



The Blue Earth County **Historian**

A publication of the Blue Earth County Historical Society

Summer 2005

Robby's, Perkin's Restaurant, A & W Drive-In, Mexican Village,
Good Thunder Tavern, Burgandy Haus, Lake Crystal Happy Chef,
Harry's Hofbrauhaus, Stan & Joe's Meat Market & Delicatessen (Lake Crystal),
Club Royal, The Ember's, **The Peddler (Rapidan)**, Sirloin Stockade, **Cub's Cafe**,
Cellar Night Club, Michael's, *400 Cafe*, Baff's Cafe, Mettler's Bar,
Bert's Hilltop Drive-In, Brett's Hideaway Grill, Junction Inn, Midget Cafe (Garden City),
Trader & Trapper, LaPetite Cafe, *Pizza-Kato*, New Deal Cafe, Hanson House, Adrian's Cafe,
The Italian Place, Happy Joe's, Terrace Cafe Coffee Shop,
Bruiser's Pub (North Mankato), Country Kitchen, *Broiler Cafe*, **Topic Cafe**, Marti's Pizza,
The Blu-Inn, Pagliai's Pizza, **Harvey's Northside (North Mankato)**, Shakey's Pizza, **The Olympia**,
Jake's Stadium Pizza, Flame Club, Rainbow Club, The Answer, *Cat n' the Fiddle*,
Meray's Restaurant, D' Annie's, *Torchlight (Mapleton)*, Smorgie's, Stoney's Restaurant,
Trailblazer Bar & Grill (Madison Lake), Cambria Bar & Grill,
Main Street Boat Landing (Madison Lake), Urban Cafe (North Mankato),
Solfer's Grove, Bellig's (North Mankato), Jovaag's, Arnie's, Hanson's Dairy Bar,
Sunrise Cafe, Ramie's, Hilltop Tavern, *Sand S Tavern*,
Pete's Maid Rite Cafe, **Quality Castle**, Comer Cafe, ThomasDrug,
American Beauty, **Blue Blazer**, Mandarin, **Bolton's Cafeteria**,
Town Talk, Emmel's/Eckland Drug, College Inn, G and O Cafe, *Silver Grill*,
The Hidden Inn, Toohey's Malt Shop, The Purity Castle, Hodapp and Wegge Drug,
The Press Club, Cooper's Cafe, Elk's Cafe, Kresge's, Yackel Drug, Woolworth's,
Walgreen's, Holtun's Cafeteria, Terrace Cafe, *Saulpaugh Hotel*,
Wilde Syde Bar & Cafe (Vernon Center), The Diner (St Clair),
Cathy's Cafe (St Clair), Eagle's Nest (Eagle Lake), Adel's Corner Cafe,
Wheel Inn, **MR STEAK**, Kit-Kat Inn,
El Sies, Del's Cafe (North Mankato), **Burton Hotel Restaurant**,
The Broaster, Antonio's, Anchor Inn, *Dairy Queen*, Inn Towne Motel

In this issue:

Diners and Restaurants to Remember

The Blue Earth County Historian
Summer 2005

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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From the
Executive Director

Greetings from the Director's Desk. The Blue Earth County Historical Society has undergone some exciting changes this summer. The biggest change is our staff. I am honored to represent BECHS as the new Executive Director. I have big shoes to fill following James Lundgren, who moved to the National Eagle Center in February. I am looking forward to keeping up the momentum he created and try my hardest to promote the great opportunities BECHS has to offer. With my move, Shelley Harrison has become the new Archives Manager and takes over many of my Collections Manager duties. We are hoping to add a Collections Assistant to our team soon. This summer we have also had the pleasure to work with Blue Earth County native Brianna Bliese. She is our Museum Aide until mid-August when she will return to college. We are trying to keep her here, but I don't think her parents would appreciate it if she dropped out of college. We will replace her position in early August. I hope by the next newsletter, we will have a complete team.

Other changes for BECHS include new computers and internet service. This is a long time coming. Due to the new internet service, please make note that our email addresses have changed. This will not effect our website at: www.rootsweb.com/~mnbechs. Thank you to the HickoryTech Foundation, Que Computers, Be Wise Technology Solutions, Donna Webb, Gary Lundin and an anonymous donor for all of their help in making this possible.

The next change is with our membership levels. Please note the new membership form on page 13. We have changed the membership levels and added some great gifts for joining at a higher level. Also, effective immediately, all memberships will run from July 1- June 30. If you have already renewed your 2005

**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**

membership, it will carry over until June 30, 2006. If you have not renewed in 2005, your membership is now expired. Please renew at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions about the changes, please feel free to contact any Board, Staff or Development and Marketing Committee member.

I'm looking forward to where this road will take us. Please consider supporting BECHS either with your time, talents or through monetary contributions. We have a great Historical Society and all of our members, staff and volunteers should be very proud. I know that I am!

Jessica Potter
Executive Director

Recent Donations

Up to \$50
Thompson, Kenneth

\$51 to \$100
Cambria Township
Deep Valley Quilters
McLaughlin, Tom and Theresa

\$101 to \$500
Medo Township
John Rezmerski
Hanson, Kathryn

\$500 and up
Grundmeier, Winston and Shirley

In Kind
Jensen, Orville and MaryAnn
Goodrich, Ron and Barb
Schultz, Jo

Thank you all very much!

New and Renewed Members

Bassett, William A
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Holmison, Bob
Kinney, Robin E
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**Make Plans to Attend
the 2nd Annual**

Deep Valley Book Festival

The 2nd annual Deep Valley Book Festival will be held November 12 and 13, 2005 at the Midwest Wireless Civic Center in Mankato. This literary event promotes MN authors, reading and writing. Gathering authors and writers together for a celebration of books and reading gives the public a chance to meet and visit with the authors. Programs and presentations on various subjects will be featured. Mankato, the childhood home of author Maud Hart Lovelace, is a perfect setting for an author event such as this. For more information visit: www.deepvalleybookfest.com or call 507-625-8056.

This event is sponsored by the Betsy-Tacy Society, Minnesota Heritage Publishing, and the Blue Earth County Library. BECHS will have a booth at the festival, stop by and visit us!

