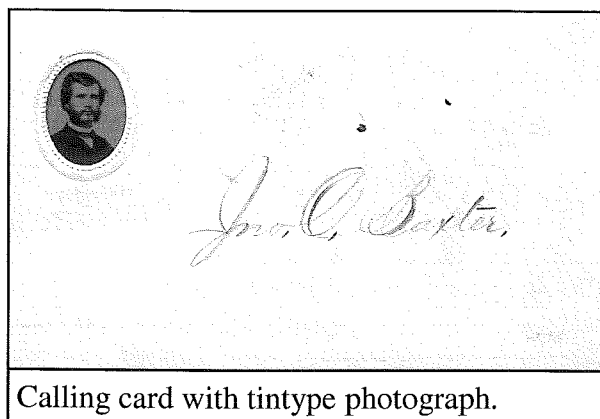


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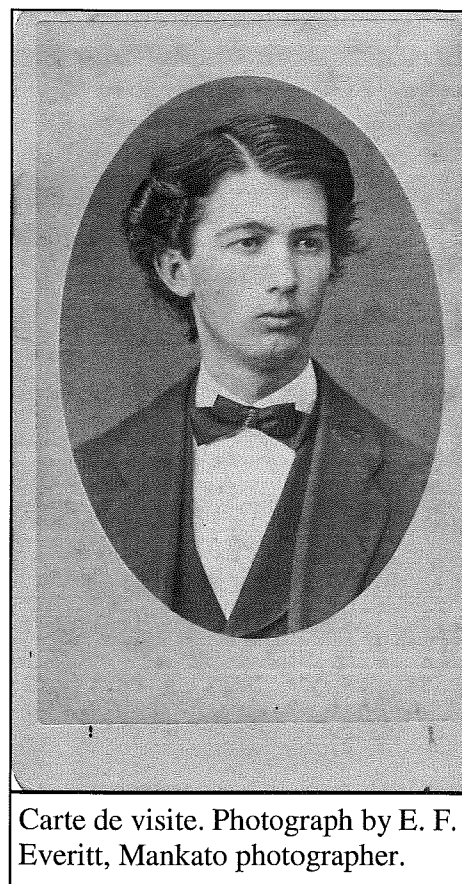
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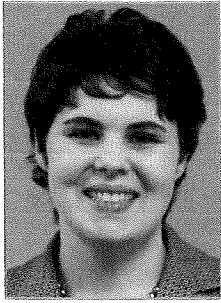
Cabinet card wedding photograph from the early 1900s.



Calling card with tintype photograph.



Carte de visite. Photograph by E. F. Everitt, Mankato photographer.



From the Executive Director

A new season is budding at the Blue Earth County Historical Society. We are looking forward to another active summer season of programs and events. We are excited to assist Blue Earth County celebrate their 155th Anniversary this summer with Courthouse tours on June 24th, a day at the Rapidan Dam in July and of course, the Blue Earth County Fair in August. In addition, our vintage Base Ball team, the Mankato Baltics, will be hitting the field again with games in June and July.

Changes may be a little more apparent when you visit the Heritage Center or Hubbard House this spring. Anna Larson and Jeff Brand have left BECHS for new opportunities. There will be a new face behind the Museum Store desk very soon and the Hubbard House position will be filled by a seasonal worker. Also, the Hubbard House is gearing up for some major restoration projects this summer. Planning has been under way all winter, and soon restoration will begin. Thanks to a grant from the

Minnesota Historical Society and matching funds from the City of Mankato, all three porches will be restored to their glory and structural soundness. In addition, the house will be tuck pointed, painted and new storm windows will be installed thanks to a private donor. Even though the house will be under construction, we still look forward to a strong visitor season at the historic home.

We are also excited to announce that Marian Anderson will complete the third in her historic house series featuring the R.D. Hubbard House. The print will be available this spring at the Museum Store and Hubbard House Gift Shop. All proceeds will benefit BECHS thanks to a Hubbard family descendent that funded the entire project. Thank you!

On a different note, many of you are aware of a significant preservation concern that surfaced this winter, the long-term preservation of the Judge Lorin Cray home, behind the Hubbard House. The Cray home has served as the headquarters for the Mankato YWCA since 1928, but is now owned by a private citizen. Many concerned people are watching the new owner's intentions for the home to ensure the long-term preservation of this significant property in



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

Spring 2008

The Blue Earth County Historian is published quarterly for the members of Blue Earth County Historical Society.

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Mankato. We are currently working with the City of Mankato to establish a Historic Preservation Ordinance and Commission. By having this commission in place, we as concerned citizens for historic preservation, will have a voice at the local government level. The Commission will enforce the ordinance, assist property owners with preservation questions and provide guidance. If you have questions about the Cray home or other preservation concerns, please feel free to contact me.

As always, I thank you all for the support you provide to YOUR Blue Earth County Historical County Historical Society!

