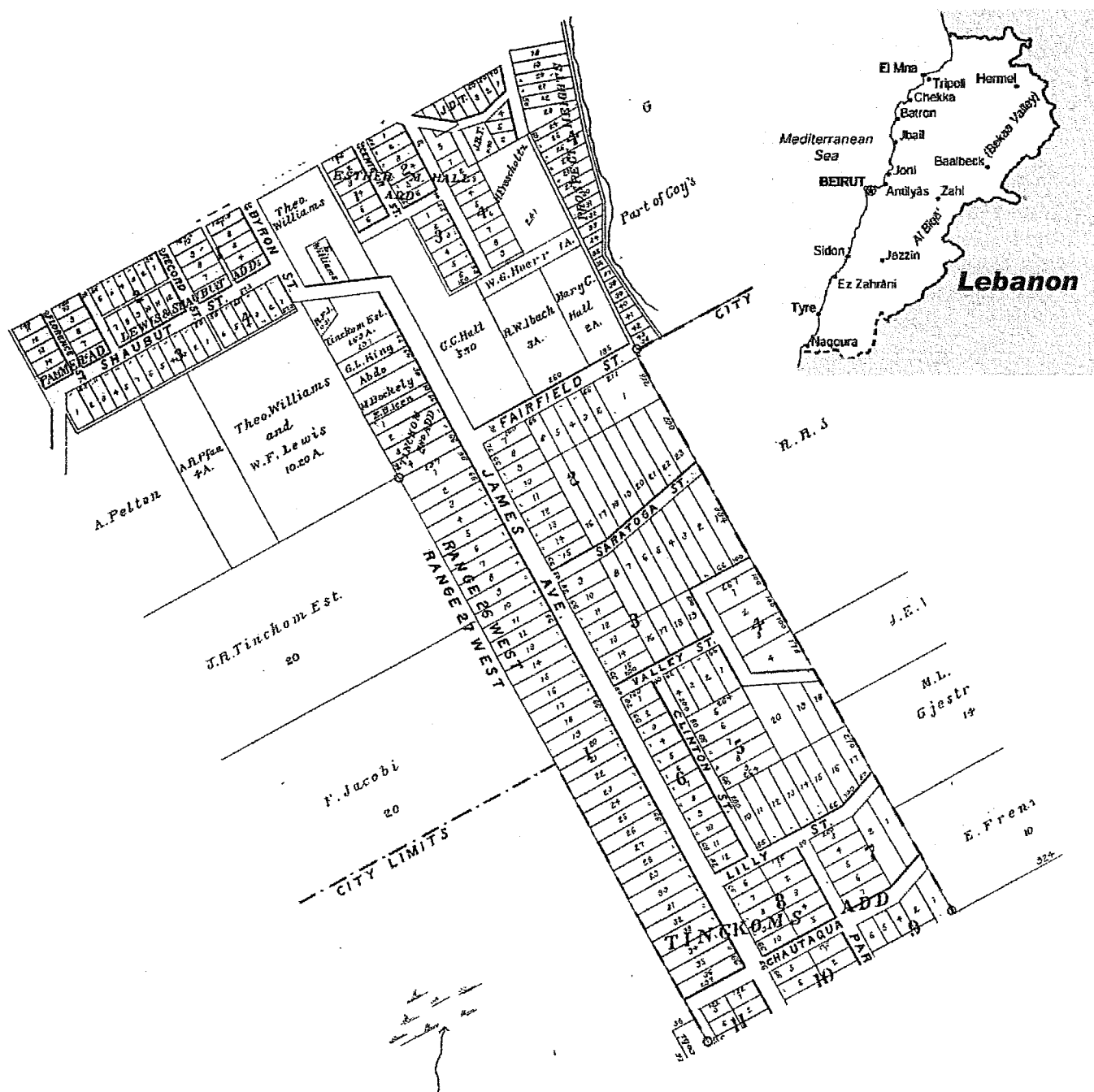


The Blue Earth County Historian

A publication of the Blue Earth County Historical Society

Winter 2005



In this issue:

Lebanese Immigration to Mankato

The Blue Earth County Historian
Winter 05

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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Mankato, MN 56001
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnbechs/>

Tidings from the
Executive Director



It is now 2005, a New Year full of promise and opportunities. Our Board of Trustees and committees are making plans for the future. As part of our planning we look back on what has been accomplished last year. We recently completed a successful holiday season at the R. D. Hubbard House. During the two evenings we had almost 200 visitors through the house. The two holiday weekends were also overall pretty busy at the house. We hope to continue this success with the Hubbard House in the coming year.

Last year our Programs Committee was very busy with our three themed programs, Young Historians, Diner's Club and Hometown History Photo Nights. The first two remained strong throughout the year. The Hometown History program showed promise and we will keep it in 2005, but change the emphasis to preservation, and hold them quarterly in regions of the county instead of trying to reach every township. Anyone interested in serving on either the full Programs Committee or one of our specific event committees is invited to contact John Rezmerski, BECHS Board Member and Programs Committee Chair.

Our Exhibits Committees are working on the next major exhibit. It will be created this winter and will be up in the spring. We added many items to our archival and three-dimensional collections over the year. We are still looking for more items to help us tell the story of the history of Blue Earth County.

