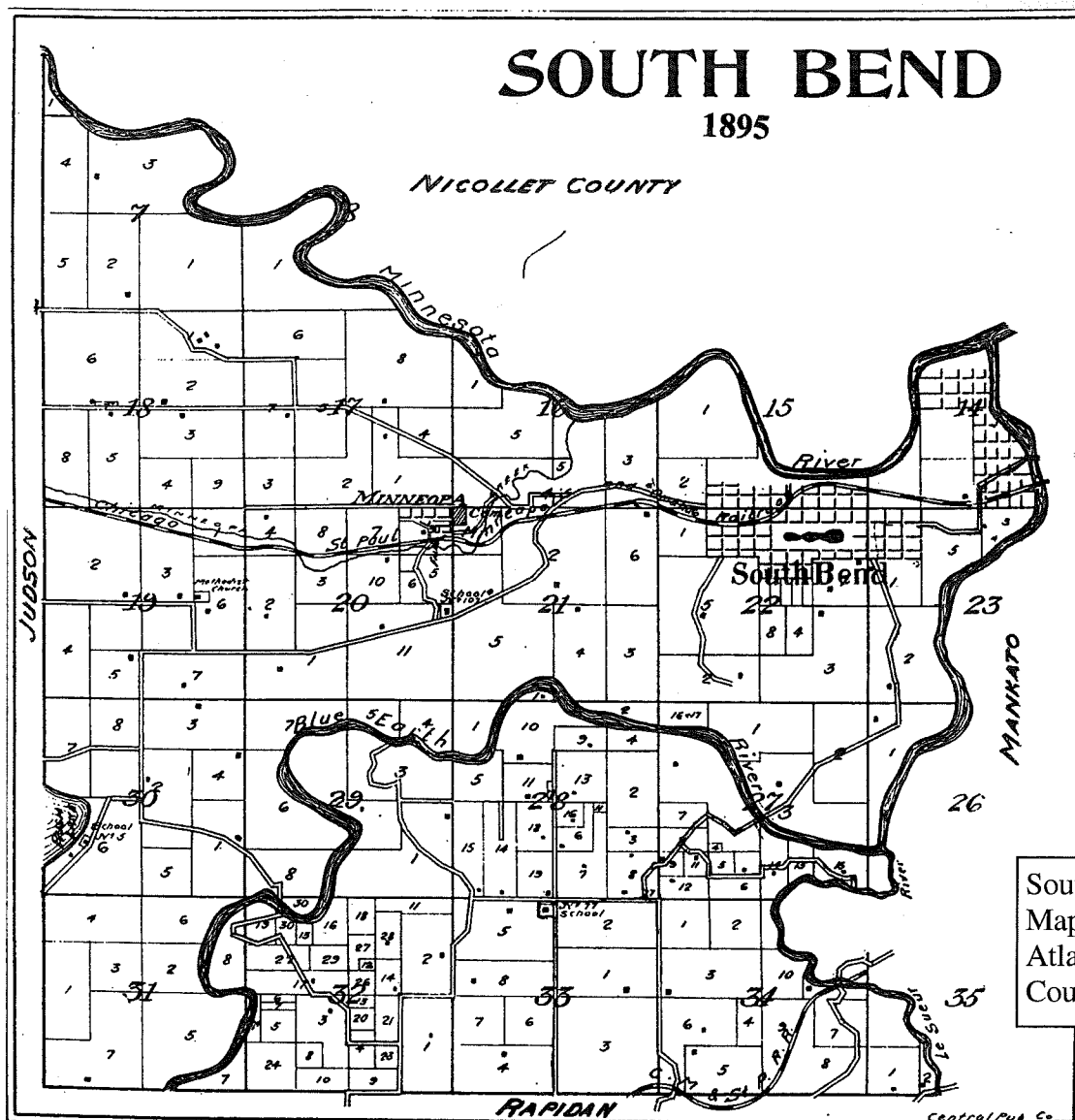
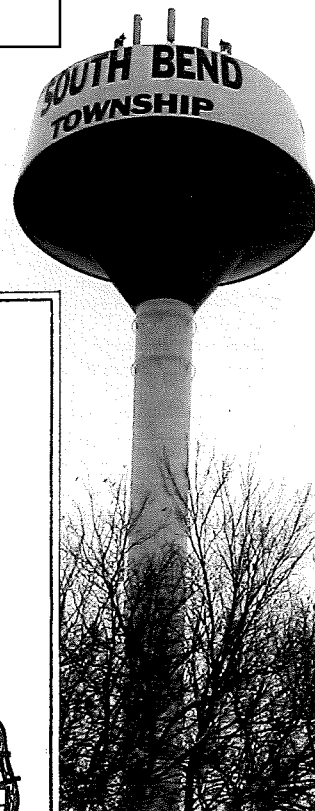


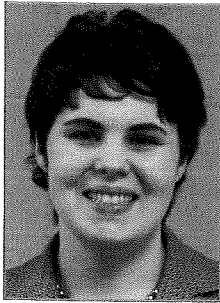
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South Bend Water Tower
Photo by Jane Engh

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South Bend Township
Map from the 1895
Atlas of Blue Earth
County.



