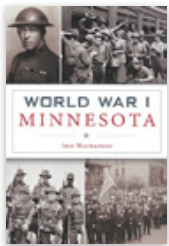


## TAKE THREE



**World War I Minnesota**, by Eric Nathanson (Mount Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing and The History Press, 2016, 144 p., Paper, \$21.99). Just 12 years after the Minnesota State Capitol opened in 1905, Governor J. A. A. Burnquist ordered 20 cheerful German sayings that ornamented the walls of the basement rathskeller café to be painted over. Nathanson uses this incident to illustrate how, though German Americans were Minnesota's largest ethnic group, the entrance of the United States into World War I made everything

German suddenly suspect. Forty thousand Minnesotans registered for the draft, though many struggled with divided loyalties as xenophobia swept through the state. The short-lived but powerful agency known as the Commission of Public Safety mobilized war support and clamped down on dissent. Other threats to the existing political and social order came from left-leaning political movements, including the Nonpartisan League, that supported the war but called attention to the corporate interests that would benefit from it. Nathanson reveals in this slim volume the controversies and conflicts of a complex and difficult episode in Minnesota history.



**From America to Norway: Norwegian-American Immigrant Letters Volume Three: 1838-1914**, edited by Orm Øverland (Northfield: Norwegian-American Historical Association, distributed by University of Minnesota Press, 2016, 630 p., Cloth, \$60). Flood, famine, and tuberculosis—all part of the Norwegian immigrant experience detailed in the third and final volume of *From America to Norway*, collected letters written from 1893 to 1914, a period when many Norwegians left their homeland and settled in the Midwest. The

funny, sad, poignant, and inspirational experiences of the settlers in this collection are related from an intensely personal point of view, reflecting the gradual transition from an expectation that letters were to be shared and published in local Norwegian communities to the recognition that they were a private form of communication. Comprehensive indexes and appendixes for this collection will be forthcoming in Volume Four. An online index for the collection is now available at [naha.stolaf.edu](http://naha.stolaf.edu).



**Custom House: Restoring a St. Paul Landmark in Lowertown**, by James A. Stolpestad (St. Paul: Ramsey County Historical Society, 2015, 258 p., Cloth, \$45). The former main post office building on Kellogg Boulevard in St. Paul's Lowertown district has stood for 80 years on the site where Father Lucien Galtier built a log chapel in 1841. *Custom House* traces the history of that location and the city that grew around it, from the earliest days of European settle-

ment to the recent restoration and development of the National Register of Historic Places-nominated building on the Mississippi River into Custom House: market-rate apartments and a hotel. The narrative's examination of the urban revival brought on by private and public investment in the 1920s and 1930s fills gaps in the local literature. Stolpestad is the founder of the development company that executed the complex historic restoration of the vacant and functionally obsolete 1934 Art Deco building, but this volume transcends puffery. Lavishly illustrated with 220 maps, photos, drawings, renderings, architectural plans, and other historic and contemporary images, many published for the first time, *Custom House* will be welcomed by anyone interested in how buildings and cities get developed.

## NEWS & NOTES

■ In May 2015, *Minnesota History* launched a digital edition of the magazine, available free to members and subscribers. The app offered every story, department, and photo from the print version, plus added photos, video, and maps, along with links to other publications of the Minnesota Historical Society Press.

As *Minnesota History's* digital strategy evolves toward the Web and other open-source digital platforms, we will be discontinuing the app. This issue, Spring 2017, will be the last to have an app-driven digital edition. If you are a current user of the app and have questions or comments, please email them to [mhapphelp@mnhs.org](mailto:mhapphelp@mnhs.org).

Beginning in April, all issues of the magazine will be available as PDF files on our website, [www.mnhs.org/mnhistory](http://www.mnhs.org/mnhistory), simultaneous with print publication. This is just the first step in expanding *Minnesota History's* digital presence and accessibility. Watch this space for details of our evolving digital strategy.

The print edition of the magazine, available to members and subscribers and by single-issue sales, will continue to be the foundation of our publishing strategy. By offering new, easy-to-access digital venues for *Minnesota History's* content, we will be better able to share Minnesota history with each other.

