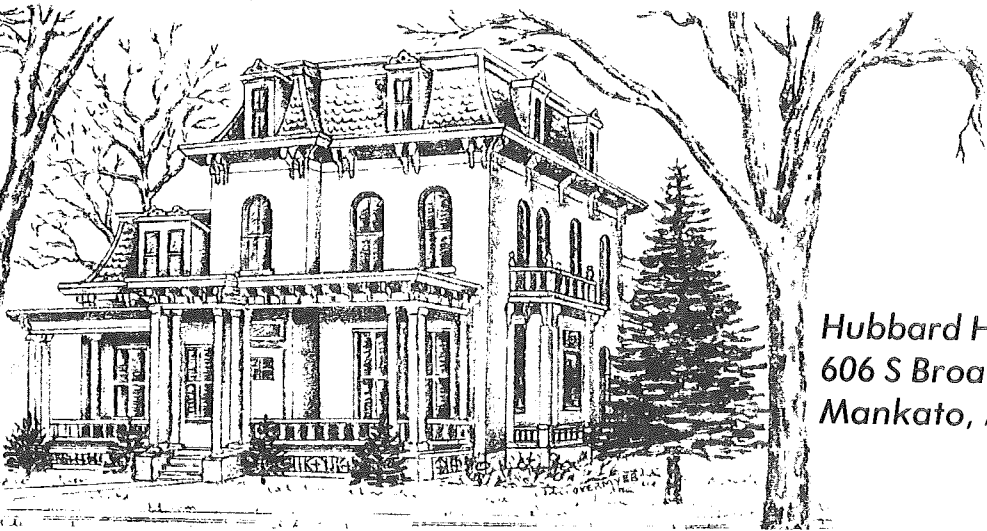


Blue
Earth
County
Historical
Society



Hubbard House
606 S Broad St.
Mankato, Minn.

Volume 6, Number 1

NEWS LETTER

April, 1977

COMING EVENTS

APRIL 20 (WED.) ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PLACE: MANKATO YWCA

TIME: SOCIAL HOUR, 6:00 pm. DINNER, 6:30 pm.

PROGRAM: FOSTER DUNWIDDIE, Hubbard House Restoration Architect,
will speak on "Restoration of R. D. Hubbard's House & Barn"
BUSINESS MEETING will follow Mr. Dunwiddie's talk.

Dinner \$6.50 per person. Reservation form enclosed.

AUGUST 21 (SUNDAY) KATIE HUBBARD BIRTHDAY PARTY - GRAND OPENING OF THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

PLACE: THE CARRIAGE HOUSE (Next Door to the HUBBARD HOUSE)

TIME: To be Announced

NEW EXHIBITS at the MUSEUM

" THE PRICE OF COFFEE: THEN & NOW "

An assortment of 19th century advertising cards and price lists from the Library collection, together with 20th century advertisements and coupons, displayed on the Hubbard Table in the Dining Room.

"VICTORIAN FRIENDSHIP - SENTIMENT and SENTIMENTALITY "

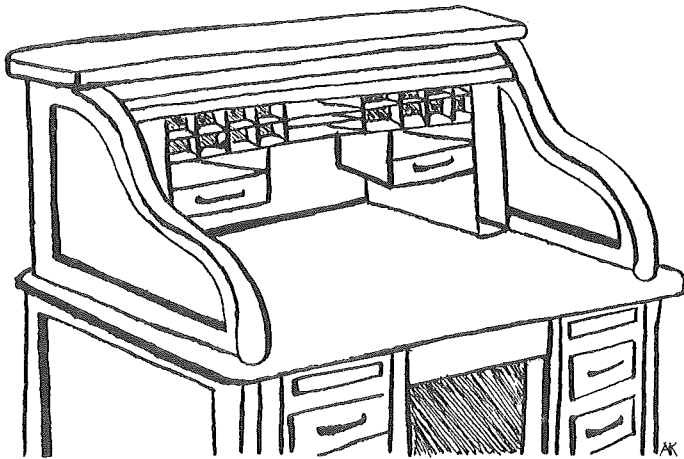
For Valentine's Day and after, a display of friendship albums, cards and candy boxes of the late 1800's and early 1900's, some from Mankato candy companies such as Rosenberg and Currier.

The MAUD HART LOVELACE EXHIBIT has been re-done by Janice Krueger, whose description of her work appears on Page Four.

