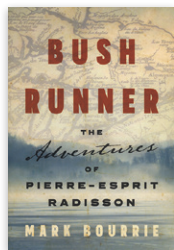
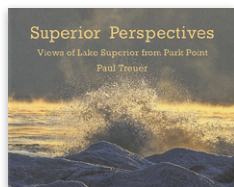


TAKE THREE

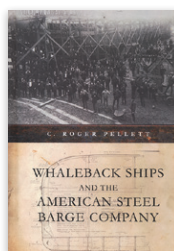
Navigating the Great Lakes and beyond



Bush Runner: The Adventures of Pierre-Esprit Radisson by Mark Bourrie (Windsor, ON: Biblioasis, 2019, 320 p., Paper, \$18.95). Canadian lawyer, author, and historian Mark Bourrie notes that most people only recognize the name Radisson from the hotel chain that bears the name, unless they grew up in Minnesota or Wisconsin, where Pierre-Esprit Radisson is known as the first European to “explore” the upper Mississippi River. Described as a “true-life Forrest Gump of the 17th century,” Radisson was a salesman, a pirate, an adventurer, a murderer, and, allegedly, a cannibal. He consorted with an array of people, including First Nations communities (Mohawk), French fur traders, royal courts, and more. He double-crossed both acquaintances and strangers. Most famously, his Arctic fur trading led to the founding of the Hudson’s Bay Company, which is the oldest operating corporation in North America. The irony is that Radisson died insolvent. Bourrie draws on newly opened journals released from the Canadian royal archives at Windsor Castle and Radisson’s own autobiographies.



Superior Perspectives: Views of Lake Superior from Park Point by Paul Treuer (Minneapolis, MN: Nodin Press, 2019, 96 p., Paper, \$30). Duluth photographer Paul Treuer, who has lived near the largest of the Great Lakes for over half a century, has been transfixed by its beauty since childhood. As a young man, he hitched a ride on a saltwater freighter and crossed the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence Seaway, and the Atlantic Ocean. When he was in his forties, he circumnavigated Superior by kayak. In case it isn’t clear, the author has an affinity for water, and a special reverence for Lake Superior. In this glossy coffee-table book, Treuer includes an assortment of breathtaking images of his beloved lake that go beyond the typical postcard view. Organized by the four seasons, the book’s chapters open with brief descriptions of the lake in that particular season. Treuer poignantly explores the majesty, the power, and the poetry of the world’s largest freshwater lake.



Whaleback Ships and the American Steel Barge Company by C. Roger Pellett (Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 2018, 208 p., Cloth, \$39.99). Retired business executive Roger Pellett’s book about whaleback ships and their inventor, Alexander McDougall, offers readers a veritable boatload of information. McDougall designed the whaleback ship to build, cheaply, an improved and easily towed barge, using relatively unskilled labor available in Duluth. The new design led to the creation of the American Steel Barge Company, which, beginning in 1888, built and operated a fleet of 44 barges and steamships on the Great Lakes and in international trade. Pellett explains that despite being financed by various corporate magnates, including John D. Rockefeller and Colgate Hoyt, by 1893 the American Steel Barge Company ran out of cash. It resumed operations in 1896 but ended its run in 1898 with a vessel that incorporated some whaleback features but also included a typical Great Lakes steamship bow. Readers interested in northern Minnesota history and maritime history will relish the original design drawings and Pellett’s ample narrative of this relatively obscure history.

—Eric Hankin-Redmon

NEWS & NOTES

■ The Women’s Organization of the Minnesota Historical Society celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. Since 1949, the Women’s Organization has worked with MNHS to advocate for and increase awareness of Minnesota’s history.

The organization was created during MNHS’s centennial year through the efforts of its first president, Vivian (Mrs. Frederick K.) Weyerhaeuser, and other women who wished to help further the mission of MNHS. While over the years the type of volunteer and philanthropic activities has evolved, the dedication of the organization to MNHS endures. In 1999, to mark its 50th anniversary, the Women’s Organization established an endowment fund to support the MNHS’s historic sites network.

New members are always welcome. Members enjoy eight meetings annually, featuring programs on a variety of topics, all with a historical focus; volunteer for MNHS; and serve as tour docents at the Governor’s Residence. For more information, please visit www.mnhs.org/womnhs.

■ History Day Award: Deirdre O’Neill’s paper “From Perpetuating Decline to Celebrating Diversity: The Midtown Exchange’s Impact on Minneapolis” has won the 2019 *Minnesota History Magazine* Award for the best senior division paper on a Minnesota topic. The paper traces the evolution of the building in the heart of south Minneapolis from the thriving Sears distribution center and retail store of the 1920s to a site of urban decline in the late twentieth century and its current revival as Midtown Global Market, an internationally themed public market and “image of immigrant triumph.” O’Neill is a student at Breck School. Her teacher was Kristen Markert. The award includes a \$50 prize.



■ MNHS is expanding its engagement with veterans and military members:

- This summer, MNHS is participating in Blue Star Museums, a national program that provides free admission to active-duty military personnel and up to five accompanying family members at all MNHS historic sites and museums throughout the state.

This free admission program is available for those currently serving in the US military—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, as well as members of the Reserves, National Guard, US Public Health Commissioned Corps, and NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps. Qualified members must show a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or DD Form 1173-1 ID card for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum.

Blue Star Museums is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in collaboration with Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 US museums.



- Chris Belland has been named MNHS program and outreach manager of veterans relations. In this role, Belland will build on work already underway to engage with Minnesota’s veterans communities and develop relevant programming across all MNHS historic sites. Belland is a captain in the Minnesota Army National Guard and

has served for 13 years, including two deployments overseas. He previously worked as a volunteer and a site interpreter at Historic Fort Snelling for the last 15 years.

