

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

August 1988 Calendar of Events

- August 10 **Blue Earth County Cemetery Project**, call Audrey at 507-345-5566 for information.
- August 11-14 **Blue Earth County Fair**, stop in and visit us.
- August 12 **Young Historians Program**, Tour and history of the Blue Earth County Fairgrounds. Persons of ALL ages are invited, 2 p.m.

Notes from the Director

-Susan M. Monk-Kjos

The Tour of Historic Homes on July 9 was a huge success thanks to many people who spent hundreds of hours working on the event. Barb Lamson deserves special credit for organizing and coordinating such an exciting afternoon. Professional exhibit designers, Virginia Westbrook and John Low have begun work on the design of the new Heritage Center exhibit gallery. A county-wide taskforce has been developed to work with the designers to identify themes of interpretation for the gallery. This group includes: Darrell Apitz, Mankato; Michael Scullin, Garden City; Toni Nesheim, Mankato; Hope Cook, Mankato; Mary Dooley, Mankato; Bert and Inella Burns, Mankato; Bill Lass, Mankato; and Ron Newell, Mapleton. This task force will meet throughout the summer and welcomes input from our members. The design plan will be completed by October 30 with construction of the gallery beginning in late fall 1988. The BECHS Archives has been collecting and preserving Mankato City Directories for over 100 years. Anyone researching a business or family knows how invaluable these books can be. In order to keep our library current and to preserve 1987 for the future, we are in need of a 1987 Polk's Mankato City Directory. Anyone having a copy to donate, please call us at 507/345-4154 or 507/345-5566. Thanks for your support!

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Audrey Burmeister-Hicks
Ann Christensen
Susan Monk-Kjos
Denise Hudson
Mary Ann Monk

Donations:

Thanks to Billings S. Fuess for his generous donation to the Heritage Endowment Fund.

Memorials:

In memory of Fred N. Lutz, Sr., from Don & Marge Meredith and Mr. & Mrs. Lee Snilsberg.

In memory of George Koberoski, from Don & Marge Meredith.

Membership:

Thanks to Donabel Linney for upgrading her membership from an annual patron to a life membership.

They've met with Charles Nelson, restoration architect of the Minnesota Historical Society; George Tyrrell of FarmAmerica, former director of the Olmstead County Historical Society; Betty Cords, past BECHS director; Audrey Burmeister-Hicks, BECHS curator/archivist; Foster Dunwiddie, Twin Cities preservation architect; Jerry Freeberg, city building inspector; and H. Roger Smith, restoration specialist from MSU's Urban & Regional Studies Institute.

Now their work is really beginning, as they undertake intensive discussions that will bring the group to a consensus they can recommend to the board.

Ghosts From the Past

Thanks to the generosity of Susan Duane for her donation of clothing to be preserved in the collection as well as several items that have been designated for use as costumes to portray characters from Blue Earth County's past. If you have clothing that you would like to donate to be used as costumes or teaching aids, please give Barb a call at 345-4154.

Ghosts From The Past is an excellent opportunity to share the rich heritage of Blue Earth County's past in a fun and informative manner. If you would like to work on research, costumes, props or any other aspect of this event, please give Barb a call at 507-345-4154.

Membership & Programs

- Barbara J. Lamson

A record number of people turned out for the second annual Tour of Historic Homes, July 9, 1988. Six hundred visitors from various states and Minnesota communities visited the five private homes, enjoyed a workshop on furniture restoration and relaxed at the Hubbard House with refreshments provided throughout the afternoon.

Our thanks to the following home owners, businesses, committee members, cookie & bar bakers and all other volunteers who gave so freely of their time to make this event possible.

