

## Our readers write . . .

Many readers responded with praise for Susan Bartlett Foote's article "Finding Engla Schey: Catalyst for Mental Hospital Reform in Minnesota" in the Summer 2015 issue. Carl Hokanson emailed to "express my appreciation for the well-written article."

"Thank you so much for including that little-known but inspirational story. It was truly amazing to read about how an 'ordinary' Minnesotan could do such extraordinary things and make such an impact. As a social worker myself, it was interesting to read about her efforts to mobilize community resources available to her. I also loved the historical background/context, as well as the connection between her father's illness and her motivation to connect with him in some way."

Crystal B. agreed.

"I'm the family member of someone living with mental illness, and this perspective made me acutely appreciative of Engla's work and Susan Foote's research. I give many, many thanks to the magazine for breaking the stigmas around mental health—recognizing reform in the past can guide change in the future. May your article inspire all of our current Englas!"

Steven L. Crouch, dean of the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Minnesota, offered "a small correction" to the LandMarks article on the school's Mines Experiment Station, also in the Summer issue.

"The article correctly states that the station was renamed the Mineral Resources Research Center in 1970, but it cites the year of its closure as 1988, and that is incorrect. . . . As noted on the attached memorandum . . . the MRRC was officially closed on July 1, 1991." (The source for the date cited in the article was a 1998 *Historic American Buildings/Historic American Engineering Records* report.)

■ Oral history, fur traders' journals, trial records, missionary accounts, and anthropologists' field notes contribute to Shawn Smallman's *Dangerous Spirits: The Windigo in Myth and History* (Victoria, BC: Heritage House, 2015, 221 p., paper, \$19.95). Algonquian people (including the Ojibwe) from Virginia to Labrador and Nova Scotia to Minnesota fear the windigo, the "spirit of selfishness that can transform a person into a murderous cannibal." Smallman's book considers Native beliefs, cross-cultural communication, nascent colonial relationships, and the contemporary meaning of the windigo's resurgence in popular culture. The author consulted oral history documents in the Minnesota Historical Society and also mentions the Euro-

American narratives associated with Lake Windigo on Star Island in northern Minnesota's Cass County.

■ Normandale Community College's Japanese garden occupies two acres on the school's campus in Bloomington. Dave Kenney tells the story of how this contemplative oasis, open to the public year-round at no charge, came to be in the large-format, well-illustrated *Normandale Japanese Garden: Celebrating a Dream* (Minneapolis: Nodin Press, 2014, 95 p., cloth, \$29.95). The civic endeavor began in 1967, when the award-winning Bloomington Affiliated Garden Clubs decided to beautify the developing city by creating the garden on the site of a marsh. The ensuing story is one of fund-

raising, local business involvement, eminent Japanese landscape architect Takao Watanabe—and hard work. The result: a quiet spot for public usage, as well as a venue for weddings, sukiyaki dinners, and graduation ceremonies.

■ Marcel Breuer's concrete masterpiece, the 1950s church in Collegeville, Minnesota, is the subject of Victoria M. Young's *Saint John's Abbey Church: Marcel Breuer and the Creation of a Modern Sacred Space* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014, 216 p., cloth, \$34.95). When it came time for expansion, the Benedictine brethren at St. John's Abbey chose the former Bauhaus architect, not known for ecclesiastical work, because they wanted a building of its era rather than one that hearkened back to the past. Young's book examines the design and building process, focusing on the collaboration between client, architect, and contractors that produced a concrete structure symbolically reflective of Catholic liturgy.

■ Two new books in Arcadia Publishing's series, *Images of America*, devote themselves to Minnesota topics. In *The Minneapolis Riverfront*, author Eric Nathanson takes a well-informed look at not only the riverfront itself, past and present, but also nearby buildings, bridges, neighborhoods, bike paths, and parks. The photographs amply illustrate the birth, boom, decline, and resurgence of the built environment alongside, over, and on islands in the Mississippi River. The short bibliography is a helpful addition.

