

Transitions and Connections

As we search for a new editor for *Minnesota History*, this issue of the journal was put together through a tag-team effort by the book editors at MNHS Press and an MNHS Press intern, building on the foundation laid by outgoing editor Laura Weber. Indeed, every issue of *Minnesota History* involves a collaborative effort of in-house staff and freelance contractors. In particular, designer Mark Reis of Percolator Graphic Design, copyeditor Gretchen Bratvold, and indexer Denise Carlson have provided vital assistance in the production of *Minnesota History* for many years, and their contributions and insights will be invaluable as we transition to the next era of the journal. I want to take the opportunity to thank each of them, as well as editors Shannon Pennefeather and Ann Regan and intern Molly Landaeta, for helping to produce another high-quality issue of *Minnesota History*.

This issue includes two articles on nineteenth-century topics that resonate with our current political and social landscape. Rebecca Rubinstein's "Promptly and Gratefully Embraced" explores the debates around soldiers voting during the Civil War, battles that were fought in state legislatures and in the courts. As thousands of voting-age men were dispersed across the South and unable to cast their votes in local and national elections at home, Minnesota led the way in developing a system for mail-in voting that preserved the enfranchisement of Minnesotans fighting for the Union. "This new process, laid out in Minnesota's soldier voting law of 1862," Rubinstein writes, "revolutionized the electoral process and presented a road map for modern absentee voting."

In "Stunt Girl Journalism," Kate Zittlow Rogness tells the story of Eva McDonald Valesh and her advocacy for labor and women's rights in the late 1880s. Employing a unique rhetorical style, McDonald broke ground among women investigative journalists by writing about challenging social issues in a way that was "intelligible, relatable, yet unthreatening." She used the power of the press to expose the poor working conditions for female laborers in Twin Cities factories, and "in so doing, her articles rejoined labor rights with women's rights."

Rounding out the magazine, we offer an excerpt from the new book by longtime site manager of Split Rock Lighthouse Lee Radzak. Written with *Star Tribune* reporter Curt Brown, *The View from Split Rock: A Lighthouse Keeper's Life* offers an intimate insider's perspective on one of Minnesota's most popular destinations—just in time for your summer trip to the North Shore.

—Josh Leventhal, Director of MNHS Press

Minnesota History (ISSN 00265497) (USPS 351660) published quarterly, copyright 2021 by the Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Blvd West, St Paul, MN 55102-1906. Periodicals postage paid at St Paul, MN.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Minnesota History*/Membership Office, 345 Kellogg Blvd West, St Paul, MN 55102-1906.

Membership in MNHS includes a subscription to *Minnesota History*. Basic individual memberships are \$50; for more information, write the Membership Office at the address above or at membership@mnhs.org or call 651-259-3131.

Back issues of *Minnesota History* are \$7 each plus Minnesota tax and handling; go to mnhs.org/mnhistory.

Magazine text is available in alternative format: contact mnhistmag@mnhs.org.

Minnesota History welcomes the submission of articles and edited documents dealing with the social, economic, political, intellectual, and cultural history of the state and the surrounding region. Author guidelines are at mnhs.org/mnhistory.

MNHS assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors.

The Code below indicates that copying beyond that permitted by Section 107 or 108 of the U.S. Copyright Laws requires the copier to pay the stated per copy fee through the Copyright Clearance Center, Danvers, MA, 978-750-8400 or www.copyright.com. This consent does not extend to other kinds of copying, such as copying for general distribution, for advertising or promotional purposes, for creating new collective works, or for resale.

Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.



Officers David Hakensen, *President*; Kent Whitworth, *Secretary*; Daniel Schmechel, *Treasurer*; Phyllis Rawls Goff, *Immediate Past President*

Executive Council Eric Ahlness, Ford Bell, Barbara Burwell, Grant W. Davis, Michael Davis, Mitch Davis, Joanel Dyrstad, Richard Engebretson, Michael Farnell, Stephanie Fehr, Thomas M. Forsythe, Steve Gibson, Phyllis Rawls Goff, David R. Hakensen, Jean M. Larson, Monica Little, Linda Mona, Richard Nash, Joe Nayquonabe, Krista O'Malley, Peter Reyes Jr., Daniel Schmechel, Anton Treuer, Ben Vander Kooi, Gwen Westerman, Kent Whitworth, Warren J. Zaccaro

Ex-Officio Members Tim Walz, *Governor*; Peggy Flanagan, *Lieutenant Governor*; Steve Simon, *Secretary of State*; Keith Ellison, *Attorney General*; Julie Blaha, *State Auditor*



Copyright of **Minnesota History** is the property of the Minnesota Historical Society, and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or users or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission: [contact us](#).

Individuals may print or download articles for personal use.

To request permission for educational or commercial use, [contact us](#). Include the author's name and article title in the body of your message. But first--

If you think you may need permission, here are some guidelines:

Students and researchers

- You **do not** need permission to quote or paraphrase portions of an article, as long as your work falls within the fair use provision of copyright law. Using information from an article to develop an argument is fair use. Quoting brief pieces of text in an unpublished paper or thesis is fair use. Even quoting in a work to be published can be fair use, depending on the amount quoted. Read about fair use here: <http://www.copyright.gov/fls/fl102.html>
- You **should**, however, always credit the article as a source for your work.

Teachers

- You **do not** need permission to incorporate parts of an article into a lesson.
- You **do** need permission to assign an article, either by downloading multiple copies or by sending students to the online pdf. There is a small per-copy use fee for assigned reading. [Contact us](#) for more information.

About Illustrations

- **Minnesota History** credits the sources for illustrations at the end of each article. **Minnesota History** itself does not hold copyright on images and therefore cannot grant permission to reproduce them.
- For information on using illustrations owned by the Minnesota Historical Society, see [MHS Library FAQ](#).