

## And the winner is . . .

Minnesota History authors Greg Gaut and Marsha Neff have won the biennial David Stanley Gebhard Article Award for “Downsizing the Public Realm: Building and Razing Winona’s Grand Post Office,” which appeared in the Summer 2013 issue. Issued by the Minnesota chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, the award considers articles published between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2013, that focus on some historical aspect of the built environment. Examining the losing battle launched in the late 1950s by some Winona citizens to save the 1891 Romanesque-style post office from the Chamber of Commerce’s desire for a “fresh, clean look,” the article shows that “Buildings ultimately represent the values of their creators.”

Gaut and Neff won the same award in 2008 for “Save the Lady,” which chronicled the parallel, yet successful, fight to preserve Winona’s county courthouse.

ship, edited by Davis Helberg (Esco, MN: Esco Historical Society with X-Presso Books, Duluth, 2013, cloth, \$25.00). A committee of local writers contributed to this 387-page volume on the unincorporated community, population 1,869 (in the 2010 census), in Carlton County. The book ranges from pre-settlement geology through the coming of Euro-American settlement (largely Finnish), establishment of structures, farming, community, World War I and the 1918 fire, churches, businesses, sports, and local residents and characters. It is amply illustrated with photos and maps. To order, call 218-879-9267 or print and mail the form at [www.eskohistory.com/](http://www.eskohistory.com/).

■ In 1872 the Northern Pacific’s survey along the Yellowstone River ended in disaster. The next year another attempt was made at surveying this leg of the route, which ran through Indian territory in present-day North Dakota and Montana; this time, the survey employed 1,600 infantry and cavalry (hence, Custer in the book’s title) and was accompanied by numerous journalists. Editor John M. Lubetkin’s *Custer and the 1873 Yellowstone Survey: A Documentary History* (Norman, OK: Arthur H. Clark Co., 2013, 335 p., cloth, \$39.95) chronicles the events of the ultimately successful venture, drawing on the diary entries, letters, news dispatches, and reports of the expedition’s participants and hangers-on. Brief notes introduce and link the documents, and the book also includes maps and photographs. Despite the title, the focus is not on Custer; instead, it is the story of the daily life, challenges, and military conflicts endured for the sake of the nation’s second transcontinental railroad.

■ And, speaking of railroads, volume 5 of *A Railroad Atlas of the United States in 1946* is Richard C. Carpenter’s *Iowa and Minnesota* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013, 212 p., cloth, \$70.00). The bulk of the book—four-color maps of all of the railroad routes—

is supplemented by an appendix listing the roads and “Notes on the Maps” (with additional details about towns or equipment). Indexes of coaling stations, interlocking stations, passenger and non-passenger stations, tunnels, and viaducts complete the volume.

■ Fans of architect Cass Gilbert and/or state capitol buildings will enjoy a beautiful new publication, *Cass Gilbert’s West Virginia State Capitol*, by Ann Thomas Wilkins and David G. Wilkins (Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University Press, 2014, 306 p., cloth, \$44.99). When the Gothic Revival statehouse in Charleston burned in 1921, building commissioners turned to Gilbert, then at the end of his career. As the book notes, the internationally known architect’s reputation was rooted in his design and meticulous supervision of construction of the Minnesota State Capitol. This volume examines the intricate story—social, political, and financial—behind the design and construction of West Virginia’s domed Classical structure, about which Gilbert said: “I want to make this capitol building the crowning work of my life.”

■ A broad and deep look at a small place awaits readers of *Esco’s Corner: An Illustrated History of Esco and Thomson Town-*

■ A recent addition to the Concise Lincoln Library, William C. Harris’s *Lincoln and the Governors* covers the topic in 163 pages (Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2013, cloth, \$24.95). Moving chronologically from the secession crisis to the Union victory, Harris shows how the governors of the 25 Union states, almost all of them members of the Republican or Union parties, largely supported the war but also acted out of regional or state-based concerns. The result: a balancing act for the president between federal and state constitutional authority. The book devotes several pages to Alexander Ramsey’s demands and Lincoln’s responses related to the beginning and prosecution of the 1862 U.S.–Dakota War, one of several examples of the interlocking regional and national story.

■ Commemorating its sixtieth anniversary, the League of Women Voters chapter of Roseville, Maplewood, and Falcon Heights has published *Meddlers, Activists and Watchdogs*, a 20-page free booklet based on oral history and illustrated with period graphics and photos. The booklet documents not only the formation of the chapter and its dedicated members but also its many tangible accomplishments. In their developing north-suburban

communities, League workers successfully advocated for, among other things, expanded parks and recreation facilities, comprehensive land-use planning, effective sewer and drainage systems, and a city-manager form of government. The booklet is available at Roseville's and Maplewood's historical societies and public libraries as well as at the Roseville, Maplewood, and Falcon Heights city halls.

■ Two pictorial histories from the prolific Arcadia Publishing Company's *Images of America* series portray aspects of Minnesota. Both 127-page paperback volumes from the Charleston, South Carolina, publisher were issued in 2013, sell for \$21.99, and offer a series of photographs with captions, introduced by a short essay. Pictures of men, women, children, and fish abound in Thomas A. Uehling's *Minnesota's Angling Past*. The book is organized regionally—southern, metro, central, northwest, and northeast—and concludes with a complete list of state record fish and where they were caught.

The Crow Wing County Historical Society's *Brainerd* presents the city's history topically, beginning with its *raison d'être*—transportation—and moving on to subjects including Euro-American settlement, schools and religious edifices, commerce, city services, medicine, sports, and entertaining.

■ Mississauga is the name British Canadian settlers used for the Ojibwe to the north of Lake Ontario, now the most urbanized region in Canada. As in Minnesota, the early- and mid-nineteenth century was a time when these native people lost much of their autonomy and almost all of their territory. Donald B. Smith's *Mississauga Portraits* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013, 457 p., paper, \$37.95) recreates the lives of ten historically important Mississauga—nine of them men, three of whom were father and sons—from this era, including literary celebrity George Copway, Catherine Sutton, who fought for First Nations' rights, and entrepreneur George Henry. Each portrait is based on research drawn from an extensive collec-

tion of writings and recorded speeches by Ojibwe people along with secondary sources.

■ A collection of short essays, many of them previously published in regional magazines, makes up Minnesotan Michael Fedo's *Zenith City: Stories from Duluth* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014, 176 p., paper, \$16.95). More a series of memories and ruminations than a traditional memoir, the book touches on people, places, and coming of age in the author's hometown. A final chapter on Fedo's research, writing, and the publication history of *The Lynchings in Duluth* (2000, Minnesota Historical Society Press, the book's third title, design, and publisher) is an especially powerful look at how a community handles an uncomfortable topic: historical suppression and memory, racism, restorative justice, and the ways in which a research project can affect a writer's life.

■ The life, achievements, and shortcomings of Minnesota's "Boy Governor" share the limelight in *Harold E. Stassen: The Life and Perennial Candidacy of the Progressive Republican* by the late Alec Kirby, David G. Dalin, and John F. Rothmann (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2013, 235 p., paper, \$45.00). A relatively brief section on his Minnesota years takes the story up to Stassen's 1948 presidential run; the remaining 200 pages detail his stint as president of the University of Pennsylvania, his work for Eisenhower, and the recurring candidacies that, in the popular mind at least, overshadowed his real achievements.

## Minnesota HISTORY

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