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*The Old Fashioned Barn Dance.
What a success!!*





From the Executive Director

The approach of a new season is usually a sign of new things for BECHS. This fall is no exception. In the building, we have acquired the pool room on our floor and are working to transform it to a wonderful

gathering space, meeting, program and storage room. In turn, we have created a great space for volunteers to gather and work in our old meeting room. One of our volunteers, Orv Jensen, likes to comment that it's a challenge working with women because we rearrange the furniture so much. I don't know what he's talking about. This is only the third location for the meeting room in three years! The room should be complete and ready for use by BECHS and outside groups by the end of October. If you would like to schedule your next meeting or event here, just contact Anna.

November is a good time to be thankful for the past year and look forward to the holiday season ahead. November is also a great month to support BECHS while you're shopping or dining out. From now until November 9th, pick up your Herberger's Community Day coupon booklet at the Heritage Center. Buy the booklet for \$5, all pro-

ceeds benefit BECHS, and on November 10th redeem your \$10 coupon at the Herberger's Community Day Sale. What a great way to support BECHS and mark a couple people off your holiday shopping list. Also, on November 10th join us at the River Hills Mall Barnes and Noble for a Bookfair sponsoring BECHS. Use the enclosed vouchers to shop that day with a percentage of the sales going to BECHS.

Don't miss the Madison East Non-Profit Bake and Gift Sale on November 17th where you can stock up on holiday treats. Anyone that would like to contribute baked goods can contact Shelley. After all that shopping, don't forget to eat at Famous Dave's and use your Loyalty Card. With each purchase at Famous Dave's, 5% is given to BECHS. There are many ways in which the community and local businesses give back to non-profits. Now it's your turn to take advantage of these opportunities and support us in different ways.

Another way to show your support of BECHS is to attend our events and programs and encourage others to attend as well. We are all stewards of the history of Blue Earth County. Thank you all for your support of YOUR Blue Earth County Historical Society! We continue to grow because of you!

Jessica Potter, Executive Director



Blue Earth County Historical Society
415 Cherry Street, Mankato, MN 56001, 507-345-5566
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnbechs/>
BECHS mission is to collect, preserve and publish materials relating to the history of Blue Earth County.

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The Blue Earth County Historian
Fall 2007

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Message from the President

First and foremost, I want to thank all the members, volunteers and donors who helped make our second annual Old-Fashioned Barn Dance at Jack

McGowan's farm so successful. The weather cooperated nicely, and despite the fact that there was a lot going on in the Mankato area that day, over 300 people attended. We are already starting to think about how we can expand and improve next year, so if you have any thoughts or ideas, please give us a call. As word gets around that this is a very family friendly activity we hope to do even better next year.

On a totally unrelated matter, I have had several people approach me with questions regarding our situation with The Summit Center/VINE Faith in Action so I believe that a general update on that issue might be in order. As you know, for the past six months or more, BECHS and The Summit Center have been working toward a mutually beneficial agreement that would allow BECHS to eventually assume ownership and control of the entire building. As everyone understands, with both organizations continuing to expand, it was really only a matter of time before we outgrew our space. While we are not there yet, we are definitely moving in the right direction. Separating two organizations that have been neighbors for 20 years is no small task! As a Board, we have laid out many of the broad strokes and are now working on some of the fine points in an agreement that will allow BECHS to expand into the entire building on a time horizon at a price that is suitable to both BECHS and The Summit Center/VINE. When a full and final agreement is made, you will be the first to know.

On a related matter, as a short-term fix for our space needs, BECHS exercised a right granted to us in our lease, which was to assume occupancy of the entire upper floor of the building. For those of you who don't know, until BECHS exercised this right, The Summit Center had occupied a room on the upper floor, using it as a Pool Room. This will ease our most immediate need of more space! Effective October 1st, we have been busy rearranging our existing space to better accommodate our needs. As I under-

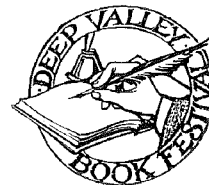
stand things, for now our existing meeting room will become our new consolidated volunteer workspace, rather than having volunteers work in various locations. And our new space (the old Pool Room) will become our new Meeting Room. Please feel free to stop by soon to see how things are progressing.

On yet another matter, as the end of the year comes closer, many people start to consider making charitable contributions for tax purposes. You know what I'm going to say next . . . please keep us in mind! We so very much appreciate all the past support that we have received. Please help us continue the work that we are doing by remembering us in your charitable plans. Also, as we move closer to the holiday season and you try to find that perfect gift for the person who already has everything, consider a BECHS gift certificate or shop in our Museum Store.

Todd Stromwald

Board of Trustees President

BECHS now **accepts** VISA, Mastercard, Discover and American Express. Credit cards will be accepted for Museum Store purchases, memberships and donations.



4th Annual Deep Valley Book Festival

Saturday, November 10, 2007

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Alltel Center in Mankato, MN

(formerly Midwest Wireless Civic Center)

Readers and writers are invited to a celebration of authors, books and reading. The Festival promotes Minnesota authors and the books they write.

The Deep Valley Book Festival is a fun event for the entire family!

