

Hanover Historical Quest

What is a Quest? Participants use the map and directions to learn the early history of the town of Hanover. Fill in clues along the way to find a hidden guest book. Upon completion, please sign the book, comments welcome.

We will start our walking Quest of Hanover Center at the historic (1) Stetson House which was built about 1719 by Samuel Stetson. At that time the area, now Hanover, was part of Scituate and the Stetson's were one of the earliest settlers. This old house was the location of the first meetings, which incorporated the town. Samuel Stetson had 19 children and left many descendants. The house was preserved by Dr. L. Vernon Briggs during the first half of the twentieth century. The Town of Hanover purchased the property in 1978, with the support of the Hanover Historical Society and the Friends of the Stetson House they continue to preserve it and make it accessible to the public. The Stetson House is open on Wednesdays from 2 to 4 o'clock, and on other special occasions.

Follow the curved walk at the back of the Stetson House which was landscaped by the Hanover Garden Club with native shrubs and wild flowers. Then continue walking to the front of the handsome (2) John Curtis Free Library which reflects the pride of the town. A grateful son of Hanover, John Curtis, donated his library of books and the money to build the brick building which faces Hanover Street. It was designed by another Hanover son, Edmund Q. Sylvester, and erected in 1908. The Library has had several expansions over the years, the latest finished in 2003.

Following the brick sidewalk west from the front of the Library you will come to the (3) Hanover Town Hall, where town business takes place. It was built in 1863 following a disastrous fire. In 1868 two rooms were set aside in the new Town Hall which were used for the first high school and later the beginnings of a library. In 1893 two matching wings were added to each end of the building. Town meetings, dances and school programs were held in a large room upstairs. In 1977, the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the Town, a large addition was added to the rear elevation, which was to house town offices, hearing rooms and the Hanover Police Station. Visit the (4) WWII, Korean and Vietnam Memorial in front of the building.

Face the Town Hall and on the right is (5) Town Time Capsule was placed on the western slope of the new building and features two symbols, an anchor and a plow, which reflect the town's pride and the hard work and occupations of its people.

Now cross the street to the ball field which was the site of the (6) Town Pound. Most early New England towns kept a stone walled plot to impound stray livestock. Henry M. Stetson was *pound* keeper for quite a few years.

The (7) First Congregational Church membership founded the town. The first building (1728) was erected on the present site served for both church and town meetings. This building was replaced in 1765 on virtually the same site. In 1827 at the same location a third church was built facing east and a separate town hall was constructed six feet to the rear of the church. Unfortunately both burned in 1862. The present church building was built in 1863 on the original site. (8) The Civil War Monument, is beside the church. It was designed by Hanover resident John Williams Beal newly graduated From MIT. It was dedicated in a large ceremony July 1878 to honor the Civil War Veterans. The ladies of the town

ran a faire and raised \$1248.22 to fund the building of the monument. The shaft and obelisk weighed more than fifteen tons. The names of those 23 Hanover men who died in this war were engraved on the base of the monument.

Cross Silver Street carefully and proceed east on the south side of Hanover Street until you reach (9) **Sylvester School** located on the site of an early *district* school. It was built in 1927 as the high school by a large donation from Edmund Q. Sylvester. The (10) **World War I Flagpole** is located in front of the School with a granite base and was dedicated as a monument for those Hanover men who served our *country*. Now cross the street and return to the Stetson House property. Admire the sturdy (11) **Stetson's Barn** where the Stetson men raised their livestock. The Stetson land originally ran from between Spring Street (then know as Purr Cat Lane) and Center Street. Remnants of their old apple orchard are still visible. The (12) **Carriage Shed**, down the path in back of the barn, was constructed with funds raised by the Friends of the Stetson House to shelter some old horse drawn carriages and a peddler's wagon acquired by the Historical Society. The (13) **Cobbler's Shop** which was reconstructed by William B. Sides and Lawrence Slaney, was saved from a tear down on route 53. Many people residing on the old roads worked in little shops such as this one.

Hanover Center and its buildings were placed on the National Historic Register in 1996 and reflect the pastoral atmosphere and history of the town. We hope you enjoyed the Hanover Town Quest. Please use the clues below to find our log book, sign today's date and your name.

1	2	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		
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10	2	4	4	1	5	11			6	2	12	
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Fill in the blanks with the correct letter from the clues below

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Dr. __. Briggs' first initial | 7. There are two of these in Historical |
| 2. Second letter of ___ Curtis first name | 8. Last letter of Mr. Beal's first name |
| 3. First Letter of the 1956_____ War | 9. First letter of what this is |
| 4. At the Vietnam Memorial - First Letter,
Last name of William H. _____ | _____ school this was. |
| 5. Last letter of what # 5 is _____ | 10. Hanover men served our _____ |
| 6. First letter of Pound keepers
first name _____ | first letter |
| | 11. Third letter of what this is _____ |
| | 12. Stray livestock was kept in this
first letter _____, see # 6. |

Choose from: B C D E H I K L N O P R

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