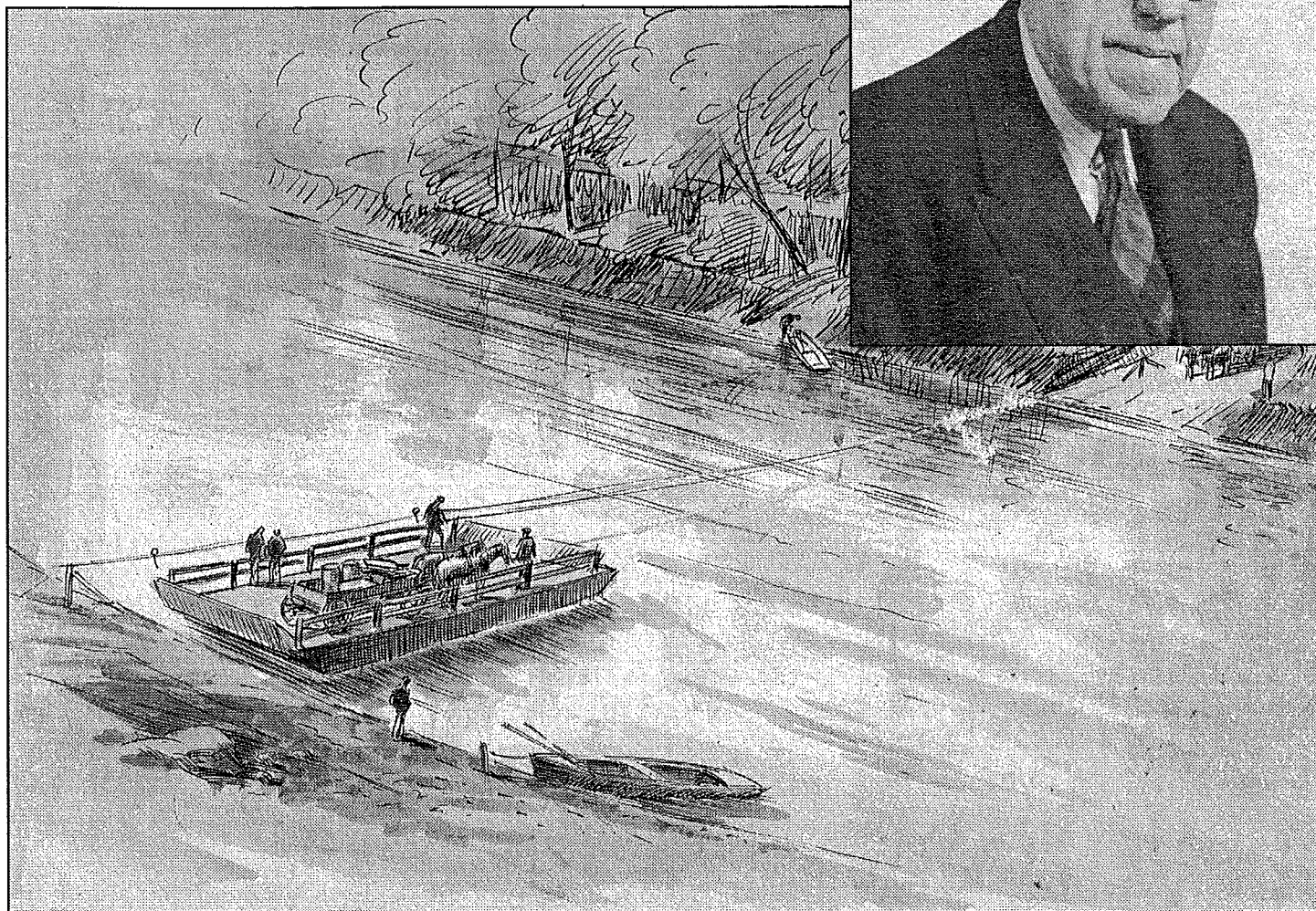


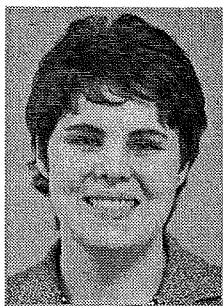
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Anders A. Anderson



Cummings Ferry Sketch by A. A. Anderson



From the Executive Director

Today, I was asked by a college student why we have a *Dukes of Hazard* lunch box on display. I answered with the question, "What do we consider history?"

"Anything old" was his response, a typical misconception. I responded that "History is what happened yesterday."

This is a common misconception. We assume that it is more interesting to display items that do not exist in that form in our current everyday life. For example, a hand-operated washing machine is quite foreign to anyone from my generation, but the generation before me can remember either using it or their grandmother using it. Or back to the *Dukes of Hazard* lunch box, if you are a 2006 third grader coming through the museum, you recognize the name *Dukes of Hazard*, but may not recognize the 1980s TV show actors. You may only be familiar with the 2005 movie actors. A sign that history is all relative.

So, what does this mean for BECHS and for our past

and future donors? We need your help collecting the current past. Our photograph collection almost completely stops in the 1950s. I know, we have continued to take photos since then. So, we need to actively include those post 1950s images. We have collected more recent objects like a stuffed Barney character, a 1990s Apple computer and some Mankato Moondogs memorabilia. But what about a Nintendo, cell phone or walkman? As a society, we are in the habit of using our items and then donating them to a thrift store or throwing them away. But these items represent everyday life in Blue Earth County. Does it take 50 years to make something worth saving?

