cost almost nothing to operate (after the initial cost). All that was lacking was a railroad to make it a 100 per cent proposition. This was being considered when in 1892, a fire reduced the entire plant to ashes and the company, discouraged, did not rebuild. The water power and new high priced horizontal turbine wheels (which had not been injured by the fire) laid idle, except for a small feed mill, until 1899 when the property was purchased by a pioneer miller of the early days, Thomas L. Rodgers. Mr. Rodgers had a various times owned or operated many of our pioneer mills such as "The Old Friend Mill" at Garden city, "The Red Jacket Mill" on the LeSueur river, the "Old Town" Vernon Mill, "The Woodland Mills," and other early day water powers.



Rapidan Dam area in the early 20th century.

clear through the neck of land (that formed the bend in the river) to the head of the rapids thus diverting the water through the tunnel to the mill wheels. By so doing, they received the entire benefit of all the drop in the entire rapids—about 21 feet. They then built a very beautiful dam of Mankato stone. This dam was 260 feet long and cost several thousands of dollars. Tons and tons of sawed stone were built into this dam and were hauled by matched four-horse teams of thoroughbred Percheruns owned by C. H. Piper. Construction was rushed all the winter of 1889 and 1890 and the dam was completed before the spring break-up.

Imagine the heartbreak to the new owners when the spring freshet with the out-going ice gorged at the dam. Surely, this dam would hold, but the pressure of ice and water was too great and two-thirds of the dam gave way and tipped over and many of the

Mr. Rodgers was a Canadian having come to Minnesota in the early days and working for the Pillsbury Mills in the seventies before starting out for himself. In company with his sons Paul and Charley, Mr. Rodgers built a large three story modern flour mill over the old mill foundation and operated this 50 to 75 barrel mill for many years making excellent flour which supplied the surrounding farm territory and also enjoyed a fine customer trade in Mankato.

Rodgers Mill

Let me picture for you life at the Rodgers Mill as I knew it in the early summer of 1901 when I worked for my uncle, Thomas Rodgers. Our day started at five in the morning, or if we wanted fish for our dinner, earlier. When the family was fish hungry we just took a sack and went up to the fish trap above the old millrace. (This trap was a community

affair consisting of a low dam of stones thrown across the river in a "V" shape with a large wire or slat box at the center. The fish going downstream were washed into the trap and kept alive in the fresh water—yours for the taking). If you arrived at the trap early, the selection was much better. I will never forget wading out barefoot in the cold water to the trap in the early dawn, and sorting out the rough fish and keeping bass, pickerel and other good fish for table use, throwing the rest back in the river.

Now it was time to do the milling and feed the hogs, then breakfast time, buckwheat pancake made of 'Rodgers Buckwheat Flour' with home cured bacon or fried salt pork. Four horses had to be harnessed and hitched to the big covered mill wagon, then down to the mill to load flour and feed for the Mankato trade. The load was from one to two ton, depending on the road conditions and the trade. First the orders of White Rose Patent flour and Snowflake flour were loaded and then as much feed, as the road conditions would stand.

It took four horses to get this load up the long steep hill with about four stops on the way up to let the panting horses get their breath. Driving the lead team was my job—that was romance—but when the top of the hill was reached I had to unhook the lead team and start back, this meant cultivating or hoeing potatoes and the romance was gone. Lucky indeed if I was allowed to spend the day at the mill or along the river.

Milling Custom

All day long farmer teams arrived. Some came loaded with wheat for the mill, others with small grists of wheat to be ground into flour and tolled for the grinding (the customer at Rapidan was the same as all the early water power mills. Out of 60 pounds of wheat, the farmers received from 32 to 35 pounds of flour 10 to 12 pounds of feed—the balance went to the miller for the grinding). While the farmers waited for their grists or for feed to be ground, some had their horses shod at the Johnson Smithy close by, others put their horses in the large mill barn or shed and went fishing with either line or spear up the rapids. On the other hand, others preferred to sit on wheat or flour sacks and talk over local gossip,

swap a good story or two, or settle all the weighty problems of the day. (You can see why the potato patch did not get hoed).

