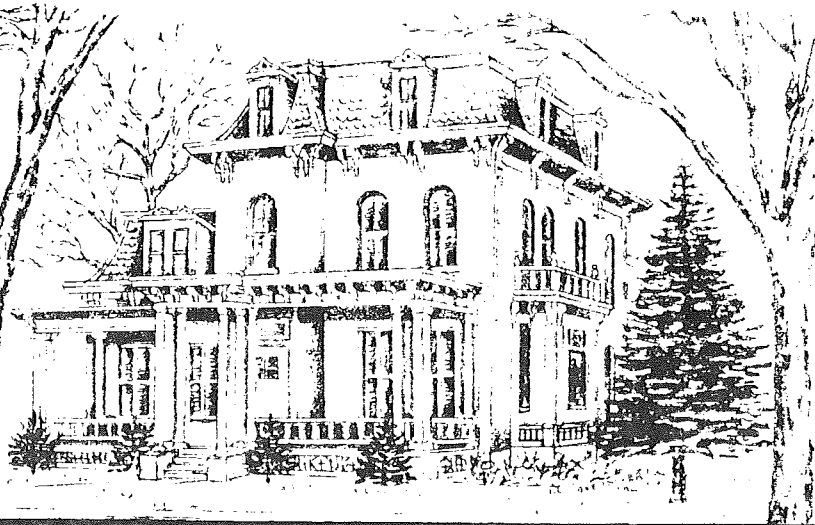


Blue
Earth
County
Historical
Society



Hubbard House
606 S Broad St.
Mankato, Minn.

Volume 6, Number 2

NEWS LETTER

July, 1977

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST 21 (SUNDAY) GRAND OPENING and DEDICATION of the HUBBARD CARRIAGE HOUSE

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

604 South Broad Street, Mankato, Minnesota

TIME: 1 to 5 pm.

FORMAL PROGRAM: 2:30 pm.

Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Bert Burns, Blue Earth County Historical Society

Honored Guests: Mrs. Jean Ervin Fitz Gerald, daughter of Kate Hubbard Ervin

Mr. Ogden W. Confer, Jr., Vice-President, Blue Earth County Historical Society

Honorable Robert Hodapp, Chairman, Board of Commissioners of Blue Earth County

Honorable Herbert Mocol, Mayor of Mankato

Honorable Arnulf Ueland, State Senator

Mr. Russell Fridley, Director, Minnesota State Historical Society

Recognition of Special Guests:

Foster Dunwiddie, Carriage House Restoration Architect

Robert Carlstrom Construction Company Members:

Robert W. Carlstrom, Jon Carlstrom, Lee Carlstrom,
and Fred Arnoldt, Construction Foreman

MUSIC: Sweet Adelines and Mankato Music Association Band

CHILDREN'S GAMES * EXHIBITS * DEMONSTRATIONS * HORSESHOES

REFRESHMENTS ** CUTTING of HER MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY CAKE by
Mrs. Jean Ervin Fitz Gerald

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

GUESTS ARE INVITED TO DRESS in TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY STYLES

