

# The Hanover Historical Press



[www.hanoverhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hanoverhistoricalsociety.org)

Fall 2014 - Vol. 11, No. 4

## Fall Means Pumpkins and the 4th Annual Pumpkin Decorating Event

Once the cool fall breezes arrive and the outdoors turn into fiery reds and stunning oranges, it's time to put pumpkins on the porch. And that can only mean that the fourth annual Pumpkin Decorating Festival is fast approaching!

Gather up your creative goblins in costume and spend the afternoon at the Hanover Historical Society's Pumpkin Decorating Festival on Sat., Oct. 18 from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Settler's Park shelter. We'll be ghoulishly waiting for you.

You bring the kids/grandkids and we'll furnish the pumpkins and art supplies. Decorating is from 3-4 p.m. with judging at 4 p.m. Come in your favorite Halloween costume for a chance to win prizes. You must be present to win.

- Free pumpkins to decorate
- Kids' pumpkin decorating competition: preschool, 6-8 years, 9 and up with prizes awarded in each category
- Kids' costume contest - same categories as above - with prizes
- Bring a camera and have your picture taken with Kosher the pig and his "master"
- Play Needle in the Haystack
- Free cookies and orange drink

Whether you come in costume or not, don't miss out on a fall afternoon of pumpkin decorating fun! Event goes on rain or shine.

If you have questions, contact Tim Zimmerman at 763-370-7373.

This free event is sponsored by the Hanover Historical Society, whose mission is bridging the past with the future while preserving history and enhancing a sense of community.

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### 2014 Remaining Meetings

Sept. 9	Oct. 14
Nov. 11	No Dec. mtg.

### Contact Us

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763-486-2606  
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763-476-8414  
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### Hanover Historical Society

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## 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. **An immediate need is for organizing our storage area and cleaning the display cases.** 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.

## Reviving a Christmas Past

When thinking of the upcoming holiday season, Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol proclaiming "good will towards our fellow man" might spring to mind. The popular story of Scrooge, Tiny Tim and Bob Cratchit certainly captured the essence of a Victorian Christmas in the mid-1800s. A time of high spirits, simple pleasures, good cheer, and charitable generosity.

The hearty folks' Christmas contribution of the 19th century was to make the season a family affair. For one long, exciting winter month, adults and children spent extra time together sharing the seasonal pastimes of baking cookies and breads, decorating the house, and preparing homemade gifts for giving. Long ago, the holiday season truly was a Currier & Ives postcard version complete with door-to-door caroling.

It is in that spirit of cherished holiday traditions that the Hanover Historical Society seeks to recreate - uniting a community in a season of love, celebration, and joy - during our 10th Annual Caroling at the Historic Bridge event.

Join us on Friday, December 5 from 6-8 p.m. at the historic pedestrian bridge in downtown Hanover as we revive a Victorian community Christmas past. This family-friendly event is free - our gift to the community.

Area church and children's choirs will lift us into a festive spirit with their lively renditions of familiar songs and carols, interacting with audience sing-a-longs.

Everyone enjoys hot cider, hot chocolate and cookies around crackling bonfires. Bring your cameras for instant memories of your child bundled up in an authentic one-horse open sleigh and meet one-on-one with Old St. Nick.

What a wonderful way to welcome the Christmas season and create a sense of community! Don't miss it!

## Xcel Energy Foundation Dollars for Doing Program

Many thanks to Xcel Energy for their \$1,000 donation to the Hanover Historical Society on behalf of Mike Kehn's volunteer work during 2013-2014 under Xcel Energy's employee Dollars for Doing Program.

**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, now in its 11th year. 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 your comfort level. Yearly membership is only \$12. Please use the application form on the next page.**

## A Brief Glimpse into Hanover's School Board

Education was highly thought of both in Germany and in America. Schooling was an important area that was influenced by waves of immigrants in this country. For example, Kindergarten was common in Germany, yet unheard of in the U.S. until the mid-1800s. By 1900, 34 states had compulsory schooling laws and 30 states with compulsory schooling laws required attendance until age 14 (or higher). Half the nation's children attended one-room schools. By 1918, every state required students to complete elementary school.

The citizens of Hanover, in conjunction with Wright County, constructed its first school - District 122 - Joint School in Hanover Village in 1892. The two-room school was touted as "one of our best equipped schools. Good teachers employed. Excellent work done. Many pupils have graduated from high schools after completing at Hanover."

According to entries in the Clerk's Record book by the Board of Education, interesting insights can be gleaned. For example, in May 1915 the School Board held a special meeting to vote on whether to hire two lady teachers or a man and lady. They voted for the two women: Miss Minnie Vollbrecht, at \$40/month, and Miss Jennie Christensen for \$60.

A puzzling yet contentious meeting entry dated 3/30/1942, stated, "Before any action could be taken on selecting teachers, one of our popular business and social leaders who was present (unnamed) preferred charges and accusations against our teachers that were so sensational and ridiculous in character and nature that they could not have been founded on truth and veracity, and apparently were founded on hearsay, malicious gossip and selfishness, which started arguments, discussions, charges and counter charges, where the Golden Rule and all antics of human decency were entirely forgotten and grossly violated. It was impossible to select teachers or conduct business whatsoever. The Clerk proposed another meeting be held the following evening."

The following evening's minute's entry simply stated, "A special meeting was held to further consider matters that were left undone the previous evening. The Clerk (Theodore Ordorff) proposed that the Teachers Tenure Law be invoked and teachers employed on the 1941-42 contract be retained, which was accepted." Those teachers were Bernice Krone and Alice Hohensee. There was no mention of what the charges/accusations were, who the individual was making them, or whom they were directed at.

### 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*

August Vollbrecht built the 75'x90' former Greenwood House in the late 1800s as a hotel and general store, while Hubert Zann ran it. Soon after, the Dorns operated it as a saloon - with a dance hall upstairs - and a general store.

Gustave Dorn, who was 10 years old when his father was proprietor, recalled "We had the first ice cream cones to be served in Hanover. I believe one lad ate 19 in a day and was sick for a week. Drinking seemed to be the main past time. One day a farm woman came into our saloon with a shotgun. She told my father she would kill him if he sold her husband another drink. Pa took the cue and we moved to Buffalo shortly thereafter."

John Lockedell, a dealer in general merchandise, fine liquors and wines, established his dry goods store in 1907 renaming it Lockedell's General Merchandise. The store was lauded as one of the finest general merchandise establishments in Wright County, although it was located in Hennepin County.

In addition to dry goods, Lockedell sold groceries, boots, shoes, crockery, glassware and tinware. It was also known for its selection of quality clothing each season following "its buyers being sent to the centers of fashion where the fashion art reigns supreme [presumably somewhere in Minneapolis]."

Lockedell also had eight rooms in the hotel portion along with a cafe and pool table. A board and feed barn was also located on the property

At one point, Gluek Brewing Co. also owned the property. The portion of the original structure that housed the hotel has long since been razed. The former storefront is now the Hilltop Bar.

## Welcome New Members

New members joining the Hanover Historical Society this past quarter were Alistair Wilson and Chris Kauffman. Welcome!

## New BankWest Display

Education and school is our fall theme. Featured this quarter at BankWest is the circa 1908-1942 book of original handwritten minutes of school board meetings along with various class photos and books. Also displayed are original teacher contract forms and school census forms. Most of the vintage books are from a private collection.

Stop by and check it out!



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