

## Curation Notes

-Audrey K. Burmeister-Hicks

As the days have become warmer, those of us who worked on the Blue Earth County Cemetery Project in 1988 have become eager to get out into the county's cemeteries to continue work on that project (or do we just want to go on a picnic in the country again!). Whatever the motivation, we've decided to begin the project a month earlier this year and have chosen Wednesday, May 24 for our first session.

We invite the public to join us for what has proven to be an enjoyable, educational, and gratifying experience. We will meet at the Heritage Center parking lot (415 Cherry Street, Mankato) at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 24. From there we will car-pool to Mapleton where we will begin work in the Union and Calvary cemeteries. Please bring pencils, notepads, and a picnic lunch if you will be with us all day. No experience is necessary; instructions will be given to all newcomers to the project.

Last summer and fall the tombstone transcriptions were recorded for 12 cemeteries throughout Blue Earth County. At the cemeteries the project workers recorded the information in long-hand so throughout the winter it was necessary to type final copies and proof them by revisiting the cemeteries. Janet Larson, Georgia Schultz, Craig Roberts, and BECHS collections staff have typed the final copies.

At the same time the BECHS collections staff developed a computerized system of organizing the data found on the stones. After the system was established, Alma Severson and Craig Roberts began entering the data; to date they have entered over 2,000 individuals into the computer.

Our computerized cemetery system has already been utilized by researchers to quickly locate the burial place and other information for individuals buried in Blue Earth County. In addition to this function, the organizational capability of the computerized system enables researchers to use the data found on the county's tombstones in a variety of useful and creative ways. For example, statistics and lists can quickly be compiled using the names, birthdates, deathdates, military service information, and other data.

The needs of researchers at the BECHS Archives are changing and our computerized system of organizing data will allow us the efficiency, speed, and flexibility necessary to meet those changing needs.

For more information on our system or to assist with the Blue Earth County Cemetery Project call Audrey at 345-5566.

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

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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

## May 1989 Calendar of Events

- May 13 *Plant Sale at the Hubbard House*
- May 14-20 *National Historic Preservation Week*
- May 14-20 *Minnesota Museum Week*
- May 18 *International Museum Day (FREE Admission at the Hubbard House! 1-5 p.m.)*
- May 20 *Young Historians Workshop, for children in grades 3-6, Wildflower tour at Minneopa Park, taught by Marian Fischer, University of Minnesota-Waseca. Class begins at 9 a.m., call 507/345-4154 for more information. Members admitted FREE! Non-member charge \$1.50 per person.*
- May 29 *Museum closed for Memorial Day Observance*

## Notes from the Director

-Susan M. Monk-Kjos

Special thanks to Mark Piepho Moving and Storage who moved three very heavy fireproof file cabinets at the Heritage Center. We appreciate donation of his time and talents. Barb Lamson and I are in the midst of moving our offices to the Heritage Center so you will be able to reach us at 345-5566 or 345-4154. The Hubbard House will be staffed by Greta Hurlbut in the mornings and by Faye Mattison in the afternoon. Special thanks to the many volunteers who worked so hard to make the Heritage Dinner such a huge success. Congratulations again to the Norman Family of Lake Crystal on their award! Look forward to seeing all of you at the Plant Sale on the 13th!

## Here We Go Round . . . Women At Work

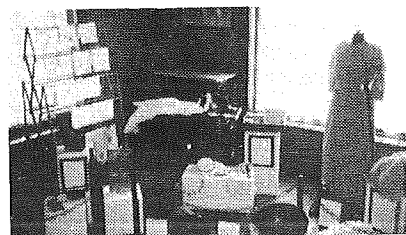
Exhibit on display at the Hubbard throughout the month of March, 1989 in recognition of National Women's History Month. The display featured household artifacts from pre-electric history, plus a view of 20th century women at work.



20th century and Victorian dinner party



20th century women at work



Pre-electric days,  
women at work

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# '89 is the Year to Celebrate Historic Places to Live

-Susan Monk-Kjos

If there is one vision all Americans share it is the vision of home—the basic building block on which this country is founded, and a vision that will be celebrated nationwide this May 14-20, during National Historic Preservation Week.

It is no coincidence that the most visited historic site in the country is the home of our Founding Father, George Washington. Mount Vernon, once threatened with demolition, is now a symbol of both the powerful meaning of home and the role that historic preservation plays in protecting the physical symbol of that cherished value.

In communities nationwide, historical societies, historical museums and preservation organizations have rallied to save the homes of figures of both national and local significance. During 1988, the Blue Earth County Historical Society raised money to preserve the R.D. Hubbard Home in Mankato, built in 1871 by the founder of Hubbard Milling Co.

But home is not only where the famous and rich once lived. Home is where we live. A San Francisco residential hotel. A New Orleans' shotgun cottage. A Minnesota farmhouse. A Baltimore rowhouse.