STATE GRANT-IN-AID TO PAY FOR CARRIAGE HOUSE CUPOLA

On February 24 Society President Kathryn Hanson was informed by Senator Arnulf Ueland that the State Historical Society had approved a grant-in-aid of \$3,661 for the reconstruction of the cupola on the Carriage House. The State aid program, administered by the Minnesota Historical Society, is "aimed at assisting county and local organizations in the areas of historic preservation and interpretation." This is a matching-fund program. We have already met our required contribution: Members' brick-cleaning labors accounted for part; the rest came from ordinary financial resources.

Senator Ueland commended the Blue Earth County Society for "submitting a strong proposal that competed in a tough league for limited funds."



Randy Munson and Debbie Dahms, Anthropology students, have been assigned to us for the spring quarter. They are working on the cataloging of our Indian collection, until weather moderates and the Carriage House construction work is completed. Then they will assist Mike Eigen with cleaning and restoration of Carriage House artifacts.

Evelyn Schmanski has resigned, and her replacement is Holly Ahern. Coralie Chevalier, former CETA typist, has moved on to another job in the community.

A special welcome to our new neighbor, Doris Berger, who has opened "The Bakery" in the historic Dr. Z. G. Harrington house on Second Street. Doris has attempted to restore and adapt the interior of this fine old house. Unfortunately former occupants had done irreparable damage to some of the woodwork. Dr. Zina Goodell Harrington (1830-1918) was, in the words of an obituary notice, "a splendid citizen and in the practice of his profession was a tireless worker. He was one of the early-day physicians who rendered such magnificent service during the early days when the smallpox and diphtheria scourges visited this section. He was a kind-hearted man, charitable and thoughtful of others."

Two important events are on our calendar: our Annual Meeting and the Carriage House Opening Party. Here are opportunities for you to become acquainted with Society members and to see what the staff is doing.

See you there !

Marcia T. Schuster

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S ROLLTOP

There have been a number of personnel changes at the Museum ...

Mike Eigen, Carriage House Curator, has come to us, courtesy of CETA funding. His assignment is a large one: to clean and restore Society vehicles now in storage, and to prepare exhibits for the Grand Opening of the Carriage House, August 21.

Mankato State University Interns: Janice Krueger interned with us during winter quarter, learning all phases of museum work. Her assignments included preparing an exhibit and writing an article for the NEWSLETTER. See Page Four.



ANNOUNCEMENT A WORKSHOP IN HISTORY - Co-sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society, the Winona County Historical Society and the First District Historical Assembly.
 SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1977, at the WINONA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 165 Johnson Street, Winona, Minn. (The old armory)
 PROGRAM:

- 9:30-10:00 Registration
- 10:00-11:00 Researching a Topic: Milling in Minnesota. Robert Frame III
- 11:00-12:00 Interpreting Historic Houses. Maureen McKasy
- 12:00-1:15 Lunch
- 1:15-2:15 A Community Survey of Historic Sites. Lynne Van Broklyn Spaeth and Michael Landis
- 2:15-3:15 New Ideas for Historical Societies. David Nystuen
- 3:15- Tour of the Winona County Museum

THE WORKSHOP IS FREE. COST OF LUNCHEON IS \$4.00, payable the day of the Workshop. ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY. WRITE David Nystuen, Field Services Director, Building 25, Fort Snelling, St. Paul, MN 55111, or Phone 612-726-1171.

UP-DATE ON THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

Since our January report, work on the restoration has included no such dramatic event as the December 9th moving of the entire second story and roof of the building. Activity slowed to a halt during the extreme cold weather, but throughout February work on the interior of the building has gone steadily forward. The floor of the second story has been repaired and the hay chutes and other details of the hay mow have been restored. By mid-February moderating temperatures permitted work on the exterior to be resumed. Repairing and re-roofing the entire building with new slates has continued through several weeks, interrupted by two snow storms.

On March 21st the cupola arrived ! (The photograph was taken five days later.) Readers of Ken Berg's column in the Mankato Free Press already know the story of this striking and at first controversial feature of the restoration. Others may be interested to know that architect Foster Dunwiddie's inclusion of it in the restoration plans was justified by the testimony of Mr. Ed Anderson, who had helped to remove the original cupola back in the 1930's. Its replacement now sits in front of the building, where it is to be completely finished, except for its weathervane, before being hoisted aloft to grace the present bare spot on the main roof peak. This exciting event should take place about April first, Mr. Carlstrom informed us.

