

## Blue Earth County Heritage Book Update

The work of the Blue Earth County Heritage book is progressing nicely. Response has been excellent. Family histories and book orders have been received from all parts of the state and the country as well as from Blue Earth County. Over 350 families histories have already been received and reservations have been made for many more still to come.

Family, business, church and school histories will continue to be accepted while research and writing is being completed on the topical section. If you have not submitted a history, make a reservation to do so now.

Blue Earth County is rich in historical background and these historical treasures of fact and tradition, memories and photographs will be preserved in this publication. The Heritage of Blue Earth County will be a limited edition, with a discount given on books ordered before publication. For those interested in more information, submitting histories or ordering books, please contact Julie Schrader at 625-8056. Free informational brochures are available at the Summit Center, Minnesota Valley Regional Library and the Blue Earth County Historical Society in Mankato.

## Mapleton Area Mini-Campaign

The Blue Earth County Historical Society Fund Drive has continued in our portion of Blue Earth County throughout the holiday season. Community support has been strong as people look to the near future when we will have a quality museum in which to preserve our heritage. Much of the funds raised locally will go toward the development of a display depicting the unique interests and aspects of our local heritage as well as the endowment fund. The fund drive will continue through January with committee members attempting to contact each household. Those wishing to make a donation and/or pledge who have not been contacted are encouraged to call Pat Nienow at 523-3245 or Al Leiferman at 524-3580. We would enjoy visiting with you about this project. Below is a partial list of contributors. The list will be regularly updated in the Mapleton Enterprise (Shopper) as donations are processed through the Historical Society.

Father Wm Schimek	Delbert Conrad
Sy & Lois Gau	Harold Dobie
Jean Forland	Beth Walker

Bernard Landsteiner  
Jim & Mary Tichenor  
Stan & Kay Solie  
Cecil Dickey  
Al & Dotty Leiferman  
Peter Dirx  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Morris  
Ron & Tamra Schultz  
Darwin Ward  
Eldo Mauer  
Ruth McPhillips  
Zona Prenzlou  
Nora & Earl Preston  
Lester Albrecht  
August & Eileen Trio  
Everett & Norma Blaisdell  
Arno & Florence Proehl  
Rachel Howieson

Wesley Bonnett  
Gordon Grover  
Robert & Darlene Moses  
Helen & Alice Klein  
Jack & Connie Will  
Bernie & Dilly Langworthy  
Wayne & Anne Knewton  
Lawrence & Gladys Nienow  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Schull  
First National Bank of Mapleton  
Joe & Shirley Massop  
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Jewison  
George & Pat Larson  
Loren & Marvel Peterson  
VFW Post 5358 - Mapleton  
Mr. & Mrs. John Strobel Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Roland Schubbe

New Members to the Historical Society are Mr. & Mrs. Bennett Pederson and Donald Olson.

## Membership

Welcome to the following new members:

Jack Will, Mapleton  
Dennis and Karen Sandersfeld, Good Thunder  
Bernard and Lucille Kunkel, Mapleton  
Don Buchanan, Mankato  
Lyndon Kunkel family, Mankato  
Security State Bank, Mankato

## Donations

Thanks to the following life members who so generously donated to the Historical Society during the Holiday Season:

Ernest and Dollis Hansen	Hugo Sellstrom
Evelyn Weisgram	Berniel Weigt
Ruth Ann Engstrom	Roy and Velma Schulz
Dean C. Wykoff	Ann M. Taylor
Doris and Billings Fuess	

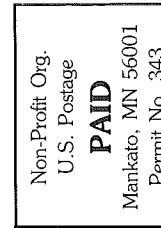
Thanks also to Carol Greenwald for her Christmas donation in honor of her brothers, Richard and Ogden W. and Jane Confer.

## Memorials

Memorials Received:

In memory of Kelsey Johnson from Eleanor Meagher  
In memory of Evelyn Baker Basel from Ed and Bea McLean

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



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Historical Society  
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Mankato, MN 56001  
Address Correction Requested

Published monthly by the Blue Earth County  
Historical Society, 606 So. Broad St.,  
Mankato, MN 56001



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

## February 1989 Calendar of Events

- Feb. 18 **Young Historians Workshop** for parents and children, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
- Feb. 20 **Museum closed for Washington's Birthday Observance.**

**Look ahead...**

- March **Womens History Month**
- March 4 **"Time and Taste: The Next 100 Years,"** workshop, call 507-345-4154 for further information.