From the Executive Director

I seem to reflect in all of my newsletter columns – I guess that's a casualty of working at the Historical Society. However, as a staff we have all been reflecting on what an incredible 2007 it was for BECHS. We have been overwhelmed by the support of our members, Blue Earth County, volunteers, donors and visitors. We have worked hard to make BECHS more accessible to the residents of Blue Earth County and I think we did a pretty good job. In 2007 we reached over 6,000 people with our programs and over 20,000 used the services of the Society which includes visiting our website, the Heritage Center and Hubbard House.

As we wrap up 2007, we are looking forward to the opportunities ahead in 2008. We will continue our abundant program schedule, which offers educational opportunities for all ages and includes the Cambria Eisteddfod, BECHS's own vintage baseball team and the popular Old Fashioned Barn Dance.

At the Hubbard House the porches will undergo major restoration in the summer followed by repainting the exterior thanks to support from the Minnesota Historical Society, City of Mankato and private donors. The Hubbard House will also be featured in Marian Anderson's third and final Historic Home print to be released in the spring.

We anticipate the release of two new publications in 2008 – a Blue Earth County century farm history book and history of the Hubbard House as a companion to *Meet the Hubbards*. Our newsletter and website may also have facelifts in 2008 to include business member advertising and a new website address.

Please remember that this is YOUR historical society and we need your input. My door or email box are always open if you want to pass along a suggestion or comment. On behalf of the BECHS Board of Trustees, Staff and myself a sincere thanks for all the support you have provided through your membership, donations and time!

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

Winter 2008

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History Mysteries

Being in the Research Center, I come across many different interesting stories that have one or two unanswered questions. One of my research requests was on John Dillinger. He was a notorious gangster during the thirties.

John Dillinger, born on June 22, 1903, began his criminal career at the age of 21. A friend of his convinced him to join him in the mugging of a grocer named Frank Morgan. The two men were caught and John Dillinger was sentenced to 10-20 years. In prison he began associating with other criminals and made plans to join them for when he got out. In 1933, after being paroled, Dillinger is believed to have associated with gangs who stole around 300,000 dollars, an enormous amount during the depression era. Escaping twice from jail, he came to the attention of Federal Agents when he crossed state lines. During this time Dillinger and the agents played a game of cat and mouse that usually left the agents looking inadequate. On July 22, 1934 John Dillinger's last day alive was spent watching a

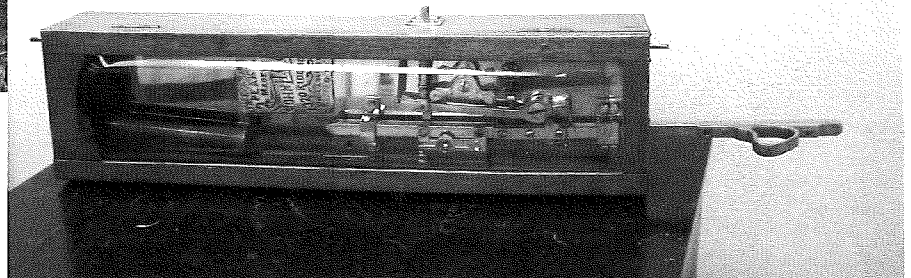
movie at the Biography Theater in Chicago with his new women Polly Hamilton and an associate Ana Sage. Ana Sage trying to get a deal (she was about to get deported for running a brothel) told the agents about Dillinger's whereabouts. As Dillinger and the two women walked out, Sage tipped them off and Dillinger was shot as he tried to run off.

During Dillinger's getaway from St. Paul late in March 1934 from the apartment house he was holed up in, Mankato ended up with a souvenir from the gangster. Dillinger and his gang made their getaway in a 1934 Hudson Deluxe Sedan which was spotted in a local garage. The agents watched the car day and night waiting to see if Tommy Carroll and Homer Van Meter, two members of the gang, would return for the car. The two men were tipped off that the car was being watched and never returned for it. The car fell into the possession of Sheriff Frank W. Cords. The Sheriff stated on February 14, 1936 to the *Mankato Free Press*, that the car was too big to be used in his work as Sheriff and may be sold. If anyone has any information on what happened to the 1934 Hudson Deluxe Sedan, please contact Gaby at 345-5566 or at bechsrc@hickorytech.net



History Mystery at BECHS

Can you help us identify this photograph or object? Both were donated to BECHS, unidentified. We need your help. If you have any ideas, please contact Shelley at 345-5566 or bechsam@hickorytech.net. We'll let you know next issue if we have solved these history mysteries.





Notes from the Archives Manager

Did you know that in 2007 over 200 people donated items to our society? All of these treasured items tell a piece of Blue Earth County history.

We are fortunate to receive all of these items, and the care and preservation of these items is very important to us. We number and catalog each item, so that item will never lose its history. We will always know who donated it and the story associated with it. (This is a very important part). Some of these donations are displayed immediately and some are stored for future displays and references. How these grand treasures are stored depends on the item. Most small items, like a pocket watch, are stored in polyethylene bags, and if it is larger than a bag, it is wrapped in acid free tissue, and then stored in acid free boxes. If it is Grandma's wedding dress, it is stored with other wedding dresses and separated by a layer of acid free tissue. If it is a pair of leather gloves that kept your uncle's hands warm during WWI, they are stored with other leather items, and some materials are stored separately from others. If it is a photograph of your family homestead, it is placed in an acid free folder, and then stored in an acid free box. We try extremely hard to preserve the past for future generations, so that if you have donated your mother's scrapbook, you, your children or your great grandchildren may come to the historical society and page through her memories.

