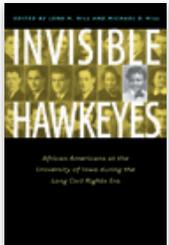


TAKE THREE

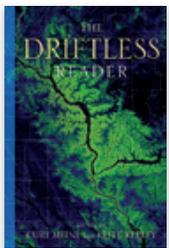
Our Midwestern neighbors



Carnival in the Countryside: The History of the Iowa State Fair, by Chris Rasmussen (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2015, 240 p., Paper, \$27.50). Yes, the Minnesota State Fair has its beloved Princess Kay butter sculptures, but Iowa is just as proud of its iconic state fair butter cow. In fact, many of the Iowa State Fair's attractions sound mighty familiar: the Old Mill, livestock barns, fried candy bars, and people watching. Founded in 1854 (five years before the Minnesota fair) the Iowa State Fair is the state's central institution, event, and symbol, claims historian and Iowa native Rasmussen. Hundreds of thousands of visitors make the pilgrimage to Iowa City each August. *Carnival in the Countryside* examines the inherent, long-standing tension between the noble intentions of fair founders to improve agriculture and foster American democracy and people's desire to have fun, be entertained, and make money, a tension midwestern state fairs navigate to this day.



Invisible Hawkeyes: African Americans at the University of Iowa during the Long Civil Rights Era, edited by Lena M. Hill and Michael D. Hill (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2016, 228 p., Paper, \$20). An increasing number of African American students arrived at the University of Iowa between 1930 and 1960, a period when the university sought to emphasize the fine and performing arts and athletics. The presence of accomplished African American students performing in musical concerts and on the stage, publishing literature, and competing on sports fields forced white students, instructors, and administrators to confront their undeniable talent. A blend of first-person testimonials and more scholarly chapters show how a large, northern land grant university played an important role in American racial transformation in the middle of the twentieth century. Coauthors Lena and Michael Hill, both professors of English and African American Studies at Iowa, make an even larger claim about the prominence of the Midwest in national conversations about race and African American art and artistic styles.



The Driftless Reader, edited by Curt Meine and Keefe Keeley (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2017, 400 p., Cloth, \$26.95). *Driftless* is the term used to describe the area of southwestern Wisconsin and parts of adjacent Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois spared by the advance and retreat of glaciers. The distinctive topography of nonglaciated uplands, ridges, and valleys formed by flowing rivers has hosted human inhabitants for 12 millennia. *The Driftless Reader* collects more than 80 texts and writings—including some 50 by living writers—that attempt to capture the unique natural and cultural history, landscape, and literature of the region. Well-known names such as Black Hawk, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Aldo Leopold are joined by dozens more native people, explorers, scientists, farmers, songwriters, journalists, and poets. The selection of reprints, original essays, and poems is, understandably, Wisconsin-centric; one exception is Agnes Larson's 1949 *History of the White Pine Industry in Minnesota*. Paintings, photographs, maps, and other images complement the text.

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NEWS & NOTES

■ History Day Award: Isabella Krueger's paper, "Dr. Jane E. Hodgson's Stand for Reproductive Rights in Minnesota," has won the 2017 *Minnesota History Magazine* Award for the best senior division (grades 9–12) History Day paper on a Minnesota topic. Addressing this year's History Day theme, "Taking a Stand in History," Krueger's paper examines Hodgson's activist medical career, including the gynecologist's legal test of Minnesota abortion law in *Minnesota v. Hodgson*, the first challenge to a century-old law. The case reached the U.S. Supreme Court. Krueger is a freshman at Salk Middle School in Elk River. Her teacher was Ronald Hustvedt. The award includes a \$50 prize.

■ MNHS has launched a new Minnesota People Records Search, (www.mnhs.org/search/people) with an easy-to-use search function that draws results from birth, death, state census, and Veterans Grave Registration records, and the newly digitized WW1 Gold Star Roll records.

LETTER

■ Having been born and raised in the Midway district of St. Paul, I appreciated the Landmarks story about the Krank Building (Spring 2017). I remember when Northwest Airlines and Control Data were tenants. I also remember that in the early 1970s, the building became the Open School, a popular school concept at that time, for the St. Paul School District. After graduating from Hamline University in 1971, I thought about applying for a teaching job there. That is why I remember the change in the building's use.

The Landmarks page is always fascinating history of both buildings and people. Thank you for that feature!

—Doug Voerding, Montrose



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