The most recent development was the pouring of the concrete floor. It took place on March 25th, an ideal day weatherwise, I was told by the workmen, as I admired the beautiful new trucks of the North Star Concrete Company (sky-blue and white !) and asked layman's questions about the technique of floor-pouring.

The completion of this major item of the reconstruction means that final work on the interior - the restoration of woodwork - will soon be under way.

Jeanne Kress



VOTE ON PROPOSED CHANGE IN SOCIETY BYLAWS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

At the March 15 Board meeting, it was decided to submit a proposal for a change in the bylaws of the Society to the Membership at the Annual Meeting on April 20.

The proposed change, which will be adopted if it receives the approval of two-thirds of the membership present at the meeting, is as follows:

PRESENTLY the Bylaws state: "Any person interested in the general purposes of this association may become a voting member of the association upon acceptance by the Board of Trustees and payment of the dues listed below."

PROPOSED: Change the underlined portion above to read: "... and payment of the dues as may be set by the Board of Trustees from time to time."

The purpose of this change is to give the Board the authority to change the amount of the dues required for membership.

Marcia T. Schuster
Museum Director

NOW AVAILABLE IN THE MUSEUM SHOP
The Crowell-Crocodile Edition (paper) of
MAUD HART LOVELACE'S BETSY-TACY BOOKS:
Betsy-Tacy and Betsy-Tacy and Tib
Price: \$1.45

ON-THE-JOB EXPERIENCE AT THE MUSEUM

Janice Krueger, a Mankato State University student, was an intern at the Blue Earth County Museum during the winter quarter. One of her assignments was to revise the Maud Hart Lovelace exhibit.

This is her report on that experience.

NEW EDITION OF BETSY-TACY: CHANGING THE MAUD HART LOVELACE EXHIBIT

Visitors to the Blue Earth County Museum who view exhibits see only the finished products of many hours of thought and planning. Exhibits take a lot of time to set up in interesting and informative ways. I found, when I was given the assignment of re-doing the Maud Hart Lovelace exhibit, that things just do not fall together in the showcases by magic.

Mrs. Schuster, the Museum Director, had several reasons for wanting the Lovelace exhibit changed. First, many photographs and other things were not displayed and could be put out. Second, I needed one big project to do on my own during my internship. Third, a new exhibit was to be set up in conjunction with the announcements that the museum shop now sells the first two paperback books of the "Betsy-Tacy" series, and that the young people's area in the new regional library will be named the Maud Hart Lovelace Wing.

The first step in my project was to find out what the Museum owns concerning Mrs. Lovelace. After many days of looking through the newspaper clippings and photographs, I was surprised to find there was not all that much I could use. The files contained many clippings, such as interviews and book reviews, but it is not easy to mount clippings so they are readable in a showcase. The Museum also owns a few photographs of Mrs. Lovelace and her family and friends. Of items that Mrs. Lovelace used, the most important is her high school scrap book. It contains tally cards from card parties, notes, programs from plays and sports events, and a few photographs. The Museum also owns a 1910 Mankato High School album that belonged to a classmate of Mrs. Lovelace's, which contains graduation photographs of the people in her class; a sewing machine and a coffee mill used by her parents; and a plate given to Mrs. Lovelace, said to be from the first set of dishes brought to Mankato in 1853.

The second step, dismantling the old exhibit, was easy. In fact, the hardest thing



MAUD HART LOVELACE - MUSEUM COLLECTION

about it was trying to open the stubborn doors of the showcase. In the process, Mrs. Schuster and I decided to use a different, larger showcase, the one that held a display of items from Welsh churches in the area. Consequently, we dismantled two exhibits, cleaned two showcases and re-did the Welsh Church display to fit into the smaller showcase which had held the Lovelace items.

It took about a month from the time I first began working on the project until I finally put the new exhibit in the showcase. Of course, it would have taken less time if I had worked at it steadily, but I spent only eleven hours a week at the Museum, and I was working on other things besides the exhibit. When I worried about taking too long on the exhibit, I was assured that I had no idea how long it sometimes took to set them up.

