

The Blue Earth County

# HISTORIAN

Blue  
Earth  
County  
Historical Society

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School District #11, Horeb School,  
Cambria Township.



Schoolroom with students, location and date unknown. Can you help us solve this mystery by identify any of these people or the location of this school?

Our Mission: To collect, preserve, and promote the history of Blue Earth County for present and future generations.

# Historian



## Blue Earth County Historical Society

415 Cherry Street, Mankato, MN  
507-345-5566  
www.bechshistory.com

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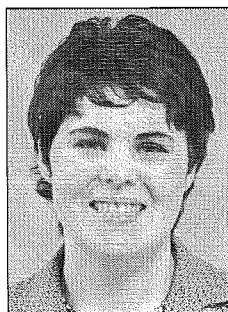
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## *The Blue Earth County Historian* Spring 2009

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## *From the Executive Director*

Every season brings new life to the Blue Earth County Historical Society. It always surprises me, though you would think that I would be used to it by now after working with this organization for eight years.

We closed 2008 with a successful Annual Meeting in March and released the new book, *Unique Mankato Stories*, that has been very well received. We unveiled a new donor wall in honor of those who made it possible for BECHS to move to the Heritage Center in 1988 with recognition as well to our 2008 donors. The exciting aspect of this project is that we will be able to update the wall annually with that year's donors.

As the spring unfolds, we are gearing up for an exciting season at the Hubbard House. I'm proud to say that we only have a little bit of painting to be done in May on the porches and windows, and then we can close the book on this round of exterior restoration work. I am personally looking forward to a big celebration May 30-31 at the Hubbard House. We will be unveiling a new City of Mankato Heritage Plaque, recognizing the craftspeople, companies and volunteers that have worked so hard on the restoration over the past 20 years and calling back all third graders that for generations have visited the Hubbard House. I've heard some wonderful recollections from adults of visiting the house as a child. We look forward to collecting those stories and sharing the Hubbard House with future generations.

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is definitely a testament to volunteers in action. Without the volunteers who assist us daily from serving as tour guides at the Hubbard House and Heritage Center to clipping newspapers for the Research Center to serving on committees to editing the newsletter, we would not be the organization we are today. If you have ever thought about getting involved at BECHS, this is a great time. A new season is a great time to begin new adventures! Together we will continue to grow!

*Jessica Potter,*  
Executive Director

## BECHS On the Air



- ♦ Listen to KTOE 1420 AM the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month 4:10-4:40 p.m. *BECHS update with Trish.*
- ♦ Catch a tribute to events and people gone by on Country 103.5 FM daily at 9:35 a.m.



## *Message from the President*

This last year has been a rewarding yet challenging one for our Board of Trustees – plenty of hard work and many great advances, but also much frustration due to events beyond our control. Although we are all very optimistic about the long-term success of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, I would be less than truthful if I said that we were significantly closer to achieving our goals of a larger facility supported by a larger endowment fund. One thing I can assure you, it was not due to a lack of effort on the part of the Board, staff and our many volunteers.

We began 2008 by having our entire Board and staff devote several Saturday mornings, as well as many additional hours, to the creation of a Strategic Plan which was introduced in progress at the last Annual Meeting. This exercise forced us to very honestly assess our strengths and weaknesses as an organization, and we set some short-term goals for the direction of the Society. We completed the effort with perhaps a little less energy than we began, but unanimously agreed that we were making significant strides toward our goal. Most importantly, we realized that despite several years of very solid growth, we were still short of where we needed to be as a general presence in the community. We set to work on remedying that.

Included in the larger framework of our Strategic Plan were many smaller efforts that, if nothing else, became solid learning experiences. Among other things, we investigated the possibility of working with other non-profits to acquire the downtown Post Office as a future location; now no longer a viable option. We held a very successful reception for local artist, friend and Advisory Council member, Marian Anderson, which yielded over 200 people visiting the Heritage Center, many for the first time. Our reception for Marian will provide a template for future events of this sort, including one we are working on for this fall. We increased our community presence with new brochures, website and brand. We made useful contacts with other nonprofits, and both our individual and business membership base has expanded.

As the year progressed and we moved on with implementing the groundwork necessary to begin our fundraising efforts, it became more and more apparent

that due to circumstances beyond our control, a full-blown capital campaign was simply not in the cards right now. I'm sure I don't need to elaborate beyond saying that capital campaigns require that potential donors have capital to donate.

That being said, I certainly would not consider this past year to be a wasted effort. The Strategic Plan we generated does not have an expiration date, but a three-year goal range, and is something that the Board will refer to many times in the future. Our Advisory Council continues to serve as a useful sounding board, providing valuable insight and ideas for our work. We will continue to make progress by attending to those issues that our Strategic Plan revealed we must address before a capital campaign can become feasible. When local and national events turn more favorable, we will be all that much more prepared to move forward with the larger goal. In the meantime, I sincerely thank the individuals serving on the Board of Trustees, staff, volunteers, members and donors for their support and dedication to the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

*Todd Stromswold*

Board of Trustees President

## **WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?**

We all leave our own unique mark on this world; through 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.

Although we are in the business of preserving the past, we do this with an eye toward educating and enlightening future generations on the history of life in Blue Earth County. If you are also thinking about the future, please consider our Endowment Fund or a legacy gift, also known as a planned or estate gift, to 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 giving opportunities, contact Jessica Potter, Executive Director at 507-345-5566 or Todd Stromswold, President at 507-387-9395.

# Financial and In-Kind Donations

## January-March 2009

### Up to \$25

Hugh and Vail Belgard  
Claire Faust  
Ann Murphy  
Karl Sassenberg

### Up to \$100

Inella Burns  
Eldena Fischer Family Trust  
Bob and Linda Frost  
Lime Township  
James McLaughlin  
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### Up to \$1000

Lyle and Kay Jacobson Family Trust

### Sponsors of *Unique Mankato Stories*

Mike and Cathy Brennan – Brennan Companies  
Curt and Debbie Fisher  
HickoryTech  
I & S Group  
Mankato Clinic  
Bryan and Tami Paulsen – Paulsen Architects

### Memorials

*In Memory of Blodwen Davis*  
by Margaret Schreyer

*In Memory of Jane and Bud Engh*  
by Lisa Baures

William and Marilyn Bessler  
Joanne Boelke  
John and Anne Frey  
Paul and Joanne Griebel  
Winston and Shirley Grundmeier  
Orville and Mary Ann Jensen  
J. N. and R. W. Pierce  
Sanford and Mary Schuster  
Kathylynn Hanggi Sedro  
Donna Webb

