

# The Blue Earth County **HISTORIAN**

SPRING 2023  
Vol. 29 No. 2



A Publication of the Blue Earth County Historical Society

# The Blue Earth County **HISTORIAN**

Spring 2023  
Volume 29, Number 2

## **FEATURES**

- 3 Meet the New Board
- 5 Welcome to the Hill  
By BECHS Staff
- 9 Collections and Exhibits:  
MSU,M Partnership
- 14 Kids Corner: Discover  
History at a Park

## **IN EVERY ISSUE**

- 4 News and Noteworthy
- 10 Research Center
- 11 Gift Shop
- 12 Volunteer Opportunities
- 13 Donors and Supporters
- 15 Calendar of Events

## **COVER PHOTO:**

Academy and Motherhouse of Our Lady of Good Counsel, c. 1915. Later, this building would become known as Isidore Hall.

*The Blue Earth County Historian* is published quarterly for the members of the Blue Earth County Historical Society. Copyright © 2023 by the Blue Earth County Historical Society. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part of any material from this issue without permission of the publisher is prohibited.

Printed by Insty Prints of Mankato.

# **DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

By Jessica Potter, Executive Director

The spring flowers at the History Center and Hubbard House have awoken after a long winter's nap. I don't know about you, but I'm grateful to see them and the end to our long snowy winter. As we move into a new season, it means a shift in BECHS operations, too.

The Hubbard House will open for the season on Friday, May 26 and spring school field trips will start in May. Yay, they're back after a break due to the pandemic. If you have ever wanted to assist or lead group tours, now is the time. Staff will lead tour guide training in early May for new and returning guides. To sign-up, please reach out to Heather. Also, at this time, we have employment openings for the Hubbard House. Check out our website for more information.

This time of the year also ushers in a broadened slate of programs and events. Watch for updates on tours, presentations, living history experiences and so much more. The calendar on page 15 lists most of what's planned for May into July, but there are many additional experiences in the works, so stay tuned. If you don't already receive our weekly e-news, sign-up today on our website.

Last issue, I shared exciting updates about the BOLD Vision. I can report that we have been working with ISG (local engineering firm) to develop our construction documents (see plan below). We are now waiting for feedback from the construction company and the City of Mankato about the plan and budget. I had hoped to have a final budget and construction timeline to share, but that is still being developed. I will be sure to update you as more information becomes available. No matter what, sometime this summer, we will have a Parking Lot Party and you're invited! There will be live music, food and maybe a keg (root beer).

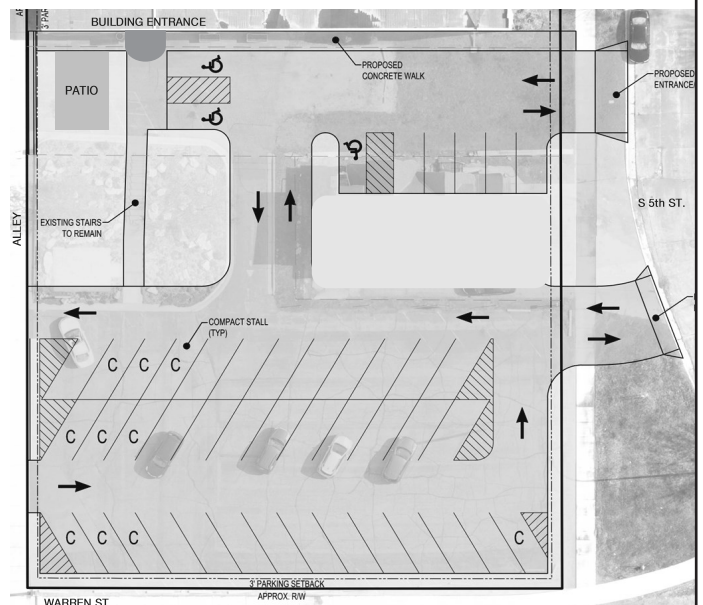
It's an exciting time to be part of BECHS! Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

## **BOLD VISION, BOLD STEP, BOLD HISTORY HEROES**

### **BOLD STEP PHASE 1 2023**

#### Parking Lot features

- Increased parking from 37 to 46 spots with 8 near the entrance
- Two entrances off of South 5th Street
- Patio and garden with bike rack near building entrance
- Replacement of 30+ year old infrastructure



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At the Annual Meeting in March, we thanked the following people for their service on the BECHS Board of Trustees: Gayle Elston, Kristin Fisher, Steve Jameson, Mary Teubner and Ken Wilmes. We also welcomed six new Board of Trustees members which we would like to introduce to you. Each member was asked two questions: 1. What is your favorite place/thing about Blue Earth County? 2. What are you most excited about as a new BECHS Board Member? See their responses below:

## Brad Bindig

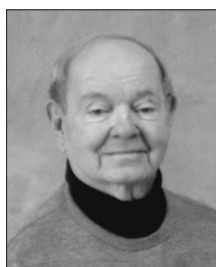
1. I like to walk the trail along the river downtown. I'm looking forward to seeing the carriage house with the stagecoach.
2. To be a part of the future of BECHS and to be able look back at the history.



2. To help with the continuation of the preservation and to help create even more awareness of the wonderful aspects of Blue Earth County. New members of our community might not be aware of the rich history around us. I find sharing this very exciting!

## Joe Farnham

1. Minneopa Park...love the Bison, especially each Spring when the calves appear.
2. The prospect of continued growth and expansion. There are so many Blue Earth County stories to tell and I am excited about being a part of them.



## Patricia Nienow

1. My favorite place in Blue Earth County is the Hubbard House. It holds a significant place in the history of Blue Earth County and also with our family. Our daughter, Tasha, worked there when she was a high school student during the 1990 's and, later, I gave tours of the house.
2. I respect the longevity of BECHS staff. I am happy to see the History Center welcome community groups, speakers, etc. And also the use of the attractive and well-equipped facilities that BECHS has to offer. BECHS is becoming the place to go!



