



Morse Family, c1927
Front row, left to right: Stanley, Marjorie, Elizabeth. 2nd row, Leslie, Frank, Kenneth. 3rd row, John, Mary, Orvilla, Loretta.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Heritage Dinner

The Second Annual Heritage Dinner will take place on Saturday, April 11th at the Mankato Golf Club, with annual meeting at 5:30 pm, social hour at 6:00, and dinner and program at 6:30 pm. The Judges Leslie and Frank Morse family will be honored at this event. The Morse family has long been an active part of the Blue Earth County Community, as well as the entire state of Minnesota.

The Morse farm of 160 acres was originally purchased in 1864 by Enoch and Lovisa and was located about 6 miles from Mankato on the Mankato-St. Clair road, now known as Hwy. 83. Enoch Morse died in 1881 leaving the farm to son John Morse who farmed it until 1913. The two sons of John, Frank and Leslie inherited the farm, in 1947.

Judge Leslie Morse was Mankato Municipal Judge for 40 years, beginning his service in 1935. He was a board member of the YMCA and Mankato Savings and Loan Association, as well as president of the Mankato Kiwanis Club. In 1963, Mr. Morse received the "Book of Golden Deeds" Award from the Exchange Club of Mankato.

Judge Frank Morse resided and practiced law in Mankato except during periods of military service in World War I and II. Following World War

II he spent three years in Germany as a judge and attorney with the Nuremberg War Crimes Trial. He was the Blue Earth County Attorney, and Judge of Probate and Juvenile Court. Mr. Morse helped organize and was the first commander of Lorentz Post No. 11 of the American Legion.

Both Judges Leslie and Frank, until his death in 1972, have been members of the Centenary United Methodist Church and city Boy Scout Programs. Both men are graduates of Carleton College and the University of Minnesota Law School.

The after-dinner program will include many fascinating details of the lives of the Judges Leslie and Frank Morse. For more information please contact the Blue Earth County Historical Society at 507-345-4154.

Tour of Homes and Historic Sites

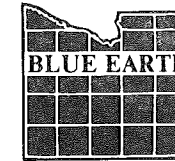
Plans are well underway for our "Tour of Historical Homes and Sites" which is scheduled to take place during this summer's "Bend of the River Days" celebration. Four homes have already been pledged for the July 11th tour. The Historical Society will be host to this tour by offering informative brochures on aids to house restoration. Colleen Smith, one of our new members, is chairperson of the tour committee and is working very hard to bring about this special day.

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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 1987

Calendar of Events

- April 6 New Curatorial Aid Janice Brown begins work at the Society
- April 11 Second Annual Heritage Dinner at the Mankato Golf Club, honoring the Morse family. Annual meeting 5:30 pm, social hour 6:00 pm, dinner 6:30 pm.
- April 11 Young Historians Program - Rootbeer making demonstration by George Marti
- April 19 Easter Sunday
- April 25 First of five consecutive Saturdays of bus tours to The Blue Earth County Historical Society from one Ramsey County Historical Society.
- April 26 Volunteer recognition week begins

Notes From The Director

First let me say how happy I am to be a part of such a growing institution as the Blue Earth County Historical Society. My first month on the job has been nothing less than exciting, with events going on both day and night. As Denise mentioned in the February newsletter, there are many new projects on the horizon for 1987 and I am thrilled to be a part of them. You will notice that the format of this newsletter is a bit different than most. Rather than highlight a historic narrative, we have chosen to include many small updates on both new and continuing projects of the Society for spring 1987. Finally, let me add my congratulations and best wishes to Denise and her husband in the anticipated arrival of a new family member.

Commentary - Young Historians Program

Have you ever had so many good ideas floating around in your head that you couldn't decide which one to choose? Well, that's how I feel every month when planning the Blue Earth County Historical Society's YOUNG HISTORIANS PROGRAM.

The Young Historians Program started in December 1986, funded through a grant from the Institute for Museum Services. Our first workshop was on spinning and was taught by Jill Stoffregan. It was a chance for kids to make their own drop spindles from a pencil, potato and piece of yarn. A pencil, potato and piece of yarn? . . . You bet! And believe me, it really worked! By the end of the class the kids had their own balls of spun yarn and a spindle to keep. The first Saturday morning set a precedent of quality historical education and (best of all) FUN!

As coordinator of the Young Historians Program, I choose each topic and teacher, handle publicity, design the posters, buy the supplies, greet the kids, and critique the class. The program also supplies a snack for the children. In March the Young Historians sampled Arnie Wadepammer's maple syrup on homemade combread . . . it was great!

We had an old-fashioned Valentine making class in February and danced a "Ceili" (Irish folk-dance) with Pam Becker in March. We look forward to making root beer with George Marti from New Ulm on April 11 and learning about bee-keeping with Charlie Hurd later in the month. In May we will be taking a walking history tour in Mankato and doing gravestone rubbings. In honor of the "Year of Reconciliation" we'll be learning Indian crafts, games, and cooking in June.

As you can tell from the programs we've offered so far, history need not be a boring subject but can and is being made to come alive to Blue Earth County children through our YOUNG HISTORIANS PROGRAM.

My time as coordinator will end in June, but I will pass on all those good ideas that weren't used. . . these Young Historians Programs could go on forever!