*In Memory of Kenneth Jones*  
by Marcia Richards

*In Memory of Lloyd T. Jones*  
by Marcia Richards

*In Memory of William Kulseth*  
by E.F. Kurth

*In Memory of Richard Oehler*  
by Patricia Amann

*In Memory of Pearl Preis*  
by Jane Tarjeson

*In Memory of Roger Schaub*  
by Jo Schultz

*In Memory of Helen Sofchalk*  
by John and Alice Dimeglio  
Carol Evans

Linda and Ray Johnson  
Mary Kahal  
Harlan Vee

*In Memory of Judith Hecht Stoll*  
by E.F. Kurth

*In Memory of Francys Wigley*  
by Owen Wigley

### In-Kind

Cory Hugg  
Sandi Garlow  
Orville Jensen  
Red Door Creative



***In Memory***  
***of our dedicated and valuable***  
***volunteer and dear friend,***  
***Jane Engh.***  
***February 25, 2009.***  
***She will be missed.***  
***Our sincerest condolences to***  
***her family and friends.***



# *Sarah Christie Stevens*

## *Superintendent of Schools*

by  
Grace A. Webb



Sarah Christie, 1874. Photograph courtesy of the Minnesota State Historical Society.

September 17, 1919, Extra! Sarah Christie Stevens, first woman county school superintendent for Blue Earth County, passes away at the age of seventy-five. This remarkable woman's life was filled with great achievements, most notably being the first woman in Mankato to be elected to public office. But Mrs. Steven's story begins long before that.

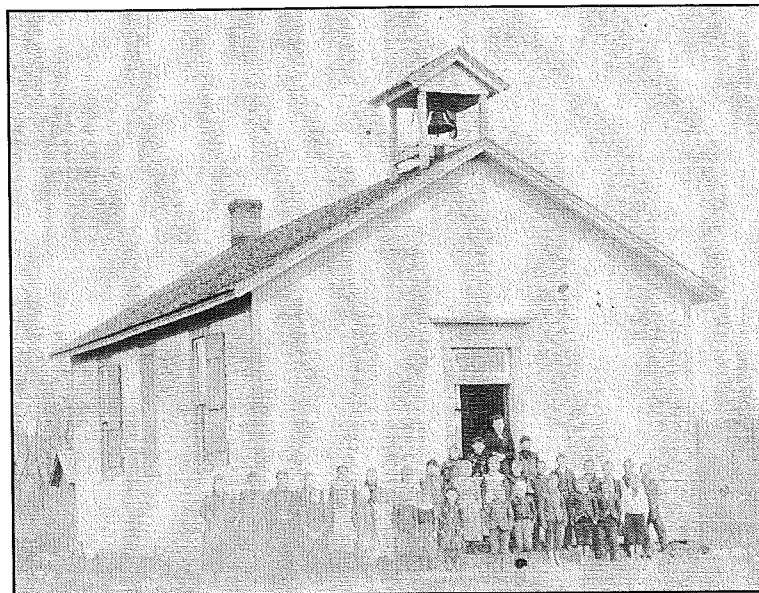
Sarah Christie Stevens was born on September 25, 1844, in Ireland, to James and Elizabeth Reid Christie. When she was only two, her family moved to Clyman Township, Dodge County, Wisconsin. Four years later, Sarah's mother died in childbirth, leaving Sarah with her father and four brothers. Her father later remarried to a kind woman who provided a source of motherly care for Sarah.

From the very beginning of Sarah's childhood, she displayed the same kind of passionate desire to learn as her intellectual father. "I am determined on having an education," she told him in 1862, impressing him enough with her love of learning to convince him to send her to Wisconsin Female College at Fox Lake. There, both her intellectual and public life bloomed, as she joined the Baptist Church, discovered a love of algebra, and participated in the Soldiers Aid Society. She had wanted to join the war effort as a nurse, but being told she was too young, she instead helped organize a group of women called the Soldiers Aid Society, who sewed, made bandages and cooked treats for the grateful Union troops. Her sole desire in life became to do "great good in the world."

As her education grew, so did her interest in politics. As early as her young adult years, Sarah was firm in her beliefs that women were equal to men, and should have the same opportunities. "It is they [men] who keep women where they are," she wrote to her father, when he warned her that algebra was a man's pursuit. "It is the education which a woman gets and the false ideas that are crammed into them, that keep women where they are. Now I believe that the weakness of women lies in their education. They have the same power given them that is given to men, and if they were cultivated and strengthened, in the same way and direction, a woman would be just as able to make her way through life as man is." These beliefs in equality were to be tested later in her life when she decided to make a difference and run for county school superintendent.

When James Stevens' funds ran too low to continue to support his daughter's schooling, two of Sarah's brothers, who were in the Union Army, used part of their wages to pay her tuition. However, even this generosity could not provide adequate support, and Sarah was forced to leave Fox Lake in 1863. But Sarah would not be discouraged; she continued to cling to her dream of higher education, hoping to one day be a doctor. She managed to study a term in the high school in Watertown, and she continued to teach herself as much as possible, broadening her range of knowledge through extensive reading.

While Sarah dreamed of going into the medical field, she was also interested in becoming a teacher, and on



South Bend School.

July 1, 1863, she passed a Fox Lake examination and received a recommendary certificate that enabled her to teach in any common, intermediate, or grammar school in Wisconsin. It was a hard career in which to carve out a living for oneself, especially if one was a woman, who received a much lower salary than male teachers. But Sarah was determined. Constantly moving from one school district to another in hopes of finding higher pay, Sarah stuck to her career path and tried her hardest to improve her students' learning experiences.

In 1869, while she was living with her brother, Tom, Sarah attempted to start a dress-making business, but it was a costly failure. That, combined with careless financial management and her self-sacrificing generosity, caused Sarah to wrack up colossal debt. Fortunately, in 1873, Sarah obtained an interview with Reverend James W. Strong of Carlton College, Northfield, Minnesota, who was so impressed by her that he appointed her an instructor. While grateful for the job, Sarah faced many challenges. She taught German, English, and other subjects, stayed up until ten to blow out the dormitory lights, rose at four o'clock to prepare for the day's lessons, and helped nurse students through a measles epidemic.

Although it was a good position, Sarah left Carleton College in 1875 and received a position at Wheaton College in Illinois until 1877. She was forced to leave when creditors pursued her and the college paid

her debts in place of her salary. Sarah traveled to Blue Earth County, Minnesota, where her father and younger brother David had settled, but due to continuing financial troubles, she kept teaching and traveling. She didn't settle down permanently until she met and married William L. Stevens in 1879. Stevens, a prosperous widower with four children, was apparently a good husband for Sarah, who had repeatedly voiced her desire to never marry. She called him "a wise man & a good one...a good husband to me—always thoughtful and kind." With him, she had two daughters.

