



Legal Name: Blue Earth County Historical Society
Classification: Cultural Institution
Tax Status Determination: 501(c)3
Federal Tax ID#: 23-7289370
Contact Person: Jessica Potter, Executive Director
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Mission: To collect, preserve and promote the history of Blue Earth County for present and future generations.

Organizational Overview: The history of the Blue Earth County Historical Society (BECHS) organization dates back to 1901. In the fall of that year a group of concerned citizens met to discuss the need to collect the stories and papers of the early settlers. A constitution was written and the Blue Earth County Historical Society was founded on November 7, 1901. In 1938, BECHS moved into its first permanent museum home. The home of the R.D. Hubbard family was purchased with money donated by Judge Lorin Cray for the purpose of either converting an existing building or building a new museum. The Hubbard House was soon transferred to the City of Mankato under an agreement that the city would maintain the house for BECHS to use as a museum. In 1987, the Historical Society moved its growing collection and services out of the Hubbard House and took over most of the second floor of the former Newman Center and renamed the building Heritage Center.

The Heritage Center (415 Cherry Street, Mankato) is home to the Society's administrative offices, collections and archives storage, public Research Center, Museum and Gift Shop. Through extensive restoration efforts, the R.D. Hubbard House (606 South Broad Street, Mankato) is an outstanding 1905 historic house museum. In 2010, BECHS opened the Marian Anderson Art Gallery (1560 Adams Street, Mankato) dedicated to the work of local artist Marian Anderson.

The Blue Earth County Historical Society is a member supported non-profit organization. A percentage of the annual operating budget is allocated by Blue Earth County; the remainder is raised through membership dues, donations, and service fees. BECHS has a staff of three full-time employees: Executive Director, Archives Manager and Museum Manager. The Board is composed of 12 to 20 individuals elected to 3-year terms by the Society's membership. Volunteers are a significant human resource for BECHS, with a volunteer corps over 100 individuals. Volunteers assist with daily operation, committee work, educational programming, collections management and organizational development.

Benefits: The Blue Earth County Historical Society has been an active community cultural institution for over a century. Educational programs are available for youth and adults which include experiential opportunities at our three locations. The Historical Society continues to be a leading resource in historic preservation efforts around Blue Earth County. These efforts began in the 1930s with the preservation of Seppman Mill and continue today with a seat on the Mankato Heritage Preservation Commission. In addition, BECHS continues to be the stewards of the past through our extensive archival materials and 24,000+ three-dimensional collections. Future goals for the BECHS include increasing the annual operating budget to allow for the addition of staff focused on Education through school visits, exhibit development and program enhancement. Also, BECHS is looking at expansion of the Heritage Center to accommodate the growing collection, exhibit development and provide more hands-on learning opportunities for the public.

Preserve the Past. Protect the Future.

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