When we accept your donation, we also accept the responsibility for caring, maintaining and storing that item indefinitely. With over 49,018 items in our collection to care for, it becomes quite expensive to make sure each artifact is safely housed in the proper storage materials. We are thankful and appreciate all those who have helped with these expenses, and we are grateful for your continuing support.

Shelley Harrison
Archives Manager

YOUNG HISTORIANS

From the study of archaeology to the early 1900s, Young Historians are moving their way through history. A highlight of past workshops includes the ever-popular Civil War session presented by BECHS member and local educator Arn Kind. The kids thoroughly enjoy the living history side of this topic.

After the workshops, Young Historians Club meets to work on their Club cookbook project or special activities. In November, members volunteered at the Barnes and Noble book fair and in January took a field trip to the Mankato Curling Club to learn to curl. In March they will visit the Emy Frentz Arts Guild and meet local artists.

The new Junior Historians program was honored with a grant from the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Commission for an oral history project titled Junior Historians Talking Back to Tomorrow. BECHS will partner with our youth, MSU and KMSU to record, produce and air oral histories collected by the youth. BECHS still needs \$1,000 in matching funds to fulfill the needs of the project. If you are interested in helping with the program, either as a sponsor or as an oral history participant, please contact Jessica at 345-5566.

Upcoming Young Historians Workshops:
February 9 – World War I
March 8 – Great Depression
April 12 – World War II



BECHS member and local educator Arn Kind stands at attention with Young Historians during the Civil War workshop.

South Bend Township

by Jane Engh

South Bend Township, the smallest township in Blue Earth County, once far surpassed Mankato in economic importance. The village of South Bend was a busy steamboat landing and stagecoach stop. In its heyday, between 1855 and 1865, it boasted a hotel, two sawmills, a plow works, cooperage, several saloons and general stores; the shops of two blacksmiths, a tin smith, shoemaker, and tailor; plus the offices of a doctor, lawyer, and several real estate agents. South Bend was one of the few communities in the territory to have its own post office. Other amenities included three churches, a school and, at nearby Minneopa Falls, a wind-powered grist-mill.

South Bend still exists – just west of the banks of the Blue Earth River separating it from Mankato. But it could now easily be mistaken as the outermost edge of Mankato were it not for its water tower, stenciled with the words, “South Bend Township.” How did this change come about? Why did South Bend’s growth lag behind Mankato’s after the 1860’s?

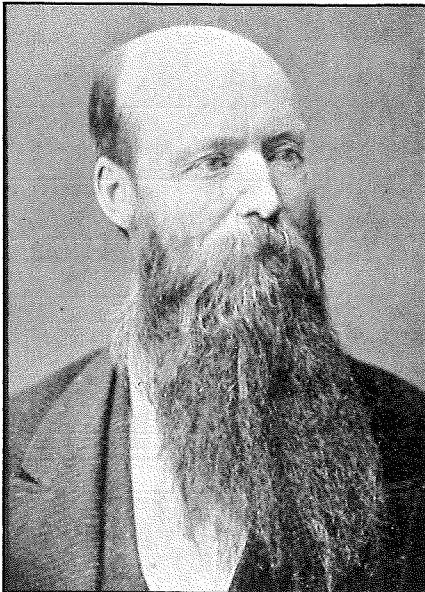
The reason lay in South Bend’s location.

The Bend of the River

A wide, V-shaped valley, extending across Minnesota, was created between 11,500 and 9,200 years ago by the scouring action of the River Warren as it carried away the glacial melt waters of Lake Agassiz. After the glacier receded northward, the St. Peter River (now known as the Minnesota River) followed the same riverbed.

Welsh Settlement of South Bend

In the spring of 1853, at the real estate office of Colonel Stoddard in La Crosse, Wisconsin, a man named David C. Evans, charged with locating a potential site for the settlement of a group of Welsh immigrants, studied a map. He had read of the explorations of Pierre Le Sueur and decided to investigate the great bend of the St. Peter River about which Le Sueur had written. Evans left La Crosse in late July with a friend, General Lyman Matthews, to take a look at the site. Their trip aboard the steamboat,



D. C. Evans

Clarion, was uneventful until they reached Kasota where the river became too shallow to navigate, and the passengers were forced to finish their journey by land. Evans discovered that the ship’s captain, Samuel Humbertson, and two of the crew, Alden Bryant and John Mann, were headed to the ex-

act same spot that he was. Captain Humbertson, on trips to re-supply Fort Ridgely, had concluded that the bend of the river, where the river ran faster and the water deeper, would make an ideal landing for boats coming down the St. Peter River. The month before, Humbertson had left his nephew, Thomas Lammeraux, to secure his claim while he went to buy land for a townsite. Lammeraux took charge of a shanty 4-5 logs high, a structure believed to have been assembled, then abandoned, by a Mr. Schwatzer about 15 years before. When Humbertson returned, he found that a covered wagon, carrying the family of Isaac Lyons, had arrived overland from Iowa. On August 6, 1853, Humbertson, Lyons, Evans, and the other men present at the bend of the river agreed to become equal partners in developing a new town. They called it “South Bend” for its location at the southernmost bend of the St. Peter River. They set off the next morning for St. Paul, to engage the services of a surveyor to plat the town site, and to move their families to the new town. The Lyons family was the first to homestead the area, building a cabin and sawmill along Minneopa Creek.