## Lillian Lamoreux

1. I frequent the Lake Crystal Cemetery a few times a year to visit my dad's grave. It is a gorgeous cemetery full of huge trees and geese, right on the lake, and occasionally you can hear a train whistle nearby. The place is such a sensory experience. I love being there. While in Lake Crystal I love stopping at the Welsh Acres Park to revel in my Welsh heritage and horribly mispronounce the sign.
2. I am most excited about serving an organization that records the history of many of the areas I have called home in my life. I'm also excited to work on the events that help support the BECHS mission.



## Madysen Pearson

1. The history behind the community and all it has to offer.
2. To be more involved with preserving the history of our community and to work with everyone on the board.



## Kristi Maruska

1. I love the trails and the historical neighborhoods. Being a life-long resident of Mankato, I've seen the changes and it makes me so happy to see the preservation efforts.



## LOCAL HISTORY PODCAST

*Explore the history that surround us!*



New episodes air Saturdays  
at 11:05 a.m. on KTOE  
AM 1420/102.7 FM.  
You can find all previous  
episodes on our website at

[BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Podcast](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Podcast)

# NEW & NOTEWORTHY

## Hubbard House Opens for Season on May 26

The Historic R.D. Hubbard House will open for the season on Friday, May 26. The historic house museum is open from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. Admission charged, but is free for BECHS members.

To kick-off the 2023 season, check out the special Hubbard House Nooks and Crannies Tour on Thursday, May 25 at 6 p.m. Space is limited and tickets go fast, so get yours today.



## Twilight Garden Club Plant Sale and Annual Victorian Lawn Party

Two great events on one day at the Hubbard House! The day starts with the Twilight Garden Club Plant Sale from 8 a.m.—Noon. All funds raised support the beautiful Hubbard House gardens. The Plant sale will continue on Sunday, June 4, 8 a.m.-Noon.

Take a step back in time and learn how to play Victorian Lawn Games at the Hubbard House on Saturday, June 3 from 1-4 p.m.

The annual Victorian Lawn Party will have something for everyone to enjoy including

lawn games, costumed characters, a child's tea party and more!

This event is free and open to the public; however, admission is required if participants wish to tour the Hubbard House.



## BECHS Night at the MoonDogs Ballpark

Join BECHS at the Ballpark on Thursday, June 1, when the Mankato MoonDogs take on the Minot Hot Tots! This is a ticket fundraiser for the Blue Earth County Historical Society. Your special BECHS ticket will get you a premium seat in the grandstand and a meal deal at the MoonDogs game on June 1. The Meal Deal includes a bag of chips, hot dog, and soda. Half of the ticket price is a fundraiser for BECHS! Let's fill the stands for some great MoonDogs baseball and raise some funds for BECHS in honor of the Mankato MoonDogs 25th Anniversary!

The promo code for the BECHS Fundraiser is: **BECHISTORY**

Use the promo code when purchasing your tickets at [www.mankato-moondogs.nwltickets.com](http://www.mankato-moondogs.nwltickets.com)

## Historic Glenwood Cemetery Tour

Visit Glenwood Cemetery like you've never done before with this unique tour. This self-guided A/V tour features historic pictures and great stories about the cemetery and some of its residents all available on your smartphone or mobile device. You have the choice to view online from your home and/or walk the cemetery for an in-person experience.

The A/V tour premieres on Thursday, June 15 at 4 p.m. and will be accessible through midnight on June 30. Staff will be available for questions at the History Center and at the Cemetery only on June 15 from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per Household/Email and will be on sale June 1. Tickets are required to receive the tour download link.



## Inspired by Spring

New History Center Art Exhibit showcases BECHS' unique art collection by featuring twelve local artists from the past. The exhibit brings together a diverse group of paintings, photographs and handwork. Exhibit on display through June.

# WELCOME TO THE HILL

## The Story of School Sisters of Notre Dame and Our Lady of Good Counsel Academy

By BECHS Staff

History is important. It connects us to specific times, places, people and events that serve as guideposts in our collective past. This local landmark is not just a building or a set of buildings, it's also a group of women that have had a

lasting impact on this community. Here is the story of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and Our Lady of Good Counsel Academy.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) was founded in 1833 in Germany. Nuns of this order focused on ministry and mission through teaching young women. Responding to the call to teach children of German immigrants in North America, the first SSND's arrived in New York in 1847. By 1850, the sisters were teaching and caring for children at six missions in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Buffalo, New York. By the end of the year, they had established a Motherhouse in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; the first in the Midwest. (At this time, Wisconsin had only been a state for two years.)

In Mankato, the SS. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church was founded in 1854. By the 1860s, the German congregation wanted their own school for their children. At this time, there was a public school and one private, but not a parochial. The congregation wanted their children to not only receive a Catholic education, but also in German.

The congregation personally requested the SSND to come to Mankato to teach their children. In anticipation, parishioners built a new church with rooms for a school and convent.

The first request to the SSND was sent in



Architect's drawing of the Motherhouse and Academy used for promotion, c. 1911

1864. Mankato resident Leo Lamm traveled to Milwaukee, the SSND North America headquarters, to personally meet with the Mother Superior. Unfortunately, they did not have any Sisters available to fulfill the request. The next year SS. Peter and Paul's Father

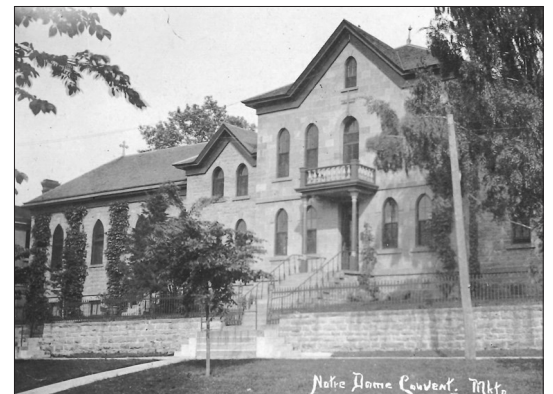
Sommereisen repeated the trip and the request. Circumstances were different and the request was granted.

