

■ In *Cold War University: Madison and the New Left in the Sixties* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2013, 224 p., paper, \$26.95; e-book, \$19.95) Matthew Levin examines a paradox: How did this campus in Joseph McCarthy's home state become a center of opposition to Cold War policies—at a time when the federal government was pumping billions of dollars into American universities to promote enrollment, the study of foreign languages and cultures, and scientific achievement? The book documents how this investment may have sparked the development of student political organizations in the 1950s, a backlash that was the foundation for the dissent of the 1960s when Madison became a hub of student political activism and gained national recognition for its demonstrations and protests.

■ As urban renewal swept the nation in 1970, a row of 46 small brick houses, built in the 1800s along a narrow, two-block-long street in Minneapolis, was scheduled for demolition. Robert Roscoe's *Milwaukee Avenue: Community Renewal in Minneapolis* (Charleston, SC: History Press, 2014, 206 p. paper, \$21.99) details how a neighborhood association saved this historic streetscape. The Seward West Project Area Committee took on city planners, organized citizens and residents, earned for the area the crucial designation as a National Register historic district, helped organize financing for painstaking rehab work, and, in the end, restored a working-class neighborhood to its original charm.

■ At a time when weather forecasting was in its infancy and radio communication was not much older, a horrific freshwater hurricane boiled up over the Great Lakes. Michael Schumacher's *November's Fury: The Deadly Great Lakes Hurricane of 1913* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013, 198 p., cloth, 24.95) documents the four-day storm's beginnings, mounting power, and far-reaching aftereffects. While there were rescue

efforts and while some sailors and ships managed to maneuver through the storm, more than 250 lives were lost and dozens of boats were destroyed. The book includes the accounts of some of the survivors and period photographs of ships and wreckage.

■ For a happier look at the greatest of the Great Lakes, travelers may appreciate James Norton's *Lake Superior Flavors: A Field Guide to Food and Drink Along the Circle Tour* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014, 214 p., paper, \$21.95). From Minnesota's North Shore to Canada, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and Wisconsin's South Shore, the book covers various growers, coffee-bean roasters, bakers, wine and beer makers, and restaurants ranging in kind from fine dining to dives.

■ Reminiscences, recipes, poems, and even a deconstruction of the nutritional value of kuchen are scattered throughout the multi-author collection, *Hollyhocks and Grasshoppers: Growing Up German from Russia in America*, published by the North Star Chapter of Minnesota Germans from Russia in 2013. The 148-page paperback is available for \$12.95 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling from the chapter, c/o Carol Just, 2233 Oregon Ct., St. Louis Park, MN, 55426 or at www.northstarchapter.org/. Visit the website for quantity discounts, a printable order form, and other information.

■ Historian John E. Miller has assembled an impressive gallery of biographies in *Small-Town Dreams: Stories of Midwestern Boys Who Shaped America* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2014, 528 p., cloth, \$29.95). Many of his 17 subjects are famous—Henry Ford, Sinclair Lewis, Ronald Reagan, and James Dean among them—while others are lesser known. Miller brings more to this collection than well-written biography. He also shows both the cultural shifts that have changed the Midwest (and along with it,

the nation) and the persistent, shaping power of place on individuals and the national consciousness.

■ As the early American republic struggled to find its footing and expand both its trade and its borders, Zebulon Pike began a career that would take him far from his East Coast home. Jared Orsi's new book, *Citizen Explorer: The Life of Zebulon Pike* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014, 379 p., cloth, \$29.95) recounts the life and adventures of the man who was once as famous for his work as were Lewis and Clark. He led the first explorations of the Louisiana Purchase territory, and his expeditions included the area that would become Minnesota Territory. Aside from his time at the Falls of St. Anthony, Fort Snelling, and exploring the headwaters of the Mississippi River, he famously got lost in present-day Colorado and was captured by the Spanish, who took him to Mexico for questioning before releasing him. Becoming a brigadier general in the U.S. Army, Pike was killed in 1813 at the Battle of York (Canada), which the U.S. won.