Over the next couple of months our Board of Trustees Nominating Committee will be seeking people willing to serve on the Board. If you have a passion for Blue Earth County history, please contact President Dan Zielske about setting up an interview to discuss it further. The new Board Members will be elected at the

**The Blue Earth County Historical Society's Heritage Center Gallery,
Museum Store and Research Center are open**
Tuesday 10:00 to 12:00, 1:00 to 4:00 and 5:00 to 8:00
Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 to 4:00

Annual Meeting held in March.

The Hubbard House will be seeing continued restoration in the near future. We received a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society, to be combined with funds from the City of Mankato and the Hubbard House fund, to put a new furnace in the Carriage House and add an air conditioning unit. This project will allow us to better preserve the building and contents by controlling the temperature and humidity. We have also received a donation to restore the master bathroom in the house.

More work is needed on the house. The exterior will require a bit of work in the future. All three porches need some work and the house needs a new paint job. A paint analysis was done providing us with information on what colors the house was painted 100 years ago. When finished the house will be a striking restoration.

James Lundgren
BECHS Executive Director

WISH LIST

- New copy machine for Archives
- Computer desk (2' x 3') for Archives
- Glassware for the Hubbard House
- 1930 Federal Census on microfilm
- Copy paper
- Mankato City Directories **1998, 2000-2004**
- *Maple River Messenger* on microfilm
- *Lake Crystal Tribune* on microfilm
- *Mankato Free Press* on microfilm

New and Renewed Members

Allen County Library
Marian Anderson
Walter Busse
Mr. and Mrs. Vern Carstensen
Mary Coleman
Paul L. Conrad
Marcia and Glenn Cotton-Franks
David Christensen and Jill Evans
Glenn and Helen Erikson
William Fasnacht
Nancy Fleming
Norma Hansen
Richard C. Hey
Viola Holbrook
Edith Hopman
Mary Humphrey
Catherine Klugherz
John Larson
Barb Maher
Lois M. Manthe
Fred A. Muellerleile
Roger Norland
Margaret Norris
Dick Oehler
John H. Palmer
Chuck and Kathy Piehl
Leigh Pomeroy
Nancy Powell
Don Roscoe
Joan Schmitz
Emmett Smith
John Smoley
Helen Sofchalk
Richard and Ramona Steele
Mary E. Thompson
LaDonna Tollefson
Harlan Vee
Ann and Mike Walters

Tacy's House & Gift Shop

Open every Saturday afternoon
from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Owned and operated by the Betsy-Tacy Society, Tacy's House is located at 332 Center Street in Mankato. The society purchased the childhood homes of Maud Hart Lovelace, author of the Betsy-Tacy series books, and her friend Frances Kenney (Tacy). These homes are a restoration "work in progress."

Volunteers Are Always Welcomed

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:

researching and/or doing carpentry for new exhibit
serving as tour guides
participating on committees
sewing labels in garments
doing data entry for Archives indexes
indexing census or newspapers

October-December Volunteers

Apitz, Darell
Baldwin, Sara
Bartsch, Glenn
Biegler, Janette
Belgard, Vail
Black, Kathy
Burns, Inella
Burton, Ronnie
Coleman, Mary
Cords, Betty
Dooley, Mary
Falencykowski, Lona
Francis, Pat
Frederick, Michael
Goff, Harley
Goschy, Deb
Graham, Joanne
Griffith, Helen
Grundmeier, Shirley
Grundmeier, Win
Hagen, Tom
Hanson, Kathryn
Henry, Betty
Herbst, Gordon
Hogan, Pat
Hopman, Edith

Hugg, Bob
Hugg, Corey
Jansen, Steve
Jensen, Orv
Keir, Grace
Kind, Arn
Kroon, Dani
Kubicek, Joe
Kubicek, Sylva
Lagerquist, Mike
Lamson, Barb
Lavitschke, Jo-an
Madsen, Jack
McComb, Mary
McCullough, Beth
McLaughlin, Theresa
McLaughlin, Tom
Meagher, Lindsey
Natysin, Rhonda
Nesheim, Steve
Niu, Dana
Norman, Beth
Nussbaumer, Linda
Ohlenkamp, Ora
O'Malley, Helen

Pelz, Zach
Rezmerski, John
Ries, Bill
Rodvik, Angie
Salsbery, Tom
Sandon, Buzz
Sassenberg, Eunice
Schaefer, Dawn
Schmitz, Leora
Schultz, Jo
Schweim, Pam
Shortall, Christina
Sizemore, Daardi
Smith, Emmett
Smith, H. Roger
Sofchalk, Helen
Story, Sue
Sugden, George
Tarjeson, Jane
Twilight Garden Club
Webb, Donna
Wilson, Bernadette
Wright, Lorraine
Ziegler, Ken
Zielske, Dan
Zimmer, Beth

Lebanese Immigration to Mankato

by
E. Winston Grundmeier
BECHS Volunteer

The vastly predominant influx of settlers to Blue Earth County came originally from northwest Europe. These so-called "Old Immigrants" arrived in this country when it opened for settlement, coming either by way of New England and the Middle Atlantic States, or directly from Europe. This immigration phase was largely over by 1890.