Okay, as many of you know, currently we do have limited storage space, so we don't need every garage sale item to be donated to the Historical Society. But we do need you to think about the stories associated with your objects, papers and photographs and if they have a story about Blue Earth County to tell, please consider donating them. Current and past businesses and organizations need to be recorded through interior and exterior photographs of their buildings, letterheads, annual reports, memorabilia, samples, etc. Current and past Blue Earth County



Blue Earth County Historical Society

415 Cherry Street, Mankato, MN 56001, 507-345-5566

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mubechs/>

BECHS mission is to collect, preserve and publish materials relating to the history of Blue Earth County.

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Donna Webb, Editor

The Blue Earth County Historian

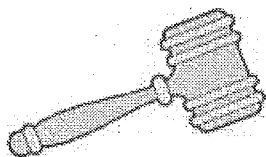
Fall 2006

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residents should be recorded through photographs of their families, homes and daily activities. Wouldn't it be incredible to come across a photograph of the first women's basketball team in St. Clair? Well, imagine that in today's context – the first girls' hockey team?

Please help us to preserve the current past for the future. Without your help we may miss out on some incredible stories, memories or snapshots in time. As always, thank you all for your continued support of your Blue Earth County Historical Society!

Jessica Potter, Executive Director



From the President

I hope you've all had a great summer! I have a few quick items I wanted to address in this quarter's newsletter. First and foremost, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I'd like to extend a special thank you to all of those who volunteered at our recent "Old Fashioned Barn Dance" at Jack McGowan's farm. Although I was not directly involved in the planning of this event, I did volunteer a few hours to help staff it. I was particularly struck by the incredible amount of effort it takes to organize and staff such an event. As an organization, we truly could not continue without such dedicated volunteers. Thank you again for your help!

While I'm thanking people, I also want to thank all of you who attended the Barn Dance and helped promote it to your friends and neighbors. If you attended, you already know that this event was an unqualified success for BECHS! First, we raised a respectable amount to help fund our operations. Second, and perhaps even more important, we had a lot of fun. The Board of Trustees is already looking for ways to make this event bigger and better for next year. As always, we would like to hear from you if you have ideas.

Because so many people have mentioned it to me, I'll just admit it. I'm still no good at throwing those tomahawks. But I do plan on asking my wife for a

set for Christmas. I'm not sure if this will go over well or not.

I also want to make a brief report on the efforts of our Board and our Advisory Committee. As you may recall from my last column, we are currently in the process of formulating a long-term plan for BECHS. At this point, we are addressing the most basic of issues: What are BECHS' most critical functions? What roles do we see BECHS fulfilling in the future? What additional resources will we need to fulfill these roles? Once again, I would like to solicit help from our members. What do you see as BECHS' most critical function? Are there related functions that BECHS could be serving but which are not currently part of our programs? If you have opinions in this area, the Board of Trustees would really like to hear them!

Finally, by now many of you may have heard that the Summit Center Inc. will shortly be ceasing operations. I want to let all of you know that the Board of Trustees is well aware of this situation and are working on solving the matter.

Todd Stromwald

Board of Trustees President

 *Herberger's*

Community Day Sale **Saturday, November 11th**

Coupon booklets available
today!

\$5 from the sale of each coupon book will go into a publications budget for BECHS to publish and print more local history books.



Coupon booklets can be purchased at the Heritage Center until November 10th.

Recent Donations

\$25-\$99

Barrett, Mary
Freyberg, Lynette
Grundmeier, Win
How, Mary Ellen: *In memory of Gerald Hicks*
Humphrey, Mary
Jensen, Orville & Mary Ann
LaFavor, Lyle
Stammtisch Deutsch Amerikanischer Club
Thiesse, Rosalin & Sylvan
Whalen, Kathy

\$100-\$500

DeWitt, Joanne Bierbauer
Hanson, Kathryn
Lees, June
Madsen, Jack
McLaughlin, Tom & Theresa
Owens, Catherine: *In memory of Thomas L. Owens*
Peterson, Leslie
Quade, Henry & Ann

Over \$500

Keir, Richard and Grace

Blue Earth County Townships

Rapidan Township

In Kind

Applauze
Drummers Garden Center
Goff, Harley
Hayes, Carol
Insty Prints of Mankato
Lavitschke, Jo-an
Morgan Creek Vineyards
Piepho, Mark
Richards, Marcia
Richtsmeier, Scott
The Land

Barn Dance Silent Auction Donors

Amboy Cottage Café
Applewood Restaurant
Barnett Photo
Betsy-Tacy Society
Bobby Joe's Pub
C&S Supply
Crysteel Truck Equipment
Encore
Equity Supply
Exclusively Diamonds
Happy Chef Systems
Horizon Milling
Jensen, Orville
Judson Implement
Keir, Grace
Leenhouts, Shelley
Madsen, Jack
Milbrett, Dauk and Co.
Minnesota Heritage Publishing
MSU Theatre Department
Old Town Antiques
Rapidan Heritage Society
The Peddler
Timber Lodge
Tractor Supply Company
Trailblazer

Barn Dance Sponsors

Brennan Construction
Crysteel Manufacturing
Lyndel's Café
Mankato Spray Center
McGowan Water
Milbrett, Dauk and Co.
Minnesota Hog Farm Equipment

BECHS has reached the goal of \$1000 in donations since April and we have received our matching donation. *Thank you* to all who helped us reach our goal!