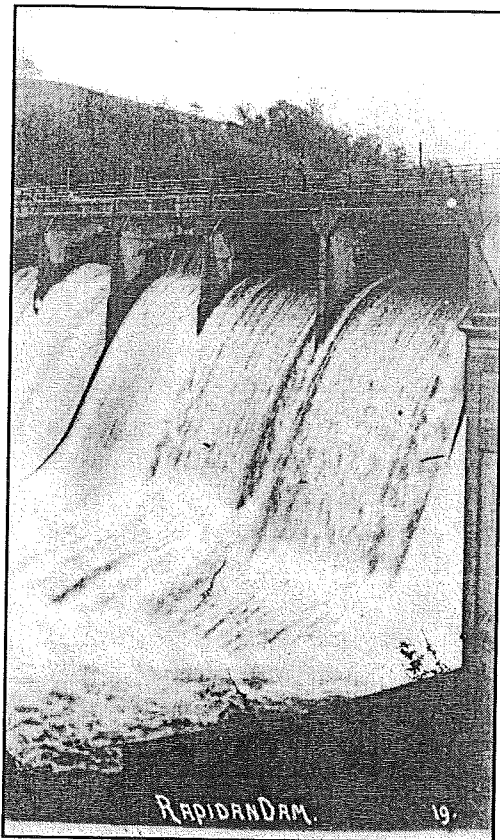
Unemployment was unknown – every one of them had a dozen jobs to do at home, but the trip to the mill was more or less of a holiday and then too, more than likely they would be invited up to the house for dinner and why not? The miller's flour didn't cost him anything. Later in the afternoon the teams would start leaving, those for the east doubling their loads up the hill. By and by the last wagon was loaded and cheery 'good-bys' were mingled with the hum of the grinding rolls and the roar of the river as the setting sun announced the end of another day and milling time once more. The planks on the old steel bridge are rumbling. It is the tired, hungry and thirsty mill team with a tired, hungry driver back home. At supper, simple food was a banquet. We had the latest news from town and then in the quiet evening we would sit outside and visit while listening to the distant roar of the rapids until that certain feeling, that can only come after a happy day spent in the open, came to us and it was time for bed and to dream perhaps of picking an eel out of the fish trap. (Did it ever happen to you?)

Sold to Power Firm

In 1910, Mr. Rodgers and family sold their waterpower to the Northern States Power company, which constructed the present hydroelectric plant. The mill was wrecked, the old brick post office and store building was torn down, several houses near the mill and the old smithy sold and moved away. The timber up the beautiful valley for miles was cut and hauled out to make room for the huge reservoir to impound waters of the Blue Earth river to turn the wheels of industry.

Gone from our vision is the old mill site and the great bend of foaming rapids. But in the memories of many linger the beauty and romance that was Old Rapidan. Of days spend fishing in the shady spots along the rapids, of the old swimming holes where barefoot boys didn't need either towel or swimming suite, of loads of grain drawn by beautifully matched teams of blacks, bays and grays coming to the mill followed by a roll of dust in summer or the

jingle of sleigh bells and the snapping calls of sharp shod horses in winter. Memories of the pioneers who played the leading parts of this early drama and who paved the way so that we who live today may enjoy the fruits of their labor. These noble men and women with strong characters and vision, whose courage led them on, endured the hardships of frontier life and stood on their own feet. Many with little education made their own way in a manner of



Water flowing through the completed dam

which they might be justly proud. Would that they could have stayed with us longer. Most of them have been gathered to their fathers, but their sons and daughters carry on. Of the old families, Mrs. T. L. Rodgers, now in her eighties, still lives in their old homestead formerly the old Swan home. Paul Rodgers, who travels for the Tri-State Milling company of Rapid City, S. D., and wife, make their home there with Mrs. Rodgers.

Charley Rodgers who has been in the west for many years happens to be visiting his mother and brother at the present time. Matt and Henry Wier and some of the Mendenhalls still live at Rapidan Dam.

We hope this little story will be enjoyed by the readers of the Mankato Free Press and the Paff. Spencer, Weller, Davis, McDonald, Kennedy, Buck, Baker, Piper, Shores, Knutson, Dilley and Rockwood families and any of the other families who live or have lived in or about what was known in the old days as Rapidan Mills.

(In preparing this article, I am indebted to the Thomas Rodgers family, "The History of Blue Earth County", by the late Thomas Hughes, stories I heard at the fireside of my mother's uncle Joe Dilley, and to life at Rapidan as I, my self, first saw it in 1899 and later years).

The large illustration (on page 3) shows the original Kenworthy mill in the left foreground. This was erected about the year 1863, and the scene was later sketched by an artist. The Kenworthy and Mendenhall residences are seen on the high ground above the river.

The picture (on page 4) was taken about the year 1910, just before the erection of the Northern States Power company dam and power plant. It shows the Rodgers mill, referred to in the accompanying story, on the extreme left in the picture. The low buildings were wrecked when the dam was erected in 1910. The ground upon which they stood is now 60 feet below the surface of the lake formed by the Rapidan dam. The picture at the left shows the present Northern States Power company dam as it looks with the floodgates opened.

