

Curator's Choice



Photograph by Eric Mortenson/MHS

*“From his window Howard scraped frost. Feathers of white sprayed and melted on his thumbnail. He leaned his shaggy yellow hair close, made an O with his lips—blew long and steadily on the glass. Quickly he put an eye to the porthole.”—WILL WEAVER, *Snares*, 1992*

Every year for almost a decade, the Minnesota Center for Book Arts in Minneapolis has commissioned handmade, limited-edition books celebrating winter in the Upper Midwest. Beginning with Jon Hassler’s *Staggerford’s Indian* in 1988 and including Will Weaver’s *Snares*, “winter books” have showcased the best in local writing, art, printing, design, papermaking, and binding while demonstrating that there are still original ways to talk about Minnesota’s most talked-about season.

Shown above are volumes by J. F. Powers, Meridel LeSueur, Carol Bly, Will Weaver, Paulette Bates Alden, and Jon Hassler, with artwork by Susan Nees, Jack Molloy, Maarja Roth, Sandy Spieler, Deborah Mae Broad, and Barbara Harmon. Designed by Gaylord Schanilec and others including Ann Borman—with bindings by Greg Campbell, Jill Jevney, and Dennis Rudd, handmade paper by Amanda Degner, and participation by a host of interns—the collection is a veritable “Who’s Who” of Minnesota’s book artists. The Minnesota Historical Society acquires each winter book for its research center, where they may be viewed.

—PATRICK COLEMAN, acquisitions librarian



FRONT COVER: Luther, Teddy, and Frederick King of southwestern Minnesota’s Fulda strike a pose with seasonal sporting equipment about 1908. The eldest looks less than enthusiastic about the skis, fashioned from boards with add-on, hand-carved tips. The cover photograph, digitally colored by Lois Stanfield, is in the MHS collections.

Book Reviews

CALL SCHOOL: RURAL EDUCATION IN THE MIDWEST TO 1918

By Paul Theobald

(Carbondale, Ill.: Southern Illinois University Press, 1995. 261 p. Hard cover, \$24.95.)

Ask anyone for his or her impression of the rural school experience, and you most likely will get a wistful, nostalgic description of the proverbial one-room school. Ask one who can remember a local rural school, and the response might evoke a sense of loss of community and participatory government at one of its most basic levels. Ask Paul Theobald to tell you about rural education in the Midwest, and I would venture to say that he would take issue with the idyllic portrayal of popular myth and the notion that rural schools operated with democracy as their creed.

In this book, Theobald examines the reality of rural education in the Midwest up to 1918 by taking a critical look at local resistance to the notion of state-sponsored “free schools.” He offers a thoughtful and well-documented explanation of why resistance was so pervasive and how it affected rural school governance, operations, and the lives of students, teachers, and families. In doing so, he provides a thoroughly researched and articulate analysis of the factors influencing the agrarian communities of the Midwest and how these factors affected rural education.

Rural school boards consisted mostly of white men whose decisions about education basically reflected their world view. Formal education, in their minds, was a way to instill fundamental morals and to perpetuate the agrarian lifestyle that they knew best. School boards interpreted and adapted the free-school system on those terms. They not only decided who would teach children in their districts but also ensured that the teachers’ methods aligned with board members’ view of education. Students were taught only as much as was necessary to perpetuate the lifestyles of their parents. They learned the “basics,” infused with Protestant religious philosophy and morals, and were socialized to understand their place in society. Wealth, or lack of it, religion, and ethnicity governed behavior and access to opportunities.

Religion, frequently a source of conflict in many venues, was important to those who settled in the Midwest. According to Theobald, some “clung tenaciously to the pietist legacy of religion as a social leveler while similarly harboring the notion that formal education needed close

scrutiny, lest the spirit of inquiry erode one’s endowment of religious faith.” In general, schooling in the hinterlands had a two-fold purpose: to educate in the traditional sense, offering fundamental instruction in reading, writing, grammar, penmanship, spelling, and arithmetic; and, more important, to preserve and teach morals and doctrines as espoused by particular Protestant religious denominations. Early school boards, steeped in one or another religious tradition, rejected or modified the free-school concept because it impeded the religious instruction they felt was critical to children’s growth and development.