- New content this summer at Historic Fort Snelling includes more military history, including stories of the 25th Infantry—an African American unit posted at Fort Snelling after the Civil War—and how the military used exercise and physical training to prepare recruits and help soldiers recover from injuries.

■ After nearly two years of work, the MNHS oral history department has completed an in-depth project chronicling the stories of Minnesotans during the Vietnam War era, 1960–1975. Beginning in July 2017, MNHS staff worked with five oral historians with expertise in the Vietnam era to collect interviews from people across Minnesota. The project ultimately collected 98 oral histories from a variety of people, including veterans, Vietnamese immigrants to Minnesota, anti-war protesters, and people whose loved ones never returned from fighting. These oral histories are currently being cataloged and will be available for the public to access on the MNHS website and in person in the Gale Family Library later this summer.

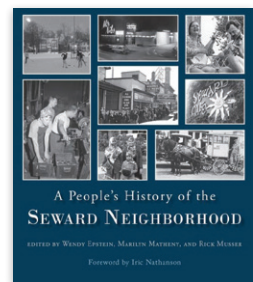
Interview highlights include:

- Bill Tilton. A University of Minnesota student involved in the anti-war movement, he was arrested for breaking into a Selective Service office in Alexandria with the intention of destroying draft records.
- Rocky Tibbetts. Born in Bena, he enlisted in the army and volunteered for airborne training. He was wounded three times and received two Bronze Star Medals.

- Carol Kalmbacher. Born in Pine River, she served as a nurse in the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku, Vietnam.
- Vuong Huy Thuần. His family lived through the fall of Saigon, and his father was imprisoned in a reeducation camp for eight years. The family emigrated to Minnesota in 1993.
- Marsha Qualey. Born in Austin, she became involved in anti-war efforts as a student at Macalester College after her brother was killed in Vietnam.

■ The Leadership in History awards committee of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) selected two projects funded by Legacy grants, the appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, as 2019 Leadership in History winners. The AASLH Leadership in History awards is the nation’s most prestigious competition for recognition of achievement in state and local history.

The Legacy-funded awards go to the History Committee of the Seward Neighborhood Group for *A People’s History of the Seward Neighborhood of the Seward Neighborhood* (Minneapolis: Nodin Press, 2018), edited by



Wendy Epstein, Marilyn Matheny, and Rick Musser and written by 20 residents of this south Minneapolis neighborhood, and to the Aurora St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation (recipient of the Legacy grant), 106 Group, Historic Saint Paul, CultureBrokers, and the City of Saint Paul for the publication *Saint Paul African American Historic and Cultural Context*.

@ Contact us Comments, questions about *Minnesota History*? Send them to 345 Kellogg Boulevard West, St. Paul, MN 55102-1906 or mnhistmag@mnhs.org. We’d love to hear from you! Letters may be edited for clarity and length.



OUR BACK PAGES

From the Bound Volumes of *Minnesota History*



1919 • 100 Years Ago

It is difficult for one who knows the Harmon Place and Loring Park of to-day to conceive of them as having once formed part of a wooded valley through which a brook made its way into Bassett's Creek. "How many of those who now travel Hennepin Avenue . . . look down and see, twelve or fifteen feet under the present surface of the avenue, the blue waters of the Lost Brook that once ran there?" —"Review by Willoughby M. Babcock, Jr., of A. J. Russell's Brief Glimpses of Unfamiliar Loring Park Aspects," Vol. 3, No. 2, May 1919, p. 87

1944 • 75 Years Ago

Sat. [May] 2. At 7-15 A.M. the ball opens on the right & left. Go on picket at 8 A.M. Heavy musketry & artillery firing on the right in P.M. This P.M. Capt. [Elijah] Heyden [Hayden] of the 8th. Ohio calls at our picket support & gives a favorable account of affairs on the right. Fine pleasant day with some light flying clouds. A slight sprinkle about middle of P.M. Hazy this evening. Moon full & about 20° high at dark. Beautiful night. —"Campaigning with the First Minnesota: A Civil War Diary," Writings by Isaac Lyman Taylor, edited by Hazel C. Wolf, Vol. 25, No. 4, December 1944, p. 345

1969 • 50 Years Ago

Other telltale characteristics in [Edward K.] Thomas' Fort Snelling views betray the less sophisticated artist. . . . Thomas' landscapes stretch out maplike, in the bird's-eye view common to the primitive artist. Precisely detailed objects are scattered throughout the scene with little regard for such artistic niceties as compositional unity and the blurring of distant objects in the haze of atmosphere. . . . A profusion of decorative detail, none subordinate to any other, and a bright midday light make up in the charm of unaffected naivete for lapses in proportion and perspective. —"Edward K. Thomas: Fort Snelling Artist," by Rena Neumann Coen, Vol. 41, No. 7, Fall 1969, p. 320

1994 • 25 Years Ago

Had SHPO [the State Historic Preservation Office] been reviewing a similar highway project in another community, the office might well have recognized only a few buildings for their architectural or historical importance and considered the survey job done. Yet the signs proclaiming "Original Main Street" [from Sinclair Lewis's novel] on almost every corner in town seemed to call for a second look. SHPO recommended a historic survey to evaluate whether any part of the district would be eligible for the National Register. —"Original Main Street: Sauk Centre, Minnesota," by Britta L. Bloomberg and Dennis A. Gimmestad, Vol. 54, No. 4, Winter 1994, p. 167

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