

in the county's new exhibit gallery and to furnish the historic Hubbard House. BECHS is delighted and grateful! Watch for a complete story in an upcoming issue.

Campaign Kickoff



Mark your calendars now for a fun summer evening Tuesday, July 19 when our Heritage Fund Campaign goes public. A light hearted affair to pick you up at the end of the day, the Kickoff will be from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Heritage Center, with activities in the Cherry Street parking lot and in the auditorium.

With a turn-of-the-century flavor, the entertainment will include a community band, computerized genealogies, resource people to discuss historic homes and neighborhoods, displays from the collection, ice cream, corn on the cob, hot dogs, root beer on tap—all at 1900s prices (maybe even a shave & a haircut, two bits!)—and much much more. The professional design consultant hired by the Society to plan the major exhibit hall will share the creative dream through slides and drawings.

In addition to all the fun, major announcements will be made regarding the campaign.

Helping to plan all the excitement is a committee headed by Joanne Walberg. Helping her are Kay Jacobson, Audrey Pacholsky, and Jennifer Watts. Teams from the smaller cities in the county will be handling specific duties.

Don't miss it!

Awards

The Minnesota Historical Society's Grants Review Committee met in April to consider applications for 44 state Grant-in-Aid projects with 29 projects approved for funding. The Blue Earth County Historical Society is proud to announce that we were awarded \$5000 to hire a professional exhibit designer to plan exhibits in the new Heritage Center gallery. Interviews of prospective design firms were held with the hiring decision by the interview committee being made after this newsletter went to press. The design phase of the exhibit gallery project will be completed by October 1988. Construction of the gallery will begin in late fall or early winter of 1988. More details in next month's newsletter.

The Summit-Heritage Foundation, established by the Historical Society and the Senior Citizens for building maintenance and management of the Summit/Heritage Center, has won all the paint necessary to repaint the inside of the building, upstairs and down, walls and ceilings.

The competition was held by Minnesota Beautiful, a quasi-government agency associated with the Department of Trade & Economic Development. The Valspar Corporation of Minneapolis provides all the paint for the winners. Of some 30 entries, 12 winners

were selected. The projects will be judged for awards next fall.

The painting must be completed by September. We need volunteers from both organizations to help paint. Please call Ann Christenson at 345-5566 if you can give some time to this project over the summer.

Membership

-Barbara J. Lamson

Your membership will mean more than ever now! Effective July 1, non-members are being charged admission at the Hubbard House, and a users fee for non-members has gone into effect at the archives.

The board made these decisions with reluctance, but with the increased expense of operating two facilities it is necessary to offset some of the cost. Our blue ribbon Development Task Force recommended these charges in its report, while at the same time recommending that the new major exhibit hall be free.

We find that out-of-towners, who make up a large share of our visitors at the Hubbard House, often expect to pay admission for this tourist attraction. Non-members who use the archives for frequent research can save by becoming members, and realize other benefits of membership as well.

At Hubbard House, admission will be \$1.50 for adults, and \$1 for students of any age. Members and children under six will continue to be free.

Welcome to our new members:

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following individuals who have become new members of the Society this past month:

Audrey M. Mott Mankato, MN	Annual	Hal & Joanne Walberg Mankato, MN	Couple
David Pederson Mankato, MN	Annual	Flora M. Topken Reno, NV	Annual
JoAnn Kastner Marshalltown, Iowa	Annual	Robert C. & Glee Robinson Los Altos, CA	Couple

Memorials received:

In memory of Richard L. Myers, former President of the Blue Earth County Historical Society and Chairman of the Minnesota Territorial Centennial Celebration, 1952.

Rocky L. West	Paul Lyons
Ewald & Everell Bartsch	Tom Lyons
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Beagley	Col. & Mrs. George B.
Kelsey & Mary Johnson	Buell

Additional Donations:

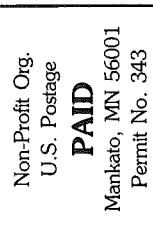
Jeanette K. Dungey

Honorarium received from the Golden "K" Club designated to Betty & Mareena Cords for their Homestead Players performance in May.

Thanks to Grace Jefferson for her additional donation to the Leon Thomas and Lydia F. Jefferson Memorial fund which supports, in part, the monthly Young Historians programs.

Volunteers still needed.

Thanks to all who have taken the time to volunteer to work at the July 9, 1988 Tour of Homes. If you haven't volunteered yet, but would like to help out there still is time to do so. Call Barb at 345-4154.



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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

July 1988 Calendar of Events

- July 4 **Independence Day**, museum closed today.
- July 9 **Tour of Historic Homes**, 1-5 p.m. (see details inside this month's newsletter).
- July 13 **Blue Earth County Cemetery Project.**
- July 16 **Young Historians Workshop**, "Canoe Building" taught by Kurt Witbeck and the "History of Amboy" taught by Kelly Reuter. This dual class will take place in Amboy at 10 a.m. Reservations are needed but admission is FREE. Call 507-345-4154 to register.
- July 19 **Heritage Fund Campaign Kickoff**, at the Heritage Center, 415 Cherry St. in Mankato, 5:30-8:00 p.m. FUN, FUN, FUN! Everyone is invited!