In early September 1865, three sisters and one novice (candidate) left Milwaukee for a five-day journey to Mankato. They traveled by train to LaCrosse, then steamboat to St. Paul where they received a blessing from the Minnesota Bishop. The journey was completed on a mail coach from St. Paul to Mankato. Parishioners had trimmed the Mankato streets with flags and greeted the Sisters when they arrived.

The school at SS. Peter and Paul's was the first Catholic school in southern Minnesota.

On the first day of class, 250 children

and young people arrived and for two months the sisters taught religion and prepared them for their First Holy Communion. At this time, the school year



SSND Convent on the SS. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church campus, corner of N. 5th and Main Streets.

consisted of three terms to accommodate children helping on the farm. Students took their oral exams at the end of winter term, and if they passed, they were advanced a grade for spring term.

Within 10 years, the student body increased and a new school building was needed. The 1876 school year opened in a new brick building to accommodate 189 children. Soon the Sisters were opening schools at the following local Catholic churches: All Saints in Madison Lake, Holy Rosary in North Mankato, and St. John the Baptist, and St. Joseph the Worker in Mankato.

As the schools flourished and the number of Sisters here grew, the SSND North America began to consider establishing a province in Minnesota. At first, they thought it would be best to establish a province in St. Paul, since it was a larger city with many opportunities, plus it had another large city, Minneapolis, for a neighbor. But residents of Mankato started donating gifts to the SSND to establish a place for them in Mankato. A group of businessmen offered to donate land in 1909 so the SSND could build an Academy for girls and a Motherhouse for the Sisters. This gift, in addition to the welcoming warmth from Mankato's Catholic community, prompted the Superiors in Milwaukee to choose Mankato as the new province.

Land (63 acres) was donated by Aaron Duke with the stipulation that the land had to be used to build a school for young ladies and that an additional cash investment be raised by residents of Mankato and the surrounding area. He also stipulated that construction was to begin in 1910 with occupancy by 1912. So, on April 26, 1910, the piece of land was dedicated as Our Lady of Good Counsel.

That fall, construction began, and by September 1912, the building was finished. The Sisters celebrated their new province's first Mass on September 8, 1912, and the school itself, Our Lady of Good Counsel Academy, opened a few days later on September 16.

The Academy said in its dedication pamphlet:

"This new Day and Boarding School for girls is endowed with all the advantages desirable for an institution of this kind. Situated as it is on a lofty eminence overlooking not only the city of Mankato, but the Minnesota valley for miles in every direction, it is just the spot



Good Counsel Academy and Motherhouse, c. 1912

parents would wish for their daughters. The climate is healthful, the building new and modern, the campus large and beautiful, and the course of studies complete in the elementary and classical branches, as well as Music, Art, Needlework and Domestic Science. Religion instruction of course, forms the basis of the educational system"

In the mid-1920s, the beautiful Chapel of Our Lady of Good Counsel was built, and the first Mass was held on February 11, 1926.

Chicago architects Herman and Jacob Gaul designed the chapel with a large dome and rounded arches characteristic of Romanesque architecture. Italian Carrara marble was carved into statues of Our Lady of Good Counsel and Saint



Good Counsel Chapel, c. 1926. The Chapel was renovated in 1994.

Joseph and was also used for the altar steps. Columns in the chapel were made from stone quarried at Mankato and the floor's figured tiles were shipped in barrels from Germany. Mother-of-Pearl lattices and mosaics were used to grace the altar. Stained glass windows made by a German designer expressed the SSND's heritage and mission of education.

The building that houses the chapel was also designed to hold a dining room for the Sisters and an auditorium/gymnasium for the students. The spacious auditorium/gymnasium had seating capacity of 500, a large stage and galleries extended on three sides for additional seating.

It wasn't until 1975 that the historic Johnson and Sons pipe organ was acquired for the Chapel. It came from a Boston church that was slated for demolition. The Opus 499 is the largest existing Johnson and Sons organ ever built. It contains 45 speaking stops and 2,995 pipes.

By the late 1920s anticipated enrollment was for 300 students, so plans began for three new buildings in the next 10 years: Caroline Hall (1929), Theresa Hall (1931) and Marian Hall (1937). St. Joseph Hall was built in 1957.

The next big construction boom for the campus took place in the 1960s. In 1964, groundbreaking took place for the Good Counsel Education Center and complex to accommodate 600 students with a three-story residence dorm for 220 resident students, a two-story academic section and one-story dining area between. It was designed by the architecture firm Ellerbe & Co. (Yes, it's the same company that in 1913 designed the First National Bank of Mankato – today part of the Civic Center known as the Ellerbe Room.)

At the August 1965 grand opening, enrollment

topped 425 girls: 240-day students, 95 boarders and 85 aspirants. Plus, there were 165 Sisters on campus. At that time, this project was considered one of the largest post-war construction projects in Mankato at over \$4 million.

The Academy served as a boarding school to young women until 1980. By then, enrollment had declined too much to keep the school running; from over 400 at its peak to just 125 the final year.

The reduction in the number of day students accelerated after the opening of Fitzgerald Middle School in 1969. Located across the street from Loyola High School on the SS. Peter and Paul's campus, the two schools were known as Loyola-Fitzgerald Catholic School, and they operate under one superintendent with a consolidated budget. Each year, more girls from Fitzgerald Middle School attended high school at co-ed Loyola rather than the all-girls Good Counsel Academy.

