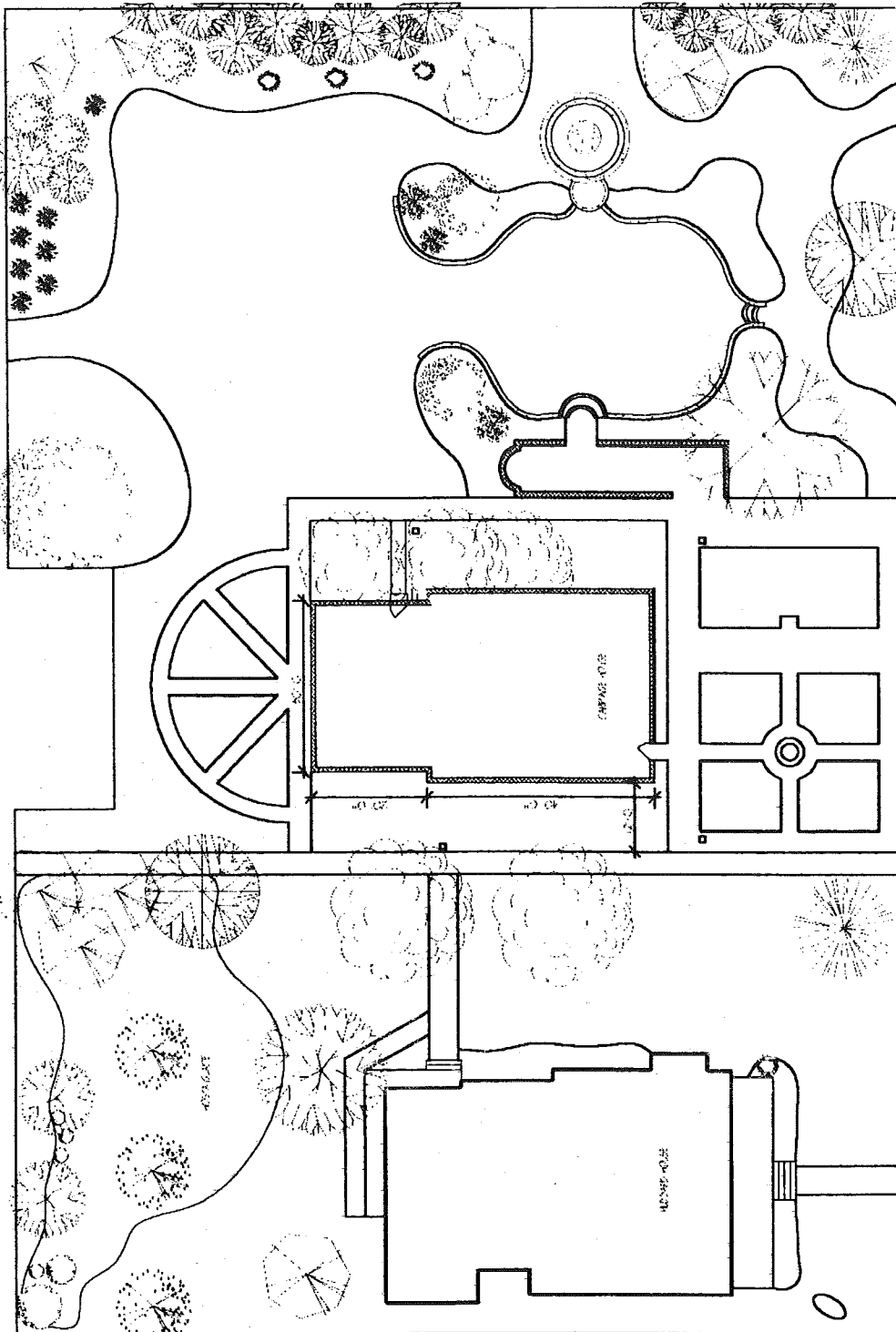




The Blue Earth County **Historian**

A publication of the Blue Earth County Historical Society

Summer 2003



In the issue:

**The Gardens of
the Hubbard
House and the
Carriage House.**

Map courtesy of
Rebecca Krenik

The Blue Earth County Historian
Summer 2003

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

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Blue Earth County Historical Society
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Mankato, MN. 56001

***Tidings from the
Executive Director***

Greetings everyone, I hope that you are all having an enjoyable summer season. The flowers at the Hubbard House are blooming and as usual the Twilight Garden Club has done a terrific job. I would like to personally thank all of them for their continued efforts to make the Palmer Centennial Gardens a wonderful place to stroll every summer.