At any rate, one afternoon I sat down by the showcase with an assortment of photographs, clippings and artifacts, and proceeded to try out an arrangement. Considering how long it had taken to get that far, I thought it would take two or three days to get things into place. Surprisingly, however, I put the scrapbook on the center of the bottom shelf, and the sewing machine and coffee mill on opposite ends of the top shelf, and things suddenly did fall into place. When I finished my first attempt at the arrangement, I looked at it from the front and decided it did not look bad at all.

The lack of color was a problem. The old black and white photographs and the artifacts

EXHIBIT (Continued)

are not very colorful, so I chose an orange construction paper to put behind some of the photographs and also behind a small booklet of poems Mrs. Lovelace wrote, which was published when she was ten years old. All that remained to be done was to type up labels identifying the objects in the case.

There was a second part of the display. The Museum owns several large new photographs of Mankato houses where the "Betsy-Tacy" stories took place. These photographs have never been displayed. I planned to set the photos on two large screens, but I ran into problems when I found the wood of the screens so hard that it was difficult to pound nails into it, to prop the photos on. Another problem appeared when the photos fell off the nails I did pound in. Mrs. Schuster finally solved that problem by buying two large sheets of tagboard and abandoning the screens. With thumbtacks, I arranged the photographs on the tagboard and set the tagboard on easels for display. Thus I was able to display the photos without making holes or putting tape on the photographs themselves.

All in all, it took about a month and a half for me to do the new exhibit. It was a fascinating experience to read all the old clippings relating to Mrs. Lovelace's life and work. As well as learning much about the background of the "Betsy-Tacy" books, I learned much about Mankato's history. During my work I saw how many people are intensely interested in Mrs. Lovelace, and I do believe that she is the best-known and best-liked person to come from Mankato.

Janice Krueger

CONTRIBUTIONS AND MEMORIALS

The Historical Society has received contributions from the following cities and townships of Blue Earth County:

GARDEN CITY MANKATO TOWNSHIP
JUDSON TOWNSHIP CITY OF MAPLETON
LIME TOWNSHIP MAPLETON TOWNSHIP

Memorials have been received to:

MRS. GEORGE DRAPER
JULIE E. MILLER
AMANDA SALET
LUCIA "BLOSSOM" SPAULDING

OUR SENIOR STAFF MEMBER

Considering that the Hubbard House has seen quite a number of faces come and go in the past year or so, it seemed a good time to note that we do have one staff person who has worked continuously at the Museum for some ten years.

Margaret Kleinschmidt began serving as receptionist and tour guide in 1967, "when Mrs. Broden was in charge," as she puts it.

Though not a native of Mankato, Margaret has lived in the area long enough to recall driving a horse-drawn sled down Thompson Ravine Road in winter, to take a younger sister to the "old high school" on Fourth Street. Now that she lives at the Koppen Gardens Apartments in North Mankato and has given up driving a car, she relies on the Mankato bus to come to the Museum.

In addition to her regular work, Margaret has given many hours as a volunteer. For a number of years she did the work of maintaining the Museum library's newspaper files, clipping the Mankato newspapers and filing news materials.

Though she no longer does this job, her familiarity with people and places in Mankato over the years is a resource for newer members of the staff, who now have the task of locating information for visitors to the Museum and the library.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

A PROOF BOOK of the commercial printing division of the Mankato Free Press, dating about 1900-1920, given by Thomas Friese, former faculty member of the Art Department of Mankato State University.

TWO MEMORIAL TABLETS (marble, 5 feet tall) from the former club rooms of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, located at 210 South Front Street. The building, which most recently housed the Club Royal, was demolished not long ago. Mr. Tom Volk salvaged the tablets and presented them to the Historical Society.

CLIPPINGS AND PAPERS relating to MAUD HART LOVELACE, given by Miss Vi Panzram of Waseca, former teacher at Franklin Elementary School, Mankato.

ACTIVITIES IN LAKE CRYSTAL

The Lake Crystal Historical Society met Tuesday, March 14. Betty Cords, former director of the Blue Earth County Museum, was the speaker. Her subject was museum policy and the organization and use of collected historical materials. Members also learned that the Lake Crystal society has received a bequest of \$1,000. from the estate of the late Catherine Williams, as well as the gift of some furniture and a large collection of pictures and photographs. (Miss Williams was a former teacher and life-long resident of Lake Crystal, who died in January of this year at the age of eighty-nine.)