Good Counsel Academy's final senior class graduated 30 young women. In 68 years, over 4,000 young women graduated from Good Counsel Academy. The Sisters, although saddened to close the academy, saw the opportunity to collaborate with Loyola and expand Catholic education.

The residency complex of the Good Counsel Education Center continued to offer its facilities to girls who wished to live there while attending Loyola. Space was also used by a variety of groups for conferences, meetings, community athletics, and Montessori School for preschool.

By the Fall of 1981, Loyola High School relocated from downtown Mankato to the Good Counsel hill. They leased the school wing of the Education Center. In 2017, Loyola Catholic School welcomed all students from pre-K thru 12 grade to

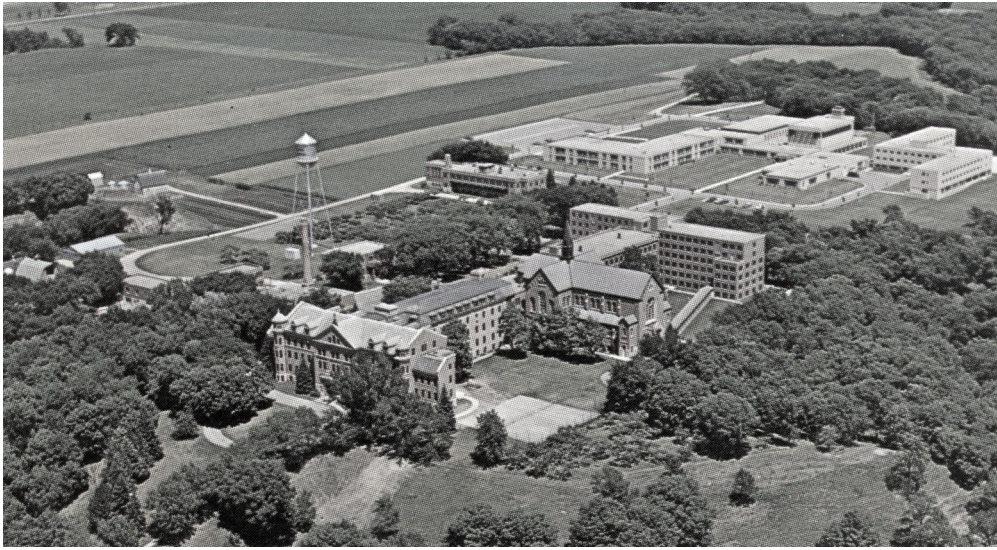
one site. All Mankato/North Mankato Catholic schools are now consolidated in one place for the first time. After the Academy closed, the SSND continued to support students at area Catholic schools, the community and much more. Here is a description of Good Counsel in a 2010s brochure: "Our Lady of Good Counsel is home to a Romanesque chapel, which houses Stations of the Cross from Bavaria, Germany, and a



THE EDUCATION CENTER  
GOOD COUNSEL HILL  
MANKATO, MINNESOTA

Postcard c. 1965. Caption on back: "Education complex includes (l. to r.) academic and administration areas, chapel, dining facilities and student-faculty residence. The complex serves the Mankato area by educating high school girls, offering adult education courses and conducting a teacher training program."

historic 140-year-old Johnson & Son organ. In addition to the celebration of Eucharist and daily community prayer within this chapel, Sisters host numerous public concerts. Sisters at OLGC are active in Mankato



Bird's eye view of campus, c. 1970s. The campus grew in 2003 with the construction of Notre Dame Hall (health care wing) and in 2015 with a 4 1/2 acre solar park.

Central Pacific Province live and minister not only in the central part of the United States, but also in Ghana, Guam, Italy, Japan, Kenya and Nepal. On September 28, 2022, Loyola Catholic School purchased the entirety of its campus from

through tutoring programs at the Good Counsel Learning Center, educational outreach programs about Spirituality and the Earth at the The Living Earth Center and teaching at Loyola Catholic School, which educates students in pre-K through grade 12. The sisters and employees work to better the Mankato community through their commitment to such things as the community gardens, Fair Trade and solar energy.”

Due to rising maintenance and health care costs and the declining number of Sisters, it was announced in early 2021 that the SSND would be leaving Good Counsel hill and the historic 135 acres campus would be put up for sale. The sale would finance the SSND’s educational mission and allow it to continue. In the fall of 2022, about 100 sisters moved to Benedictive Living Community Senior Care Center in Shakopee. The SSND

the School Sisters of Notre Dame, which they had been leasing since 1981.

What will be the next chapter for the buildings and property known as Good Counsel hill? Well, that’s a story still to be written. On behalf of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, a heartfelt thanks goes out to the School Sisters of Notre Dame for teaching this community for over 150 years. Whether we were students or not, you taught all of us what it means to love, learn and grow old beautifully and gracefully. Your legacy lives on.

**SOURCES**

- BECHS Photograph Collection
- Various news articles in BECHS Subject Files
- www.SSND.org

**Historic Glenwood Cemetery Tour**  
**Thursday, June 15**

Unique Self-Guided A/V Tour featuring historic photos and great stories all available on your mobile device.

Tickets are \$10 per Household/Email  
 Tour accessible June 15-30

Join BECHS at Glenwood Cemetery on June 15, 5-7 p.m.

**LINCOLN SCHOOL**  
*Celebrating*  
**100 YEARS**

**Special History Center Exhibition**  
**Open thru June 10, 2023**



# COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITS: MSU,M Partnership

By Shelley Harrison, Collections Manager

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is excited to collaborate with the Museum Exhibition Class, taught by Dr. Alisa Eimen at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The class explores the fundamental principles of them museum exhibition process. The students get real-world practice through this course and gain hands-on museum experience. Their projects range from designing an exhibit, to drafting social media content, to reinterpreting a space for diverse audiences. Here's a report and invitation from the class:

Have you seen some new faces at the History Center on Thursdays these last few months? We are twelve Minnesota State University, Mankato students, who enrolled in a Museum Studies course. We come from many different fields of study including Art, Anthropology, History and Education, and we have been working with BECHS staff this Spring to gain some professional experience.