Although Sarah quickly settled into her new home, she still retained her earnest ambition to improve education. She and her husband joined the Farmer's Alliance, and in 1886 she was elected secretary of the Women's Baptist Home Mission Society. She was also deeply involved in the Women's Christian Temperance Union, which advocated for equal women's rights, one of Sarah's lifelong passions. But Sarah didn't just talk about progress; she lived it.

Encouraged by other women's political successes and supported by her family, Sarah decided to run for election as Blue Earth County school superintendent in 1890, saying that since women were such good teachers and mothers, it stood to reason that they would be good school superintendents. The campaign was long, hard, and bitter. Sarah was attacked by numerous opponents, but she refused to back down. In one public address at Garden City, she told her audience that women had "successfully administered affairs without losing their womanly graces," and added that now women had to accept the responsibility that came with the right to vote.

She gained a large group of supporters, from country women, the Alliance and Prohibition parties, and the *Review*, Mankato's democratic paper, which reported that Sarah had "ability, fidelity, and an earnest enthusiasm for the cause of popular education." She was also greatly supported by the Union soldiers to whom she had so faithfully ministered during the Civil War. In the end, Sarah triumphed, winning the election by 301 votes.



Nyquist School, LeRay Township

Sarah immediately jumped into her new role. She was responsible for 137 common, ungraded schools, each in its own district with its own board of trustees. Her duties included visiting all of the schools, examining and certifying teachers, raising funds for school improvements, encouraging tree planting on Arbor Day, and compiling an annual report for the state superintendent. The state superintendent was very pleased with her work, but Sarah wasn't done yet.

Sarah had many more far-reaching plans than just what her bare duties were. She encouraged students to attend more school days than previously accepted, and worked hard to stock school libraries with more books. She set up more vigorous courses for potential teachers, enabling them to gain further knowledge, and she held meetings with school trustees, teachers, and parents to discuss school improvement. She also championed free textbooks for every student, citing economical savings and an increase in democratic equality between rich and poor students, as well as urging every school to purchase an American flag to foster patriotism. She had local physicians check students' eyes regularly to test for refraction errors, and introduced examinations to ensure students thoroughly understood their subjects.

While Sarah made many great improvements, she was sidetracked from some of her duties because of trouble within her home; her daughter Mary became

severely ill, preventing Sarah from visiting all 137 schools within the first two years of her superintendency. This was an opening her opponents eagerly penetrated when reelection time came around in 1892. Sarah also faced a lack of support from her Alliance party, which had broken up and been lost to inner confusion and disagreements. She also faced an unfriendly new state superintendent, who, although he admitted Sarah's two years as superintendent had been greatly successful, did not like the idea of the "weaker" sex in harsh positions like school superintendency. Despite Sarah's heroic efforts and hard-worked campaign, she lost to her Republican Party opponent,

George W. Scherer.

Sarah ran against Scherer again in 1894, but was defeated a second time. This marked the end of Sarah's political career. She gave up teaching and instead focused mainly on her family. She experienced both triumphs and heartbreaks. Her daughter, Mary, died at the age of eighteen because of tuberculosis, but her other daughter, Bessie, attended the medical school at Hamline University, fulfilling one of her mother's old dreams. Sarah continued to speak out about women's rights, demanding fair pay and respect for a woman's accomplishments and abilities, until her death in 1919.

Long before the feminist movement had gained steam and public support, Sarah realized the value of women and the need for them to rise above their traditional roles to improve their worlds. She understood how important education was for every child. She saw problems that seemed to have no solution, but she found answers anyway. She was a strong, determined, smart, truly remarkable woman.

#### Works Cited List:

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 Goodwyn, "Democratic Promise," 259; *Review* (Mankato), September 2, 1890.  
 "Mrs. W. L. Stevens." *Good Thunder Herald*, September 25, 1919.  
 Christie, Jean. "Sarah Christie Stevens, Schoolwoman." *Minnesota History*, Summer 1983.

# *Victorian picnics: sumptuous, scrumptious and here again*

by  
Carlienne A. Frisch

When Minnesota's women settlers packed picnic baskets, it wasn't just with hard-boiled eggs, roasted chicken and berry pie. They were women of the Victorian era, a time when social event menus were as over-the-top as Victorian décor. One might find as many as 30 meat dishes at a Minnesota community picnic. An 1870's menu might include soup, veal, turkey, cutlets, ham, oyster pie, assorted vegetables, pies, custard, almonds, raisins and ice-cream (homemade, of course). Noteworthy as the menus were, it's equally noteworthy that families made use of cemetery green space as picnic sites.

The idea of a Victorian-era picnic was to consume something more elegant than cold cuts. That's also the plan for the BECHS Victorian Picnic on Sunday, May 31, in the Palmer Centennial Garden, adjacent to the R.D. Hubbard House. BECHS director Jessica Potter said, "We invite people to come to Centennial Park with their picnic basket and blanket, maybe even wearing Victorian period clothing, to enjoy a timeless tradition and to see the Hubbard House in its 1905 elegance. Instead of picking up fast food, people can make incredible foods to bring in a picnic basket. BECHS has cookbooks with recipes from the Victorian era." (See websites at end of article for additional resources.)

Picnics became fashionable and sumptuous during the reign of Queen Victoria in England (1837-1901).

Picnics were part of the action in the novels of Charles Dickens, Jane Austen and Anthony Trollope and were immortalized on canvas by Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Paul Cezanne.

Although picnics had rules, they were less complicated than etiquette for social events held at home. It became customary for one family to organize and provide picnic food for guests. If servants were not present, gentlemen were expected to wait on ladies. An elaborate picnic menu might include lobster tails with homemade mayonnaise, cold poached chicken with cream sauce, veal loaf, cheese straws, strawberry rolls, trifle (chunks of pound cake, fresh fruit, rich custard and cream), lavender lemonade, iced champagne rolled in wet newspapers to preserve the chill and whiskey punch. After dessert was eaten, there was musical entertainment, followed by games such as croquet, tag and blind man's bluff. For a simpler picnic, elegant tea sandwiches were prepared.

The newspaper report of at least one local picnic veered a bit from Victorian elegance. At an Odd Fellows picnic in June, 1897, the games included a footrace in which three ladies who each weighed more than 200 pounds competed. The *Mankato Review* reported that the winner ran 150 feet in seven-and-one-half seconds. The journalist noted, however, that the exact weight of the ladies could not be verified.