Mediterranean peoples started to arrive in the Midwest somewhat later, and were called "New Immigrants." Whereas the Old Immigrants to Blue Earth County settled chiefly on rural lands or in small villages, the New Immigrants settled mostly in larger cities. Sometimes segments of these newer immigrants, after a first stop in larger cities, did move out to smaller settlements where they engaged in food or mercantile business. The largest Mediterranean-area ethnic group coming to Blue Earth County was Lebanese, sometimes in older news media referred to as Syrian. In his book, *Syrian Yankee*, Salom Rizk relates his experiences as an immigrant to the predominantly Old Immigrant community of Ames, Iowa. Mankato also has a community of "Syrian Yankees."

The first Lebanese immigrants to the Mankato area came about 1890. These people seem to have come originally from the cities of Zahle and Ferzol in the Bekaa Valley. Like most immigrants, the Lebanese came to the United States to be rid of severe economic hardships, which they experienced in the Ottoman Empire. The immigrants had heard about free, or more likely cheaper, land and the opportunity for greater wealth in America. They, like most other new immigrants, were hardly wealthy and most had only enough money to get as far as New York City or other eastern seaboard metropolises. Here they were assisted by earlier-arriving relatives and friends to find work until they could build up financial capital. The more adventurous might strike out for other "ethnic islands" in inland cities where they found others of their nationality. While some came directly to Mankato from Lebanon, most of the first

generation came here from New York City or Chicago.

When they first came into a new community, immigrants usually sought out a low rent area and lived close together. The Lebanese families first located on North Front Street in and around the old Nicollet Hotel at 510 North Front. Often they lived above the stores they operated. Frequently they engaged in itinerant work as peddlers or fruit and vegetable merchants, until they saved enough capital to establish a larger business. The 1910 Polk's City Directory lists ten Lebanese families including Izen, Abraham, Farho, Kouri (Corry), Bouklal, George, Rami (Rahmy) and Shama.

Naiff Abdo was one of the first Lebanese in Mankato. Arriving around 1892, he lived first on North 4th Street and ran a small store from his home. When he learned that several houses in Tinkomville were vacant, he bought a house from James Tinkom at 127 James Avenue. He moved his store to the new house. Naiff, and his second wife Fadwa, operated Abdo's Store at 127 James Avenue until Naiff's death in 1956 at age 86. Fadwa continued to run the store until 1980 when failing health forced her to close it. The store, well remembered by Mankato natives, had faithfully served the neighborhood for 70 years.

Other Lebanese families soon joined Abdo in Tinkomville. Before long they were building homes, raising vegetables and securing employment in Mankato. In Lebanon, many had gained their livelihood from their small gardens and vineyards, and so when they came to Minnesota they likewise established gardens. Early Mankatoans recall a number of Lebanese peddling onions and other vegetables. In order to produce other sources of income, they peddled merchandise in the rural areas to people who found it hard to get to town. Common among their items of merchandise were laces and linens, many made by the families themselves.

It is, and has been, common sociological practice for ethnic groups, having migrated into a community, to try to preserve their identity as much as possible. It is a protective measure to attempt to preserve cultural and religious beliefs and customs. Some groups achieve this goal better than others. In many respects

the Lebanese community achieved integrity of their ethnic group remarkably well. In religious aspects they were very successful.

But, although ethnic solidarity gives a sense of identity and security, it can easily create suspicion from the established fabric of local society. Such was the case in Mankato, as well as perhaps any other community. A glance at newspaper articles and news items from the period 1895 through the first two decades of the 20th century illustrate or suggest the established society's suspicion. For example, Lebanese names quoted in the *Mankato Free Press* and *Mankato Review* often bear little resemblance to the actual spelling and newspaper reporters were not very kindly to foreign persons. Names such as "Assyrian", "Syrian", "Arabian", and "nomad" were loosely applied.

Considering the time, a quite unusual article appeared in the December 20, 1895 *Mankato Free Press* (weekly). The reporter visited the "Syrian" colony near the Omaha depot near North Front because it interested him. He was entertained in "royal style" by wholesale merchant Faddoul Kouri and his many helpers. The account is refreshing in its apparent objectivity and lack of condescension. Refreshments were served the visitor, songs were sung in native tongue, and a big Turkish water pipe smoked (apparently without serious effect to the reporter.)

Kouri's business in 1895 was truly sizeable: \$900 a week, or \$45,000 to \$50,000 a year. His dream was to send for his family in Lebanon, or to go back and get them. He was one of the best customers of the Mankato knitting mill. He shipped regularly to 20 or 30 merchants and peddlers. The territory was truly gigantic. Kouri estimated the Lebanese colony in Mankato at 40 to 60 persons. The Lebanese men were rated by the reporter as all stalwart fellows, swarthy of complexion, and good companions. Women were kept well out of sight; some that the reporter did see he considered comely. One of the oldest men acted as teacher and instructed the children with books in the Lebanese language. The entire colony were good Catholics and the men generally had taken out citizenship papers.

In September 1897, Kouri leased the Nicollet House

at 510 North Front (currently North Riverfront Drive.) The immigrant colony was soon engaged in moving its effects over from the old buildings in the Willow Street area where the Omaha railroad depot and Mankato Gas and Electric Company were located. Innumerable trips had to be made with one-horse carts. Once the move was complete, the colony lived in the hotel and used it as a warehouse for storing goods. The store building farther south along Front Street continued to be occupied as a retail store by Mr. Kouri.