Where Did the River Go? A. Anderson's Artistic Vision

by
Anna Larson

Looking at the subtle landscape sketches of Anders Anderson, one might be surprised to learn that he



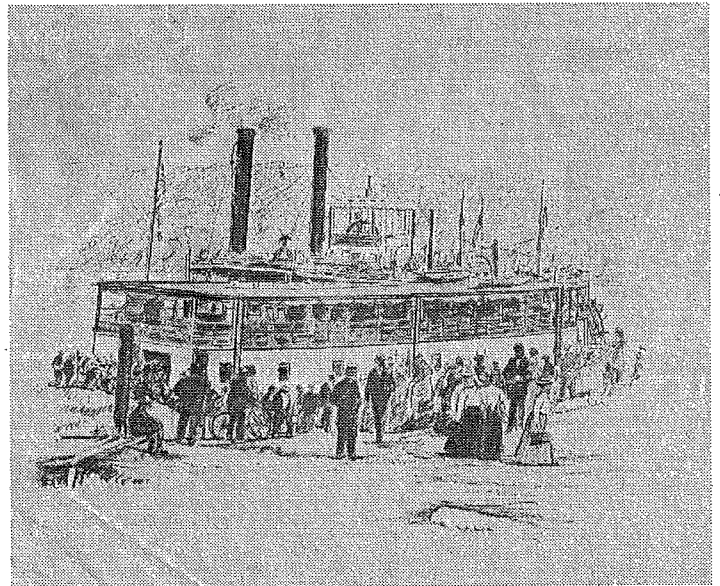
was a photo engraver (the first in Mankato) and commercial artist rather than a painter, although he did work in several mediums and techniques. One sketch in particular captures such a penetrating mood that one assumes that the artist stood in the snow at dusk with his pencil, carefully sketching the delicate while intense contrasts of light and dark of the

fresh snow upon the wooded hillside. Landscape art always has this sort of test of merit. Does it seem as though a person stands breathing, awed by this time and place, conveying the intensity of the scene? Anderson often took his work outside; he sketched characters on the spot around town and in natural settings. Close studies of this sort enabled Anderson to take on such technically precise work as his Rembrandt intaglio etching reproductions. He was a draftsman too, and cartographer, taking on any work involving line and value that would develop his skills.

Throughout his career, Anderson enjoyed art for hobby and art for trade and mixed the two in offices of the Odd Fellows building and later in a one-man studio in the Ekkle building at 122 ½ Jackson Street, opposite the Mankato Free Press building. He was actively engaged in his artwork up until the day before he died in 1956 at the age of 85. In his 85th year, according to the *Mankato Free Press*, he put his car

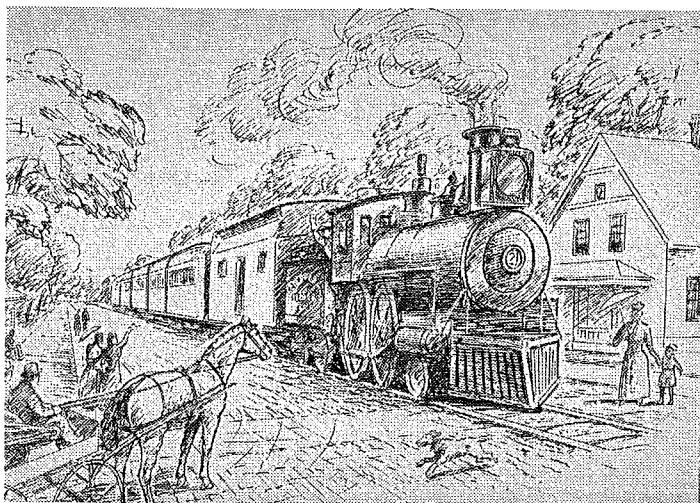
on blocks for the winter and walked to work everyday from his home in North Mankato.

Anderson was born in 1871 in Mankato to first generation parents from Denmark. His father (who was a builder) and several grade school teachers encouraged him to pursue his artistic talents. In a *Free Press* interview Anderson stated "I was always drawing barns and fences and similar things. The teachers made the mistake of having me do artwork for them, rather than my schoolwork. Consequently I didn't do much of anything in school other than art work." President Edward Searing, psychology teacher at Mankato Normal School, had Anderson illustrate his lectures for him. This connected him with Cyrus Northrup, President of the University of Minnesota, a good friend of Dr. Searing. President Northrup personally saw to it that [he] had good living quarters. Anderson quickly gained a reputation for his artistic talent. Friends at school showed his work to the editor of the *Minneapolis Times* who hired him immediately. He lived and worked in Minneapolis only two years before returning to Mankato.



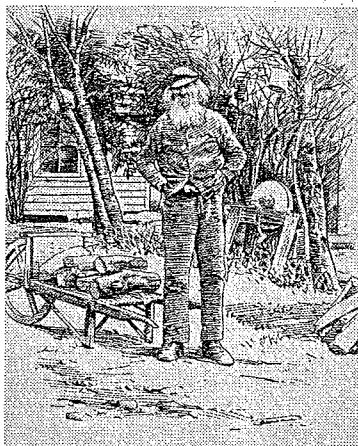
As a child he saw the steamboats come down the river and the bustle of activity that surrounded their arrival as well as the trains. In 1881, at the age of ten, he witnessed what he would often claim to be the worst flood in Mankato's history and eventually sketched it based on a photograph taken from an upper window of a grain elevator behind Hubbard mill. Several of his sketches required him to probe his memory. He might find a typical model of a train and

place it in the context of his childhood recollection. The people of the time must have felt a mixture of emotions when it came to those great locomotives. As we can see from the sketch of the train going down Fourth Street, smoke stretches its plume sig-