NEW MAUD HART LOVELACE ITEM in the MUSEUM SHOP

THE BETSY-TACY WALKING TOUR MAP

Revised by Janice Krueger

25¢

CARRIAGE HOUSE RECONSTRUCTION COMPLETED



R. D. HUBBARD'S "BARN"

as it looked on

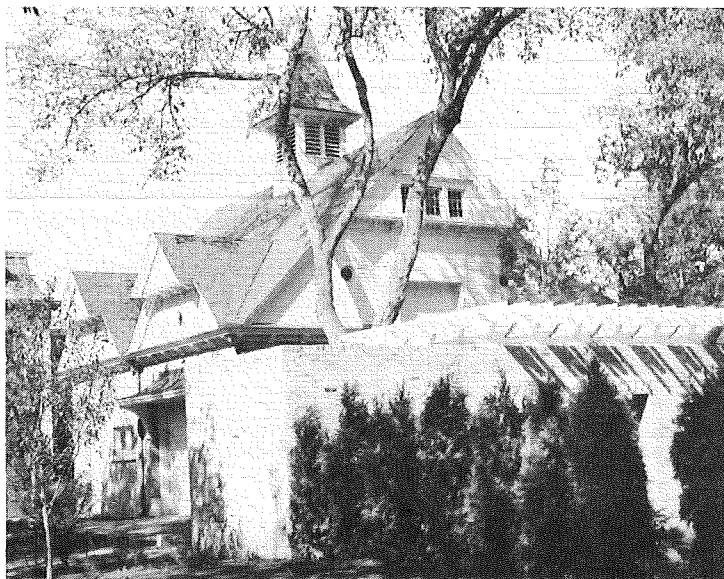
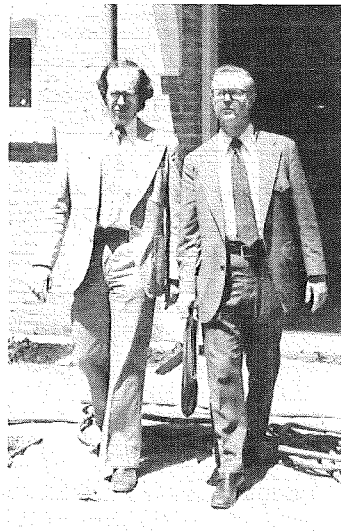
INSPECTION DAY

Representatives of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, the City of Mankato and the Robert W. Carlstrom Company met June 1, 1977, to inspect the restoration, begun last September and now finished after ten months of work.

The event marked the success of the Society's efforts, continued throughout nine years (since 1968), to save the building and make it what it originally was: a fitting companion to the HUBBARD MANSION.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
VICE PRESIDENT
OGDEN W. CONFER, JR.
and
ARCHITECT
FOSTER DUNWIDDIE

Leaving the
Carriage House
at the end of
the official
inspection



THE CARRIAGE HOUSE Seen from the Northeast

In the foreground is the principal structure of the Palmer Place gardens: the BRICK ARBOR, and a part of the arbor vitae hedge which forms the walls of the "OUTDOOR ROOM" on three sides. The Arbor is the fourth side, and is also the formal entrance to the Outdoor Room.

BEAUTIFICATION IN PROGRESS

PALMER CENTENNIAL PLACE

with its Victorian gardens and walks, has taken form around the Carriage House during May and June. The entire landscaping project is a gift of the Hubbard Milling Company to the City of Mankato. Buell Brothers, Inc. (West St. Paul) were the landscape contractors. Their workers planted all the trees, shrubs and garden borders in five days!



FILLING IN THE FLOWER BEDS

Flowering plants, workers to plant them, and expert advice have come from several sources: THE MANKATO COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS GREEN THUMB GARDEN CENTER HILLTOP FLORISTS

THE HUBBARD HOUSE, NORTH SIDE

In the foreground, a part of the formal garden and the newly sodded lawn. The Hubbard Company's landscaping included sod, trees, shrubs and ground-cover plants all around the house. Another feature of the project, not visible, is an underground watering system.



WHAT'S GOING INSIDE ?

For the past half-year, people have been asking about the Carriage House, "What are you going to do with all that space ?"

The man whose job is to answer that question is Michael Eigen.

Mike is a native of our area; his home town is Comfrey. After three years in the Army, he returned to Minnesota, to continue his studies in anthropology and history at Mankato State University. He is working on a master's degree in historical archaeology, and has been a principal assistant in Michael Scullin's archaeological investigations near Cambria. The Museum is fortunately able to add him to its staff as Carriage House Curator, through CETA funding.

Mike began planning for Carriage House exhibits last April. The building itself defined his theme: horse-powered transportation. His task was to find out what objects the Museum owns which relate to that theme, and use them to develop integrated and meaningful displays.