Work on the society's historical center building will begin again shortly. The foundation and entrance steps for the Farm House were not finished last winter before cold weather set in; and this in turn prevented work on the interior. Members expect to have the foundation completed as soon as weather permits, with the promised help of volunteers from the Lake Crystal Future Farmers of America for aid in landscaping.

The group expects to have the Farm House ready for opening to the public in mid-summer (July). Present plans are to restore the interior as a farm dwelling of the 1880's, with perhaps one or two rooms being reserved for display of items of a different character from the society's collection.

The next meeting of the group is tentatively set for April 12 (second Tuesday), to consider plans for fund-raising and the projected opening of the historical center. Secretary June Miner indicated that this will be a special meeting, as the group's bylaws provide for bi-monthly meetings.

TWO PROGRAMS ON GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

- GENEALOGICAL SEMINAR APRIL 23, 1977, 1 - 5 pm, CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS, 1851 Marie Lane, North Mankato. Conducted by Mrs. LESLIE TAYLOR (B.S. in Genealogical Research, B.Y.U.), professional genealogist for the Genealogical Society of Salt Lake City. PROGRAM: Basic Research, two hours; German Research, one hour; Scandinavian Research, one hour. Anyone interested is invited to attend. Donation \$2.00 per person.
- GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH WORKSHOP - Sponsored by the Southcentral Minnesota Interlibrary Exchange. Two all-day sessions: Saturday, April 16 & April 23, in Mankato. Fee \$15. One unit MSU credit available. (Course fees additional) For information, contact Mrs. Marilyn Lass, Center for Minnesota Studies, Mankato State University. Phone 389-6201.

HISTORICAL SURVEY OF MANKATO BEGINS

The City Planning Office has asked the Blue Earth County Historical Society to collaborate in making a community historical survey of Mankato. The survey is being undertaken at the urging of the Minnesota Historical Society, which is responsible for the identification and preservation of historic places throughout the state. Mankato City officials wish to expedite the project in order to comply with regulations governing the disbursement of Federal funds.

Responding to this request, Marcia Schuster, the Society's Museum Director, arranged for members of the State Society's planning staff to meet with Assistant City Manager Phil Shealy and MSU professor John Frey, whose class in environmental studies will do the work of collecting data for the survey.

In accordance with plans made at the meeting, the Mankato State U students will begin the survey by studying the central area of the city during the spring quarter. A committee of the Board of the Blue Earth County Historical Society will consider their data and make recommendations to the State Society on sites and buildings of historic value. The State Society must review the recommendations and make a conclusive report to the City. State Society staff members will continue to be available as consultants throughout the survey process. Direct assistance with research will be provided by Blue Earth County Society staff members at the Museum library. Barb Maher will be co-ordinator of the project for the City of Mankato.

THE MUSEUM'S PIANO HAS ITS VOICE AGAIN !

On March 9th Mr. Larry Paulson finished the restoration of our square grand piano. Thanks to his painstaking work, the instrument is in working condition. Mr. Paulson assured us that though it cannot be treated as a regular concert instrument, the piano can be played for exhibition purposes and should hold up for many years.

He judges that the piano may be even older than previously thought. The partnership of Bacon and Raven, which produced it, was one of many early piano makers, small firms whose owners frequently changed or disappeared, to re-appear in the company of other associates. The Bacon and Raven name, together with the serial number of our instrument, seems to indicate that it must have been made after 1850, but before 1856, when the senior partner, George Bacon, was succeeded by his son, and the name of the firm was changed to Raven and Bacon.

The restoration presented a number of technical problems. Some strings and other parts had to be made to special order, as the size and weight of similar items for present-day pianos are different. Mr. Paulson said that the lightness of the sounding board, as well as its age, and the small size of the pegs which hold the strings, made it inadvisable to tune the piano to standard pitch. When the instrument is played alone or with instruments which can be tuned, the slight deviation will be noticeable only to expert musicians and individuals gifted with perfect pitch.