Collectively, our focus is on specific aspects of the exhibition space which includes: Indigenous Peoples exhibits, visitor experience, Discovery Lab and the documentation and communication related to our work. Over the last few months, we have received a general introduction into the museum world, including conservation methods, researching historical backgrounds of artifacts, and getting hands-on installation experience.



The Indigenous Peoples exhibit which features the Dakota, Ho-Chunk (previously known as the

Winnebago) and the U.S. Dakota Conflict of 1862 is being updated to provide a modern interpretation.

The Discovery Lab is also undergoing updates including a Blue Earth County-centered mural

created by studio art students in the class. We are creating a colorful, inviting space for children and younger kids to get excited about discovering history.



The overall visitor experience update includes the implementation of a new label system. We hope it will enhance legibility for all audiences to create more accessible learning. We are also revamping some display cases to create a more

cohesive exhibit that will highlight each artifact.

To celebrate this collaborative effort between BECHS and the Department of Art and Design, we would like to invite you to a reception that is free and open to the public on Thursday, May 4th from 5-7

p.m. at the History Center Museum. We would love for you to come and view our work and discover the history of Blue Earth County!

## Get Yours Before They're Gone



*The Art of Marian Anderson* is a wonderful keepsake commemorating the life, legacy and work of this beloved Minnesota artist.

**Retail: \$49.95**  
Hard cover w/dust jacket, 140+ pp.  
Full Color  
10.5" x 9.75"  
Published by MN Heritage Publishing



**All Proceeds Benefit  
Blue Earth County Historical Society**

# New Research Center Finding Aids

By Bri Krumwiede, Archives Assistant

BECHS is excited to announce new research finding aids now available on our website under the Research tab.

Finding aids are guides that summarize and describe archival collections. They contain two main components, the Summary Information and the Contents List. The Summary Information might include a date range, the size of the collection, a brief abstract of the collection, relevant background information, and more. The Contents List will include the books, manuscripts, photographs, and files in each collection.

Right now, BECHS has finding aids on our website for the following six collections:

## **Brandrup Family Collection**

This collection includes photographs, newspaper clippings, and other resources relating to the Brandrup family including publications by J. R. Brandrup.

## **Duehring, Kiffe, Rasmussen, and Siebert Families Photograph Collection**

This collection includes photographs, photo albums, and a scrapbook relating to the Duehring, Kiffe, Rasmussen, and Siebert



Marilyn Kiffe, c. 1948

Families. Some of these photographs are also available on our MNCollections page.

## **Halverson, Esther Papers**

This collection includes Esther Halverson's papers from her first year at the Mankato Commercial College.

## **Mankato Commercial College, 1891-1980 Collection**

This collection includes Mankato Commercial College publications including catalogs and student guides.

## **Medo Township Records**

This collection includes Medo Township records relating to elections, township development, taxes, expenses, and more from the years 1853-1972.

## **R.L. Polk & Co. City Directories**

This collection includes R.L. Polk & Co. City Directories ranging from 1892-2014.

Visit [blueearthcountyhistory.com/research-finding-aids/](http://blueearthcountyhistory.com/research-finding-aids/) to view these finding aids. Visit us in the Research Center to view these collections. More collections will be added to this page soon! Also, find related photographs on our MNCollections page at [mncollections.org](http://mncollections.org).

## Historic R.D. Hubbard House

GUIDED TOURS BY APPOINTMENT

Friday - Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.

Memorial Day thru Labor Day weekends

606 South Broad Street, Mankato

### SPECIAL EVENTS

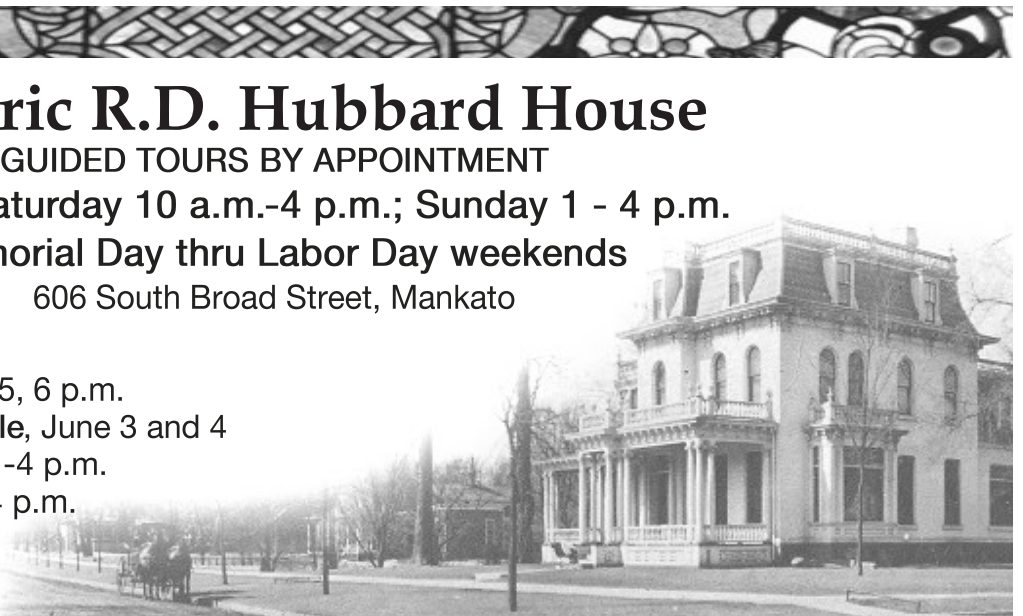
Nooks & Crannies Tour, May 25, 6 p.m.

