

Curation Notes

We would like to extend an invitation to our members to visit the Archives in its new quarters in the Heritage Building, 415 Cherry St., Mankato. We're very proud of our facility so even if you are not doing any research, we would love to have you stop in for a tour of the Archives and other areas of the building.

As your hard-working volunteers can verify, the physical move of the Archives material was only the beginning! Weeks of unpacking, shelving, labeling, and organizing followed, until the materials again became accessible for researchers. Georgia ("Jo") Schultz has been very generous of her time and talent in the past months and, along with Julie Schrader, Janet Larson, Lorraine Wright, Colleen Smith and Ora Ohlenkamp, have put the Archives in order. They have been joined by Eva Henderson and Sammy Taylor who are doing detailed mending of the textile collection, George Velishek who is cleaning and repairing clocks and Joe Kubicek who willingly provides transportation.

The materials of the Society's Archives and Artifact Collections have found a new home and within that home are being given large doses of tender loving care!

Membership

Welcome to the following new members:

Mr. & Mrs. Hayden Smith, No. Mankato, MN
Eldon Marks, Amboy, MN
Helen Stelter, R.R. Mankato, MN
M.G. Post/P. Bollenbacher Family, Mankato, MN
Virginia Hughes Berg and Charles Berg, Mankato, MN

Oatmeal Cookies

The following recipe was provided by Margaret Sturm at the December Ethnic Tastes Event. Margaret received the recipe from a former employee of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, Margaret Kleinschmidt.

Oatmeal Cookies

1 cup brown sugar	1 tsp. soda
2 eggs	2 cups oatmeal
1/2 tsp. vanilla	2 cups flour
1/2 cup shortening	1 cup raisins or dates
1 cup milk	or choc. chips
1/2 tsp. salt	

Cream sugar and shortening. Add well beaten eggs. Flour, salt and soda alternatively with milk. Add oatmeal and choice of choc. chips, raisins, or dates. Drop on cookie sheet and bake at 350, 12-15 minutes.

Tour of Historic Homes

July 9, 1988 has been selected as the date for this year's "Tour of Historic Homes", in Mankato, MN. Colleen Smith, last year's Chairwoman, has agreed to head the committee again this year. Helping with the research for the tour is Chris Earle, K.M.S.U. news reporter. Sincere thanks to Colleen & Chris for their commitment of time and talent. If you would like to serve on this year's planning committee, or have suggestions for homes you'd like to see on this year's tour, please give Barb a call at 507/345-4154.

Thank You

The Blue Earth County Historical Society wishes to express its appreciation for financial gifts from the following individuals and organizations:

Helen Wiedenheft, Good Thunder, MN
Mrs. E.J. Wigley, Mankato, MN
Lori Bartell, Good Thunder, MN
Mankato Art History Club, Mankato, MN
The Women's American Legion Auxiliary, Lorentz Unit #11
Garden City Township
Medo Township

Other Donations received:

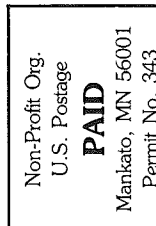
Mary White, Lake Crystal, MN - Paint
Anita Stone, Mankato, MN - 24 place settings silverware to be used for social functions.
Lee Nordgren, Artcraft Camera Shop - photograph bulletin board.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following individuals for donating hangers for the Camp Fire Kids Coat Hanger project:

Mrs. George Pritchard, Lake Crystal, MN
Mrs. Med James, Lake Crystal, MN
Mrs. Mary Murray, Lake Crystal, MN
Bea McLean, Mankato, MN
Mary Ann Todnem, Mankato, MN
Marilyn Berg, Mankato, MN
Barbara Schnoor, Mankato, MN

Memorials received:

In memory of:
Harvey Anderson, from Carl & Ruth Peterson, Don & Marge Meredith
Margaret Lewis, from Margaret Sturm



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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

April 1988 Calendar of Events

- April 3 **Easter**
April 13 **Mid year Chamber of Commerce Membership Meeting.**
April 15-16 **Minnesota Historical Organizations Meeting**, Fort Snelling History Center, St. Paul.
April 17-23 **National Volunteer Week**
April 20 **Volunteer Celebration at the Mankato Mall**, 12-1 p.m.
April 25 **Maud Hart Lovelace Birthday. Waseca Mystery tour to the Hubbard House** (3 buses)
April 26 **Barb Lamson and Susan Monk-Kjos program on the Historical Society** during Lunch at the Library, Minnesota Valley Regional Library, Mankato 12:15.
April 30 **Young Historians Program, "Stone Quarrying in Blue Earth County"**, call 507-345-4154 for reservations
Look Ahead . . .
May 6 **Heritage Dinner**, 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. dinner, Holiday Inn, Mankato.

