



■ Historian John W. Hall casts new light on the Black Hawk War of 1832, a four-month-long rout in which Illinois militia and federal troops “obliterated” Sauk leader Black Hawk’s band of about one thousand, including women and children. The group had crossed the Mississippi River into Illinois to reoccupy land earlier ceded to the United States. Many historians view this war as a land-grab by frontiersmen who had been handed the opportunity. In *Uncommon Defense: Indian Allies in the Black Hawk War* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2009, 367 p., cloth, \$29.95), the author focuses instead on the Indian allies of the United States: some 700 Potawatomi, Menominee, Sauk, and Ho-Chunk who found common cause with the government. Hall presents this unlikely alliance as part of a tradition, dating back to colonial times, in which Indian leaders joined a conflict on the side of a powerful force fighting their own tribal enemies. He concludes that in 1832, however, times had changed. The Indian allies achieved short-term goals but contributed to conditions that would soon alter their world.

■ Yakao Yang, who was among the first Hmong immigrants to the Midwest, has published *A Hmong Boy’s Story* (Hopkins: Personal Histories Publishing, 2010, 381 p., paper, \$24.95), the story of his life and education. Besides providing insights into many aspects of Hmong history, culture, and family life, Yang details his struggle to win an education and tells the story of his prearranged marriage. Yang was a new professor teaching French and history at a teacher’s college in Laos in 1976, when the war forced him to flee with his wife and five small children. The book can be purchased at <http://yakaoyangbooks.com>.

■ In 1961, Minnesota sports fans suddenly had two new teams to follow: the Twins and the Vikings. Two retrospectives from the University of Minnesota Press join the growing stack of books that examine, analyze, or reminisce. Armand

Peterson’s edited collection, *The Vikings Reader* (Minneapolis, 2009, 370 p., cloth, \$25.95), assembles previously published newspaper and magazine articles, book excerpts, and a radio transcription in order to “transport us back to the times when the games were played.” Peterson’s introductory paragraphs provide background information, but he leaves the opinions and analysis to the collected sports writers. Decade by decade, the book chronicles almost 50 years of excitement and disappointment.

Back in print with a new foreword and afterword, *Carew* by Rod Carew with Ira Berkow (Minneapolis, 2010, 265 p., paper, \$18.95) is the autobiography of the baseball great who played his first 12 seasons with the Minnesota Twins. Originally published in 1979, when Carew moved to the California Angels, the book covers the second- and then first baseman’s life on and off the diamond. Centerfielder Torii Hunter’s foreword heaps more honor on the man, while Carew’s own afterword supplies the story of the last three decades.

■ Who wouldn’t want to sit down with a favorite author and ask questions about the characters, Minnesota settings, and inspirations for a beloved book? In *Conversations with Jon Hassler* (Minneapolis: Nodin Press, 2010, 264 p., paper, \$19.95) longtime friend Joseph Plut does just that. Nine chapters cover Hassler’s nine adult novels in order, from *Staggerford*, his first and best-selling paperback, through *The Dean’s List*. Reproduced in question-and-answer format, the conversations capture Hassler’s wit and grace as he reveals what he will about his books and creative process.

■ Parallels to Minnesota’s iron country abound in Larry Lankton’s *Hollowed Ground: Copper Mining and Community Building on Lake Superior, 1840s–1990s* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2010, 375 p., cloth, \$79.95, paper, \$34.95). Copper mining brought an intensely industrial landscape and socio-economic system to Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula. Focusing on the

region’s three largest producers, the book traces the concurrent evolution of technology, communities, industrial relations, and environmental concerns. A final chapter, “Legacy” looks at the lingering impact on the region after the mines closed.

■ The rhythm of Minnesota’s seasons pulses gently through Sue Leaf’s new book of essays, *The Bullhead Queen: A Year on Pioneer Lake* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009, 192 p., cloth, \$24.95). Leaf’s graceful essays merge keen observation of the natural world with reflections on how humans use, enjoy, learn from, and sometimes abuse it. But this is no polemic. Beginning with Advent, the start of the Christian year, Leaf follows the liturgical and secular calendar, deftly interweaving strands of family, community, and memory with her training in biology, zoology, and environmental science.