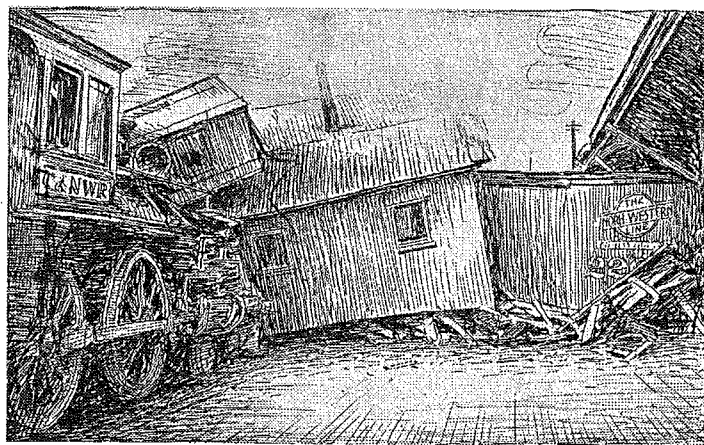
naling that the train has started; a dog has just escaped its path and a woman and child wait with caution and interest close by on the other side. The clarity and action of the piece has a breathless air of excitement to it, even a playfulness. In another sketch Anderson gives us the image of a Chicago North Western Railroad engine car crashed up against the North Western Line as if to remind us of the potential destruction the trains carry in their mammoth power. He didn't bother prettying this picture up with the hills overhead.

Anderson remembered people vividly from his childhood as well. One such character sketch that appeared in the *Free Press* was based on an "ancient photograph" showing Old Hazelnut The Hermit, as he was referred to, "outside his shack which was located just north of the city limits near the old Fletcher



farm." His shack was nestled in a cluster of hazelnut bushes giving him his name. Anderson got to speak with Hazelnut and asked him if it weren't a disappointed love affair that made him a recluse. Hazelnut denied this, but the *Free Press* interview revealed that the disappointed love was his ambition to own and operate a circus. At one time, Old Hazelnut was involved with the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show. Anderson depicted crowds of people in sketches such as the early settlers going to market, children and adults at the circus gates, old men sitting outside a diner. In an article, Anderson claimed he would "rather go walking down the street looking for all kinds of characters, rather than going to a movie."

Anderson never turned down a challenge when it came to his craft. The intaglio etchings for example, are the most difficult and versatile of printmaking and etching techniques and he studied the master Rembrandt's work to acquire the skill. Intaglio is the



opposite of cameo and relief work. The grooves etched in the hard surface in intaglio are filled in with ink thereby leaving a negative rather than a positive impression. Anderson also appreciated architecture and drew, painted and etched images of Seppman Mill, the Mankato House, Hub-

bard Milling Company, etc. He was hired to do the illustrations of Native American life in Southern Minnesota for the Hubbard Milling publication, *The Purchase of an Empire* which came out for Christmas in 1924.

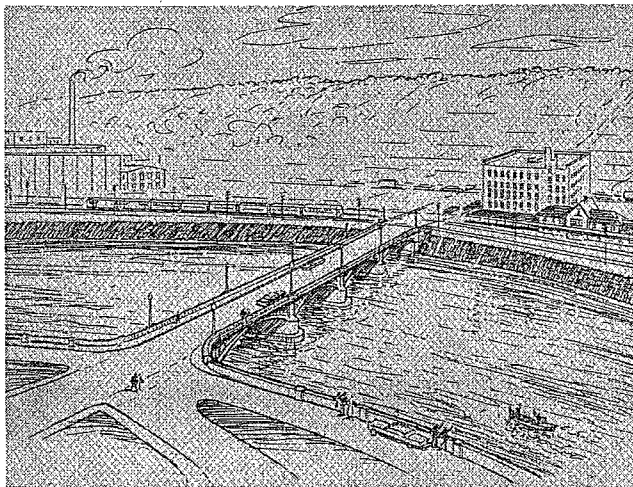
A. Anderson's work was the newspaper's prominent feature. Was he just another artist that could have been from any town? A good artist has a vision. He sees beyond the present moment and beneath the surface. Artists offer us a fixed moment to gaze upon and gather its significance. If we don't have any scope which includes the past, we lose that connecting thread to both people and place, a sense of inspiration and humility and most importantly, we can lose out on an entire realm of possibility. Ander-

son understood the importance of the past, whether it was through imitation of great artists, or through childhood reminiscences of the way the slough looked with train trestle overhead before the land was filled in for a high school.



His old sketches, woodcuts and paintings, give us a glimpse of a less controlled land. We can consider our landscaping and architectural choices as either benefiting the land or the people in it; if there's a sense of mutual gain, then that is wonderful. We cannot help looking at the past through the lens of our current concerns. For a long time we saw the river as an alluring traitor. She beckoned us ever closer with her beauty and we set up camp as close as we could, but then she flooded us. So we hid the river completely behind a cement wall. We obscured nature in order to be safe.

