



WELCOME

This year, the United States marks its 250th anniversary. This historic milestone—extraordinary in our lifetimes—provides the ideal moment to come together, better understand our shared past, and renew our commitment to the pursuit of ***A More Perfect Union.***

We invite you to explore the role Rock County played in building America and securing American Independence.

Every man, woman and child who has ever lived within our borders has contributed to who, how and where we are as a County.

We invite you to use this passport to chronicle adventures around Rock County during the spring, summer and fall of 2026.

Make your plans to discover interesting stories of the people, places and events that have shaped our past and built our present.

**ROCK COUNTY...
Minnesota's Cornerstone!**

MY PASSPORT STAMPS

WELCOME

This year, the United States marks its 250th anniversary. This historic milestone—extraordinary in our lifetimes—provides the ideal moment to come together, better understand our shared past, and renew our commitment to the pursuit of ***A More Perfect Union.***

We invite you to explore the role Rock County played in building America and securing American Independence.

Every man, woman and child who has ever lived within our borders has contributed to who, how and where we are as a County.

We invite you to use this passport to chronicle adventures around Rock County during the spring, summer and fall of 2026.

Make your plans to discover interesting stories of the people, places and events that have shaped our past and built our present.

**ROCK COUNTY...
Minnesota's Cornerstone!**

MY PASSPORT STAMPS



Hear the story about how, in 1884, a cyclonic storm blew the church from its foundation and moved it east, over 6,700 feet before setting it down at its current location.

Was it an "act of God"?

BLUE MOUND LUTHERAN CHURCH

Saturday, September 19

2 pm to 4 pm

150th Avenue & 171st Street, Luverne

Reception to follow

*BLM Annual Worship Service
Sunday, September 20*

USING YOUR PASSPORT

This passport features a schedule of wonderful adventures you can take in "your own backyard." These FREE mini-programs are scheduled throughout Rock County in towns, villages, townships and unusual destinations.

When you attend an "adventure" have the presenters STICKER YOUR PASSPORT for a chance to win!

ADULT & YOUTH PRIZE CATEGORIES

4 or less adventures - 4 chances to win \$25

5 to 9 adventures - 2 chances to win \$50

9+ adventures - 1 chance to win \$100

One Prize Entry Per Passport Holder

This passport belongs to:

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____



Hear the story about how, in 1884, a cyclonic storm blew the church from its foundation and moved it east, over 6,700 feet before setting it down at its current location.

Was it an "act of God"?

BLUE MOUND LUTHERAN CHURCH

Saturday, September 19

2 pm to 4 pm

150th Avenue & 171st Street, Luverne

Reception to follow

*BLM Annual Worship Service
Sunday, September 20*

USING YOUR PASSPORT

This passport features a schedule of wonderful adventures you can take in "your own backyard." These FREE mini-programs are scheduled throughout Rock County in towns, villages, townships and unusual destinations.

When you attend an "adventure" have the presenters STICKER YOUR PASSPORT for a chance to win!

ADULT & YOUTH PRIZE CATEGORIES

4 or less adventures - 4 chances to win \$25

5 to 9 adventures - 2 chances to win \$50

9+ adventures - 1 chance to win \$100

One Prize Entry Per Passport Holder

This passport belongs to:

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

POST 478



HARDWICK



AGRI ENERGY



Buffalo Ridge
INSURANCE



Ninety-one years ago the city of Steen built the "Field of Dreams" and the longest "Fast Pitch Softball League" in the state was formed. This field has now become the "Field of Memories" for all those who played, and attended their team's games. Stars like "Dutch" Elbers went on to gain national fame.

BUILD IT & THEY WILL COME
The Labor Day Fast Pitch Tournament
Presented by Lorraine Sandbulte & Wendel Buys

Saturday, September 5
10 am

Steen Ball Diamond
Steen MN

Donuts & beverage to follow

POST 478



HARDWICK



AGRI ENERGY



Buffalo Ridge
INSURANCE



Ninety-one years ago the city of Steen built the "Field of Dreams" and the longest "Fast Pitch Softball League" in the state was formed. This field has now become the "Field of Memories" for all those who played, and attended their team's games. Stars like "Dutch" Elbers went on to gain national fame.

