

The Hanover Historical Press



www.hanoverhistoricalsociety.org

Spring 2016 - Vol. 13, No. 2

Antique Appraisal Fair Almost Here

Have your mystery collectible identified and valued, or bring a family heirloom to see what it is worth. If you have neither, then join us as a spectator and learn from the experts while they evaluate antiques and collectibles.

Join us Saturday, April 16 from 10 a.m. until noon at Hanover City Hall. Appraisal Specialist Midwest will be on hand for an informal, verbal identification and evaluation of items. These experts are not dealers or auctioneers; rather, they will provide an instant professional opinion of value and an intriguing story about your item's history as part of an entertaining and interactive format.

Past participants have thoroughly enjoyed the two appraisers' comments on what is always an interesting assortment of antiques and collectibles.

Ongoing throughout the 2-hour program is a Silent Auction. Before and during the event you will have time to place a bid on some very special items. Top bidders will be announced during the program. Please consider donating items for this!

Doors open at 9 a.m. and this is a first-come, first-served event due to limited space. Admission is \$1 if you are coming to enjoy the program, and \$5 if you want one or two items evaluated. Free refreshments will be available.

Specialty items may include antiques, collectibles, coins, books, household items and silver. If bringing furniture, you must be able to carry your item in and out. No firearms, dolls, fine art, jewelry or large furniture allowed.

For donation information, contact Claudia Pingree at 763-498-8435 or email Claudia@hanoverhistoricalsociety.org.

In This Issue...

Antique Appraisal Fair
Mission Statement
Bridge Work Update
125th Anniversary Update
Book Update
History of Gardens
Membership Application
As I Remember...
Fund the Book

2016 Meetings

May 5	June 2
July 7	August 4
September 1	October 6
November 3	No December meeting

Contact Us

Mike Kehn, President
763-271-2680
Marty Waters, Vice President
763-486-2606
Mary Coons, Secretary
763-234-5388
Joe Kaul, Treasurer
763-477-6440
Tim Zimmerman, Past Pres.
763-370-7373

Hanover Historical Society
PO Box 13
Hanover, MN 55341
Mary Coons: Editor
mary@hanoverhistoricalsociety.org



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.

If you are a member, we really need your help! Ongoing opportunities include database input, storage inventory, and event assistance. Please consider volunteering to help us out.

Own a Piece of Hanover History

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 Hanover BankWest location, which has autographed copies, as well as the River Inn and Hanover City Hall. The book costs \$17. Very few books remain.

Join and Volunteer

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

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 more your comfort level.

Application form is on the next page.

Bridge Work Update

Work is progressing on the bridge! The oak planks were wet and too heavy for the bridge, so they were taken to City Hall property where they were laid out to dry. On March 23rd, workers began installing them on the bridge.



125th Anniversary Event Update

The Pumpkin Decorating Event will be part of the City's 125th anniversary celebrations on Sat., Oct. 8. All activities will take place under a big top tent on the bridge access street from two until 10 p.m. Watch the local paper for times and activity updates throughout the summer.

Food trucks, live music and plenty of activities will be ongoing the entire afternoon and evening.

This will be your first chance to view the new bridge documentary now in production as well as purchase a copy of the new book *Planks of History: Stories of the Crow River and Bridge 92366*. Mary Coons will be on hand during the day to sign copies of her book.

If you wish to be on the planning committee, be sure to contact Joe Kaul. We can still use your assistance and innovative ideas to make this a great, unforgettable milestone in our town's history.

The next two meetings will be held at City Hall, 7 p.m., on April 27 and May 25.

History Book Update

The history book on Hanover's bridge, dam and the Crow River is nearing completion. The 6x8 soft-cover format will also contain black and white photos along with first-person stories of historical events. The book goes to the printer this summer and will be available for sale at the 125th anniversary event in October. If you want to be mentioned in the back of the book as a donator of \$50 or more, please contact Joe Kaul.

A Brief History of Gardens & Ornaments

Spring has allegedly arrived, and thoughts are turning to the outdoors and gardening.