Many remember "Abe's" parlor in the Saulpaugh Hotel building on the Main Street side. Frank Abraham polished shoes and blocked hats for Mankato businessmen and guests at the hotel from 1921 probably until the hotel came to its end in the 1970s -- over 50 years. Abe started a shoe shine facility in the early Twenties, then as the need arose, added a shoe dyeing service, then a hat cleaning and reblocking service. More recently, Abe added an opportunity for custom-made hats. He also ordered and sold footwear on request.

Elias Farho was the patriarch of the Farho family in Mankato. A native of Furzul, Lebanon, he came to America in the 1890s. He first settled in Aberdeen, South Dakota, and then came to Mankato. Here he worked as a traveling agent for various firms. In 1932, he opened the Farho grocery store at 801 South Front Street. He was forced to retire in 1934 when he developed heart trouble. His son James, and daughters Annie and Josephine continued to operate the store. Annie and Jo also operated Farho's Liquor Store on South Front. James died in 1968, Jo in 1970 and Annie passed away in 1991 at age 93.

	JOHN P. IZEN ANTON J. IZEN
	Manufacturing Confectioners
	401 N. Front St., MANKATO, MINN.

Hibab and Rose Izen arrived in Mankato prior to 1895 and settled into a house at 143 James Avenue. Their son, John, became a bookkeeper for Mayer Brothers Company (later Little Giant Company). Then in 1919 he and brother Anthony purchased the Pay Candy

Company, continuing the manufacture of high-grade candy under the firm name of Izen Candy Company. Anthony had been employed as head candy maker for the Pay Company for some years prior to the sale. He continued in this capacity as well as that of superintendent. During the 1930s, the author knew Anthony (we knew him as "Tony") as the owner and operator of a grocery store on West Fourth and West Front Streets. The candy factory, begun in 1900 in the building later occupied by Ben Pay Hotel, moved later to Cherry Street. In 1920, the candy factory was moved to the corner of Front and Washington, displacing Model Dairy. The Izen Candy Company continued in business for a numbers of years before closing.

Although a few of the Lebanese immigrants retained the agricultural heritage brought with them from the Old Country, most developed into merchants who served the farming community. One such businessman was Charles Ramy, who left his home in Furzul at age 15 and came to the United States in the late 1890s. He began a general store at 111 James Avenue, trading dry goods, shoes and groceries for

such farm products as eggs and poultry. This venture ran from 1914 to 1920. When they weren't busy with schoolwork, Charles' daughters, Josephine and Ruth, clerked in their father's store. Ninety percent of Ramy's trade was farm trade from the Amboy, Mapleton and Madelia areas in particular.

Later Charles began a farm seed business. He was said to have purchased a single bag of clover seed and sold it by the scoopful to his customers. It turned out to be such a success that Charles expanded the operation, eventually buying and processing even rice from northern Minnesota. The wild rice angle apparently was his wife Annie's idea. Ramy moved his store to 332 South Front in 1920 and began selling seeds. His new store grew into the large Ramy Feed and Seed Company, which passed to son Roy, and is now located on North River Front.

John Saba, his wife and two children arrived in Mankato in 1892. His sudden death in 1896 after a short illness brought great sadness to his wife and children and the Lebanese community at large. One of John's descendents, Fred Saba, began working as a carrier for the Mankato Free Press in 1924. After graduation from Mankato Teachers College in 1935 he continued working for the paper serving in a variety of positions, including circulation manager and classified advertising manager. He later became assistant publisher. During World War II, he served in the Army Air Force and was discharged with the rank of Captain. He went on to serve in the Air Force Reserve and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

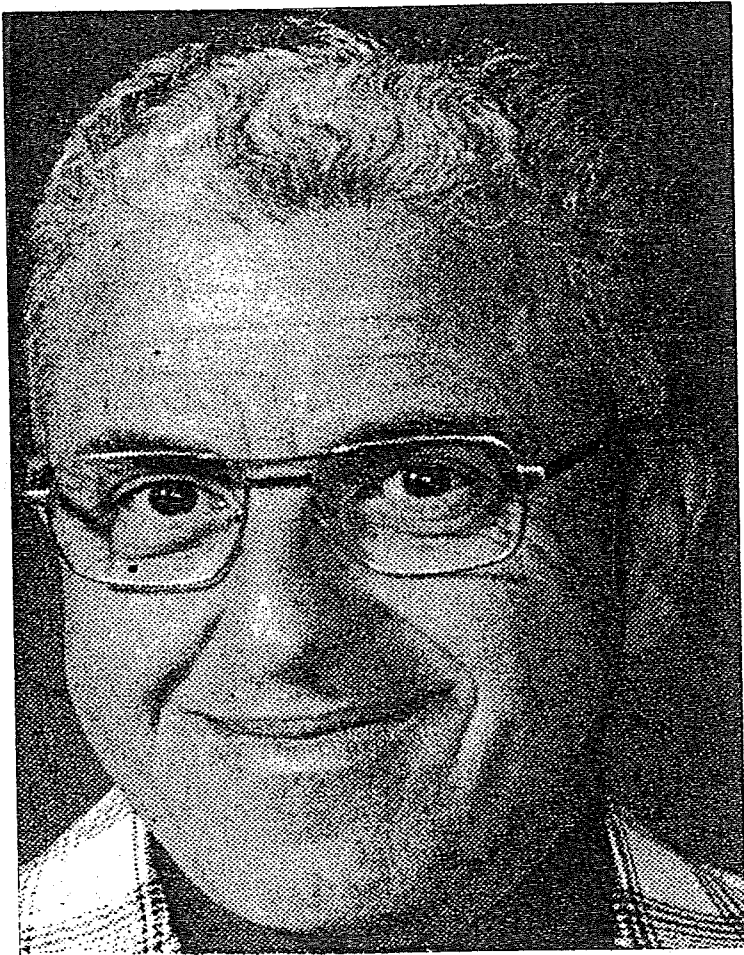
Representing the "next generation" of Lebanese immigrants who settled in Mankato, was Yousef Mahkoul Abul Khali and his mother Mary. Yousef was born July 15, 1891, in Furzul, Lebanon, and came to the United States in 1915. At Ellis Island, Yousef's name was changed to Joseph Maca. On arrival, the Mocols took up residence in Tinkomville.