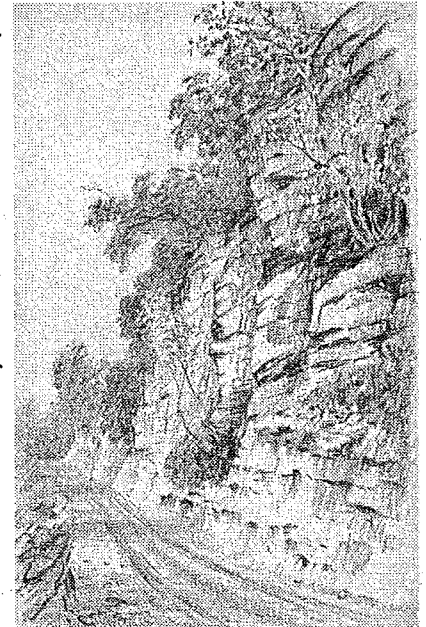
Anders Anderson's work features urban people in natural settings. Or we might say his work features people in natural settings that incorporate the urban. He often worked outside his studio, sitting in the shade or near the river, understanding that it is the landscape that gives the beauty to the city. In his plan for the newly controlled river after the flood of



1951, Anderson clearly wanted people to continue to appreciate the river and allowed pedestrian and scenic drives to acquire a view of the river. Perhaps the

only hurdle for the city to such a plan was the necessity of the trains to pass by along the eastern edge of Mankato's riverside.

For all his obvious love of the river and woods and prairie, he was a visionary, fascinated by structural engineering and architectural design and looked for synergistic ways of blending the modern smoothly with the organic. He understood that if we were to continue living on the river we couldn't let it destroy homes, industry and institutions. He was an upright man of the community and was very much a part of that greater Mankato he loved. If the artist's idealism crept into his work, there was an equally devoted love of practicality. His great gift to us is through his vision of an older Mankato and a feeling for the land as it really was.

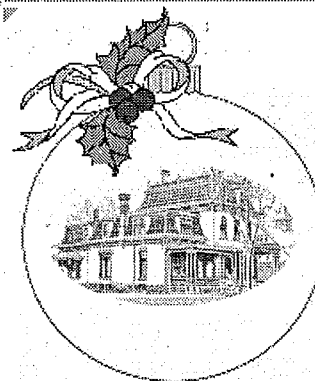


Sources:

Photograph from the BECHS Archives

Original sketches: the BECHS Manuscript Collection

Various editions of the *Mankato Free Press*



Christmas at the Hubbard House

Sunday, December 3

1:00-4:00 PM

Monday, December 4

5:00-8:00 PM

Music, refreshments,
meet the Hubbard family,
special program in the parlor.



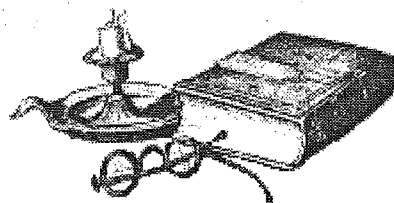
...at the Museum Store

The BECHS Museum Store has some wonderful one-of-a-kind gift items. Besides books, we have Victorian style easels to display fancy plates, books and frames. One decorative bookstand can hold a mammoth cookbook and keep pages down with hanging weights. We also have several varieties of picture frames including replica etched metal ceiling tiles custom made for 4x6 and 5x7 pictures. These are perfect for displaying your ancestors' wedding pictures. Archival photo albums and memory pages are a necessity for preserving and sharing your treasured photos. Don't forget the decorative magnifying glasses for the genealogist in the family. If you are visiting relatives from afar, the Minnesota limestone paperweights from Vetter's stone quarries makes a truly unique gift. They come in small and medium sizes. They are particularly popular for friends in other countries. Victorian keys on burgundy ribbon make special accent pieces to gifts and are presents by themselves.

Children's items range from the American Girls paper dolls, books and book sets to pioneer miniature wooden kitchen sets by the Salem Collection. We also have smaller items that make fun, old-fashioned stocking stuffers like rag doll kits, harmonicas, dominos, wooden tops and marble sets. We now have chalkboard sets that include eleven chalkboard activities from the days of the one-room school-house. The little volume, *Toys and Games From Times Past* offer all kinds of games that are sure to be new to children of today and just as fun as they were when they were invented.

Bringing friends to the Museum is a treat when it's cold outside and an easy way to step into the charms of the past.

Anna Larson
Museum Assistant



YOUNG HISTORIANS

Young Historians is an exciting group for 3rd-6th graders where kids can learn about history. At the first meeting, we watched kids from a Native American horse camp called Sunktanka put on a show for us using horses, ribbons, hoops, music, poems, and brilliant colors. Once a month our group meets to learn about different time periods in history by playing games, making crafts, and listening to guest speakers.

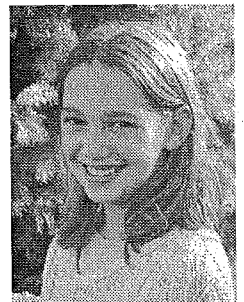


Young Historian with the Sunktanka Horse Camp, September 9th in Land of Memories Park.

Kids can "hear history, speak history, and see history," as our t-shirts say, by joining the Young Historians Club, which follows each Young Historians Workshop. In the Club, we do lots of projects like making quilts and scrapbooks, having book clubs, and going on field trips. For the first time, we voted on club officers. I have been elected the first Young Historians president.

Everybody in the group and club learns about history, while enjoying it! If you would like to join us for the group workshop or club, contact Jessica at 345-5566. Hope to see you there!

Alex Oldenburg
President,
Young Historians Club





Through the Research Center Door:

Research Center Mysteries

Mystery Solved

Baff's Lunch, Baff's Diner or Baff's Café

Baff's had three different names and two different locations. Many phone calls and emails poured in with the location of Baff's, but the responses were not always the same. Some people remembered Baff's on the 100 block of North Front St., while others placed the restaurant at the 1300 block of North Front St.