The Growth of South Bend

Evans and Matthews were much impressed with the natural beauty of the bend of the river, its potential as a steamboat landing, the ready availability of lumber and stone for building homes, and the fertile, black soil of the surrounding prairie land. Evans wrote to

his friend, Reverend Richard Davies, "This is the best place in the world for a Welsh settlement". Two more families arrived in South Bend in the fall of 1853. By 1854, there were five families, a total of 26 people, living as permanent residents in South Bend.

Provisions ran very low at South Bend during the winter of 1853. Evans volunteered to try to get through to St. Paul and bring back supplies to the little community. He hitched two horses to a sleigh and set off. Eleven days later he arrived in St. Paul, bought what was needed, and started for home. On January 24, 1854, he was caught in a blizzard. He built a small fire, tried to shelter the horses, and lay down beside the fire to sleep. He awoke the next morning, numb with cold and covered in snow. His fur cap had fallen into the coals of the campfire. He touched it, and it instantly fell apart - nothing but ashes. The snowstorm, though, had lessened. He wrapped his head in a flannel shirt and managed to make his way to Shakopee before nightfall. Four days later, he got back to South Bend - to the joy and gratitude of all.

In the spring of 1854, Captain Humbertson attempted to bring a group of fifteen families to South Bend. The river, though, was low that year, and the boat had to return to St. Paul.

Meanwhile, Reverend Davies, D. C. Evans' friend, tirelessly recruited prospective settlers for South Bend. Davies and his wife, Mary Herbert Davies, wrote letters to their families and friends in Wales, and even sent articles to Welsh papers describing the beauty of the area and its rich soil. Eleven Welsh families made it through to South Bend in covered wagons in the spring of 1855, settling near what is now Minneopa Falls. By the summer of 1855, more than 25 families made their homes in South Bend. A large contingent of 121 Welsh men, women, and children from Jackson, Ohio, arrived on the "H.T. Yeatman" on May 10, 1856. They came expecting a city in the wilderness, and were very disappointed in the primitive conditions they found. Some stayed at South Bend, most moved on, but the town continued to grow.



William H. Williams

Will Williams, the son of Hugh Williams, came to South Bend in 1855, as a child. His family lived in a log cabin. In *Uncle Will's Letters About Early South Bend Village 1853*, he remembered:

"...it was a hard life, it is true, the Pioneer life, with nothing done and everything to do, hard work and privations; but the best school and training any young man or woman could possibly have. It bred into one the habit of thrift, how to live within one's means, and how to meet problems and difficulties."

Old South Bend thrived, eclipsing Mankato in its early years. Its location at the bend of the river made it an ideal landing for steamboats and barges. Will Williams recalled the busy river traffic:

"When steamboats landed at South Bend we were dismissed from school to see them. Once a steamboat went up the Blue Earth river from the Minnesota river as far as the then Red Jacket mill which was near the place where the Le Sueur river empties into the Blue Earth river just below the place of old John A. Jones "valley", and we all went down there to see it. After that they got to using barges on the Minnesota such as Evan Hughes speaks of; and I remember them well. Sometimes they pulled along in a string by a steam tug, but often they were pushed along by men using long poles which they thrust down to the bottom and pushed along."

Trouble in Old South Bend

South Bend's location was fortuitous as long as riverboats and stagecoaches were the only way to travel, but when railroads overtook them as the preferred means of transporting people and goods, the village began to dwindle. In 1868, the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad built a rail line between Mankato and Lake Crystal, following Minneopa Creek

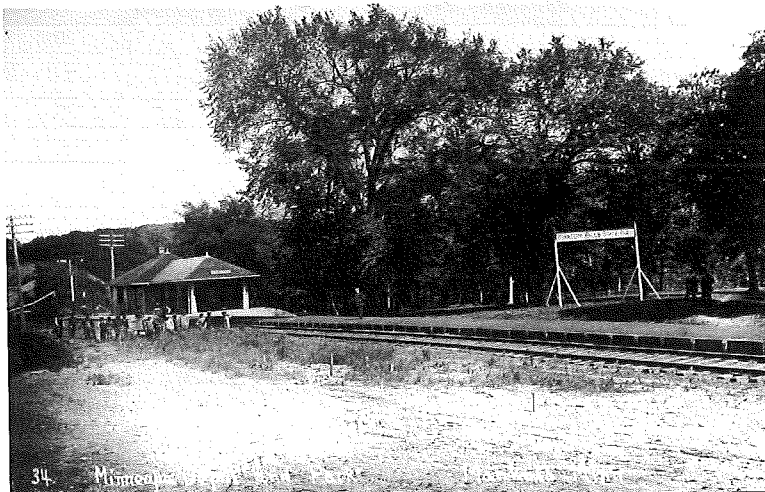
for much of the way. The rail line ran through, but did not stop, at South Bend.

The Making of a Park

“Minneinneopa” is the Indian word for twice-falling water. The waters of Minneopa Creek, collected from the overflow of Lily, Crystal, and Loon Lakes, fall twice here, dropping about six feet as they go over the upper falls, and plummeting forty feet into a natural rock basin at the lower falls before flowing on into the Minnesota River. Minneopa Falls was a popular tourist destination from 1858 onward. In that year, Miner Porter built a hotel near the falls and developed the area as a summer resort. The hotel and grounds became the site of the first Blue Earth County Fair in 1859. The Dakota Uprising of 1862 – with outbreaks occurring near South Bend and along Minneopa Creek – and the Civil War led Porter to abandon the resort in 1870.



Minneopa Falls about 1900.