- Kris Higginbotham

Director's Note: Kris has done a fantastic job in coordinating this program and her outstanding posters epitomize the quality she brings to this program. We truly thank her. Finally, Kris forgot to mention that the Young Historians Programs are all FREE!

Blue Earth County History Lives

Plans are underway to publish a new Blue Earth County Heritage Book containing the history of the county, towns both past and present, churches, schools, businesses and family histories. All interested persons are invited to submit their histories and photographs. There will be no charge to have any story included, nor is there any obligation to purchase books. If you need assistance in writing or if you would like to be interviewed for your story, contact Julie Schrader, project director at the Summit Center, 518 So. 5th St., Mankato, Mondays from 1-4 pm. Brochures designed to aid your history writing for this project are available at the Blue Earth County Historical Society, free of charge. Any questions should be directed to Julie Schrader, 205 Ledlie Lane, Mankato, or by calling 507-625-8056.

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Curation Notes

Spring cleaning time is drawing near and we at the Historical Society are doing our share of cleaning and "airing out". The Carriage House which has been closed throughout the winter months to temporarily store the artifacts normally housed in the Hubbard House attic, is again open! The City of Mankato, with special help from Tom Severns, Floyd Roberts and their crews, have completed insulating and renovating the Hubbard House attic and the artifacts have returned to storage there. The Carriage House has been cleaned, the carriages oiled, and the exhibits spruced up for the upcoming tour season.

The Historical Society is fortunate to have the curatorial assistance of Janice Brown, a museum administration graduate of Eastern Illinois University and former curator of the Waseca County Historical Society. Jan will be updating the records of some of our earliest artifacts and will be implementing collection refinement and development as defined in our recently adopted Collections Policy. Jan's three month position is being funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum Services.

Our curatorial staff and crew of curatorial volunteers are always busy behind the scenes; we encourage members to stop in to observe and learn more about this part of our operation. As always, we also encourage interested persons in volunteering their time in the Curation division.

New Facility Update

Last month we wrote of our excitement about the prospect of moving some historical society activities to part of the current Summit Center facility. We are now hard at work trying to make this a reality. Among one of the things we have been working on is the nature of the improvements and renovations that will be necessary before we can move in.

One final thing is most important — we cannot operate without adequate financial resources to move in and funds to generate the new facility in a way that the people of Blue Earth County deserve.

In the near future we will be asking you, the membership, for help in making this the best museum space we are able to provide Blue Earth County. If you want to help, please call Barb Lamson at 345-4154.

- Charles K Piehl
President, Board of Trustees

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Year of Reconciliation

As was outlined in the February newsletter, numerous events are planned in association with the 125th anniversary of the Dakota Conflict. We in Mankato are very fortunate to have a number of events scheduled in our community. Our archivist, Audrey Burmeister-Hicks, has put together an incredible photographic exhibit of the Dakota women after they were moved to Fort Snelling following the Conflict. The hauntingly beautiful expressions on many of the women's faces will stay in your mind for a long time to come. At the end of May 1987 this photographic essay will be loaned to institutions interested in exhibiting this collection. Interested persons should contact Audrey Burmeister-Hicks at 345-4154.

Looking ahead to May and June, there will be a talk by Dr. Reginald Horseman at the New Ulm Public Library on May 21, entitled "Minnesota in the mid-19th century". Mankato is privileged to host a lecture on June 4 at the Minnesota Valley Regional Library, 100 E. Main Street. Noted *St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch* columnist Nick Coleman will be speaking on the public reaction to the Dakota Conflict. The final talk in this series is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 9, in Mankato. We will keep you informed in upcoming newsletters about other events marking the conflict's anniversary.

Recent Donations

Thanks to the recent donation of numerous healthy green plants, spring is coming to both the outside (purple crocus) and inside of the Historical Society. We have also received the donation of a stereo, providing wonderful classical sounds in the first floor of the Museum. When our volunteer, Elmer Goodrich, returned from his winter vacation, he brought us some beautiful dried weeds from Arizona. They are currently adding to the beauty of the Hubbard House dining room. Thanks to all of the members and non-members who donate items and their time by volunteering many hours at the Society. Speaking of which, we are currently looking for volunteers to do light cleaning and someone with a bookkeeping/accounting background. Please call Susan Monk at 345-4154 if interested.

Membership

Welcome to new members: Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Zargoza.

This past month we have received memorials from the following people:

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Naylor in memory of Marcia Schuster.

MSU Faculty Wives in memory of Marcia Schuster.

Howard Williams in memory of Ben Jones.

Betty Lou Cords in memory of Ben Jones.

Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Meyer in memory of Clara Haefner.

The building fund grew this past month, thanks to the generosity of long time members Betty Nelson and Adelbert and Florence Lahann.

We need your membership! Your dues will help support continuing museum work, research, programs and events. Upon becoming a member you will enjoy many benefits including receiving the monthly newsletter, 10% discount on regular stocked items in the Gift Shop and most importantly, ensuring the continued preservation of Blue Earth County history. Please contact Barb Lamson at 345-4154 if you have any questions about membership in the Society.

P.S.: Be on the lookout for outside sprucing up of the Hubbard House, spring is here!

