

The Blue Earth County HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP

Vol. 11, No. 2

March, 1973.

Rensselaer D.

Hubbard

President 1879-
1905

HUBBARD MILLING COMPANY

A Beginning

RENSSELAER DEAN HUBBARD settled in Mankato in 1870, and the Mankato Weekly Union of September 16, 1870, had this to say of his arrival: "R. D. Hubbard, Esq., of Chicago, arrived in this city last week.-He has capital and business experience and he cannot fail to find in our growing city an inviting field for their employment."

HERE HE BUILT A WAREHOUSE and engaged in the wheat buying business until March, 1872: "Mr. R. D. Hubbard has purchased two 22 foot business lots--one from J.C. Wise, the other from J.H. Davis, nearly opposite Barn's factory on Front Street. He will erect thereon this fall a grain warehouse 32 by 100 feet....The foundation is to be built of stone and is to be a first-class building for the purpose designed. (Mankato Weekly Union, September 23, 1870)

GROUND WAS BROKEN in April, 1878, and on October 1, 1879, Hubbard completed his "matchless 4-story flour mill" on the corner of Front and Washington Street.

THE MANKATO MILL

The Most Elegant and Best Furnished Mill in the State

"... The new flouring mill in this city built under the general supervision and management of R.D. Hubbard, was begun on the 1st of April, 1878, and is now finished and actually begun. The name of the mill is "The Mankato Mill," and its proprietors are legally known as the "Mankato Mill Company" of which Mr. Hubbard is President, Geo.M. Palmer, Secretary and Treasurer, Wm. Pierson, Head Miller, and these gentlemen are the proprietors ... Add this mill to the other fifteen mills in the county, with a total of 43 run of stone, it will be seen that we are fast becoming an important flouring center.

... Too much credit cannot be given R.D. Hubbard for the sagacity and energy with which he originated and has pushed this enterprise. A dozen such men as Hubbard would build a city, and a good city too. We wish we had more such men and may the "Mankato Mill" live long and prosper."

(Mankato Weekly Union, October 17, 1879)

In March of 1880, the first telephone in the county was installed. It extended between the City Hall in Mankato and the Hubbard Mill & the Mankato House.

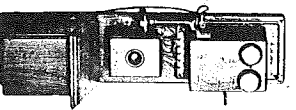


Photo courtesy Mr. P. M. Ferguson Jr., Sr. V.P. Mankato Citizens Telephone Company
Hubbard's "Thrifty Five" products were manufactured and distributed throughout the area prior to WWII.

REPORTS

THE ANNUAL DINNER MEETING of the Blue Earth County Historical Society was held on Wednesday, January 17, 1973, at 6:30 P.M. at the YMCA Annex--approximately 70 persons attended.



PRESIDENT BURNS addressed the group, welcoming everyone and introducing special guests. He then introduced Janet Goff and Marcia Confer, Co-chairmen of the Fall Crafts Fair. After a brief talk they presented the Society with a check for \$350 -- money made at the Crafts Fair -- to be put into a special fund for the restoration of the Hubbard House.



BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT WERE: Pres. Dr. Bert Burns, Kathryn Hanson, George Sudgen, Betty Lou Cords, Marcia Schuster, Warner Zeno, Ben Jones, Howard Williams, Ted Nydahl, Ogden Confer, Jr. and Museum Director Pat Schwan.

BUSINESS MEETING: At this time, Pres. Burns asked for the Society's approval of the annual report and financial report -- copies having been handed out to everyone present earlier. Motion was made and seconded to accept both reports with unanimous approval.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS: Nominating Chairman, Howard Williams, presented the Society with the new slate of Officers for 1973, they are:

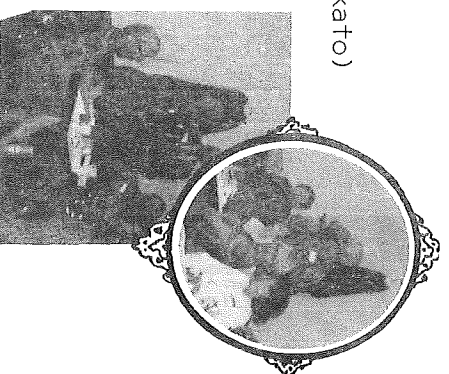
President 1973 -- Dr. Bert Burns (527 Byron, Mankato)
 Vice President 1973 -- Kathryn Hanson (5 Petticoat Lane, Mankato)
 Treasurer 1973 -- George Sudgen (63 Skyline Dr., Mankato)
 Secretary 1973 -- Betty Lou Cords (311 E. Humphrey, Lake Crystal)

Board members for a 3-year term:

Dr. Anna Wiecking (506 Byron, Mankato)
 Dr. Ted Nydahl (220 Viola, Mankato)
 Mr. Cecil H. Jones (153 W. Glencrest, Mankato)

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Pres. Bert Burns presented Miss Cora Sletten with a single long-stemmed rose in honor of her 88th birthday.