Diners and Restaurants to Remember

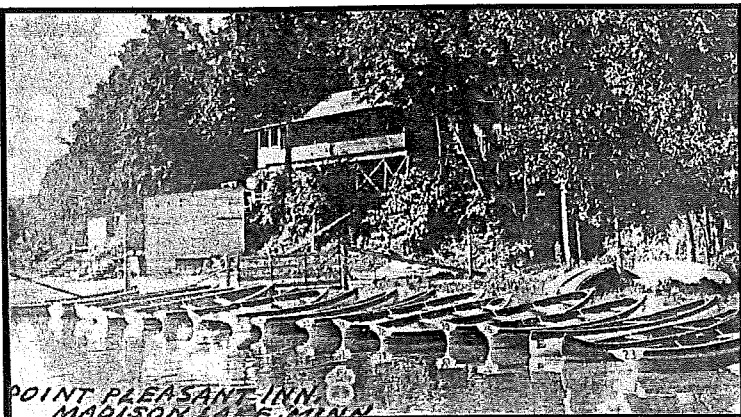
Bernadette Wilson
BECHS Treasurer

How many different answers would I get if I asked, "what do you remember of your years in Blue Earth County?" The ages of the readers of this newsletter span the century. It would be safe to say four to five generations of memories. I think within those memories we would share a couple common ones -- the friends we've had and the places we went with those friends.

My job today is to see what brain cells I can revitalize. You know they're in there, sleeping, waiting for a spark. A word, a name, will trigger what is held inside —those friends, those places, a local hangout, a favorite diner or restaurant.

There have been hundreds of diners and restaurants in Blue Earth County over the past century. I'll write of a few--those I've heard of from members and friends of the Blue Earth County Historical Society and those from my own memories.

Point Pleasant, Madison Lake. This resort has celebrated its 100th anniversary. What better place to start our walk down memory lane. Built in 1882 by J. M. Barclay, this resort was a haven for local townspeople as well as people from as far away as



Point Pleasant Inn, Madison Lake, c1930
Reprinted from the 20 April 1988 *Mankato Free Press*

Chicago, Kansas City and Omaha. When it was sold to the Sheppard family in 1930, the Sheppards brought to the resort an emphasis on quality restaurant fare. The resort will be remembered for serving buffet-style

chicken dinners each Sunday, dances on the hardwood floors and spending time along the lakeshore of Madison Lake. Point Pleasant is still available for wedding receptions, banquets and holiday parties.

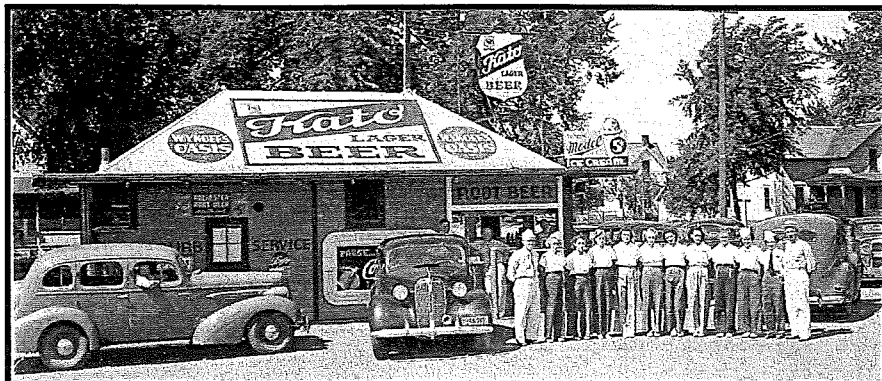
Rapidan Dam Store, Rapidan. George Nelson opened the Rapidan Dam Store in 1910 selling bait to anglers fishing along the banks of the Blue Earth River. Nelson owned the store from 1920 to 1937; Leila Lenhart owned and operated the store for six years. In 1972, Jim and Linda Hruska purchased the store from Al Sween. Jim claims, in the May 1999 *Connect Business Magazine*, that it's the oldest bait shop and café in southern Minnesota. What I know is that I'm in my forties now, have lived in Blue Earth County since I was five, and I've got to say the burgers are like no other in the County and the pie is the best I've ever tasted. Stop in for "the best dam burger" in Blue Earth County. Share memories of days gone by and don't forget to thank the Hruskas for keeping the place open to enjoy for 33 years.

Mankato Candy Kitchen, Mankato. Chris Zotalis opened the Mankato Candy Kitchen, located on South Front Street in Mankato, in the early 1900s. An elegant new soda fountain was installed in 1912. This iceless apparatus of handsome and elaborate design was constructed of German silver and polished white Italian marble. The back bar was supported by four large onyx columns with two small mirrors, one on each end, and a fourteen-foot mirror in the center. All were surrounded by art glass panels in the ends and an art glass scenic panel in the center. The fountain had the capability of dispensing twenty different flavors; special compartments were built for eight different crushed fresh fruits. Six men were able to work serving without interfering with each other. Hearing of places like this makes me wish I were born in an earlier time. How lucky are you who have memories of such a place.

Longbranch, Vernon Center. At the time of this writing I have little information on past restaurants in Vernon Center. One article I found states that "at one time the drug store in town housed a soda fountain; ice cream and sodas were served at small, round wooden tables. Customers sat in old-fashioned wire backed chairs with round wooden seats and twisted wire legs." A picture of the Longbranch was just above the article. I am making the assumption that the soda fountain was at one time in the Longbranch. Was it possibly owned

by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Halverson? Does any one out there know for sure? Let us know.

Wycoff's Oasis, Mankato. Clyde Wycoff opened his drive-in in 1931 when Mankato had a population of about 18,000. He found a wedge-shaped corner lot at the center of US Highway 169 and two state highways passing it from the west and south, with a city park just



Wycoff's Oasis, Mankato, 1931

a few blocks away. Wycoff started out by handling only root beer but soon found out that other soft drinks as well as ice cream, candy, hot roast beef sandwiches and cigarettes were also wanted commodities. And then there was music. Wycoff had a music stand built on top of the building. A three-piece orchestra played on the roof every night from eight until eleven o'clock and on Sunday afternoons. The Oasis was open until 1975.

Wagon Wheel Cafe, Mankato. Wally Haefner opened the Wagon Wheel in April, 1951. It was a time of enjoying Lawrence Welk and His Orchestra at the Kato Ballroom, Ronald Reagan in the theatre and dancing at the armory to the Six Fat Dutchmen. The menu started with chicken, a whole lot of chicken. Then over time other items were added. Nowadays, a person has a hard time choosing whether to have breakfast for lunch or lunch for breakfast. Wally sold the café to his son Kevin in 1982. Kevin has continued the family tradition of preparing food for a variety of customers, from students to businessmen and women, to retired folk enjoying a cup of coffee and conversation. Did I mention jukebox music in the booths? Don't miss stopping at 609 South Front Street for a nostalgic breakfast or lunch.