Last month BECHS assisted the Security State Bank as they celebrated 90 years of service, as well as the City of Mapleton's 125th anniversary celebration during Town and Country Days. The Society appreciates the opportunity to work with the various governments and businesses to preserve and share the history of our county.

Last year was the sesquicentennial of the founding of the area. This year is the sesquicentennial of the organization of Blue Earth County. The county held its commemoration event earlier this month. The concert on the courthouse lawn was a wonderful event. The temperatures were a little high, but everyone had a great time. The concert was well attended; there were food booths, face painting, ice cream and much more. We had a museum store booth and sold a number of our local history books. The 1916 Buick Fire Truck was present as were the Victorian cut outs. We passed out over 200 brochures and expect a number of people to visit us this summer as a result of this event.

One of my responsibilities for BECHS is to represent the society at different functions and committees. One of them is the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway. The National Scenic Byways

The Blue Earth County Historical Society's Heritage Center Gallery, Museum Store and Research Center are open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 to 4:00

program is a successful federal program that begins at the grass roots level. Every byway is created through the efforts of local citizens and businesses.

The Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway began a number of years ago and achieved national status last year. The byway is 287 miles of roads from Browns Valley to Belle Plaine. You may have noticed the colorful flying eagle signs in the area marking the route. People driving the byways will experience the most beautiful parts of our country.

We have our byway brochures available at the Heritage Center. Anyone looking for an interesting way to spend a day, a weekend, or more is encouraged to pick up a brochure and see what the valley has to offer. For more information, check out the byway at www.mnrivervalley.com. There are links to the other state and national byways.

The Carriage House restoration project is proceeding. BECHS is fortunate that the funding sources for the project were not among the cuts that were made by the various entities involved. The windows, doors, brickwork, roof will all see work this year. This work will aid in preserving the building for many more years to come.

There has been a lot in the news recently about the potential closing of historical sites in Minnesota. The Hubbard House remains open for the season for its regular hours on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4. Please let people know we are there and open.

The annual Blue Earth County Fair is coming up fast. BECHS will once again have a booth in the arcade building. If anyone would like to help us staff the booth from July 31 to August 3, please give Mary a call at the office.

Cheers,

James C. Lundgren
BECHS Executive Director

Recent Donations

Financial

Up to \$25

Birbeck, Marilyn
Eick, Aileen
Faust, Mr & Mrs Claire
Hoehn, Pat
Keenan, Jerry
Medalen, Ethel
Roscoe, Donald
Ward, Steve
Wigley, Francys

\$26-\$50

Cummisky, June
Madsen, Jack

\$51-\$100

Burton, John
Cambria TWP
Burton, Verona
Holbrook, Viola & Donald
Jones, Eldon & Helen
McLaughlin, Tom & Theresa
Pengra, Jim & Joan

Schultz, Robert & Georgia
Schweim, Tom
Smith, H. Roger

\$101 - \$500

Kubicek, Joe
Hubbard John Jay
Tarjeson, Jane

\$501 and Up.

Andreas, Lowell & Nadine
BEC Commissioners
City of Mankato
Grundmeier, Win

In-Kind

BEC Commissioners
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Floor to Ceiling Store
Voyageur Web
Jensen, Orv
Wilson, Bernadette
Wenner, Gerry

E-News

Interested in receiving history tidbits, event announcements or updates in your e-mail box?

Contact James Lundgren at:
bechs@juno.com or 345-5566

Wish List

- Cotton Sheets
- Postal Scale for larger packages
- Legal sized, hanging file folders
- Copy paper, 8 ½ x 11 & 11 x 17
- Index Cards