Recent Donations

Up to \$25

Browne, Robert & Suzanne
 Frederick, Carol
 Gottberg, Mike & Jackie
 Jensen, Orville & Mary Ann
 Joyce, Ron
 Ries, Charles & Carol

\$25-\$49

Johnson, Marlyss
 Karow, Linda
 Preska, Daniel & Margaret
 Sassenberg, Karl
 Wagner, Helen Marie
 Wilmes, Brad

\$50-\$99

Burns, Inella
 Casella, Dr. Donna
 Howard, Don
 Thompson, Ken & Irene

\$100-\$499

Chmielarz, Sharon
 ELS Historical Society
 Havelka, Guy
 Johnson, Douglas and Patricia
 Lamont, Sally and Earl
 Madsen, Jack
 Schultz, Georgia

\$500 and up

Bartsch, Glenn
 Botton, Joel & Tronvold Estate
 Jones, Eldon & Helen

Building Fund

Hanson, Kathryn

Special Projects

*Junior Historians Talking Back
 to Tomorrow Oral History Project*

Burton, Verona
 Davis, Iris
 Gersten, Ross
 Hagen, Tom
 Hurd, John Construction

*Shelving for Archives Storage
 Mankato Chapter of Thrivent
 Financial for Lutheran*

*Shade Canopy
 Craig, Nancy*

Event Sponsorship

Crysteel Truck Equipment - Barn Dance
 HickoryTech - Vintage Base Ball Game
 Rezmerski, John - Cambria Eisteddfod

Memorials

In Memory of Paul Stevens
 McGregor, Byron and Karen

In Memory of James Zimmer
 Frederick, Richard

In Memory of Margaret Jenkins
 Botten, Joel

In Kind

Hugg, Bob and Corey
 Madsen, Jack
 Meredith, Marjorie

Grants

BENCO Electric for "BECHS in a Box"
 traveling exhibit

Special Thanks

Special Thanks to all the Blue Earth County Businesses and Organizations
 that contributed to the Old-Fashioned Barn Dance Live and Silent Auction.
 BECHS raised over \$3000 at this event thanks to our sponsors, contributors and attendees!



Notes from the Archives Manager

We've finished!

For the last 4 years we have been in the process of reorganizing our Vertical Files. Our Vertical Files are our subject newspaper clipping files. If you are looking for the location of Key City baseball field, or the Bradley Crossing Railroad accident; or if you need to find out anything that happened in Blue Earth County, it's usually the first place we look.

The Free Press has come in several times looking for help to write their articles on the zoo keeper who was attacked by the bear in Sibley Park Zoo, or for their recent article on the old street cars. Before, if you were looking for the Green Gables Tornado, you would look in "Weather file 1" or "Weather file 2". Now it's filed under "Tornados-1946." This will hopefully make researching a little easier (just a little search is still in research). The reorganization was done to match our other collections, so if you are looking for photographs of the Green Gables Tornado, it's also under "Tornados-1946" in our photograph collection. Once all our collections are complete, you should be able to search by "Tornados-1946" and find books and manuscript items too.

You can literally search from 4-H clubs to Ice Fishing, Politics and Government-Mankato-Annexation to Zonta. Not only can you find long ago articles but also current, up-to-date articles on topics such as smoking bans or the new Alltel Center. We keep only those articles that pertain to Blue Earth County.

These files were created over many years and are maintained today with a lot of volunteer help. So thank you to all the volunteers who have read and sorted and resorted one of the Historical Society best kept secrets.

Shelley Harrison
Archives Manager

YOUNG HISTORIANS

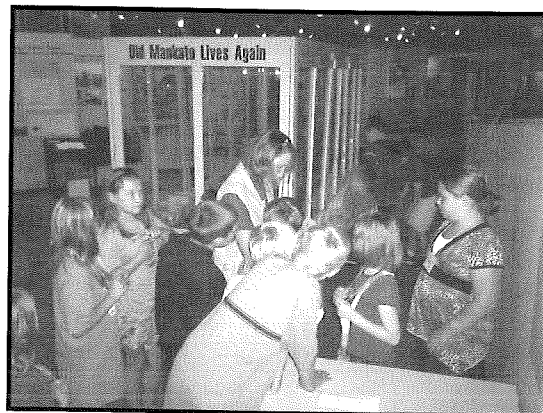
The Blue Earth County Historical Society Young Historians started another season of hands-on workshops for children in grades 3-6 in September. Young Historians workshops are held the second Saturday of each month. The September workshop took a look at Archaeology and the October workshop introduced the kids to Native American dance. The workshops are free and open to the public.

A new addition to the program is Junior Historians for grades 7-12. Junior Historians will work on a special oral history project throughout the season and will assist with Young Historians workshops. This is a great opportunity for older kids to stay involved in this hands-on history program.

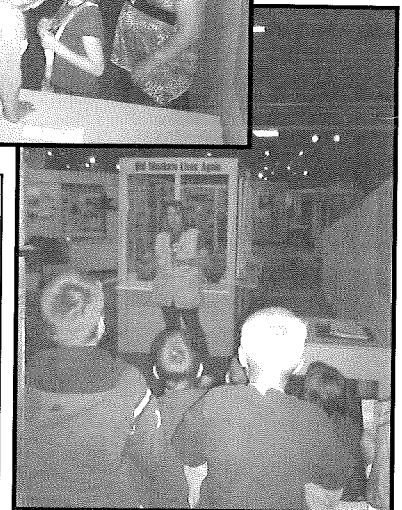
If you have any questions about Young or Junior Historians or would like to get involved with this great program, please contact Jessica at 507-345-5566.

