

Give a gift that will be remembered...

A 1989 gift membership in the Blue Earth County Historical Society

Introduce your friends and loved ones to all the benefits of membership in the Historical Society, including...

- * Free use of the Archives during open hours
- * Monthly Historical Society newsletter
- * Free admission to the Historic Hubbard House
- * Discounts on books and gifts
- * Lectures, courses, special events
- * Advance notice to special events as well as member discounts
- * Helping to preserve Blue Earth County's past for the future

A gift membership is a delightful surprise for almost anyone on your holiday list.. husband or wife; niece or nephew; business associate; or a weekend guest. You don't have to worry about the right size or color. You can conveniently order one, two or any number of memberships right from your home. Just complete the enclosed order form, mail to the BECHS, 606 S. Broad St., Mankato, MN 56001 and we'll do the rest. This year, give a gift that your friends and loved ones will treasure, all year long.

GIFT MEMBERSHIP TO:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Message _____

From: _____

Student: \$15.00 _____ Annual \$20.00 _____

Family \$30.00 _____ Patron \$100.00 _____

Sponsor \$300.00 _____ Life \$500.00 _____



Memorials

Memorials Received:

In memory of Ogden P. Confer from

Harry and Evelyn Olson
Howard Williams
Lee Snilsberg
Cheryl Regan
Mr. & Mrs. Paul V. Meyer
Kathryn T. Hanson
Dr. & Mrs. Kearney
Mankato Electric, Inc.
Mary Ellen How
Valley News Co.
Dr. S.R. & Susan Tillisch
Betty J. Tillisch
Marjorie Meredith
Dr. & Mrs. R.A. Sanford
Nancy Girouard Speer
Rebecca Ueland
Arnulf Ueland, Jr.
Ruth Ann Engstrom

In memory of Richard Myers from

Centel, Central Telephone Co.

In memory of Cora Thro from

Herbert and Betty Frentz
Ruth Ann Engstrom

In memory of Darlene Radichel from

Ogden and Jane Confer
Marjorie Meredith

In memory of Madeline Scheidel from

Marjorie Meredith

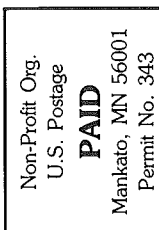
In memory of Mary Lower from

Mr. & Mrs. Earl K. Miner

In memory of Jared How from

Ruth Ann Engstrom

*Please note that if we receive your memorial or membership after the 15th of the month when our newsletter goes to press, your name will appear in next month's newsletter.



Blue Earth County
Historical Society
606 South Broad
Mankato, MN 56001
Address Correction Requested

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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

December 1988 Calendar of Events

- Dec. 4 **Open House Celebration**, Hubbard House, 4-6 pm
- Dec. 17 **Young Historians Workshop** Christmas Ornament Making call 345-4154 for reservations.
- Dec. 26 Museum closed for Christmas

Look Ahead...

March 4, 1989 **Time and Taste, The Next One Hundred Years.** A workshop for people preserving historic buildings. Sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society and Blue Earth County Historical Society. Workshop will be held from 9 am to 4 pm at the Hubbard House, 606 S. Broad St. in Mankato.

Notes from the Director

-Susan M. Monk-Kjos

November has flown by and we are deep into the Holiday Season here at the Blue Earth County Historical Society. The Hubbard House is putting on a festive glow thanks to the twinkle lights put up by the City of Mankato Parks and Forestry Department. All of the decorating and lights are in anticipation of our open house on Sunday, December 4 from 4-6 pm. Please stop by and enjoy the music and taste treats! Special thanks go to volunteers who have helped us during this extremely busy season: Stacey Lueken and Robin Groebner have provided much needed clerical and cleaning skills; Nicole Gruter has researched the architectural changes in the second floor of the Hubbard House and prepared a handout for visitors; Elmer Goodrich continues to work with the artifact collection; Alma Severson continues to index newspapers in the Archives (between bowling leagues) and Jo Schultz has spent hundreds of hours working with the filing system in the Archives (not to mention working on the fund drive). Another valuable person on the Collections team is Pam Johnson who continues to share with us her growing expertise with Native American artifacts. Also, special thanks go to Marge Anderson of Hubbard Milling Co. for her invaluable computer help on the fund drive. Welcome

to all of our new members and special thanks to those who chose to renew their membership for another year. The support that has been shown this past year has been terrific, we thank each and every one of you and wish you a happy Holiday Season and Great New Year!