Uncle Rog's Original Old-Fashioned Popcorn Emporium, Mankato. Okay, so it's not a diner or

restaurant but this article can't be written without a word about the popcorn and doughnut stand that sat at the corner of Front and Jackson Streets in Mankato in the 70's. Owner, H. Roger Smith and doughnut maker, Leone Steck popped out-mouth watering treats to shoppers walking by on their way in busy downtown Mankato. Circus-type music played and the aroma of doughnuts cooking enticed you as you passed by. Who could resist a bag of cinnamon 'n' sugar doughnuts? I know my friends and I never could.

Countryside Restaurant, Lake Crystal.

Ghalen and Rhonna Nilson opened the Countryside Restaurant in 1975. The menu included basic home cooking, burgers, beef commercials and a salad bar. Over the years they served many a worker and traveler. In late 1992 the Lakeview Restaurant, along highway 60 running through Lake Crystal, went up for sale. Its location became the

second home to the Countryside Restaurant in January of 1993. The restaurant operated for twenty plus years.

Uncle Albert's, Eagle Lake. In 1976, Bell's Café in Eagle Lake changed its name to Uncle Albert's. Al 'Rab' Anderson owned the café until Mark and Rolene Fromm purchased it from him in November 1993. It's been said, by Thom Chesney of the *MSU Reporter* in his article about the café in February 1990, "this town cafe is like a comfortable chair, once you sit down it's hard to get up and move on." I think his words remain true. There's a certain feeling sitting in this café, eating down-home cooking, savoring every bite of their homemade pie. It's a feeling that you belong even though you're from out of town. People smile back at you. I'll have a grilled cheese, an order of fries and don't forget the chocolate malt.

Lyn Del's Café, Mapleton. Del and Linda Henze purchased the café in October 1976; its former name was Bergy's Café. The café is located on Hwy 30 that runs east and west through town. The Hense's offer home cooked meals, a variety of homemade pies and fresh rolls. After nearly thirty years, you can still enjoy a great meal and conversation.

Jamie's Pub, Pemberton. Steve "Jamie" and Sheila Jamieson have owned the pub since 1983. They've kept it alive through a farm crisis, the drought of 1988

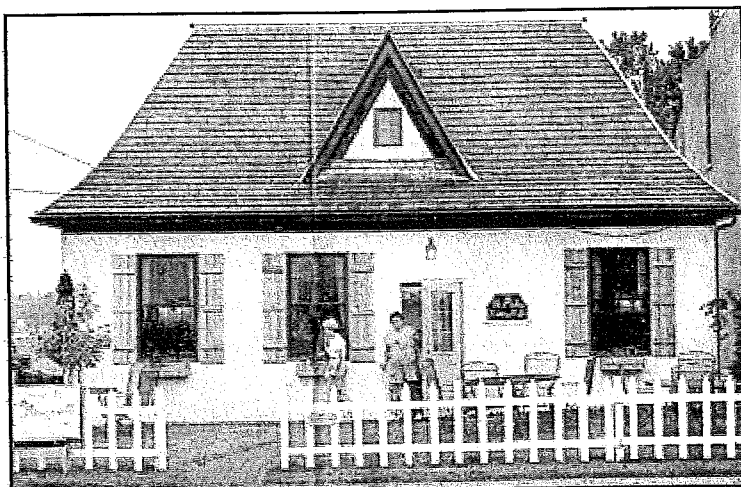
and the flood of 1993. Jamie's is the gathering place for local farmers of southern Blue Earth County. The Jamiesons have remodeled and expanded over their years of ownership to make the pub into a fine place to meet with friends for lunch, dinner or a beer, and don't forget their Friday night steak fry.

Cambria Bar & Grill, Cambria. LeRoy and Barb Hollander opened the Cambria Bar & Grill in the fall of 1983. Who would have thought that a small town could serve up "the meanest hamburgers" in the area? The Hollanders believed in giving their customers a meal. With new owners, Wayne and Brenda Thorson, in April of 1998, the name was changed to Preri Bach Grill and Saloon (Preri Bach means little prairie in Welsh). The owners and name changed but the famous Cambria burger remains the same. If you haven't tried one of these burgers and a plate of fries, make the drive to Cambria for a meal to remember.

Uptown Tavern, St. Clair. Troy and Kelly Zabel purchased the St. Clair Municipal Liquor Store on Main Street in St. Clair and renamed the facility Uptown Tavern in the fall of 1995. It took them just six days to transform the once dark bar into a bright place to stop for a bite to eat and a game of pool. Their menu started with pizzas but has grown to include burgers, fries and other hot foods.

Formerly Crane's, Garden City. Being a part of the Blue Earth County Historical Society has helped me to appreciate history again. Of all the places I have visited in the county I have got to say this place, Formerly Crane's, is at the top of my list for a must visit. In 1994, Don Crane sold Roxie Mell-Brandts his hardware store. I don't know if anyone imagined what she would make of it. Once a hardware store, now a coffee shop filled with antiques, photos and writings of the history of Garden City, graduation photos of some of Garden City alumni and much more. Everywhere you look, something trips a memory or two. An occasional movie on the side of the building is a treat when Roxie's got one scheduled. The coffee shop is operated by Roxie and by volunteers. Hours of operation are limited so call ahead. This is one not to miss.

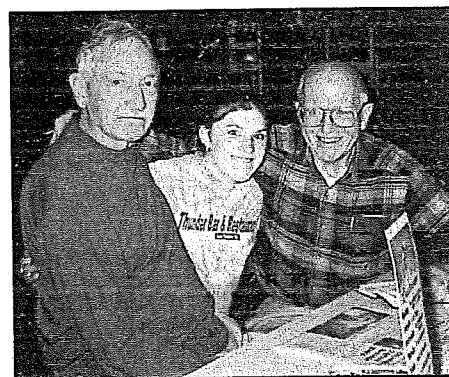
Amboy Cottage Café, Amboy. Have you been to Amboy lately? What Lisa Durkee has done to a beaten



Amboy Cottage Cafe, 2004.
Photo courtesy of Bernadette Wilson.

up, 72-year-old building that formerly housed a gas station is amazing. With funding from an inheritance, City and Small Business Administration loans, private funds and a First Cup of the Day Club, Lisa got the café opened in January 2001, just a year from the start of the project. The café offers cooking influenced by Lisa's European experiences, fresh herbs from her garden out behind the café and charm that is unmatched.

