

Historians cont...

quality, relationship of work to historic theme and visual impact. Ten of the works of art will be framed and hung in the Heritage Center Orientation Room. The remainder of the art will be permanently stored in the Historical Society collections.

Suggested materials that can be used to produce the original art works are pencil, water color, acrylic, oil, fiber and crayon. Sizes of the work can range from a minimum of 4x6" to maximum of 11x14".

Deadline for submission of the art is 3 pm Wednesday, August 2, 1989. Work can be delivered by mail or in person to the Heritage Center, 415 Cherry Street in Mankato. The exhibit opening will be at the Heritage Center on Wednesday, August 23, 1989 and all contributed works of art will be on display.

If you have questions or would like further information please call Greta at 507/345-4154 or Susan at 507/345-5566 or stop by the Blue Earth County Historical Society in Mankato. All Blue Earth County children are encouraged to participate!

Curation Notes

-Audrey K. Burmeister-Hicks

The Blue Earth County Historical Society announces the receipt of two oak exhibit cabinets for the Heritage Center and expresses appreciation to the donors for their generosity.

Mary Confer Koehler and her family, the Koehlers and Bergersons, commissioned an exhibit cabinet in memory of her brother, Ogden Palmer Confer. It is located at the entrance to the Archives/Map Room in the Heritage Center. In honor of Mr. Confer, the initial exhibit in this cabinet presents a retrospective view of the Hubbard Milling Company as seen through the company's product packages and promotional items. The exhibit may be viewed throughout the summer months.

The second case was commissioned by the estate of Mary Schultz Gray as part of the furnishing of the Archives and is located in the Archives/Map Room. The case will be used for exhibition of materials from or re-

lated to the Archives collection. Throughout July, photographs of the family of Mary Schultz Gray can be viewed in the Archives exhibit case.

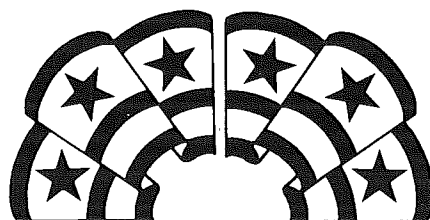
While the majority of the Society's exhibitions will be held in the Exhibit Gallery and in the Hubbard House, these two cabinets enable us to present short-term, special event exhibits. We thank the Koehler family and the Gray estate for giving BECHS another opportunity for presenting Blue Earth County's rich heritage to the public.

We are pleased to welcome MSU student Karyn Nester to the BECHS staff for the months of June and July. Karyn, who is serving an internship in Society's Archives through the MSU History Department, is cataloging manuscript collections housed in the Archives. The Society is fortunate to have an individual with Karyn's training and skill on staff.

The July session of the Blue Earth County Cemetery Project will be held on Wed., July 19, or in case of rain on the following Wed., July 26. Participants should meet at the Heritage Center parking lot (415 Cherry St., Mankato) at 8:30 a.m. to carpool to the cemetery. Call Audrey at 507/345-5566 for more information.



Heritage Center: Archives/Map Room June 1989.



Blue Earth County
Historical Society

415 Cherry St.

Mankato, MN 56001

Address Correction Requested

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U.S. Postage

PAID

Mankato, MN 56001

Permit No. 343



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

July 1989 Calendar of Events

- July 1 **Silk Stocking Social**, call 507/345-4154 for information
- July 1-31 **Fiber Exhibit by local artist, Vicki Fodness** at the Hubbard House, 606 S. Broad St. in Mankato, open Tuesday - Sunday 1-5 pm.
- July 5-31 **Handmade Paper, Handbound Book Display** by Margaret-Greta Hurlbut at the Hubbard House.
- July 4 **Museum Closed for Independence Day.**
- July 8 **Tour of Historic Homes and Renovation Concepts** 11 am - 3 pm. Call 507/345-4154 or 345-5566 for ticket information.
- July 19 **Young Historians photography/cyanotype print workshop** at the Hubbard House, 10 a.m. Call 507/345-4154 for reservations. This will be an exciting class on the principles of photography and each participant will have a hands on experience in making a photographic print.

Blue Earth County Cemetery Project

LOOKING AHEAD...

- August 2 **Young Historian Art Work** due at the Heritage Center for juried art competition.
- August 23 **Young Historians Art Competition** exhibit opening.

Notes from the Director

-Susan M. Monk-Kjos

Special thanks to Grace Jefferson of St. Paul who generously added to the Jefferson Memorial Fund she started in 1986 honoring her parents and which funds, in part, the monthly young Historians Workshops. We sincerely thank Grace for her continued support of children's educational programming. The Programs Committee is busily working on the two upcoming events this month. The Silk Stocking Social takes place on July 1 in the area surrounding the Hubbard House, YWCA and neighboring churches. The event will feature music, food, dance and some unique items for sale including old books, picture frames, glassware, crafts, and other treasures. On July 8 we will be hosting the "Tour of Historic Homes and Renovation Concepts" which

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Edited by Susan Monk-Kjos

Piecing Together your House's History

-Penny Jones from **Preservation News**,

February 1989, the monthly newspaper of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Researching the history of a house is like putting together an intricate jigsaw puzzle—with the added chore of finding the pieces first. Often some of the pieces are never found. A fundamental and unavoidable prerequisite to assembling the history of a historic building is careful research, propelled by perseverance and a certain amount of luck.