Upcoming Young Historians Workshops

November 10 – Pioneers
December 8 – The Civil War
January 12 – Victorian Period



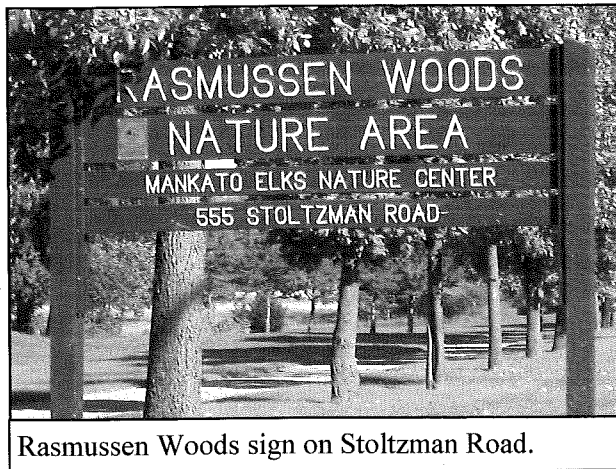
Resident
archaeologist, aka
Archives Manager
Shelley Harrison,
introduces Young
Historians to
Archaeology in
September



Indian Creek

Win Grundmeier

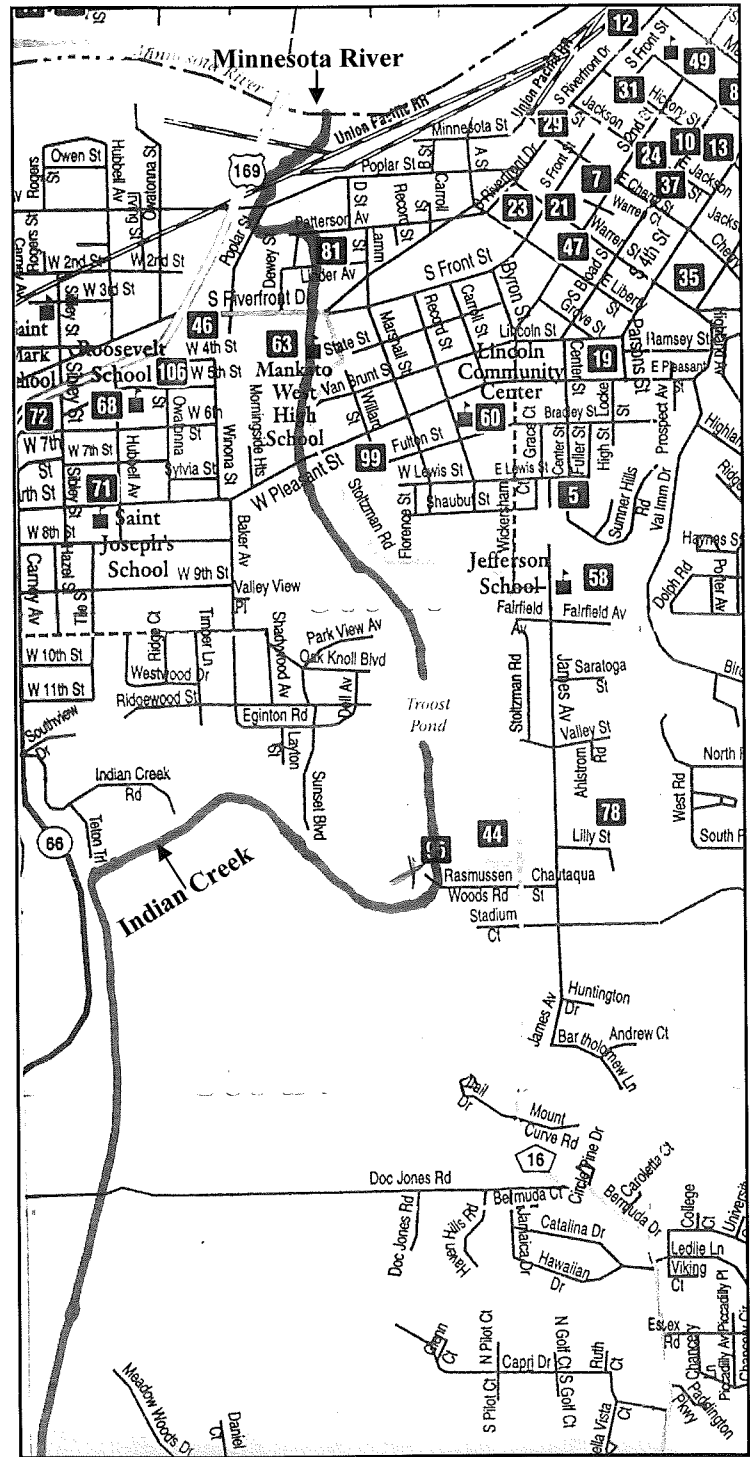
Indian Creek serves as the outlet for Indian Lake. It has done so since the last Ice Age, 12,000 years ago. The lake is found stretching from just north of County Road 90 at Indian Lake Road. The creek empties toward the north and continues as an open stream toward Mankato, curves in an "S" pattern through Rasmussen Nature Center and the "Slough", eventually reaching the Minnesota River adjacent to the old North Star Concrete Company. But once the creek reaches Pleasant Street, all sign of the creek is lost under culvert.



Rasmussen Woods sign on Stoltzman Road.

The great valley of Indian Creek, as well as Indian Lake, formed part of a pre-glacial river channel of the LeSueur River. It appears that the LeSueur and Blue Earth Rivers originally united north of Indian Lake at the close of the last Ice Age, then the Blue Earth River separated and found its own bed to the west. In turn the LeSueur was gorged with ice and broke down its sandstone wall to find a more direct and steeper channel to the west. Thus, it re-connected with the Blue Earth River at its present site near Red Jacket Bridge.

All this left the valley of the Slough high and dry throughout, except where the retiring water left a pond at Indian Lake, the deepest part of the old channel. An 1895 map of Mankato shows the Slough area to have been much larger than it is at present. Fairly substantial deposits of peat (about four feet deep) are present in the Slough area, indicating vast amounts of prehistoric vegetation.



Prior to the 1940s lower Indian Creek, that is, the region from Front Street (now Riverfront) to the Minnesota River, was entirely open, culverted only where it passed streets. Its banks broadened into great wetlands. These were extensive wildlife habitat areas: all varieties of reptiles teemed, fish, muskrat, etc. And it was a paradise for adventurous boys and girls. In my mind's eye, I can still see tall swamp grass waving in the breeze. Developers had not yet been attracted,

largely because the region flooded regularly. On South Front only Hokie's (Hokanson) small grocery store perched precariously on wooden supports well above the swamp that surrounded it. The average elevation of the land was much lower than it is now. There may have been a fruit stand along Front Street, operated only in summer. The rest of the wetland was undisturbed except for the city dump along Front Street and west of Dewey Street.