Notes from the Director

Welcome to spring and the beautiful Victorian Gardens at the Hubbard House! As usual, things are busy and exciting at the Historical Society. Donabel Linney's slide presentation, Flowers, Flowers, Flowers was a huge success and we thank her for sharing her photographs of our award-winning gardens. Membership in the Society is growing at such a fast pace I've been asked by some to include names of staff members in this newsletter for easy reference.

Susan Monk-Kjos Executive Director	Bill Bessler Museum Aid
Audrey Burmeister-Hicks Archivist	Michelle Loveall Museum Aid
Barbara Lamson Membership Coordinator	Amy Oberdieck Museum Aid
Faye Mattison Receptionist-Hubbard House	Kristin Mesrobian Museum Aid
Mary McGrew Archives Aid-Heritage Center	Marian Rodgers Registrar

The archives have moved to the Heritage Center and are open Tuesday-Friday from 1-5 pm, call 507-345-5566 for information. The Hubbard House remains open Tuesday-Sunday from 1-5 pm, call 507-345-4154 for information.

Dear Member,

Since 1901, your Blue Earth County Historical Society has collected and preserved materials of historical value to the people of southcentral Minnesota. Ours is the only organization or institution entirely dedicated to the collection, preservation, and exhibition of Blue Earth County History.

Literally thousands of artifacts—objects of historic value—and archival materials—documents, written records, photographs, biographical information—are in your Society's keeping and care. These items are used daily by family historians, school children, academicians, researchers, local governments, and others needing specific historical information.

Our county has been blessed with an especially rich heritage. There are more archeological sites in the area than in almost any other part of the upper midwest. The Native Americans who populated the geographical setting left records of cultures and environment that have been preserved in a particularly fine collection of Indian artifacts. The early European settlers brought to the area a wealth of ethnic diversities that has made the county a fascinating blend of cultures. The histories of each ethnic group—Welsh, Scots, Germans, Scandinavians, and all others—have been collected and preserved through early writings, records, artifacts, and photographs.

History is ongoing, and more recent periods have not been neglected. The depression years of the 1930s are thoroughly documented; the periods of World Wars I and II, Korea, and Viet Nam, as they reflected on life in Blue Earth County, are all represented. A fascinating clothing collection, from bustles and buffalo robes to ski parkas and panty hose, vibrantly documents changing times.

As your Society has gone about the business of the collection and preservation of local history, its job has become progressively more difficult because of substandard, inadequate physical facilities.

In 1938, the Blue Earth County Historical Society moved into the R.D. Hubbard House, former home of one of Mankato's leading industrialists, which was to serve temporarily "until more suitable fire proof quarters could be obtained." A handsome example of the French Second Empire style, the house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

With each passing year, the need became more critical. Sadly, the Hubbard House evolved into a warehouse, filled with artifacts and archives. Many of the rooms of the fine old mansion were crammed literally floor to ceiling, wall to wall.

Finally, after 50 years of searching, your County Historical Society has purchased the upper level of the Summit Center at Chery and Fifth Streets, Mankato. This

12,000 square feet is at present being turned into a Heritage Center to contain exhibit, office, and storage space. The Hubbard House, at last freed from serving as an inadequate multipurpose facility, can now be returned to its glory of an earlier age. Plans are underway for major renovation, restoration and redecorating of the "ornament of Mankato," also termed "rather the handsomest house in Mankato" by newspapers of 1871.



Three Mankato businesses—Deike Transfer and Storage, Piepho Moving and Storage and Kato Moving and Storage—have set an example of corporate philanthropy by donating their services for the move to the Heritage Center.