■ The 2017 annual meeting of the American Folklore Society will bring hundreds of US and international specialists in folklore and folklife, popular culture, material culture, and related fields to Minneapolis, October 18-21, 2017. The conference theme is "Community: Resistance, Reclamation and Re-Creation." More information may be found at <http://www.afsnet.org/page/2017AM>.

■ The 52nd annual Northern Great Plains History Conference will be held October 4-7, 2017, at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. For more information contact Kimberly K. Porter, [kimberly.porter@und.edu](mailto:kimberly.porter@und.edu).

## LETTERS

### Minnesotans love their state capitol, as this selected reaction to the Winter 2016–17 issue attests.

■ I graduated from the U of M in 1968 and didn't return to beautiful Minnesota until the fall of 2009. One of the highlights of my return is your great magazine. In the Winter 2016–17 edition, you published an article by Marjorie Pearson, "Approaching the Capitol: The Story of the Minnesota State Capitol Mall." The article showed all of the trials and tribulations the mall has gone through and is still going through. I would like to see a future article that tells about the mall today, with plans for the future and pictures.

—Gary Zweig, White Bear Lake

*Marjorie Pearson replies:* Whatever happens to the capitol mall in the future will be under the jurisdiction of Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB), which commissioned the two comprehensive plans (1998 and 2009) mentioned in the article. Aurora Avenue has been closed and parking has been removed, as mentioned in the "Streets" sidebar on page 130. The portions of the capitol mall that were used as a staging area for the building restoration will be newly landscaped. CAAPB also administers the policy, adopted in 2012, for the installation of commemorative works in the capitol area, such as the Civil War monument at the foot of Summit Avenue and East Capitol Plaza in front of the Judicial Center, as well as the Minnesota Workers Memorial, installed in 2010 and enlarged in 2016.

■ My husband and I both so much enjoyed Martin Zanger's fine article on Alonzo Hauser ("No Nekkid Lady!": The Controversy Over Alonzo Hauser's *Promise of Youth* Sculpture"). I was frustrated for Hauser in the absurd rejections but loved capturing glimpses of

his independent spirit, artistic integrity, and maverick courage. And I fell in love with the lady of *Promise of Youth*!

—Tamara Rogers, Minnetonka

■ I think the aerial photo on p. 133 of the Winter 2016-17 issue is misdated. It was not taken in 1960. It was probably taken in 1962. I went to Mechanic Arts High School from 1961–65, and worked at MNHS part time from 1963 to 1966. My recollection is that when I started at Mechanic Arts, the Centennial Building parking lot [middle of the photo, far right] was just under construction, resulting in the loss of Central Park for our gym class. . . . Furthermore, the new Armory [building at lower right of the photo] wasn't built yet in 1960, as the author states on p. 131. "In 1961 the commission also authorized the construction of a new Armory to the east of Cedar at Columbus Ave. . . ."

—Terry Garvey, Maplewood

*Editor's note:* The photo on p. 133 is labeled "ca. 1960" in MNHS Collections. Thanks to reader Garvey for the added precision. And, reader Bob Ulrich noticed that in the photo on p. 131 the trees had no leaves and workers were wearing heavy clothes, so it was probably not taken in August as the caption states. He is correct; the actual date the photo was taken was April 13, 1953.

### @ Contact us

Letters, comments, questions about *Minnesota History*? Send them to 345 Kellogg Boulevard West, St. Paul, MN 55102-1906 or [mnhismag@mnhs.org](mailto:mnhismag@mnhs.org). We'd love to hear from you!



## Minnesota History Whatever: A Gathering of Historians

May 11, 2017 | 9:30 am–4:00 pm | American Swedish Institute,  
2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis

A what? A "whatever" is a conversational, crowd-sourced, and meaningful coming together of lovers of history, to talk about and do Minnesota history.

Goals of the day are to

- Foster deep and rich conversations about Minnesota history;
- Encourage cooperation and collective problem solving among us;

- Take stock of the current state of Minnesota history;
- Help shape the future of Minnesota history!

Register online at  
**[mnhs.org](http://mnhs.org)**

Sponsored by:



 Find us on Facebook. Search for "Minnesota History Whatever."

Share your ideas with co-chairs Annette Atkins [aatkins@csbsju.edu](mailto:aatkins@csbsju.edu) and David Grabitske [david.grabitske@mnhs.org](mailto:david.grabitske@mnhs.org).



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