Depot at Minneopa State Park. Date about 1910.

D.C. Evans, determined that Minneopa would not suffer the same fate as South Bend, had the land surrounding the falls platted as a town site in 1870. He then sold a half interest in the town site to the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad on condition that they build a depot there. With easy accessibility by rail, Minneopa Falls became an even more popular spot

for excursions, attracting many tourists for sightseeing, picnics, and meetings, especially after Evans constructed a footbridge over the creek and steps down to the gorge at the base of the falls. Businesses grew up around the depot – a grain elevator, smithy, lumberyard, and general store. Unfortunately, grass-hoppers destroyed most of the crops grown between 1873-1878 and led to the closing of many of the businesses. By 1879, the village of Min-

neopa was no more, but the falls continued to enchant visitors.

In 1905, Ezra Gates, a Blue Earth County legislator, introduced a bill to make Minneopa Falls the third state park in Minnesota. He also asked for funding to purchase and develop the land around the falls. The bill passed, and over the next two years, 70 acres of land was purchased from Edwin Buck and improvements made to it. A concrete foot-bridge was constructed over the upper falls in 1921, and during the 1930's, the Works Progress Administration built stone steps, retaining walls, and several rustic style buildings. Over the years, more land was purchased for the park. In *Minneinneopa*, Gordon Herbst states that by 1998, the park's:

“Statutory boundary expanded another 1,475 acres for a total of 2, 687 acres – western area towards Judson along Minnesota River”

Ode to South Bend

An "Ode to Old South Bend" printed in the Mankato Free Press in 1907 opined that:

"Old South Bend will stand forever
Upon the hills above the river,
Where the stones and sands are plenty
For the poor man to build his shanty.
O! Glorious old South Bend."

Where once there were sawmills and blacksmith shops in South Bend Township, there are now Superior Concrete, Big Gain feed, Waste Management, and other industries. Where once there was a summer resort near the waterfalls, there is now Minneopa State Park with its waterfalls, wooded glens, prairie, trails, campground, and historic old Seppmann mill. South Bend does still stand – but it does not stand still.

Sources:

"Blue Earth County in 1853" by D.C. Evans,
Mankato Review, June 20, 1899

Heritage of Blue Earth County Minnesota by Julie Schrader

History of Blue Earth County and Biographies of Its Leading Citizens by Thomas Hughes

History of the Minnesota Valley, including the Explorers and Pioneers of Minnesota and History of the Sioux Massacre by Edward D. Neill and Charles S. Bryant

History of the Welsh in Minnesota Foreston and Lime Springs, Ia. by Thomas E. Hughes, David Edwards, Hugh G. Roberts and Thomas Hughes.

Interview with Gordon Herbst

"Minnesota River Valley Formation" fact sheet
(<http://mrdbc.mnsu.edu>)

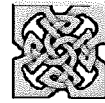
Minneinneopa: 150 Year History: Minneopa State Park by Gordon Herbst

"Ode to South Bend", *Mankato Free Press Weekly*,
April 26, 1907

Personal notes of Margaret Williams-Carr

"Sale of Minneinneopa Property", *Mankato Weekly Record*, January 21, 1871

Uncle Will's Letters About Early South Bend Village 1853 by Margaret Williams-Carr



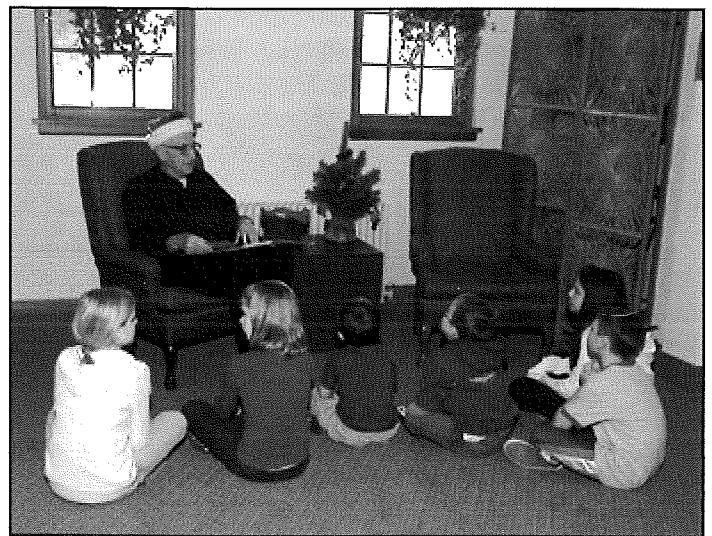
St. David's Day



Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter will hold its 35th St. David's Day observance on Friday, February 29th. The day's schedule begins with a 10 a.m. St. David's Day chapel service at Christ Chapel. At the service a 200-plus voice student choir will lead the congregation in a mini-Gymanfa Ganu (Welsh Hymn Festival). The 20-minute service will focus on four Welsh hymns including the dramatic Cwm Rhondda as the final number with full organ and chapel brass accompanying the singing.

Following the Chapel service a Welsh Reception will be held in Alumni Hall. At 11 a.m. a talk entitled "Your Welsh Memories and Historical Items" will be presented by Jessica Potter, Executive Director of the Blue Earth County Historical Society. BECHS has been chosen by the Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu as the official repository of Welsh historical items for Minnesota. An exhibit of Welsh items is on display at the Heritage Center Museum.