Notes from the Director

-Susan M. Monk-Kjos

Summer has arrived in Blue Earth County and the staff of the Historical Society is busy organizing all of the events planned for warm weather fun. The Second Annual Tour of Historic Homes is scheduled for July 9. This year we are offering a discount rate for Blue Earth County Historical Society members, so try to remember your membership card when purchasing tickets for the tour. Our gift shop is full of exciting new items perfect for birthday, anniversary or special day gifts. Check us out! We had a great Young Historians program last month, taught by Ronnie Burton, we thank her and also expect an exciting workshop this month in Amboy. Finally, I'd like to sincerely thank Ms. Grace Jefferson for her generous donation to the Jefferson Memorial Fund she began two years ago. Because of Ms. Jefferson's generosity, the interest from this memorial helps to fund our Young Historians series, enabling us to offer free admission for all of the programs. The children of Blue Earth County are lucky to know such a generous person.

Beauford Corners

Beauford Township was a part of the Winnebago Indian Reservation until the removal of the Indians in 1863. What remains of the Beauford Corners settlement is located on the north side of the Big Cobb River about twelve miles south of Mankato on Highway 22.

According to the County Commissioners meeting held on March 13, 1866, the town of Beauford Corners was created on the petition of Charles McBeth and twenty-six other settlers. The first town meeting was held at the home of John Frey in Section 11, on April 11, 1866.

The first settler was a Scotchman named James Marrow, Sr. who claimed the northwest quarter of Section 25 of Beauford Township upon which he built a log cabin about September 1, 1864. Other early settlers were Albert Arza, Seth Gatis, and Soshia Rogers.

School District #86 was created on October 1, 1866 on petition of Franklin Child and others. Miss Ackerman was the first teacher. School was held in the Moreland sawmill building near Franklin Child's home. The next year a frame school building was built on the north side of the Big Cobb River. Jennie McBeth was the first child born in the township on October 1, 1864.

In February, 1867, a mail route was established which ran from Wilton in Waseca County to Garden City. It crossed the Big Cobb near the residence of Franklin Child. In the spring a post office was established at the Childs' residence with Mrs. Child as postmistress. This mail route was abandoned in 1875 and Beauford was without a post office for six years. In July, 1882 Leander Findley was appointed postmaster of a new post office. In the earlier years mail was delivered weekly and in 1896 the delivery became daily. On August 15, 1904 the Beauford post office was discontinued and service was supplied by rural mail carriers.

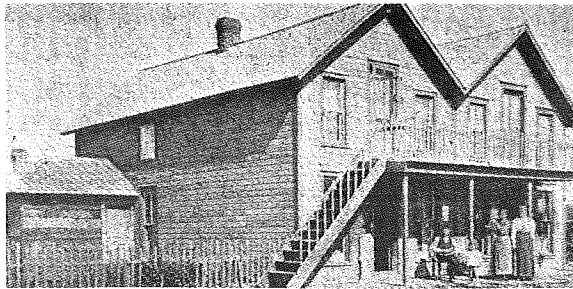
Through the efforts of Franklin Child, religious services were held in the school house (District #86) in the 1860's. The United Brethren Church was incorporated on February 9, 1884, with Reverend Simon George as pastor. A lot was secured near the store and a fine church building which was 24 x 40 feet in size was built during the summer. By the fall of 1885 the interior of the Church was finished and had been furnished with pews. The elected trustees were Sarah F. Child, Charles Wing, and William Hislop. Reverend J.W. Fulkerson was the Presiding Elder. On June 20, 1886 dedicatory services were held. Many new members were added and there was much rejoicing over the new building.

This building served the area parishioners until 1953 when a larger building was built. In 1969 the name was changed from United Brethren to United Methodist Church. The number of members has changed relatively little during the past half century and now consists of approximately one hundred. Through all these years this church has been a uniting force in this settlement.

In October 1874, John Kimpton bought a small tract of land and built a 12 x 20 foot store. His stock consisted largely of tobacco and bitters. His customers were mostly

wood choppers and haulers. About 1894 Elmer Getty started a new store at the "Corners" and in 1896 built a new store building in which he did business until 1906. Later this building was converted into a private dwelling.

In 1897 Frank Nitzel started a store which he operated for about one year. In October 1904, Ralph Healy sold his stock of general merchandise to Omer Mullin who built a new store building across from the creamery and moved the goods there.



Ralph Healy Store in 1897. From: *Where The Maple River Flows*.



The Old Mullin Store, 1914. From: *The Standard Atlas of Blue Earth County* by George Ogle.

At one time there were three general stores at the "Corners". These stores changed ownership frequently. From 1940-1948, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Haberer owned and operated the last store. They sold the business to Heinie Schultz who in turn sold to Mr. and Mrs. Art Husmo who closed the store in 1954.