On April 18, 1917, according to the *Mankato Ledger*, Joe made an important purchase of three lots at the corner of North Broad and Lafayette Streets, Nos. 1001-03-05 North Broad. They took over the existing building, which had been erected by Thomas R. Griffith, as a grocery and confection store. Joe married Miss Ida Izen and the young couple settled in their



apartment over the grocery store. Several generations of school children from Franklin School, across the street, remember buying candy from "Granny," as Mary Mocol was called, who operated the confection department. Later, Joe Mocol expanded his operations to include a dry goods store in the adjacent building on Broad Street.

In May 1932, Joe awarded a contract to Joseph Masberg to build three houses in a row on Lafayette Street across from the grocery store.



Eggs were a popular item of commerce in the early years. Herbert Mocol remembers his father Joe buying eggs from local farmers and shipping 408 cases of eggs to Chicago every week by truck. The Ramy sisters used to candle 100 cases of eggs each Saturday. Herb and Joseph, Jr. carried on the grocery business at the Broad Street location. They also branched out into a grocery trucking business. Herb served as Mayor of Mankato from 1974-1987 and continues to be active in DFL politics.

Today many of Mankato's Lebanese residents are direct descendants of the first arrivals of the late 19th century. Others like Shalhoub, George, Hulwi, Bolu and Ferris have since immigrated, some marrying descendants of the original Lebanese residents. Businesses like Meray's, Abdo, Abdo and Eick Accounting, Cub's Restaurant and Mocol's stand as testaments to the success of Mankato's Lebanese. John and Najwa Massad, two of Mankato's newest Lebanese arrivals, represent a continuous cycle of immigration. Today they operate "Massad's" in the food court at the River Hills Mall.

Sources:

Schlaffler, T. R. "Community Integration of the Lebanese in Mankato, MN." Mankato State University. 1958.

"Lebanese Proudly Carry On Traditions." *The Free Press* March 24 1988: 17A.

Gail, Palmer. "A Man and His Dream." *Blue Earth County Historian* March/April 1993: 3-4.

Reprinted from the *Mankato Free Press* 3 January 1896

GOOD THUNDER IMPROVEMENTS

The *Good Thunder Herald* favors its subscribers with a New Year's number of thirty-two pages, one-half of which are devoted to good writeups of that village and surrounding towns, well illustrated. Bro. Griffin has shown commendable enterprise. Good Thunder has made much progress during the last year, as the following building list shows:

German Lutheran church.....	\$11,000
D. E. McCardy, residence	2,600
W. Wilsie, residence.....	2,200
G. Beschnitt, residence.....	1,800
Robt. Kallow, residence	1,400
F. G. Malzahn, business block.....	2,400
Episcopal chapel.....	1,050
Julius Reinke, residence	1,100
Louis Wrucke, residence.....	800
Henry Weir, residence.....	600
R. L. Houk, warehouse and engine room.....	700
R. L. Houk, addition to residence.....	500
Herman Kreuger, residence.....	450
Eugene Cummings, residence.....	500
F. G. Malzahn, residence.....	400
E. Flynn, residence.....	300
Luther Demmick, residence	300
D. E. McCarty, barn.....	500
Lutheran church, parsonage.....	750

Total.....\$29,500

A Hubbard House Christmas 2004

Thank you to all of the volunteers and visitors who made this year's Christmas at the Hubbard House a great success!



Donna Webb, Sara Baldwin, Shirley Grundmeier, Win Grundmeier, Jane Tarjeson, Jessica Potter, Angie Rodvik



Brnna Powers, Win Grundmeier, Laura, Kyla, Alex



Alex, Laura, Kyla



Thank you to Young Historians Laura Garlow, Alex Oldenburg and Kyla Powers for their help with the Christmas Program.

Through the Research Center Door:

Where can you find interesting things about your ancestor's family structure, if they were homeowners, their health or even if any of them were convicts. The Census records asked these questions and many more.