The Gardens of the Hubbard and Carriage House

By
Gordon Herbst
BECHS Volunteer

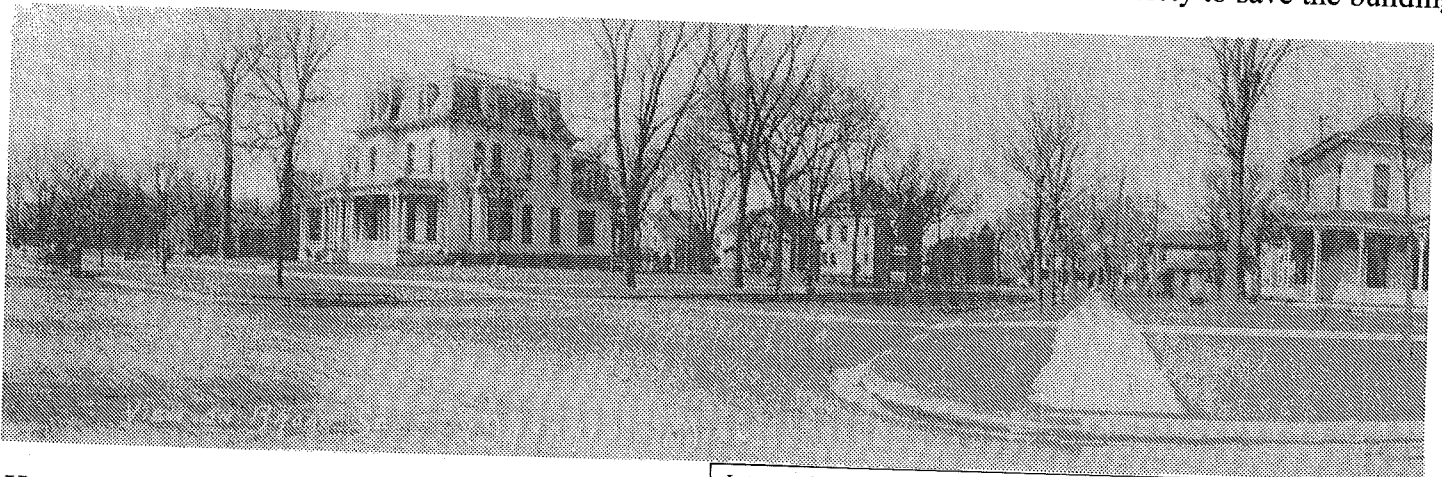
Each spring, as if by magic, the gardens at the Hubbard House burst into glorious bloom. But, although the feat is performed by wizards, it isn't magic. It's a lot of hard work. That hard work is done by the wizards of the Twilight Garden Club whose magical green thumbs and dedication has brought these gardens to life. These volunteers do the planning, planting, and tending of the plants in the garden area.

The Club was formed in 1963 and met in the evening; so they called the organization the Twilight Garden Club. They began caring for the gardens in the Carriage House project in 1977. Prior to this, Warren Street was located on the north side of the Hubbard

just north of the Hubbard House Museum, with restoration and refurbishing.

The Mankato City Council enthusiastically accepted the gift and Hubbard Milling hired Minneapolis Architects, Foster, Dunwiddie and Charles Wood to develop the park plans and make plans for the moving and restoration of the Carriage House. These plans included a large brick and wood arbor that was to serve as the entrance to an "outdoor room." An arborvitae hedge would enclose this "room." The area could be used for concerts and other outdoor activities. Plans also included a rose garden, lighting and the transplanting of two mature walnut trees. These trees would come from the Memorial walnut grove, at Minneopa State Park, dedicated to George M. Palmer, co-founder of Hubbard Mills. The area was named "Palmer Centennial Place."

The inspection of the restored R. D. Hubbards' "Barn" was June 1, 1977. The restoration had started in September 1976; this was the end of a nine-year struggle by the Historical Society to save the building.



Intersection Warren and Broad Street including the Hubbard House, ca 1915. Photo courtesy of the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

House. After the street was straightened in 1974, it ran on the south side of the Hubbard House and separated the house from the Carriage House.

In 1976, the Hubbard Milling Company announced its plan to give Mankato a park. The gift was in preparation for the company's centennial celebration in 1978. The \$50,000 project entailed landscaping around the Hubbard House and a new home for the R. D. Hubbard's "Barn." The "Barn", later renamed the Carriage House, was to be moved to a new location,

The project is part of the Mankato Parks Department and parks' staff handles the care of the grounds and structures. They mow the grass; do the pruning and any needed removal of the trees or larger shrubs. The maintenance of the walks, irrigation system and structures is also the responsibility of the Parks Department. In addition, the department supplies many of the perennial and annual plants used in the Hubbard and Carriage House gardens.

The Palmer Centennial Place is located between the restored Carriage House and Broad Street, and is the site of the project gardens. It was initially planted in Victorian style and with walks. The Buell Brothers of West St. Paul did the original planting of all trees, shrubs and garden borders in five days.

The Twilight Garden Club deals with the portion of the garden project that is in front of the Carriage House and the small gardens in the rear of the Carriage House. This area is on top of the old street that was originally on the north side of the Hubbard House. The remains of the old street presents some problems for the gardeners when trying to dig very deep for planting because the soil is not as deep as is needed to accommodate that planting. When the gardeners are determining what plants to place in which locations, knowledge of the soil depth at each place is critical.



Photo courtesy of Cyndee Tovsen

When the gardeners are designing the gardens, it is a challenge in that it is measuring their artistic ability, not only the how but also the why of garden creation. Memory shapes your adult decisions, color is often influenced by your past experiences. The gardener's decisions are influenced by practical considerations such as soil components, moist or dry, sun or shade.