BUILD IT & THEY WILL COME
The Labor Day Fast Pitch Tournament
Presented by Lorraine Sandbulte & Wendel Buys

Saturday, September 5
10 am

Steen Ball Diamond
Steen MN

Donuts & beverage to follow



The Magnolia Steakhouse was a legendary destination for “foodies”. Learn why it was so special and share stories about its fame. Did you know that starting in the late 1930’s, Magnolia had a horse racing track that drew hundreds of people to race? Discover the story behind the Magnolia Jockey Club.

MAGNOLIA STEAKHOUSE

Presented by Amy Dispanet VerSteege & MAGNOLIA JOCKEY CLUB

Presented by John Bowron

Tuesday, September 1

6:30 pm

*Downtown Magnolia at Broadway & State
Reception to follow*



**POST 123
LIVERNE**



Dingmann Funeral Home
and Cremation Services



**COUNTRY
CUPBOARDS**

SANFORD

Luverne



JENSEN MANAGEMENT SERVICE



The Magnolia Steakhouse was a legendary destination for “foodies”. Learn why it was so special and share stories about its fame. Did you know that starting in the late 1930’s, Magnolia had a horse racing track that drew hundreds of people to race? Discover the story behind the Magnolia Jockey Club.

MAGNOLIA STEAKHOUSE

Presented by Amy Dispanet VerSteege & MAGNOLIA JOCKEY CLUB

Presented by John Bowron

Tuesday, September 1

6:30 pm

*Downtown Magnolia at Broadway & State
Reception to follow*



**POST 123
LIVERNE**



Dingmann Funeral Home
and Cremation Services



**COUNTRY
CUPBOARDS**

SANFORD

Luverne



JENSEN MANAGEMENT SERVICE





LILY KILLE
1ST LT. FRANK FERGUSON
CAPT. LENORE SANDAGER
FR. FRANCIS SAMPSON

Hear the stories of amazing Rock Countians as live "reenactors" share the stories of their fabled lives.

At the History Center
Pie & Ice Cream Fundraiser Supporting the Rock County Historical Society

TALES FROM THE GRAVES

Sunday, June 7

1 pm to 4 pm

312 East Main Street, Luverne



Hear the stories about the Rock County Poor Farm and how it provided for people in need before there were government programs.

Learn from former Sexton Vance Walgrave about Mapewood Cemetery, its history and learn about some tidbits of the past.

ROCK COUNTY POOR FARM
Presented by RC Historical Society
& MAPLEWOOD CEMETERY

Presented by Vance Walgrave

Monday, August 24

6:30 pm

1024 West Warren Street

Meet by the Chapel

Reception to follow



LILY KILLE
1ST LT. FRANK FERGUSON
CAPT. LENORE SANDAGER
FR. FRANCIS SAMPSON

Hear the stories of amazing Rock Countians as live "reenactors" share the stories of their fabled lives.

At the History Center
Pie & Ice Cream Fundraiser Supporting the Rock County Historical Society

TALES FROM THE GRAVES

Sunday, June 7

1 pm to 4 pm

312 East Main Street, Luverne



Hear the stories about the Rock County Poor Farm and how it provided for people in need before there were government programs.

Learn from former Sexton Vance Walgrave about Mapewood Cemetery, its history and learn about some tidbits of the past.

ROCK COUNTY POOR FARM
Presented by RC Historical Society
& MAPLEWOOD CEMETERY

Presented by Vance Walgrave

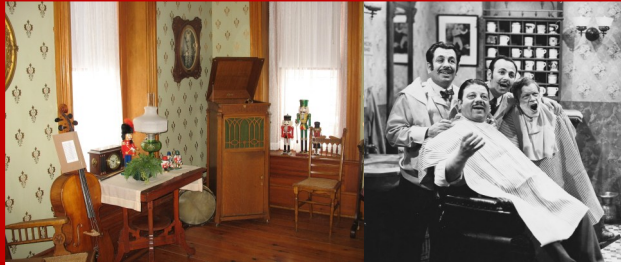
Monday, August 24

6:30 pm

1024 West Warren Street

Meet by the Chapel

Reception to follow



At the turn of the century, live music live musical performances and in-home recitals happened frequently. Enjoy barbershop harmony with the “All Nighters Barbershop Quartet” as the Hinkly House invites you to enjoy this “Front Porch Concert”.