If you want to know your ancestor's level of schooling, school attendance has been asked since 1850 if the person was over the age of twenty. The Census records also record what language was spoken in the home and the literacy of every person. If you want to find clues to their social life, such as their occupation or trade, the censuses asked every male over the age of 15 his occupation or trade starting with the 1850 Federal Census. Starting with the 1860 Federal Census, every female over the age of 15 was asked her occupation. The 1880 Census specifically asked the relationship of the individual to the head of the household. The 1900 Census asked detailed questions about immigration, such as number of years in the United States and naturalization status.

The first Federal Census was taken in 1790. The first one dealing with Minnesota was the 1850 Decennial Census of the Minnesota Territory. Blue Earth County doesn't show up in the censuses until the Minnesota Territorial Census of 1857 taken prior to statehood.

Because Federal Censuses are taken every ten years, 1860, 1870 ..., and the Minnesota State Censuses were taken in "off" years, 1865, 1875 ..., censuses are great places to start a search. You could track someone through the censuses every 5 years. Once you've located them it could lead to all kinds of other records: birth, church, school, marriage and death records. Except for the 1890 Federal Census which was destroyed by fire in 1920, the Blue Earth County Historical Society has all of the Census Records from the 1850 Decennial Census to the 1920 Federal Census.

A donation of the 1930 Census (cost \$34.00) to the

Research Center would be a wonderful addition and greatly appreciated. The 1940 Federal Census won't be available until 2012.

Volunteers are working on indexing the Minnesota State Censuses and have just completed the index for the 1857 Territorial Census. If anyone has any interest in helping us with this project please contact me. If you haven't been in the Research Center lately stop by and ask me a question or two.

Shelley Harrison
Archives Assistant

*What a difference a century makes.
Here are some US statistics for 1902.*

1. The average life expectancy in the US was forty-seven (47).
2. Only 14 percent of the homes in the US had a bathtub.
3. Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone. A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.
4. There were only 8,000 cars in the US and only 144 miles of paved.
5. The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
6. Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union.
7. The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
8. The average wage in the US was 22 cents an hour.
9. The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
10. A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.
11. More than 95 percent of all births in the US took place at home.
12. Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee cost fifteen cents a pound.

October-December 2004 Donations

Anderson, Marvel: Book - Chemistry and Its Uses
Bartholdi, Roberta: Potato Masher, Test Tube Tongs
Braam, Eugene: Framed photo - unidentified, Wood carving - Kato Beer Wagon
Braun, Sandi: Curling shoes
Davey, Pam: Photos (14) - Mankato Airport President Bush visit
Dobie, Joseph: Family History - The Mapleton McGregors
Dooley, Mary: Hat, BEC Atlas 1921
Edwards, Joyce: Book - The Golden Book of Favorite Songs
Flatgard, Yevonne: Top Hat
Frederick, Gerald: Identification Tags - Gerald Frederick, Canteen, Cup and Utilities, Belt for canteen, Sling for M-1 rifle
Frederick, Mike: Amboy Memorabilia (Butter dish, can cozy), Mapleton Memorabilia (24), Mankato Memorabilia (36), Calendar - LCWM, Ink Blotter (8), Knights of Columbus (3), Program - Mankato Art Group (2), Brochures (13), Campaign brochures (2), Magazine - The Art Crafts Review, Cap - Wilson Trailer Sales, Coffee Cup - Norwest Bank, Bag - Vikings Training Camp, Ruler - Mankato Commercial College, CD - Mankato Lancers Marching Band 2002, Wine glass - Greater Mankato Area Chamber, Dry erase board - Mankato businesses, Ads (18) used by Hagen Hardware, Photo - unknown graduating class, Photo (13) - Katoland Connection 2004, Advertisement - The Windmill Co. Inc., Program - Vikings Training Camp 2004, Bottle opener - Bodega Bar, Notepad - Hilltop Printing, Notebook - L. Patterson Merc. Co., Book - 125 Years SS. Peter and Paul, Program (2) - Merely Players, Program - SSND Gala 1999
Ganske, Maxine: Saw set
Gibbs, Sandra: Book - Our Family Album (Hickory Tech)
Griffith, Helen: Stamp - Diegnau Meat Market
Grundmeier, Shirley and Win: Button - Kerry-Edwards, Bumper Sticker - Help our country grow, Book - World War II Military Records, Button - Mankato Pow Wow 2004, Program - Centenary Methodist Church sesquicentennial
Harrington, Patricia: Print - "Mankato 1970" by LeRoy Schwan
Herbst, Gordon: Tea Container