Factors, which may influence decision-making, can be: openness or closure, a sense of movement or flow, calmness, or peace and quiet. The borders result from what the creator desires to achieve. It is important to plan for long-term interest rather than just a specific season, such as good foliage as well as flowers only.

Color is a highly subjective issue; whites, reds, and yellow catch the attention more readily and the grays or blues appear more distant. Harmony of colors with its neighbors is often an important consideration but the final analysis is what colors please the viewer! Other considerations are climate and local conditions, winter and summer, soil type, steep slope, wet clay, shade, howling winds, or subzero temperatures.

A pleasing garden must display some visual continuity; some plants may be repeated to form a visual bridge from one area of the garden to another. It does not need to be the same plant but one of the same general shape. Woody plants can be used for off-season display, taking advantage of interesting bark color or texture, berries, seed heads, or leaf coloration.

The structure of the soil is a factor that deserves special consideration. This is especially true when dealing with a site ravaged by construction or that has been previously disturbed as the Carriage House gardens have. The gardeners must determine that the soil looks reasonable, then give it a trial. They may find that it will work just as it is or they may have to amend it heavily.

While double digging to a depth of two spade depths was the rule in the past, this is now considered a relic of bygone days. When dealing with a construction site, disused roadway or a heavily traveled path, as these gardeners here at the Carriage House are, the soil may be very compacted but carefully chosen plants will likely do just fine. Planting, dividing and mulching work wonders on the "tilth" of the soil. The tilth of soil refers to the ease of its tillage, fitness as a seedbed and impedance to seedling emergence and root penetration. The help from microbes, plant roots, earthworms, freezing and thawing make a healthy contribution to correction of soil compaction. Some

potted plants are grown in artificial potting mix, which is of very different texture from native soil. It is helpful to remove some of the potting medium and expose the roots directly to the native soil to encourage the roots to grow into the native soil. Soil can be upgraded readily by using unsterilized compost, which adds microbial flora to the soil that is beneficial to the plant. Some synthetic fertilizers may be helpful, but others contain compounds, which can be toxic to the plant. Soil testing is the best method to examine this parameter.

The spacing of plants is very tricky and the project gardeners need to consider many factors. They need to leave space for the plants to grow and avoid pot bound plants. This is especially true for trees and shrubs. The plants are planted at the same level as they were in the original container. The soil is gently firmed to expel any air trapped in the soil in the root area. If the soil is too loose and fluffy, the plants will tip over in the wind. The Hubbard House gardens are composed of disturbed soil, which has been hauled to the site and is variable from place to place. Spacing of the plants is likely to be different here than at other sites because of differences in nutrients and texture of the soil.

The use of mulch is also important to the gardens. Mulching is done to keep the soil moisture more even, help prevent annual weeds from germinating and so that the soil temperature remains more moderate in the root zone allowing the roots to function more efficiently. The depth of the mulch varies with the climate conditions, soil and plant variety. Mulch eventually disintegrates into soil components and is incorporated. Compost is a term referring to the disintegration of plant materials that is very beneficial to the texture of the soil and provides winter protection for perennials from our Minnesota winter temperatures.

For the last 27 years, the members of the Twilight Garden Club have put their knowledge of these gardening techniques, their experience in designing and caring for gardens and their dedication to the beauty of the world around us to use in creating and maintaining these beautiful Hubbard and Carriage House gardens for us all to enjoy. We all hope you

have as much enjoyment in seeing the gardens as they do in creating and caring for them. We wish you pleasant thoughts as you view the beauty of the gardens whether you have the time to stroll through them or can only observe them as you drive by.

References:

- Mankato Free Press*, 9-14-1976, 15:5
BECHS Newsletter, July 1977
BECHS Newsletter, May/June, 1994
Minnesota History, Interpreter Vol. XXII. No.7, July, 1994
Horticulture, March/April, 2002
Horticulture, May/June, 2002
Horticulture, September/October, 2002
Horticulture, November/December, 2002
Horticulture, January/February, 2003
Horticulture, May/June, 2003

New and Renewed Members

Anderson, Marian
 Anderson-Morgan, Verna
 Baer, Marcia
 Ballman, Mary Lou
 Barnhart, Patricia
 Bindner, Peg & Carl
 Boyce, Doris & Dave
 Bradshaw, Louise
 Braam, Gene Leonard
 Broadwell, Don & Linda
 Bursaw, Iona
 Clause, David & Carolyn
 Clements, Tom
 Dobie, Joseph
 Dunlop, Donna
 Faust, Mrs. Claire
 Fredrichs, Fred
 Freidricks, Helen
 Gage, Kelton & Dorothy
 Hill, Evelyn
 Hoehn, Pat & Jim
 Howard, Don
 Jacobson, Lyle & Kay
 Jerabek, Barbara
 Just Sr., John
 Kanyusik, John & Carolyn
 La Hann, Dell & Flo
 Lee, Elaine
 Marlow DMD, Richard
 McLaughlin, Tom &
 Theresa
 Medalen, Ethel