Home Owners:

Joe & Malda Farnham
Paul & Mary Jo Hustoles
Don & Betty Freeman
Dale & Melissa Schmidt
Mike & Colleen Smith
Sav Mor Antiques

Tour of Homes Committee members:

Colleen Smith
Tom Weigt
Lisa Bigham
Mavis Christensen
Chris Earle
Barbara Lamson
Jo Schultz

BECHS Opportunities

MEMBERSHIP

BECHS members receive unlimited free admission to the Hubbard House, free use of the Archives, Tuesday-Friday, from 1-5 p.m., discounts on programs and gift shop merchandise, advance invitations to special events, along with our monthly newsletter. Call 507/345-4154 weekdays for more information.

EDUCATION

From Anthropology to zithers, for young and old alike. You are invited to attend one of the monthly Young Historian workshops for children in grades 3-6, including programs throughout the county. Pick up a brochure on the Young Historians program at the Hubbard House, Heritage Center, or call 507/345-4154. Teachers and school children may wish to take advantage of the various tours and programs available to school groups throughout Minnesota. Please call Faye at 507/345-4154 for tour information and rates.

VOLUNTEERS

Like to spend more time at the Historical Society? Join our volunteer staff. Work with school children, assist behind the scenes with programs, Archives, artifacts and membership, help out in the offices. Be a character out of history at "Ghosts from The Past." Information is available at the Heritage Center and Hubbard House or call 507/345-5566 or 507/345-4154 weekday afternoons.

ARCHIVES

Our Archives collection houses books, maps, pamphlets, diaries, and photographs from Blue Earth County's past and present. The Archives are open Tuesday-Friday from 1-5 pm with unlimited free use to BECHS members during this time. Call weekday afternoons for more information, 507/345-5566.

Blue Earth County Historical Society,

Board of Trustees as of June 1988

President - Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder
Vice President - Tom Weigt, Mankato
Secretary - Dean Pettis, Mankato
Treasurer - Chuck Christiansen, Rural Mankato
Past President - Barb Maher, Mankato

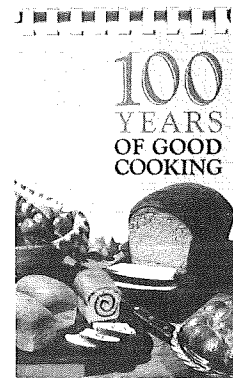
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Ken Berg, Mankato
John Christenson, Good Thunder
Mary Dooley, Mankato
Joe Kubicek, Lake Crystal
Marty Wiltgen, Mankato
Wally Hayenga, Mankato
Helen Jones, Lake Crystal
Lyle Jacobson, Mankato

Gift Shop

New items arrive weekly and are added to the inventory of our gift shop at the Hubbard House. Summer time is very busy so if you stop in for a book and its not on the shelf please give us a call because we place orders almost on a daily basis. Ever popular books are the Maud Hart Lovelace, Betsy-Tacy Series, which we have in hard cover and paper back. Reminiscent of the Betsy-Tacy time period are ornaments and dolls handmade by Amboy resident and BECHS member, Kelly Reuter. Kelly's dolls, ornaments and necklaces make wonderful presents for the young and young at heart. We are proud to be able to offer our members such unique gift items. Two very popular books listed below sell-out every time we receive an order and make fun and tasty summer time reading.

Minnesota Centennial Cookbook: 100 Years of Good Cooking - Virginia Huck and Ann H. Andersen, Eds.

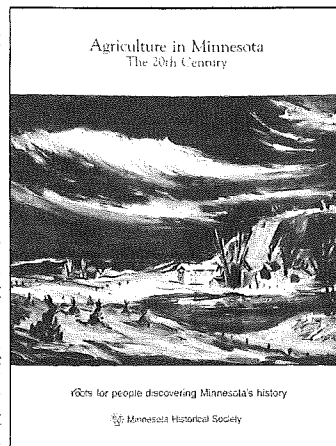


This is our best-selling book this summer and features nearly 300 old and new recipes from kitchens throughout all of Minnesota's 87 counties. This book includes centuries old traditional ethnic delights as well as modern regional favorites. Blue Earth County is proudly represented in this book.

A Century of Agriculture in Minnesota - Roots series of publications.