Hey, Richard: Doll Quilt (4), pillow, Doll, Doll Furniture - Bed, dresser (2), armoire, table
Hughes, Thomas L.: Thomas Hughes Papers - legal, personal
Jenkins, Margaret: Photo (2) - Cambria
Keir, Grace and Richard: Record - Pete Steiner and Lost Walleye Orchestra, T-shirt - Cerebral Palsy Games, T-shirt - Aerodrome Aviation
Kubicek, Joe: Button - Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial referendum 2004, Button - Mankato Pow Wow 2004, Program - Mankato Pow Wow 2004
La hann, Florence: Doll - Humpty Dumpty, Doll Clothes
LaFavor, Lyle: WWII Uniform (3 pieces)
Larkin, Bill and Harriett: Otaknam, 1922, Book - Goldsmith's The Deserted Village, Book (3) - Riverside Literature Series, Diploma - Mankato Public School 1919
Lindeland, Elnore: Silver sugar scoop, Silver cup
Marshall, Polly: Child and adult costumes (8), Booklet - Lawrence Welk, Laundry box, Candles (3), Girl Scout dress and accessories (5), Swimsuit, Crepe paper
McComb, Mary: VHS Camcorder
McLaughlin, Tom: Papers re: Vietnam Veterans of Southern MN
Meyer, Rich: Mankato City Directories 1998, 2000, 2002
MSU Memorial Library: Book - MN Legislative Manual 2003-2004
Neilsen, Arlene: Photos (19) - Mapleton Hemp plant
Nicollet County Historical Society: Bottle - Mankato Creamery
Paul, Harold: Nativity Scene (paper), Life Magazine
Petersen, Don: Book - Fish Decoy Makers
Peterson, Dianne: Horsehair coat and mittens
Petrie, Jane: Black Overskirt
Quade, Henry: Report (2) - The Rapidan Dam Research Project, Atlas - Geologic Atlas of BEC
Rapidan Heritage Society: Print - Passage of Time by Marian Anderson, Rapidan Sesquicentennial memorabilia - mug, t-shirt and program
Riessen, Barb: Program - Thursday Reading Club
Saffert, Kriste: Calendar - 1997 Mankato Area Historic Sites
Schultz, Bernice: Book - (12) Dist. 83 School Record books, Wedding Dress
Schultz, Jo: Salt and Pepper shakers, Toothpick holder, Letter from Rev. Jeanne Audrey Powers, Edison Talking Machine, Edison cylinders (24), Korean War accessories (4), John Deere toy truck and gasoline tank

Severson, Harold: Paper - "Just Reminiscing", Family History - Severson family
Smith, Emmett: CD (4) - Radio program - Mankato History This Month
Steiner, Pete: Cassette - President George W. Bush speech
Studer, Peter: Patch - Hubbard Sunshine Feeds
Tarjeson, Jane: Logo - Make it Mankato in 1988, T-shirt - Mankato Air Fest, Coin Case - Nelson Garage Door, Coin Case - Harry Stevenson, Coin Case - West Side Tavern, Coin Case - Nakato Bar, T-shirt - Ross Perot, Coin Case - Ross Perot, Button - Ross Perot, Newspaper - Free Press Special Edition 8/6/2004, Bumper Sticker - George W. Bush 2004, Bumper Sticker - Bush/Cheney, Foam hand - Dubya Rocks, Sign - GeorgeWBush.com, Pompon - Bush rally, Membership papers - Ross Perot, Photos (10) - Bush rally
Taylor, Robert: Papers and Photos re: Ernest Rosenberger
Votca, Cornelius: Candy Box - Rosenberger and Currier
Webb, Donna: Magazine - Women Inc.



EXHIBIT UPDATE

On Display Now

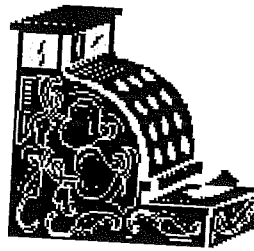
HickoryTech: A Centennial Business
 Explore a timeline of communication history

Blue Earth County Church History
 Pictorial hallway display

That's Entertainment:
Blue Earth County's Entertainment Past
 On display now through February 2005

COMING SOON:

Down on the Farm:
Blue Earth County's Agricultural Story
 To open in April 2005



...at the Museum Store

The following books have been reprinted and are once again available:

As We Once Were

Anna M. Wiecking

Made up of two collections, the first looks at the early period of Blue Earth County settlement, from 1850 to the turn of the century. The second part deals with the author's personal recollections and those of others, from 1890 to 1920. The author, a Blue Earth County native, gives a picture of early county history, bringing the past to life for readers today. 51 pp., 1971, reprint 2004. Paper, \$6.95

The Remarkable Men from Garden City

E. Winston Grundmeier

The booklet 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. 41 pp., 2003, photos. Paper, \$5.00

Mugs

Dark blue ceramic mugs with BECHS logo imprinted in gold. \$4.50

Travel Mugs

Large stainless steel travel mug with BECHS logo imprinted in black. \$10.50



From the Collections Managers Desk..

A new year is here and I would like to take a little time to reflect on 2004. As I look back I recall all of the projects we have accomplished.

In the Collections Room, we reorganized the textile collection and now it is being more finely organized and identified. We processed over 400 new artifacts into the permanent collection. We also took a look at the paper artifact collection and merged items in with the small artifacts and moved some things to Archives for storage. And we also started to organize and number our Study Collection. Wow! And all thanks to Win Grundmeier, Orv Jensen, Grace Keir and Mary McComb!

