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Visit the beta version of *MNopedia* at www.mnopedia.org to learn more and offer feedback. Comment on an existing entry or suggest a new one. Join the web site's discussion forum. User feedback will help the Minnesota Historical Society refine and expand the encyclopedia in 2012.

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■ *Star Songs and Water Spirits: A Great Lakes Native Reader* (Tustin, MI: Ladyslipper Press, 2011, 524 p., paper, \$27.95) is an ambitious and rich collection that ranges from ancient stories recounting the creation of the world to tales of heroes and monsters to contemporary poetry and fiction. In between are other stories, songs, speeches, personal narratives, essays, and autobiography. Editor Victoria Brehm has arranged the literature by seasons, beginning with winter; within each season, the material is grouped by topic, such as origin of the world (winter) or children and families (spring). In this way, voices from the various Great Lakes nations and across the span of time address aspects of the same topic. A map at the beginning of the volume gives approximate locations of the major (and removed) tribes on both sides of the international border, from the

Huron-Wendat at the east to the Ojibwe and Dakota to the west.

■ Entrepreneurship, civic-mindedness, philanthropy, and politics intertwine in a multigenerational biography, *The Pillsburys of Minnesota* (Minneapolis: Nodin Press, 2011, 438 p., cloth, \$29.95), by political journalist Lori Sturdevant, with George S. Pillsbury. Beginning with the arrival of John S. Pillsbury, his brother George, and his two nephews at St. Anthony Falls in the midnineteenth century, the book tracks the careers of successive generations of family entrepreneurs as well as the rises and occasional falls of their milling and allied businesses. But the ideal of community building is at the center of the book, which also focuses on the family's far-reaching impact on Minnesota: state policy (shaped by Governor John S. and Senator George S.), the University of Minnesota, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and other philanthropic ventures.

■ Minnesota's only national park gets its loving due in a collaboration between photographer Don Breneman and climatologist/meteorologist Mark Seeley. *Voyager Skies: Weather and the Wilderness in Minnesota's National Park* (Afton, MN: Afton Historical Society Press, 2011, 140 p., cloth, \$32.00) combines large color photographs of the land, water, skies, flora, and fauna with informative captions ("altostratus clouds loom . . . on a warm spring evening"). The photos, at the heart of the book, are arranged into four chapters: spring, summer, fall, and winter. Wrapped around this core are brief essays on the park's history, weather, and climate trends, as well as a short essay on the challenges of photographing the varied terrain and inhabitants in the various seasons.

■ The collapse of the I-35W bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis on August 1, 2007, caused concern about the fitness of Minnesota's infrastructure and raised alarms across the country. The proximity of the bridge to the University of Minnesota presented a unique oppor-

tunity for that institution to understand not only how and why the disaster occurred but also its aftereffects. Editor Patrick Nunnally drew from a 2008 symposium at the University of Minnesota to compile *The City, The River, The Bridge* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011, 183 p., paper, \$22.95), a collection of eight essays examining the causes and effects of the 35W bridge collapse. Eleven scholars associated with the university offer diverse perspectives, including technical insight into the gusset-plate failures, effects on nearby neighborhoods, the tenuous rebuilding process, and effects on the Mississippi River, all based on professional and personal contemplation.

■ Henry Wood's "as told to" memoir, *A Sawdust Heart: My Life in Medicine and Tent Shows* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011, 129 p., paper, \$16.95) recalls three anecdote-rich decades in the life of a performer and director in old-time medicine shows and vaudeville, beginning in 1910 when the young Wisconsinite was twelve years old. Wood's story, skillfully told by his grandson-in-law Michael Fedo, offers a glimpse into an earlier entertainment era when isolated rural Americans welcomed the diversion of a traveling theater troupe.

■ Two recent additions to the burgeoning body of Civil War literature address widely different topics. William A. Dobak's *Freedom By the Sword: The U.S. Colored Troops, 1862–1867* (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, U.S. Army, 2011, 553 p., cloth, \$58.00, paper, \$38.00) is both broad and detailed as it recounts the recruitment, organization, and service of more than 180,000 black men mustered into segregated regiments that were led by white officers. The book covers all theaters of war, focusing on how black soldiers contributed to Union victory: guarding army posts along major rivers, protecting Union supply trains from Confederate raiders, participating in major operations like the battle of Nashville, and garrisoning the former

Confederacy to enforce Reconstruction policy. A thoughtful conclusion briefly relates the soldiers' postwar options, explaining the socio-cultural, economic, and political factors that shaped the federal government's halting commitment to the troops during and after the war.

For Duty and Destiny: The Life and Civil War Diary of Hoosier Soldier and Educator William Taylor Stott (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society Press, 2011, 536 p., cloth, \$27.95) surrounds the soldier's diary entries with essays on the man and the war. Editor Lloyd A. Hunter thus provides context and detail to frame and explain Stott's words for casual readers. Graduating from college the year the war began, Stott enlisted in the Eighteenth Indiana Volunteer Infantry and rose from private to captain during his years of service. He was a committed Baptist, temperance advocate, and scholar; diary entries reveal his many passions as well as the details of war. Stott went on to become an influential college president, a force in Indiana's Baptist community, and a figure in local politics. Editor Hunter's essays develop

his subject's personality and accomplishments both before and after the war.

■ "Indulging in the great indoor sport for old men: revisiting the past," a world-traveling journalist has produced a humble and fascinating memoir, *Simon Bourgin: An Odyssey that Began in Ely* (Ely: Ely-Winton Historical Society, 2010, 147 p., paper, \$14.95). The son of Russian Jewish immigrants (one of five Jewish families in town) paints an evocative picture of his youth, the village that helped shape him, his college years during the Great Depression, and his career—its rough start in the 1930s, then his war work and considerable travels and successes thereafter. Shot throughout this gently introspective book is the influence of his old home town, its people and environment.

■ *Beyond Mount Rushmore: Other Black Hills Faces* introduces readers to a wide range of lesser-known people who have made their home in—or passed through—the scenic area in our neighboring state over the past 135 years.

The volume's editor, Mary A. Kopco, compiled this book from essays previously published in *South Dakota History*. Her introduction provides context and a measure of unity for the ten diverse chapters that follow, everything from Fred W. Power's diary of the 1874 Black Hills Expedition, led by none other than George Armstrong Custer, to Deadwood's small Chinese population, the first black woman in the Hills, the Civilian Conservation Corps and one worker's experience in the area, and the tussle between Alfred Hitchcock and the National Park Service over filming the Mount Rushmore scenes of *North By Northwest*. Published by the South Dakota Historical Society Press (Pierre, 2010, 344 p., paper), the book sells for \$19.95.

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