Between the Milwaukee Railroad and the Northwestern and Omaha Railroads only minor violence to the pristine wetland was done by dumping refuse. Here the terrain was very low and swampy – a wildlife paradise. Tall reeds and weeds, tall trees exist in profusion. This was the region of huge “hobo jungles” during the 1930s and 1940s. Located between three railroad systems, it was ideal for the transient hobo to locate. The Great Depression produced a huge increase in these unfortunate unemployed men and women. Having reached Mankato, the hobo dropped off the box car and sought shelter and food. Food was secured by begging from homes nearby. Shelter came from shanties that existed in sizeable number in three to four forest communities in the hobo jungles.

The lower Indian Creek area was particularly prone to flooding. Of course, no dikes existed to keep the flood waters out prior to 1952. My parents' house was located virtually on the banks of Indian Creek at the point where the Northwestern Railroad crosses it. Dad planted a huge vegetable garden each year from 1936 to 1948, but he ran a 50% risk of crop loss to the Minnesota River each spring or early summer. Indian Creek then backed up to flood the entire lower basin. All streets connecting West Mankato with the

rest of town could be severed by the raging waters. This included Front and Pleasant Street.

With dikes in place by the 1960s, realty developers began to take an interest in this region as a commercially desirable location. The whole Slough region had perplexed the city and its developers since the late 19th Century as to what to do with it. Few persons, except some “nature freaks,” thought that leaving it in a pristine natural condition was viable, certainly not profitable. Even before the dikes went in, the Slough where Cubs Grocery now is was converted into a golf driving range.

By the 1950s this area began to be filled to raise its elevation. Just west of Dewey Street, Lloyd's Lumber set up. Earl Madsen erected his Super Value Grocery soon after. Along Patterson and Lamm Streets various small businesses located. All this required enclosing the “unsightly” Indian Creek in a culvert. To finish off the wetland, in 1958 the Minnesota Highway Department constructed the Highway 169 bypass. When you travel across lower Indian Creek today, the site reminds you of a wasteland.

The region of Indian Creek now occupied by Mankato West High School and its athletic fields was once much lower in elevation than it is now. It was called by various names: Van Brunt Street Slough, Pleasant Street Slough and Memorial Field. An idea of what this region once looked like can be gained by viewing the upper Rasmussen Nature Park which stretches along Stoltzman Road. This natural setting perplexed developers and planners of the city for almost a century. In the mind of these persons something had to be done to convert “this unsightly slough into something either profitable or recreational. Few considered leaving it as a natural habitat.

In 1924 the concept of construction of two lakes, divided by Pleasant Street was seriously entertained. Charles H. Ramsdell, landscape artist and park designer of Minneapolis, was called in for his ideas. A lake drive would be constructed along the west side of the upper lake. Other ideas for the lower lake region were an athletic field, a parade ground or aviation field. Cost estimates ranged all the way from \$10,000 to a half million. This grand scheme was ultimately lost in its planning stages.



Mound and Poplar Street area during the 1951 flood.

Other schemes for the development of the Slough did come to fruition. During the first two decades of the 20th Century, a golf course was laid out south of Pleasant Street. Even the peat base was brought into play. This material was heaped up for tees, greens, etc. Bridges were constructed. Ultimately, this great scheme came to an ignominious end. Over the years, interest waned and the greens, tees and bridges gradually sank out of sight in the ooze.

North of Pleasant Street reclamation activity was more successful. For a while in the 1920s this part of the Slough was actually flooded for sportsmen. Later in the 1930s and 1940s some filling was done and ball parks appeared. These gave way to sites for traveling circuses, and ultimately West High School.

In the late 1940s a great debate began over the location of the new Mankato High School. Two locations were selected for consideration: the hilltop area, and Memorial Field (the Slough). Debate ran high between supporters of either site. Other than possible selfish motives for their site, the main thrust of the hilltop supporters had to do with the flooding in the Slough. But the Slough property, already owned by the city, won out. All through fall and winter of 1949 the neighborhood resounded to the pounding of a pile driver. Hundreds of deep piling – metal cased and concrete filled – had to be driven in over the entire northwest quarter of the area between Front and Pleasant Streets. The peat soil and sand below ran deep until bed rock was obtained.

So, what was once the open slough, then the fields for ball games and golf, the man-made lake, saw a large brick edifice rise. Finished in 1951, the first notable event experienced by the new school was the great

flood of 1951. Supporters of the hilltop area had the last laugh.

Mankato High School began filling in the land to raise the level for athletic fields. The football stadium was to be along the west edge and one or more baseball or softball diamonds to the east. The parking lot lay over the culverted creek. On the south side of Pleasant Street, along the west edge of the Slough, filling was done to raise the level for baseball parks and practice fields.

Tinkcomville was once the name for the region of the beautiful valley south of Byron Street, especially, James Avenue. James Tinkcom purchased this land in 1873. He built the cream-tan mansion which stands just south of present Jefferson School. Near the end of the valley, toward the right was the Jacobe farm with its square house and other buildings. This was the scene of the tragic double murder of two Jacobe family members in winter of 1926.

