

# The Hanover Historical Press



## Bridge Signage Dedication

Spring 2012 - Vol. 9, No. 2

The Hanover Historical Society will be officially commissioning our newly installed informational signs on the south end of the Historic Bridge at approximately **6:00 pm on Monday, April 2nd.**

We encourage the community to join us in commissioning these new additions to the Historic bridge experience! Mayor Martin Waters and vice president Mike Kehn will deliver brief comments about the project, the history of the bridge (aka Bridge #92366) and Hanover, along with an overview of significant events of 1885 - the year the bridge was constructed.

The two 36x24" signage markers detail historical information about the type of bridge (Pratt through truss), its construction, historical significance, placement on the National Register of Historic Places, along with other trivia facts of interest. Hanover Bridge No. 92366 is one of ten existing Minnesota Pratt through truss bridges and the third oldest listed on Minnesota's National Register of Bridges.



Following the dedication, the public is invited back to City Hall for Doug Ohman's free presentation on the Mississippi River. (See back page for additional information.)

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### 2012 Meetings 7p.m. City Hall

April 10	September 11
May 8	October 9
June 12	November 13
July 10	No December
August 14	meeting

### Officers/Contact Info

Tim Zimmerman, President  
763-370-7373  
Mike Kehn, Vice President  
763-271-2680  
Mary Coons, Secretary  
763-476-8414  
Joe Kaul, Treasurer  
763-477-6440

Hanover Historical Society  
P.O. Box 13  
Hanover, MN 55341  
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## Support Your Historical Society

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

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. for new and renewing members, please use the application form on page 3.

To learn more about the Hanover Historical Society, please call Tim Zimmerman at 763-370-7373.

## 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.

Visit us online at  
[hanoverhistoricalsociety.org](http://hanoverhistoricalsociety.org)

## Faue History on Display

William and Otto Faue might wonder what the big deal is if they were alive today. The brothers – perhaps Hanover's most famous duo – both achieved fame for their woodworking talent.

Younger brother Otto, born in 1881, was an experienced woodworker who began carving fish and ducks in the late 1920s. It is believed that he carved approximately 50 ducks a year. Though both brothers crafted fish, they are distinctly different. Otto's fish have two fins at each side.

William, born in 1878, specialized in jigging sticks, fish decoys, bobbers, axe handles, canes and wooden toys. He made about 100 decoys per year from his Hanover home workshop, and painted approximately 100 fish until his death in 1950. He started carving in the mid-1930s and sold his fish decoys in local bars and hardware stores – the go-to place for fishing tackle.

Historical accounts explain the technique of the jigging stick as "laying on your stomach in a small dark place and working the stick over the ice hole or sitting up in a darkened fish shack doing the same." Whichever the preferred method, today of course, this is archaic. Nevertheless, William Faue's jigging sticks are sought after as a testament of a now defunct ice fishing technique. His handcrafted and painted fish decoys remain popular.

To see photos of William Faue's magnificent historical creations and photographs, stop in at Hanover BankWest. The Faue exhibit is a result of Hanover Historical Society's ongoing heritage drive to seek and discover from descendants of our early Hanover families photographs, donations, and artifacts of life in and around Hanover.

If you have any Faue artifacts or would like to donate to our collections, please contact Claudia Pingree at 763-498-8435. All original photographs will be returned to the donator.

*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 River Inn and BankWest in Hanover, Antiques on Main Street in Rogers, and Buffalo Books in downtown Buffalo for \$17. The BankWest location has autographed copies.

# A Brief History of the Easter Bunny & Eggs

Although the true origins of the Easter Bunny might remain lost in the mists of time, many point to 13th century Germany springtime celebrations. One of the deities worshipped then was Eostre, the goddess of spring and the dawn, who has been portrayed as a beautiful maiden carrying a basket filled with dyed-red eggs and a pair of cuddly baby bunnies. Some say that over time the goddess was lost, but the bunny and eggs endured.

Others think the custom might extend even further back in antiquity. Some scholars believe that giving eggs in spring might trace back to the Persians and that the bunny first popped up in Celtic lore.

There are even those who believe that the bunny legend was imported to America in the 1700s when German immigrants settled in Pennsylvania Dutch country. Back in those days, children left out carrots for the bunny in case he got hungry. The famous rabbit is now a traditional aspect of spring for many Americans, and the Easter Bunny belongs to everybody.

Regardless of the origins, how did these an-

cient rites get woven into the Christian holiday commemorating the rebirth of Christ?

Spring symbolizes new life and rebirth; eggs were an ancient symbol of fertility. The association of Easter eggs representing Jesus' resurrection came about in the 15th century when Germany was Roman Catholic. The bunny symbolizes fecundity, and the eggs represent the cycle of life. The tradition of making nests for the rabbit to lay its eggs in soon followed. Eventually, nests became decorated baskets, and colorful eggs were swapped for candy, treats and other small gifts. Why we color and decorate eggs is not certain.

In the early 19th century, Dolly Madison, wife of the 4th president, organized an egg roll at the new Capitol building. She had been told that Egyptian children used to roll eggs against the pyramids. This custom continued yearly except for the years during the Civil War.

So, while your children are hunting for eggs, they just might be harking back to pagan fertility rituals. Some traditions remain with us while others die out over time. The Easter bunny hopping down the bunny trail with his basket of colored eggs for little girls and boys isn't going away anytime soon.

## Membership Application/Renewal Form - Hanover Historical Society

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

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  artifact collections  publicity

fundraising committee  programs for meetings  volunteering for events

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.*

Although the blackshop originally was owned and operated by the Vollbrechts, Richard Saenger, who married a Vollbrecht widow, took over the business of running the blacksmith shop, wagon and carriage shop in 1895 utilizing water from the manmade canal as his source of power.

According to *The Great Northwest Magazine, 1909*, "To make assurance doubly sure, Mr. Saenger has caused to be installed a large steam plant which is brought into action whenever a failure on the part of water necessitates. In addition to this business, Mr. Saenger conducts a wagon shop which is fitted with all kinds of machinery necessary to the work... also operated by water power."

Arlene Pettit Bursch recalls her grandfather's blacksmith shop well. "The interior of the shop had a large bed, which was made of concrete. In it were very hot coals. Farmers would bring plough shares and stick them in there until they got red hot, and then they were hammered out and sharpened. I recall watching that. They also shoed horses outside of the building. The shop had two rooms, one was an office and the other where Grandpa and the hired workers worked."

Sometime between 1925 and 1930 the blacksmith shop burned. No one knows the cause of the fire. It ignited during the day when Saenger was there working. Although he was able to escape, everything was destroyed.

Arlene remembers the wagon shop as being next to the blacksmith shop with Richard Saenger's name on the top, although she doesn't recall if that building burned also that fateful day. After the fire, Saenger rebuilt the shop on the same spot.

## Doug Ohman Show

Please join us at City Hall on Monday, April 2 to watch Doug Ohman's excellent presentation "Journey Down the River", which is sponsored by the Hanover Historical Society.

Ohman, photographer of popular byways book series on Minnesota barns, churches, cabins, state parks and others, highlights the many points of interest in the Mississippi's upper reaches beginning at the mouth of Lake Itasca and extending down to the Twin Cities in this latest series presentation. The Minnesota Byways series is a photographic survey showcasing the state's classic architectural and natural icons and paired with text by various Minnesota writers.

The program is free to the public, and refreshments will be served.

## Membership Renewals

Please remember to renew your membership for 2012 if you have not done so. We count on your support to assist us in our ongoing programming and activities for the community. Thank you.



**Hanover Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 13  
Hanover, MN 55341