



www.stoughtonhistoricalsociety.org



facebook.com/cityhistory.org



Stoughton Historical Society Newsletter

Summer / Fall 2025

Mugs for Sale

Local artist, Nancy Hubing created these mugs in 2025 using her original watercolor paintings of historic buildings in Stoughton. She donated the mugs and mug design to the Stoughton Historical Society to use as a fundraiser.



Mugs are for sale at the museum for \$15.00 each. We thank the Hubings for their support and generosity to our Society.

Youth Mission

Promoting and engaging our youth in history is one of our missions.

The Society took a part in the Sons of Norway's Norwegian April Third Grade event. This well organized gathering our pleasure to be part of.



New to our museum was welcoming Fox Prairie's kindergartners for a lively hands on tour this spring.

Sixth Graders also visited our main museum on their last day of school in June. Great questions and respectful young people is a pleasure for our Society to be a part of.



Annual Meeting: Oct 7 @ 6:30

Mark you calendars for our Annual Meeting located at the Sons of Norway Lodge.

Pictured is our speaker Jerry Hunter, PHD. Jerry has quite an extensive resume in chemist/engineering working all over the U.S. In 2014, Jerry and his wife moved to Stoughton as he took a job as Director of the Wisconsin Center for Nanoscale Technology at UW.

Retiring in April, Jerry now has time to focus on one of his passions - the Civil War. For our October presentation, Jerry has prepared a summary of the battle of Gettysburg from July 1-3, highlighting Wisconsin's involvement in this most important battle.



Come listen, learn and share this historical event with us and bring a friend. Refreshments provided.

Welcome New Members

Mellisa Lampe and Mike Stahl

Upcoming Dates for 2025

- 8/5 - General Meeting - 6:30 - Pioneer House
- 8/18 - McFarland Historical Society Tour
- 8/20 - Quiveys Grove - Promotion of Historical Societies sponsored by Cooksville Historical Society. 5:00-8:30
- 8/30 - Last day Museum open for 2025 season.
- 9/2 - General Meeting - 6:30 Pioneer House
- 10/7 - Annual Meeting Sons of Norway Lodge 6:30 - Speaker: Jerry Hunter
- 10/11 - Museum Tour 2:00-3:00
- 10/18 - Close Museum
- 11/4 - Officers Meeting

Stoughton Historical Society

Stoughton, WI 53589

Summer / Fall 2025

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED THIS SEASON.
WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

Goodbye Good Friend

The old adage “It takes a village to raise a child” can be modified to “It takes many volunteers to empty the Depot museum” seems fitting at this time.

After learning about the Cities involvement in a possible sale of the railroad depot to the Smet Foundation in November 2024, our Society and many residents, rallied to encourage the City owned landmark to stay status quo. At one point the Bryant Foundation offered Stoughton Historical Society the funds to buy the depot. All these efforts failed.

The fateful City Council vote, on January 28, 2025, accepted the Smet proposal for the sale of the Depot. This was quite a blow to our organization.

By February 2025, the Historical Society formed a collection committee and developed a three phase plan.

Phase 1: Secure a safe storage facility for two years to house large museum artifacts that would go into a new building after building completion. Transfer as much of our depot collection to our other two existing museums. Actively seek out new homes within the Stoughton area for duplicate items and artifacts that did not fit our collection. *This phase has been completed.*

Phase 2: Develop and implement a building that would be located either at our existing museum or pioneer home site. Start fundraising and grant writing campaign.

Phase 3. Move stored items and set up to a new structure by the end of the summer of 2027.

The depot now sits empty and is ready for its new owners. With great sadness, we say goodbye to this public landmark and to our Chamber friends.

I want to thank all who helped with this huge moving project, especially the Stoughton Historical Society members who tried their hardest to make lemonade out of lemons.

Nancy Hagen
Stoughton Historical Society President

Homes Needed

Hundreds of artifacts were now needing a new home as the depot was set to close on July 25.



Mandt fair board moved the majority of the agricultural artifacts to the FFA Educational pavilion. The display was open to the public during the Junior Fair. We were delighted to see this historic display made available to all for year's to come.



Depot no longer owned by the City.



Some large items took many hands to move.



Tow trucks were hired to move large items to Lisa and Dale Reeves's barn for two years while the Society builds a new structure either at museum or pioneer house site. We thank the Reeves for their generosity.



Dave Stolen retrieves his Mandt sleigh which on loan to the Depot Museum.



The Chamber also worked hard to sort through their many years of accumulation. A joint sale on July 11 was held at the depot. All sale proceeds went toward the museum's building project. Thanks Chamber for organizing and donating your profits to help us out.



Last Official Tour

On February 2, 2025 Dave Kalland gave the last official tour of the depot. Dave's dad, Pud Kalland, along with Chet Johnson, Bill Lustgarten and Garhard Schedel were the driving force of saving and restoring the depot from collapse in 1989. Dave's tour can be viewed on the Depot webpage- bottom menu, visit, Depot Museum.



Check out our web page: www.stoughtonhistoricalsociety.org for items for sale. We have books, t-shirts, notecards and more.