Thunder Bar & Restaurant, Good Thunder. As some of the readers of this article are aware, the Diner's Club of the Blue Earth County Historical Society has been traveling through the county eating at restaurants each town has to offer. I've taken pictures at each restaurant of the front of the building, the inside of the building, and of the people that have shown up for the lunch. April 12, 2005 the Diner's Club visited the Thunder Bar & Restaurant in Good Thunder. For the first time in 14 restaurants, I was compelled to take a picture of the food.



Win Grundmeier, a waitress at the Thunder Bar and Restaurant, and Jack Madsen, 2004. Photo courtesy of Bernadette Wilson.

Each plate served was breathtaking, then mouth watering, then filling. Not that the other restaurants of the county didn't offer wonderful food, they did. It was

just that for a place many of us had never been before, it was a place that no one should overlook. I wasn't able to get much of the history of the restaurant while we were there--too busy eating I think--nor can I find an article written about the place, but there were pictures on the wall. Part of the building was a bank at one time. The waitress had us in tears with her humor.

There are so many more restaurants to mention, old and new, closed and open, but I've run out of space and it's time to submit the article for printing. Hopefully, a word or a name has created a spark to revitalize those memories stored in your mind. If I've done that, keep those memories alive by sharing them with the next generation. And, join us every month as we visit another Blue Earth County restaurant with the Diner's Club

Take care and happy memories of past and future times.

Sources:

Various *Mankato Free Press* articles
Blue Earth County Historical Society Archives.
Vernon Center News February 23, 1978

Got a great collection? Want to Share?

One of something is an item, two is a pair, and three of is a collection. We have a new exhibit case in the Heritage Center, called the Collector's Case. While the Blue Earth County Historical Society collects the items and objects that tell the stories of Blue Earth County, we know that some of you do too. We would like to invite those of you who have collections to display the at BECHS. Your collection does not need to be from Blue Earth County. It can be anything from picnic baskets to tea pots or figurines. Every collection tells a story. Share your passion for collecting by sharing with the public and those that visit the Historical Society. For further information or to share a collection, contact Shelley a 345-5566 or by e-mail at bechsrc@hickorytech.net

Through the Research Center Door:

If you want to know if "X" marks the spot and you're using a key or legend you must be using the Blue Earth County Historical Society Map Collection. If you haven't been in recently we have:

- Plat Maps - if you're searching for rural roots, the first plat map is from 1879
- Atlas and Gazetteers - the 1895 has a complete name index
- County Maps - the 1865 Blue Earth County map has townships like Fox Lake and Watonwan.
- City Maps - an 1893 Mankato, 1941 Lake Crystal, and 1964 St. Clair
- Fire Insurance Maps - all you need is a street address and you can find information about the structure. These maps were used to determine insurance premiums
- Vegetation and Topographical Maps

Maps can be used for historical and genealogical research. You can find places that have all but vanished and yet appear on a map, like the plan map for Le Hillier in 1854.

Knowing where your ancestors lived at a particular time can give you a point of reference and help you locate other information like church, school, census, and cemetery records. All maps are treasure maps. So stop by and see what's new and ask me a question or two.

Shelley Harrison
Archives Manager

Volunteers Are Always Welcomed

If you have some time to spare to help us preserve history, please give us a call. Some examples are:

*serving as tour guides
participating on committees
doing data entry for Archives indexes
indexing census or newspapers
researching and/or writing*



History Essay Contest

Winners

4th Grade: Laura Garlow &

Jessica Schreyer

6th Grade: Abby Vomery



Laura and Jessica's essays are included below. Abby's will appear in the Fall issue of the newsletter. Congratulations to all of you and thank you to everyone who entered.

The Settlement and Founding of Mapleton

Laura Garlow, Mapleton

The town of Mapleton was first settled in the spring of 1856, and it was settled by Uriah Payne, Ira Annis, J. W. Sprague, James Cornell, Robert Taylor, and many other settlers. Mapleton was first named Shennan after Isaac Shennan. In 1870 it was called Mapleton Station. By 1878 the word Station was dropped from its name. Mapleton was named because the Maple River was nearby. And the Maple River received its name because of the large number of maple trees in the area.

The sport of curling became Mapleton's favorite game in 1856. The famous poet, Robert Burns, has been remembered for 130 years by celebrating Burns Night. The post office was established in 1857. In 1857 Jarvis P. Harrington taught the first school in his log house. The first steam mill was built in 1858.

They had the town partially built, but it was vacated in February of 1863. First, the blacksmith established his building in 1865-1866. In 1867, a new post office was built. The new schoolhouse was completed in 1869 and in 1878 it was sold and it became a church.

The first store was made in the fall of 1870. In September 1870, the first general store was finished. Mapleton's hotel was built in 1870. Mapleton also had an Opera House, but it was torn down in 1872.

The first election was held on March 19, 1878. The first newspaper was called the *Mapleton Messenger* and was started on June 13, 1879. Private banking

began in March of 1869. However the bank failed in 1896.

The first fire engine that Mapleton purchased was in 1883. Mapleton at one time had a bowling alley. There used to be an event called the Mapleton Fair. The most important reason for the founding of Mapleton was the railroad. Roads were first made only of dirt. On February 8, 1896, Mapleton faced one of its worst fires. In 1896, an electric light plant was installed for the town.

On March 31, 1903, the First National Bank was organized. Mapleton's Carnegie Library opened in 1910. The Borchet Brothers Hardware Store was built in 1915. In 1916, Mapleton's first theater called the Ritz Theater was built.

Mapleton started in the 1800's. Mapleton is still an important town in Minnesota. As Mapleton continues to grow curling will still be an important part of Mapleton.

Sources:

Annis, Audrey; Solie, Kay; Solie, Tim. *A Post Card History of Mapleton Minnesota.*

Hughes, Thomas. *History of Blue Earth County.*

Newell, Ronald. *Where the Winding Maple Flows.*

Ft. Le Hillier South Bend Township, Blue Earth County, Minnesota

Jessica Schreyer, Mankato

I decided to write about the settlement and founding of Ft. Le Hillier in Southbend Township of Blue Earth County, because my grandparents live near where historians think Ft. Le Hillier was located.