BECHS Wish List

These items are currently needed at the BECHS Heritage Center. Please let us know if you can provide any help.

- Microfilmed newspapers for the research center call Jessica for details.
- People interested in helping with programs and exhibits for the sesquicentennial.
- Laser printer for the office.
- Copier paper

**Archives and Artifact Donations
October-December 2001**

W. E. Anderson - Book - A Cruise Diary, Book- Mankato Minn. Illustrated, Mankato Free Press Newspaper Delivery Bag, Anders Anderson Sketches, Anders Anderson Photographs - Identified, Anders Anderson Photographs - Unidentified, Anders Anderson Misc. Papers, Booklets - Otaknam (1911-1914), Booklets - The Mankatonian (1910-1912), Booklet - The Bethany Echo, Booklet - History of Minneopa State Park, Booklet - The Purchase of an Empire
Glenn Bartsch - Bottle - Nic Peterson and Co., Type Block - "Hubbard Sunshine-Booster", Hubbard Milling Annual Reports, 1983-1996
Janet Belgard - Minute Book - Blue Earth County Rural Letter Carrier Association, 1912-1958
Joel Botten, Jr. - Photographs - 1951 Flood (4)
Dave Boyce - Toy - Silly Putty
Betty Lou Cords - Videotape - Charlotte Farrish 1990, Script - Ghosts from the Past 2001, Information re: Haynes Apperson, Information re: Charlotte Farrish,
Carol Fuller - Family History - Sutherland/Stephenson families
Gregory Gebert - Family History - Zoellmer/Reinke families
Shirley Grundmeier - Book - Musical Heritage of the MN Welsh, Book-Tiffany Lamps Postcards
Mike Frederick - Book - 2001 Official MN Vikings Team Guide, Book - My Life as I Saw It by Ken Rausch, Postcard - Ladies Seminary Mankato MN, Postcard - Minneopa State Park, Book - Above It All: Profiles of American Aviators, Book - Who's Who in the Midwest, 1978-79, Postcard - The Kato Kords, Button - Bend of River Festival 1991, 1992, Farmfest Plate, BEC Fair Ribbons, Toews-Mehr Implement receipts (2)
Cindy Haas - Platter - small yellow flowered, Platter - large white flowered, Wooden sewing rocking chair
Paul Hadley - Ship model - U. S. S. Hartford, circa 1865, Ship model - steamboat inside view
Nancy Hamer - Environmental Impact Study for the DM&E (16 volumes)
Susan Hanes - Scrapbook - Edith Hoffman Volkman, Information re: Hoffman family, Photograph - George Hoffman, Photo album - Hoffman family
Ironworld Discovery Center - BEC Naturalization Index
Margaret Jahr - Book - Straight Tongue
Orville Jensen - "Rabbit Ear" Antenna
Mildred Johnson - Mason Sword/Saber
Maggie Jones - Book - Did They Think We Would Remember?
Helen Kenward - Oil Can - National Refining Co.
Barb Maher - Amateur Garden Club Treasurer's Book, Amateur Garden Club Minute Book, Photographs - Amateur Garden Club, Programs - Amateur Garden Club
Mankato ISD. #77 - Cassette tapes narrated by Emma Wiecking re: Mankato history
Frederick Matzke - Child's wooden chair, Child's wooden table, Child's wooden rocking horse, Child's green rocking chair, Child's high chair, Child's scooter - Kiddie car, Child's