First, of course, would be the horse-drawn vehicles once housed at Sibley Park, which since the 1965 flood have been stored in various places, under varying conditions. One look at some brought discouragement and immediate rejection. The others all would need restoration, in order to be usable for exhibit. To do this job, Mike has corresponded with curators, collectors and restoration specialists all over the United States. A curator of the Smithsonian Institution's Division of Transportation gave him a good idea of what he was up against, quoting the average cost of restoring a vehicle at \$5,000. His most helpful source of information has been the Carriage Association of America, of which the Blue Earth County Historical Society has become a member.

Considerations of money and time determined Mike's decision to limit restoration to cleaning the vehicles which are in fair condition. Whereupon he faced a new problem: a place in which to work! The County Highway Department (which has been sheltering three vehicles for several years) generously helped with this by allowing him to use Highway Department garage space and facilities.

Mike's research on restoration has led to more information about our vehicles, some

of it in the Museum archives. We found a newspaper account of our stagecoach's history, and an extensive description of restoration work done on it in 1931, in a scrapbook.

Cleaning the vehicle resulted in other discoveries: the restoration job paint washed off with the dust, revealing much earlier gilt decorations and the name of the last operator painted above the doors.



MIKE EIGEN and MARY PONGRATZ at Work

Mike and other staff members have searched the Museum for artifacts used or produced by the many crafts and industries that made up the technology of "horse power" for transportation in the 19th century. We have many items which can be used in the exhibits Mike is designing. Among them are the tools needed to produce feed (fuel for the horse): the farmer's plow and haying equipment. Then other articles for maintaining the power source in working condition: horseshoes and the smith's tools used to make them. Next, the equipment to connect and control the power: the harness-maker's tools and his products. And last, the instruments used to produce our vehicles: the wagon and carriage-maker's brace and bits, saws and planes; the wheelwright's reamers and spokeshaves.

Interest in the restored Carriage House and Mike's search for information on these specialized crafts have brought most timely additions to the Museum collection. One is related to the production of "horse power" in Blue Earth County: a 100-year-old feed cart used by George Lang, a breeder of Clydesdale horses at Mapleton. Another belongs to the history of Mankato's oldest family

WHAT'S GOING INSIDE ? (Cont'd.)

business: Harold W. Schmidt's personal collection of harness-maker's tools, and examples of harness and "horse goods" produced in the days when the present Schmidt's (Luggage and Photographic Supplies) was O.W. Schmidt Saddlery Company, a major manufacturer of harness of all kinds for southern Minnesota.

Mike is selecting items from all these sources for a permanent interpretive display for the Carriage House.

Jeanne D. Kress

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Museum Director Marcia Schuster was among 26 participants admitted by the American Association for State and Local History to its Regional Workshop on Historic Site Interpretation. The workshop was held May 2 to 4 at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

On May 15 Marcia Schuster and Jeanne Kress attended the official opening of the Minnesota Historical Society's newest site, the Harkin Store, at West Newton, Nicollet County. Bert and Inella Burns also made the trip for the occasion.

Jeanne Kress attended a workshop in genealogical research held at Gustavus Adolphus College June 11 and 18. The workshop, sponsored by the Southcentral Minnesota Interlibrary Exchange, was conducted by Arthur Finnell, specialist in genealogy, who is presently Director of the Southwest Minnesota Historical Center at Marshall, MN.

Sally Rubenstein and Virginia Rogers, of the Minnesota Historical Society's Division of Publications and Research, were in Mankato June 20 and 21, to use our archives and those of the Minnesota Room at Mankato State U. They are preparing a revised and up-dated edition of a biographical reference work of the state of Minnesota.

SPECIAL VISITOR AT THE HUBBARD HOUSE

Merion Lovelace Kerchner, New York City, daughter of Maud Hart Lovelace, visited the Museum May 21. Mrs. Kerchner was in Mankato for the dedication of the new Minnesota Valley Regional Library and the naming of the Maud Hart Lovelace Wing, the young people's section, in honor of her mother.