Jessica Potter,
Executive Director



Twin Rivers Center for the Arts TEAM card

Twin Rivers Center for the Arts (TRCA) celebrates, supports and promotes regional arts and culture as the umbrella organization representing an alliance of more than 20 local arts and culture nonprofits including the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

TRCA and BECHS have joined together to offer the Twin Rivers Center for the Arts TEAM card loyalty program. It's simple – carry your Twin Rivers Center for the Arts TEAM card with you wherever you go in town and support our local partner businesses (list available at www.cashvaluecard.com). While you are earning cash rewards for yourself, you can take great pride in knowing that you are also contributing to the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

To pick up your TRCA TEAM card today, stop by the Heritage Center, Hubbard House, participating businesses or the Emy Frenz Arts Guild.

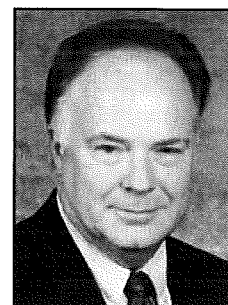
Meet Our New Board Members



Stacey Straka

Having grown up and spent the majority of my adult life in Southern Minnesota, I have come to appreciate the tremendous attributes and heritage of our agriculturally-rich region. I believe that each of us is charged with creating and maintaining the quality and vibrancy of life we so enjoy here. Currently, I own and operate a full-service advertising agency called Red Door Creative. My husband Richard, and I are enjoying raising our two children --Colby, 16 and Madeline, 13--and busy attending their various activities. I am excited to be joining and supporting a group of individuals that are focused on preserving and documenting our great history for my children's generation and those to come.

Preston Doyle



I've lived in Mankato for the past 13 years with my wife Judy and our three children, Shaina, Aaron, and Adam. I've been an insurance and financial consultant with State Farm Insurance Companies for 30 years. I recently finished my long tenure as soccer coach and board member for both of my sons' Mankato summer soccer teams. Motorcycling, bicycling, and boating are my favorite sports besides skiing in a year when we get enough snow. My interest in historical preservation began when I lived in Winona, MN and would visit their society museum whenever we would have guests come to town.

Victorian Lawn Party

at the R.D. Hubbard House
Saturday, June 14th
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Enjoy a step back in time at the Hubbard House, an art show at the Emy Frenz Arts Guild and the Great River Energy Bike Festival. What a day to be in downtown Mankato!



Notes from the Archives Manager

What is worth preserving, and who decides what gets saved?

Photographs, books, maps, rocking chairs, snowmobiles, buildings, bridges, cemeteries and even trees are only a few of the things deserving preservation. We at the Historical Society like to save things. All things. If you think we are packrats or hoarders: those who save things just because they can't seem to throw anything out, or those who feel that someday they may need that honeycomb Easter decoration (and by the way this is how we end up with some of the neatest items in our collection, those donated by packrats and hoarders.) That's not us. We preserve items, for the simple reason that items, all items, tell a story. We believe that stories are more important than just the objects. They give the object and us a context and a sense of place. It's "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts" kind of thing. It's not just the small things we can store; it's a barn, a county cemetery, a one room country school house, its our rural heritage. It goes beyond preserving a piece of paper, a tool or even a building. It's about preserving something for the next generations.

We never say you have to be interested in everything or even agree with what gets saved. What you find fascinating may not appeal to the next person, and that is what gives us this great diversity in the Blue Earth County Collection. From the shellacked cow hair ball to Judge Johnson's portrait. What we preserve all depends on what you decide to donate to us; what you feel needs to be saved. If not us (meaning all of you) then who? What will be preserved for future generations?

So that historic treasure could be a photograph of your family, your mother's yearbook or a plat book that shows the location of your grandfather's farm. It could be your favorite aunt's rocking chair, your family's first snowmobile or the church your great grandparents were married in. It's the bridge you cross when you go home or the marble stones left behind by past generations.

All of these things and places are worth preserving. What do you want to preserve?

Shelley Harrison
Archives Manager

WISH LIST

Items or financial donations will be gratefully accepted.

- Copy Paper
- *The Land* on microfilm
- Mylar book covers
- New Tables and Chairs for Meeting Room
- Support for our Vintage Base Ball Team, the Mankato Baltics - uniforms and equipment needed

Newsletter Stories

Have a story you'd like to see in the newsletter? Something you're interested in researching, writing? We are always looking for new and interesting story ideas and for people who are interested in helping with the research and/or writing of them. The only restriction is that it must be a story about something, someone or someplace linked to Blue Earth County. If you have suggestions for stories or are interested in helping research and/or write one, contact Donna Webb at 345-5566.

Annual Report and Audited Financial Report

2007 Blue Earth County Historical Society
Annual Report and Audited Financial
Report are available. Stop by the Heritage
Center for your copy today.

Old Photographs and the Secrets They Hold

Grace Keir

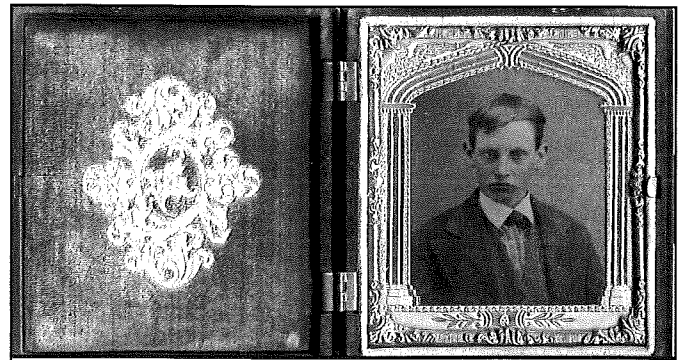
My quest to identify the approximate date on photographs of my great grandparents, Herman and Everwiena Fuls led me to study types of photography and to use my knowledge of historic clothing as a resource. Photographs of our ancestors are a link to the past which we would not otherwise have. Photographs help us connect with a person's life and times past. However, it is very annoying and frustrating to find unidentified photographs in a box or album that must surely be of family members or maybe friends of the family. Of course, this is a habit we should not follow so that future generations won't be blaming us for not labeling our photographs.

