

Historic Homes cont...

Sincere thanks to the following friends and members of the Society who worked at the "Tour of Historic Homes", or made other contributions:

Olive Stanford, Alma Smith, Alice Hollingsworth, Florence Evans, Helen Krobutz, Elmer & Beulah Goodrich, Iris Lundin, Vera Perkins, Natalie Miller, Pat Schmidt, Carol Greenwald, Jean Wood, Jenny Joyal, Ernie & Dollis Hansen, Amy Neilsen, Alvira Fluegel, Herbert & Leona Hanel, Kathryn Hanson, Gail Palmer, Greta Hurlbut, Marion Lichtenberg, Mary Brown, Kris Strom, Kay & Randy Lamb, Susan Monk-Kjos, Margaret Jenkins, Joe Richter, Mona Berg, Mimi How, Deanna & Warren Sylling, Julie Whitted, Marsha & Bruce Danielson, Shirley Schaub, Marion Harten, Garnet Nelson, Bert & Inella Burns, Pam Leinberger, Bernie Kopschke, Linda Just, Bernita Reed, Ken & Marilyn Berg, Kelly Reuter, Elsie Reaume, Magdelene McMahon, Kris Yarnes, Marilyn Christiansen, Carlienne Frisch, John & Ann Christenson, Ann Benson, Jerry & Delilah Keenan, Kathleen Swartz, Jan Gullo, Larry Haring, John & Kathy Dorn, Karen Mesrobian, Louisa Smith, Malda Farnham, Helen Jones, Mary Zehnder, Ron Afolter, Fred & Betty Cords, Vivian Walters, Hal & JoAnne Walberg, Willard Voightlander, LaVonne Smasal, Tim Solie, Mavis Christensen, Lisa Bigham, Dean Pettis, Anita Stone, Lorraine Wright, Sylva Kubicek, Ruth Henney, Bob & Jo Schultz, Tricia Nienow, Erna Stock, Robbie Weihrauch, Cheryl Eigen, Sherry Schultz, Ora Ohlenkamp, Judy Rice, Genny Portner, Hal Natvig, Marilyn Barnard, Randall's, Hardee's, Golden Pantry, K.E.Y.C. T.V., K.M.S.U. radio, Mankato Free Press, Barbara J. Lamson, Mary Jaspers, Margaret Scott, Julie Duehring, Tom Marks, Berniel Weigt, Hallmark Art Glass, Heller & Sons, Custom Art by Sue, Minneapolis Photo Restoration, Melcher's Power-Vac, Inc., Johnson's Building Restoration, Rainbow International, Landmark Restoration Inc., Marvin Windows, Past & Present.

Memorials

In memory of Craig Snell given by Tim Brown
In memory of Bert Hanson given by Mr. & Mrs. Earl Miner

Donations

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

Frank Hecht, Mankato
Kay & Randall Lamb, Mankato
Richard Confer, Mankato
Elizabeth Confer, Mankato
James & Hsin Rogers, Madison Lake

New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

Rickway Carpet, North Mankato
Walter Jones, Lake Crystal
Iryne Peterson, New Ulm
Peg Lawrence, Mankato
George & Mary Smith, Mankato
Kristen & Jim Weikum, Mankato
Ruth Lund, Mankato
Robert J. Lloyd, Mankato
John & Shirley Scheidel, Mankato.

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.

Curation Notes

-Audrey K. Burmeister-Hicks

We again invite our members and friends to join us for a summer outing in rural Blue Earth County when, on Wednesday, August 9, we continue the County Cemetery Project. We will meet at the Heritage Center in Mankato at 8:30 a.m. to carpool to the cemetery or you can meet us at the cemetery. When the newsletter goes to press we do not know in which cemetery we will be working but by the time you receive your newsletter we do know, so you may call us at 345-5566 for that information.

