

The Hanover Historical Press



Bridge Historical Marker Signs

Spring 2011 - Vol. 8, No. 3

The Hanover Historical Society has been busy with several projects this spring in addition to the ongoing goal of collecting homeowner abstracts.

Our bridge history signage project is gaining steam. The City's Beautification Committee and the Park Board have both indicated an interest in collaborating with us. We are currently obtaining bids for two wooden signs that would be erected on the Hennepin County side of the bridge approach. One sign will explain the Pratt-through-truss construction while the second sign will detail the history of the pedestrian bridge.

We have asked the Beautification Committee and Park Board to consider providing a park bench and/or picnic table nearby the signs. We have also suggested to the City that the grassy approach on the Hennepin County side be designated a park and placed under the Park Board's designation for upkeep. If this is successful, at some point the new "park" would need a name. An additional recommendation is to tap into the existing water line and install a drinking fountain. The Beautification Committee has existing plans to set concrete flower pots on each side of the bridge this summer once the bicycle trail has been completed.

With the large willow tree removed last fall, the area is now much more open, and should afford a better view of the river. It is hoped that this rest area will encourage bicyclists and pedestrians to sit a spell, enjoy a picnic lunch and the spectacular views of the river and bridge, and learn a bit more about our historic pedestrian bridge's history.

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2011 Meetings 7p.m. City Hall

May 10	September 13
June 14	October 11
July 12	November 8
August 9	No meeting in December

Officers/Contact Info

Tim Zimmerman, President
763-370-7373
Mike Kehn, Vice President
763-271-2680
Mary Coons, Secretary
763-476-8414
Torney Marshall, Treasurer/
Memberships 763-498-7121

Hanover Historical Society
P.O. Box 13
Hanover, MN 55341
Editor: Mary Coons
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Support Your Historical Society

If you enjoy this newsletter as well as being a member of the Hanover Historical Society, spread the word by passing this along and promoting the Society.

Young and old comprise our membership as well as new residents mixed in with life-long Hanoverians. Take an active role in activities or assist behind the scenes if that's your comfort level. Yearly membership is only \$12. for new and renewing members, please use the application form on page 3.

To learn more about the Hanover Historical Society, please call Tim Zimmerman at 763-370-7373 or Mary Coons at 763-476-8414.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Hanover Historical Society is to identify, preserve, and disseminate knowledge about the history of Hanover through collections, preservation, distribution of historical information, as well as advocate for preservation of historic buildings, monuments and markers.

We Have a Logo!

After many months of college students working on a possible logo and identity for the Hanover Historical Society, we are excited to unveil the final design.

Many thanks to U of M student Mari Mihai for capturing the essence and mission of the historical society with her logo rendering.



Fall Pumpkin Event

Watch the local newspapers and our Summer newsletter for more details about the fall pumpkin event we are planning for area children. Tim Zimmerman and Natasha Bursch are coordinating a pumpkin judging event for kids for late October. The exact date and location are yet to be determined.

The event would be free and held either at the pedestrian bridge or City Hall. If successful, this could possibly become a new annual family event for the community. Community programming and outreach is a major goal of the Historical Society and filling the void for children/pre-teen activities with educational components that tie into our history is the focus.

If you are interested in serving on the Pumpkin event committee, please call Tim Zimmerman at 763-370-7373.

***Safe From the Outside World: A Social History of Hanover, Minnesota* by Mary Coons is now in its second printing. The book is available at the River Inn and BankWest in Hanover, Antiques on Main Street in Rogers, and Buffalo Books in downtown Buffalo for \$17. Call Mary Coons at 763-476-8414 if you'd like an autographed copy.**

A Brief History of Gardens

Back in the day... way back in the day... the earliest gardens were grown for practical reasons: to feed the family. Herb and vegetable gardens were the staples of life. It wasn't until the "civilized, upper class" emerged that purely decorative gardens came onto the scene. And why not - the upper class had servants or slaves to do the gardening for them. As recent as 100 years ago, 18 percent of Americans had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

The history of gardening extends across at least 4,000 years of human civilization. Egyptian tomb paintings of the 1500s BC are some of the earliest physical evidence of ornamental horticulture and landscape design. They believed that the gods liked gardens, and therefore, temples usually had gardens by them along with fragrant shade trees and rectangular ponds often stocked with fish. Egyptians, however, also grew gardens for produce. Fruits and vegetables yielded wine and olive oil. During the Middle Ages, monasteries grew gardens of medicinal herbs as well as orchards and vegetable gardens. Throughout history botanists, and Native Americans in this country, have grown herbs for medicines.