In this article I hope to provide you with information about early photography and the clothing details that will help put an approximate date on the mystery photographs you have in your possession. This article will be limited to the 1850 to 1900. A second article covering 1900-1920 will come later.

Have you ever wondered who "Uncle John" in an old photograph really is? If John was a popular name in your early family history it can be more difficult to identify. However, there are a number of ways to go about solving this mystery. First, you might compare the face with photographs of other relatives named "John" that already have been identified. Using such features as shape of ears, position of eyes, shape of mouth and hairline details are helpful. Even if they are a different age at the time of the photograph, some physical details don't change.

Using the history of photography from its beginning in the 1840s can help ascertain when a photo was taken. There are many resources available on the internet and in books. I will only cover some examples to get you started.

The earliest type of photography was the daguerreotype which began in 1838. This method peaked in use from 1847 to 1854 but lasted until 1860. Daguerreotype photographs were made of silver on copper and have a mirror effect when turned. Most daguerreotype plates were mounted in cases with elaborate frames and a padded satin or velvet cover which was rose colored. The next method to come



Daguerreotype with gold mounting and embossed velvet inside front cover.

along was the ambrotype which first appeared in 1854 and peaked in use between 1855 and 1860. These were made by coating a piece of glass with silver nitrate and exposing this to the image. They were always cased because of their fragile nature. Ambrotypes lasted until 1866, although one source said 1881. It may be difficult to distinguish between the Daguerreotype and the ambrotype. Thus, if you have a cased photograph you know it had to be done between 1838 and 1866.

Another method of photography to appear in the 1850s was the tintype. They are usually more difficult to date than other examples because they spanned a longer time-frame. Tintypes peaked from 1861 to 1870, but can be seen as late as 1900. Tintypes are made of iron, so they are misnamed. Common sizes were 2 x 2 1/2 inches or 2 5/8 x 3 1/4 inches. Most tintypes found today are of poor quality. Several varieties of mountings were used with tintypes. One called the "Gem" format, placed the photograph in a 'cartouche' sleeve with a decorative design around an oval opening. Another mounting was in a brass locket, but they are not commonly found today. While examining the tintypes in my collection I found one that had a postage type stamp affixed to the back. Why was this stamp placed there? The stamps were used as tax revenue stamps to help pay for the Civil War. From August 1864 to August 1866 photographs were taxed. This is one way to narrow the date of a photograph easily.



Tintype of Effie Mead.

A very common photograph from 1858 to 1880 was the carte de visite. These are cards with an albumen photograph mounted to it and were 2 3/8 x 4 1/4 inches in size. There are several features which can make dating them easier. One feature is card thickness ranging from 0.5 mm in 1858 to 1 mm in 1900. Another feature is card corners. Square corners are pre-1870 and rounded corners after that. Image size



Carte de visite of Mrs. T. O. Jones.

varied also starting with less than 3/4 inch to filling in the complete card. Other features such as borders, backgrounds and colors also changed. You can locate more specific details on all these features using the internet.

The next type of photograph you might find in your family collection of photos is the cabinet card. They ap-

peared in 1866 and peaked between 1875 and 1895. Early cabinet cards were used only for landscape views. Like the carte de visite, the photo is mounted on a card stock, but the size is larger. The cabinet card is 6 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches. Early photos were sepia, which is a brown tone. Later photos used soft, silverfish tones and rich blacks. Dating the cabinet card can be done by studying the details on the card. These details include the card stock, card colors, borders and edges, and lettering. The early card stock was lighter in weight and square in size. In the 1890s scalloped edges were used. Card colors start with white, off white or light cream. From 1880-1890 different colors were used on the face and back of mounts. Borders and lettering differed widely so it is best to use a resource available on the internet. It is important to check the lettering used on the back of the card used to identify the photographer.

Using methods of photography and the details they provide is just one way to help identify when a photo was taken. The next step is to look at what the person or persons in the photograph is wearing. The history of clothing can give you clues about the time and lifestyle of your ancestors including special events such as baptisms, marriages and special occasions. In addition to the clothing worn, hairstyles and styles of facial hair on men will be included.

Female Clothing and Appearance 1850-1900

Women's clothing (and also that of girls age five and older) from 1850 to 1870 included the "crinoline" as the dominate feature. This style of dress has a very large bell-shaped skirt. The bodice was fitted and had a dropped armhole. Sleeve styles included a narrow fit from the shoulder to the wrist. Some sleeves were narrow at the shoulder and wide at the wrist with a muslin under sleeve. Detachable lace or plain collars are used at this time. In most photographs of this period, women's hair was generally parted in the middle and pulled back into a bun. Sausage curls or ringlets might also be seen at this time.