## Notes from the Director

-Susan M. Monk-Kjos

January was an exciting month for everyone at the Heritage Center. Construction in the new Archives/Map Room funded by the estate of Mary S. Gray is well under-way. Please stop by and watch the progress, we're hoping to move the Archives into the new area in the next few months. Don't forget to stop at the Hubbard House if you are looking for a special Valentine gift. We have some beautiful jewelry made by local artists, Hope Cook and Jill Stoffregan and notecards by BECHS employee and artist, Greta Hurlbut. In addition, we are well stocked with regional books, maps, and other Blue Earth County gifts. The Hubbard House gift shop is open Tuesday-Sunday from 1-5 pm. The Christmas decorations and displays have been removed from the Hubbard House but we are busily planning a new display, again, stop by. A special welcome goes to our newest employee, Mary Brown of Lake Crystal. Mary began work in January as our full-time bookkeeper. We are thrilled to have her and consider ourselves lucky to have found such a terrific person. Another bit of good news is that Barbara Lamson has returned from a 3½ month leave of absence. We're glad to have her back. Finally, I encourage any of you interested in the "Time and Taste: The next 100 Years" workshop to please give us a call (507/345-4154) for further information.

# Curation Notes

Audrey K. Burmeister-Hicks

Ideally, an historical archives provides researchers with an environment conducive to quiet study and contemplation; in the past the BECHS Archives provided visitors with such an environment. On December 16, however, all of that changed when building contractors began renovation for the future BECHS Archives Reading Room, Archives Office/Storage, and Conference Room. The quiet was superseded by the roar of power tools, the blast of music from radios, and the shouts of workmen's voices. Engineers, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, and other tradespeople began working alongside the researchers and Archives staff.

Everyone agrees that the inconvenience and noise is well worth bearing because the construction will provide the Society with a well-equipped, pleasant study area and an enlarged, environmentally-controlled storage facility for the Archives collection.

The Archives will remain open to the public at its regular hours throughout the construction period but may have to be closed for a couple days as we move furniture and materials into the new areas. We will publish any closing dates in the county's newspapers; if you plan to do research in the Archives during February or March you may call us for further information.

Lest anyone thinks that packing and moving artifacts, building construction and planning occupied all of the BECHS collections staff's time in 1988 we have compiled some statistics related to the collections' growth and use for the year.

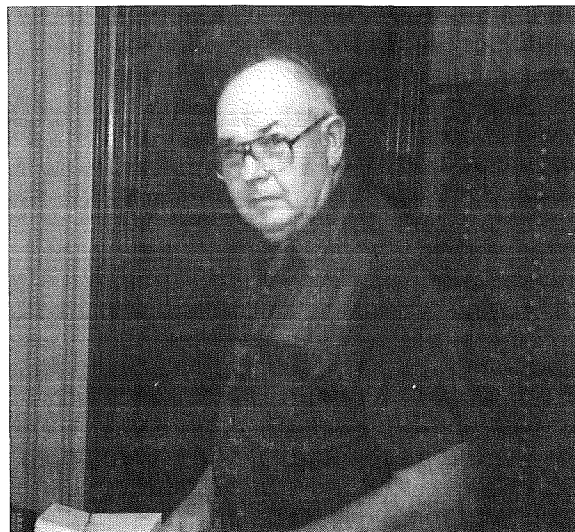
A total of 550 artifacts from about 100 donors were added to the artifact collection; this is the largest number of artifacts added to the collection in one year since the 1930s.

The Society was very fortunate to receive from the Lake Crystal Area Historical Society a collection of artifacts from the Lake Crystal area not already represented in the county museum. Cataloging of that large collection continues and when completed, will increase the total figures for 1988. Another large collection, donated by Margaret Williams, consists of personal artifacts from the Williams, Hughes, Lloyd, and Roberts families from South Bend, Lake Crystal, Butternut Valley, and Judson areas.