WORK IN ANTHROPOLOGY AT MANKATO STATE

In the study of Indian cultures in our area, Society Board member, MSU professor MICHAEL SCULLIN and his students keep on producing interesting projects.

Their display of designs of an Hidatsa earth lodge house won an award in the "Environmental Design and Native Wit" contest sponsored by the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Minnesota in April-May, 1977. The display shows how this Native American structure could be adapted to contemporary environmental needs. The entry is among the twenty (from more than 200) included in an exhibition which is being circulated throughout the Upper Midwest.

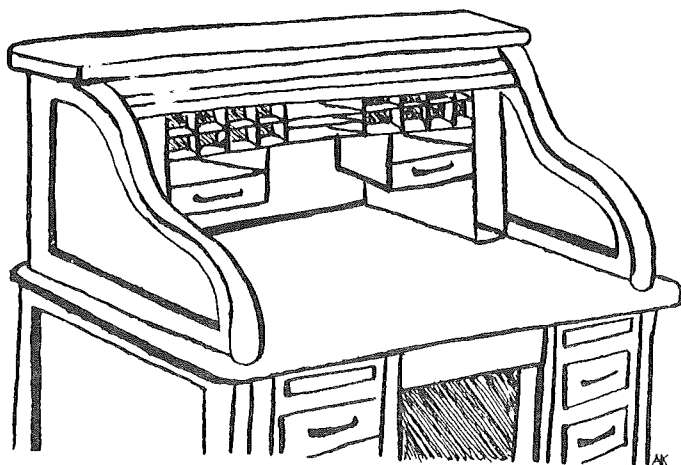
Scullin's archaeological work has recently received attention in a new quarter. The handsome pottery vessel pictured in The Land (Mankato Free Press publication) of June 23, 1977 comes from his excavations and was restored in the Anthropology Department laboratory at Mankato State University.

The current Environmental Institute project is a live study of Indian agriculture, in the form of two gardens located at the southwest corner of the Trafton Science building (South Road, Upper Campus). One plot is an Hidatsa garden similar to the one grown last year on the Farmfest grounds at Lake Crystal.

The second garden, a long border, features plants native to the Americas and domesticated by Indians living all the way from northern Mexico to Peru, some as long ago as 7,000 B.C. The variety is amazing: not only corn, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, peppers and beans of several kinds, but also avocado, pineapple, peanuts, sunflowers and cotton. A most intriguing item is the amaranth plant, (a relative of pigweed), which produces seed about the size of clover seed in such quantity that the Indians of Central America raised it for food. It is said to have a higher protein content than grass-type grains, and was used in amounts equal to corn, to pay tribute to the Aztecs.

The gardens are growing well so far, and should be at their best from mid-July through August. By that time all the plantings will have interpretive labels. Visit the Mankato State campus and see what American Indians were doing for agriculture before Columbus sailed the ocean blue !

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S ROLLTOP



THE LONG ARM OF COINCIDENCE

Working in a museum brings many frustrations and worries, but there are also many rewards. One of the most satisfying events of my career here has been to bring some family relics and the members of the family together.

THE STORY BEGINS:

A lady from Mankato phoned, asking if we would like to have certain articles she had - an ox yoke, a railroad lantern, etc. I asked if she had any scrapbooks or photographs. She said she had; and she was going to throw them out, because they weren't worth anything. I asked her to give them to us, and if we couldn't use them, we would dispose of them. She brought them in: two scrapbooks, one photograph album and an autograph album. Since they contained clippings from Edgerton, Minnesota, I planned to contact the Pipestone County Historical Society, to see if they might use them.

A few days later a couple from Colorado visited the Museum, seeking information about the husband's family, who had settled on the Maple River, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Vernon Center. After much digging in the archives, we located the family farm in an 1895 atlas, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Vernon Center, in Lyra Township.

We found a biography of the gentleman's father, which said he had married a lady from Edgerton, Minnesota. The name clicked, so later I checked the scrapbook given us a few days before. It contained a newspaper account of the wedding, including the names of the guests and the gifts they gave!