Beginning in the late 1860s back fullness was a feature of female dresses for most of the period from 1870-1890. This back fullness was known as the "bustle". In the 1870s a full bustle was created by manipulating the fabric at the back of the skirt and required a support. Because many photographs only show the front of the dress, it may be hard to see the bustle. Most of these garments were two-piece which matched in color. Sleeves may be three-quarter length and set into the armhole. Look for a jacket-like bodice with extensions below the waist in front, a high neck, lots of ruffles, trims and other frills during this time. Hairstyles in the 1870s may have added hair pieces and were arranged in braids or long curls.

From 1878 to 1883 the bustle silhouette is modified, with a gradual diminishing of the bustle dimensions. Skirts fit smoothly over the hips. The necklines and sleeves do not change radically. After 1883, the bustle returns but in a softer, draped construction. The skirt is flat or draped in front. The bodice is short. Sleeves were generally close fitting, ending above the wrist. High, fitted, boned collars were seen in almost all daytime dresses. Because the necklines

were high, hair styles were pulled higher on the head.

In the 1890s, also known as the "gay nineties", we see a change in the silhouette of female dress. This was the era of the "hour-glass" style of dress. To obtain this look, sleeve styles were large and wide on the top, the waist was as small as the corset could make it, and the skirt flared out into a bell-like shape. The dress was two-piece and usually of matching color and fabric. The large sleeve was called a "leg-o-mutton" and had fullness in the upper part and was fitted on the lower part. Skirts were gored, fitting smoothly over the hips with some back pleating or fullness. The ladies hair had a curled fringe at the front and the back often arranged in a coil.

Young girls, age five or six and older, were often dressed like adult women. However, you will often see them in shorter length versions of the dresses seen on adults. Infants, both boys and girls, are dressed alike and it may be hard to date them or know the gender of the infant by using clothing alone.

Male Clothing and Appearance 1850-1900

In the 1850s, mens suits consisted of three pieces, a coat, a waistcoat (vest) and trousers. Coats were of three styles including a formal tailcoat with a short, square "cut-in" front and tails in back, a frock coat which was fitted through the torso with a skirt attached, and the sack jacket that was loose and without a waistline and short lapels. Waistcoats were either single or double breasted and had a lapel collar. Although not always visible in photographs, trousers were wider at the top and narrow at the ankle. Neckties, called cravats, were soft and wrapped around the deep collar of the shirt. Men's hair was fairly short, curly or waved, long, full side whiskers were stylish and moustaches are also seen at this time.



During the 1860s, tail coats are only used as evening wear. Frock coats become longer and sack jackets are seen more often. For those of modest incomes, you will see more sack jackets that are poorly fitted in photographs throughout the late 1800s. Lapels button higher so little is seen of a waistcoat unless the coat is unbuttoned. Trousers legs widen and striped and checked fabrics might be seen. By the 1860s being clean shaven was no longer fashionable.

From 1870 to 1900 it can be difficult to date men's photographs because men's fashions do not change as much as women's do. Only a few details change during this time. In the 1880s the Tuxedo was introduced. It was a jacket with rounded edges at the

front, a contrasting fabric on the lapels and was worn with trousers that had a band of braid covering the side seams. Waistcoats matched the rest of the suit and were usually double-breasted. Frock coats continued until the 1890s and the sack coat gained in popularity. Trousers were straight and fairly narrow. Moustaches were popular, worn with side whiskers or a beard.

Headwear for men between 1850 and 1870 was the top hat. From 1870 to 1900, the top hat is worn only for formal occasions while bowlers, fedoras/homburgs and straw boaters are introduced for day-time wear.

Clothing for boys (age five and above) between 1850 and 1870 includes trousers or short pants cut similarly to adult men's. Knickerbocker suits with full cut, knee length pants and sailor suits with trousers or knickers and a blouse or jacket with a flat, square collar were popular. In the 1870s knickers become more fitted and look more like short trousers in the 1880s. A popular style was the "Little Lord Fauntleroy" suit with a wide lace collar and cuffs on a belted jacket, knickers, and a bow at the neck. Other styles for boys and young men mimicked those worn by adult men.

Recent Donations

Up to \$50

Church, Barb
LaFavor, Lyle
Layman, Eloise
Lund, Richard
Madsen, Jack
Nordgren, Lee and Donna
Owens, Catherine
Schwichtenberg, Shawn

\$51-\$100

Belgard, Hugh and Vail
Fischer, Eldena
Kearney, Elizabeth
Rapidan Township

\$100-\$500

Hynes, Susan and CenterPoint Energy
Sofchalk, Helen
Webb, Donna and Jerry

Over \$1000

Bartsch, Glenn
Grundmeier, Win and Shirley
Hubbard, John J.
Jacobson, Lyle and Kay

In Kind

Hynes, Susan
Jensen, Orville & Mary Ann
Keir, Grace
Madsen, Tim and Jack
Resner, Donna

Wish List Fulfilled

DVD Player
LCD Projector

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.