HINKLY HOUSE CONCERT

Featuring the

“All Nighters Barbershop Quartet”

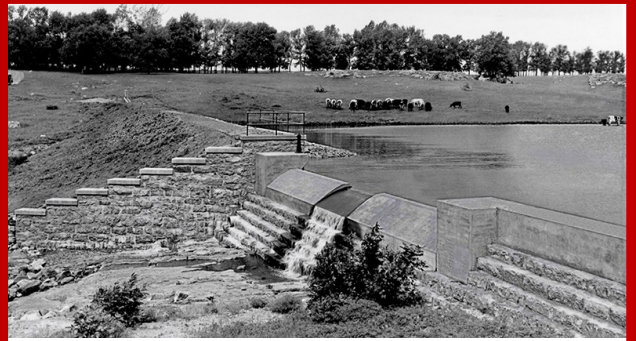
Sunday, August 16

4 pm

213 North Freeman | Luverne

Please bring a lawn chair

Ice cream & root beer reception to follow



The New Deal was a big deal for Blue Mounds State Park. Before opening in 1937, the park was shaped by the hard-working hands of people eligible for the nationwide relief program known as the WPA.

Two structures still stand, bearing witness to a nation-wide recovery after the Great Depression.

Drop by the naturalist’s table to explore the remembered and forgotten changes the New Deal brought to Blue Mounds State Park.

THE NEW DEAL NATURE CART

Blue Mounds State Park Amphitheater

Saturday, June 13

Time: 10 am to 1 pm

1410 161st Street, Luverne

Reception to follow



At the turn of the century, live music live musical performances and in-home recitals happened frequently. Enjoy barbershop harmony with the “All Nighters Barbershop Quartet” as the Hinkly House invites you to enjoy this “Front Porch Concert”.

HINKLY HOUSE CONCERT

Featuring the

“All Nighters Barbershop Quartet”

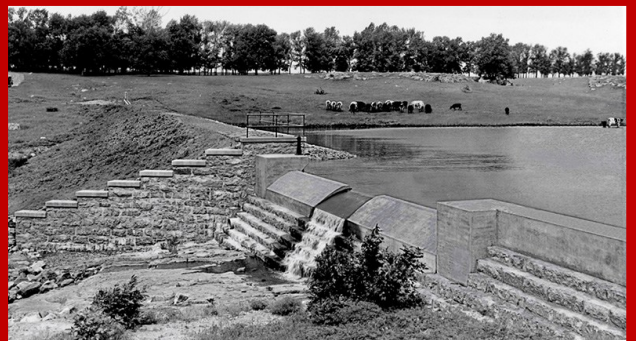
Sunday, August 16

4 pm

213 North Freeman | Luverne

Please bring a lawn chair

Ice cream & root beer reception to follow



The New Deal was a big deal for Blue Mounds State Park. Before opening in 1937, the park was shaped by the hard-working hands of people eligible for the nationwide relief program known as the WPA.

Two structures still stand, bearing witness to a nation-wide recovery after the Great Depression.

Drop by the naturalist’s table to explore the remembered and forgotten changes the New Deal brought to Blue Mounds State Park.

THE NEW DEAL NATURE CART

Blue Mounds State Park Amphitheater

Saturday, June 13

Time: 10 am to 1 pm

1410 161st Street, Luverne

Reception to follow



Learn how the death of “Ethyl” became the biggest celebration the town has ever seen. When Rasmus Tweet lost his four-legged companion, the Kenneth townspeople came out in droves to honor this animal’s legacy. Now, you can hear the rest of the story.

GAZEBO—KENNETH MN

Saturday, June 27

2 pm

Main & 3rd Street | Kenneth 56147

Reception to follow



Learn about the fragile Northern Tallgrass Prairie Refuge during a walk with US Fish & Wildlife naturalists. What makes this ecosystem so important today and why was it important to the people of the past?