Anna M. Wiecking, in her book, *As We Once Were*, describes the wooded hills which form the east side of the valley:

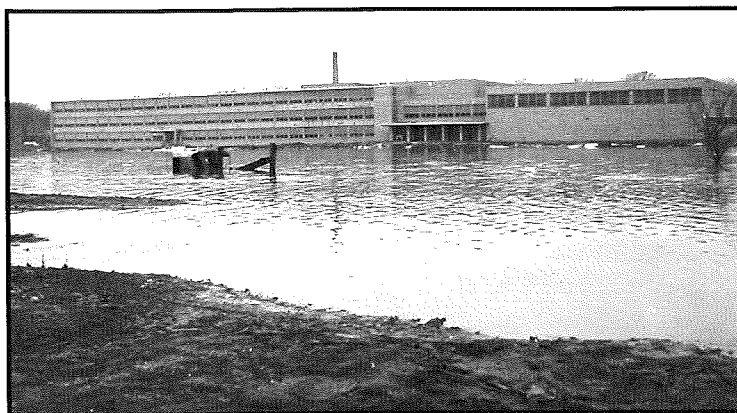
“... filled with many kinds of trees – white birch, plum and thorn-apple, nut trees, hazel-nut bushes, besides the usual shade trees.

In spring the hillsides were beautiful with blossoming trees, in summer and fall there were wild flowers, nuts, berries, thorn apples and apples. In fall the trees were aflame with color, and winter brought its own beauty.”

Wiecking continued,

“Most of the people who lived in Timkcomville when I was small had come from the eastern states to Mankato, or from Europe. They rented small homes and kept gardens, chickens, cows and even pigs until the city said ‘No more pigs.’ They were hard-working people who raised much of their own food. We could buy eggs and chickens from them, as well as vegetables.”

Later, in the early 1900s, several families of Syrians came to live in Tinkcomville. They came from Asia, called Syria then, now called Lebanon. They left their homes because they were poor and there were famines. They wanted a chance to live in a better



Mankato High School during the 1951 flood.

land and make a better living. There came to be a sizeable colony living in the valley as well as other parts of Mankato. Before long they were buying homes, raising wonderful vegetables and getting jobs. In her books, Maude Hart Lovelace called James Avenue, Little Syria, and the valley, Pleasant Valley.

In the valley of Indian Creek, just south of Pleasant Street, was a great winter playground for youngsters during the 1930s and 1940s. For many years the City of Mankato provided a free ice skating rink very close to the rink existing today, but in the yesteryears there was a large warming house provided and staffed. The rink fairly teemed with children having the time of their lives.

Sliding was enjoyed along the proposed access road which would link Shaubut Street with Oak Knoll. Enough grading had been done on each slope to make sliding, and for the adventurous, skiing possible. The slope down from Shaubut was called McGovern's Hill, named for the resident adjacent. It was gentle and safe. Across the valley, leading from Oak Knoll, was a steep and sharply twisting path called Devil's Trail.

By June 1997 the cycle was closed as Blue Earth County began to re-flood Indian Lake. Restoration of the Indian Lake region began not with the water but with a road bypass. In 1988 the Blue Earth County Public Works Department determined that growth and corresponding traffic patterns in Mankato required construction of another route around the city. The construction project involved encroachment on 2.5 acres of existing wetland, and Blue Earth County was required to create a new wetland, or restore an old wetland, of at least 5 acres. Indian Lake, which had been drained and converted into farmland in the 1920s, was the natural choice for the new wetland. The County acquired 70 acres of forested valley uplands surrounding the lake bed. The lake covers some 50 acres at present and has a maximum depth of 10 to 12 feet.

One can find the lake and its surrounding natural area just north of County Road 90. The conservation area's parking lot is at the south end of the lake. From there you can access its popular walking trail. Along the trail through woodlands and meadows, you can see many kinds of flowers, birds and wildlife.

Winter, spring, summer or fall, it is a lovely place to visit.



Indian Lake Conservation Area near County Road 90.

The Jacobe Murders

Win Grundmeier

One winter outing in the Indian Creek area resulted in a great tragedy. On December 27, 1926, four teenagers, two boys and two girls, went out squirrel hunting early in the afternoon. The boys were armed with handguns, a .32 caliber revolver and a .45 caliber Army Colt. The party grew cold in the winter weather and halted on a wooded knoll to build a fire. They had selected a place on the farm of Henry Jacobe and son Frank. The Jacobes had a long reputation for being hard and, having owned a brewery before the prohibition years, were periodically charged with illegally continuing the practice of beer-making during the 1920s.

Mr. Jacobe and his son came out to the camp site and ordered the young people off their land. Both boys fired their guns in the air to scare off the Jacobes. The effect of this was opposite of its intent and the brave, but foolhardy, Jacobes charged the youths with anger and harsh words. Henry Flemming, a National Guardsman, aimed his .45 and shot both Jacobes, killing the son instantly and mortally wounding the father. Flemming was charged and convicted of the crime he had confessed. He served his term in the penitentiary as a model prisoner.

July—September Volunteers

Anderson, Marian	Lagerquist, Mike
Baures, Lisa	Lamson, Barb
Belgard, Vail and Hugh	Lavitschke, Jo-An
Benefield, Dale	Lundin, Gary
Beyer, Jessie	McComb, Mary
Brennen, Mike	McGowan, Jack
Brodwell, Don	MSU Circle K
Circle 8 Square Dancers	Madsen, Jack
Clement, Jeri	Madsen, Tim and Liz
Colby, Cathy	Mankato West HS students
Coleman, Mary	Melby, Caleb
Cords, Betty	Niemeier, Andrea
Duncanson, Kristin	Nienow, Patricia
Engh, Jane	Norman, Beth
Finley, Lindsay	Ohlenkamp, Ora
Frederick, Mike	Peterson, Leslie
Frederick, Sal	Preska, Margaret
Frisch, Carlienne	Quade, Henry
Goff, Harley	Rezmerski, John
Grabitske, Paul	Ryan, Pat
Griffith, Helen	Sassenberg, Eunice
Grundmeier, Win	Schaub, Shirley
Harrison, Joshua	Schulz, Jo
Herbst, Gordon	Shortall, Christine
Highum, Jed	Smith, Emmett
Hopman, Edith	Sofchalk, Helen
Howiesen, Bob	Stromswold, Todd
Hugg, Corey	Sugden, George
Hynes, Susan	Tarjeson, Jane
Jackson, Colleen & David	Thom, Andrew
Jensen, Orv	Webb, Donna
Johnson, Emily	Whitney, Mike
Kearney, Mike	Wilson, Bernie
Keir, Grace	Ziegler, Kenneth
Keir, Richard	Zimmer, Beth
Kennedy, Gloria	