When the couple returned, I showed them the clipping. They looked at the rest of the book and discovered that it had belonged to his grandmother. The autograph book was hers, and he recognized photos in the album. They were so pleased, they cried. I made them the gift of these books and put them in touch with the lady who had given them to the Museum. She gave them additional family pieces.

The couple visited Good Thunder and Lyra Township, and found the location of the old homestead. The present owner of the land brought out his deed, and the man from Colorado learned the dates of his family's ownership.

I wouldn't have believed that such a thing could happen - the gift to us and the inquiry from the Colorado couple came in proper sequence, and were timed close enough together that the connection could be made. It wouldn't have seemed credible if you read it in a novel; the writer would have been stretching the bounds of possibility!

The couple became life members of the Society and also made a generous donation to the Museum.

Marcia T. Schuster

ACTIVITIES IN LAKE CRYSTAL

June Miner, Secretary of the Lake Crystal Historical Society, informs us that plans for opening the 1880's Farm Home have been postponed, until filling of the foundation and site can be done. The group hopes to accomplish this before the end of summer.

In the meantime, another major project is progressing toward completion. Alice Hollingsworth, after studying the Minnesota Historical Society's record-keeping system for museum collections and also investigating our new system, has developed a records system for the Lake Crystal Society. She and Rosella Norman are working together on accessioning the society's present holdings.

In June members of the group added over \$150. to the society's treasury, the proceeds of a bake sale held during Lake Crystal Rodeo Days.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND MEMORIALS

The Historical Society has received a bequest of \$2,126 from the estate of

ELLEN SKIBNESS

Contributions to the HARRY HEIDEL
MEMORIAL FUND have been received from

BEN JONES
ELSIE GOETZ
MRS. ROBERT (JEAN) CARLSTROM

A memorial has been received to

ALFRED MEYER
524 Byron Street, Mankato

Mr. Meyer worked at the Museum when G. S. Petterson was curator (1959-65).

Other Contributors:

SHELBY TOWNSHIP
MR. & MRS. GEORGE R. SCHROEDER
Colorado Springs, Colo.
(Life Membership & Contribution)

NEW FACES

Government employment programs and Mankato State University internships are providing us with additional personnel on a temporary basis.

Dee Kilchesky is our new CETA typist,
working on inventory records.

Mary Pongratz is employed under the Governor's Youth Program as an assistant to Mike Eigen. She has worked on cleaning the interior of the Carriage House and is presently helping to clean vehicles for exhibit in the Carriage House.

Melanie La Duke, whose major is history, is our Mankato State U. intern for the first summer session. She has already prepared a new exhibit for the Museum (see MUSEUM EXHIBITS, this page), and is now assisting Mike Eigen, working on exhibit items for the Carriage House.

Marion Hoffman, a graduate student from the MSU Art Department, will serve an internship during the second summer session.

Berger Anderson, teacher of children with special learning and behavior problems and graduate student at Mankato State U., is working with Mike Eigen on exhibits for the Carriage House. His help, particularly in the line of carpentry, is much appreciated!

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

In line with the idea of acquainting the public with the variety of materials in the Museum, particularly recent accessions, Melanie La Duke (our current MSU intern) has prepared an exhibit entitled "THE DAY FAMILY-MINNESOTA PIONEERS".

Members of this family, descendants of two brothers who came to Blue Earth County in 1856 and settled in Shelby Township (Willow Creek), presented a number of items to the Museum on the occasion of their Bicentennial Year family reunion. Also included in the exhibit are more recent gifts from Mrs. Esther Day Pearson (Mankato), a granddaughter of Thomas Henry Day, one of the original settlers, and photographs and clippings loaned by other descendants, Mrs. William Benton and Mrs. Beatrice Day (Amboy).