TOUCH THE SKY PRAIRIE

Wednesday, August 12

(rain date: Thursday, August 13)

9 am

171st Street & 90th Avenue, Hardwick

Meet at Prairie Waterfall Trail Parking

Reception to follow



Learn how the death of “Ethyl” became the biggest celebration the town has ever seen. When Rasmus Tweet lost his four-legged companion, the Kenneth townspeople came out in droves to honor this animal’s legacy. Now, you can hear the rest of the story.

GAZEBO—KENNETH MN

Saturday, June 27

2 pm

Main & 3rd Street | Kenneth 56147

Reception to follow



Learn about the fragile Northern Tallgrass Prairie Refuge during a walk with US Fish & Wildlife naturalists. What makes this ecosystem so important today and why was it important to the people of the past?

TOUCH THE SKY PRAIRIE

Wednesday, August 12

(rain date: Thursday, August 13)

9 am

171st Street & 90th Avenue, Hardwick

Meet at Prairie Waterfall Trail Parking

Reception to follow



Step back in time and learn how people used to keep things cold. The Beaver Creek Ice Barn supported a thriving business by hauling ice to homes. Learn about this 1920 ice barn along with the swimming hole that was great summer entertainment for years.

BEAVER CREEK'S ICE BARN

Saturday, August 8th

1 pm

Springbrook Road | Beaver Creek 56116

Free Snow Cones to Follow

Hosts: Beaver Creek Community Club



Hear stories about Hardwick Grade School during what may be the last All School Reunion held by HGS alumni! Check out the Hardwick & Hardwick Wildcat memorabilia will be on display at the Community Hall from 12 to 5 pm. Join the Wildcat Committee as they dedicate the stone & their memories at the special ceremony at the City Park!

HARDWICK CITY PARK

Saturday, June 27

4 pm

301 Ross Street | Hardwick 56134
Community meal & parade to follow



Step back in time and learn how people used to keep things cold. The Beaver Creek Ice Barn supported a thriving business by hauling ice to homes. Learn about this 1920 ice barn along with the swimming hole that was great summer entertainment for years.

BEAVER CREEK'S ICE BARN

Saturday, August 8th

1 pm

Springbrook Road | Beaver Creek 56116

Free Snow Cones to Follow

Hosts: Beaver Creek Community Club



Hear stories about Hardwick Grade School during what may be the last All School Reunion held by HGS alumni! Check out the Hardwick & Hardwick Wildcat memorabilia will be on display at the Community Hall from 12 to 5 pm. Join the Wildcat Committee as they dedicate the stone & their memories at the special ceremony at the City Park!

HARDWICK CITY PARK

Saturday, June 27

4 pm

301 Ross Street | Hardwick 56134
Community meal & parade to follow



The people of the Hills community know how to celebrate America's RED, WHITE & BLUE! Join them as they dedicate a new statue to honor 250 years of America and hear how the HBC Patriots were named! Fireworks to follow at The Rez at dusk.

JACOBSON PARK & THE REZ

Saturday, July 11

7:30 pm

E 4th between Central & Josephine

Fireworks to follow at The Rez

Hills MN 56138



Did you know that the Tri-State Marker was originally set in 1852? Learn about the rest of the story about where three states meet.

Have you ever been to Bruce?

Learn what happened to this once-bustling community and where it was!

TRI-STATE MARKER & BRUCE

Saturday, July 18

2 pm

At 2 pm: 26799 488th Ave, Valley Springs

**Then to: 331 31st Street. Hills
(At Gene & Shirley Sandager's Farm)**

Reception to follow



The people of the Hills community know how to celebrate America's RED, WHITE & BLUE! Join them as they dedicate a new statue to honor 250 years of America and hear how the HBC Patriots were named! Fireworks to follow at The Rez at dusk.

JACOBSON PARK & THE REZ

Saturday, July 11

7:30 pm

E 4th between Central & Josephine

Fireworks to follow at The Rez

Hills MN 56138



Did you know that the Tri-State Marker was originally set in 1852? Learn about the rest of the story about where three states meet.

Have you ever been to Bruce?

Learn what happened to this once-bustling community and where it was!

TRI-STATE MARKER & BRUCE

Saturday, July 18

2 pm

At 2 pm: 26799 488th Ave, Valley Springs

**Then to: 331 31st Street. Hills
(At Gene & Shirley Sandager's Farm)**

Reception to follow