CHANGE DATE OF ANNUAL DINNER: Pres. Burns presented the idea of moving the Annual Dinner Meeting to the third Wednesday in April permanently, hoping that more members would attend if changed to coincide with the spring quarterly meeting. A motion was made and seconded with unanimous approval.

At this time, Pres. Bert Burns gave a brief resume of the beginnings of the Society up to the present time and our present problems -- mainly, the proposed Warren Street relocation through the Hubbard property. He also outlined some of our new innovations and programs with possibilities for this coming year, such as lectures, historic tours, etc. He then introduced our program, a panel consisting of Mayor Vernard Lundin representing the City of Mankato, Bob Hodapp representing the Blue Earth County Commissioners and Kathryn Hanson representing the Society.

PANEL DISCUSSION: Mayor Lundin gave a very comprehensive report on the entire Warren St. situation as part of a long-range traffic plan the City had proposed in the early 1970's with several hearings at the time and no apparent opposition. This plan is funded by the City and Federal and State aid. The storm sewer coming through the Hubbard property would cost one million dollars and the new Warren St., one half million -- \$750,000.00 Federal aid and \$600,000.00 State aid.

Federal aid comes under the TOPICS program which is now discontinued. If they have to change the present plan in any way they will lose this TOPICS money and the money would have to be raised through local tax payers. The final hearing was held on January 8 and final bids for the work on Warren Street will be let in April. Alternatives and legalities mentioned in previous minutes were also discussed at length.

COMMISSIONER ROBERT HODAPP: Mr. Hodapp briefly described the County's position and suggested that the County Commissioners and County planning board get together to work on a plan agreeable to everyone sometime soon.

KATHRYN HANSON: Mrs. Hanson presented our long range plan for restoration of the Carriage House -- a separate Indian Pioneer Culture Center -- and restoration of the Hubbard House as a period house. She also restated our dilemma -- a busy public street defacing the property -- a Minnesota State Historic Site. She also outlined our need for adequate fire proof display space, working with the County Planning Commission for grants and special funds and the need for Society members willing to help.

ATTORNEY JAMES MANAHAN: Jim stated our case -- legalities pro and con and told the membership that he felt our case was weak, because the property belonged to the City and not to us, and when Hubbard House was made a State Historic Site it was without their knowledge or consent and they were never officially notified of the fact.

ORRIS JOHNSON: Mr. Johnson made a motion to endorse the action of the Board. The motion was seconded. In the discussion that followed Jim Manahan made a clarification -- he said that he felt that the general feeling of the Board was to let the street go through so that endorsing the Board would in effect mean that the road would be allowed to go through. Voting by show of hands -- 31 yes votes and 14 no votes. Motion was carried.

Mayor Lundin moved to have the Historical Society Board get together with the City Housing Authority and City Council to consider the preservation of the site of the hanging at Main and Front Street for a permanent monument. There is at present a small triangular piece of land near the site that could be used for this. Motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Howard Williams moved that the Society cooperate in every way with the suggestion that property to the north of the present Hubbard House be extended by the City of Mankato through possible parkland acquisition. Carried unanimously.

At this time, Dr. Daniel Burton made a motion to give the Board an additional vote of confidence. Motion was seconded with unanimous approval.

Meeting was adjourned.

Betty Lou Cords
Secretary

MUSEUM NEWS

By Pat Schwan

OUR NEW INTERN: *"My home is in White Bear Lake but I've spent the last four years at Mankato State studying art, with areas of concentration in painting, drawing and art history. I enjoy museum work and would like to work in a museum or art gallery after I receive my degree this coming June. Aside from art, my other major interest lies in traveling, which is something I never seem to get enough of."*
-Angie Klidzejs

FOREIGN Exchange Students toured our Museum Saturday, March 3.

OUR new cleaning ladies are Sandy K. Nelson and Mary Allmann.

THE Chamber of Commerce window at NSP will feature articles from the Museum, April 9-14. The week is in connection with minorities groups at the college and will honor Indians of Minnesota.

A VERY DEAR FRIEND to the Blue Earth County Historical Society has recently departed. Active for many years in the maintenance of the Museum ---- she is sorely missed by those who knew her best -- the deceased is none other than our beloved VACUUM CLEANER! Anyone who has an old vacuum cleaner that still works and would be willing to donate it to us--please call the Museum: 345-4154. We certainly would appreciate it.

MINUTES of the January 25 Board meeting.

Present were: Bert Burns, Ogden Confer, Marcia Schuster, Pat Schwan, Howard Williams, Kathryn Hanson, Theo. Nydahl.

It was decided to hold Board meetings on the third Tuesday of each month except when a quarterly meeting is scheduled.

A Social Committee was agreed upon, with approximately three get-togethers per year. Ogden Confer will ask Mrs. John Frentz to serve as Chairman.

It was decided to have Museum Sundays in June and September. If our piece of green grass is torn up, we will ask the city to close off Warren Street for the day. No chairmen were appointed!

A Committee for Acquiring Parkland in this part of town was suggested. Kathryn Hanson will ask Mr. and Mrs. Jim Harten to be Co-Chairmen of this group. Ogden Confer agreed to be the Board member to serve on this committee. It was emphasized that tact and discretion are very important. The committee is to make regular progress reports to the Board.

