

Curation Notes

Our "Move to the Future" is about to begin! By the end of January our new facility should have the security system installed and the fire code requirements met making it possible to begin our move, which will be made in three phases as remodeling is completed in different sections of the building. In Phase I the most delicate and vulnerable artifacts—the Archives and the textile collection—will be moved, in Phase II the artifacts being stored in Hubbard House will be moved, and finally in the last phase the artifacts currently on exhibit in Hubbard House will be transferred to the new facility. Check the Blue Earth County newspapers for information on the first phase of this exciting and historic event!

In order to make the transfer of artifacts and equipment as efficient, safe, and cost-effective as possible, the staff has been working with a Committee of local persons who have expertise in the areas of moving and handling of antique materials. The Committee, which is chaired by Board member Dean Pettis, consists of Audrey Annis of Backward Glance Antiques of Mapleton, Jerry Pietz of Kato Moving and Storage, Mark Piepho and Jack Nawrocki of Piepho Moving and Storage, Tim Hayes of Deike Transfer and Storage, and staff members Susan Monk-Kjos, Ann Christenson, and Audrey Burmeister-Hicks.

We need more sturdy boxes with telescoping lids and packing paper for the "Move to the Future". Please call the Museum at 345-4154, if you have some to spare.

WATCH FOR THE SOCIETY'S "MOVE TO THE FUTURE"! MORE DETAILS LATER IN YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.

Membership

Update on November membership campaign.

We're happy to report that the November membership campaign was an immense success. Thanks to the following people, who volunteered their time to call perspective members.

Anita Stone	Dean Pettis
Susan Chambers	Nancy Croce
Marty Wiltgen	Barbara Lamson
Burt Burns	Ann Christenson
Wally Hayenga	

Welcome to the following new members:

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Warneke, Mankato
Mayor & Mrs. Vern Carstensen, Mankato
Shirley Ferris, Mankato
Mr. & Mrs. Verle Salsbery, Amboy
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Helquist, Mankato

Mary Honetschlager, Mankato
John & Lisa Bigham, Mankato
Harley & Ruth Mohr, Mankato
Donna Larson, Mankato
Darell F. Apitz, Mankato
Mavis Christensen, Good Thunder
Jim & Christine Deike & family, Mankato
Mr. & Mrs. Lary Salzwedel & family, Mankato
Mr. & Mrs. Azad Mesrobian, No. Mankato
Starr & Lynne Kirklin, Mankato
Dave & Barbara Turner & family, Mankato
Dr. Gordon Herbst, Mankato
John Votca, Mankato
Dick & Ann Nelson, Mankato
Mr. & Mrs. M.B. Zimmerman, Mankato
J.S. Kanyusik, Mankato
John & Kathy Dorn, Mankato
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Weight, Mankato
Barbara J. Feder, Lake Crystal
Murphy/Levine Family, Mankato
Jerry & Margaret Schmidt, Mankato
Linda Berkland, Mankato
Audrey Pacholski, Mankato
Bruce L. Larson, Mankato
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Tachney, Mankato
James & Ann McQuire, Mankato
John & Christina Sheran, Mankato
Mary Alice Kazienko, Mankato
Ora Ohlekamp, Mankato
Jack Will, Mapleton
Bill & Priscilla Webster, Mankato
Rita C. Masberg, Mankato
Carl W. & Ruth Peterson, Mankato

Thank You

Special thanks to the following organizations and people for helping to make Ethnic Tastes a success:

Ms. Angie Heuss, choir director, St. Cecelia Choir of S.S. Peter and Paul's Church
Richard Breiter, choir director, St. John the Baptist Church
Mary Ann Bensch
Ethel Medalen
Margaret Jahr
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Kubicek
Antino Zaragoza
Margaret Schreyer
Margaret Sturm
Ken Gertjensan
Hal Natvig
Susan Monk-Kjos
Barbara J. Lamson
Patricia Lamson Buscho
Tom Schultz, KEYC TV
Inella Burns
Elmer & Beulah Goodrich
Alma Severson
Mary McGrew
Audrey Burmeister-Hicks
Betty Arnoldt
Rick Williams, KXLP Radio

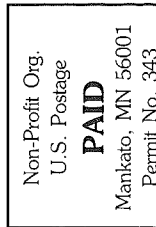
The members who donated food for Ethnic Tastes have agreed to share their recipes with all of us, watch for them in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

Donations to the Building Fund:

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Maher
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Kubicek

Special gift received from:

Ogden P. & Elizabeth A. Confer



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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January 1988

Calendar of Events

- Jan. 1 **New Years**, Museum Closed
Jan. 5 **Board of Trustees Meeting**
Jan. 18 **Martin Luther King Birthday**, Museum Closed
Jan. 23 **Young Historians Program**, 9-11 am, taught by Eileen Hines of Eagle Lake and will be on weaving. Free Admission!