Through the Research Center Door:

One of the most interesting and controversial collections in the Research Center is that concerning the Dakota Uprising of 1862. We have over 25 vertical files (see Shelley's article) on the Dakota Indians using newspaper articles as our primary source. The files we have include topics such as Dakota history, Dakota biographies, Dakota 1890 to the present, the execution, military action, personal accounts, President Lincoln's involvement, the trial, and the reconciliation. We also have many books about the uprising such as *The Sioux Uprising of 1862* by Kenneth Carley. The book, *German Immigration to the Minnesota River Valley Frontier 1852-1865*, covers the period during which the uprising occurred. The book, *Surviving Members of the Ninth Regiment Minnesota Volunteers in the War of the Rebellion*, is a list of the men who were part of that regiment. Lavina Eastlick wrote a personal narrative about her experiences called *Thrilling Incidents of the Indian War of 1862*. *The Great Sioux Uprising* written by C.M. Gehler is just another of the many books that we have available on the uprising, massacre and execution that happened in 1862.

Gabriela Rodriguez
Archives Assistant

2007 Fall Festival Non-Profit Bake and Gift Sale

Looking for bakers and shoppers



Saturday, November 17th
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Madison East Center



There will not only be homemade treats to buy but also to sample. Craft and other items for the holidays will also be available.

All profits benefit BECHS as well as many other local non-profit organizations. Contact Shelley for more information at 345-5566.

Volunteers Are Always Welcomed

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

Antique car maintenance person

Tour Guides

Museum Store attendant

Research and writing grants

Data Entry

Research and writing for publications



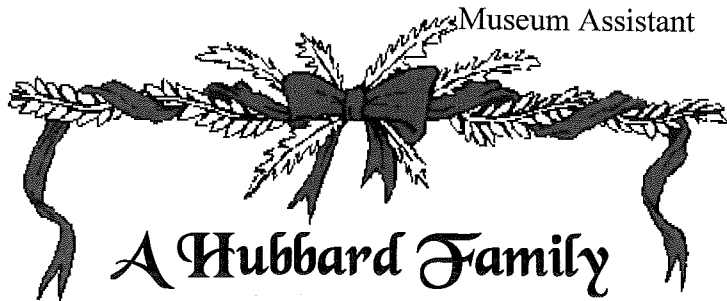
...at the *Museum Store*

November 10th this year is a big shopping day.

In addition to the Deep Valley Book Festival where we will again be joining a host of Minnesota authors and booksellers at the Alltel Center in Mankato, we will also be hosting our own Bookfair at Barnes and Noble in the River Hills Mall. You can clip out or pick up vouchers to use at Barnes and Noble and a percentage of your purchases (on any item in the store excluding gift cards) will go directly to BECHS. The Young Historians will be there at 2:00 p.m. for a story time program. Vouchers are not available at Barnes and Noble. Please call me for voucher details or stop into the Museum Store. Indicating BECHS verbally without the voucher will also be honored.

November 10th is also Herberger's Community Day sale, next door! When you buy the Herberger's coupon booklets here in our Museum Store for \$5.00, you receive \$10.00 off on regular or sale price merchandise of \$10.00 or more throughout Herberger's in addition to eight 20% off coupons and more. You can purchase as many coupon booklets as you like. There is no limit! Herberger's lets BECHS keep the full \$5.00 on every booklet we sell.

Anna Larson
Museum Assistant



A Hubbard Family Christmas

Sunday, December 2, 1-4 p.m.

Monday, December 3, 5-8 p.m.

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

History's Mysteries

Stephen Jesus Mary Palmer

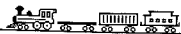
Recently I received a call from a woman doing research, who asked about Stephen J. M. Palmer. After doing some searching on the name and the date of death, I found Stephen Jesus Mary Palmer. He only lived in Mankato for three years (from 1963-1965) residing at 209 State Street. Mr. Palmer was born in 1882, died in 1965 and was buried in Calvary cemetery. Written on his headstone is "Holy Mary Pray for me." The researcher had very little to go on regarding this man except that he had painted over 500 paintings such as the ones below. Beth also believed that he was a religious zealot from the information she had gathered about a young girl named Mathilda Pokorny who was made to watch Mr. Palmer work on his paintings for hours. I was not able to find anything else on this man or the young girl. If you have any information on Stephen J. M. Palmer or on Mathilda Pokorny, please contact Gabby at 345-5566 or at bechsrc@hickorytech.net.



WISH LIST

Items or financial donations will be gratefully accepted.

- Copy Paper
- Computer monitor
- *The Land* on microfilm
- Mylar book covers
- LCD Projector
- New tables and folding chairs for the Meeting Room



Rapidan Heritage Society

Threshing Day arrived with showers of much needed rain. The actual threshing demonstration was postponed, but the other events took place as planned. Thanks to Susan Hynes in the Medicine Show, Grace & Richard Keir for the spinning demonstrations, excellent music by the Lake Crystal Municipal Band and to Dave Reedstrom for tours of his nearby Red Jacket Vineyards. Huge thanks to Gene & Vivian Ziegler for co-sponsoring this event with RHS and the use of their farm and shed! Threshing did take place the following Tuesday eve-



Threshing drew a crowd of young and old to once again see the mighty threshing machine rumble to life and observe the golden oats separated from the straw.

ning.