Blue Earth County
Historical Society

415 Cherry St.

Mankato, MN 56001

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BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

August 1989

Calendar of Events

- August 2 **Deadline to submit artwork for the Juried Young Historians art competition.**
- August 9 **Cemetery Project, call Audrey at 507/345-5566 for more information.**
- August 11 **Young Historians Workshop at the Blue Earth County Fair, 2:00 p.m. Call 507/345-4154 for reservations.**
- August 10-13 **Blue Earth County Fair in Garden City. Come visit us!**
- August 23 **Young Historians Art Show, opening night.**

Notes from the Director

-Susan M. Monk-Kjos

Special thanks to the volunteers who made the Silk Stocking Social and Tour of Historic Homes such great events! We couldn't have done it without our friends. Thanks also to Adam Pettipiece, Jason Hammer, Carl Houg, and Alan Sweere who cleaned the Heritage Center and Hubbard House under the direction of Kevin Sweere. We are proud to announce a new item in our gift shop--T-SHIRTS--either in white or gray with the Blue Earth County Historical Society logo on the front. You can purchase these fantastic t-shirts at the Heritage Center, Hubbard House or by mail. Call us at 507/345-5566 for more information. Special welcome to our new board members Lee Williams, Nancy Zallek, Bill Radichel, Kathy Trauger, Fred Cords and Janet Morken. Farewell to Mary Dooley, Ken Berg and Marty Wiltgen who are leaving the board after years of service. We will miss them all! Congratulations to the following persons who won prizes during raffle and door prize drawings after the Tour of Homes: Mary McGrew of Mankato won the restored antique trunk, Verona Burton of Mankato won the maple table both donated by Orv Jensen and Colleen Prill of Willmar, MN won the handmade baby quilt donated by Gail Palmer. We're busily planning for fall programs and are always looking for volunteers interested in working at special events. Just give us a call if you'd like to share in the excitement! Thanks also to Larry Haring of the Summit Center Staff who was invaluable in getting ready for the Tour of Homes.

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Edited by Susan Monk-Kjos

Piecing Together your House's History - continued

-Penny Jones from **Preservation News**,
February 1989, the monthly newspaper of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

One of the most valuable sources of pieces for your puzzle is photographs. Whether they are professional photos in archival collections of long-established firms or libraries or simply snapshots in family albums, photographs will supply you with fascinating bits of personal and architectural information. Be on the lookout also for engravings, lithographs, drawings, and paintings.

Utility companies sometimes have collections of photographs of structures and streetscapes and records of initial hookups.

In addition to checking the more public records and information, you can mine many private sources for insight into the families and lifestyles of the former occupants of your home—diaries, letters, bills, account books, insurance policies, scrapbooks, and journals.

Another important source is oral tradition. Using a tape recorder, interview older neighbors or family members about a house or neighborhood. Corroborate this oral history by documentation.

As you find and assemble the pieces of your puzzle, don't forget the most obvious source of information: the building itself. Its architectural style can lead you to the period when it was built, especially if it can be compared with similar structures in the area. Look closely at original materials and construction techniques for information using nail chronology, dendrochronology (wood dating) and other scientific methods. Archeological investigations of the building and site also can aid your search.

If all this research sounds like a great deal of work, it is! But it can be fun too. Don't forget others who have toiled before you. You might be able to bypass some of the original research by checking with agencies such as the state historic preservation office, which has National (or state) Register of Historic Places nomination forms on buildings and districts in your state. Local landmark commissions have information on buildings and districts under their jurisdiction. Books, magazines, and pamphlets on local history will sometimes have material. Local historical societies and private preservation organizations often collect information on historic buildings.

Those who have done it all before you share their experiences in how-to-guides. A recent

general research guide is *Houses and Homes: Exploring Their History*, published in 1987 by the American Association of State and Local History in Nashville. The Birmingham, Ala. Historical Society published in 1988 the *House Detective: A Guide to Researching Birmingham Buildings*, geared to that area but an excellent example of the methods all house researchers can use.

Whether you pursue your house puzzle out of sheer curiosity or to help you restore or renovate it, keep one bit of advice in mind at the end: Pass it on. You likely will not be the last to live in your house, so make a copy of your findings to hand down to the next owners. And don't forget to give your library a copy, so the next puzzle solver can have a look at the product.

ANTIQUES INTERNATIONAL

Local artist Arnoldus Gruter will present a workshop focusing on his personal art collection from Africa, China, New Guinea, the Middle East and the America's. The workshop will be held on three Friday evenings, October 6, 13, 20, 7:30 - 9:00, with emphasis on several topics such as stained glass, weaponry, Eskimo objects, manuscripts, brass, ceramics, coins and watches. The cost is \$25.00 for members and \$30.00 for non-members, with all proceeds going to the Historical Society. For more information please call the Blue Earth County Historical Society at 507-345-4154 or 345-5566.