On May 3, 2005 I went to my Grandma Schreyer's place. I brought my metal detector along to see if we could find any old metal near the Ft. Le Hillier site. We took a hike through the woods and found a tin can, some barbed wire, and a pole. Then we hiked to the mounds on the vacant lot by my grandma's house but we didn't find any historic metal. After walking back to grandma's house she showed me some old history

books she had on Blue Earth County and Ft. Le Hillier and that's where I got my information for this essay.

Ft. Le Hillier is located in South Bend Township of Blue Earth County, Minnesota, near the intersection of County Highway 66 and County Highway 90.

The French were probably the first white men to explore what is now Blue Earth County. The French were great explorers and fur traders. Pierre Charles Le Sueur and his group of explorers were here as early 1683. He discovered what he thought was copper in the green colored clay found near the Blue Earth and Le Sueur Rivers. A Dakota Medicine Man told Le Sueur about the clay. In 1701, Le Sueur took a sample of the clay back to France to have it tested but found that it did not contain any copper. Pierre Charles Le Sueur never returned to Minnesota but left a man named D'Eraque in charge of Ft. Le Hillier. Ft. Le Hillier was abandoned in 1702. Pierre Charles Le Sueur died in 1704 after contracting yellow fever.

There are stories of an ancient and magnificent cave in the area where the blue green clay was found but no cave has ever been found.

For about 150 years after Ft. Le Hillier was abandoned, what is now Blue Earth County remained in its beautiful natural way. The buffalo grazed, the deer bounded through the forests and the wolves howled in the valleys. Smoke rose from wigwams of the different Indian tribes that inhabited the area.

Except for an occasional surveyor or trapper or hunters wandering through the area, Blue Earth County, South Bend Township was not developed until about 1850 when the first steamboat passed the mouth of the Blue Earth River. At that time, this area was part of the Winnebago Indian Reservation from 1855 to 1863. Mr. John A. Jones purchased the land after the area was opened for settlement. The land was covered with timber.

Mr. Arthur Mitchell later purchased the land from Mr. Jones. Mr. Mitchell cleared the land to be used for pasture. An interesting discovery was made by workers on Mr. Mitchell's farm in summer of 1907. They were digging for gravel in a large mound in Mr. Mitchell's pasture when they found 15-17 skeletons - without

skulls! The skeletons were all adult males. At that time, a Mankato historian, Mr. Thomas Hughes, said "that the skeletons were those of Dakota (Sioux) who were killed in a battle with the Sac, Fox or Chippewa Indians and the victors had cut off the heads of the slain and bore them away on poles as trophies of the battle." This probably happened in the spring of 1702 right before Ft. Le Hillier was abandoned.

This area became of interest to the Daughters of the American Revolution group in 1926 because of the history of Pierre Charles Le Sueur and Ft. Le Hillier. They placed a historical stone marker near where they thought was the site of Ft. Le Hillier.

Bibliography:

History of Blue Earth County by Thomas Hughes.
The Welsh-English Edition of The History of the Welsh in Minnesota by Rev. Thos. Hughes, David Edwards, Hugh Roberts and Thomas Hughes.
History of the Red Jacket Valley by Julie Schrader.



Hubbard House **Tour Guides/Volunteers Needed**

We have lots of great programs planned for the Hubbard House this year. As a result, we are in need of many volunteers to serve as guides and helpers at these programs and on the weekends.

Can you help? We can use helpers at all levels of experience from crowd watchers to knowledgeable tour guides.

Contact Jessica at 507-345-5566

April-June 2005 Donations

Amato, Joseph: Books (8) MN History
Anonymous Donor: Tin architecture pieces (2), Plate 125th Anniversary of Sioux Uprising
Bartholdi, Roberta: Student Teacher information, Spirit Duplicating Worksheets
Bartsch, Glenn: Postcards BEC (37), Soap dishes (4), Cup holder, Toilet paper holder for HH bathrooms, Walnut marble top lamp table
Benson, Edith: Handbag, Cigarette holder
Braam, Cindy: Family History Braam and Engelen-Bloechel
Buchanan, Don: Photo State Teachers College 1926
Coleman, Mary: Program Riverblenders Concert 2005
Confer, Ogden W.: Photos (16) George M. Palmer, Photos (8) Mary Olivia Roberts Palmer, Photos (6) Ruth Palmer Confer, Photos (7) Esther and John Beck, Photos (4) Hubbard Mill, Papers Palmer/Confer family, Hubbard Mill and Hubbard House, Notebook R.D. Hubbard, Framed document G.M. Palmer, Books (10)
Eckert, H. Charles: Family History - Andregg
Eick, Gerald: Typewriter with manual 1920s, Stapler, Paper cutter, Briefcase Haskins and Sells, Golf Clubs (8) and Bag, Record Player 1954, Hockey Jersey; Wilson Campus Activity Letters (6), Jersey, Hat, Banner, Homecoming Buttons 1968-1970, 1977, Yearbooks 1970, 1971, papers, certificates, programs; MSU Jersey, T-shirt, Foundation lapel pin, Bookends of Old Main, Lapel pin (4), Alumni Directory 1996, 2001, Button; Plaque United Way 1983-84, Plaque Sertoma Club 1979
Fitzloff, Beverly: Sign Drink Best Milk, Bottles (2) Best's Dairy, Trophy (2) Peppy Wahoo 4-H club, History Best's Dairy, Scrapbooks (5) 4-H, Minute Book (2) Tri-Lakers 4-H, Premium Lists (5)
Frederick, Mike: Book Jacket, Bottle Eckland Drug Store, Brochures (19), Bumper Sticker KMSU, Bumper Sticker Mankato West HS 2004, Cap LCARC, Card SS Peter and Pauls, Coaster Sign Pro, Coffee Cup A.M.S. Supply Co., Coin Sambos, Cookbook Hilltop United Methodist Church, Cozy McGowan Water, Invitation Bethany Lutheran Church of Judson, Letter Opener (2), Magazine Bethany Report, Magnet (5), Menus (4), Notepad City Desk, Novelty Paulsen Architects, Papers Festival of Arts 2005, Papers ISJ Clinic Doctors (12), Papers Jesse Ventura for Governor, Papers Pub 500