They Said It Couldn't Be Done!

As historic dates go, Tuesday, November 15, 1988, should long be a high point in the annals of your Blue Earth County Historical Society. The capital fund drive "they" said couldn't be done went over the top.

As of 5:30 Tuesday evening, \$597,247 had been committed in pledges and cash; another \$28,020 was given as "in kind" donations, bring the total to \$625,267. This is handsomely over the \$545,000 needed to qualify for the Hubbard/Confer/Koehler Challenge grant of \$150,000.

Putting it all together, your Society has raised \$775,267, some \$80,000 over the goal set last March.

The money will be used to remodel and equip the new Heritage Center to serve as a "real" museum with professionally designed exhibit hall, artifact storage, archives/map room, and offices; to restore the Hubbard House to its turn-of-the-century Victorian magnificence; to provide a good start on a badly needed endowment fund; and to cover costs of the campaign, along with some staff enhancement and program growth.

"This was a wonderful team effort," said development coordinator Ann Christenson. "There were innumerable pieces that fit together to make the drive work. Without any one of them we would have fallen short."

Essential to the success of the campaign was the challenge grant and the additional dedicated hard work of Ogden W. Confer, Richard Confer, and their father the late Ogden P. Confer, before his untimely death.

A turning point was the \$90,000 pledge from Blue Earth County, and the \$60,000 pledge from the City of Mankato. These two major contributions provided impetus, and encouraged a number of local businesses and old families in the county to make significant contributions.

A campaign committee in Lake Crystal and five surrounding townships raised \$44,000 and are shooting for \$46,000. "This is an incredible feat for a rural community," Christenson said. "Their dedication and drive has been marvelous, a real inspiration for the rest of us."

And not least in the success of the campaign were all the small donations from the public at large that add up to a significant chunk of the total.

"Every gift, no matter how small or large, made a difference," Christenson pointed out. "Our small-

est contribution was \$2. We had many, many in the \$10 to \$100 range that made us more aware than we had ever been of how many friends the Society has."

As of this writing contributions continue to trickle in and are still very welcome. While the physical plants now appear to have an assured future. The Society continues to have growing pains.

We are operating two facilities with the same staff that was overstretched in one. The popularity of our programs and events—almost always sold out or overfilled—has generated a public demand for more. When the Heritage Center is in full operation with exhibit hall, archives/map room, and gift shop, it is projected that use will be more than 30,000 visitors per year.

This means that the endowment fund takes on added importance in the critical growth of the operating budget. An emphasis in the future on planned giving, bequests, trusts, estate planning, gifts of securities or property, etc., will be key to the continued success of your Society.

We can't rest now. This is only the beginning of an unprecedented opportunity. After 87 years of striving in the shadows, your Society is emerging into the light of a dawning era. Exciting!

Curation Notes

-Audrey K. Burmeister-Hicks

The design plans for Blue Earth County's exciting new history exhibit gallery are now completed. The gallery will consist of several major theme areas within which specific topics from the county's history will be presented in temporary exhibits. We expect that the major theme areas will continue to hold valid and prominent places in the gallery, while the evidence that illustrates them changes. The gallery is designed to accommodate these changes, giving the viewing public an ever-changing and dynamic educational and entertainment opportunity.

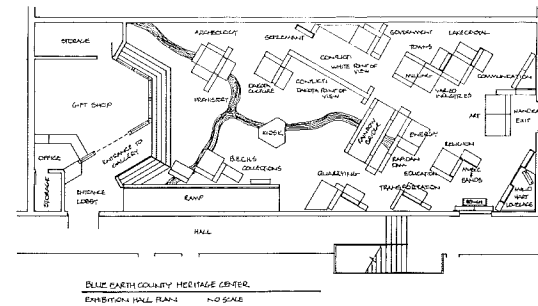
After conducting preliminary research, the Exhibit Task Force and staff determined the topics to be interpreted in the gallery's first series of exhibits and compiled a list of the artifacts, documents, and photographs needed within each of the exhibits.