Another problem was the discovery of damage (presumably by mice at some long-past time) which was not apparent when Mr. Paulson examined the instrument and made his original estimate. He had to make replacements

by hand in the last stage of his work. Therefore the final cost of restoration exceeded the estimated \$465 by \$35.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the
HARRY HEIDEL MEMORIAL FUND

Since January additions to the fund have been received from the following individuals and groups:

Blanche Barnhart	Esther Pearson
Hermann Herz	PEO Sisterhood
Jeanne Kress	Rector Putnam
Mankato Music Club	Phyllis Roberts
Mankato Symphony Guild	Merle Sater
Marjorie Meredith	Kiyo Suyematsu
Lyle Parker	Warner Zeno

With the increased cost of the final work, the fund is only \$89 short of meeting its goal. If you have not contributed to this fund and would like to do so, please send your donation to the Museum.

A NOTE OF THANKS

During the past two months Inella Burns has spent many afternoons at the Museum, engaged in the task of making an inventory of the collection of family papers recently given to the Historical Society by R. Dean Hubbard II. She intends next to catalogue the collection. The completion of her undertaking will make the materials a usable addition to the resources of the Society library. The Museum Director and the Board express their thanks and appreciation to Inella for devoting so much time and effort to this important project in the Library archives.

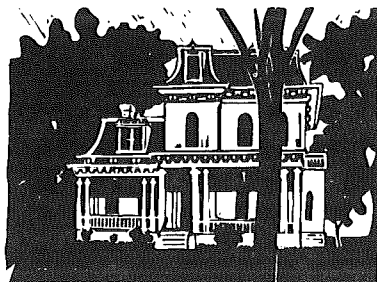
NEWSLETTER
of the
BLUE EARTH COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Published four times a year by the Blue Earth County Historical Society, at 606 South Broad Street, Mankato, MN 56001
Editor Jeanne D. Kress
Free to members of the Historical Society
Annual subscription (4 issues) - \$ 3.00

ATTENTION
SOCIETY MEMBERS !
ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 20
INFORMATION
and
RESERVATION FORM
ENCLOSED

NEWSLETTER
Blue Earth County
Historical Society
606 South Broad
Mankato, MN 56001

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage Paid
Mankato, MN 56001
Permit No. 343



Address Correction
Requested

TOUR SEASON IN FULL SWING

With the return of spring, the tempo of the Museum's education program picks up, to reach one of its two periods of greatest activity. (The other is in the fall.)

Under a long-standing arrangement with Mankato School District 77, kindergarten and third and fourth grade classes visit the Hubbard House during school time, as part of their work in social studies and Minnesota history. For all groups, our guides emphasize how Minnesota people, both white and Indian, lived in earlier times. Particular features of the house and certain displays receive special attention, depending on the questions and responses of the group and the wishes of the teacher. The scope of the tours differs for each grade. The kindergarteners' visit is limited to the main floor, and concentrates on Indians. In addition to the permanent displays they see and can handle a special assortment of tools and articles of clothing, including fur. They also get to paint their faces with Blue Earth River clay. The third graders tour the first floor and the basement, and see a slide show on edible plants of Minnesota. Fourth graders visit all three floors.

Our young visitors' thank-you letters furnish revealing and amusing information on the impact of our guides' presentation. The letters here are typical, and show how widely reactions vary. Handling the fur and the "Indian stuff" makes a great impression. A favorite with all age levels is our Symphonion music player, with its perforated brass disc records.

Dear Mrs. Harten

I liked the shoemaker-
tools the best.
I wish that we could
see the top floor nexts
nexts year can we
see the top floor I hope
so. I liked the
schoolroom too.

Your friend, Jodi

Dear Mrs. Harten,

Thank you for the nice tour
of the museum. I hope I can come
back again. I liked the whole
tour. Especially the log cabin
It was very fun. The recordlayer
was neat too.

The school house was nice too.

Mary

Dear Museum Guide,

Thank you for the
Museum trip. I liked the
logcabbin the best and
we are coming back
my family and I.
I liked the school
house to. I loved the
kitchen and the
music room.

Love, Debbie

Dear Mrs. Harten,

I liked the tour of the
Blue Earth County Museum.
I liked the whole thing
especially the school room.
I liked touching the fur to.

Your friend, Todd

Dear Mrs. Harten,

I liked the cabin most.
thank you for the tour of
the museum. I thought the
school was interesting
I liked the records
the way (you) explained evreything
was great I understood evrything

Dear Mrs. Nelson,

Thank you for showing us
the Museum. I liked the rocks
around the fireplaces. You were
the nicest leader I ever had.

Sincerely, David