Across the country, Americans have shown that historic preservation creates quality places to live. Hundreds of thousands of individuals have stripped paint, sanded floors, bolstered sagging roofs all in the name of home renovation.

Collectively, Americans have formed preservation societies, development corporations and landmark commissions to use the tools of preservation to conserve neighborhoods and promote a sense of community pride.

Today, more than 1,200 historic districts across the country help protect areas from insensitive change and demolition. From Nantucket, Mass., to St. Paul, Minn., to Pasadena, Calif., neighborhood historic districts have played a vital role in preserving the community's heritage for future generations.

In Salt Lake City, Utah, a local group has fostered neighborhood revitalization through a preservation revolving fund. The group buys endangered properties and resells these houses to owners who agree to protect them. The city of Knoxville, Tenn., is establishing a low-interest loan program to help its Mechanicsville neighborhood residents who other wise could not afford to borrow at market rates to fix up their homes. Using the low-income tax credits and the historic rehabilitation tax credits the city and local groups in Macon, Ga., have transformed dilapidated shotgun houses into quality affordable housing for neighborhood residents.

In every community across the country, residents, civic leaders and government officials have come together to protect a sense of place, a sense of home. We have seen this pride in our area over the past two years during the Tour of Historic Homes in Mankato. On July 8 of this year, we will again be treated to fine examples of historic homes preserved by their owners.

This Preservation Week make it a point to visit a local historic house, such as the Hubbard House, if you live near Mankato, or stroll through older neighborhoods in your community. Look homeward. There is no better reminder of where this country comes from and how it got here; no cause more worthy than home.

The Hubbard House is open Tuesday-Sunday from 1-5 p.m. with **FREE** Admission to BECHS members. Come check us out!

Help Us Protect Our Nation's Heritage

Preservation Week  
May 14th-20th

*Look Homeward  
America*

## Fundraising/ Programming Committee

The purpose of this committee is to provide long range plans and follow-up for plans already implemented regarding all fundraising on behalf of the Society.

As the Society grows and matures, the program activities become more demanding. If anyone is interested in becoming a part of this innovative, dedicated committee, please call the Historical Society at 507/345-4154 and speak to Barbara Lamson or Greta Hurlbut. This committee offers each of you as members the opportunity to 'make a difference' in your Society. Upcoming events include the Spring Plant Sale, Tour of Historic Homes, Ghosts from the past and the Annual Christmas Open House.



## Upcoming Event

-Barbara J. Lamson

**Plant Sale: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., May 13, 1989**

On numerous occasions visitors to the Hubbard House gardens have asked where we purchased the plants for the gardens and if they could purchase plants from us. Plans are now underway to make that request possible. The Society has scheduled an annual plant sale at the Hubbard House from 9-1 p.m., Saturday, May 13, 1989.

In order for the plant sale to be a success we really need the support of all our members and friends. Please mark May 13, 1989 on your calendar and plan to attend and bring a friend along. Remember, May 14 is Mothers' Day. Why not give a gift of flowers? We will be purchasing our bedding plants from a local grower. These are first quality plants ready to take off and give you weeks of enjoyment once they're in your garden.

You can also help us by contributing any perennial plants that you now have in your garden that could be divided at this time of year, which we would include in the sale.

Our sincere thanks to Joe Kubicek for scouting the County to locate a truck load of rich black soil. We will offer this soil for sale by the pound as well as encouraging people to bring their patio containers and cemetery urns which can be filled and planted while they wait.

We're grateful to the Blue Earth County Master Gardeners for agreeing to be on hand to help out with the sale as well as give individual advice to those attending the sale.

Once again, mark your calendars for Saturday, May 13, 1989 and if you have perennial plants we can include in the sale, drop them off at the Hubbard House on May 11, 1989. If you have questions about the sale please give Barbara a call at 507/345-4154.

## Membership

Special thanks to Mrs. Ray (Teresa) Erlandson for upgrading her Annual membership to a Life membership.

Welcome to Stuart & Lois Hall, Amboy, MN.

## Donations

Thanks to the following people for donating to the Heritage Endowment Fund:

Marion and Margaret Carr  
Mrs. Elizabeth M. Lorentz  
Ms. Elizabeth Jones  
Rosella M. Norman  
Vern and Audrey Walters  
Dr. and Mrs. Harry J. Smith  
Robert and Glee Robinson  
Pearle C. Otsea

Thanks to the following for their generous donations this past month:

Gary Johns  
Helen Jones-Lake Crystal Study Club  
Town of Garden City  
Town of Medo  
Gladys Olson in honor of Anita Stone  
Mark Piepho

## Tour Guides

The spring tour season is upon us and we are looking for a few more tour guides for school children and adult group tours. If you are interested in meeting new people and spending a little time helping the Historical Society please give Susan a call at 507/345-4154.

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.