2008 Summer 1860s Vintage Base Ball Games

Mankato Baltics vs. Rochester Roosters
Saturday, June 7, 1:00 p.m.
Old Main Lawn, Mankato

Mankato Baltics play at Olmsted County
Vintage Base Ball Festival
Saturday, July 26
History Center of Olmsted County
Schmitt Field

50 minute matches from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Last year, on a 100 degree day, following the North Mankato Fun Days Parade, over 100 people showed up to play, participate and watch the game between the Baltics and the Roosters. We are currently raising money to purchase our own vintage uniforms and 1860s equipment to keep these games going for the future! If you are interested in supporting the games through contributions, playing or coming as a crowd supporter in costume, then welcome to the Vintage Base Ball Club of Blue Earth County! Please contact us to get on our roster of supporters!



Through the Research Center Door:

When you are researching your family history there are a few home sources that will help you either start your search or continue if you get stalled. Home sources can be an object or document, any shape or size, that your family has passed down from generation to generation.

A will, funeral card or graduation certificate can include information that can be very helpful in your search. A will can include the names of all of the deceased person's children and may provide a glimpse into the family dynamic. Did the parent exclude one of the children from the will? What items did he leave to what family members. Did he give reasons for these actions? This information could help you discover new family members that you know nothing about. A funeral card gives you the date of death, family members names, the church where the service was held and where the person was buried.

A home source can be a wedding band with the marriage date on it or a quilt with the name of the person who made it and a date of completion. You can get a sense of the person whose object survived through the years because this person thought the object was worth preserving. These home sources also can help you in the way you approach an official record. If you don't know when the person was born, died or married, a wedding band could give you a date or year to start. A wedding invitation can tell the name of the town where the wedding was held or the name of the church.

Here are a few more home sources that will help with your family research:

- The problem with photos is that sometimes they don't have the names of the people. But, sometimes you are able to find the name of a studio and its address. With this information you can come look in our city directories and find the dates the business ran and who ran it. The person could still be alive or have kept sales records.
- Picture postcards are very useful because they

can depict where your family lived or where they traveled to.

- Diaries and Journals help you discover who the person you are researching was, what they thought, who they associated with, what events they experience and how they felt living through them.
- Official documents held by family members can give you lists of other family members, birth, death and marriage dates and places.
- Samplers sometimes have family member's names, dates of birth and death sewn into them which can help you look for an official document.
- Family Bibles often contain important dates such as Christening, marriage and death information on a special page provided for that information or in the margins. If the events recorded happened before the publishing date, they were probably entered at the time of the event. If they were added after the publication date, then you know that the events were added at a later date, not as they happened. Next look at the handwriting. Is it written by the same person, or did different people record the dates.

All of these home sources can help you set up a list of things to research next time you come to the Research Center.

Gabriela Rodriguez
Archives Assistant

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, list of prepared topics or to volunteer for our Speakers Bureau, please contact Jessica at 345-5566.



...at the *Museum*

The Blue Earth County Historian, 2001-2005 and *The Remarkable Men from Garden City* are back by popular demand. *The Historian* is a collection of all the primary arti-

cles in each issue of our newsletter from the winter of 2001 through the fall of 2005. A defining characteristic of this re-edition of *The Historian* is its diversity of ethnic backgrounds, knowledge, culture, education, and occupation. All of these and more are reflected in this little book: articles on innovations in teaching, biographical sketches of some remarkable people, accounts of the development of local industry and stories of immigration from all parts of the world. *The Blue Earth County Historian* is a paperback BECHS publication, 140 pages, available for \$11.95.

The Remarkable Men From Garden City by Winston Grundmeier chronicles the journey to success of ten boys who grew up and left the small town of Garden City for the great world. This story was the feature article of the *Minneapolis Sunday Journal* in April 1922. "All ten could look back on lives of success in positive terms: some in vast holdings, some in world fame, and all in material and spiritual rewards." Not only is this the story of ten individuals, but it's the history and story of a community on the Watonwan River that prospered on a small scale by cooperation and which launched the lives of ten boys on paths of uncommon accomplishment. This small volume of 41 pages including index, is also a BECHS publication and is for sale for \$5.00.

Check out other BECHS publications such as an emerging series of tour guide booklets including *Silk Stocking Stroll: Lincoln Park Walking Tour*, the *Old Town Walking Tour* created for the Old Town Summer Festival and *History of the Blue Earth County Courthouse*. Prices range from \$1.50 to \$3.00. Beth Zimmer's *Meet the Hubbards* (\$14.95) is a wonderful, comprehensive family history, and we look forward to the companion volume on the Hubbard House Story. *Fire! Stories of fires and fire fighting in Blue Earth County's early years* (\$9.95) by Helen Sofchalk is an example of the kind of creative project

that come out of a unique collection of artifacts. In this case the Mankato Fire Department collection was the inspiration.

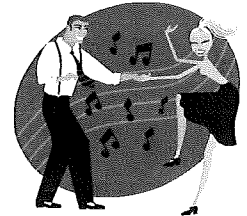
Anna Larson
Museum Assistant

History Mysteries

Dances are used as a celebration and social gathering for people to have fun. Some dances are popular, like the Leap Year Party held on January 9, 1880; and some dances receive very little attendance, like the Dan Bard and Co. dance on December 18, 1881. There are many different types of dance atmosphere depending on the dance style, the type of music played and who is dancing.