Furthermore, the highly transient midwestern population during this time had a profound impact on free schooling. Transients did not own land, paid no school tax, and, hence, contributed less to the financial well-being of a community than their more stable neighbors. “It was difficult for rural Midwesterners to consent to tax themselves enough money to support a school that would benefit the children of those who paid no tax, particularly when there were enough teachers around who were willing to take in a group of pupils in exchange for payment by the scholars.” Contributing financially to the education of children whose families did not or could not pay school taxes caused much resentment. Yet, by law these children were entitled to the same education as those whose families were better off.

The final chapter of this book deals with what happened to rural education around the turn of the century and focuses on the attempt to improve schools and their administration. During the Progressive Era, education in both rural and urban settings came under scrutiny. There was movement toward professionalism and intense debate challenging traditional ways of teaching and learning. The Country Life movement and the overall economic shift from agriculture to industry had major impacts on rural life, and this had implications for rural education. These changes, coupled with improvements in roads, transportation, and electricity, contributed to the decline in the number of rural schools in the Midwest after World War I.

Theobald paints a fairly bleak picture of rural education at this time: “Wish as we may that rural schooling in the Midwest encompassed all things good and democratic about humankind, the evidence does not permit such an interpretation.” But he explicitly states that his is *one* history of rural education and that it concludes with the year 1918. Wayne E. Fuller and other writers have stressed that though the schools lacked some of the assets and financial

resources of larger districts and urban schools, they had many unquantifiable amenities and that rural families were devoted to their children's education. In the years following 1918, rural education changed dramatically and the number of one-room schools slowly diminished as school-district reorganization and consolidation progressed. District sizes increased, populations stabilized, and school communities were less homogeneous in terms of religion and ethnicity. It would be most interesting to see a study of the effect on rural education of diverse religious affiliations and a less transient population after 1918.

Theobald's research brought him to numerous state and local historical societies in virtually every midwestern state and involved a variety of school records from the level of the one-room district to the state education department. He also used a number of personal diaries of teachers and students. A plethora of examples from Minnesota school districts in various parts of the state was most gratifying to see. It is this type of research that makes archivists smile. He substantiated these primary sources with considerable scholarship on rural education. *Call School* will be a valuable addition to the libraries of state and local historical societies and teaching colleges and universities in the Midwest and beyond. Scholars of midwestern education and rural politics and religion will find it to be a useful and thought-provoking catalyst to further study in this area.

Reviewed by Mary Klauda, a government-records analyst who for many years has been involved with acquiring and preserving rural school records for the Minnesota Historical Society's state archives.

THE PURSUIT OF LOCAL HISTORY: READINGS ON THEORY AND PRACTICE

Edited by Carol Kammen

(Walnut Creek, Calif.: AltaMira Press in cooperation with the American Association for State and Local History, 1996. 240 p. Paper, \$24.95.)

This a useful book, one which every practitioner of local history will want in his or her library. The editor divided her 20 articles, addresses, and book excerpts into six major parts. Five of these—"The Local Historian," "Nineteenth-Century Views of Local History," "The Nature of Local History," "Thinking Anew about Local History," and "Rx for Local Historians"—are composed of three or four pieces each. Part 6, consisting of only one piece, is entitled "A Passion for Local History."

The editor's strategy successfully provides readers with a satisfactory introduction to local history. She acquaints them with such fundamental questions as: Who are local historians? How important is their work in the kingdom of history? For whom do they collect or write history? Readers can also use this work to begin their own reflections on the changing fortunes and purposes of local history, its present health, old and new forms of local history, and its changing relationship to state, regional, national, and—although this is not covered—global history.

Several selections achieve a high level. Whitfield Bell Jr. calls attention to how much history would go uncollected,

unrecorded, and unwritten if not for the local historians. He notes that local history usually outlasts academic history. Judith Wellman (in a piece previously published in *Historians' Guide: A Handbook for Local Historians*) describes how diverse local history is and captures its promise as a laboratory for the new social history with its emphasis on gender, family, and community. Amateur historian Lewis Mumford captures the importance of local history in the age of centralizing technology and the engulfing state.

Already echoing a similar note in 1940, Constance McLaughlin argues in the opening lines of her piece:

For any true understanding of American cultural history, the writings and study of American local history is of primary importance. There lies the grass roots of American civilization. Because of our varied population stocks and their sharply differentiated culture inheritances, the widely differing environments which the United States includes, and the rapidity of changes in our economic life, the problems confronting the social historian assume mighty proportions . . . [and] the necessity of studying American life from the bottom up becomes obvious for the cultural historian.