Do You Remember The Year 1965?

CAN YOU RECALL THE MOVIE PREMIERE OF "MAN ON A MISSION?" The Blue Earth County Historical Society and The Rotary Club of Mankato are reviving this World War II Spy Thriller just in time for Armistice Day, November 11, 1989. We are in search of members of the cast and crew, costumes and props from the movie. So if you answered yes to the above questions, and are able to give us any insight or infor-

mation dealing with the movie, please call Greta at the Blue Earth County Historical Society, 507-345-4154. And, if anyone asks, please entertain your family, friends and neighbors with a delightful story from the past.

Program Update

-Barbara J. Lamson

I think most people will agree that the weather was less than kind to us during the early part of July. With the temperatures in the nineties, even reaching a record of 101 degrees for a day, we are very pleased to report the large numbers of people who turned out to attend the special events this past month.

The Silk Stocking Social, held July 1, 1989, provided an opportunity for hundreds of visitors to tour the Hubbard House and Carriage House, enjoy free entertainment, sample a variety of foods and beverages or just shop at the yard sale. Some even bought a box filled with treasures they couldn't live without.

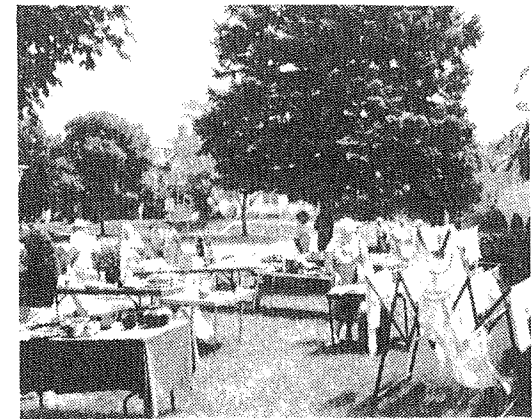
A special thank you to all who attended the Silk Stocking Social, worked at the event, or helped donate the more than five thousand items for the yard sale.

Donation of items for sale:

Alice Hollingsworth, Barbara J. Lamson, Kay Lamb, Margaret Schwankl, Doris Berger, Bert & Inella Burns, Mary McGrew, Don & Mary Ann Monk, Faye Mattison, Orv Jensen, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Miner, Mrs. Ogden P. Confer, Carme Doring, Mrs. Barb Lloyd, Amber Van Eaton, Mary Eustermann, Mary Roberts, Elmer & Beulah Goodrich, Helen Jones, Flo La hann, Mrs. Roy Marks, Marion & Margaret Carr, Sue Wiltgen, Norma Hansen, Gail Palmer, Anita Stone, Alma Severson, Ruth Nuessle, Susan Monk-Kjos, Bill Carlson, Odgen W. Confer, Ronnie & Dan Burton, Kris Strom, Joe Kubicek, Mary Ellen Howe, Betty Cords, Mary & Tim Brown.

Volunteers:

Evelyn Mikkelson, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Miner, Phyllis Votca, Gail Palmer, Betty Cords, Kay Lamb, Alma Severson, Kris Strom, Marion & Margaret Carr, Susan Monk-Kjos, Barbara J. Lamson, Bert Burns, Kathy Wright, Karen Monk, Orv Jensen, Dave Lamson, Joe Kubicek, Ron Affolter, Shirley Grundmeier, Peter & James McGuire.



Silk Stocking Social outside of the Hubbard House, July 1st.,

Tour of Historic Homes

A record number of people volunteered to work at the third annual "Tour of Historic Homes," held July 8, 1989. Volunteers were used to host and hostess homes, put up signs, direct traffic, serve refreshments, greet visitors, take pictures and make a video of the event. Special thanks to our five home owners for allowing us to feature their homes on the tour:

1) Harley and Janet Goff, 2) Tim and Candy Bell, 3) Denny and Julie Weis, 4) Henry and Sylvia Rindelaub, 5) Cora Thro estate



Heritage Center during the Tour of Historic Homes showing banners about exciting upcoming events and restoration exhibitors.