Popular dance styles include the waltz which originated in Southern Germany and Austria but evolved from the slow, rustic German dance to a more sophisticated, gentle, graceful version which became popular in the late 19th century. A Polka, on the other hand, is a popular dance because of the fast dance moves and the strong rhythm that the music invokes. Dancers also like to experiment with cultural dances like the cake-walk which was once a plantation dance competition in which enslaved Africans competed.

Many dance events held are given names that remind us of a season such as Sweethearts Dance or Fall Harvest Dance; but sometimes you run across a dance name which leaves you completely baffled. This is exactly what happened when we discovered in the Garden City Social Notes that a "Sheet and Pillow-Case" dance was to be held on a Friday. We tried to look it up, but we were unsuccessful. If anyone has any ideas about this dance, please contact Gaby at 345-5566 or at bechsrc@hickorytech.net



BECHS On the Air

Listen to KTOE 1420 AM the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 4:10 for a BECHS update with Trish



Rapidan Heritage Society

2007 Review

Rapidan Heritage Society began its 6th year with the annual Valentine Sleigh Ride but, due to uncertain weather and poor attendance, it was decided to discontinue this event in 2008.

The annual meeting was held on February 15th, with our own member, Jack Madsen, as special speaker. His topic, "Winter Down on the Farm," was a very interesting recollection of his boyhood memories of cutting wood, blocks of ice, etc. He also displayed some of the old tools that were used.

Our Memorial Day celebration was again a huge success. After the Memorial program in the park we honored past Rapidan School teachers, school board members and support staff. Each person received a carnation in recognition and appreciation. An informal lunch was served after the program. The Red Wing Pie Dish depicting Rapidan School, was not available for sale on Memorial Day due to a printing error. We were promised they would redo the dishes and have them ready for the Threshing Bee in August.

On August 4th, RHS helped Gene and Vivian Ziegler and friends host a Threshing Bee at the Ziegler Farm. Due to sporadic rain showers, we were unable to thresh but were able to run tours to the Reedstrom Vineyard. Despite the weather, there was a huge turnout for the hog roast, music, medicine show, carding demonstration and quilt display in the machine shed.

Our annual bus trip on September 8th took us to Pickwick Mill, which is a restored water powered grist mill from the 1850's. The next stop was Forestville State Park, where we toured the living history farm and general store. David Earp, a former teacher in Rapidan, was our guide acting the part of a gardener.

Has anyone noticed the pink caboos in Rapidan? RHS did it again! Due largely to the efforts of Ron Strand, who located and delivered a 1939 Milwaukee Caboos, we are now the proud owners. On September 1st a dozen or so members and towns-

people laid 80 feet of donated original Rapidan rail track, on which our caboos was set in November. Restoration will follow!

Despite a weather related postponement, Santa and Mrs. Claus were still able to make it to the Rapidan Depot, where Santa took Christmas orders as photos were taken and Mrs. Claus handed out treat bags.

As in the past, we will continue fundraisers such as aluminum can collection, Madison East Bake Sale and new Red Wing Pottery pieces depicting various Rapidan related buildings. The 2008 pottery item will be a small complete butter churn featuring the Rapidan Creamery.

Your continued support with fundraisers and donations are necessary and very much appreciated for RHS to continue projects and community events.

Many thanks to all who have given monetary donations and Rapidan memorabilia, which we are always looking for to preserve.

Daryl Lachmiller

Rapidan Historical Society President

2008 update

The RHS annual meeting was held February 21st. Liz Madsen was elected as President.

Memorial Day 2008 events include a Memorial Service at 9 a.m. in the park followed by coffee and cookies. At 10 a.m. there will be a program at the depot highlighting Rapidan's contributions to the Sesquicentennial of Minnesota. This will be followed by a lunch served in the town garage. All are invited to attend.

History in the Kitchen

Have you checked the spices in your kitchen lately? You may have 'artifacts' on your spice shelf! According to the McCormick-Schilling website, if the address on the can is Baltimore, it's at least 15 years old! If it's a tin, it's also at least 15 years old (except black pepper)!

Go to www.spicecheckchallenge.com to check your spices. *What's in your kitchen?*



Fingerprints and Footnotes

The Footnotes and Fingerprints, the History and Genealogy Club, continues to grow and newcomers are always welcome. In February we reminisced about the grand old historical buildings that were once in Mankato. In March we discovered a new way of looking at history, Macro History, which examines everything from the very beginning to the 21st Century. It's the past on a grand scale! Tom Marks presented the program. This month we discussed the rights and wrongs when dealing with copyright and genealogy.

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.

Important News – The Club Meetings have been moved to the first Tuesday of the Month!!!

Future Meetings

May 6 – Minnesota's Archaeology Week –
Archaeology in Blue Earth County

June 3– Eisteddfod

July 1 – Take me out to the ball game –
Minnesota Base Ball

Footnotes In History

May 8, 1910 (98 Years Ago)

Governor Adolf O. Eberhart declares Minnesota's first Mother's Day holiday.

Did you know Adolph Olson Eberhart came to America in 1881 and to Mankato 1896 and in 1909 he became governor after the sudden death of Governor John A. Johnson.