Other pieces also have value but none as much as Paul Leuillot's 1977 "Manifesto for the Defense and Illustrations of Local History." Written under the inspiration of the great contemporary French regionalist, Guy Thuillier, this piece stands alone in setting forth clear principles and making precise arguments about the nature and responsibility of the local historian. It is developed with particular reference to the great French historian Marc Bloc.

At this point praise ends. Aside from being, as anthologies often are, a potpourri, the work is marred by tedious pontificating about what local history should be. More significantly, the book fails on both empirical and theoretical counts despite its subtitle, *Readings on Theory and Practice*. On the practical level it does not offer full, living, concrete examples—especially contemporary examples—of what it means for a person, society, and an institution to pursue local history. On the loftier level of theory, its individual insights and ideas are never developed into coherent arguments. How local history relates to state, regional, national, and academic histories receives some notice but little elucidation.

The book's overall preference for social, institutional, and economic history shortchanges cultural, technological, and ecological histories. Local historians might thrive (as we hope that the Society for the Study of Local and Regional History in southwestern Minnesota has shown) writing the history of medicine, disease, plagues, contaminated water, and cleanliness. Practitioners might even have a better time writing the history of senses, emotions, and insanity. Provocative histories could be written of architecture, building materials, construction techniques, dredging machines, drainage, the automobile, and—to keep up to date—the introduction of plastics and computer software in the countryside. A history of plants and crops, or the wild and domestic animals of a locale, are other promising approaches for local historians interested in capturing change.

Finally, the editor would have done better to have left out the pieces filled with simple-minded instructions and

put in their place a directory (or guide to directories) to individuals and institutions practicing and promoting local (regional, state) studies in the United States and Europe. In a similar vein, a lengthy bibliographic essay would have been considerably more helpful than a token single-page listing of materials under the rubric “Some Suggestions for Further Readings.”

Reviewed by Joseph A. Amato, professor of history at Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota, a founder and active member of his regional Society for the Study of Local and Regional History.

ICY PLEASURES: MINNESOTA CELEBRATES WINTER

By Paul Clifford Larson

(Afton, Minn.: Afton Historical Society Press, 1997.
159 p. Cloth, \$40.00.)

It just wouldn't be winter in Minnesota without a few new books about winter in Minnesota. A recent addition to the genre, *Icy Pleasures*, chronicles the history of our frozen festivals from St. Paul's first winter carnival in 1885 to celebrations held throughout the state in the 1930s and 1940s.

Historian Paul Clifford Larson, who has published widely on architectural topics, looks beyond ice palaces and snow forts to the range of activities that comprise winter festivals. *Icy Pleasures* is organized chronologically, although each chapter stands on its own, exploring one aspect of the larger topic. The first three chapters, defined as “The Cult of Cold,” set the stage for the book's main discussion. In Chapter 1, Larson describes how Minnesota's image as an unbearable winter wasteland originated and became part of popular myth, thanks to the words of early settlers and journalists and the images captured by photographers and illustrators. In Chapters 2 and 3, the boosters who sought to dispel this myth step to the forefront, from pioneer newspaper editor James Goodhue to a host of lesser-known sports promoters.

“From Shrines to Frolics” is Larson's heading for the remaining five chapters. Chapters 4 and 5 describe St. Paul's early winter carnivals, drawing on overheated prose by journalists who witnessed the construction of the first ice palaces, the excitement of the first parades, and the catastrophes resulting from unseasonably warm Januaries in 1888 and 1889. Chapter 6 highlights a subtheme—winter sports—that runs through the entire text. Larson traces the roots and analyzes the impact of well-established sports like curling and ice skating, as well as lesser-known enthusiasms like ice boating and horse trotting. In Chapters 7 and 8, he takes readers north to the Iron Range and lake country and south to Red Wing, offering succinct comparisons between St. Paul's extravaganzas and community celebrations launched by boosters living far from the urban scene. Larson notes in the book's introduction that a full account of the many thriving winter festivals in the state today would be another book. Nevertheless, he does take his story from World War II to the present in a brief afterword.

Though Larson interweaves cogent analysis of the evolution of Minnesota's winter festivals throughout his book—

noting, for example, the shift from civic boosterism in early festivals to later sports-centered frolics designed to reinforce community values—the real strength of *Icy Pleasures* is in its descriptions and depictions of Minnesotans at their wintry best. There is a surprising and pleasing amount of character development in the book, as Larson captures the personalities of the movers and shakers, curlers and skaters who have peopled winter celebrations over the years. He relies mostly on published accounts for information on his protagonists, though; what characters might he have uncovered had he done some first-person interviews for the chapters on midtwentieth-century festivals?

