

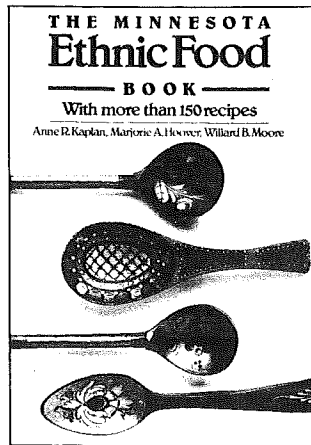
Gift Shop

If you haven't visited the Museum Gift Shop in a while, you'll notice some changes. We are analyzing our inventory to better fill the needs of the Historical Society membership.

As part of this reorganization, we are working on a plan to offer mail-ordering of select books and gift items. A nominal fee will be charged for postage and handling.

Former Mankato artist LeRoy B. Schwan donated signed and numbered original prints to the Historical Society's Gift Shop. This collection includes architectural features such as the Main Street Bridge, Hubbard Milling, Mankato Clinic, Honeymead, and St. John's Church, among many others. A limited number of these prints are offered for sale in the gift shop.

We've also expanded our selection of Maud Hart Lovelace publications, one of which is the six book set of the "Betsy-Tacy Series." We also have in stock "Betsy-Tacy in Deep Valley - People and Places" by local author Carlienne A. Frisch. Three recent additions to the gift shop book shelf are the "Minnesota Ethnic Food Book," "Little Crow - Spokesman for the Sioux" and "The Dakota Sioux in Minnesota as they were in 1834." Please feel free to stop in and browse through the new items. Don't forget - members get a 10% discount on select gift purchases!



Membership

Welcome to the following new members:

Dr. and Mrs. Ray Erlandson	Couple
Dr. Perry Wood	Annual
Nancy Croce	Annual
Susan Monk	Annual
Margaret Schwankl	Annual
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Monk	Couple
Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Wessman	Couple
Robert Lloyd	Patron

This past month we received memorials from the following people: Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Meyer in memory of Kenneth Schostag.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Fadner in memory of Marcia Schuster.

Thanks to the following for contributing to the Heritage Endowment Fund:

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Preska
 Mae Buckeye
 Helen Wiedenheft
 Jane Eby
 Lorraine Wright
 Vern Lundin
 Mike Hill
 Edna Will
 Elmer Fritts
 Mr. and Mrs. B.H. Chesley
 Helen Anderson
 Louise M. Hebert
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Morse
 Judge Leslie Morse

History Hotline

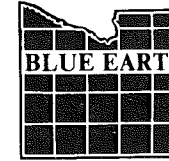
"History Hotline" has a new telephone number. You can call this nationwide, twenty-four hour, toll-free source of information about events celebrating the bicentenary of the Constitution across the country at 1-800-3-B-Proud.



**Blue Earth County
 Historical Society**
 606 South Broad
 Mankato, MN 56001

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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 1987

Calendar of Events

- May 10 **Mother's Day**
- May 10 **National Historic Preservation Week Begins**
- May 16 **Walking tour** of the historic Lincoln Park Neighborhood, 1 p.m., starting at the Historical Society
- May 18 **International Museum Day**
- May 23 **Young Historians Program - Beekeeping**

Notes from the Director

Can it really be the month of May? Spring is moving along at a hectic pace here at the Historical Society. We have so many exciting events planned for May, including another Young Historians program and a walking tour of the historic Lincoln Park neighborhood, in celebration of National Historic Preservation Week, arranged by student intern, Bill Bessler. To all of you who made the Second Annual Heritage Dinner last month such a success, the staff of the Society thanks you. Special appreciation to the Morse family for sharing their history with all of us. In an effort to better market our programs and features, the Historical Society has decided to become an associate member of the Chamber of Commerce. We are looking for a sponsor to donate the \$60.00 necessary for the associate membership. Contact Barb Lamson at 345-4154 if interested.

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LANDMARKS OF DEMOCRACY

Preservation Week, May 10-16, 1987

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



It is especially fitting that in the year of the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Preservation Week theme be "Landmarks of Democracy." It is only through the vision and dedication of preservationists that some of our cherished landmarks of democracy survive today.