Garden styles changed throughout history. Babylonians preferred formal gardens while the Persians specialized in fruit trees, fragrant shrubs and flowers. In ancient Greece, on the other hand, pleasure gardens were rare. The Greeks were not known for their gardening skills; shade trees and flower containers were about the extent of their pleasure gardening. Their specialty lied with orchards, vineyards and vegetable gardens.

The Romans were masters of topiary and featured statues and sculptures in their gardens. Their gardens took on the form of hedges and vines and contained a wide variety of flowers.

During the 7th century when the Arabs were creating a huge empire, Islamic gardens were very popular. The Arabs mostly grew fruit trees, but also ash, hazel, walnut, poplar, willow and elm trees. They also grew a wide variety of flowers including roses, hollyhocks, narcissus, violets, wallflowers and lilies.

In 1804 the Horticultural Society was formed in Europe leading to many new plants and garden styles being introduced there during the 19th and 20th centuries. Inevitably, in 1926 Andreas Stihl, a German engineer, developed the chain saw. And we all know what that led to.

Membership Application/Renewal Form - Hanover Historical Society

Name _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

email _____

Annual dues: Individual/Family - \$12; renewable in January of each year

Renewal _____ New Member _____ If you itemize deductions on your income tax forms, you may qualify for a deduction.

I am interested in helping with: cataloging artifact collections publicity

fundraising committee programs for meetings volunteering for events

Please clip and mail your application along with a check to the Hanover Historical Society, P.O. Box 13, Hanover, MN 55341. Thank you for your support.

As I Remember Hanover... Summer Fun

These informal memories are excerpts of interviews/information from Safe From the Outside World: A Social History of Hanover, Minnesota.

With spring flooding concerns over and crops and vegetables planted, adults could begin to relax a bit on weekends and weeknights during the warm Summer months. Small town life and entertainment consisted mainly of watching town ball games, picnicing at Beebe Lake, socializing with friends and relatives, and just enjoying a slow-paced life of rural Minnesota.

"Adults would go house to house visiting as a means of socializing, and people who played musical instruments often brought them along," reports Arlene Bursch, whose grandfather was a member of the all-male Hanover band about 1900.

Bernie Lieder recalls adults played cards and went to one another's homes, particularly on Sunday nights. Social drinking was also part of the social culture. Leon Walesch remembers most adults either playing or watching baseball as a leisure activity.

House dances were quite popular in Hanover as an adult social activity. Adults who played piano, organ and musical instruments traveled around to all the different house parties and played," Millie Grambart says. "Card parties were also popular."

Children enjoyed swimming near the mill flume - often without their parents' knowledge, searching for arrowheads along the Crow River, and playing baseball, hopscotch and marbles. Fishing was also popular among the boys as well as catching minnows and selling them. Many summertime activities are just plain universal; remaining popular to this day.

Website on the Horizon

Joe Kaul offered to donate time to create a website for our organization. It would be a physical online presence with photos and Hanover history for starters and hopefully linked to the City's website. More details to follow.

Bridge Repairs

We have requested that the City Council fund and oversee repainting and minor repair work of the painted bridge stringers on the pedestrian bridge this summer. They were last done in 2004 and are in need of a fresh coat of white paint. Council approved the request.

Flea Market Vendors

Are you interested in selling your antiques, collectibles or flea market finds at this summer's Hanover Harvest Festival? The Historical Society sponsors the annual flea market portion of the Festival, which is Saturday, August 6 this year.

If you'd like to be a vendor, please go to www.hanoverharvestfestival.com to download an application or call Mary Coons at 763-476-8414 for more information.

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