Merkert, Karin
 Meyer & Sons TV &
 Appliances
 Nisja, Millie
 Norman, John & Beth
 Nussbaumer, Linda
 Owens, Helen
 Parks, James & Sandra
 Peterson, Mary Helen
 Pond, Patricia
 Quade, Henry & Ann
 Reich, Judy & Jerry
 Ries, Chuck & Carol
 Ries, W. C.
 Rose, Robert & Luella
 Salsbery Mr. & Mrs. Verle
 Schaefer, Dawn & Darold
 Schaub, Shirley
 Schmitz, Leora
 Schweim, Tom
 Solie, Tim
 Swenson, Helenrachel
 Tacheny, Leon & Delores
 Tire Associates
 Thompson, Mr. & Mrs.
 Kenneth
 Vik, Linda & Dennis
 Vosbeck, Elizabeth
 Voss, Judy
 Ward, Mary
 Wenner, Gerry & Kris
 Wright, Lorraine

Notes from the Collections Manager . . .

Part of my job as the Collections Manager of BECHS is to work with our three-dimensional collection. Every object has a story to tell and there are many different ways to uncover those stories. When an object is donated we try to get as much of the history as possible from the donor, but sometimes they don't know the story or maybe not the whole story. This sometimes leads us down a path of mystery and intrigue. There are two objects in our collection that are good examples of stories told by objects.

The first is the Baken and Raven piano located in the parlor of the R.D. Hubbard House. Many of you are familiar with this piano. It is played at Christmas time. However, there's a lot more to the tale. The square piano was built of rosewood by the Baken and Raven Company of New York City. It was manufactured and purchased by its first owner in the 1850s and brought to Minnesota by covered wagon. The piano was purchased by Northfield resident James A. Stewart for his daughter Florence. She brought the piano to Garden City in 1880 when she married Edward W. Parker. It was given to the Historical Society by Florence's son after she passed away in 1940. This uniquely shaped piano is also believed to be one of three made by the Baken and Raven Company still in existence. Just imagine the music played by Florence and her family on this piano. I'm sure there are many tales of the family gathering around it.

Another object in our collection continues to provide a mystery for staff and volunteers. It is a wooden box with moveable brass parts located behind a beveled glass window. The only clue to this mystery is the inscription "The Peak Trip made by John H. Clay Co. 1320 Ridge Avenue Philadelphia." We have recently written to the Ridgeway Brass Foundry of the same address, but have not heard back from them. We have no idea what the object was used for, how it was used, who used it, etc. Needless to say, everyone has their theories and it definitely piques the curiosity of those that take a close look at it.

You can try your hand at one of history's mysteries including "The Peak Trip" in a new exhibit located in

the Heritage Center Gallery. A few of the Historical Society's unknowns will be on display for your examination and theories.

Stop by the R.D. Hubbard House today to view the unique square Baken and Raven piano or stop by the Heritage Center Gallery to view history's mysteries and other unique objects. As you stroll through the house or gallery, imagine if the objects could talk - what stories they could tell.

Jessica Potter, Collections Manager

Through the Research Center door:

Many of you may be familiar with our collection of Obituary Books. The original project started in 1981 and over the years has expanded to 82 books, with an estimated 50,000 obituaries. The newspapers are indexed, cited, clipped and a card is made for each obituary. Our oldest obituaries date to 1870's, and we continue to clip all the current county newspapers. All of the county newspapers, both past and present, are or are being clipped, including papers such as the *Amboy Herald* and *Garden City News*.

We're only human so every now and then we may miss an obituary. But, don't worry. If one was published in Blue Earth County, we can still find it for you by searching the newspapers on microfilm.

Many volunteers have spent many hours clipping obituaries; all of their hard work has really paid off. We can easily respond to our average of twenty-two requests for obituaries each week. To all of our dedicated volunteers who helped with this massive undertaking and for those who continue this never ending project: to Helen Griffith, Win Grundmeier, Edith Hopman, and Jo Schultz.-- ***We Thank You All.***

So, if you've been to the Research Center and think you've found it all, there may be something new to discover. Stop by and see what's new and ask me a question or two.