Larson's crisp, engaging style gives the impression that his book was just as much fun to write as it is to read. Consider this description of the benefits accruing to our northern clime, as interpreted by Goodhue and his contemporaries: “Humans could survive a Minnesota winter, but their most noxious inflictions could not. Swamps froze to the base in January, and the agents of cholera, scarlet fever, diphtheria, and the flu were believed—with some claim to the truth—to freeze with them. The great ravages of the human body had, like the armadillo, halted their northern march somewhere just below the Iowa border.” Occasionally Larson's enthusiasm for his subject overtakes his story-telling instincts, and he overwhelms the reader with myriad details where witty summaries would have sufficed. This is a minor fault, however, in a most entertaining narrative.

The images included in *Icy Pleasures*—many from MHS collections—are every bit as lively as the text. Intrepid sportspeople, rosy-cheeked children, and awe-inspiring ice palaces appear in vivid detail. A majority of the black-and-white archival photographs reproduced in the book were “selectively tinted by the book designer,” as described in the end notes—a red jacket here, a pair of brown knickers there. This vivification of the past is at best unnecessary, given the engaging subject matter of the photographs, and at worst misleading. Would an 1887 moose-sled driver really have owned an ice-blue jacket? Why is a dogsled driver shown in one photo wearing a forest-green hat, while in a photo on the facing page the same hat is black?

But overall, *Icy Pleasures* is aptly named: a well-written, well-researched, and well-illustrated argument in favor of the good life in Minnesota.

Reviewed by Kate Roberts, a curator in the MHS exhibits department who has a background in architectural history and popular culture studies.

LITTLE CHIEF'S GATHERINGS The Smithsonian Institution's G. K. Warren 1855–1857 Plains Indians Collections and The New York State Library's 1855–1857 Warren Expeditions Journals

By James A. Hanson

(Crawford, Neb.: Fur Press, 1996. 203 p. Cloth, \$75.00.)

On September 3, 1855, General William S. Harney routed Little Thunder's band of Brule and Oglala Sioux in a brief but bloody battle at Ash Hollow on Blue Water Creek, Nebraska Territory. Afterwards, 25-year-old army

lieutenant Gouverneur Kemble Warren, who had been a participant in the fight, roamed about the battlefield, ministering to many of the wounded Indians and, as ordered, gathering "plunder from the Indian camp." Much of this material was consigned to bonfires, but Warren succeeded in saving a large collection of artifacts, which he later donated to the Smithsonian Institution. Known to the Indians as "Little Chief," because of his small stature, and "the Good Lieutenant," because of his sympathetic behavior at Ash Hollow, Warren would later figure prominently in western explorations, the Civil War, and Minnesota history. Although best remembered for his Civil War exploits as a hero at the Battle of Gettysburg and an important corps commander in the Army of the Potomac, Warren deserves equal recognition for his contributions to American ethnology, geography, engineering, and geology. In this beautiful and well-crafted book, Hanson, formerly with the Smithsonian Institution and currently a freelance writer, adds considerable documentation concerning Warren's early ethnologic collections and geographic explorations.

Little Chief's Gatherings is divided into two sections. The first opens with an excellent biographical sketch of Warren. The rest of the section is devoted principally to illustrating and analyzing the Smithsonian materials from the Blue Water Creek battlefield, one of the earliest and largest collections of Plains Indian material in existence. Beautiful photographs (30 in full color) document the exquisite craftsmanship of this material, including blankets, moccasins, leggings, dresses, children's dolls, Catlinite pipe bowls, headdresses, and saddles.

The second section of the book contains the journals (minus some weather and astronomical observations) from the collections of the New York State Library that chronicle Warren's 1855 (Nebraska), 1856 (lower Yellowstone River), and 1857 (Black Hills) expeditions. Three of these journals represent Warren's writings on the respective expeditions,

and two are by his subordinates—W. H. Hutton in 1856 and J. Hudson Snowden in 1857. Taken together, the journals contain a wealth of information on the Indian tribes of the Northern Plains (particularly the Sioux); the physical geography and natural history of the Nebraska and Dakota Territories; and navigation conditions on the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers. In addition, Warren's was the first official exploration of the Black Hills, though his expedition was cut short by Indian opposition.