Punch Card, Pens (8), Pencils (2), Pennant Mankato West HS, Postcards (8), Premium Peter's Grocery Amboy Program (2), Report (2), Ribbon BEC Fair 2004, Screwdriver Fromm's Collision Center, Trading Card Mkto Fire Dept., Trivet ISJ Clinic
Grundmeier, Win: Brochure Vetter Stone, Papers City of Mankato 2005 projects, History of Centenary United Methodist Church, Program Science Fair (3), Schedule Mankato Moon Dogs 2005
Herbst, Gordon: Coffee Cup Minneopa Park 100th Anniversary, Sticker Minneopa Park
Jones, Beverly: Photo NSP employees 1930s
Keir, Richard and Grace: Records Deep Valley Quilters, Photos (29) 1993 Flood of MN and Blue Earth Rivers
Lavitschke, Jo-an: Scrapbooks Mankato Floods, Art prints (14)
Layeux, Tim: Books (8) Published by The Child's World of Mankato, Book Skates and Skating
Leiferman, Jerry: Wrench, Tool for doors, Jab Drill, Grain testing pole
Lundin, Iris Nigg: Flour Sack Hubbard Milling Co.
Lundquist, Jean: People's Fair papers, posters, etc. 1988-1998
Mace, Muriel: Photos (6) Wolcott/Foster family
Madsen, Jack: Video KEYC re: 1965 flood
Manthe, Lois: Book Saga of Commercial Educator
Marshall, Polly: Doll 1960, Board games (6) 1950s-1980s, Book Bag, Tennis Racket, Atomizer, Banner Mankato East HS 1973, Yearbook Mankato East HS 1975, Catalog (6) Landkamer Bros. 1970s
McGrew, Mary: Dress and Hat, MN Drivers Manual 1976-77, Rand McNally Travel Guide 1976, Program Up With People, Directory (2) MHS Class of 1949, Button St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Centennial, Booklets (2) and Directories (3) St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Papers Stoltzman Road
McLaughlin, Theresa: Book MSU 1996 Alumni Directory, Items (10) from Northstar Ethanol Grand Opening, Pen Wolf Etter and Co., Pencil Deal Family Chiropractic, Wooden coin LeMay's Humphrey St. Grill, Booklet Lake Crystal 2005 Visitors Guide, Coupon Weggy's Bar and Grill, Coloring Book All About Blue Earth County
Peterson, Dorothy: Ribbons (18), Pins (5), Clothesline Kunkel Store Rapidan, Pajamas (3 pieces)
Peterson, Joyce: Bierbauer Brewery information
Roberts, Carol: Photo Albert Lamm and Mary Salfer,

Wedding Dress Mary Salfer Lamm, Wedding Vest
Albert Lamm, Book History of St. Peter and Paul's
Church, 1900, Family History Lamm family
Roberts, William: Books (10)
Rose, Luella: Papers MN Centennial
Ruble, Bruce: Bag Bretts, Bag Wilson's, Emory
Board Brett's Beauty Shop, Pen Make It Mankato,
Pin 77 Lancers
Schultz, Jo: Balance, Table Cloth, Silent Butler, Box
Lake Crystal Mercantile
Smith, Emmett: CD (4) Mankato History This Month
Smithers, Karen: Hats (4), Papers Windhorn family,
Newspapers Mankato Free Press
Sugden, George: Photo MHS Class of 1899, Booklets
(2), First Aid Tape Red Cross
Tarjeson, Jane: Mankato West HS course guide,
Annual Report Crystal Valley, Book Last Writes of
Katoland, Annual Report Benco Electric
Thurston, Gladys: Slide Projector, Egg Beater
Webb, Donna: Book Through Dakota Eyes
Westberg, Andrew: Pencils (5) BEC businesses
Zielske, Dan: Sheet Music Mankato Sesquicentennial

Upcoming events at Tacy's House

Saturdays 1:00 - 3:00 pm

- **September 10:**

Meet the Author: Gail Hanson Mikkalson
Book signing: *The View from the Front Room Window*
Program: How to Preserve Your Family Story

- **October 1:**

Lincoln Park Walking Tour

- **October 29:**

Meet the Author Marty Duncan
Book Signing: *Gold...Then Iron and Iron Lake Burning*
Halloween Party All are welcome - dress in costume.



Footnotes & Fingerprints

The first few meetings of the Footnotes and Fingerprints Club were very successful and well attended. We now have 18 members, and newcomers are always welcome.

We have learned how to identify photographs, nifty computer tips to help us save time and money and the interesting history of poor farms. The meetings were social as well as educational and a delightful time was had by all.

If you have any ideas for discussion topics or any interest in presenting a topic, please let Shelley know.
Thank you to all who helped create the club and please continue to give your advice.

Future Meetings:

- August 11: Tour of the LDS Family History Center in North Mankato
- September 8: Gravestones and Cemeteries Preservation
- October 13: All the Gorey Details

Finger Tip - The FEEFHS (Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies) 2005 Conference is August 19-21, in St. Paul. For more information and a schedule of events see their website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnnggs/FEEFHS.html>

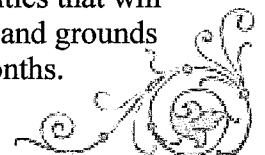


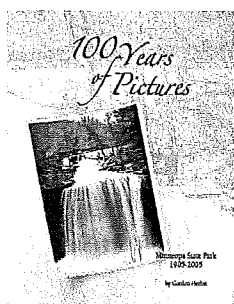
Come Visit the Hubbard House

The house will be open for walk-in tours every Saturday and Sunday through September.

Wander around our beautiful gardens anytime.

Check our calendar and join us for some of the special activities that will be taking place at the house and grounds over the summer months.





100 Years of Pictures Minnesota State Park 1905-2005

To commemorate Minneopa State Park's centennial, this book was written and compiled by

Mankato native Gordon Herbst and Minnesota Heritage Publishing and is planned for release this fall. The book features many photographs and the history of the Minneopa area that became Minnesota's second State Park in 1905.

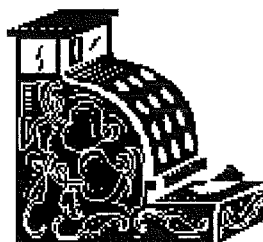
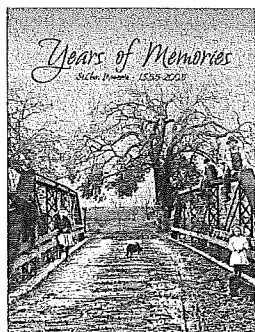
A book signing at the Heritage Center is being planned. Watch for more details as they become available or visit: www.mnheritage.com.