wheelbarrow, Child's plate, cup and bowl set, Child's silverware set, Table Clock, 25 scrapbooks - BEC information
Mary McGrew - Pan - 8" cast iron frying pan
Nancy Olson - Book - Cataloging Motion Pictures and Videocassettes, Booklet - Cataloging Motion Pictures and Videocassettes
Robert Olson - Book - Booth's Justice Manual, 1953, 1966, Seal - Village of Skyline, 16 Photos of the 1969 Flood, Village Ledger Books - Criminal Docket, Civil Docket, Misc. Village papers, Current Events school newspaper 1939-1940
Dean Phelps - 45 Pierce Family photos
Pam Pietan - Sign-Member Holstein Club, Pullman Train car diagram, Poster-Join the Better Sires Better Stock Campaign, Poster-J.A.O. Prues Campaign 1923
Red Door Creative - 7 women's hats: black with rose, black, gold, navy, pink, straw, beige
Bruce Ruble - Merchandise bags: Harpies Bazaar, Wilson's, Fisher's, Photo/print - Lincoln Elm Commemorative, St. Paul Pioneer Press, October 11, 1931, Papers re: LeRoy B. Schwan
Julie Schrader - History of the Red Jacket Valley
Jo Schultz - 18 Enfield family Slides, Photo - Robert Schultz
Herman Schutter - Clip-"Hubbard Milling Company Mankato Minn"
Audrey Swanson - Program - First Baptist Church, Garden City
Jane Tarjeson - Pioneer Bonnets, Book-Czech Immigration Passenger List, Book-Mankato Memories Historic Photo Album, 6 Postcards of Good Counsel, 1 Postcard of Cliff Keys Motel, Book-The Minnesota, Book-The Indian People of Eastern America, Photos of Garden City Fair, 1999, Photo/negative Fire Station #2, 1999
Erling Teigen - Book - Letters from Leipzig,
University of Oklahoma Press - Book - The Last Hurrah of the James-Younger Gang
Donna Webb - CD- 1860 US Census Index, CD-1870 US Census Index
Eleanor Zeyen - Club Petition - UCT, Receipts (1928-1930), Railroad employee insurance for Oscar Anderson, Newspapers clipping re: UCT
Shirley Zimprich - Family History - O'Connor, Family History - Fisk

**Thanks to all our donors for
your help in preserving the history of
Blue Earth County!**

The drawing for the hand made model of the
steamboat "Mankato" was held on
December 4, 2001.

Pat Brunner was the lucky winner.
A limited number of these collectable steamboats
are available in the Museum Store.

New and Renewed Members

Anderson, Tanja
Baerg, Gerald & Caroline
Baird, Jane
Barnard, Charles & Marilyn
Bartholdi, Roberta
Berger, Doris
Clause, David & Carolyn
Cole, Allen & Marilyn
Cummiskey, June
Diel, Doris
Dorn, Kathy & John
Erikson, Glenn & Helen
Falenczykowski, Lona
Farnsworth, Maureen
Frederick, Michael
Habein, Harold
Hamer, Nancy
Hansen, Norma
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Ireland, Lawrence & Patricia
Jerabek, Barb
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Keir, Grace
Lavitschke, Jo-an
Leeman, Harold
Marlow, Richard
Meredith, Marge & Donald
Mohr, Harley and Ruth
Neumiller, Robert
Norris, Margaret
Pettigrew, Quintin & Karen
Powell, Nancy
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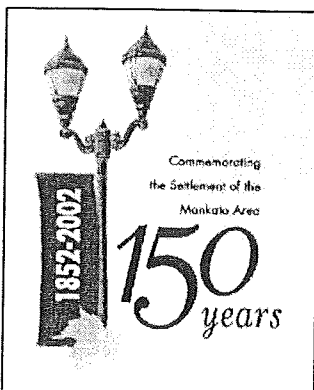
Winter Carnival Exhibit

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is currently seeking items from the 1920 Mankato Winter Carnival for an upcoming exhibit. The 1920 Winter Carnival involved the entire community.

Booster clubs were organized to sell carnival buttons and wear carnival booster suits. Any memorabilia reflecting this event would be appreciated for an exhibit during the 2002 Mankato Winter Carnival.

BECHS is interested in either short-term loans or permanent donations,

whichever works better. For more information, please contact Jessica Potter at 507-345-5566 or by e-mail at bechs-collections@juno.com. Visit the exhibit during the winter carnival on February 8-9, 2002 at the Midwest Wireless Civic Center.



Upcoming events at other area Historical Societies:

Please contact the society listed for further information.

Freeborn County HS

Will be having a promotions and book sale table at the Big Island Rendezvous Historical Faire at Northbridge Mall in Albert Lea on February 9th and 10th.

Brown County HS

Will be having a Women's History Luncheon on Saturday March 23, 2002

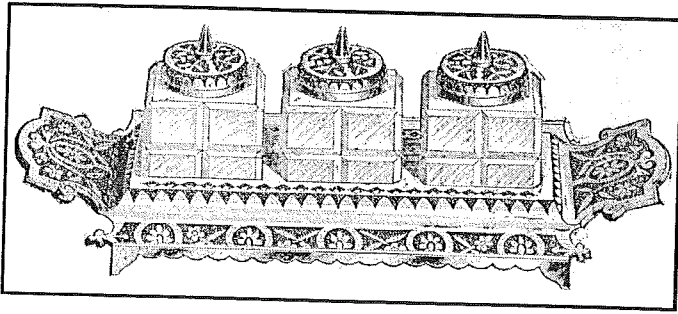
Kitty Lieb Historical Essay Contest deadline extended until Friday March 1, 2002

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Thank You All Very Much!