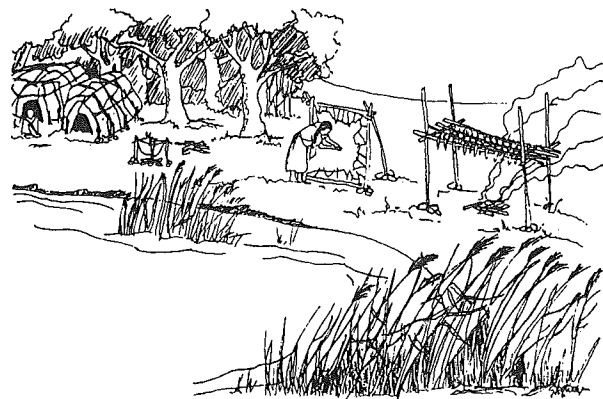
Notes from the Director

We hope all of you had a safe and enjoyable holiday season and are ready for a healthy and happy 1988. December was a colorful and festive month at the Historical Society. We were treated to the voices of the joint choirs of St. Peter and Paul and St. John Catholic churches during the "Ethnic Tastes" open house. Over 100 members and guests tasted ethnic treats baked and donated by our members and enjoyed the Christmas music. In addition to sounds and tastes, a colorful exhibit put together by Archivist, Audrey Burmeister-Hicks, on ethnic artifacts in our collection is on display. This exhibit will be on display until the middle of January so if you haven't seen the artifacts, hurry down and get a look. Finally, as of January 1, 1988, the Historical Society has taken possession of most of the second floor of the Summit Center building located on 5th Street in Mankato. We are all very excited about this move and look forward to completing fire code-related construction and beginning our move in the next few months. The Archives will be the first to be moved with other offices and exhibits moving at a later date. In the meantime, initial plans for the restoration of the Hubbard House are underway. This "move to the future" is an historic and exciting time for the residents of Blue Earth County.

Southern Minnesota Prehistory

The prehistory of Minnesota and most of the United States is divided into four somewhat ill-defined time periods the names of which are also used to label the cultures which lived during these periods. The first of these periods is known as the PaleoIndian Period or, more simply, the Paleo, referring simply to the first or earliest Indians. In Minnesota the Ice Age or Pleistocene ended about 10,000 to 12,000 years ago, and the first evidence for occupation dates to that period. By about the same time, as climate was changing throughout the world, the PaleoIndians were forced to change their life style from that of big game hunters (mammoths and other now extinct animals) to that of hunters of smaller game (from elk to rabbits and bison where available) and gatherers of many species of wild plants. This was a very successful adaptation and Indian populations grew accordingly in much of what are now the 48 contiguous United States. This meant competition for resources increased—more so in some places than others. The result of this was an increasingly settled population which worked harder to exploit existing resources.

Somewhere between 5000 and 3000 years ago some Indians began to grow some of their own food utilizing locally available weedy species. Meanwhile cultures were evolving increasingly complex forms in Mexico, and this included both the domestication of many species of plants as well as the development of more complex governmental and religious forms. By the late Archaic some sorts of contacts were made with the central Mexican cultures and Indians in the Ohio River valley and subsequently the Upper Midwest began to grow first squash (perhaps as long ago as 5000 years), then corn (by about 2000 years ago), and finally bean (about one thousand years ago). They also started constructing mounds for the more important members of the community, manufactured increasingly sophisticated pottery, and established communities which were substantial enough to be labelled towns. This set of changes marks the Woodland Period which lasted in some places until overwhelmed by EuroAmericans.

