

The Hanover Historical Press



HANOVER ROLLER MILLS.

HANOVER, MINN.

Caroling at the Historic Bridge

Winter 2011/12 - Vol. 9, No. 1

Although a season of joy and goodwill, for Hanover's early German immigrants, the romance of the holidays was probably more along the lines of time-tested traditions from the old country. Some were based on family customs, some on religious beliefs, and some on sentimental legends. Each had a meaning of its own. Over the past six years, the Hanover Historical Society has also created a special community holiday tradition of its own – the annual Caroling at the Historic Bridge. As we ushered in our seventh year, we again celebrated the season with our community neighbors and friends.

With a fresh dusting of snow to set the scene, beautiful music filled the star-studded sky, while the magic of the holiday season encompassed all. Thank you to everyone for making this evening such a wonderful community event.



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2012 Meetings 7p.m. City Hall

Jan. 10	July 10
Feb. 14	August 14
March 13	September 11
April 10	October 9
May 8	November 13
June 12	No Dec. mtg.

Officers/Contact Info

Tim Zimmerman, President
763-370-7373
Mike Kehn, Vice President
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Mary Coons, Secretary
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Hanover Historical Society
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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.

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.

Visit us online at
hanoverhistoricalsociety.org

Pumpkin Decorating Event Huge Success

With a gorgeous Fall day, the first-ever Pumpkin Decorating & Carving Event was an exciting success this past October.

Rowdy the Scarecrow had his photo taken with the children, while the young one's decorated their pumpkins in between participating in the Needle in the Haystack game and gunny sack races. Children came in costume and enjoyed cookies and orange drink. All participants took home their decorated pumpkins. Prizes were awarded to age groups preschool, 6-8 years and 9-12 years.



The winners of the pumpkin carving contest pose with their winning pumpkins.

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. The BankWest location has autographed copies.

A Brief History of Valentines

Many historians consider valentines to be the first holiday greetings to be given wide distribution. Handcrafted in England in the early 1700s, valentines and their tradition of exchanging, became established in the American colonies by the 1740s. A century later when the machine age arrived in the U.S., a number of commercial firms mass produced valentines.

During the 1850s, elaborate Victorian valentines featuring paper lace, calligraphy, hand-painted designs and gilding were made by Esther Howland of Worcester, MA. Her creations were lush works of art and priced as high as \$35, an exorbitant sum for the Victorian era.

Her work was so popular that she established the highly successful New England Valentine Co. in the 1870s. By the 1890s, consumers were able to express their sentiments with valentines featuring moveable and three-dimensional pull downs with cards featuring fringes, tassels, feathers and beads. Single dimension valentines and postcards were also widely popular in the early 1900s.

Popular valentine designs in the late 19th and early 20th century included flowers, cherubs, children, couples, birds, hearts and lace. Kewpies, comic characters and genteel Victorian characters created by popular English artist Kate Greenaway also were commonly found on many of the early valentines. By the 1920s, valentines were so affordable that the tradition of children exchanging them became established in grade schools across the country. From the 1920s to the present day, many delightful comic valentines have been produced, reflecting popular artistic and cultural trends.

Prices for vintage valentines can range from more than \$100 for a rare, layered Esther Howland valentine to just a few dollars for children's valentines from the 1920s-1950s.

(Reprinted from Country Accents magazine)

Editor's Note: The next time you are at City Hall, stop by the display case and take a look at the selection of valentines that Fern Klemm Schiebe donated. She had many saved from her grade school years in Hanover; most of them addressed and signed.

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... Early Businesses

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

Hanover's milling industry got its start in 1856 and was a major factor in the economy and growth of the community. Later the mill was used to manufacture feed for animals. The flourmill operations, co-owned by Herman Vollbrecht and Max Saenger, who inherited his portion when he married the widowed Elizabeth Vollbrecht, Charles' wife, were proclaimed as "manufacturers of high grade mill products, flour and feed, and custom grinding" per description from a 1909 newspaper ad. The pair also operated the electric light plant in town.

The Great Northwest Magazine stated that the Hanover Roller Mills was the town's "oldest establishment".

In the early 20th century when new grain was harvested, the mill would run day and night to make flour, said Florence Vollbrecht Book. "Before the days of horse-drawn teams, Uncle Jake would take flour by canoe to Dayton. All the women in town would scramble down to the river bank to buy a sack of flour - Vollbrecht's Best. Later, they had 14 teams of horses to haul flour to Minneapolis. There was always a keg of beer in the mill, probably the incentive from Uncle August who started the first saloon in Hanover.

"The 100-pound flour sacks in the 1900-1915 era were highly decorated with large, bold red and blue colors spelling out Hanover Mills, then a large sketch of grain followed by the words 'Vollbrecht's Best O.K. flour'."

The flourmill closed around 1927 putting the half dozen or so people who worked year round at the mill out of work. Walter J. Fender bought the mill in the early 1930s and began processing feed for animals.

Society Donations

We have received a number of interesting donations recently. Bernie Lieder donated the glass cigar display case from his parents' bar - now the River Inn - when the building was constructed in 1894. It was in the bar from 1927-1938 and soon to be on display at BankWest. Bernie also gave us the original leather razor strap from the barber shop and a plat book.

Bob Hegland discovered three stone artifacts in the Crow River: one that appears to be an axe head, one mechanically drilled resembling a fishing weight or pendant, and a third that appears to be a pendant.

Todd Urbanski donated a Hanover fire chief's coat, and Claudia Pingree donated a 1950s plat book.

Fern Schiebe Memorial

The Hanover Historical Society received \$315 in memorials following Fern Klemm Schiebe's passing.

Membership voted to purchase a memorial brick for \$50 to be placed in the Heritage Memorial Garden at City Hall with a portion of the funds. The engraved brick will read:

In memory of
Fern Klemm Schiebe
5/25/1918 - 9/16/2011



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