This book is significant to Minnesota historians because it provides insights about an individual who made important contributions to the state's development and to understanding its natural history. From 1866 to 1870, Warren was chief of the St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. While stationed in Minnesota he helped with early efforts to stabilize St. Anthony Falls; studied the hydraulics and sedimentation of the upper Mississippi River and its tributaries; engineered various bridges on the Mississippi, St. Croix, and Minnesota Rivers; and recognized that the broad Minnesota River valley was formed by outflow from a great glacial lake in the valley of the Red River of the North—Lake Winnipeg basin. (His name is inscribed in the annals of geological science as the discoverer of this Glacial River Warren.) Yet all the while, he was fighting to clear his military record of the unjust stain of removal from corps command at the Battle of Five Forks in the closing days of the Civil War.

Hanson's book is a major contribution to Indian ethnology and the history of the American West. It also adds considerably to the reputation of Gouverneur Warren as a renaissance man who excelled as a military leader, engineer, geologist, and ethnologist.

Reviewed by Jon D. Inners, geologist with the Pennsylvania Geological Survey in Harrisburg. He has a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Massachusetts and has written several articles on the military geology of the Civil War.

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News & Notes

OUR READERS WRITE: Colleen Sheehy's article "Making a Place for Art: 50 Years at the Grand Marais Art Colony" in the Summer 1997 issue prompted G. Richard Slade, a past president of the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, to comment:

"Birney Quick was one of a group of men whom I always categorized as 'parachute jumpers.' While this group participated in the Second World War in many roles, they came out of service with a common characteristic—an attitude toward art and artists that was masculine, nonapologetic, creative, and very vigorous. While these artists were talented and productive, they also had a very positive attitude toward all of life and its diverse pleasures.

"The art world benefited from the energy and imagination of these men and so did the art schools (and faculties) with which many of them became associated. . . . Most of these schools were in transition from studio-focused programs toward a more intense discipline that included sufficient liberal arts emphasis to qualify for a professional degree, the Bachelor of Fine Arts, with the same value as the more traditional liberal-arts BA. In Minneapolis, this change was reflected as the School of Art became the College of Art & Design and moved into a new, high-tech facility.

"Birney had left the faculty some time before I became president of MCAD in the summer of 1982, and in fact he died before I met him. We were pleased to do a modest retrospective show of his work in the college's gallery but Birney's best neighborhood efforts are on display in the nearby Black Forest restaurant—perhaps an historic exchange for food or refreshment. One day, Byron Bradley dropped by and asked if the College would be interested in resuming some

ownership/directorial role vis a vis the Grand Marais Art Colony. This occasioned a couple of trips to Grand Marais, the opportunity to meet Marion Quick and to visit and admire the St. John's church studio/school building. . . .

"I was challenged to think of ways in which we could provide an academic shelter to this extraordinary organization within some constraints of fiscal responsibility and the management necessary to a 'professional degree' program. The College could not work out these matters, and we reluctantly turned down the possibility of a formal on-going relationship. This, however, was not a bad conclusion.

"The colony was able to continue under continuing and new directors in the same *plein aire* environment that marked Birney's original intent. The community of Grand Marais benefited from the artists who came and even more from those who stayed—those who found the temptation to live in this community too hard to resist. In the final analysis, these new residents helped expand and enrich the burgeoning artistic community that makes Grand Marais today an interesting year-round place of residence for retirees from all over Minnesota and the rest of the country."

TO COMMEMORATE the centennial of the Hibernian Life Insurance Fund and the Ramsey County division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the fund has published *From Ireland to Minnesota: Stories from the Heart* (St. Paul, 1996, 105 p., paper, \$15.00 plus \$4.50 postage and handling). While the first chapter reprints historical work on early settlers and events that was compiled for the territorial and statehood centennials in 1949 and 1958, later chapters

bring the story up to the present. Included are essays on Hibernian conventions in Minnesota, the Ladies of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, events, campaigns, fairs and festivals, and Irish organizations in the state. The advertising itself in this yearbook-like volume gives a picture of the Irish in Minnesota today. Copies may be purchased from the Minnesota Hibernian Office, 790 S. Cleveland Ave., Suite 221, St. Paul 55116-1958.

A BILINGUAL PUBLICATION, *Swedish Sites in Isanti and Kanabec Counties*, provides short, informative paragraphs on about 50 churches, cemeteries, businesses, and farmsteads. A brief introduction on Swedish settlement in each county and a section on events and organizations, such as historical societies, dance groups and celebrations, and the Vasaloppet ski race complete the volume, which also includes a map showing the location of the sites. The 40-page publication is free from either county's historical society, but they suggest a donation to cover postage or multiple copies. Call Isanti County at (612)689-4429 or Kanabec at (320)679-1665.