From the President

Treasures in the Attic

Do you have any treasures in your attic? Historical treasures that is. I found an extraordinary historical find last month tucked away in a drawer among some of my mother's things.

The first was a 7th grade project done in 1951 by my brother – a 12-page booklet on the little country school he was attending. The first ten pages were carefully drawn to scale blueprints of the school interior and grounds, and a two-page history of the school. What a find! Detailed information on country schools is rare and finding an identified school photograph is cause for rejoicing. Unfortunately for BECHS, this particular country school is in Brown County.

My second find was a letter written in 1948 from relatives in Germany. Through the years, I had heard how care packages had been sent to relatives in Germany after WW II, and here was the proof of it! Although the letter was written in German, a transcription of the letter was also tucked in the envelope and 53 years later I felt their despair and hope for the future. The will of the people to survive after the war when all had been destroyed or taken from them is a testament to our ancestors. They were truly grateful to previously unknown relatives (my great-grandparents had left Germany in 1869) for sharing soap, clothing and food with them. Thanks to this letter, I have a new name on my family tree to research.

Both of these items are genealogy treasures that are often so elusive to us. Looking at the school blueprints I could mentally step back into the classroom and know exactly where the maps,

blackboard, teacher's desk and library (4 bookshelves!) were. The letter was powerful and the horrors of war still lingered on each penciled word.

Please consider the donation of items like this to BECHS, your doing so will add to the wealth of information available to other researchers.

Do you have treasures in your attic?

Jane Tarjeson
BECHS President

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|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Apitz, Darrel | Lundblad, Larry |
| Baer, Marcia | Madsen, Jack |
| Baird, Jane | McComb, Mary |
| Bartsch, Glenn | McLaughlin, Theresa |
| Boyce, Dave | McLaughlin, Tom |
| Burns, Inella | Nisja, Millie |
| Coleman, Mary | Niu, Dana |
| Cords, Betty | Norman, Beth |
| Cotton, Rose | Nussbaumer, Linda |
| Dooley, Mary | O'Clock, Clara |
| Falenczykowski, Lona | Ohlenkamp, Ora |
| Frederick, Michael | Patterson-Lundgren, Molly |
| Goff, Harley | Potter, Brad |
| Graham, Joanne | Potter, Jessica |
| Griffith, Helen | Salsbery, Tom |
| Grundmeier, Shirley | Sandon, Buzz |
| Grundmeier, Win | Schmidt, Roberta |
| Hagen, Tom | Schultz, Jo |
| Hanel, Rachael | Smith, H. Roger |
| Harrison, Shelley | Sofchalk, Helen |
| Helm, Matt | Tarjeson, Jane |
| Herbst, Gordon | Twilight Garden Club |
| Hopman, Edith | Webb, Donna |
| Jansen, Steve | Wilson, Bernadette |
| Jensen, Orv | Wenner, Sara |
| Jones, Jack | Wright, Lorraine |
| Kubicek, Joe | Ziegler, Ken |
| Kuehl, Rachael | Zielske, Dan |
| Lavitschke, Jo-an | Zimmer, Beth |

Volunteers Are Always Needed

If you have some time to spare and want to help BECHS preserve history, please give us a call. We can find a project to suit your specific interests!

**Upcoming BECHS events
Mark your calendar and join us**

February 8-10

Winter Carnival Sesquicentennial event!

Downtown Mankato

BECHS exhibits at Civic Center Friday & Saturday

February 19, 2002 7:00 PM

Lyceum Program

"Rapidan Dam"

Held at the BECHS Heritage Center

March 12, 2002 7:00 PM

BECHS Annual Meeting

US – Native American Reconciliation

Held at the BECHS Heritage Center.

March 17-19, 2002

TLB-MSUS-Mankato Birders road trip

**New in the BECHS
Museum Store**

- Betsy-Tacy in the Deep Valley Booklet. \$8.00
- Did They Think We Would Remember?
(Lake Crystal History Book) \$15.96
- Mankato Memories \$39.95
- History of the Red Jacket Valley. \$18.99
- Mahkato Wacipi (Pow Wow) 2 CD set. \$21.95
- Assorted Old Time Toys
- Laura Ingalls Wilder "Little House" Books
- Slightly used atlases, plat maps and school
annuals

Many unique items available please
visit the store for your gift buying needs.



*Blue Earth County Historical Society
415 East Cherry Street
Mankato MN 56001*

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