The final event of the day will be the annual Welsh Luncheon. For more information, contact Dana Lamb at GAC at 507-933-7550 or BECHS at 507-345-5566.



BECHS volunteer Win Grundmeier reading *The Night before Christmas* to children at the combined BECHS/ Art Center Christmas event December 2, 2007

Recent Donations

Up to \$25

Coleman, Mary
Hinrichs, William & Judith
Marks, Thomas
Mathiason, Renee
Pond, Patricia
Siebrass, Hershel
Veroeven, Rich
Wigley, Francys

\$25-\$49

Anderson-Morgan, Verna
Balcome, Helen
Bartholdi, Roberta
Chalgren, Dr. & Mrs. William
Cramer, Donald
Friday, Mona
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McComb, Mary
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Miller, Julie
Olson, Susan
Sawina, James
Snilsberg, Lee & Loretta
Vetter, Willard

\$500 and up

Grundmeier, Win & Shirley
Kearney, Michael
Summit Center Endowment Fund, Inc.

Building Fund

Griffith, Helen
Nuessle, Ruth

Endowment Fund

Jones, Ellis
Mary S. Gray Charitable Trust

Hubbard House Restoration Fund

Dooley, Mary
Fredericksen, Dennis and Joan
Keir, Richard and Grace
Owens, Helen

Junior Historians

Nelson, Williams & Mary

Special Projects

*Junior Historians Talking Back to
Tomorrow Oral History project*
Duis, Glenys
Manevel, Clay
Nelson, William & Mary
Smith, Emmett

Archives and Collections

Keir, Grace (in honor of Jack &
Liz Madsen)
Lamont, Earl and Sally
Zimmer, Beth

Memorials

In honor of Vernon K. Carstensen
Carstensen, Norma

In Memory of Edith Sutherland
Richards, Marcia

In Kind

Jackson, David and Colleen
Jensen, Orville
Madsen, Jack

Grants

Minnesota Sesquicentennial
Commission for Junior Historians
Talking Back to Tomorrow Oral
History project

Minnesota Historical Society
Capital Grant for Hubbard House
porch restoration

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.

October-December Volunteers

Anderson, Marian	Kennedy, Gloria
Baures, Lisa	Lagerquist, Mike
Belgard, Vail	Lavitschke, Jo-An
Benefield, Dale	Lundin, Gary
Beyer, Jessie	Madsen, Jack
Brand, Genevieve	Madsen, Liz and Tim
Brennen, Mike	Marks, Tom
Carlson, Bruce and Carla	McComb, Mary
Clement, Jeri	McGowan, Jack
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Hugg, Corey and Bob	Sizemore, Daardi
Hynes, Elizabeth	Smith, Emmett
Hynes, Susan	Sofchalk, Helen
Jackson, Colleen	Stromswold, Todd
Jensen, Mary Ann and Orville	Sugden, George
Johnson, Andy	Tarjeson, Jane
Johnson, Emily	Thom, Andrew
Kearney, Mike	Webb, Donna
Keir, Grace and Richard	Ziegler, Kenneth
Keir, Richard	Zimmer, Beth

Now available at the Museum Store:

- *Fire: stories of fires and fire fighting in Blue Earth County's early years.* by Helen Sofchalk.
- *Meet the Hubbards,* by Beth Zimmer



Through the Research Center Door:

A tool often underused at the Research Center is the telephone book. The telephone book is often useful in helping researchers locate living relatives. The first telephone book was created in 1878 in Chicago soon after the telephone was invented. Telephone books are somewhat like a city directory. All you had to have was a phone line and telephone to be included. In the 1900s a telephone was still a luxury that not too many could afford. Early on telephone books provided people with business numbers or people who could afford the luxury. The telephone book is helpful when you are looking for specific, uncommon surnames, or using it as a reverse directory by using the telephone number.

Using a telephone book for research does have its limitations. Information which sometimes is not included is the person's occupation, name of the spouse, children unless you requested and paid for this information to be added. Another difficulty you will likely encounter is people wanting to have private numbers, requests to not have their full name or address put in. The amount of information you are able to find depends on how much the person chose to have included.

Here at the Research Center we have telephone books that go back to the year 1913. Nowadays another difficulty is the popularity of cell phones. At the moment there is no directory that holds the numbers of the people who have a cell phone. Telephone books are convenient and make it easy to look up a name. Do not count on finding a whole lot of information, but you might just find that clue that helps you get to the next phase in your research.

Saby Rodriguez
Archives Assistant



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



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, support our local partner businesses (list available at www.cashvaluecard.com) and 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 or Hubbard House, participating businesses or the Emy Frentz Arts Guild.

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 and everything in between. To request a speaker, list of prepared topics or to volunteer for our Speakers Bureau, please contact Jessica at 507-345-5566



...at the Museum Store

I am proud to welcome the following authors to the *River Passages: Regional Author Series*. Visitors have the opportunity to learn about the work and discoveries at the heart of their books. *River Passages* is a free program that meets the third Saturday of every month, from 1-3 p.m. in the Heritage Center meeting room.

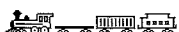
Joseph Amato: February 16: Joseph Amato proposes a bold and innovative approach to writing local history in *Rethinking Home, A Case for Writing Local History*. Arguing that people every place and time deserve to have their history recorded, Amato draws on his roles as a European cultural historian and a prolific writer of local history to explore such topics as the history of cleanliness, sound, anger, madness, the clandestine, and the environment in southwestern Minnesota.