Photograph from Laura Thomas' album, early 1900s. Property of the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

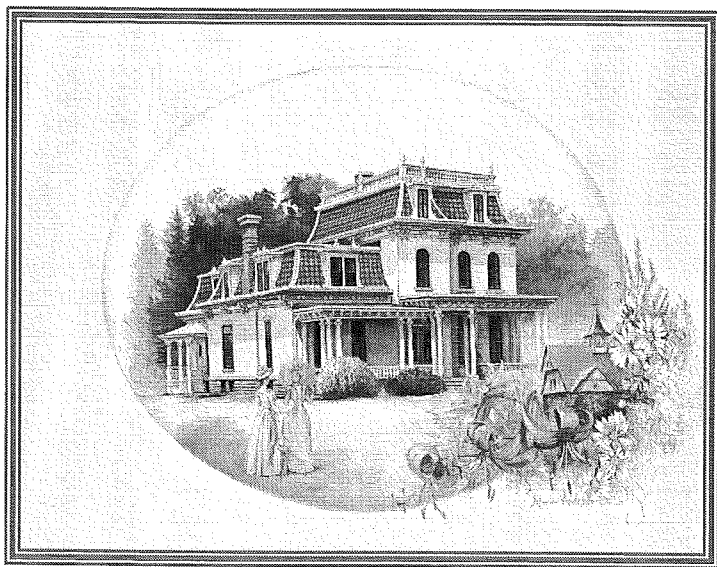
Mankato newspapers of the time diligently kept readers apprised of the picnics and lawn parties put on by the family of R.D. Hubbard. In September, 1881, the *Mankato Free Press* described a lawn party given by Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard, with the grounds brilliantly illuminated by Chinese lanterns suspended from trees and guests enjoying sweet music from the orchestra. Unfortunately, the news brief did not include a list of food served. Nor were the contents of the picnic basket noted by the *Mankato Review* in its report that o



August 10, 1905, Kate Hubbard (R.D.'s daughter) and several other young ladies motored to Good Thunder and picnicked on the shores of the Maple River.

With Victorian influence waning by 1910, less elaborate picnic menus became the norm, and paper plates and cups sold well to picnickers in the 1920s as the tradition of picnicking continued. Minneopa Park was a favorite spot for picnic parties. Mankatoan, Ruth Otto, age 90, remembers many years of picnicking as a child near Minneopa Falls, after the Memorial Day military services that were held at the Minneopa Cemetery. By then, picnicking in a cemetery was no longer done. Otto said, "It would have been disrespectful."

This article includes information from the following Internet sites, which also offer a variety of Victorian recipes: [www.erasofelegance.com/etiquette/picnic](http://www.erasofelegance.com/etiquette/picnic) and <http://digital.lib.msu.edu/projects/cookbooks/display>.



**NOW AVAILABLE IN THE MUSEUM STORE**

### *Reflections of Days Gone By*

by Marian Anderson

Featuring the R.D. Hubbard House  
Third and final of Marian's Historic Home Series

\$150 Artist Proof

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*All proceeds benefit*

*BECHS Capital Improvement Fund*



# Hubbard House 20 Year Tribute

*Celebrating two decades of historic restoration.*

After 20 years of historic restoration, it is time to celebrate and share the historic beauty of Mankato's finest Victorian style home. Come participate in a weekend of celebration and see what's been happening at the R.D. Hubbard House.



## May 30-31, 2009

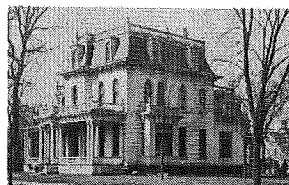
**Saturday, May 30: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

- **Living History:** Costumed guides/characters and vintage photo ops.
- **All-Third Grade Class Reunion:** Generations of third graders have visited the Hubbard House, come share your stories.
- **Unveiling of City of Mankato Heritage Plaque:** Unveiling at 10:00 a.m.
- **This Old House:** Meet craftspeople and companies that have been part of the historic restoration.
- **Carriage House Store:** Featuring Dan Vance's new book *Unique Mankato Stories* and autographed Marian Anderson Hubbard House prints.

**Sunday, May 31: 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

- **Living History:** Costumed guides/characters and vintage photo ops.
- **Picnic in the Park:** Picnic on the lawn while enjoying music performed by local musicians.
- **Carriage House Store:** Featuring Dan Vance's new book *Unique Mankato Stories* and autographed Marian Anderson Hubbard House prints.

Visit [www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com) for more details.



**Hubbard House**  
606 South Broad Street  
Mankato, MN 56001  
507-345-5566



## Rapidan Heritage Society

Rapidan Heritage Society began its 7<sup>th</sup> year with choosing our fifth piece of Redwing Pottery, the butter churn. We chose the Rapidan Creamery as our historical building to display on the new collectible pottery piece.

The annual meeting was held on February 21<sup>st</sup>, with Gordon Herbst, the author of the book "Minneinneopa: 150 Year History of the Minneopa State Park." He spoke in detail about life and times in South Bend and Minneopa State Park during the initial years. He described the people and events that formed South Bend and the surrounding communities, like Mankato and LeHillier. A good time was had by all!

RHS would like to thank Daryl Lachmiller for many great years as our faithful leader and president during our initial startup years. Without his wise guidance and persistence, our club might not be where it is today. Thank you, Daryl and Lynn!

May 7<sup>th</sup>, some of RHS members took a field trip and toured the Woods Hilltop Home/Hotel on Lake Washington. What an interesting place and cool building. We spent quite a bit of time just walking around the building and grounds, asking questions of one of the owners and the current caretaker. Just imagine what that hotel was like back at the turn of the century during its heyday. Thank you, Madison Lake Historical Society, for organizing this outing!

Our Memorial Day celebration was again a big success. The day started out with our salute to the past and present troops with the presenting of the Colors by the North Mankato American Legion Post. After the morning program, John J. Koblas, author of many books on the James Gang and other western stories, spoke on Jesse James and the Younger Brothers, which was followed by a medley of songs sung by Lonesome Ron (Affolter) "King of the Valley Yodelers," a local celebrity. To finish off the day we had a wonderful lunch served by RHS to all in the community who chose to join us in the township garage. Thanks to all who made that day a great get-together event.

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, RHS hosted the first meeting of the local historical societies here in Rapidan at St. John's Church. Lake Crystal, Madison Lake and Rapidan were in attendance, besides the Blue Earth County Historical Society. We had a great discussion about various topics and concerns of small historical societies in today's times. We

all agreed that we should continue to work together to keep history alive in our county.