Shelley Harrison, Archives Assistant

**April - June 2003
BECHS Donations**

Anderson, Eric: Saxophone Stand

Anderson, William: Book - *Mankato Its First Fifty Years*, Sketches (4) - Anders Anderson

Annis, Beverly: Pancake Flour Can - Mother Hubbard, Plate - St. Joseph's Hospital, Ashtray - Minneopa Liquor, Shohorn - Wood and Sterling Shoe Store, Address Book - Immanuel-St. Joseph's Hospital, Button - Pow Wow 1977, Bottle - Marigold Dairy, Hanger - Madsen's Cleaners and Dyers, Key Ring - Mankato, ISJ, Bag - Bretts, Bag - Madsen's, Bag - Piggly Wiggly, Box - Stevenson's, Postcard - Immanuel Hospital 1914, Postcard - Immanuel Hospital 1923, Postcard - Minneopa Falls 1912, Postcard - Minnesota and BE Rivers

Anonymous Donor: Coaster - Sesquicentennial

Bartholdi, Roberta: Booklet-North Mankato New Resident's Guide, Easter Eggs (3)

Baxter, Kathleen: Book - *Future in a Handbasket*
BECHS: Window Cling - Sesquicentennial, Button - Welsh Weekend of Song, 2001, BECHS Visitor Log (4) 1938-1965, BECHS Membership Book 1916-1950, BECHS Membership Book index, Book - *The Remarkable Men from Garden City*

Carlson, Norman and Rosanne: Model - Ship, Model - Covered Wagon, Model - Stagecoach
City of Mankato City of Mankato Strategic Plan 2003

Edwards, William: Necktie - Mankato Centennial

Evenson, Georgia: Book - *10th Infantry Division 1952*, Dog Tags - William Evenson, Photograph - Lake Crystal HS Class of 1950

Fischer, Harold: Portrait - August and Wilhelmina Fischer, Picture - Fischer Homestead, Picture - St. John's Lutheran School, Picture - St. John's Lutheran Church, Portrait - Paul and Martha Fischer, Portrait - Edward and Dora Fischer, Portrait - Emil and Mary Fischer, Certificate of Death (2)

Fisher, Pearl: Bible - belonged to August Deike, Sr., Photographs (16) - 1951 Flood

Frauendienst, Charles: BEC Map/Atlas 1914

Frederich, Gwen: Table and four chairs, Ice Cream desert dishes (2), Tulip ice cream dish (1), Mug (2), Banana Boat (2), Metal Malt cup (4), Framed Car picture (2), Framed Photograph

Frederick, Mike: Annual Reports - Benco Electric 2002, MRCI 2001, Greater Mkto. Econ. Dev. Corp; Booklet - Youth Voice in Local Government, Greater Mankato Visitor Guide 2003; Brochures - Center for Continuous Learning, Fisher Group, Greater Mkto. Econ. Dev. Corp., Hickory Tech, Infogem, Mankato Clinic, Mount Kato 2002-2003, Paulsen Architects, Shark Tooth Networks; Buttons - Mankato State College 1958, Loyola Homecoming 1962, 1967; Card - Videoland, Mankato; CDs - 1998, 1999, 2001 Mankato Area Lancers Band; Cookbook - Mankato '88 Lions Club; Dish - Robby's Restaurant; Folder - MSU Mavericks Athletics; Mug - Mankato West High School; Immanuel Evang. Lutheran Church Yearbook; Key Ring - Snell Motors; Letter opener - Technology Plus; Magnet - Hickory Tech; Notepad - Greater Mkto Economic Dev. Corp.; Pens (10); Pencils (4); Posters - Mankato Moondogs 2003, Merely Players, The Red Mill, Bethany Lutheran College; Ruler (2) - The Readmore; Trivet - St. John's Lutheran Church, Mapleton; T-shirt - Mankato Area Youth Baseball Assoc., Scarlets 2000 Wrestling Camp

Gannon, Diane and John: Newspapers - Mankato Free Press 1960s Special Editions

Grandstay Residential Suites: Invitation - Grandstay Residential Suites

Greater Mankato Chamber: Log Books (6) Mankato Railroad Depot

Grundmeier, Win: Masonic Apron, Pencil - Katoland Connection, Pen - Technology Plus

Herzberg, Edith: Quilt, 1930s

Hiniker, Ruth: Child's Leggings

Jensen, Orville: Hearing Aids (1 set), Men's Denim Shirt (2), Men's White Dress Shirt, Men's Jeans, Men's Brown cotton pants (4), Button - Bush-Cheney, Button - Bush-Quayle, Wallpaper seamer, Butter dish
Keir, Grace: Mannequin - Male Torso, Wooden Hat Form (2), Wedding Dress and accessories

Keysor Family: Bible - Keysor/Flittie Family 1879, Various Deeds (7) 1856-1873, Abstract of Title (1) 1936, Final Decree in Probate Court (1) 1925, Photographs - Keysor Family (4), Photographs - Flittie Family (5)