The caboose is coming! Rapidan echoed with the long forgotten sound of hammers striking spikes as a short section of rail was laid by the depot. Along with the ringing of steel could be heard grunts and uf-dah's as the 'railroad gang' laid railroad ties and carried in sections of the original Rapidan track. RHS was able to purchase a 1939 Milwaukee caboose from a private party in Missouri. This caboose had been used on the Milwaukee lines in southern Minnesota. The interior is intact (except for the bathroom and stove), but in need of restoration. It will be painted the Milwaukee colors and restoration to the interior will be done over the next several years as volunteer time and money are available. The caboose will compliment the depot and bring alive the railroad heritage of Rapidan and the county. Plans are for the caboose to be brought in by truck after the fall harvest is done.

A more modern vehicle transported riders from Rapidan 'back to the past' on September 8th. An adventurous group boarded the bus early that morning to be transported to the 1858 Pickwick Mill and to the 1899 village of Forestville. Pickwick was hosting Mill Days, so we were fortunate to observe the mill actually operating on water power. We learned about the intricate mill machinery and the 'modern' items that could be purchased in the 1899 Forestville General Store. Mr. & Mrs. David Earp were our guides at Forestville – David was a teacher at Rapidan High School.

On December 1st another type of transportation will bring a special visitor to the Depot. Santa and Mrs. Claus will again be stopping at the Depot from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. to visit and provide treats and photos to the young and young at heart. Refreshments will be provided in the town hall. Please join us at 1:00 p.m. as Santa is whisked to the depot in a horse drawn carriage. Everyone is welcome!

Jane Tarjeson

Secretary Rapidan Heritage Society

River Passage Regional Author Series

BECHS invites you to the writer's desk. From lectures, slide shows, chats and book signing, meet a new author every third Saturday of the month.

Emmett Smith

Historian Blog Writer

October 20, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Heritage Center

Gail Wood

Lizzie and the Prairie Fire

November 17, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Bryce Stenzel

Coming to Terms with the Past

December 15, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Gordon Herbst

Minneinneopa: 150 Years

History Minneopa State Park

January 19, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.



Fingerprints and Footnotes

The Footnotes and Fingerprints, the History and Genealogy Club, is always growing and newcomers are always welcome. In August we celebrated Victory Over Japan Day. It was 62 years ago that Japan surrendered, ending combat in the Second World War. We shared stories from that moment in history and memories of the homefront. In September we discussed the effects that 9/11 has had on genealogy just in the last six years and remembered that it doesn't have to be long ago and far way for it to be history. In October we mulled over "murder in the county," with a special interest to women and crime at the turn of the century.

These and many interesting tidbits can be had at any of our meetings. 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 13: Minnesota's Political History with Kirk Besse

December 11: History of Etiquette at 101 Main

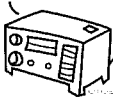
January 8: Probate Research

Footnotes in History -

October 23, 1920 Sinclair Lewis' novel *Main Street* was published. In 1930, the Sauk Centre native would be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. He began writing *Main Street* right here in Mankato at 315 South Broad Street. You can visit this location and others by picking up a walking tour brochure at BECHS.

BECHS on the Air

Listen to KTOE 1420 am
the 2nd and 4th Tuesday
of each month at 4:10 p.m.
for a **BECHS** update with Trish



July—September 2007 Artifacts & Archives Donations

Affolter, Ron	Jones, Ellis
Anderson, Mary	Krueger, Dawn
Anonymous	Long, Mariah
Asche, LeRoy	Madsen, Jack
Bartholdi, Roberta	Madsen, Kristine
Bartsch, Glenn	Marshall, Polly
Berger, Dolores	McComb, Mary
Colakovic, Kenneth	McCoy, Dennis
Dooley, Mary	McLaughlin, Theresa
Dunlop, Donna	Morrow, Arvellis
Frederick, Mike	Neilsen, Barbara
Genz, Molly	Olmanson, Leif
Great Plains Welsh Heri- tage Project	Peterson, Rae Jean
Griffith, Jane	Powers, Jeanne
Groskreutz, Jeff	Quittem, Rebecca
Grundmeier, Win	Resner, Donna
Hesse, Norla	Schaub, Shirley
Hewitt, Lester	Sorenson, Norton
Jensen, Orv	Tarjeson, Jane
	Vee, Harlan

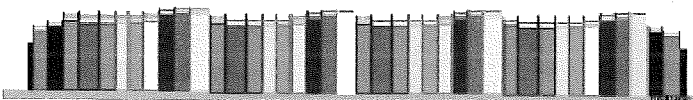
BECHS Archives Week

October 22-27

Open House

Tuesday, October 23rd, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Admission: Free



Barnes & Noble Bookfair supporting the Blue Earth County Historical Society

Simply shop at the River Hills Mall
Barnes & Noble on Saturday, November 10th.
Present the voucher in this newsletter at the time
of purchase. A percentage of the net sales will be
donated to BECHS.