The objects displayed show the interests and activities of individual members of a particular family over a period of nearly a hundred years. At the same time they also highlight for us seemingly persistent traits of our national character: The quilt embroidered by ladies of the Day family and their friends - our fondness for elaborate decorative handiwork. Pardon Day's patent for "an improvement on windmills" - our passion for mechanical invention. Homer Day's Bible, a gift from his Sunday School teacher - our abiding concern for the education of our children.

The DAY FAMILY EXHIBIT is located in the left front room, second floor of the Hubbard House.

The MAUD HART LOVELACE EXHIBIT was on loan to the Minnesota Valley Regional Library, for display during the opening of the new library building and throughout the month of June.

 NEWSLETTER
 of the
 BLUE EARTH COUNTY
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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ATTENTION
SOCIETY MEMBERS !

GRAND OPENING
of the
CARRIAGE HOUSE !!

SUNDAY
AUGUST 21, 1977

SEE PAGE ONE

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



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RECENT ACCESSIONS

JOURNAL, 1856-1873, and Portrait Photograph of DR. E.B. HAYNES, first physician in the St. Clair area; also two sets of SADDLE BAGS, one fitted to hold medical supplies, used by Dr. Haynes.
Given by Mr. Harold Woolcott, St. Clair.

U.S. ARMY DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE of FREDERICK C.E. MILLER, JUNE 1865.
Given by Mrs. Fred Miller, Route 3, Mankato.

FUR CAPE and MUFF (BEAR FUR ?), made by Gordon Furs, St. Paul, early 1900's (?).
Given by Mrs. Russell Arthur, Mankato.

CLOTHING and ACCESSORIES, early 1900's, and SUITCASES used in journey from Sweden to the United States. Also a SHOWCASE from the PLUTO SHOE STORE, Mankato (established 1898).
Given by Mrs. Obert Pluto, North Mankato.

TAFFETA WEDDING DRESS of BERTHA BORN, who married George Maxfield Sept. 8, 1885; and Newspaper Clippings.
Given by Mrs. Ella Morphew, Mankato.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BIBLE of HOMER DAY, 1902; and TINTYPE of JUDSON NEWELL DAY, about 1898.
Given by Esther Day Pearson, Mankato.

POSTCARDS of EARLY MANKATO BUILDINGS.
Given by Mrs. A. J. Gruenfelder, Mankato.

A "SONNY HUBBARD" FLOUR SACK.
Given by Marion Harten, Mankato.

RECENT ACCESSIONS (CONT'D)

LEATHER TRUNK, mid-19th century, brought from Germany to the United States. Also Hair Pieces; a Soap-saver; and a Cabinet-maker's Wood Clamp.
Given by Emma Wiecking, Mankato.

AN OX YOKE and a RAILROAD LANTERN of the ST. PAUL & OMAHA RAILROAD (first railroad to reach Mankato). Also photographs, autograph albums and scrapbooks.
Given by Mrs. Wallace Gullick, North Mankato.

MANUSCRIPT RECIPE BOOK, inscribed "MRS. CRAY'S COOK BOOK."
Given by Alta Doerr, Mankato.

DRESS PATTERNS & NEWSPAPERS found in the James Willis house, 608 West 5th Street, Mankato.
Given by Barbara Gerk, Mankato.

VELVET WEDDING DRESS of SARAH WIGLEY, who married Hugh M. Roberts, December, 1889, & a photograph of the bridal couple. The dress was made in the shop of Mrs. M. Bohan, Mankato dressmaker, 408 South Front Street.
Given by Mary Lloyd, Tacoma, Washington.

SATIN DRESS of AMELIA HOPPE SCHALOW, about 1918.
Given by Delores Hendrickson, Madison Lake.

FEED-MIXING CART made about 1870, used by George Lang, Mapleton Clydesdale Horse Co., about 1898-1910.
Given by Robert L. Lang, Mapleton.

HARNESS-MAKER'S TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT, also HARNESS PIECES & HORSE GOODS, from the O. W. SCHMIDT SADDLERY COMPANY, Mankato.
Given by Harold W. Schmidt, Mankato.