CONVICT LIFE at the Minnesota State Prison, Stillwater, Minnesota by W. C. Heilbron is an illustrated paperback reprint of a once widely circulated book (Stillwater: Valley History Press, 1996, 190 p., \$12.95). It gives a detailed description, according to a 1909 review published in *Convict Life*, of "the reception of a prisoner, the manner in which he is handled, clothed, fed, assigned to duty, and governed by the resident officials." Rules for behavior in the dining hall, bath room, and chapel, as well as brief looks at the twine, shoe, and tobacco opera-

tions, are included. Published in the same volume is former prisoner Cole Younger's lengthy account of "real facts" about the Northfield bank robbery. Order from the publisher (add 6.5 percent tax and \$1.00 shipping) at P. O. Box 590, Stillwater 55082.

MINNESOTA IMPRESSIONISTS, by art historian Rena Neumann Coen, presents in short, individual essays 27 artists who worked in the state, including Nicholas Brewer, Elisabeth Chant, Edwin Dawes, Alexis Jean Fournier, Alexander Grinager, Alice Sumner LeDuc, and Clarence Rosenkranz. Focusing on their favored summer and winter landscapes painted between 1890 and 1940, this handsome publication (Afton: Afton Historical Society Press, 1996, 96 p., hardcover, \$35.00) includes 43 color plates. They reveal the diversity of these artists, who, unlike their French counterparts, neither exhibited together as a group nor wholeheartedly rebelled against established academic tradition.

STAUGHTON LYND is the editor of an important new anthology that brings to life workers' struggles of the Great Depression. "*We are All Leaders*": *The Alternative Unionism of the Early 1930s* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1996, 343 p., cloth, \$44.95, paper, \$17.95) describes community-based democratic unions including packinghouse and garment workers in Minnesota, seamen in San Francisco, bootleg miners in Pennsylvania, and African-American nutpickers in St. Louis. Peter Rachleff's chapter looks at the Independent Union of All Workers; Elizabeth Faeu's analyzes community, bureaucracy, and gender in the Minneapolis labor movement.

MEATPACKING UNIONS are the subject of two recent scholarly books. In *Unionizing the Jungles: Labor and Community in the Twentieth-Century Meatpacking Industry* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1997, 272 p., cloth, \$32.95), editors Shelton Stromquist and Marvin Bergman bring together essays that explore the rise and decline of industrial unionism in midwestern packinghouses with special attention to the communities the unions created.

Roger Horowitz's "*Negro and White, Unite and Fight!*"—*A Social History of Industrial Unionism in Meatpacking,*

1930–90 (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1997, 373 p., cloth, \$44.95, paper, \$17.95) traces the rise and fall of the United Packinghouse Workers of America. The story emphasizes roles played by local leaders and women and black workers in Chicago, Kansas City, Sioux City, and Austin, Minnesota. The rise to dominance of three major firms is documented in clear, anecdotal prose.

LAKE SUPERIOR experiences are the focus of *Tales of the Old North Shore* by Howard Sivertson, a former commercial artist with a gift for storytelling (Duluth: Lake Superior Port Cities, 1996, 104 p., hardcover, \$24.95). Sivertson's 44 charming paintings and companion historical stories illustrate the colorful activities of lakeshore residents including loggers, fishermen, lighthouse keepers, miners, and Indians.

Lake Superior Place Names: From Bawating to the Montreal by Bernard C. Peters (Marquette, Mich.: Northern Michigan University Press, 1996, 111 p., hardcover, \$21.95, paper, \$11.95) authoritatively tells the history of place names that go back hundreds of years to reflect the language of the lake's Ojibway, French, and English-speaking inhabitants. Focusing on the Upper Michigan shoreline, the book has 27 maps, including a 1671 Jesuit rendering and others by early American mapmakers. Order from NMU Bookstore, 1401 Presque Isle Ave., Marquette, Mich. 49855 (add \$3.50 per order for postage and handling).

Sailors and readers intrigued by Lake Superior's legends, history, and shipwrecks will enjoy Marlin Bree's *Call of the North Wind: Voyages and Adventures on Lake Superior* (St. Paul: Marlor Press, 1996, 202 p., paper, \$16.95). Particularly interesting is his account of the demise of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*.