Step one should be a complete deed or title search of the property on which the building stands—only the property itself, not structures on the property. Start at the county courthouse or records depository. Begin by locating the current owner's name, and work backward through the grantor (seller) and grantee (buyer) indexes and the actual deed books to the earliest transaction.

With the knowlege of who owned the property and when, you can assemble other data. There is a wealth of public resource material that can be plumbed for information about old structures: will books and indexes, probate records, inventory and settlement books, tax records, census records, marriage records, court records, building permits, subdivision and plat books, and the minutes of meetings of public bodies such as the city council. Most of these public records are housed in county courthouses or state archives. Often you will be using microfilm or other types of copies rather than delicate original documents.

Maps are a valuable source of information on houses and other old buildings. County atlases, city maps, railroad maps, and bird's eye views often will show houses and outbuildings as well as property lines and roads. Sanborn maps are invaluable for urban areas. Dating from 1867 to the present, Sanborns are insurance maps covering more than 12,000 U.S. cities and towns. The maps show the location and actual "footprint" of buildings and record building materials, number of stories and other

useful tidbits. A list of available Sanborn maps can be obtained from the Library of Congress, but often local libraries and historical societies have copies.

City directories and crisscross directories can also be helpful. They not only help date structures but also may reveal the occupations of owners and tenants. Keep in mind that cities often change street names and numbering systems, but in some cases indexes to these changes are available.

Consult old newspapers for obituary notices on previous owners of your house, articles on fires or other natural disasters, advertisements for house sales, or articles and advertisements on the development of subdivisions.

A few lucky researchers will come upon rare original architectural plans for houses—a gold mine of information. Your best leads are historical societies, archives, or architectural firms that have been in existence for a long time. Occasionally relatives or architects keep their architectural plans.

(to be continued next month)

Notes cont...

will include vendors exhibiting and selling their merchandise at the Heritage Center in addition to touring 5 homes. This material will be helpful for persons interested in home remodeling. Architectural plans for the Heritage Center Gift Shop have been completed and are really exciting. Please feel free to stop by the Heritage Center and take a look at the room and the drawings. We are in the process of hiring researchers to complete the historic research needed for the exhibit gallery. The artifacts which were temporarily stored in the exhibit gallery area have been moved to their permanent storage room across the hall, opening up the exhibit gallery space for construction. If you were unable to attend the annual meeting and Archives/Map Room open house on Tuesday, June 20, be sure to stop by the Heritage Center and look around the new research/conference facility!

Membership

Welcome to the following new members:

Jerry Hagen, Mankato

Larry Norman, Lake Crystal

Mr. and Mrs. Leighton Lloyd, Mankato

Patricia Will, Madison Lake

Public support and participation make possible the fine educational programs and exhibits offered by the Blue Earth County Historical Society. For information on how you can become a member, please call the Society at 507/345-4154 or 345-5566 or write to the Heritage Center, 415 Cherry St. Mankato, MN 56001 and we will gladly send you a membership brochure.

Memorials

Memorial Received:

In memory of Rudy Salfer and A. G. Scheidel given by Mrs. Marjorie Meredith

Donations

Thanks to the following for donations to the Society this past month:

Ethel Medalen, Good Thunder

Colleen Terrell, Eagle Lake P.T.O.

Le Ray Township, Matt Malterer

Lee and Carol Christensen, Rochester, MN

Town of Decoria, Susan Chambers

Grace Jefferson, St. Paul

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.

Hot off the Press "I Remember - Do You?"

-Barbara J. Lamson

Thanks to the generosity of Dr. John Mickelson, M.D. of Burbank, California we now have available in our shop his newly revised booklet entitled, "I Remember - Do You?" Dr. Mickelson has written a delightful booklet about his boyhood experiences while growing up in Mankato in the 1920's. He has also included sections on popular music, horses, and great cars of the day. His wonderfully exciting childhood and warm memories for people, places and events in Mankato make this booklet a must to read! "I Remember - Do You?" is available at the Hubbard House gift shop for \$2.00. Proceeds from the book will be used to fund the ongoing work of the Society. The Hubbard House gift shop is open Tuesday-Sunday from 1-5 pm and is located at 606 S. Broad Street in Mankato. Call 507/345-4154 for more information. Mail orders are available.

Tour of Historic Homes

Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, July 8 from 11 am - 3 pm for the Tour of Historic Homes and Renovation Concepts! We need volunteers to help host and hostess homes on the tour. If you are willing to help out please call 507/345-4154 or 345-5566. This year's tour will feature five outstanding homes as well as provide an opportunity to meet and talk with vendors who sell various goods and services used in remodeling of homes. Hope to see you there!

Young Historians Juried Art Competition

The Mankato Area Foundation, the Jefferson Memorial Fund and the Blue Earth County Historical Society are pleased to announce a Young Historians juried art competition for children in grades 3-6. The themes of the art exhibit are historic sites, events, and people in Blue Earth County. Works of art will be judged on originality,