Years of Memories The History and Memories of McPherson Township & St. Clair, Minnesota 1855 - 2005

Compiled by Myrtle Westphal and published by Minnesota Heritage Publishing, this book was released for St. Clair's sesquicentennial celebrated June 23-26, 2005.

Over a year ago, rural St. Clair resident, Myrtle Westphal, began a book project to commemorate St. Clair's 150th anniversary. She enlisted the help of the community and called for residents to submit photographs, biographies and memories to be included in the book. The community support and response she received was fantastic! *Years of Memories* is filled with over 400 pages of photographs, biographies, history and memories of St. Clair over the past 150 years. The book contains the history of the Winnebago Agency and St. Clair families, churches, businesses and schools.

The book is available for \$30.00 in the BECHS Museum Store.



...at the Museum Store

Whether you are a local history buff, a genealogist, or just have a sweet tooth for old-fashioned candy, the museum store is a great way to further your knowledge of history. We have books on almost every aspect of Blue Earth County history from the Dakota Conflict through modern day Mankato. Fashion, children's stories, and biographies of our city founders round out our eclectic collection.

A section of the store is devoted to one of Blue Earth County's most beloved authors, Maud Hart Lovelace, which contains her Betsy-Tacy series along with other pictures, postcards, and books. The store also offers a variety of merchandise written, designed, and painted by local artists. Marian Anderson cards, a collection of *Mankato Memories* put together by *The Free Press*, and various jazz CDs featuring renowned guitarist Jim McGuire, are just a few of the wonderful talents we have featured. Other popular merchandise includes maps, postcards of our landmarks, the Mahkato Wacipi CD, and of course our toy and candy sections!

If you are interested in preserving your own history, we have an extensive selection of archival items. Storage boxes, albums, and pages are all specially designed to help keep your memories safe and intact. The museum store is the only place in Mankato available to purchase these materials. For more information on any of our merchandise, feel free to call 507-345-5566 or stop by and visit. Join us and become a local historian!

Brianna Bliese
Museum Aide

EXHIBIT UPDATE

Blue Earth County Church History
Pictorial hallway display continues

*Down on the Farm: The Agricultural Story
of Blue Earth County*
Heritage Center Gallery

**Blue Earth County Historical Society
Annual Membership Levels**

Membership runs July 1, 2005 June 30, 2006

Basic

\$20-49

- Subscription to the quarterly newsletter *The Historian*
- 10% discount in the Museum Store
- Free Admission to the Heritage Center Gallery, Hubbard House and Research Center

Basic Levels

- ☐ Individual Student/Senior \$20
- ☐ Individual \$25
- ☐ Household \$35

Contributor

\$50-99

All the Basic Household Membership benefits plus:

- \$10 gift certificate to The Museum Store
- Listing in our Annual Report (optional)

Booster

\$100-499

Basic and Contributor benefits plus:

- Your choice of one of the gift items (A-D) listed below

Sponsor

\$500-999

Basic and Contributor benefits plus:

- Your choice of two gift items (A-D)

Benefactor

\$1,000-4999

Basic and Contributor benefits plus:

- Your choice of three gift items (A-D)

Patron

\$5,000 +

Basic and Contributor benefits plus all four gift items (A-D) and bonus gift.

GIFT ITEMS

- A - BECHS Logo Coffee Mug
- B - BECHS Logo Tote Bag
- C - BECHS Logo T-shirt
- D - Powwow Compact Disk



**Blue Earth County
Historical Society**

THANK YOU!

I Would Like to Contribute \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail Address _____

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Membership Levels

- ☐ Basic
- ☐ Contributor
- ☐ Booster - Gift Choice _____
- ☐ Sponsor - Gift Choice _____, _____
- ☐ Benefactor - Gift _____, _____, _____
- ☐ Patron Gift Choice - A-D

☐ Please do not send me a gift. I want my full contribution to support BECHS.

☐ I would like my contribution to be anonymous.

Membership fees and donations cover a growing part of our annual operating budget. Thank you for your support now as we preserve and protect the past for the future!

Please return this form to:

BECHS Membership
415 Cherry Street, Mankato, MN 56001

Notice

Please note our new membership levels and added great gifts for joining at a higher level. Effective immediately, all memberships will run from July 1 to June 30. If you have already renewed your 2005 membership, it will carry over until June 30, 2006. If not, your membership has now expired. Please renew at your earliest convenience. If you have questions, please feel free to contact any Board, Staff or Development and Marketing Committee member.

**And, remember BECHS when considering giving a memorial or in your estate planning.
This a wonderful way to preserve your family heritage.**

You are invited to listen regularly to *Mankato History This Month* at 10 AM the first Monday of each month, on KMSU 89.7 FM. Join with the



presenter, Emmett Smith, as area residents discuss their experiences and recollections from the past, here at home in Old Mankato and Blue Earth County. The broadcast is also livestreamed online at <http://www.kmsu.org>.

If you have questions or programming requests, contact Mr. Smith at (507) 787-2653. Currently, we are interested in finding people to share their stories of the 1930's, America's decisive decade.

WISH LIST

- Cordless drill and drill bits
- Copy paper
- Glassware for the Hubbard House
- *Maple River Messenger* on microfilm
- *Lake Crystal Tribune* on microfilm
- *Mankato Free Press* on microfilm

Wish Fulfilled

Surge protectors & copy paper
Thanks to Ron & Barb Goodrich
 Vacuum cleaner
Thanks to Donna Webb

April - June Volunteers

Bartsch, Glenn
 Belgard, Hugh
 Belgard, Vail
 Burns, Inella
 Burton, Ronnie
 Carey Elizabeth
 Coleman, Mary
 Falenczykowski, Lona
 Frederick, Mike
 Frisch, Carlienne
 Fowler, Bridget
 Frederick, Mike
 Garlow, Laura
 Garlow, Sandi
 Goff, Harley
 Graham, Joan
 Griffith, Helen
 Gower, Ron
 Grundmeier, Shirley
 Grundmeier, Win
 Hagen, Tom
 Hanson, Kathryn
 Herbst, Gordon
 Herbert, William
 Hiniker, Dane'