Twilight Garden Club Plant Sale, June 3 and 4

Victorian Lawn Party, June 3, 1-4 p.m.

Medicine Show, August 26, 1-4 p.m.

Follow "Hubbard House, Mankato" on Facebook for updates



[BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Hubbard-House](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Hubbard-House)

# GIFT SHOP & ART GALLERY

By Heather Harren, Operations Manager

Summer is right around the corner! This is a great time to travel, but also see the sites in your own back yard.

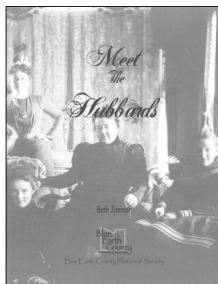
## Meet the Hubbard's

by Beth Zimmer

Softcover, 42 pages

\$14.95

Meet the Hubbard family and read about their lives in Mankato. R. D. Hubbard, local entrepreneur, was the founder of Hubbard Milling Company, which was the largest flour mill in Southern Minnesota. Hubbard built his home on South Broad Street in Mankato in 1871, where he raised three children.



## Marian Anderson

Mankato Series

Notecard Pack

\$7.50

The Mankato Series is the perfect set of six



note cards to bring back a bit of yesterday while sending a thinking-of-you today note. Each pack contains two note cards of each of the Mankato Series prints. Take a trip to yesteryear and recall some places that were once there, but are now gone or have changed.

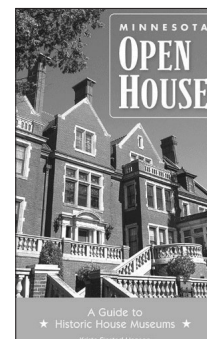
## Minnesota Open House

by Krista Finstad Hanson

Softcover, 231 pages

\$17.95

This book is organized by regions and features easy-to-follow maps. This handy guide to historically significant and often breathtaking sites is the perfect road-trip companion. Engaging site histories tell of immigrant struggles and abundant wealth, of political ambition and architectural innovation. Entries detail each site's cultural and political importance, and photographs illustrate key features. Easy-to-follow practical information makes arranging a visit easy.



The History Center Gift Shop is a great place to find local, one-of-a-kind items as well as state and local history books. The Gift Shop also features the Marian Anderson Art Gallery, displaying Anderson's Fine Art prints and original paintings. Can't make it to the History Center? Shop online anytime!

[www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Online-Store](http://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Online-Store)

## MEMBERS MATTER

### WELCOME NEW BECHS MEMBERS

January 22—April 15, 2023

Brad Bindig

Winnis Buesing

MSU, M Department of Communication and Media

James Hanson

Rachael Jaeger

Mark Krosch

Jim and Kathy Malcolm

Charles McLaughlin

Karri R Samson

Bonnie Shult

Donn Vetter

Ronald Yezzi

### BECHS Member Benefits

- Free admission to the History Center, R.D. Hubbard House and Research Center, plus free or reduced admission to most BECHS events
- *The Historian*, quarterly publication
- 10% off most items in the Gift Shop and Marian Anderson Art Gallery, in store and online
- One 30-minute Research Center search by Staff, a \$15 value
- Annual Member's State-of-the-Society meeting

Member dues support BECHS programs, facilities, exhibits, preservation of Blue Earth County's past for future generations. Thank you!

Join or renew online at [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Membership](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Membership)

# VOLUNTEERS MAKE HISTORY

Volunteers are truly the lifeblood of the Blue Earth County Historical Society. There is no aspect of work done at the History Center or Hubbard House that doesn't involve volunteers. **THANK YOU** to all our volunteers for your support.

## NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Tour Guides

Seeking individuals to lead group tours at the History Center and Hubbard House. Volunteers can specify student and/or adult tours, and preferred site, if any. Tour guide training in May.

### History Center Gardeners

Seeking individuals to care for and maintain the flower beds on the Cherry Street side of the History Center. This involves weeding and trimming as needed. Some tools and supplies are available.

### Rental Host

Seeking individuals to assist with after-hours History Center Meeting Room rental. Volunteers will greet and assist renters, stay on-site during the rental and lock-up when done.

### Filing

The Research Center is in need of volunteers to index and file newspaper articles into the Subject and Biography Files.

### Digitization and Data Entry Volunteer

Seeking a volunteer to scan historical photographs and enter data into our collections database. This opportunity would be great for someone interested in working with historical documents and photographs. Computer skills and an interest in learning about databases and scanners a plus.

### Blue Earth County Fair

July 20-23, shifts vary

Seeking volunteers to tend the Heritage Building at the Blue Earth County Fair. Shifts will be in 3-hour increments. Sign-ups available on July 5.

Training is provided and schedules are flexible for all opportunities. If you are interested in these opportunities or volunteering in general, please contact Heather or sign-up at [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Volunteer](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Volunteer)

---

## INTERN SPOTLIGHT

BECHS supports hands-on learning opportunities for college students through internships. This semester we welcomed four students from MSU, M. Below is what the experience has meant to them.