By looking through Polk's Mankato City Directories, the question was answered. From 1948-1970 Baff's appeared in the directories. Baff's Lunch was located at 114 N. Front St from 1948-1953 and Baff's Diner or Café at 1312 N. Front St from 1955-1970.

**We do not have the 1954 Polk's Mankato City Directory*

Sumner Hill

What year and by whom was the wall of Sumner Hill built?



Who would ever have guessed this simple question would turn into such a large research project? Many people have been working on solving the mystery, and we are so close. I have talked to several people who lived near or on the hill. We have been digging

through land records, maps, city minutes, city directories, newspapers, and any other resource we can think of including contacting the city engineer's office.

This simple question has sent us on a journey we could not have imagined. Research is not always a simple process. We can answer many questions easily, but sometimes we have to search, and search, and search.

Stay tuned until our next newsletter, where you can read about this incredible journey. And hopefully we will have solved the mystery. Here are some questions to think about in the meantime.

- Where is Sumner Hill?
- Where were Mary St. and Caroline St.?
- Why and when were Lewis St., Center St., and Prospect Ave. vacated?
- What are some other names for Sumner Hill?

One teaser I can leave you with is that James McLaughlin built the wall in the early 1930's. Stay tuned to learn how we solved this mystery.

If you would like to see the Sumner Hill wall, be sure to drive by soon. It is falling apart, and is being torn down.

To be continued...

New Mysteries

What happened to the sign on Highway 169 that stated where the Vernon Center Fort was located?

Unsolved Mysteries

Who was Dr. Arleen? I am not sure if this is a first or last name. The doctor was referred to in a 1929 newspaper article.

If you have any information on Dr. Arleen or the Vernon Center Stockade sign, please contact Sara at 345-5566 or bechsco@hickorytech.net.

Sara Upadhyay
Collections Assistant

July - September Volunteers

Affolter, Ron
 Bartholdi, Roberta
 Belgard, Vail
 Bennett, Doug
 Brennen, Mike
 Broadwell, Don
 Burton, Ronnie
 Coleman, Mary
 Cords, Betty
 Frederick, Mike
 Frisch, Carlienne
 Garlow, Laura
 Garlow, Sandy
 Goff, Harley
 Graham, Joan
 Griffith, Helen
 Grundmeier, Shirley
 Grundmeier, Win
 Hane, Carol
 Hanson, Kathryn
 Hauch, Tom
 Herbst, Gordon
 Hopman, Edith
 Horn, Caleb
 Horn, Isaac
 Horn, Sara
 Horn, Sheri
 Horoho, Kelly
 Howieson, Bob
 Hugg, Corey
 Hynes, Susan
 Jackson, Colleen
 Jensen, Orv
 Keir, Grace
 Keir, Richard
 Kubicek, Joe
 Kubicek, Sylva
 Lagerquist, Mike
 Lamson, Barb
 Lavitschke, Jo-An
 Madsen, Jack
 Madsen, Kristine
 Madsen, Tim
 Madsen, Liz
 Marti, Ben
 Marti, George

Marti, Paula
 McComb, Mary
 McGowan, Jack
 McLaughlin, Theresa
 McLaughlin, Tom
 Morgan Creek Vineyard
 Ohlencamp, Ora
 Peterson, Leslie
 Quade, Henry
 Rezmerski, John
 Rodriguez, Gabriela
 Sassenberg, Eunice
 Schaub, Shirley
 Schultz, Jo
 Shepherd, John
 Shepherd, Joseph
 Shepherd, Julianna
 Shepherd, Laura
 Shepherd, Mary Anne
 Shortall, Christina
 Sofchalk, Helen
 Stoufer, Chad
 Stromswold, Todd
 Tarjeson, Jane
 Thorleifson, Julie
 Trinh, Kim
 Upadhyay, Samar
 Webb, Donna
 Whitney, Mike
 Wilson, Bernadette
 Young, Katy
 Ziegler, Kenneth
 Zimmer, Beth

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
 helping to research and write grants
 doing data entry for Archives indexes
 indexing census or newspapers
 researching and/or writing*



Notes from the Archives Manager

The Blue Earth County Historical Society has gone digital. We as well as the American Swedish Institute, Carleton College, Minne-

sota Department of Transportation, the Wanda Gag House Association and many others are members of the Minnesota Digital Library. Their first project was the Minnesota Reflections website. This website was launched in September of 2005. Now with over 10,000 images--the first stage of project digitized all photographs up to 1909. Most of these images were glass plate negatives, nitrate snapshots, stereographs and postcards. Our contributions range from photos of the threshing crew from the Quiggle Farm to postcards of the Chautauqua grounds in Mankato. These photographs were taken by some of Mankato's earliest photographers like E. F. Everitt and Geo. E. Keene. They provide you with a glimpse of Blue Earth County history in the comfort of your own home. The second stage of the project was just recently completed and contains photographs which date up to 1923. The Blue Earth County Historical Society shared 768 photos from our 10,000 plus photograph collection.

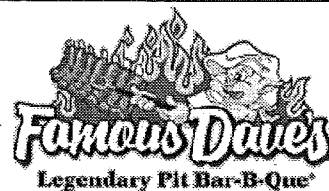
When you go to the website, you can browse our collection, or any of the other 55 participating libraries, historical societies, archives and museums from around Minnesota, online. Each of the photographs was digitally copied. You will find a description of the image, the date when the image might have been taken, and where the image was created. You can search by contributing institution "Blue Earth County Historical Society", region, topic or keywords like "floods". This is exciting for us because it makes our photographs more accessible to a wider audience. You can also order copies of the images by contacting the participating institutions. If you would like a copy of one of our photographs that you find there, just let me know.