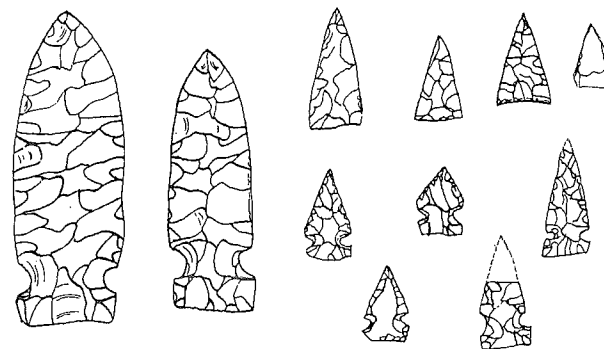


Woodland Campsite

The Early Woodland began in the Ohio River Valley about 3000 years ago, but isn't identified in Minnesota until about 2000 years ago—the date for the earliest pottery in the state. The Middle Woodland dates roughly from about 2500 years ago to about 1500 years ago. Again the influence came from the Ohio River Valley through Wisconsin and Iowa and into Minnesota. Life was more highly organized and such evidence for this complexity as mounds and refinements in the manufacture and decoration of pottery show up as far north as the Canadian border and beyond. For reasons still not entirely clear the Middle Woodland ended rather abruptly in the Ohio River area and Indian life reverted to a more generalized system of settlement and economy—basically it was back to hunting and gathering for most Indians in the north central part of the United States.

Mexico, in the mean time, had seen at least two major civilizations rise and fall, and influence from there worked its way up the Mississippi River where by about 1000 years ago a new culture and time period known as the Mississippian was in the process of organizing. This time there were not only towns but cities, and the largest and most influential of these was Cahokia. Cahokia, named for an historic group of Indians who

probably had nothing to do with the original city, was located on the Mississippi River on the east side just south of the juncture with the Missouri River. The site, which includes the spectacular Monks Mound (1000 by 700 feet and 100 feet tall), covers about six square miles just across the river and slightly upstream from present day St. Louis. The population of Cahokia alone (and it was not the only substantial settlement in that immediate area) is estimated to have been at least 30,000.



Projectile points from Archaic (the two at left) to Woodland and Mississippian. The two points at left are spear points; the others are arrowheads.

Needless to say Cahokian influences were felt in Minnesota and sites near Red Wing, in northwest Blue Earth County, near Winnebago, and in northwest Iowa (and may other places as well) all show considerable signs of Mississippian influence. Generally the archaeologists are limited to analysing designs on pottery, some architectural forms, and occasional pieces of "artwork" usually associated with some form of ceremonialism. The Mississippians, however, were here, and left a considerable legacy. For reasons again only partially understood the Mississippian collapsed between 600 and 700 years ago. It seems most probable that climate was at least one factor although competition between groups may also have played a role. By the time Europeans arrived in the 16th century the Mississippian was but a shadow of its former complexity. Here, and in

many other areas in the Midwest, the Indians maintained an essentially Woodland style of life, called by archaeologists the Late Woodland, depending largely on hunting and gathering with little or no reliance on agriculture. The first Europeans to explore Minnesota found no farming Indians. The Dakota and the Chippewa hunted and fished, harvested wild rice and many other wild plant foods, and moved their encampments in tune to the seasons. A way of life honed to fine perfection over 10,000 years proved most enduring.

Michael Scullin, August 1987
Illustrated by Jill Stoffregen

The Gift of Giving

We are dreaming great dreams for the future of our past. 1988 will be a year such as this Society has never previously experienced. Here at the museum we are very excited about events we see unfolding in the next several months, and we want you to share our excitement.

Because of our future plans, and because of our recent successes in reaching greater numbers of people, our Society is being pressed as never before to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit the memories of Blue Earth County. We are seeking ways to satisfy the demands of a public that has great expectations.

This New Year, a gift from you to BECHS is more than a recommitment to the mission of the Society. You will be making a permanent contribution to the generations that will follow ours. This is a unique opportunity to give for now and forever, to have the satisfaction of knowing that your donation, however large or small, will bring pleasure, learning, and understanding to countless numbers of people of all ages and interests.

Please put us at the top of your New Year's resolutions, and think of your contribution as a gift of giving. We are more grateful for your continuing support than you can ever realize.

P.S. Consider giving a BECHS membership to a friend or relative. Where else can you give so much for so little?