RHS worked with Blue Earth County in hosting a "Day at the Dam" at the Rapidan Dam Park. The day started out with a little rain, but everything turned out great, and all had a wonderful time visiting and seeing the dam. Those in attendance had the opportunity to ride a boat upstream, take a pictorial tour of the dam, and eat lots of wonderful food from the Dam Store.

No fall excursion this year, but we did work with the Good Thunder Fire Department at their annual Fireman's Dance held this year out and about the courtyard by the Depot. It was a good time for all who attended. Many of the attendees walked through our depot and were amazed at the beautiful building we have here. The evening was capped off with a small, but wonderful, fireworks show. Not sure who put on the show, but much speculation was incurred.

As usual, we had a great time with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Depot with many little visitors and friends bringing in the Christmas cheer and holiday fun. After we said our goodbyes to Santa and Mrs. Claus, we had our annual RHS Christmas dinner at Bev and Steve Annis' home in Rapidan. Many attended with much socializing and visiting, and, oh yeah, overeating of a great selection of foods.

RHS has continued with our usual fundraisers, like our aluminum can collection days, the Madison East Non-profit Bake Sale, the Redwing Pottery sales, and our Depot Store sales. Your continued support with these fundraisers and donations is necessary and so very important to our heritage society. We really appreciate all of your support at our meetings and events throughout the year and hope that in this new year you will continue to help support our organization in whatever way you feel comfortable.

RHS would like to thank everyone who made a monetary donation or donation of Rapidan memorabilia to our organization this year. With all your wonderful gifts, our mission of preserving the past - one piece at a time - will continue to grow. Thank you.

*Liz Madsen*  
President

The Rapidan Depot will be open to visitors  
Sunday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Memorial Day through September.

## Pictures from the Past

Help the Blue Earth County Fair celebrate its 150th birthday in 2009, July 30 - August 2, by sending in your favorite fair pictures from the past!

Photos can be sent or dropped off to the Blue Earth County Historical Society located at 415 Cherry Street in Mankato. Call (507) 345-5566 for more information.

*Send in your Favorite*



## BECHS Membership January-March 2009

### New Members

Boche, Laurie  
Chirpich, Don  
Willard, Corey

### New Business Members

Hoehn Drainage &  
Excavating, LLC

### Renewed Members

Brown, Joan  
Burns, Inella  
Diamond, Sandy  
Becker-Hunter, Janice  
Rice, Carrie  
Smoley, John  
Svendsen, Sigvald  
Vee, Harlan

## 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 or Shelley at 345-5566.

**BECHS has moved to a new  
address on the  
world wide web –  
check us out at  
[www.bechshistory.com](http://www.bechshistory.com).**

## Memorial Day in Rapidan May 25, 2009

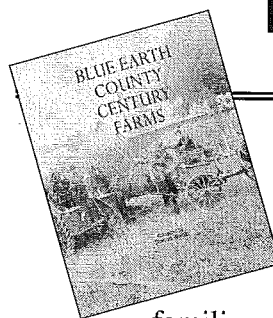
9 A.M. Memorial Service in Park  
Jack Madsen, Master of Ceremonies,  
North Mankato Color Guard

9:30 A.M. Coffee & Rolls served in  
Town Garage

9:45 A.M. "Blue Earth County Century Farms"  
Presented by the Blue Earth County  
Historical Society

10:00 A.M. "Minnesota in the Civil War"  
Mr. Michael Eckers, Civil War Educator  
How did Minnesota get involved in  
the Civil War? What hardships did they face?  
How did they survive?

11:30 A.M. Lunch served in Town Garage  
Proceeds for caboose restoration.



## Blue Earth County Century Farms

The story of the development of  
agriculture in this county  
through the eyes of the farm  
families who lived it.

Between 1876 and 2004, 178 farms in our county became registered Century Farms. These farms have been owned and operated by members of the same family for at least 100 years, some of them for 150 or more years. Through the pages of this book, meet these families, read their stories, learn about their lives and farms, and about their successes and failures, joys and sorrows.

Step back into history with us, see this book and many other items at the Museum Store..



## *Notes from the Archives Manager*

To Our Volunteers –

We had over 120 volunteers donate their time and talents in 2008, and you know who you are. We have some that are new and some that have been here for decades. We have some that clip and file newspapers, we have some that sit at a computer, and we have some that just meet us at the fair. We had over 6,000 reported volunteer hours last year. THANK YOU.

We have adventures: there are walking tours, Rapidan Dam events and an old-fashioned barn dance. We have a person who brings in all of his computer equipment to help us scan our slide collection and there are those of you who have dropped off and picked up our steamboat model for our History-To-Go kits. THANK YOU.

There are those of you who help us on Sunday afternoons at the Hubbard House or Friday evening events like Ghosts from the Past, and those who spend Saturdays at the Museums. THANK YOU.

There are those who have accessioned 810 donated objects and cataloged 358 photographs and 457 books, all with meticulously paperwork. We do realize all we have accomplished is because of you. THANK YOU.

This past year we also sadly lost two of our volunteers and we miss them. Although Helen and Jane are gone, their hard work and dedication can be seen in the archives, not to mention their in-boxes.

We thank everyone, whether you give us one hour or 1,312 hours (yes, that is the actual number of hours one of you gave us last year). The Blue Earth County Historical Society is what it is because of you, and more importantly, we could not preserve the past without you. THANK YOU.

I only managed to squeeze in five thank yous into this article, but you all deserve a million. THANK YOU.

By the way, we are always looking for new volunteers. If you are thinking about joining this merry band, please stop in or call JoLynn at 345-5566..

*Shelley Harrison*  
Archives Manager

## *Volunteer Appreciation*

Thank you to the 120+ people who donated over 6,000 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, May 4<sup>th</sup>** at our Annual Volunteer Appreciation event. Join us at **9:00 a.m.** for food, fellowship and fun. To RSVP, please call JoLynn at 345-5566.

## *Volunteers Are Always Welcome*

If you have some time to spare to help us preserve history, please call JoLynn at 345-5566 or [bechsms@hickorytech.net](mailto:bechsms@hickorytech.net).