Bert Burns read a letter he has written to the City Council about vacating Warren St. Howard Williams made correction - should add "as it abuts present museum property." Bert will give secretary a copy when the correction is made.

Bert Burns proposed establishment of a Reference Room (Archives) upstairs. Marcia Schuster moved and Kathryn Hanson seconded motion. Betty Cords is to act as leader of group to get moving on the project.

Ted Nydahl was appointed Chairman of Committee for Acquisition of the Parkette site-the triangle of land for placement of memorial. Bert read a letter to Sharon Burris Meyer requesting Parkette be given to Society. Then followed a discussion concerning which governmental agency should have title to the land and who should put up the monument. Copies of corrected letter should be sent to City Council, County Commissioners and Russell Fridley. A copy will be sent to Secretary after corrections are made.

Howard Williams was appointed Chairman of Alternate Museum Site Committee, Cecil Jones and Bert Burns to be members. There was a general discussion of the Blue Earth County Jail site. Part of the building is fireproof. Commissioners want to tear jail down to build 2 level parking lot. \$100,000 has been estimated as needed to fireproof present library building, and the same amount would no doubt be needed to renovate the jail. It was moved by Marcia Schuster that County Commissioners be requested to hold off demolishing the jail while we make an architectural, technical and financial study of the site. Seconded by Ogden Confer. Howard Williams will see the Commissioners on January 26.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Marcia T. Schuster
Acting Secretary

SOCIETY OFFICERS	
President	<i>Bert Burns</i>
Vice President	<i>Kathryn Hanson</i>
Secretary	<i>Betty Cords</i>
Treasurer	<i>George Sugden</i>
NEWSLETTER STAFF	
Editor	<i>Helen Girard</i>
Assistant Editor	<i>Theresa Kasling</i>

A cooperative effort between the Blue Earth County Historical Society and Mankato State College in the form of historically oriented field trips will be inaugurated during the month of May. Dr. Bert Burns, Department of Geography at the college will offer two such mini-courses. They will be all-day trips to the Cities in a Greyhound bus, leaving about 8:30 A.M. and returning by 5:30 P.M. on the second and third Saturdays of May. Registration may be handled on the evening of April 2, 4, 5 and 7. Out of town registrants may contact Bert Burns before those dates for information and assistance. Cost will be \$3.00 for busfare, \$3.00 for entrance fees, \$3.50 for lunch, \$7.25 for undergraduate registration, and \$9.50 for graduate registration.

May 12, 1973 Historic Houses in Twin Cities: Livingston-Griggs House, Ramsey House and American Swedish Institute.
May 19, 1973 Ft. Snelling and Mendota Ft. Snelling, Faribault House and Sibley House.

NEW MEMBERS

Kenneth J Albrecht	Mr-Mrs H C Kroon
Ross C Alm	Paul R Lamm
David C Anderson	Elmer Lippmann, Jr
Elizabeth Anderson	Donnabel Linney
Marion Anderson	Michael Lokengard
Eleanor Annis	Roger J Lovik
Mrs James Anton	J B Lund
Paul W Arnesen	Nancy Luomala
Mary Balcerzak	Robert McTigue
Mrs Gordon Ballman	James F Menton
Mrs Robert Bensch	Donald Meredith
Mrs Rod Brockmeyer	Ruth A Meyer
Robert S Brooks	Mrs R Mitchell
Marion T Carr	Peter Mohn
A H Christenson	William Montag
Merrill W Claridge	Mrs M H Nelson
Geraldine Clewell	Richard O'Brien
Branko Colakovic	Arthur H Ogle
Mrs O A Confer	Robert E Olson
Gary R Curtis	Roger W Olson
R L Dorland	Joan Pengra
Mrs Wm C Duane	Norman Pietan
Jane Eby	Jane Pyle
Dr-Mrs E Ehrlé	Donald Reimers
Mrs Edward Epple	Richard L Rice
Merna Folkers	Phyllis J Roberts
John C Frentz	Paul T Rocky
Helen Girard	Mrs J Rogosch
Nancy Girouard	F D Roth
Robert Girouard	Raymond Sanford
Mrs R Goodrich	Ruth Schellberg
Mrs A Gruter	Charles Schroeder
Paul R Hadley	Mrs C Schulte
Barbara Harmer	Hugo Selstrom
Mrs James Harten	Sandra J Smith
R F Heubert	S R Tillisch, Sr
Courrier Hubmer	Dr-Mrs Jon Trost
Kennes C Huntley	John D Turtle
Frank Jensen	Earle J Wigley
Elizabeth Jones	Myrtle Wigley
Med S Jones	Martin Wiltgen
Kent King	M L Woharton
Louis Kitsis	Dean C Wykoff
Mrs F Koehler	Donald B Youel

Special thanks go to the following people who helped with this Newsletter: Mankato Area Vocational Technical Institute, and in particular, Mr. Southwick; Connie Olson of the Scholdt Printing Company; Vernard Lundin and Ogden Confer, Jr., of Hubbard Milling Company.