Two hundred years ago, the Constitution of the United States was ratified by delegates sent to Philadelphia for the purpose of organizing a government by, of and for the people.

For years afterwards, the people of the United States flocked to the sites pivotal in the founding of our democracy - Boston's Faneuil Hall, where revolutionaries met to discuss separation from their homeland; Philadelphia's State House, where patriots met to debate the course of a nation.

The homes of those who played key roles in writing the Constitution became especially popular. Mount Vernon, Monticello and Montpelier evolved into meccas for Americans who wished to pay their respects to the individuals who had led a nation to independence and democracy.

Today, most Americans take for granted the right to visit any of these cherished landmarks; there is little appreciation for the fact that many of them were very nearly lost.

Were it not for the concerted effort of a now celebrated band of preservationists with the deceptively demure title of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, Mount Vernon might have been demolished. Faneuil Hall was slated to be razed in 1970 in the name of urban renewal before preservationists came to its rescue.

But while such celebrated landmarks are the ones that immediately come to mind in this bicen-

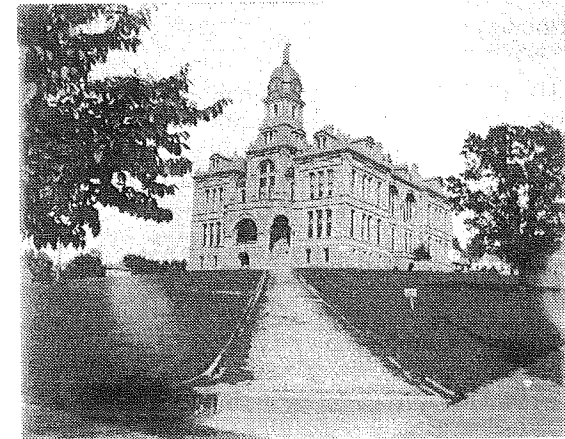
ennial year, we, in fact, live in a nation of landmarks. In every city and town across the country there are landmarks that mean everything to the communities that harbor them. They are landmarks perhaps not of national significance, but landmarks, nonetheless, that define a community, give it a sense of place, and make it special. They are the landmarks that mark a community's progress and development, that evoke powerful images from the past to illustrate how we arrived where we are today. They are the landmarks that provide a foundation for the values on which that community rests.

In White Haven, Mo., local preservationists have saved a national treasure that most of us probably had no idea existed - the farm to which Ulysses S. Grant "retired" in 1854, years before he would lead the Union Army to victory in the Civil War. Certainly White Haven has national significance, but it was a community effort and pride that underpinned its preservation.

Every community has an oldest house, an old mill,



William Wittmers in carriage in front of Carnegie Library, Mankato, c 1902-03



Blue Earth County Courthouse, c 1900-1915

a tavern or a stage stop. Every community has a haunt or home of an individual whose contribution to the community was crucial or significant. Every community has a landmark.

Blue Earth County has over 20 properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These significant locations include the Blue Earth County Courthouse, the R.D. Hubbard House, the Carnegie Library and the Seppman Mill (Minneopa State Park) among many others. Dozens of other historic buildings not listed on the National Register have played an important role in the history of Blue Earth County. Many of these buildings were the birthplaces and homes of our community leaders. Numerous businesses also had their beginnings in buildings still standing today. The First National Bank Building in Mankato is a prime example.

So when preservationists celebrate "Landmarks of Democracy," they are not just talking about those

having a direct link to the people and the events that created our nation and form of government, they are talking about all the landmarks comprising our entire democracy - whether it's Buckman Tavern in Lexington, Mass., where patriots gathered for the first battle in the struggle for independence, or the buildings and locations right here in Blue Earth County that remind us of the men and women who came before us, who laid the groundwork for that piece of democracy and community we cherish right here.

Curation Notes

As our curatorial staff refines the record-keeping on our artifacts and as our newspaper indexing project progresses, we find that our file drawers have become full to overflowing! If anyone has 3" x 5" card file drawers which are available to be donated to the Society, please call Audrey Burmeister-Hicks at 345-4154.