January—March 2008 Artifacts & Archives Donations

Brude, JP
Coleman, Mary
Diesch, Joan
Dooley, Mary
Engh, Jane
Engstrom, Ruth Ann
Fields, Roger
Frederick, Mike
Frisch, Carlienne
Grundmeier, Shirley
Hanna, Carolyn
Huffman, Eva M
Jensen, MaryAnn
Jensen, Orv
Jones, Ellis
Kagermeier, James

Lilly, George
Lin, Elizabeth Douglas
Lokensgard, Mike
Madison Lake Historical
Society
Maher, Barbara
McGrath, Bernard
Morrow Patricia
Mortenson, Ronda
Nicollet County
Historical Society
Pettis, Dean
Schuab, Shirley
Seppman, Lyle
Sugden, Nadine
Tomlinson, Marjorie

River Passages Regional Author Series

This BECHS program series invites you to the writer's desk. From lectures, slide shows, good chats and book signing, meet a new author every third Saturday of the month at the Blue Earth County Heritage Center.

Kathleen Gorman

*Boy Soldier of the Confederacy:
The Memoir of Johnnie Wickersham*
Saturday, May 17, 2008 1:00-3:00 p.m.

To be announced

Saturday, June 21, 2008 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Loren Dean Boutin

While God Was Hidden, A Spiritual Evolution
Saturday, July 19, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

BECHS Membership January—March 2008

New Members

Barsness, Jeanette
Biedermann, Heather
Clawson, John
Johns, David W.
LaTourelle, Mary
Layman, Eloise
Lund, Richard
Murphy, Tim and Lois
Neilsen, Ernest and Barbara
Othoudt, John and Linda
Potter, Brad and Jessica
Rosenberg, Mary Jane
Showers, Pamela
Van Amber, James
Vogel, Paul
Wedeking, Gary

Renewed Members

Anderson, Elaine
Barrett, Mary
Berg, Marilyn
Bursaw, Iona
Buscher, Robert and Marilyn
Duane, Susan
Guentzel, Cheri
Hillegas, Marcella
McNear, Virginia
Merkert, Karin
Nussbaumer, Linda
Owens, Catherine
Steil, William & Nancy Zwickey
Strobel, Judith M.
Young, Sandra and Carey

Business/ Educational Level Members

Paragon Printing and Mailing
Preston Doyle State Farm Insurance



Message from the President

It has been a few months since I included anything in *The Historian*. But make no mistake about it, the Board of Trustees has been busy.

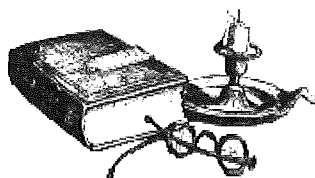
As I mentioned in our recent Annual Report, toward the end of 2007 the Board reached the conclusion that we really needed to hire a professional to help us create a written strategic plan. Frankly, one of our problems is that we have too many great people with too many great ideas sitting on the Board. After much discussion and consideration, we realized that we were spending too many man hours working on a project (the strategic plan) and that we needed a professional to help us compile and coordinate our ideas. This turned out to be no mean feat!

I am proud to say that we have almost accomplished this task. Over the course of four Saturday mornings in March and April the Board and Staff came together and, with the help of Julie Larson, has created a working draft of a written strategic plan. We still have at least one more Saturday meeting to go before we can put the finishing touches on it, but we can all see the light at the end of the tunnel. When this strategic plan is completed, it is our intention that the plan be considered whenever we make a major decision. As our organization changes, this document will need to be modified or updated, but it will always be there to guide our thinking and to remind us what is most important to remember that our long term goals always need to take priority in our decision making processes.

The final product will be available on our website and at the Heritage Center for review by BECHS members. Watch for something coming soon.

Todd Stromvold

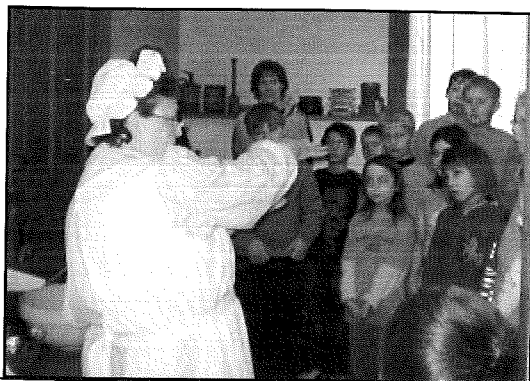
Board of Trustees President





YOUNG HISTORIANS

The Young Historians are nearing the end of another year. In February they learned about World War I, followed by the 1920s and the Great Depression in March and World War II in April. They will end the year in May by learning about the 1950s and 1960s through interviews collected by the Junior Historians. It has been another great year for the Young Historians and newly formed Junior Historians. The group will take a break for the summer and will start up again in September. However, many family friendly programs are planned throughout the summer to spark the interest of historians – young and old. If you have questions about this program or any family friendly event, please feel free to contact us at 345-5566.



Hubbard cook Mrs. Saftig aka Jane Targeson teaches Young Historians about responsibilities of a 1900s domestic servant.

DISCOVERY DAYS

Discovery Days is held the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m. The programs feature hands-on activities relating to history, the arts, literature, science and sociology. Families are welcome throughout the day.

