

EDITOR'S NOTE

On about March 27, 2020, MNHS members and *Minnesota History* subscribers began to receive in their mailboxes issue number one of volume 67 of *Minnesota History* magazine. That was less than two weeks after the Minnesota Historical Society announced it was closing all sites and museums to the public due to the COVID pandemic and all employees were to begin working from home.

This current issue is number eight of volume 67 (a volume consists of eight issues). In the 21 months between the publications of issue number one and issue number eight, MNHS—and the world—has experienced incredible challenges and changes. For much of this time, many areas of this institution were unable to deliver their services to the public, and the financial strain brought about by the closure of our sites led to furloughs and, subsequently, layoffs across the MNHS network in the summer of 2020. While a number of sites were able to reopen and deliver great programs, exhibits, and services for limited periods during 2021, COVID cases are on the rise again in Minnesota as we send this issue to print. Just when we thought we might be turning the corner back toward normalcy, it's starting to feel like we're caught in a never-ending loop.

New challenges have also come along in recent months. Global supply-chain issues are affecting our humble history journal. Our print vendor is navigating a worldwide paper shortage and its own staffing changes, and with each new issue it can be a scramble to find the quantity and quality of paper we have come to expect for *Minnesota History*. (Kudos are due to Modern Press of New Brighton, Minnesota, for persevering and coming through time and again with high-quality materials and prompt delivery.)

Through it all, *Minnesota History* has continued on. Some of the issues published in volume 67 were shorter than the typical issue of pre-COVID times. We have also turned to our archives as a source for content to populate the current volume. At the same time, we have published vital new research from a range of scholars and writers, highlighted fascinating images and objects from the institution's collections, and continued to advance MNHS's mission. In addition, the Fall 2020 (vol. 67, no. 3) installment of *Minnesota History* was a double issue, providing two magazines' worth of content at a time when our readers were largely confined to their homes.

There is still uncertainty as to when the staff of MNHS Press—which produces *Minnesota History*—will return to our offices at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. But wherever we are working, we remain committed to providing our readers with historical research and stories that bring relevance and context to today's world.

—Josh Leventhal, Director of MNHS Press

Minnesota HISTORY

mnhs.org/mnhistory

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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.

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