In 1880 Joseph Latourell opened a blacksmith shop operation. He was succeeded by William Sherman. Then came Mr. Johnson who was followed by Edward Ruhnice who ran the shop until 1897.

In March 1895, a Cooperative Creamery Association was organized with Al Madison, president and Charles Hertzberg, general manager. A creamery building was put up in June and operations began with Omer Mullin as buttermaker. The operation was a success from the start and became one of the most prosperous creameries in the county making from \$30,000 to \$37,000 worth of butter besides supplying all its

patrons. A new creamery building was constructed in 1931, and after the successful operation of some twenty-four years, it closed in 1955. The building remained empty for six years. In 1961 it was converted into headquarters for a mink ranch.

Today when one travels on Highway 22 south toward Mapleton and comes to County Road 10 crossroad, we see a number of evidences of the once thriving village of Beauford Corners. The unoccupied creamery remains as a reminder of its many prosperous years. The United Methodist Church stands as viable evidence of the importance of religion in the lives of the people of this area for over a century. The names on the mail boxes in the vicinity reveal an unusual stability in the ownership of the fertile land which has been tilled from generation to generation. Common names seen are: Mauer, Morrow, Sellers, Getty, Minkel, Runke, Cramer, Coy, Kreig, Hislop . . . The former District #86 schoolhouse has been converted into an attractive family dwelling. The headstones in the United Brethren Church cemetery record the names of many of the pioneer families and their later generations. Several of the original houses are still occupied. Two newer businesses are operating on each side of the highway.

What are some of the factors which may have stifled the growth and progress of Beauford Corners?

1. No railroad chose to build a line through the village.
2. The sawmill closed when people could buy better lumber in Mapleton, Good Thunder and Mankato.
3. In August, 1904, the post office was discontinued and people in the area had no need to come to Beauford to pick up their mail.
4. With the coming of automobiles as a principal mode of transportation, people chose to shop in bigger towns where the selections were greater.
5. With farmers using tractors instead of horses to pull the farm implements there was less use for a blacksmith shop.
6. In the early 1950's the last of the general stores closed at Beauford Corners because of lack of business.
7. In 1953 School District #86 closed and the students were bused to Mapleton.
8. In 1955 the creamery closed and was vacant for six years. Then it became the headquarters for a mink ranch which operated into the 1970's.

Beauford, as a community, has been a unique situation, never actually following a common pattern of most small towns of its time. Instead of reaching a maximum peak of population and then falling off and dying out, it has crept up slowly to a population of about fifty and has maintained itself at this point and has managed somehow to change its functions, thereby, avoiding death as a community. Only time will tell if this sleepy little hamlet can manage to survive in this unique manner which has been its trademark for the past century.

Written by Gail Palmer who taught in rural schools in the Beauford area during the 1930's, 40's, and 50's.

Sources:

Bateman, Terry L. A term paper entitled Beauford, Minnesota: Founding to Present. June 6, 1970. 10 pages.

Bryant, Charles A. *History of the Minnesota Valley*, 1882. pp. 604-607

Hughes, Thomas, *History of Blue Earth County*. 1909. pp. 224-226

Newelle, Ronald J. *Where the Winding Maple Flows*. 1978 pp. 6-7

Interviews with Audrey Annis and Mrs. Elliot Sellers.

Tour of Historic Homes

The Second Annual Tour of Historic Homes will take place on Saturday, July 9, 1988 from 1-5 p.m. Tickets will go on sale after July 1, 1988 and are available on the day of the tour beginning at 12 noon at the Blue Earth County Historical Society, Hubbard House, 606 S. Broad St. in Mankato. Tickets are priced at \$6.00 for non-members and \$5.00 for members of the Blue Earth County Historical Society. Five private homes which include fine examples of Mankato/Kasota stone craftsmanship, red tile roofing with brick, beautiful leaded glass as well as elaborate crafted woodwork can be seen in the historic homes. In addition to the private residences, the historic Hubbard House (1871 Victorian Mansion) will be open for touring. A free furniture restoration clinic will also be available during the day of the tour. Ticket sales are limited to 400 persons so call early for your reservations. For ticket information please call the Blue Earth County Historical Society, Hubbard House at 507/345-4154.

Curation Notes

-Audrey K. Burmeister-Hicks

The setting was lovely and the weather was ideal for the first outing in the 1988 Blue Earth County Cemetery Project sponsored by BECHS and the Traverse des Sioux Genealogical Society. A dozen enthusiastic individuals of all ages completed the transcriptions of the Tivoli Cemetery by noon and a smaller group went on to Decoria Cemetery for the afternoon.

We have scheduled the next session of the Project for Wed., July 13, when we will travel to the western part of the county to work in Lincoln and Judson Townships. We will meet in the Heritage Center parking lot between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. to carpool. In case of rain, the session will be held the following Wednesday, July 20.

We invite members and friends to join us; for information call Audrey at 345-5566.

The Lake Crystal Historical Society has made a major contribution of artifacts to BECHS to be displayed