Other 1988 acquisitions of special importance include the following: personal items which belonged to Susie Dyer Fletcher, an early Mankato State Normal School instructor and wife of L.G.M. Fletcher (Susan

Duane, donor); a surveying/engineering transit set constructed of oak and brass (Elmer Goodrich, donor); two dollhouses with furniture, 1900 and 1940 (Theora Jensen and Georgia Schultz, donors, respectively); Continental Can Company cans and lids (Alma Severson, donor); and 4 Dakota-style beaded leather items (William Wolford Ward, donor).

The Society received a micro-computer in March of 1988. In the following months the collections staff developed a computerized artifact collection management system and by the year's end had entered the records for nearly 1000 artifacts into the computer. The records for another 1500 artifacts were updated and readied for computerization.



**Rural Pemberton Volunteer, Elmer Goodrich works extensively with the artifact collections. He is one of the many persons making our "Move to the Future" possible. Thanks Elmer.**

The Society's Archives also continued to grow as 53 individuals contributed collections of research materials which ranged in size from single items to several boxes of manuscripts, books, and photographs. Significant among the new acquisitions are the St. Clair Creamery records (Mrs. Harlan Frank, donor); land and personal papers of prominent early Mankatoan, John T. Williams, (Howard Williams, donor); family history materials on the Austin family and two original letters written by Maud Hart Lovelace (Don Freeman, donor); a photographic portrait

of, and musical programs featuring Dr. Hiram J. Lloyd (Mildred Jones, donor); the 1900 & 1903 Lake Crystal High School yearbooks (Katherine Sveum, donor); and numerous maps and aerial photographs of Mankato and North Mankato (Dr. Bert Burns, donor).

Around 490 people from 25 states made use of the research materials in the Society's collection; that figure reflects only a slight drop in the number of researchers we served in 1986 and 1987 despite the fact the Archives was closed for a month and a half during the move to the new facility. The Archives staff also wrote 200 local history trivia questions featured on KTOE Radio's morning show.

So the work continues in the county's new Heritage Center and whether the person doing the job be a carpenter, a plumber, or a museum registrar, they are all working toward providing the people of this county with a better opportunity for understanding the past.

We continue to have a need for cardboard boxes with telescoping lids (paper supply boxes). If you have any to spare please bring them to the Heritage Center or call 345-5566.

## Programs

-Greta Hurlbut

The Young Historians Workshop for the month of February will be unique because it will be a parent-child class and will be offered at both 9 am and 11:00 am. The class is called "Documenting History from an Artists Point of View" and will take place at the Carnegie Art Center, 120 South Broad Street in Mankato. As usual, the class will be FREE but size is limited. Please call the BECHS at 507/345-4154 for reservations or further information.

March is National Womens History Month—The Hubbard House will feature a display comparing lifestyles from the turn of the century to modern day. The exhibit will be shown for the entire month of March. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome, call Greta at 507/345-4154. Be sure to stop by the Hubbard House, we're open Tuesday-Sunday from 1-5 pm.

## Special Program

March 4, 1989, a special program *Time & Taste: The Next 100 Years* will be co-sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society and the Blue Earth County Historical Society. This workshop is intended for anyone who has considered the preservation of a historic building or has had any questions about the proper method of accomplishing the restoration of a building and its environment. TIME & TASTE will address this challenge with sessions specifically tailored to examine architectural styles, techniques for treatment of exteriors and interiors, recreating and preserving historic landscape, and most important, developing a plan of action. David Nystuen and Charles Nelson of the Minnesota Historical Society will be on hand to answer any questions concerning restoration techniques and problems.

The workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Historic Hubbard House, one of Blue Earth County's important architectural treasures. The Hubbard House is located at 606 S. Broad St. in Mankato.

The registration fee for the workshop is \$15 per person, which includes attendance at the sessions, luncheon, and all handouts.

If you are interested in knowing more about the workshop TIME & TASTE: THE NEXT 100 YEARS, or would like to attend the program, sign-up sheets are available at the museum, (507/345-4154) or through:

**Michele Sanford**  
**Minnesota Historical Society**  
Fort Snelling History Center  
St. Paul, MN 55111  
(612) 726-1171