Jack Koblas: March 15: Jack Koblas is back for another visit, this time highlighting the new three volume Dakota War series, *Let Them Eat Grass: Smoke, Fire, and Ashes*. "Koblas details Indian history from earliest times, carefully setting up the climate of inevitable confrontation with the arrival of white settlers in Minnesota. He explores the treaties made between the United States government and the Indian nations and explains why and how these treaties failed, how both sides failed to understand the fundamental differences in culture, and how the pressure put upon the politicians in Washington, D.C., to open lands for settlers enticed them to break treaties almost before the ink dried."

Lowell and Margaret Schreyer: April 19: I'm happy to announce that Margaret Schreyer has made available for purchase the books of the late Lowell Schreyer, *The Banjo Entertainers*; *The Eddie Peabody Story*, and CD "The Schreyer Banjos, Showboat to New Orleans." She will present a powerpoint and discuss the making of these books and his musical art.

These books and many more are available at the Museum Store.

Anna Larson
Museum Assistant



Rapidan Heritage Society

A tale of the little pink caboose that traveled far...

Since RHS's conception in 2002, members have expressed a desire to compliment the little depot in Rapidan with a caboose. This dream became a reality when a 1939 Milwaukee caboose was offered for sale near Springfield, MO. This caboose was used



on the Milwaukee lines in Southern Minnesota (including the Wells line that Rapidan was located on). Our heads spun with the thought of owning a caboose and the needed restoration. But first a bigger obstacle - how to transport it over several states to Rapidan? Fortunately one of our members has experience in moving large equipment and we put his skills to the test! By jacking the caboose up and cribbing it with railroad ties, he was able to back the trailer under the caboose (the wheels were loaded separately). After securing it on the trailer, the journey north began. The route was mapped, necessary permits were obtained, but of course there is always at least one hitch and in this case it was a telephone line that got 'taken out' by the caboose. It received many startled (admiring) looks as it traveled down the highway. The day before Thanksgiving it was unloaded from the trailer onto the original tracks relayed next to the depot. With the help of three tow trucks and many hands, this feat was done in less than two hours!

Thanks to Ron Strand for engineering the loading

and transportation of the caboose; to SMC for the use of the semi-tractor; to Star Trailer for the use of the trailer; to Kwik Trip for fuel and to Affordable Towing for the tow trucks for unloading the caboose. But why is it pink? Originally painted red, the sun faded the paint to pink.

Plans for Christmas in Rapidan with Santa were postponed a week because of blowing snow and icy roads. Rescheduled to Friday evening, the depot was ablaze with lights and a perfect setting for Santa and Mrs. Claus. Children (and puppies) were welcomed on Santa's lap and had their picture taken with the Claus' and received an old-fashioned treat bag of nuts, candy and an orange.

RHS's Christmas wish had come true – the caboose was safely on track next to the depot and dreams of restoration dance in our heads!

Jane Tarjeson

Secretary Rapidan Heritage Society

 *Herberger's*

Community Day Sale Saturday, March 1st, 2008

Coupon booklets available today!
\$5 from the sale of each coupon book will support BECHS' publications budget to publish and print our upcoming century farms history book to be released in July 2008.

Coupon booklets can be purchased at the Heritage Center until February 29.

Geneology Day

Visit the Research Center for tips and tricks on conducting your family search. "Ask the Expert" your tough genealogy questions the 4th Saturday of each month from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Free Admission to the Research Center



Fingerprints and Footnotes

Fingerprints and Footnotes had a busy, lively, non-stop fun fall. In November we had Kirk Busse present "The Diversity of Democracy: The Minnesota Experience". He had a lot of nifty vintage campaign memorabilia. In December we stepped out on the town and had dinner at 101 Main, where some of us brushed up on our table manners; I won't name names. In the New Year we learned all of the interesting things that are left behind in probate records: it seems dead men do tell tales. As always the meetings are entertaining as well as educational and an enchanting time is had by all. Newcomers are always welcome.

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

Future Meetings:

- February 12th – Women in History
- March 11th – Macro History by Tom Marks
- April 9th – Copyright and Privacy Issues in Genealogy

Finger Tip-

If you want to know if your ancestor was a veteran of any war? Check the 1930 Census.

- *Provided by Beth Zimmer*



Ghosts of the Past: BECHS volunteer cast for the "Ledbetter Trial" at the Blue Earth County Court House, October 2007.

October—December 2007 Artifacts & Archives Donations

Anderson, Wallace	Hickory Tech
Baradis, Victor	Hoehn, William
Bartholdi, Roberta	Huettl, John
Bartsch, Glenn	Johnson, Patrice
Blue Earth County Library	Kraus, Herbert
Benefield, Dale	Meyer, John
Blaisdell-Baack, Norma	Peterson, Helen
Busse, Kirk	Petrie, David
Colakovic, Kenneth	Rezmerski, John
Demaray, Kandi	Richards, Marcia
Dooley, Mary	Ruble, Shirlee
Erickson, Helen	Ruthenbeck Lori
Evans, Donna	Sandell, Elizabeth
Field, Roger	Sanger, David
Frederick, Mike	Schaub, Shirley
Gallagher, Renee	Schreyer, Margaret
Griffiths, Jane	Sugden, Nadine
Grundmeier, Win	Ulmen, Steve
Hadlely, Paul	Webb, Donna
Haefner, Anne	Zellmer, Marie Pratt
Hesse, Norla	Zimmer, Beth



DISCOVERY DAYS



Discovery Days is held the first Saturday of each month from 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. Free museum admission all day.

