

■ Since 1954 *Minnesota History* has called on a panel of judges to select the winner of its Solon J. Buck award for the best article published in the magazine during the calendar year. We're pleased to announce that the award for 2014 goes to Steven Dornfeld for his well-researched, well-written, and engaging article, "Gordon Rosenmeier: The Little Giant from Little Falls," which appeared in the Winter 2014–15 issue. Delving into published sources including newspapers, archival collections, and oral histories, Dornfeld recounts the long career and many accomplishments of a visionary state senator who served from 1940 to 1970. Known for his intimidating presence and his ability to reach across the political aisle, Rosenmeier "came along at just the right time to help modernize the legislature and state government, better preparing them to meet the difficult challenges in the decades ahead." Steven Dornfeld was a political reporter, editorial writer, and editor during his 37-year career at the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and the *Minneapolis Tribune*.

In 1971 *Minnesota History* initiated the Theodore C. Blegen Award for the best article by a Minnesota Historical Society staff member. The 2014 prize has been awarded to Deborah L. Miller for "More than a Meal: Menus in the Minnesota Historical Society Collections," which appeared in the Fall 2014 issue. Examining the gamut of elegant, no-frills, and quirky menus from restaurants, both fancy and plain, association and business dinners, and special-occasion banquets statewide, Miller shows that menus offer insight into food trends and tastes, celebrations and socializing, group identity, and the multifaceted tradition of eating-out.

This year's judges were Gregory Gaut, professor emeritus of history at St. Mary's University, Winona, and Jennifer Jones, director of Library and Collections at the Minnesota Historical Society. Each award includes a prize of \$600.

■ In 2014 the Beltrami County Historical Society published Charles Vandersluis' and Leo Soukup's *Ojibwe Imprints on Northern Minnesota* (Bemidji, 300 p., paper, \$29.95), a historical work several times over. It is essentially an enhanced reprint (Soukup's contribution) of one volume of an ambitious 1974 three-part publication of oral-history interviews done in the 1950s, spearheaded at that time by Bemidji physician Charles Vandersluis with the help of the newly formed History Writers Club. This group of old settlers transcribed and edited the early tape recordings.

Ojibwe Imprints is the story of John G. Morrison Jr., a mixed-blood retailer and Indian Service employee whose life spanned the last years of treaty making, the era of reservation neglect and poverty, and the termination policies of the 1950s. Born in the waning fur-trade settlement of Crow Wing in 1873, Morrison spent his early years on White Earth Reservation and lived most of his adult life on Red Lake Reservation; he died in Bemidji in 1964. Seven chapters from the 1974 publication, comprising approximately half of the book and including maps and photographs, are his first-person reminiscences (Early Years at White Earth, Nelson Act, Sale of Red Lake Timber, Ditching Fever, etc.); many of these short sections end with a few pages of "History Writers' Discussion of Above." This original section concludes with a short essay on Morrison as collector of Indian relics and his obituary. The second half of the book is new material: Soukup's welcome addition of endnotes, appendices (relevant chapters reprinted from other books and biographical sketches, for instance), sources, credits, and an index. And then, there are three CDs—the original interviews of Morrison in which his "low, rumbling voice" can be heard, speaking the words that became this book. *Ojibwe Imprints* is available in the Minnesota Historical Society museum store and from the Beltrami County His-

torical Society, 130 Minnesota Ave. SW, Bemidji, 56601; depot@beltramihsoty.org or (218)444-3376. For the latter, please include \$3.69 shipping and handling per book and 7.875% sales tax.

■ A St. Paul institution—architectural as well as religious—gets its due in James E. Frazier's history, *For All the Saints: St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church* (St. Paul: Afton Press, 2014, 311 p., cloth, \$40.00). Fifteen well-illustrated chapters organized by the successive reverends who led the congregation tell the story of 130 years, beginning with the first service, held in 1881 in the Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, through 2010. Architects Cass Gilbert and Clarence Johnston designed the church, completed in 1903 and still serving at the corner of Portland and Kent. Past members include prominent St. Paulites: businessmen, legislators, industrialists, and philanthropists. The book is available from Afton Press and at the church.

■ Fur trader, explorer, and amateur mapmaker Peter Pond has recently attracted the attention of several biographers. David Chapin's *Freshwater Passages: The Trade and Travels of Peter Pond* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2014, 367 p., cloth, \$50.00) veers away from previous characterizations of Pond as gruff and explosive, drawing on a wide range of archival and secondary sources to present a man who was intellectually curious and talented, as well as proud and ambitious. One of the generation of traders operating between the Seven Years War and the American Revolution, Pond was active in the Great Lakes region, on the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, and in the Canadian Northwest. His resulting breadth of experience with geography and a wide variety of native people gave him unparalleled knowledge of eighteenth-century North America. Among other accomplishments, Pond drew some of the earliest maps of western Canada.

■ *Buildings of North Dakota* by Steve C. Martens and Ronald H. L. M. Ramsay is a comprehensive, informative, and accessible guidebook for all travelers: behind-the-wheel as well as armchair. The book reveals a wide array of architectural periods and styles—ranging from earth lodges and powwow grounds to camp-meeting grounds and Eastern Orthodox churches and to buildings from the Progressive Era, New Deal, and contemporary times—perhaps shattering notions of a remote and sparsely built landscape. The introduction provides a very useful overview of information relevant to all buildings, including context (“knowing one’s place”), materials, the chronology of human habitation, builders and architects, and preservation and renewal. Successive chapters divide the state into geographical regions; within each chapter, the region is presented county-by-county. What emerges from this structure is a “prairie mosaic” of high-style, vernacular, ethnic, and modern architecture built over time by Native Americans, Germans from Russia, Norwegians, Icelanders, and others. The

volume, one in the Society of Architectural Historians’ Buildings of the United States series (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2015, 263 p., cloth, \$65.00) includes more than 400 entries, 250 photographs, and 17 maps.

■ In 2013, one hundred years after sinking during the Great Lakes’ most devastating single storm in terms of lost life and vessels, the *Henry B. Smith* was found in Lake Superior off the shore of Marquette, Michigan. *The Last Laker: Finding a Wreck Lost in the Great Lakes’ Deadliest Storm* (Duluth: Lake Superior Port Cities, 2015, 213 p., paper, \$19.95), by maritime historian Frederick Stonehouse, recounts the story of the storm, the long search for the wrecked ore freighter that had become the “holy grail” for divers and maritime experts, and its discovery in 500-plus feet of water. With maps, weather and wave-height charts, and photographs, Stonehouse reconstructs the events, beginning with background on the era, the *Smith*, its crew, and other ore carriers and moving into a close accounting of

the final trip, sinking, search, and ultimate discovery. His book also analyzes why some vessels made it through the storm while others did not.

■ Inspired by Florence Nightingale’s work during the Crimean War, American women heeded the urgent call for nurses after the Civil War’s first battle of Bull Run. Some of the women who served published accounts of their experiences, which were eagerly read by a spellbound public. Daneen Wardrop’s *Civil War Nurse Narratives, 1863–1870* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2015, 267 p., paper, \$55.00) examines this subgenre of war literature, using seven autobiographical narratives by northern women ranging from Louisa May Alcott to virtually unknown writers such as Julia Dunlap and Elvira J. Powers. Their stories report a variety of experiences, from serving in Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia hospitals to working on the field at Gettysburg after the engagement and in camps near the front during battle. The focus of Wardrop’s book, however, is not the full narrative or even a brief biography of the writers; rather, each publication is analyzed as a document that can inform readers about the writer’s stance and struggles with emerging social and political ideas, such as women’s rights, racial equality, and class relations.

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