RESIDENTS of northeastern Minnesota's Carlton County, as well as Minnesotans with ties to Duluth and the Arrowhead region, will welcome Francis M. Carroll's and Marlene Wisuri's *Reflections of Our Past: A Pictorial History of Carlton County, Minnesota* (Virginia Beach, Va.: Donning Co., 1997, 144 p., hardcover, \$29.95 plus Minn. tax and \$5.00 handling). Lively, authoritative text and an excellent selection of high-quality historical photos showing peo-

ple and activities beginning around 1870 document the economic and social growth of the area. Many of the photos are from the collections of the Carlton County Historical Society, from which the book may be ordered: 406 Cloquet Ave., Cloquet 55720; 218-879-1938.

DUTCH FARMER in the Missouri Valley: The Life and Letters of Ulbe Eringa, 1866–1950 (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1996, 284 p., cloth, \$27.95) is rich with information on farming, the family, household economy, church activities, and school involvement, as relayed by an immigrant in letters to relatives. Eringa's memoirs, written in the early 1940s, supplement the fascinating story with details about his life before emigrating. Historian Brian W. Beltman's lengthy and enlightening commentaries provide valuable information about the Dutch who settled in northwestern Iowa, southeastern South Dakota, and parts of southwest and central Minnesota.

IN *RED WORLD AND WHITE: Memoirs of a Chippewa Boyhood*, John Rogers (Chief Snow Cloud) reminisces about his youth on White Earth Reservation at the turn of the century, revealing much about the life and customs there. These customs were cast aside, however, when he was taken to Flandrau Indian School in North Dakota for assimilation and education, and his story presents what one reviewer called "a case study of what cultural conflict does to a single boy."

First self-published by Rogers in 1953, this edition (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996, 176 p., paper, \$11.95) is enhanced by Melissa L. Meyer's foreword, which pieces together Rogers's shadowy story (which ends in 1909) and the history of White Earth.

A PUBLICATION of the Bemidji State University Indian Studies Program, *Oshkaabewis Native Journal* features scholarly articles and short stories relating to Ojibway culture and history. The Fall 1995 issue, for example, has a linguistic theme and includes an article on the language of the Ojibway revitalization movement, a definition of the term *ojibwe*, an etymological study of the name *Anishinaabe*, and a

transcribed and annotated oral narrative. The journal also contains eleven stories and a glossary of terms to aid students in translating and comprehending these works.—*Molly Schnepf*

MIDWESTERN readers can celebrate the Scandinavian immigrants who settled the region in two new books. The Swedish-American Historical Society has recently published *Peter Cassel and Iowa's New Sweden*, edited by H. Arnold Barton (1995, 114 p.), a collection of historical essays and documents devoted to the first permanent Swedish settlement in the Midwest and its founder. The book includes four previously published articles that offer biographical information on Cassel, demographics of the community, and a description of the people and institutions of the original settlement. Also reprinted are the introduction and English translations from George M. Stephenson's "Documents Relating to Peter Cassel and the Settlement of New Sweden, Iowa."

The Western Home: A Literary History of Norwegian America by Orm Overland (Northfield: Norwegian-American Historical Association, distributed by the University of Illinois Press, 1996, 442 p., cloth, \$44.95 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling), is a comprehensive guide. The book traces the growth of Norwegian-American literature from letters of the earliest immigrants to late nineteenth-century ethnic publishers and bookstores. It also offers an extensive bibliography of Norwegian-American texts for researchers competent in the language.—*Molly Schnepf*

NOW AVAILABLE on-line, the "Norway in America" *Thor M. Andersen Bio-Bibliography* will interest immigration and church historians, genealogists, and other students of the Norwegian-American experience. Originally prepared by Andersen as a handwritten card catalog, this database includes references to books, brochures, and newspaper and periodical articles by and about Norwegian emigrants to the United States and Canada printed in English and Norwegian between 1825 and 1930. There is also biographical information about the authors of most of these documents. Edited and published on-line by the University of Oslo Library in cooperation with the university's Institute for

British and American Studies, the bibliography includes an English introduction and instructions. It is available free of charge at: http://www.nbo.uio.no/baser/tma_eng.html.