### Carly DeLeu

Graduate Student M.A. History *"I sought out an internship with BECHS to help me get involved in local history and learn more about necessary skills for historians who work in museums and archives. I have had many different opportunities at BECHS that have allowed me to learn a little of everything from research and displaying artifacts to the process of accepting donations and creating opportunities for youth education at the museum."*



### Hunter Hessa

Major/Minor: History/Anthropology *"Interning with BECHS has helped me in my research process and to better understand what I'm reading. With the projects I've worked on I have a better understanding of where I should be looking for information and what I should be using from the sources."*



### Ryuto Hashimoto

Major/Minor: Interdisciplinary Studies/Nonprofit Leadership *"During the internship at BECHS, I learned how small-middle sized nonprofits operate meticulously as well as the history of this beautiful county that I study in."*



### Isaiah Janz

Major/Minor: History/Philosophy *"I absolutely loved getting to work hands-on with historical materials. It really allowed me to explore certain topics more in-depth than I ever would have been able to do in a traditional classroom setting. I also loved helping others discover things about their families. This was an invaluable experience and I really enjoyed my time at BECHS!"*



# BECHS DONORS & SUPPORTERS

January 22 – April 15, 2023

## DONORS

Helen Balcome  
Linda and Randy Berkland  
Bicek Household  
Peg Bindner  
Mike and Cathy Brennan  
Marilyn Buscher  
Cambria Township  
Mary Coleman  
Decoria Township  
Laura Garlow  
Sandi and Darrell Garlow  
Karolyn Hanna  
Scott and Janet Hermel  
Thomas Hoehn  
James Hummer  
John and Kathy Kachelmyer  
Linda Karow  
Kiwanis Holiday Lights  
Peggy Kreber  
Denise and Mike Kunkel

Marilyn Lehnert  
LeRay Township  
Charles McLaughlin  
Robert Morris  
Chuck and Mary Norgaard  
Chuck & Kathy Piehl  
Bruce Raps  
Richard Reisdorf  
Page Jones Richards Family Foundation  
Jim and Connie Rovney  
Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice  
Nancy Thurber  
Terry and Kay Tompkins  
Nicholas Traxler  
Vernon Center Township  
Leo and Judy Voss  
Dianne Walther  
Brad Wilmes  
Sue Wiltgen

## MONTHLY DONORS

Dale Benefield  
Joel Botten  
Carol English  
David and Julie Ewert  
James Hummer  
Steve & Susan Jameson  
Mike Lagerquist  
Marnie Werner  
Randy Zellmer  
Beth Zimmer

ISG  
SPX  
Xcel Energy

## IN MEMORIAM

*In Memory of  
Ronald McMillian*  
Bruce and Renita Goodrich  
Lowell Goodrich

*In Memory of  
Joy Abraham*  
Helen Owens

*In Memory of  
Roger Jones*  
Helen Owens

*In Memory of  
James C. Harten*  
Doug Sinclair

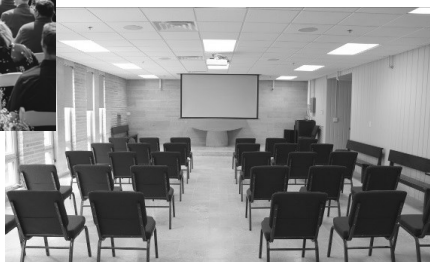
## BUSINESS PARTNERS

BENCO Electric  
Crystal Valley Co-op  
First National Bank MN  
Mankato Computer Technology  
Oleson + Hobbie Architects  
Maschka, Riedy, Ries, and Frenz Law Firm

## Book Your Next Special Event, Meeting or Gathering with BECHS



The Blue Earth County History Center and the Hubbard House Grounds have a number of rental options perfect for your next gathering.



Visit [BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Rentals](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Rentals) for more information and rates.  
Contact the History Center for availability.

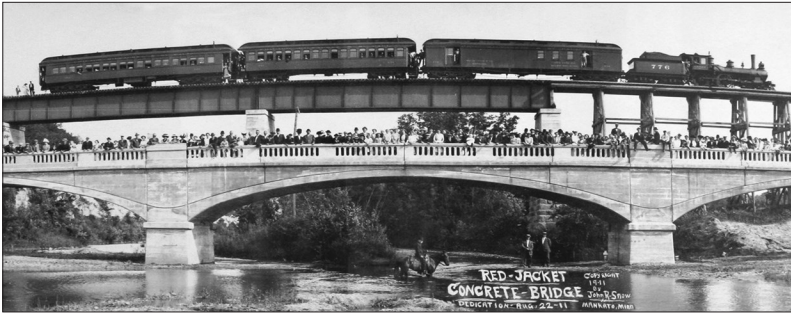
## Twilight Garden Club Plant Sale



Saturday, June 3 & Sunday, June 4  
8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Historic Hubbard House Gardens  
606 South Broad Street, Mankato  
*Rain or Shine*

# KIDS CORNER: DISCOVER HISTORY AT A PARK!

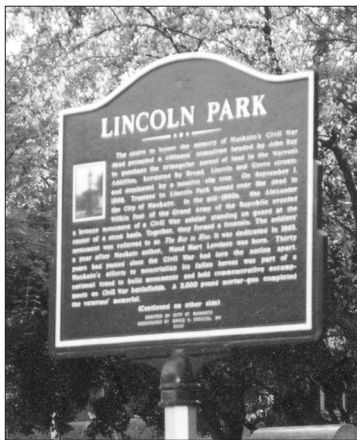


Blue Earth County's newest park is the Red Jacket Valley Park near the Red Jacket Trail and historic train trestle. Find the park sign to learn more.

There are parks all around Blue Earth County: city parks, county parks and even a state park. At many parks you may find a sign or plaque that tells you some of the park's history and interesting tidbits like how a park got its name or what was there before the land became a park. Take time to read these signs to discover the history all around us!

## GO ON A PARK SCAVENGER HUNT

Did you know that Mankato has 18 green heritage plaques around town? Visit these five Mankato Parks and find the green heritage plaques to fill in the blanks below. Then visit the Blue Earth County History Center with your completed answers and receive one free kid's admission to the Museum!



Washington Park was the location of the “\_\_\_\_\_ Line” before it became a city park in 1915.