Gardening is a relaxing hobby for many of us regardless of social class or financial status, just as it was during the Victorian era.

Historically, a byproduct of the Industrial Revolution in America and abroad were low-income slum areas in most large cities.

Did you know that many city authorities created lush public gardens for relaxation and recreation because they believed that nature and gardening would minimize antisocial behaviors? Officials also encouraged gardening at home.

Some favorite old-fashioned flowers, vine and shrubs - still popular today - included roses, hydrangea, peony, lilac, morning glory, honeysuckle, clematis, various ivy's, azaleas, holly, delphinium, aster, pansies, tulips, lavender, daylilies, hosta, yarrow and chrysanthemums among others.

Another Victorian garden staple were ornaments. Garden props ranged from urns, statues, gazing balls, birdbaths, sundials, and of course, seating.

You don't need a gazebo, outdoor conservatory or even a garden shed to replicate the look.

Less formal and easily incorporated in gardens are arbors, small fountains, planters of various size and style, as well as other objects.

Of course, there are flowers that thrive in the shade and under trees while others are heat tolerant and sun loving. Wild flowers make an attractive garden feature as well.

Watering cans, stepping stones, wind chimes, old iron fence lengths, and so much more add to the charm of a garden.

Garden rooms and elaborate landscaping may or may not be a feature of your garden.

It makes no difference how large or small your garden plot(s) are; the relaxing atmosphere of the hobby is what counts.

Maybe there really was something to the long held belief that nature and gardening minimizes antisocial behaviors.

Regardless, happy gardening!

Membership Application/Renewal Form - Hanover Historical Society

Name _____

Address _____

email _____ telephone _____

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 collecting artifacts

fundraising committee publicity programs for meetings

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

When the Hanover State Bank closed in 1930, the Hanover Rural Telephone Company took over the building.

Emil Bethke remembers the area around his family's farm between Hanover and Rockford as the first to get telephone service - in 1919.

"As far as I know, he said, "party lines were started right away when phone service was installed. I remember having to stand on a chair to reach the wall phone. According to my folks, the telephone was a marvelous invention. The women would gossip once in a while on it; that's how they found out the news. Our family used it more as a business phone, and then only when we had to."

Bethke continued: "If there was a fire, the phone had a certain ring, and everybody on the party line would get on the phone. If no one was talking when you picked up the handset, the first thing you heard was an open tone. Each line had a different ring; a long and a short, two shorts and a long, and so on. Each phone also had a different ring within the party. Typically six or seven homes would be connected to one party line. I remember we had five or six on ours.

"Otherwise, if you wanted the operator or needed to call someone outside of your party line, you called Central. If you had Central service that cost fifty cents a month. If it was an emergency and other people were talking when you picked it up, you said, 'please give me the phone'."

Bethke recalled the huge batteries the phones required, noting that a battery was good for about a year before it needed replacing. "If the battery worked, the phone worked. It was as simple as that," he said.

Eleanor Vollbrecht was a long time Hanover telephone operator. Other operators were sisters Mabel and Edna Bursch along with Beatrice Harff.

Fund the Book

Those interested in helping defray our printing and production costs by funding the bridge history book and bridge documentary may still do so.

The program is tailored toward area businesses, individuals, families and civic organizations.

- Less than \$49, anonymous donation
- For \$50, donating families would have their name mentioned in the back of the book, receive a free autographed copy by the author, and receive a production credit in the documentary.
- For \$250, a business would have their business card featured in the back of the book and a production credit in the documentary.
- For \$500, a business, church or civic organization would have a one-half page bio of their history along with their logo and a production credit in the documentary.
- For \$1000, a business, church or civic organization has a full page bio of their history along with logo and production credit in the documentary.

For more information, please contact Joe Kaul. The deadline for giving \$50 or more is June 15, while anonymous donations will be accepted throughout the summer and fall.



Hanover Historical Society
PO Box 13
Hanover, MN 55341