What is next for the Minnesota Digital Library? They are starting their third phase; the goal is to start digitizing documents and maps.

You can access the site from our website, <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnbechs>, using the link on our "Indexes" page. Or, you can go directly to: <http://reflection.mndigital.org>. If all of this is too futuristic for you and you're not quite so high tech, don't worry. We're the Historical Society. We are rooted in the past. Just come in and Sara or I can help you out.

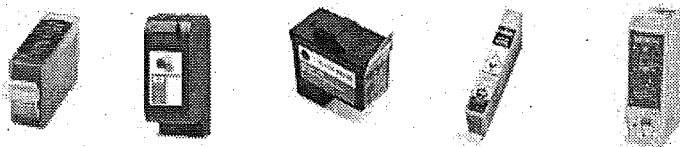
Shelley Harrison

Archives Manager



Hungry for BBQ?

Visit the Mankato Famous Dave's restaurant and help BECHS in the process. Famous Dave's is supporting the community and local non-profits with a Customer Appreciation Card. With every purchase, Famous Dave's will make a contribution to BECHS. You just need to specify your non-profit of choice—BECHS. This is a great way to generate a little extra support for BECHS and enjoy a good meal!



Recycle your used printer ink cartridges at BECHS

The cartridges can be redeemed at Office Max in Mankato at a \$3 value. Please help us cut down our office supply costs by having us recycle your used ink cartridges.

Drop off cartridges at the Heritage Center.



Rapidan Heritage Society

From the boardwalk of the Rapidan Depot...

Thanks to all who joined us for our bus trip on September 16th. The best part of the bus trips is the wonderful people that you meet on the trip and places visited. The staff at the Harkin Store, Fort Ridgley, Lower Sioux Agency and Schell Brewery were fantastic and all shared their knowledge of the events of 1862 with us. At this time, we are undecided where the 2007 bus destination will be. More information will be available at a later date.

Election Day is November 7th. The Rapidan Depot will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Show your 'I Voted' sticker and enjoy a free cup of coffee and cookie. RHS is also collecting aluminum cans that day. Proceeds will be used to help fund Rapidan Community Events such as Memorial Day and Christmas in Rapidan. Recycle your cans and don't forget to vote!

RHS will again be participating in the Non-profit Bake & Gift Sale at Madison East Mall on November 18th. Stop by the RHS table for yummy baked items and Rapidan Red Wing pottery.

Santa is coming to Rapidan! Mrs. Claus will again be watching for Santa Claus to stop at the Rapidan Depot on Saturday, December 2nd from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Have your picture taken with Santa and receive a goodie bag, compliments of RHS. Refreshments will be served in the town hall.

Jane Tarjeson
RHS Secretary

Speakers Bureau

BECHS Speakers Bureau is available for informative and entertaining programs for service clubs, organizations, church groups or nursing/assisted living homes. Topics range from History of Blue Earth County to the History of Hats. To request a speaker, a list of prepared topics or to volunteer for our Speakers Bureau, please contact Jessica at 345-5566.



Fingerprints and Footnotes

The Fingerprint and Footnotes Club is growing. We now have 35 members and newcomers are always welcome. In August, we discovered what was in our genes. We discussed how the future of DNA science may help us solve some of the mysteries of our past. In September, we ventured to Rapidan and learned about the Dam which generated power for Mankato and a lot of history. We even had a great piece of pie. In October, we celebrated our German roots with Oktoberfest. But we never need an event to celebrate our heritage, we can do that everyday.

If you have any ideas for topics or tours or if you have any interest in presenting a topic, please let Shelley know.

Future Meetings

- November 9th - Great Epidemics: 1918 Influenza to the Bird Flu
- December 12th - Special Event - Digitizing Old Photo: Form vs Substance.
- January 11th 2007 - Organizing Your Family History

Finger Tip-

When using the census index don't always expect your ancestor's name to pop up with the spelling and the name that you knew them by. Census takers had to know how to read and write, but only barely. They wrote the names as they heard them. Think of various ways to spell the last name. Some letters sound alike, you might find Wagner spelled Vagner. If your ancestor was Joseph Richard Smith, the census taker probably got the Smith correct, but he might have written Joe Smith J R. Smith, Dick Smith etc. It was common to call a person by their second name.

If you are positive of the county in which the family lived and one of the family members has a unique name, use this unique name without the family last name to try to find the family. Be aware that not all census indexes list the names of all family members.
- Provided by Beth Zimmer

Membership July—September

Renewed Members

Anderson, Marian
 Barber, Eddice
 Barber, James and Edith
 Barrett, Mary
 Bishop, Mary Louise
 Blume, Darwin
 Boroski, Betty
 Boubel, John
 Bowen, Patrick
 Broadwell, Don
 Busse, Walter
 Casella, Donna
 Clements, Thomas
 Cotton-Frank, Glenn and Marcia
 Farnham, Joseph and Malda
 Faust, Hazel
 Friday, Mona
 Gower, Ronald
 Griffith, Helen
 Grundmeier, Winston and Shirley
 Halberg, Lyle
 Halstead, Sharon
 Hanson, Kathryn
 Hopman, Edith
 Howard, Don
 Jensen, Orville and Mary Ann
 Kalvig, Ann and Family
 McGregor, Karen
 Krause, Dolores
 Lamson, Barbara
 Lavitschke, Jo-An
 McLean, Edward
 Marks, Thomas
 Masberg, Rita
 Mortier, Mary
 MSU, History Department
 MSU, Urban and Regional Studies
 Muellerleile, Fred and Dixie
 Nui, Dana
 Olson, Susan
 Owens, Catherine
 Peterson, Leslie and Glen
 Piehl, Charles and Kathleen
 Pommerenke, Marlene
 Rafness, Lorna
 Rezmerski, John
 Roe, David
 Rose, Robert and Luella
 Schrader, Julie