May 3rd
Archaeology

June 7th
Vintage Base Ball game

July 5th
Independence Day

Volunteers Are Always Welcomed

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

***Tour Guides: immediate openings for
Spring school tours***

Antique car maintenance person

Research and writing for publications

Research and writing grants

Data Entry

Volunteer Appreciation

Thank you to the 100+ people who donated over 8,000 recorded hours to the Historical Society. We could not achieve what we do without the valuable efforts of these dedicated people. Volunteers serve on our committees, assist with newspaper clipping and maintain our obituary books, and serve as tour guides at the Heritage Center and Hubbard House, just to name a few. Please give us a call if you wish to join our dedicated corps of volunteers.

In recognition of their service, BECHS will honor our volunteers on Monday, April 28th at our Annual Volunteer Appreciation event. Join us at Noon for food, fellowship and fun. To RSVP, please call Shelley at 345-5566.

Membership Renewal Reminder

It's that time of year. Reminder 2007-8 memberships expired on June 30, 2008. Renew your 2008-9 membership today! Also, consider gift memberships or encourage a friend or family member to join. Please use the enclosed yellow form to renew.

2007 VOLUNTEERS

Over 8,000 reported hours were donated by the volunteers listed below, up by a thousand from last year. Volunteers are indispensable to not only the fundamental functions of the historical society in preservation and cataloging, but to everything that makes the Society a unique and culturally rich entity for our visitors and community at large. Volunteers serve on committees, assist with special events, clip newspapers, maintain our obituary books, and serve as tour guides at the Hubbard House and Heritage Center.

Affolter, Ron
Anderson, Marian
Baker, William
Bartholdi, Roberta
Baures, Lisa
Belgard, Vail
Belgard, Hugh
Benefield, Dale
Beyer, Jessie
Brand, Genevieve
Brennen, Mike
Brodwell, Don
Burton, Ronnie
Carlson, Bruce
Carlson, Carla
Circle 8 Square
Dancers
Clement, Jeri
Colby, Cathy
Coleman, Mary
Cords, Betty
Duncanson, Kristin
Engh, Jane
Finley, Lindsay
Frederick, Mike
Frederick, Sal
Frisch, Carlienne
Garlow, Laura
Garlow, Sandra
Goff, Harley

Grabitske, Paul
Graham, Joan
Griffith, Helen
Grundmeier, Shirley
Grundmeier, Win
Iserman, Sarah
Hansen, Jill
Hanson, Kathryn
Harrison, Joshua
Herbst, Gordon
Hewitt, Sue
Highum, Jed
Hofflander, Jim
Hopman, Edith
Horoho, Kelly
Howieson, Bob
Hugg, Bob
Hugg, Corey
Hynes, Elizabeth
Hynes, Susan
Jackson, Colleen
Jensen, Mary Ann
Jensen, Orv
Johnson, Andy
Johnson, Emily
Kearney, Mike
Keir, Grace
Keir, Richard
Kennedy, Gloria
Kind, Arn

Lagerquist, Mike
Lavitschke, Jo-An
Lippert, Sarah
Lundin, Gary
McComb, Mary
McGowan, Jack
McLaughlin, Theresa
MSU Circle K
Madsen, Tim
Mankato West High
School students
Marks, Tom
Marti, Adam
Marti, Ben
Marti, Paula
Marti, George
Melby, Caleb
Niemeier, Andrea
Nienow, Patricia
Nussbaumer, Linda
Ohlencamp, Ora
Oldenburg, Alex
Oldenburg, Connor
Owen, Dean
Peterson, Leslie
Peterson, Molly
Pfau, Jim
Pirron, Julie
Preska, Margaret
Quade, Henry

Rezmerski, John
Robertson, Emily
Robinson, Shannon
Rodriguez, Gabriela
Ryan, Patrick
Ryan, Marti
Sassenberg, Eunice
Schaub, Shirley
Schrot, Kate
Schultz, Jo
Shortall, Christina
Sinn, Gunter
Sizemore, Daardi
Smith, Emmett
Sofchalk, Helen
Stromswold, Todd
Sugden, George
Swenson, Ben
Tarjeson, Jane
Thom, Andrew
Turbes, Lynn
Turner, Barb
Vogel, Mary Ann
Webb, Donna
Westburg, Mary
Whitney, Mike
Williams, Karen
Young, Katy
Ziegler, Kenneth
Zimmer, Beth

Thank you for your time and talents!



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



Recycle your newsletter!
Pass it along to a friend or family member!

The Hubbard House open hours are:

May

Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

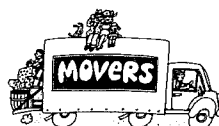
Sunday 1-4 p.m.

June - August

Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday 1-4 p.m.



Moving? Please let us know!

If you are moving to a different address, please let us know. Our newsletter is sent at a non-profit bulk rate and cannot be forwarded or returned to BECHS with the address change. Please help the Society reserve our funds for educational exhibits and programs and assure that you get your copy of *The Historian*, by notifying us of your new or winter address or letting us know to suspend mailing your newsletter if you are going to be away for a long period. Your help is appreciated.

Watch your labels

Please take note of your mailing label on this newsletter. Recently BECHS converted all membership information to PastPerfect Museum software and there are a few glitches and typos. If you notice an error, please let us know.

**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



Blue Earth County Historical Society

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Mankato MN 56001

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www.rootsweb.com/~mnbechs/

Expiration date

Preserving and sharing Blue Earth County's history since 1901