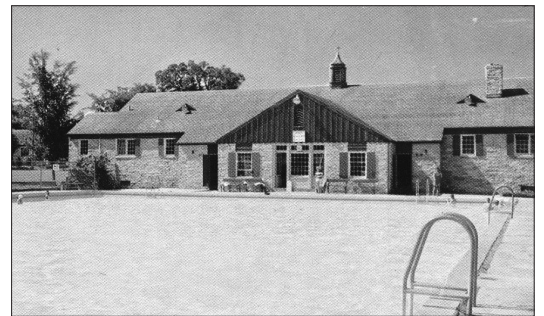
Lincoln Park once had a huge elm tree. The tree became sick in 1980 and had to be cut down. It was \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

Highland Park was used as a recruitment center for Civil War soldiers and was first known as “\_\_\_\_\_ Hill.”

Sibley Park used to have a zoo that included a Lion named \_\_\_\_\_ and his best friend, a dog named Jeff.

Tourtellotte Park is named after John Tourtellotte. He fought in the Civil War. He gave money to Mankato to build the city's first \_\_\_\_\_.

## Summer Fun - Thanks to the WPA



If you have been to Minneopa State Park or swam in the Tourtellotte Pool, you have seen the work of the WPA. WPA stands for the Works Progress Administration. This was a program started under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the 1930s during the Great Depression. This was a time in history when world money problems led to many people losing their jobs. The WPA gave people jobs all across the country. Local WPA workers built many things including the Tourtellotte Pool and Bathhouse, buildings at Minneopa State Park and the steps leading to the bottom of Minneopa Falls. If your summer fun leads you to Minneopa or Tourtellotte Parks, you have the work of the WPA to thank!



SCAN ME

Learn more local history found at Mankato's parks and at Blue Earth County's William's Nature Center with the Greater Mankato Audio and Visual Tours at [greatermankato.stqry.app](http://greatermankato.stqry.app) or scan the QR code on your mobile device to get started. Want even more history? Check out BECHS' Surrounded By History podcasts on BECHS' website.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May - July 2023

All programs will be held at the Blue Earth County History Center and are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

## MAY

- 4 **MSU,M Exhibit Class Reception**, History Center Museum, 5-7 p.m. (see page 9 for more information)
- 10 **Lincoln Community Center Self-Guided Tours**, 2-4 p.m., Lincoln Community Center, Mankato, Free. Final Community Tour.
- 13 **Young Historians: World War II** 10 a.m.-Noon, Pre-registration required. Free hands-on History workshop for kids.  
  
FREE Second Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free History Center Admission, Family Activities and City Directory Research Sessions
- 20 **Mankato's Heritage Plaques Program** presented in honor of National Historic Preservation Month, 1 p.m., History Center
- 25 **Hubbard House Nooks and Crannies Tour**, 6 p.m., Hubbard House, Tickets on sale now - \$10/Adult, \$7/BECHS Member.
- 26 **Hubbard House Opening Day**, 10 a.m. Admission charged
- 27 **History Center Closed; Hubbard House Open**

## JUNE

- 1 **BECHS Night at the Mankato MoonDogs** , 6:35 p.m., ISG Field. Tickets on sale now (see page 4 for more information).
- 3 **Twilight Garden Club Plant Sale** 8 a.m.—Noon, Hubbard House  
  
Victorian Lawn Party, 1-4 p.m., Hubbard House
- 4 **Twilight Garden Club Plant Sale**, 8 a.m.—Noon, Hubbard House
- 10 **Last Day for Celebrating 100 Years of Lincoln School**, see it before the final school bell rings
- 15 **Glenwood Cemetery Tour**, \$10/Household/Email (see page 4 for more information)

## JULY

- 1 **“Music and Memories” Opens**  
New History Center exhibit featuring a large collection of mid-century Mankato music memorabilia
- 20 - **Blue Earth County Fair**, See you at the Fair!  
23
- TBA **Parking Lot Party**

For more event information or to register, visit  
[BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Events](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com/Events)

BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Nikolas Proehl, Chair  
Dan Tomhave, Vice Chair  
Jennifer Echevarria, Treasurer  
Kirby Hurd, Secretary  
Jo Guck Bailey  
Brad Bindig  
Mary Ann Brenden  
Joe Farnham  
Katherine Hughes  
Lillian Lamoreux  
Kelly McBride  
Kristi Maruska  
Patricia Nienow  
Eric Oleson  
Madysen Pearson

## **BECHS STAFF**

Jessica Potter  
Executive Director  
Director@  
[BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com)

Heather Harren  
Operations Manager  
Museum@  
[BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com)

Shelley Harrison  
Collections Manager  
Archivist@  
[BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com)

Bri Krumwiede  
Archives Assistant  
Research@  
[BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com)

General  
Info@  
[BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](http://BlueEarthCountyHistory.com)

History Center  
507.345.5566

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Membership  
Expiration Date

[Empty box for membership expiration date]

# PLAN YOUR VISIT



## HISTORY CENTER: MUSEUM, RESEARCH CENTER, GIFT SHOP & ART GALLERY

424 Warren Street, Mankato  
507-345-5566  
Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

## ADMISSION

\$7 Adults  
\$3 Children 5-17  
BECHS Members and  
Children under 5 FREE



## R.D. HUBBARD HOUSE

606 S. Broad Street, Mankato  
507-345-4154  
Open Memorial Day Weekend  
- Labor Day Weekend  
Friday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Sunday 1-4 p.m.

## VISIT US ONLINE

[www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](http://www.BlueEarthCountyHistory.com)

- Facebook.com/BECHShistory
- @BECHShistory (Instagram)
- YouTube.com/c/BECHShistory

# EXHIBITS



*Celebrating  
100 Years of  
Lincoln School*

On display  
until June 10



**ART GALLERY**  
*Inspired by Spring*  
Featuring BECHS'  
Art Collection

On display  
thru June 2023