Your Society has entered a bold new era in its own history. Membership throughout Blue Earth County is on the rise. Programming is stronger than ever before. Attendance at Society functions, use of the archives, and tour group visits are at an all time high. The Halloween "Ghosts from the Past" event, annual Tour of Historic Homes, popular Young Historian programs, prestigious Heritage Dinner, and other events have become increasingly attractive, to the point of sometimes having to turn people away. Nearly 10,000 people visited or made use of our resources in 1987. They came from as far as Ireland and Australia, California, New Jersey and Texas.

This expansion and vitality do not come without cost. Added facilities require additional staff. The new Heritage Center needs extensive remodeling not only to turn it into a museum with an exhibit hall worthy of the county's stature, but also to make it handicapped accessible and to meet the city's fire and safety codes. Restoration of the Hubbard House will be expensive, as anyone who has renovated an old house, even one in reasonably good shape, can verify.

From November until mid-February, we had a blue ribbon Development Task Force examining the facility, staffing, and programming needs of your Society, prioritizing those needs, and putting a price tag on them. Attorney Chuck Adamson and business executive Ogden W. Confer, as spokesmen for the panel, reported to our board the Task

Force's finding that from \$500,000 to \$1 million in the next three to five years will be essential to the continued success of your County Historical Society.

Others serving on the Task Force were CPA Chuck Christiansen; Mary Dooley, chair of MSU's Geography Department; educator Kathy Dorn; County Extension Director Mary Lou Ihrke; Lyle Jacobson, president of Katolight Corp.; Helen Jones, vice president of Crysteel Corp.; Patricia Mohn, superintendent of the Amboy-Good Thunder School District; George Tyrrell of Farmamerica; and Tom Weigt, president of Precision Press.

Clearly this is not a spendthrift group, but one that reached its conclusions after careful scrutiny and many thoughtful discussions.

With the apparent impending demise of the beautiful Schmidt House, and the obvious changes at the Hubbard House, it is not surprising that rumors have begun circulating that Hubbard House will be next to fall beneath the wrecker's ball. Nothing could be further from the truth. Your Blue Earth County Historical Society is committed to the preservation and restoration of the handsome home, its adjacent Carriage House and award-winning Victorian gardens.

The Heritage Center and the Hubbard House belong to all the residents and businesses of Blue Earth County. With only a small handful of actual "tourist attractions," this area has a stake in the viability of its historic institutions, and they play a role in the area's economic vitality. The contents are useful, fascinating, educational, and entertaining.

Unfortunately, our Society hasn't the resources in hand to make the required investments in remodeling and renovation. In the coming months, a major fund drive will be conducted. We are confident that our membership will rise to the challenge of making a substantial commitment to our future through three-year pledges.

It's going to take really dedicated members—everyone working together, not just one or two—to make the future of the Hubbard House and Heritage Center overwhelmingly successful. Let's do it!

Cordially,

Your Board & Staff

Prairie School Guide To Be Published

The Southern Minnesota Historical Assembly was awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to produce a fold-out brochure/map guide to Prairie School buildings in Southern Minnesota. The brochure will be completed by June 30 and distributed free of charge in a 20 county area.

The guide will include the National Farmers Bank in Owatonna designed by Louis Sullivan; Merchants National Bank in Winona designed by Purcell, Feick, Elmslie; several Frank Lloyd Wright homes and buildings; as well as several others. Southern Minnesota has a rich assemblage of Prairie homes which were popular from around the turn of the century until about 1920. (Susan Monk-Kjos and Audrey Burmeister-Hicks were appointed to the Southern Minnesota Historical Assembly Board of Directors in 1987).

Gift Shop Recent Additions

In celebration of the Bicentennial of the Constitution and the 120th Anniversary of Mankato, we are pleased to announce recent additions to the museum gift shop. Antique reproductions on parchment suitable for framing entitled "Documents of Freedom" are now available. Contained in this folder are reproductions of the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, Constitution of the United States, and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Making history come alive for both children and adults is easy with jigsaw puzzles from the Learning History Series. Puzzles available include, among others, the History of American Flags, Lincoln's \$100,000 Reward Poster, Revolutionary War Battlefield Map and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Also available are limited numbered editions of the Birdseye View of the City of Mankato, Blue Earth County, Minnesota 1870. This print in recognition of the Greater Mankato Area Bicentennial 1776-1976 was produced by the League of Women Voters.

For more information, please call 507/345-4154 or stop by the Hubbard House, 606 South Broad Street in Mankato. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Sunday from 1-5 p.m.