

## NEWS & NOTES

■ History Day Award: Madison Anderson's paper, "Jenson v. Eveleth: Encountering Sexual Harassment and Exploring Women's Rights in the Workplace," has won the 2016 *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, "Exploration, Encounter, Exchange," Anderson's paper examines the first-ever class action lawsuit for sexual harassment in the United States, brought by Lois E. Jenson and other women who worked for the Eveleth Taconite Company (Eveleth Mines). The suit was filed in 1988 by lawyer Paul Sprenger after the women experienced over a decade of harassment in a hostile work environment. The lawsuit was successfully settled at the end of 1998. "Although the lawsuit was incredibly long and demanding," Anderson wrote, "Jenson v. Eveleth changed the way companies looked at sexual harassment. To be clear, Jenson v. Eveleth did not change any laws, but it helped enforce the laws that were already in place. Because of the lawsuit, companies everywhere implemented sexual harassment policies and started taking this issue seriously. . . . The decisions delivered helped make the workplace environment safer for all victims of sexual harassment."

Anderson is a sophomore at Cretin-Derham Hall High School in St. Paul. Her award includes a \$50 prize.

■ This year marks the centennial of the Minnesota Historical Society providing field services, which support a strong network of local history enterprises across the state. MNHS staff member David Grabitske, manager of Local History Services, and intern David Nichols III have documented that story in the article "Materially Strengthened: The Minnesota Historical Society and Providing Field Services," published in *Studies in Midwestern History*, Vol. 2, No. 5, May 2016. The article is available

online at [www.midwesternhistory.com/studies-in-midwestern-history/](http://www.midwesternhistory.com/studies-in-midwestern-history/).

■ Preserve Minneapolis, an organization dedicated to recognizing and preserving the city's historic structures and landscapes, is building "Minneapolis Historical," a phone- and computer-based app that is a guide to Minneapolis architecture. It currently contains textual descriptions, photos, and in some cases audio files on hundreds of buildings. Minneapolis Historical is a wiki, [www.minneapolishistorical.org](http://www.minneapolishistorical.org). Accordingly, anyone interested in contributing descriptions of historic buildings is encouraged to contact architectural historian and project leader Richard Kronick at [RichardKronick@msn.com](mailto:RichardKronick@msn.com).

■ The Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest has published the latest journal in its Upper Midwest Jewish History series, *Jewish Scrap Stories from the Upper Midwest* (Vol. 7, Spring 2016), edited by Linda Mack Schloff. In 1936, Jews made up only 4 percent of the U.S. population and represented 90 percent of participants in the scrap-iron industry and 95 percent of those in collateral industries, including nonferrous metal, paper, cotton rags, and rubber. The 80-page journal is devoted to describing how Jews came to dominate the scrap business in the upper Midwest, focused on Minnesota and Wisconsin. The volume was published in conjunction with the exhibition "Peddlers to Processors: Scrap Stories from the Upper Midwest," at the Sabes JCC in Minneapolis April 3–May 26, 2016. The journal is available for purchase (\$10.00) at [www.jhsum.org](http://www.jhsum.org).

■ Donald Empson, author of *The Street Where You Live: A Guide to the Place Names of St. Paul*, and Kathleen Vadnais have chronicled the conflict over preservation of the Stillwater Lift Bridge in a limited-edition, 70-page, spiral-bound publication, *Crossing the St. Croix River: The 45-year struggle to build a new*

*Stillwater Bridge and save the historic Lift Bridge* (Stillwater: Bayport Printing House, 2015, 70 p., spiral bound, \$25.00, plus \$5.00 postage and handling). "The bridge controversy has played out on the national stage," they write. "Two U.S. presidents were directly engaged. At least six U.S. cabinet members, a dozen or so U.S. congressmen from both parties, and several state governors were all directly involved in trying to solve the bridge conflict." Sample pages may be seen at [sites.google.com/site/empsonsite](http://sites.google.com/site/empsonsite).

■ Long-standing contention and confusion about the northern boundary of the Louisiana Purchase is explored by William E. Lass, professor of history emeritus, Minnesota State University, Mankato, in "The Northern Boundary of the Louisiana Purchase," *Great Plains Quarterly*, Vol. 35, No. 1, Winter 2015, pp. 27–50, published by the University of Nebraska Press. The historical question has been subject to erroneous assumptions, "mythologies," and conclusions based on "casually accepted undocumented secondary sources," Lass writes.

■ To complete its transcontinental route, the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1872 sent two surveying expeditions (eastern and western) to the Yellowstone Valley—despite a warning from Lakota chief Sitting Bull to stay away. In *Before Custer: Surveying the Yellowstone, 1872* (Norman, OK: Arthur H. Clark, 2015, 326 p., cloth, \$34.95) editor M. John Lubetkin provides a brief introduction to each book chapter, which then draws on the diaries, letters, reports, newspaper articles, and unpublished documents of white participants in the fiasco to tell the story of the three-month, losing struggle with Plains Indians. In the end, the expeditions turned back without achieving their purpose, Jay Cooke and Company failed, the Panic of 1873 ensued, Sitting Bull gained national prominence, and George Armstrong Custer was transferred to the Department of Dakota.



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