In the Archives, the projects are much more numerous. On a weekly basis, we have nearly 20 volunteers working on projects in the Archives. We continued the process of cataloging our book and photograph collections, updated the cemetery index, and continued to clip old and new newspapers for the obituary books and vertical files, as well as indexing newspapers, probate records, social notebooks and many other sources. I could go on and on, just stop in the Archives and see the progress! We have also rearranged the Archives Storage Room due to a donation of shelving from MSU, Mankato. Wow, what a difference! Thank you to all of the Archives volunteers - Mary Coleman, Helen Griffith, Win and Shirley Grundmeier, Gordon Herbst, Edith Hopman, Bob and Corey Hugg, Dani Kroon, Beth McCullough, Ora Ohlenkamp, Eunice Sassenberg, Leora Schmitz, Jo Schultz, Helen Sofchalk, Jane Tarjeson, LaDonna Tollefson, and Donna Webb!

In the area of programs, BECHS was busy in 2004. We had three monthly programs travel Blue Earth County for the year - Hometown History Photo Night, Diner's Club and Young Historians. We visited many communities and met many people with wonderful memories of the past to share. With Young Historians we traversed time from the American Revolution to the Vietnam Conflict. I would like to extend a special thanks to all of the people that help make Young Historians possible - Christina Shortall, Arn Kind, Win Grundmeier, Orv Jensen, Lyle LaFavor, the Young Historians and their parents.

Wow, what a year! We definitely kept busy in 2004 and there is no sign of slowing down in 2005! We will be building a new exhibit about Blue Earth County agriculture and century farms this spring. Which means "That's Entertainment" will close at the end of February. We will continue our projects in the Collections Room and Archives. Thank you once again to all of the people that help the BECHS staff accomplish so much! Happy New Year!

Jessica Potter

Collections Manager

Memorials

For: Morgan Brandrup
From: Neitge, Katherine
Kearney, Elizabeth

For: Gerald Hicks
From: Freyberg, Lynette

For: Robert Schultz
From: Various donors

For: Arnulf Ueland, Jr.
From: Jaax, Shelley & Waldo
Nussmeier, Elda

For: T. L. Owens
From: Kubicek, Joe & Sylva
Owens, Catherine
Davis, Lois & Donald
Jones, Eldon & Helen

For: Eleanor & Helen Tronvold
From: Madsen, Jack

For: Elizabeth Confer
From: Schumacher, John



Rapidan Heritage Society

The Rapidan Depot had a visit from some special guests Dec. 11th to help celebrate "Rapidan: An Old Fashioned Christmas." Mrs. Claus was waiting at the depot for Santa's arrival by horse-drawn carriage. Santa visited with the area children and handed out goodie bags. Each child received a photo of themselves with Santa or Mrs. Claus. Everyone enjoyed refreshments in the town hall while listening to carols sung by the Calvary Lutheran Church choir. Special thanks to Rapid Thunder Carriage for providing transportation for Santa.

Part of the festivities was the decorating contest held for the Rapidan Area. The judges had a tough

job, finally selecting Dwayne Matzke's house as the best decorated, and for his efforts he received an open edition of Marian Anderson's Rapidan print *Passage of Time*. Thanks to everyone who decorated their houses and yards for the season.

Looking for something different to do for your sweetheart for Valentine's Day? RHS will be having their 2nd Annual Valentine Sleigh Ride. Watch for more details in the area papers.

June Tarjeson
Secretary, RHS



Rich Garman of Rapid Thunder Carriage provided transportation for Santa into Rapidan to visit with area children and residents.

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 |

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

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 |

* 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: _____

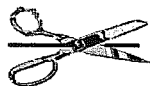
Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

☐ Please send me information about becoming a BECHS Volunteer



Recent Donations

Up to \$25

Brown, Perry & Jo
Carlson, William
Coleman, Mary
Cumiskey, June
Herbst, Gordon
Hill, Evelyn
Jenkins, Margaret
Manthe, Lois
Mathiason, Renee
McNear, V. G.
Ohlenkamp, Ora
Ries, Carol & Charles
Sassenberg, Eunice
Schaub, Shirley
Scheidel, Alois

Schulz, Roy & Velma
Swenson, Ralph

\$26-\$50

Fischer, Eldena
Gunnink, Mildred
Lehmann, Florence
Medalen, Ethel
Reich, Jerry & Judy
Salsbery, Tom
Zimmer, Beth & James

\$51-\$100

Barrett, Mary
Buck, Margaret
Jensen, Orv & Mary Ann

Barrett, Mary
DeWitt, Joanne Bierbauer
Hollingsworth, Alice
Snilsberg, Lee & Loretta
Sugden, George

\$101-\$500

Burton, Ronnie

Over \$500

Dooley, Mary
Grundmeier, Winston
Anonymous
Anonymous
Mary S. Gray Trust

Thank you all very much!



Upcoming BECHS Events

Please mark your calendar and join us

Saturday, February 12
10:00 a.m. - noon
Young Historians
Immigration and Ethnic Groups
BECHS - 415 E Cherry Street
Mankato

Saturday, March 12
10:00 a.m. - noon
Young Historians
World War I
BECHS - 415 E Cherry Street
Mankato

Saturday, April 9
10:00 a.m. - noon
Young Historians
Great Depression
BECHS - 415 E Cherry Street
Mankato

Saturday, May 14
10:00 a.m. - noon
Young Historians
World War II
BECHS - 415 E Cherry Street
Mankato

Those interested in any of the above activities, please contact
BECHS at (507) 345-5566 for reservations one week prior to the event



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

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