Some examples are:

*Tour Guides—Hubbard House  
and Heritage Center*  
*Antique car maintenance person*  
*Research and writing for publications*  
*Grant research and writing*  
*Data Entry*  
*Hubbard House Gift Shop attendant*  
*Archives Volunteer*  
*Manuscript Volunteer*  
*Collections Volunteer*



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**WISH LIST**

*Items or financial donations will be  
gratefully accepted.*

- Step stool - 3 ft
- Copy Paper
- *The Land* on microfilm (\$35 per roll)
- Mylar book covers (approximately \$60)
- New tables and chairs for meeting room  
(need approximately \$5,000)
- Office Max Gift Cards
- Past Perfect Multimedia software (\$300)

## Blue Earth County Historical Society 2008 VOLUNTEERS

Over 6,000 reported hours were donated by the volunteers listed below. 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 plus much more.

Affolter, Ron  
Aho, Lindsay  
Anderson, Marian  
Bartholdi, Roberta  
Baures, Lisa  
Belgard, Hugh  
Belgard, Vail  
Benefield, Dale  
Benson, Donna  
Beverly, Jackie  
Beyer, Jessie  
Bouma, Jana  
Brennan, Mike  
Brown, Jessica  
Brown, Kaitlyn  
Buecksler, Andrea  
Bulfer, Nicholas  
Bunde, Margo  
Carlson, Bruce  
Carlson, Carla  
Clement, Jeri  
Clobes, Abby  
Clobes, Joshua  
Clobes, Nathan  
Cords, Betty  
Coleman, Mary  
Crowe, Jody  
Darling, Brad  
Doyle, Judy  
Doyle, Preston  
Duncanson, Kristin  
Engelsrud, Ernest  
Engh, Jane  
Evans, Jill  
Forseth, Lucas

Frederick, Mike  
Frederick, Sal  
Frisch, Carlienne  
Garlow, Laura  
Garlow, Sandi  
Garvin, Tyler  
Geibel, Roger  
Goff, Harley  
Grabitske, Paul  
Graham, Joan  
Griffiths, Pat  
Grundmeier, Shirley  
Grundmeier, Win  
Hanson, Kathryn  
Havelka, Karen  
Herbst, Gordon  
Howieson, Bob  
Hugg, Bob  
Hugg, Corey  
Hugg, Leslie  
Hugg, Nathan  
Hynes, Susan  
Jackson, Colleen  
Jackson, David  
Jensen, Mary Ann  
Jensen, Orville  
Johnson, Emily  
Johnson, Kaitlin  
Joyal, Rod  
Kearney, Mike  
Keir, Grace  
Keir, Richard  
Kennedy, Gloria  
Kind, Arn  
Kloster, Jeremiah

Kloster, Joshua  
Kloster, Sarah  
Kloster, Troy  
Kramer, Crystal  
Krassin, Sara  
Lagerquist, Mike  
Lavitschke, Dean  
Lavitschke, Jo-an  
Lund, Aaron  
Lund, Rick  
Lundin, Gary  
Madsen, Jack  
Madsen, Liz  
Madsen, Timothy  
Mages, Paul  
McComb, Mary  
McGowan, Jack  
McLaughlin, Theresa  
McLaughlin, Tom  
Nelson, Pat  
Nienow, Dick  
Nienow, Patricia  
Noren, Gary  
Norman, Beth  
Nussbaumer, Linda  
Ohlenkamp, Ora  
Oldenburg, Aiden  
Oldenburg, Alex  
Oldenburg, Connor  
Owens, Dean  
Peterson, Leslie  
Piepho, Mark  
Potter, Brad  
Preska, Margaret  
Quade, Ann

Quade, Henry  
Reichel, Jason  
Reinbold, Bianka  
Rezmerski, John  
Rolek, Kristi  
Ryan, Pat  
Ryan, Mike  
Sassenburg, Eunice  
Schaub, Shirley  
Schiming, Richard  
Schultz, Jo  
Seeley, Melissa  
Sinn, Baerbel  
Sinn, Gunter  
Sizemore, Daardi  
Soloman, Jake  
Starcher, Sarah  
Steinhauer, Bernie  
Stenzel, Bryce  
Straks, Rick  
Straka, Stacey  
Stromswold, Todd  
Sugden, George  
Tarjeson, Jane  
Teskey, Sara  
Thom, Andrew  
Wandrie, Jessica  
Ulman, Ida  
Ulman, Steve  
Van Amber, Jim  
Warman, Tiffany  
Webb, Donna  
Webb, Grace  
Welgel, Anthony  
Ziegler, Kenneth  
Zimmer, Beth

*Thank you for your time and talents!*



## *Through the Research Center Door...*

One of the many collections that we have at the Blue Earth County Historical Society is our photograph collection. If you would like to see if we have a photograph of a certain person, building, business or any other topic, just ask and we will check our records. Our pictures are indexed by surname or subject and are stored alphabetically in archival quality boxes in our Archives Room.

We accept photographs donated to us as long as they contain people who lived in Blue Earth County, places, buildings or events in Blue Earth County. All photographs need to be identified. With pictures that contain people we must have at least the surname. We, unfortunately, can not keep unidentified pictures because they are not helpful to our collections or researchers. Not having the names of the people in the photo, place or subject on the back or on a label connected to the photograph, is one of the biggest hurdles we face. When we get older or when we die, others will not know who or what these pictures represent. Even having a last name helps, this way we can look at our other resources, such as the biography or photograph file, and try to find a first name for the person or people in the photograph. If we cannot identify the person in the photograph specifically, the pictures will be filed just by the surname.

People often make the mistake of thinking that just because their pictures are only a decade or so old we are not interested in them. This is far from the truth. If they depict life or situations that occurred here in Blue Earth County, we would appreciate it if you brought them in to us. Just bring any photographs you want to donate to the research center where we will have you fill out a donation form and then they will be placed in our collection and made available to researchers.

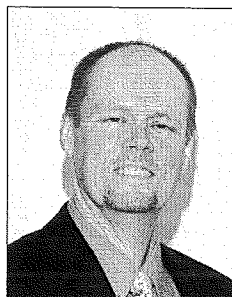
*Gabriela Rodriguez*  
Archives Assistant

## **New BECHS Board Members**



My name is Corey Hugg. In my daily life, I work at MSU in Student Financial Services. I have volunteered at BECHS for almost 6 years since moving to Mankato with my husband, Bob.

I have completed several indexing projects including the Blue Earth County Will Index. My current project is re-walking all Blue Earth County cemeteries. The resulting books are created as fundraisers for Blue Earth County Historical Society and all proceeds over printing costs are donated to BECHS. These books are not only an updated tool to find the final resting place of a family member, but also contain biographical information for almost every person buried in the cemetery. The first three books completed are "Remembering the People of Beauford Township: Exploring the Morrow and Oak Hill Cemeteries," "Remembering the People of Decoria Township: Exploring the Decoria Cemetery," and "Remembering the People of Cambria Township: Exploring the Cambria Cemetery." Coming soon: Butternut Valley Township.