■ With the World Series soon to come, it's not too late in the season to read about baseball. Sports historian Stew Thornley's latest book, *Minnesota Twins Baseball: Hardball History on the Prairie* (Charleston, SC: History Press, 2014, 126 p. paper, \$19.99), covers the team's years—more than a half-century—in the state. Full of names, games, numbers, and rivalries, the volume sets the scene with an opening chapter on Minnesota before the Twins and the Twins before Minnesota. Sidebars, charts, photos, and an appendix, "Twins Leaders and Honors," round out the story.

■ Based on interviews with actors, directors, playwrights, producers, funders, and critics as well as published sources, Macelle Mahala's *Penumbra: The Premier Stage for African American Drama* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota

Press, 2013, 203 p., cloth, \$60.00, paper, \$19.95) recounts the story of a multi-faceted local institution that has earned national fame. Founded in 1976 by Lou Bellamy (who wrote the book's foreword), Penumbra emerged from the Black Arts and settlement house movements to offer world-class theater to visitors of all backgrounds. Along the way, it launched the careers of internationally recognized theater artists, worked hard at community building (a chapter is devoted to the annual production of *Black Nativity*), and also labored to survive tough economic times. The appendix chronicling Penumbra's production history not only presents a stunning list of plays but also, at a glance, shows the repetition of old favorites and the introduction of new material.

■ *The Tallgrass Prairie Reader*, edited by John T. Price (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2014, 352 p., paper, \$25.00) is a broad-ranging collection of essays by writers from the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries. The variety of authors and their viewpoints is also broad: included among the nineteenth-

century contributors are Charles Dickens on "A Jaunt to the Looking-Glass Prairie and Back," Elizabeth Custer, "A Blizzard," and Walt Whitman, "America's Characteristic Landscape." Twentieth-century selections range from works by John Muir and Aldo Leopold to those of Zitkala-Ša, Meridel Le Sueur, Louise Erdrich, and Paul Gruchow; and twenty-first-century authors include Lisa Knopp, editor Price, and Elizabeth Dodd. Each essay or excerpt is introduced by a paragraph on the author's life and accomplishments as well as note on the piece's original time and place of publication.

■ Four months after the three bloodiest days of fighting that the bloody Civil War had seen, Abraham Lincoln christened the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg "hallowed ground." That cemetery and, later, the National Military Park encompassing the battlefield became a national icon—albeit one of shifting meaning. Jennifer M. Murray's *On a Great Battlefield: The Making, Management, and Memory of Gettysburg National Military Park, 1933–2013* (Knoxville:

University of Tennessee Press, 2014, 312 p., cloth, \$49.00) adds to the voluminous scholarship on the 1863 battle by approaching this "herculean topic" from a somewhat different angle. Rather than dissecting the battle itself, her book seeks to provide a critical perspective on the historiography of Gettysburg by examining how the meaning of this "Civil War Mecca" evolved over the 80 years since stewardship passed from the U.S. War Department to the National Park Service in 1933. After decades of preserving, interpreting, and helping visitors remember the battle as the "High Water Mark" of the Confederacy—with a conciliatory nod to the Lost Cause—recent Park Service reinterpretation has shifted to a focus on "A New Birth of Freedom," unleashing a firestorm of popular protest. *On a Great Battlefield* thus highlights the complicated nexus of preservation, tourism, popular culture, interpretation, and memory.

■ Based on his research into diverse oral and written sources, including traditional narratives, birch bark scrolls, games, and petroglyphs, Canadian scholar Michael Pomedli contends that, within the nineteenth-century Ojibwe Midewiwin (Medicine Society) and Ojibwe societies in general, animals were symbols that demonstrated cultural principles. His book, *Living with Animals: Ojibwe Spirit Powers* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014, 335 p., paper, \$38.95, Canadian), presents more than 100 images in which animals appear as kindred beings, spirit powers, healers, and protectors. Pomedli argues that the principles at play in these sources are not merely evidence of cultural values but also unique standards that tribal leaders brought to treaty signings; in addition, these principles are norms against which North American treaty interpretations should be reframed. The book is available from its publisher with an online-purchase discount and also from U.S. booksellers online.

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