BECHS Membership

July—September

New Members

Bixeman, Dean
 Davis, Lois
 Field, Roger
 Friedrichs, Barbara
 Goelz, Nicholas
 Goettl, Terry
 Horkey, Kimberly and Aaron
 Johnson, Shirley A.
 Jones, Ellis and Janet
 Koser, Erica and Eric
 Maker, Mary C.
 MacNeil, Mary E.
 Norback, Judy
 Otopalik, Doug
 Phelps, Robert
 Ruble, Bruce and Shirlee
 Saffert, Kenneth
 Schutt, Donna
 Schutz, Kelly
 Steinberg, Dale and Joyce
 Veroeven, Richard
 Wagner, Helen
 Young, Sandra Helleksen

Renewed Members

Anderson, Mary V.
 Balcome, Helen
 Barber, Eddice
 Bartholdi, Roberta
 Bartsch, Jan
 Belgard, Hugh and Vail
 Birr, Linda M.
 Broadwell, Donald
 Brown, Joan
 Browne, Suzanne
 Burns, Inella
 Carlson, Bruce and Carla
 Casella, Donna
 Compton, Harlan and Nancy
 Craig, Nancy G.
 Crane, Donald and Sue
 Dobie, Dr. Joseph M.
 Dubke, Duane
 Eick, Aileen
 Engstrom, Mary

Farnham, Joe and Malda
 Fasnacht, William
 Fischer, Eldena E.
 Frederick, Carol
 Frisch, Carlienne
 Garlow, Darrell, Sandi and Laura
 Gower, Ronald
 Grundmeier, Win and Shirley
 Halstead, Sharon
 Hansen, Norma
 Hess, Dominic M.
 Hesse, Norla
 Higginbotham, Jack and Shirley
 Hillegas, Marcella
 Hodapp, Francis
 Hollingsworth, Alice
 Hopman, Edith
 Howard, Don A.
 Huettl, John
 Humphrey, Mary
 Hustoles, Paul and Mary Jo
 Hynes, Susan
 Jackson, David and Colleen
 Johnson, David and Linda
 Johnson, Douglas and Patricia
 Johnson, Marlyss
 Jones, Eldon and Helen
 Joyce, Ron
 Kalvig, Ann
 Karow, Linda
 Keenan, Jerry
 Kind, Arn and Margaret
 Krause, Dolores
 Lamont, Earl and Sally
 Landsteiner, Steve and Cheri
 Llewelyn, Becky
 Lund, Kay
 McComb, Mary
 McLaughlin, Tom and Theresa
 McLean, Edward F.
 McNear, Virginia
 Madsen, Jack
 Madsen, Tim and Liz
 Marge, Don
 Masberg, Rita
 Meredith, Don and Marge
 Merkert, Karin I.

Neitge, Cartherine
 Nelson, Ron and LaVerne
 Oehler, Maurice
 Owens, Catherine
 Parks, Sandra
 Peterson, Dean
 Peterson, Leslie
 Phelps, Dean
 Piehl, Chuck and Kathy
 Pothast, Bob and Sue
 Pulis, Tim
 Radichel, Paul
 Rezmerski, John
 Ries, Chuck and Carol
 Ringheim, Marilyn
 Roberts, Craig
 Rose, Robert and Luella
 Rottunda, John
 Salk, Carolyn
 Salsbery, Verle and Caroline
 Schrader, Julie
 Shibilski, Bob
 Simonett, Patricia James
 Smith, Emmett
 Snilsberg, Lee and Loretta
 Swanson, Jody and Kevin
 Swenson, Helen Rachel
 Tacheny, Delores
 Tarjeson, Jane
 Thiesse, Sylvan and Rosalin
 Thompson, Kenneth and Irene
 Vee, Harlan A.
 Ward, Howard and Mary
 Webb, Donna
 Westphal, Myrtle
 Wilmes, Brad
 Wingen, Carol
 Wittrock, John and Eleanor
 Zimmer, Beth

Business/ Educational Level Members

Carol Black Interiors
 Cherished Possessions
 Laurels Edge
 Morgan Creek Vineyards
 MSU, M History Department
 MSU, M Urban and Regional Studies
 River City Dental
 Tire Associates
 VINE Faith in Action



...at the Hubbard House

Fall leaves are now settling on the many roofs at the Hubbard House. Cardinals are settling in the park for another cold winter and our many beautiful seasonal plants are poised for the long anticipated first days of spring. It is a season for reflection at the Hubbard House; a chance to evaluate the summertime programming and to develop new programs for the fall and winter months. We will be open this winter on Saturdays 10:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. and we offer a chance to also see the house at night on Tuesdays 3:00—7:00 p.m. for a change of pace.

There have been over 1,000 guests to the historic site for tours so far this year, which is higher than last year especially when you factor in that the Christmas Program is around the corner. The quintessential program for the Victorian era, Christmas at the Hubbard House is be a “must see” for all the members and their families. I certainly hope that you have enjoyed some of the summertime and fall programming at the Hubbard House. I cordially invite you to stop by and take in the sights and sounds of fall turning to winter.

Jeff Brand

Hubbard House Site Manager

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

We all leave our own unique mark on this world in our families, work and the organizations we believe in and support. We celebrate these legacies at BECHS – after all, they are the heart of the history we preserve every day.

A legacy gift, also known as a planned or estate gift, can help ensure BECHS has the resources to preserve and present the history of Blue Earth County for many years to come.

To learn more about Legacy Gifts at BECHS, contact Jessica Potter, Executive Director at 507-345-5566.

7th Annual South Central Minnesota Genealogy Expo

Saturday, November 3
MSU Centennial Student Union
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
first session begins at 9 a.m.

Co-hosted by BECHS and
Minnesota State University, Mankato Library
For more information contact Jessica at 345-5566
or check out the website at
<http://lib.mnsu.edu/archives/genie/expo.html>

 **Herberger's**

Community Day Sale
Saturday, November 10th
Coupon booklets available today!

\$5 from the sale of each coupon book will
support BECHS' publications budget to
publish and print our upcoming
Century Farm history book.

Coupon booklets can be purchased at the
Heritage Center until November 9th.

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

The Hubbard House open hours are:
Tuesday 3:00 to 7:00
Saturday 10:00 to 4:00



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

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www.rootsweb.com/~mnbechs/

Expiration date

Preserving and sharing Blue Earth County's history since 1901