*Hinckley and the Fire of 1894* is the subject of Alaina Wolter Lyseth's contribution. Although the story of the disaster has been told before—it burned more than 400 square miles of forest, destroyed six towns, and killed hundreds of settlers and native people in four hours—the book's illustrations include some recently discovered photographs that add to the visual record of before, after, and the calamity itself.

Both volumes published by the Charleston, South Carolina, press in 2014 are 127 pages and sell for \$21.99.

■ In Minnesota, as in Indiana, the name O'Shaughnessy is synonymous with generosity. A new book by Doug Hennes, *That Great Heart: The Life of I. A. O'Shaughnessy, Oilman and Philanthropist* (Edina, MN: Beaver's Pond Press, 2014, 259 p., cloth, \$25.00) recounts the life and good works of Ignatius Aloysius, the thirteenth child of a Minnesota bootmaker. A football star at St. Thomas College in St. Paul, O'Shaughnessy went on to found a lucrative oil refinery in Oklahoma and use his wealth to become the nation's largest donor to Catholic education—with his alma mater, today's University of St. Thomas, and University of Notre Dame as chief beneficiaries.

■ Two recent works add to the literature on ever-popular novelist Laura Ingalls Wilder. Editor Pamela Smith Hill's *Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography*, published by the South Dakota Historical Society Press in 2014 (Pierre:

400 p., cloth, \$39.95), became an overnight blockbuster. Hill introduces and then carefully annotates this never-before-published manuscript, hidden since the 1930s, in which Wilder collects details of her family's journey from Kansas to Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, back to Minnesota, and then on to Dakota Territory. The large-format book is beautifully designed, the explanatory annotation running close to Wilder's words. Maps, photographs, and some illustrations from Wilder's novels accompany the text, which serves well to illuminate the person and experiences behind the beloved fictional series.

Sallie Ketcham's *Laura Ingalls Wilder: American Writer on the Prairie* is a 2015 addition to the *Routledge Historical Americans* series (New York, 169 p., paper, \$34.95). As the series requires, it is a standard biography that draws on archival and census materials as well as published sources, including some of Wilder's own books. Its six chapters are followed by nine documents, ranging from a 1918 *Missouri Ruralist* interview (at the time, Wilder was columnist for

that journal) and ranging through an autobiographical sketch of her daughter, Rose Wilder Lane, a speech Wilder gave, and letters she received.

■ For 18 seasons in the first half of the twentieth century, one of the Twin Cities' two regional-league baseball teams managed to bring home the American Association championship. Rex D. Hamann's new book, *The Millers and the Saints: Baseball Championships of the Twin Cities Rivals, 1903–1955* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2014, 312 p., paper, \$39.95) devotes one chapter to each of those winning years and its champion. The chapters are mostly detailed game accounts and statistics, although each begins with an introduction summarizing the team's general status and includes some player biographies. A glance at the table of contents shows that the pennant did not pass annually from one team to the other; instead, each squad had a run of winning seasons before falling to its rival.

■ Explorers' journals, letters written by acquaintances, and the man's own memoirs (the part that was not destroyed) are among the sources Barry Gough used to construct his biography, *The Elusive Mr. Pond: The Soldier, Fur Trader and Explorer Who Opened the Northwest* (Madeira Park, BC: Douglas & McIntyre, 2014, 230 p., cloth, \$28.95 USD). Born in Connecticut in 1739, Pond fought with colonial regiments against the French to secure Great Britain's control of North America. He then paddled west seeking money and adventure, returning with thousands of furs and knowledge of the rivers and portage systems of the continent's interior. One of the founders of the North West Company, he left that trading firm after being implicated in two murders. Gough calls on a variety of published and unpublished sources to piece together the life of a gruff explorer who died in obscurity but was instrumental in opening the Northwest to European-American trade and, later, settlement.

## Minnesota HISTORY

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