This issue profiles some of the important features of 20th century agriculture including weather, business and politics and comes in an easy to read form.

The Hubbard House gift shop is open Tuesday-Sunday from 1-5 pm. A limited selection of items are available at the Heritage Center, Tuesday-Friday from 1-5 pm. Mail order of select items is also available. Please call Faye at 507/345-4154 weekday afternoons for more information.



Curation Notes

- Audrey K. Burmeister-Hicks

The Historical Society is fortunate that ours is a community which places great emphasis on quality educational institutions; the benefits to us are many. Over the years a number of students from the county's secondary and post-secondary schools have assisted in various facets of museum work as volunteers and interns.

An individual who brings to our organization specialized knowledge and a real dedication to the task has been working with the Society's collection staff since early spring. Pam Johnson, a Mankato State University anthropology student, served an internship with us spring quarter under the supervision of Prof. Mike Scullin.

Pam has been refining and preparing for computerization the records on our Native American clothing and accessories collection. Pam's academic background and research skills have proven to be a real asset in overcoming the deficiencies in the identification of these artifacts in the Society's early records. Pam has already completed the requirements for the MSU internship but has continued to work through the summer as a volunteer. Her work may continue into the fall when the collections staff plans to meet with representatives of the Dakota Indian communities in Minnesota to further identify the uses and origin of specific artifacts.

Another talented young person who is giving her time to the Society this summer is Katie Wiltgen, a Mankato West High School student. Katie is a participant in the Hubbard Leadership Institute in which select District #77 seventh and eighth graders receive leadership training and then practice those skills by organizing and directing a community service project.

For her project Katie is training and supervising a group of individuals in recording cemetery transcriptions as a part of the Historical Society's 1988 Cemetery Project.

We thank Katie and Pam for contributing their time and skills to our organization.

1988 Blue Earth County Cemetery Project

The August session of the Cemetery project is scheduled for Wednesday, August 10th, and in case of rain will be held on August 17. The public is invited to join the Society in this project in which the information found on the county's tombstones is recorded and made available to researchers in the Society's Archives.

Participants will meet in the Heritage Center Parking Lot between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. to carpool to the cemetery. Those working all day should bring a sack lunch.

For more information call Audrey at 345-5566.

Attendance

Many of our members have noticed how busy both the Hubbard House and Heritage Center are during our open hours, (1-5 pm). Attendance records for June 1987-June 1988 have been compiled (using a hand counter on a daily basis) and are pretty impressive:

Hubbard House (Open T-S, 1-5 pm)	Heritage Center (Open T-F, 1-5 pm)
June 1987	356
July	676
August	536
September	720
October	801
November	961
December	526
January 1988	329
February	288
March	355
April	498
May	883
June	531

Archives opened March 1 in new facility

March	272
April	101
May	119
June	296

In total, nearly 8000 persons visited the Historical Society proper in the past year. These numbers however, do not include persons who attend off-site events such as the county fair, Heritage Dinner, Young Historians and other special programs. If you include all of the off-site events, our visitation would be close to 10,000 persons in the past year.

Hubbard House Restoration

For the past several weeks, a dedicated group of individuals interested in historic preservation, interior design, restoration, and all the other aspects of bringing back an old home to its glory days, has been meeting for lunch every Tuesday.

This Preservation Task Force has been charged with the responsibility of examining the Hubbard House and all the ramifications of restoration, and coming up with recommendations for the Society board. This is not as simple as its sounds.

There is a great deal of policy to contend with. How will the house be used? To what period should it be restored? What are the financial constraints? How can it be made handicapped accessible and still retain its integrity as a historic structure? How many people on a tour can it accommodate? How many interpretive displays should it handle? Should it be available for group rental for receptions, for example?

Those questions and many others have come up in the course of the meetings. Members of the task force are Tony Filipovitch, Carol Frederick, Betty Freeman, Leighton Lloyd, Hal Natvig, Elouise Olson, Floyd Roberts, Tom Severns, and Tom Weigt.