Mike Lagerquist is a North Mankato native who has always had an interest in history. During his years as a reporter/editor at The Free Press in Mankato (1986-98), he often visited BECHS to explore and write about local history, and found time to volunteer at Ghosts from the Past and other BECHS programs. As the Director of Public Relations at the Minnesota State University, Mankato, Department of Theatre & Dance since 1999, his "exploration" has been limited to volunteering for BECHS events, serving on the Outreach Committee and involvement in such things as the Voices from the Valley project that helped record oral histories of Laurel's Edge residents. He graduated from Mankato West High School and MSU with degrees in Mass Communications and English. His latest obsession is the digital camcorder he uses in his job for posting on the department web site (MSUTheatre.com) and on Facebook.



## ...JoLynn's Wanderings

While we are anxiously waiting for spring to arrive, I'd like to tell you about a fun, interesting evening at the Robert Burns Night held in Mapleton on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Shelley Harrison, JoLynn Crowe, Win Grundmeier, Jody Crowe and Katiya Wandrie represented BECHS that evening. Kristin Duncanson graciously supplied a plaid tablecloth for us to use as a table cover and Sandi and Laura Garlow helped us set up our BECHS table. We had our nice new BECHS sign with brochures to hand out, as well as a few book selections for sale. One was the *BEC Century Farms Book* and the other was *FIRE!* From our collections department we brought along an old curling stone and a couple of curling brooms. You know what they say, many helping hands make light work, so we were ready in no time. Win even had on his Scottish Tam and Sash, Shelley, a red plaid vest, and alas, I had nothing with even a hint of Scottish garb (which means my goal for next year will be to at least have a bit of plaid in my outfit).

The event itself started with bagpipe music and many authentic Highland dances being performed, some good natured joking, a short video and the crowning of the new Miss Bonnie Lass, plus the traditional singing of Auld Lang Syne for the finishing touch. As the 5-year-old Katiya announced to her grandfather after the event, "the bagpipes weren't too loud, I didn't even have to cover my ears!" and "I want to learn to dance like that!" After the program was a time for some socialization with coffee and delicious dessert. This gave folks another opportunity to look over what we had brought to the Robert Burns night. A wonderful evening out which truly is a community and family event to enjoy! Maybe we'll see you there next year!

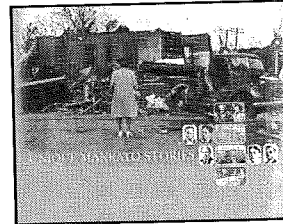
JoLynn Crowe  
Museum Assistant

## ...at the Museum Store

If you haven't stopped by the museum store in awhile, you might be pleasantly surprised by some newly added items. *Unique Mankato Stories* by Daniel Vance focuses on some interesting, but forgotten stories of days gone by such as Moses Wickersham, Maud Hart Lovelace and the Green Gables tornado. These hidden gems span the first 100 years of Mankato history. The *Blue Earth County Century Farms* book continues to be a favorite. We have many other book selections from poetry to cookbooks to wineries.

Other featured items at the museum store are aprons for ladies and young girls sewn by Grace Keir. Grace has found a novel way to use old table runners and/or doilies that may not be usable on one end but perfectly fine on the other and integrate them into an apron. They are very cute and would make a delightful mother and/or daughter's gift. Mother's Day will be here sooner than we think! Not to leave out the fathers on our list, we have some very fine Marian Anderson prints, from wildlife to prairie scenes. We've switched a few things around and have added new items, so come on in and say *Hello*. We'll be looking forward to seeing you!

**Now  
available at the  
Museum Store**



## Unique Mankato Stories

by Daniel Vance

Relive the incredible forgotten stories of Mankato including those of Moses Wickersham, Maud Hart Lovelace, Julia Ann Sears, Sinclair Lewis and the Green Gables tornado. These hidden gems span the first 100 years of Mankato history. \$19.95

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





## Fingerprints and Footnotes

Fingerprints and Footnotes is a history and genealogy club. It's for anyone interested in researching your house, your town, your family or just any subject that you find intriguing. The club meets at 6:00 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month at the Heritage Center. Meeting topics are anything from Identifying and Dating Photographs to the History of Blizzards. This is a club so there is a membership fee. For BECHS members it's \$5.00 per year; for non-BECHS members it's \$10.00 per year. For those not interested in joining, but are interested in a specific meeting topic, there is a fee of \$3.00 per meeting. Newcomers are always welcome.

In February, Lori A. Lahlum from Minnesota State University, Mankato, discussed Norwegian American women and their influence on rural women's history. In March, Denis Gardner discussed his book about all the fascinating facts on Minnesota historic bridges, including Kerns/Yeager bridge, the third oldest in the state. This April, we learned all about our rural roots and all the information we could find on those who were tied to the land. If you have any ideas for topics or tours, or if you have any interest in presenting a topic, please let Shelley know.

### Future Meeting:

- ♦ Thursday, May 14- *Note the date change* Minnesota Archaeology Week with Dr. Ronald Schirmer
- ♦ June 18 - "Six miles from St. Paul" by David Grabitske about Sara Sibley, wife of Henry Sibley
- ♦ July 7 - Motoring out to Rapidan! Adventures with the Rapidan Heritage Society

## Footnotes In History

May 28, 1923, Attorney General says it is legal for women to wear trousers anywhere.

[www.brainyhistory.com/days/may\\_28.html](http://www.brainyhistory.com/days/may_28.html)

May 28, 1974, Baseball-sized hail, piled waist high, shreds a corn crop in the Amboy area.

<http://events.mnhs.org/bookofdays/index.cfm>

May 28, 1994, Twins' Dave Winfield passes Rod Carew into 15th hit list (3,054)



## History's Mysteries

While going through our photographs to complete a research request, I came across the Flittie family photograph file. Looking through the file, I realized that many of the pictures were just labeled "Flittie family member." One reason a photograph may be unlabeled is that the family member passed away and as the family took care of their belongings they found photographs unidentified. Another reason is people don't label them right away, as they think they will remember; but after many years have passed, faces become less memorable. After doing some research, I was able to put names to some of the photographs in the Flittie file.