Smith, Emmett R.
 Sontag, Leola
 Steele, Richard and Ramona
 Stemper, Donald E.
 Swanson, Brian and Keisha
 Tacheny, Delores
 Thiesse, Rosalin and Sylvan
 Tloutan, Jim and Jane
 Vee, Harlan A.
 Vosbeck, Elizabeth J.
 Voss, Judy
 Ward, Mary and Howard
 Wingen, Carol

Members Renewed at Higher Level

Balcome, Helen
 Davis, Cindy and Thomas
 Erikson, Glenn and Helen
 Garlow, Darrell and Sandra
 Heyer, Monty and Julie
 Weimert, Lucille
 Williams, Vee

New Members

Beyer, Jessica
 Cobb, Dianne Campbell
 Considine, John F. and Kristine
 Day, Barbara
 Determan, Dan and Pam
 Engstrom, Mary
 Fredericksen, Joan
 Johnson, David and Linda
 McGregor, Byron
 Menne, Paul and Mary
 Moravec, Marilyn
 Neilsen, William
 Nelson, Ron and LaVerne
 Pietsch, Tim and Family
 Peterson, Dean
 Prunty, Ruth M.
 Oehler, Maurice
 Radichel, Paul
 Ryan, Patrick M.
 Salk, Carolyn
 Sawina, James
 Smith, Sandra
 Spielman, Gordon and Janet
 Whalen, Kathy
 Wovcha, Patricia

Business Level Memberships

Insty Prints of Mankato

Membership July—September

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 Blume, Darwin
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 Boubel, John
 Bowen, Patrick
 Broadwell, Don
 Busse, Walter
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 Radichel, Paul
 Ryan, Patrick M.
 Salk, Carolyn
 Sawina, James
 Smith, Sandra
 Spielman, Gordon and Janet
 Whalen, Kathy
 Wovcha, Patricia

Business Level Memberships

Insty Prints of Mankato

Deep Valley Book Festival

A celebration of authors and books.



Saturday, November 11

10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Midwest Wireless
Civic Center**

- * Over 75 Authors, Illustrators & Publishers
- * Hundreds of Books for Sale
- * Programs and activities for the Entire Family
 - * Silent Auction
 - * Music & Food
- * No Admissions—Donations Accepted

Special appearance at noon by
award-winning children's book author

Mary Casanova.

"An Evening with Lorna Landvik"

Lorna Landvik is the author of five bestselling novels
including *Patty Jane's House of Curl*, *Angry*
Housewives Eating Bon Bons and *Oh My Stars*.

7 pm Program

Followed by reception and Book Signing.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

Limited seating, get tickets early.

Order tickets by sending a SASE and check to:

Deep Valley Book Festival Tickets

PO Box 94

Mankato, MN 56002-0094

2006

Fall Festival

Bake and Gift Sale

Saturday, November 18th

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Madison East Center

Looking for bakers and shoppers.

Contact Shelley at 345-5566

for more information



Mankato History This Month

Something new about old
Blue Earth County every month.

Mankato History This Month is beginning its 4th season. Listen to us on KMSU 89.7 FM at 10:00 am the first Monday of each month.

In the year ahead we will be visiting with Shirley Higgenbotham and Win Grundmeier and the story of the public library in Mankato and with Tom Hagen on heritage preservation issues. We'll also be chatting with Dr. Bill Nelson about medicine in Mankato, Scott Roemhildt on the joy of family stories, Bryce Stenzel on the story of Lincoln and the Dakota Conflict, as well as Al Batt and a host of others.

So plan now to tune in EVERY month. If you have a topic to discuss about our remembered past *here at home in old Blue Earth County*, please call Emmett Smith at (507) 787-2653.

Meet the Author

BECHS *Meet the Author* program series invites you to the writer's desk. From lectures, slide shows, good chat and book signing, meet a new author every third Saturday of the month in Heritage Center Meeting Room.

Dorothy McIntyre & Marian Johnson

Co-authors of *Daughters of the Game*, *the First Era of Minnesota Girls High School Basketball 1891-1942*.

Saturday, October 21

1:00-3:00 PM

Jan Neubert Schultz

Battle Cry

Saturday, November 18

1:00-3:00 PM

Loren Dean Boutin

Cut Nose, Who Stands on a Cloud

Saturday, December 16,

1:00-3:00 PM

6th Annual South Central Minnesota Genealogy Expo

Saturday, November 4

MSU Centennial Student Union

Registration begins at 8 am, first session begins at 8:45 a.m.

Co-hosted by BECHS and Minnesota State University, Mankato

For more information contact Jessica at 345-5566 or
check out the website at <http://lib.mnsu.edu/archives/genie/expo.html>

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



Blue Earth County Historical Society
415 E. Cherry Street
Mankato MN 56001

Visit us on the web:
www.rootswest.com/~mnbechs/

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Permit No. 343

Expiration date

Preserving and sharing Blue Earth County's history since 1901