■ Family history and business history combine in *Who Made My Bed?* (Bloomington, IN: iUniverse, 2010, 202 p., paper, \$17.95). Dee Horowitz and Edward Bronstien depend heavily on family memory and documents to tell the story of Samuel Bronstien (born Simcha Shapotshnick), a Russian immigrant who started United States Bedding Company in a room of his St. Paul abode. Several generations and many acquisitions later, the company included 12 mattress factories, two furniture woodworking plants turning out bunk beds, headboards, and other items, seven licensees using their King Koil trademark, an innerspring factory, and a machinery-engineering operation that owned 50 percent of an English facility. The book is available through Amazon.com or by contacting the publisher at [www.iuniverse.com](http://www.iuniverse.com) or (800)-288-4677.

■ Minnesota and companies headquartered in the state are part of the long-range story told in Thomas R. Cox’s detailed work, *The Lumberman’s Frontier: Three Centuries of Land Use, Society, and Change in America’s Forests*

(Corvallis: Oregon State University Press, 2010, 531 p., paper, \$35.00). The author defines his frontier as the areas where trees, rather than farming, ranching, or mining, attracted settlement. His book then follows the frontier from colonial days in northern New England to upstate New York, the Allegheny Plateau, the upper Great Lakes states, the Gulf South, and the Far West. Informed by social as well as economic history, the book balances industry and individuals, economic development and environmental impact.

■ Coyote Books of Rochester, Minnesota, has issued two new Dakota Indian titles by Mark Diedrich. One, written with Louis Garcia, is *Ignatius Court: "Dakota Congressman" of the Fort Totten Reservation* (2009, 179 p., paper, \$29.95). Although he is relatively unknown today, Court was a leader and activist in the post-reservation period. It is believed that he traveled to Washington, D.C., some 50 times from 1900 into the 1930s, promoting the Sisseton-Wahpeton claims cases.

Diedrich's *Little Paul: Christian Leader of the Dakota Peace Party* (2010, 231 p., paper, \$29.95) tells the story of this fascinating figure who converted to Christianity in the mid-1830s and adapted to the "white man's" lifestyle. He helped establish the Hazelwood Republic (a band of Dakota dedicated to farming) in western Minnesota and then successively became a spokesman for the Dakota Peace Party during the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, a scout for the U.S. military, and a church elder on the Sisseton Reservation in South Dakota.

■ Natural disasters always make for an interesting read, and *In the Grip of the Whirlwind: The Armistice Day Storm of 1940* (Holt, MI: Thunder Bay Press, 2009, 178 p., paper, \$14.95) is no exception, showcasing Mother Nature at her bipolar worst. Author Tom Powers provides 22 chapters relating stories from across the Midwest, including the tale of a farmhouse near St. Cloud that reportedly played host to 200 unexpected visitors.

■ Michael Lawson updates his classic *Dammed Indians* in a new book, *Dammed Indians Revisited: The Continuing History of the Pick-Sloan Plan and the Missouri River Sioux* (Pierre, SD: South Dakota Historical Society Press, 2009, 397 p., paper, \$18.95). Drawing on new information to revamp his original book, Lawson reveals how the Pick-Sloan Plan affected the lives of the Sioux along the Missouri River and how tribal-federal relations have altered as a result.

■ In *And One Fine Morning: Memories of My Father* (Minneapolis: Nodin Press, 2010, 213 p., cloth, \$24.95), Nick Hayes writes a moving tribute to his father, architect Mark Hayes, who died of a heart attack when the author was only eight years old. More than just a memoir of his father, the book is also a story of growing up in Minneapolis in the 1950s. It is exceptionally well written, entertaining, and engaging.

■ *Prairie Republic: The Political Culture of Dakota Territory, 1879-1889* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010, 281 p., cloth, \$32.95) examines a critical decade in the development of the territory. The book focuses on the political culture of South Dakota during the 1880s, when the population boomed and the territory was searching for its identity.

■ More than 250 architects, from Loren Abbett to Albert Zschocke, fill the 234 pages of Alan K. Lathrop's new book, *Minnesota Architects: A Biographical Dictionary* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010, cloth, \$39.95). All necessary details are packed into the brief biographical sketches: place of birth, training, employment history, retirement and, where applicable, death date. A list of notable buildings follows each entry, and many photographs enliven the text. Along with data on individuals, the book charts the change in the profession, moving from midnineteenth-century apprenticeships to degree programs and "star" practitioners.

## MINNESOTA HISTORY

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