THE GREAT Depression forms the backdrop of Donna Scott Norling's moving memoir, *Patty's Journey: From Orphanage to Adoption and Reunion* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996, 186 p., cloth, \$17.95). Four-year-old Patricia Pearson was taken from her birth family when times got hard and placed in the State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children in Owatonna in 1936. Her book chronicles the horrors of separation from her parents and siblings, abuse in the orphanage, two placements in foster families, and, finally, adoption with its relative security yet traumas of identity and belonging. This gripping personal story also tells readers much about social-welfare practices during the depression and the World War II era. An informative afterword by historian Priscilla Ferguson Clement outlines the history of orphan asylums in the United States, further placing Norling's story in context.

MINNESOTA'S beloved Wanda Gág will find a new audience of readers, thanks to the translation into Japanese of *Growing Pains*, her diaries of her early years. Koguma Publishing Company of Tokyo brought out the new translation by Kimiko Abe with illustrations of Gág's drawings and prints. Abe visited Gág's childhood home in New Ulm to familiarize herself with this "girl who is both ordinary and extraordinary" and noted that "the rolling fields all around the town were exactly as she had drawn them in *Millions of Cats*." Identifying with Gág over the distances of time and geography, Abe offers her wish that "this book encourages and gives confidence to young people in Japan as it had done in American fifty years ago."

—*Thomas O'Sullivan*

STUDDERED with diverse photographs, *Building South Dakota: A Historical Survey of the State's Architecture to 1945* by David Erpestad and David Wood (Pierre: South Dakota Historical Society Press, 1997, 246 p., cloth \$60.00,

paper, \$30.00) covers its subject in 10 ample chapters. Beginning with American Indian architecture, such as earth lodges, log cabins, and dance lodges, the book progresses through fur-trade posts and military forts, homes, churches, schools, agricultural, industrial, and transportation buildings, commercial districts, government and community structures, and park and entertainment buildings. An additional chapter looks at building materials. Informative text and meaty captions accompany the many photographs illustrating the state's broad range of buildings.

TWO books published in 1996 by the State Historical Society of North Dakota explore various aspects of that state's past. *A Traveler's Companion to North Dakota State Historic Sites*, edited by J. Signe Snortland (142 p., paper, \$10.95) divides the state into four regions to explore: the west, the coteaus and prairies, the lakes and gardens, and the valley. More than 50 sites fall within these categories, ranging from the Bismarck-Deadwood Stage Trail historic marker and Sitting Bull burial site to the Stutsman County courthouse and Whitestone Hill battlefield site, and from Fort Totten and Oak Lawn Church to various army camps and expedition sites. Heavily illustrated with photographs, maps, and line drawings, the book can be ordered from the North Dakota Historical Society; state residents please add appropriate sales tax plus \$2.50 postage and handling for the first copy and \$.50 for each additional book.

The Centennial Anthology of North Dakota History, edited by Janet Daley Lysengen and Ann M. Rathke (526 p., paper, \$24.95) collects 28 landmark articles previously published in *North Dakota History*. The potpourri of topics provides a comprehensive overview of the state's past, with topics ranging from Fred Schneider's "Stereotypes, Myths, and North Dakota Prehistory" to D. Jerome Tweton's "The Future of North Dakota—An Overview." The index greatly increases access to the book's diverse contents. The anthology may be ordered from the North Dakota Historical Society with tax for state residents plus \$3.00 postage and handling for the first copy and \$1.00 for each additional book.

New in the Collections

In 1995 the Minnesota Historical Society was fortunate to acquire this late nineteenth-century banner representing the St. Paul branch of the Journeymen Stonecutters' Association of North America. Popular with labor unions in the 1800s because of their visual impact, banners often featured large, colorful pictorial designs accompanied by stirring slogans. A source of pride as well as an emblem of identification, they were carried in parades and at conventions to distinguish particular trades.

Measuring nearly four feet long and three feet wide, this double-sided banner is made



Photographs by Peter Latner/MHS

of red and blue silk adorned with metallic fringe and tassels. Its front bears the stonecutters' maxim, "Pioneers of the 8 hour day," a hand-painted depiction of a stonecutter at work, and the chapter's founding date of December 5, 1887. This side also displays the union label of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators, and Paperhangers of America, the banner's manufacturer. The back side features a hand-painted image of an upraised arm gripping a stonecutter's mallet.

Little is known about the skilled men who cut and carved stone for St. Paul's edifices. We do know their ranks included German and Swedish immigrants as well as African Americans, who were recruited from the South to work on the state capitol building. Research is in progress to identify union members, where they met, what issues they discussed, and what became of their organization. —ADAM SCHER, museum curator

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