Lindemann, Coleen Book - *Where the Winding Maple Flows*

Matt J. Graif Clothing: Tuxedo Shirt

McArthur, Kathy: Hat - Black, feathers, netting, Hat - Black, feathers, Hat - Green straw, Hat - Green, brown netting, Hat Box - Sears

McGowan, Jack: Mankato City Directory 1994

Mock, Rosemary: Photographs - North Mankato 1951 Flood (10), Photographs - Identified people (14), Photographs - Unidentified (14)

Nickerson, James: Manuscript - "Old Main" (2)

Nisja, Marilyn: Dress - 1890s

Norman, Beth: Book - *Makers of Minnesota*, Book - *Handy Manual of Useful Information*

Palmer, Douglas: Jay Wysong Family papers

Schaefer, Darold: Sign - Wiedenheft Bros. Good Thunder, Spear

Schaub, Shirley: Photo - Unidentified Man/Madison Lake, Game - Monopoly

Schuch, Opal: Atlas - World 1910

Smith, Emmett: Manuscript (2) - Who Was Architect Albert Schippel, Manuscript - Pvt. Glenn H. Campbell and the End of the Modern Age in America (2)

Winnebago Area Museum: BEC Public School Diploma 1932 - Nora J. Wille, BEC Schools State Board Exams (3) 1930-1932 - Nora Wille



... at the *Museum Store*

The Pocket Guide to Minnesota Place Names

Michael Fedo

This guide is the perfect companion for anyone who travels the highways and waterways of the North Star State. \$11.95. Paper.

There is also an excellent assortment of children's books written by Bobbie Kalman. A few of the new additions include, **Who Settled the West, Homes of the West, The Railroad, Pioneer Sayings, and Classroom Games.**

Betsy-Tacy items are always popular, you may want to come in and see some of the new items available. We have mugs, post-it notes, bath salts, potholders and porcelain tiles with easels, tiny boxes, bells and mini bon bon dishes.

Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Ocean, Maud Hart Lovelace. Maud (Betsy), as a young woman and while touring Europe, had been in the presence of the - then king of Spain, Alphonso XIII; it is a fact that as a child she had written him letters; it is fact that much later in life, as widows, Maud and her childhood chum, Francis Kenney Kirch (Tacy), visited the royal palace in Madrid.

A Man in Her Room, Maud Hart Lovelace.

An unpublished story that Merian Lovelace Kirchner found, along with other treasures, in a box of background materials for the Betsy-Tacy Series. While the story was probably written long before Maud began the Betsy-Tacy books, the heroine's name is Betsy Ray.

Her Story, Maud Hart Lovelace. A piece laid in her Uncles Keith's vineyard as it appeared in the Minnesota Magazine.

Engaged! Maud Hart Lovelace. This Christmas story was written by Maud Palmer Hart and published in the December 1, 1916 issue of "The Ladies World" Magazine.



EXPLORE BLUE EARTH COUNTY

August 16, 2003

What attracted our ancestors to settle here?
What is there to see?

Celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Blue Earth County with a tour of the western section of the County on Saturday, August 16th.

Unlike the pioneers of 150 years ago, we will be traveling in a modern air-conditioned bus and enjoy a box lunch in a scenic park. The tour will leave from the BECHS parking lot at 9 a.m. and conclude with a tour of the Museum's new exhibit "That's Entertainment."

For more information, call BECHS at 345-5566.

Madison Lake Area Historical Society

The Madison Lake Area Historical Society has erected several historical plaques around the city. One of the first was the old Fire Bell.

In his Picture Supplement of the Pioneer "Diary" of the village of Madison Lake. Tom Roemer writes:

"The plaque below will tell the tale of the old metal servant now at rest. How many hearts did it shake awake in the dead of the night with its clanger? In mid-winter? How many kids did it send scurrying home at its nine o'clock curfew? Fire! Fire! Run! Run! But the old bell on top of City Hall was just doing its duty. I recall one joyous time it was rung - the end of World War II. At the news, it was rung for hours, the village dads taking turns pulling the ropes."



The plaque and bell are mounted outside the main door of the Madison Lake Community Center.

The Old Fire Bell

For 38 years this 1905 bell, in the belfry above the old Fire Hall next door, was Madison Lakes' fire alarm. Two ropes through two pulleys clanged it swiftly. For the nine o'clock curfew, a single rope tolled the hour by the village Marshall. The bells' predecessor was a 36 inch circle saw blade mounted on the roof of the log jail, one block north. A siren replaced the bell in 1943. This monument erected June 1984

Madison Lake Area Historical Society

Jo Schultz

Secretary, MLAHS

Rapidan Heritage Society

Come, take a train ride with us! RHS is planning a 2nd bus trip for September 13, 2003.