The BECHS's artifact and archives collections are rich sources of the material "stuff" of which history is made and most of the items to be exhibited will come from the museum collections. We have found, however, that some artifacts and photographs needed in the initial exhibits are not currently represented in our collection. We believe that these items exist somewhere in our county and we are asking for your help in locating them. Following is a list of the artifacts we are seeking and in next month's

BECHS newsletter we will list the photographs we need. If you have any of these items or know of someone who does, please call 345-5566 and ask for Audrey or Susan.

- the corner section of a log cabin
- two telephone poles with crossbars & insulators
- items related to early Lake Crystal businesses
- printers' equipment
- early telephone books
- a Marlow milking machine
- equipment, tools, and other items related to the county's creameries
- flour sacks and other items related to the county's flour milling industry
- stone-quarrying tools
- brick mold, cement trowel, and other masonry tools
- cement mixer.
- items related to the county's local marching & dance bands
- craft items and works of amateur art created by Blue Earth County residents

Exhibit Gallery



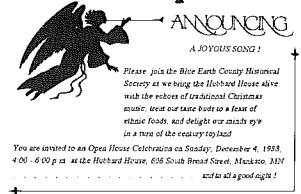
Proposed design for the Heritage Center Exhibit Gallery. Please stop by the Heritage Center and look over the complete drawings for this wonderful gallery.

Programs

-Greta Hurlbut

The December Young Historians workshop will take place on Saturday the 17th of December at 9 am at the Heritage Center, 415 Cherry St. in Mankato. Participants will get to make a very special Christmas ornament just in time for the holidays. Class size is limited and reservations are needed for this FREE workshop suited to children in grades 3-6. Please call 507/345-4154 for reservations or further information.

Christmas Open House



Membership

Welcome to the following new members:

- Mathes Printing, Mankato
- Blethen, Gage & Krause, Mankato
- Continental Can Co., Mankato
- J&J Auto Crushing, Mankato
- Mrs. Romona Fitzloff, St. Clair
- Ervin & Helena Slind, Burnsville
- Save Mor Antiques & Jewelry, Mankato
- Mico, Inc., N. Mankato
- Keeper's RV Center LTD, Mankato
- Northridge Family Medical Clinic, Mankato
- Norwest Bank, Mankato
- Tire Associates, Mankato
- Motivation & Training Resources, Mankato
- Worson-Polzin Dental Lab, Mankato
- James Hardware, Lake Crystal
- Kato Sanitation, Mankato
- Ponderosa of B.E. Co., Inc., Mankato
- Greenland Supper Club, Mankato
- Continental Can Co., Mankato
- Grace J. Blake, Rochester, MN
- Crysteel Manufacturing, Inc., Lake Crystal
- Crysteel Distributing, Inc., Lake Crystal
- Mary Jo & Paul Hustoles, Mankato
- Margaret Hurlbut, Mankato
- Mary Mortier, Mankato
- Kagermeier Skaar Paulsen Architects, Inc., Mankato
- Mike Miller, Miller Auctions, Mankato
- Hilltop Florist, Mankato
- Assoc. Engineers of Mankato, William Chuck Klammmer, Mankato
- Robinson Appraisal, James K. Robinson, Mankato
- Don & Sandy Kerkhoff, Mankato
- Gene Biewen & Noel Vantol, Mankato
- Leola Sontag, North Mankato
- Cornelius & Phyllis Votca, Mankato
- Frances Lorentz, Call in Chef, North Mankato
- Donald Roscoe, Kasota
- Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Wells, LeSueur
- Meyer & Sons, Mankato
- Stelter's Inc., Mankato
- Marilyn Birbeck, Mankato
- Harriet Bliese, Mankato
- Orville Jensen, Mankato
- Dr. R.L. Dorland, North Mankato
- Morson Ario VFW Post 9713, Mankato
- Roger & Beverly Stoufer, Mankato
- Quintin & Karen Pettigrew, Mankato
- Joan Kay Templin, Mankato