Hopman, Edith
 Hugg, Bob
 Hugg, Corey
 Jensen, Mary Ann
 Jensen, Orv
 Keir, Grace
 Kinney, Robin
 Lagerquist, Mike
 Lamson, Barb
 Lavitschke, Jo-an
 Lichtenberg, Marian
 Lundin, Gary
 Madsen, Jack
 Marti, Ben
 Marti, Paula
 Marti, Raina
 Marti, George
 McComb, Mary
 McLaughlin, Theresa
 Neilson, Jerry
 Niu, Dana
 Norman, Beth
 Ohlenkamp, Ora
 Oldenburg, Alex
 Peterson, Leslie

Powers family
 Quade, Henry
 Rezmerski, John
 Ries, Bill
 Samuel, Alex
 Sandon, Buzz
 Shortall, Christine
 Schmitz, Leora
 Schreiner, Jim
 Schultz, Jo
 Sofchalk, Helen
 Stromswold, Todd
 Sugden, George
 Tarjeson, Jane
 Thomas, JoAnn
 Thorsen, Brianna
 Twilight Garden Club
 Wagner, Charles
 Webb, Donna
 Wilson, Bernadette
 Wood, Doug
 Wright, Lorraine
 Ziegler, Ken
 Zielske, Dan
 Zimmer, Beth



The Betsy-Tacy Society

The Betsy-Tacy Society is a non-profit, charitable group organized in 1990. Our mission is to promote and preserve Maud Hart Lovelace's books, to encourage their continued publication and distribution, and to restore historical literary landmarks in Mankato.

Maud Hart Lovelace was born in Mankato, Minnesota in 1892 and lived here until 1910. She wrote six adult novels and eighteen children's books. Maud is best known for her beloved series of Betsy-Tacy books, which to a great extent, depicts her childhood days in Mankato, the fictionalized "Deep Valley."

In 1995, the Betsy-Tacy Society purchased the childhood home of Maud's best friend, Bick Kenney (Tacy) at 332 Center Street. In 2001, the Society purchased Maud's (Betsy's) childhood home across the street at 333 Center Street. Renovations are on-going and are supported by the generous donations from our membership and the general public.

Tacy's House currently serves as the organization's headquarters. It is open to the public every Saturday afternoon from 1:00-3:00 pm. Books and short stories written by Maud Hart Lovelace, postcards, notecards, paper dolls, T-shirts, sweatshirts, Deep Valley afghans, tote bags, porcelain mugs, Victorian gifts, and much more are for sale to help support our restoration efforts. New this year are books written by BTS members and other Minnesota authors. Tours are available by appointment. We request a week's advance notice to allow us time to line up a tour guide. For appointments call 507-345-8103. Visit our website: www.betsy-tacysociety.org.

This spring, the BTS has been the recipient of two grants which have allowed us to continue work on Betsy's and Tacy's houses. The Mankato Area Foundation awarded the Society a grant to assist in completing the exterior siding and trim and to install an entry door at Tacy's House. We also received a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Mankato

Chapter to begin work on the restoration of the front porch of Betsy's House. Thrivent organized Join Hands Day in April, providing volunteers to help clean out Tacy's garage, remove paneling at Betsy's house and scrape and paint Betsy's garage. Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. donated a new energy efficient hot water heater and Paul Kvitek from Paul's Plumbing & Heating donated his time to install it in Tacy's house. Master Gardener Barb Lamson continues to work on the garden at Tacy's House and it looks beautiful. We are grateful to these and all the volunteers and organizations who continue to help and support us.

The BTS is host to a new *Meet the Author* program held at Tacy's House. In 2005, we have hosted book signings and author visits by various Minnesota authors, including John Rezmerski, John Koblas, Joan C. Graham, Fred Netz, Terri Peppe, and Becky Davis. On July 23rd author Claudia Mills from Colorado was our guest author.

Other BTS programs include open house parties for Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day with Jack McGowan and Easter. In May, we were involved with Bryce Stenzel in the dedication ceremony for the new Lincoln Park Historical Marker and hosted a program at the Elk's Nature Center with Dr. Louisa Smith presenting "*Outside the City: Rasmussen Slough in 1912 viewed through the writings of Maud Hart Lovelace*." In June, the Society partnered with BECHS for a Victorian Lawn Party held at Tacy's House and the Hubbard House. We offered guided tours by "Betsy" (Lydia Campbell), a program about 1900s fashions presented by Kelly and Allie Reuter, and delicious frozen custard provided by Culver's.

BTS held our Annual Meeting June 11th with a potluck lunch at Tacy's House. Artist and author Cheryl Harness donated a new painting to the Society and it was unveiled at the meeting. This new Victorian-style painting highlights high school-age Betsy, Tacy and Tib in the center. Beautiful detailing features Betsy, Tacy and Tib's houses, the Deep Valley High School, and several Hart family artifacts mentioned in the book series. Each Betsy-Tacy book title is incorporated within the painting. Prints will be reproduced and available for sale as a fundraiser. Watch for more details coming this fall.



Special Thanks!

Thanks to the HickoryTech Foundation and an anonymous donor the Blue Earth County Historical Society is now high tech! We have been able to add four new computers and DSL internet service to the Heritage Center. Due to this technology update, we will be changing our email addresses effective immediately. Please make note of these addresses when emailing BECHS.

Jessica Potter, Executive Director (general BECHS questions, correspondence) bechs@hickorytech.net
Shelley Harrison, Archives Manager (Research Center questions, correspondence) bechsrc@hickorytech.net
Museum Store (questions, orders, correspondence) bechsms@hickorytech.net

Also, our thanks to Mark Broman of Que Computers, Dan Diefenderfer of Be Wise Technology Solutions, Gary Lundin and Donna Webb for their assistance in accomplishing this upgrade to our technology.

Currently collecting information,
photographs and memories of



Barns



in
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

A glance around the countryside hints of the changes in farming today. Barns are no longer seen in every farmyard. This book is an effort to preserve the history of these important buildings.

Looking for stories and photographs of barns in Blue Earth County. If you have stories or photographs to share for this book, please contact:

Julie Schrader, Minnesota Heritage Publishing
205 Ledlie Lane
Mankato, MN 56001
507-625-8056
e-mail: julie@mnheritage.com



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

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Permit No. 343

Preserving and sharing Blue Earth County's history since 1901



The Blue Earth County **Historian**

A publication of the Blue Earth County Historical Society

Fall 2005



Lydia Ann
Wolf, Civil
War Veteran

Photograph
property of the
Blue Earth County
Historical Society

In this issue:

They Asked To Go: The Untold Story of Early Blue Earth County Women Veterans