Last year the Rapidan Historical Society sponsored a one-day excursion to Currie, MN to learn about railroads, depots and how they affected the people and communities of the area. This year RHS is planning a one-day excursion to Osceola WI where you will board the Osceola & St. Croix Valley Railway for a 90-minute ride to the past through the scenic St. Croix River Valley. All admittance fees and a picnic lunch are included. Proceeds from the event will be used for the restoration of the Rapidan depot. Call Jane at 507-278-3738 for more details and to reserve your seat on the bus.

Tuesday evenings have been designated as work nights at the depot. Volunteers are welcome! Many hands are needed to bring the depot back to life.

Jane Tarjeson

Secretary RHS

THE REMARKABLE MEN FROM GARDEN CITY

E. Winston Grundmeier

This new booklet, available at the Museum Store, focuses on ten boys from Garden City who climbed the ladder to success, some through vast holdings, some in world fame, and all in material and spiritual rewards.

Win Grundmeier, the author, will be present at the **Blue Earth County Fair** in Garden City, July 31st through August 3rd, to sign copies of his book. There will also be other Museum Store books, toys and other items available for sale at the Fair.

Volunteers April - June

Apitz, Darrel
Baer, Marcia
Baird, Jane
Bartholdi, Roberta
Bartsch, Glenn
Burns, Inella
Burton, Ronnie
Coleman, Mary
Cords, Betty
Das, Dee
Demars, Jeanne
Dooley, Mary
Falenczykowski, Lona
Frederick, Michael
Goff, Harley
Graham, Joanne
Griffith, Helen
Grundmeier, Shirley
Grundmeier, Win
Hagen, Tom
Hanson, Kathryn
Havelka, Ben
Havelka, Guy
Herbst, Gordon

Hopman, Edith
Jansen, Steve
Jensen, Mary Ann
Jensen, Orv
Keir, Grace
Kubicek, Joe
Lamson, Barb
Lavitschke, Jo-an
Lundblad, Larry
Madsen, Jack
McComb, Mary
McGowan, Mike
McLaughlin, Theresa
McLaughlin, Tom
Mellon, Paul
Niu, Dana
Norman, Beth
Nussbaumer, Linda
Ohlenkamp, Ora
Rezmerski, John
Ries, Bill
Riesdorf, Richard
Salsbery, Tom
Sandon, Buzz

Sassenberg, Eunice
Schaefer, Dawn
Schmidt, Jonathan
Schmidt, Roberta
Schmitz, Leora
Schrader, Julie
Schultz, Jo
Shortall, Christina
Smith, Emmett
Smith, H. Roger
Sofchalk, Helen
Steichen, Frank
Sugden, George
Tarjeson, Jane
Twilight Garden Club
Ward, Mary
Webb, Donna
Webb, Grace
Wichtendahl, Paul
Wilson, Bernadette
Wright, Lorraine
Ziegler, Ken
Zielske, Dan
Zimmer, Beth

Volunteers Are Always Needed

If you have some time to spare to help us preserve history, please give us a call. We can find a project to suit your interests and skills. Some examples are:

clipping Mankato Free Press for Archives
working with some carpentry projects
guiding tours
helping with special events and programs
helping in the research center
cataloging the archives collection.

Memorials

For:	From:
Charlene Bierbauer	Inella Burns
Luke Brown	John & Evelyn Smith Daniel Brown Dave & Doris Boyce
Elizabeth A. Confer	Phil & Milli Kliewer Frank & Marilyn Kliewer Carl F. Todtleben Elizabeth Kearney Catherine Neitge
Jessie M. Pauley	Dave & Doris Boyce
Lenora Schweim	Tom Schweim
Clayton Young	Marcia Jones Richards

BLUE EARTH COUNTY



Membership Form

Yes, I would like to become a member of the
Blue Earth County Historical Society!

Member Levels*

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Student | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Senior | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household | \$35.00 |

Donor Levels*

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Booster | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$1000.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$5000.00 |

Send completed form to:
BECHS Membership
415 Cherry Street
Mankato, MN 56001

* For Business Membership information, please contact the BECHS office.

BECHS Membership Benefits:

- Support preservation of our heritage
- Free admission to the Hubbard House
- Free admission to the Exhibit Gallery
- Free access to the Research Center
- Invitations to special events
- 10% discount at the Museum Store
- Reduced admission to special programs
- Quarterly history publication

Name: _____

Address: _____

City State Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

☐ Please send me information about becoming a BECHS Volunteer



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

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Preserving and sharing Blue Earth County's history since 1901