One of the easiest photographs I was able to put a name to was Mary Louise Flittie. We had pictures of Mary Louise when she was a child that someone had labeled. There are many other pictures of a girl we believe is Mary Louise, but all are unidentified. In one she is wearing what looks like a school uniform, and since we knew she lived in Mankato, I looked in the 1917 Mankato High School's Otaknam yearbook and was able to find the same picture of Mary Louise. Another picture, taken when Mary Louise was 3 months old, is labeled "Mary Louise Flittie and her beloved Mamma." It did not include "Mamma's" given name, however. Using our biography file on the Flittie family, I found a wedding announcement for J. A. Flittie and Elizabeth F. Keysor who married in 1898.

Though I was able to place a name to many of the photographs in the Flittie file, there are still a few that I have not. This photograph of a girl is one of just a couple I have not been able to name. I suspect that she is an unknown Keysor girl, who I believe to be either Elizabeth Keysor (Flittie) or her sister Amy Keysor (Carpenter). I cannot be sure, however, as I have already searched through all our resources at BECHS and have come up with no other clues as to her identity. If anyone has any pictures or information regarding the Flittie or Keysor family, please contact Gaby at 345-5566 or at [bechsrc@hickorytech.net](mailto:bechsrc@hickorytech.net).



**January-March 2009**  
**Artifacts & Archives Donations**

Anderson, Mavis  
Bateman, Doris  
Benefield, Dale  
Blue Earth County  
Botten, Joel  
Burns, Inella  
Carr, Margaret  
Cords, Betty  
Crowe, JoLynn  
Engelsrud, Ernest  
Frederick, Mike  
Hagen, Tom  
Herbst, Gordon H  
Hesse, Norla  
Hilden, Mary Holly  
Hohenstein, Deanna  
Hohenstein, Mary Kay

Hunter, Janice Becker  
Jensen, Orv & Mary Ann  
Jirele, Susan  
Johnson, Faye F  
Keir, Richard  
Madsen, Jack  
McComb, Mary  
Nobles County Historical  
Society  
Norman, Beth  
Piehl, Charles K  
Powers, Jeanne Audrey  
Rohlik, Lisa  
Sandell, Elizabeth  
Schmiesing, Pat  
Schultz, Jo  
Webb, Donna

# DISCOVERY DAYS

Discovery Days is held the first Saturday of each month. Free admission to the Heritage Center Museum all day long! Museum hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come discover what timeless treasures the museum holds for you! Now that the nicer weather has arrived why not walk, bike, or drive to the museum for a wonderful opportunity to explore a local area attraction.



## Recycle your used printer ink cartridges at BECHS

Ink jet cartridges that include a print head with an electronic strip can be redeemed by BECHS for cash. Please help us cut down our office supply costs by letting us recycle your used ink cartridges.

Drop off cartridges at the Heritage Center.

## Celebrating 20 Years at the Heritage Center

BECHS unveiled a new donor wall at the Annual Meeting on March 8, 2009 honoring those who made it happen in 1988 and those who continue to make it happen in 2008. Stop by the Heritage Center today.

1988 Donors  
Those who made it happen.

The successful Blue Earth County Historical Society 1988 Capital Fund Campaign was made possible in part by these generous donors.

[illegible]

*2008 Donors*  
Those **still** making it happen.

[illegible]

## Recycle your newsletter!

Pass it along to a friend,  
neighbor or family member!





## YOUNG HISTORIANS

In January we learned about the Industrial Revolution. We learned about how it started in Britain. They wanted to keep it quiet; they prevented inventors and factory workers from leaving the country. America called for help with an easier way to change wool into fabric. The Revolution came to America with Samuel Slater who worked in a textile factory. He recreated one in Rhode Island. Americans made many inventions during the Industrial Revolution, including the steel plow from John Deere, tires from Mr. Goodyear, and many other things like the cotton gin. For a snack we made water wheels out of pretzels and marshmallows. We then got into groups of two and tried selling some new inventions from the Industrial Revolution, like the typewriter, steam iron, ice tongs, washboard, etc.

In February we learned about the turn of the century. We met at the Hubbard House. We got to meet Mary Esther Hubbard, maid Christina Larsen and the housekeeper. We helped Mary Esther get ready for an afternoon tea party. We also learned a lot of things that the maid Christina was doing wrong because she was distracted waiting for her sweetheart to come for Valentine's Day. She also got very nice packages that made Mary Esther jealous. She received a shawl and gloves, too nice for a maid. For snacks we had Oreos, Fig Newtons, Animal Crackers and Conversation Candy Hearts because these were all new and just becoming popular at this time. We also learned about NECCO and Nabisco, the companies that were started during this time. We then made Valentine's Day cards.

In March we learned about World War I and Women's Suffrage. Over 15 million people were killed in the largest war in history. The global military conflict which involved two opposing sides, the Entente and the Central powers formed within weeks. The war ended when Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia and the Ottoman Empire were defeated. The League of Nations was formed in an attempt to avoid another World War. Tom Lawton told us more about World War I. We started learning about Women's Suffrage with taking a vote and everyone was surprised when only the boys' votes were counted. Susan Hynes then came in as a Womans Suffragette. Prior to the passing of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, women were not allowed to vote. Several women and years of hard

work resulted in equal voting rights for women. The movement began in 1756 by Lydia Chapin (Taft). She was the first woman who was granted the right to vote by a town meeting. Several years later, many women including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Carrie Catt and Susan B. Anthony led the fight for equal rights for women.

Please watch for the Young Historians at upcoming BECHS events.

Junior Historians are working on their projects this year, which is to help and thank our local veterans. I would like to thank everyone who donated items for the soldier boxes.

*Laura Garlow*

Junior Historian 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Hobbies and Collectibles

This program is held the third Saturday of each month, and admission to the program is free. Each month a different topic is chosen to learn about and share. The program runs from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome to stop by during these hours and check out the program.

May 16th  
Vintage Hats

June 20th  
Dog Figurines

July 18th  
Vintage Fishing Lures



Marian Anderson prints and postcards are now available at the Heritage Center Museum Store. BECHS will be the in-town source for Marian's art. Check out her website at [www.mariananderson.com](http://www.mariananderson.com) to view her art or stop in the Museum Store.



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## Preserving and sharing Blue Earth County's history since 1901

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The Blue Earth County Historical Society's  
Heritage Center Gallery, Museum Store and  
Research Center are open  
Tuesday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Wednesday through Saturday  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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The Hubbard House and Carriage House  
are open  
May  
Saturday and Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.  
June-August  
Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.

---

## *Membership Renewal Reminder*

It's that time of year. Reminder: 2008-9 memberships expire on June 30, 2009. Renew your 2009-10 membership today! Also, consider gift memberships or encourage a friend or family member to join. Please use the enclosed yellow form to renew.



***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.