February 2nd
History of Valentines

March 1st
Welsh and Irish Traditions

April 5th
Poets of Blue Earth County



BECHS Membership

October—December 2007

New Members

Bouma, Jana
Bock, Claire
Duncanson, Kristin
Ewert, David and Julie
Griffith, Jane
Halstead, Bill
Harig, Judy
Hofmeister, Gary
Hugg, Corey and Robert
Jackson, Judy
Jobe, Judy
Larson Shapiro, Nancy
Lundstrom, Connie
Mohr, Mary
Preska, Daniel and Margaret
Tesch, Judy
Thom, Andrew
Turner, Barbara and Dave
Weigt, Tom

Renewed Members

Anderson, Marian
Anderson Morgan, Verna
Bellig, Daniel
Birbeck, Marilyn
Bowen, Patrick
Bradshaw, Louise Leonard
Browne, Robert and Suzanne
Burns, Paul
Clements, Tom
Evans, Brian
Faust, Hazel
Fitzloff, Shirley
Frey, John and Anne
Habein, Harold
Hamer, Nancy
Hopman, Edith
Ireland, Patricia
Jansen, Steve
Jerabek, Barbara
Johnson, Jason
Just, John
Kamakahi, Katherine

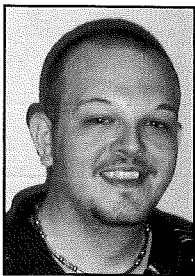
Kenward, Robert and Ann
Kerkhoff, Donald
Kraft, Judy
Krenik, Shirley
Leeman, Harold
Lites, Arden
Lundstrom, Cathy
McGowan, Jack
Maung-Mercurio, Alice
Mohr, Harley
Moravec, Marilyn
Mortier, Mary
Muellerleile, Fred and Dixie
Nienow, Tricia and Dick
Neilsen, William
Oehler, Richard
Peterson, Jean
Pietsch, Tim
Rosco, Don
Smith, H. Roger
Suserud, Rose
Svendsen, Sigvald
Thomson, Mary
Torgerson, Allen and Jane
Vosbeck, Elizabeth
Vosbeek, Judy
Voss, Judy
Whalen, Kathy
Wolff, Gerald
Wright, Lorraine

Business/Educational Level Members

Brennan Companies, Mike and Cathy
Goodrich Construction
Meyer & Sons TV & Appliance
Red Door Creative
Survey Services Inc



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



...at the Hubbard House

A lot has happened in the past few months, and I want to share a few of the finer points. At the end of November the City of Mankato received \$50,000 for the restoration of the porches at the Hubbard House from the Minnesota Historical Society Capitol Grants Program. I was proud to be a part of the process of writing that grant application. The Hubbard House was transformed for Christmas and it was beautiful. Santa even made an appearance and remarked that the house reminded him of the North Pole!

In 2007, around 1100 visitors passed through the historic site to take in the programming offered. Make time in 2008 to visit this incredible, historic home. Remember we are open every Tuesday and Saturday.

We are looking forward to our winter programs which include:

February 9th – Valentine's Day

March 8th – Victorian Architecture

April 12th – They Had Taxes a Century Ago?

Wishing you good fortune and a happy New Year.

Jeff Brand

Hubbard House Site Manager



WISH LIST

Items or financial donations will be gratefully accepted.

- DVD player or CD/DVD combo
- Copy Paper
- The Land on microfilm
- Mylar book covers
- LCD Projector
- New Tables and Chairs for Meeting Room



MADISON LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dear members and friends of the society,

You are the ones who help us preserve the history of Madison Lake and surrounding areas for future generations. After a discussion on disbanding the local historical society in April, members decided to continue until September. With the addition of new members during the summer, the members voted in September to continue.

The members voted at the November meeting to meet year-round beginning with the January 2008 meeting. During 2008, meetings will take place the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center in Madison Lake. The first meeting will be held Wednesday, January 2, 2008. If there are members who do not care to drive during the winter months, there are several members who would be willing to offer rides to others. Anyone needing a ride is encouraged to contact those who do drive for a ride to the meetings. Everyone is welcome and is an important part of the meetings.

Officers for 2008 include: President Jerry Frederick, Secretary Mary Buschkowsky and Treasurer Shirley Schaub. Members will continue to volunteer to provide refreshments for the meetings. Dues are \$5.00. Dues may be sent to Shirley Schaub, Box 124, Madison Lake, MN 56063.

Some activities being planned for 2008 include: a tour of the hotel on Lake Washington which has been refurbished by Missy Woods; a visit/picnic at the Kortuem Cabin, rural Madison Lake; and a tour of the Cleveland Historical Center.

Thank you for your continued support of our Historical Society and please encourage friends and neighbors to become involved with our group. Wishing All a Healthy, Happy 2008!

Gerald Frederick
President

Extra Extra

Mark Your Calendar:

Blue Earth County Historical Society's
Annual Meeting
Sunday, March 30th
2-4 p.m.
Heritage Center

Volunteers Are Always Welcomed

If you have some time to spare to help us pre-serve history, please give us a call. Some ex-amples are:

*Antique car maintenance person
Research and writing for publications
Tour Guides
Research and writing grants
Data Entry*

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

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



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

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

Expiration date

Preserving and sharing Blue Earth County's history since 1901