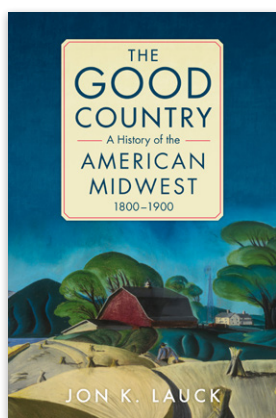
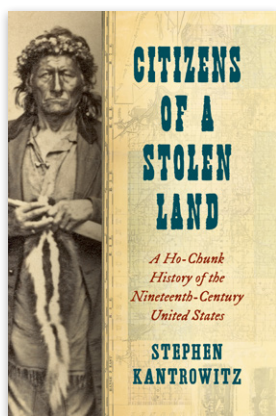




TAKE THREE



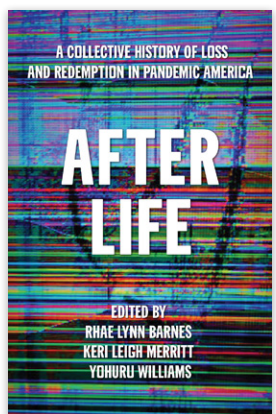
The Good Country: A History of the American Midwest, 1800-1900 by Jon K. Lauck (University of Oklahoma Press: Norman, 2022, 366 p., Paper, \$26.95). As one of the premier historians of the American Midwest, Jon K. Lauck sets out to tell the often-overlooked history of this region during the nineteenth century. During these formative years, the Midwest made important strides in the democratic process, in advances for women, and in a “steady march toward racial progress.” Despite the advances, however, overt racism was still experienced in the Midwest, and Lauck devotes a chapter to the issue of race. After all, he writes, “This book is titled *The Good Country*, not *The Perfect Country*.”



Citizens of a Stolen Land: A Ho-Chunk History of the Nineteenth-Century United States by Stephen Kantrowitz (University of North Carolina Press: Chapel Hill, 2023, 238 p., Paper, \$24.95). Coinciding with the Civil War and the debate over African American citizenship in the era of Reconstruction, the largely untold history of the Ho-Chunk tribe provides a new lens into the treatment of Indigenous people in the 1800s. This book by University of Wisconsin professor Stephen Kantrowitz outlines the “survivance” of the Ho-Chunk people.

(“Survivance” is more than resistance; it is the continuance of stories.) Faced with violent, forced deportation from their homelands, hundreds of Ho-Chunk people

sought US citizenship to remain on their lands in Wisconsin. Although coerced to comply with Western agriculture, clothing, and gender roles, the Ho-Chunk maintained their language, culture, and identity as a people. Despite being citizens of a stolen land, they remained and endured.



After Life: A Collective History of Loss and Redemption in Pandemic America edited by Rhae Lynn Barnes,

Keri Leigh Merritt, and Yohuru Williams (Haymarket Books: Chicago, 2022, 360 p., Paper, \$24.95). Fear, grief, isolation, and injustice marked the everyday lives of Americans in the early 2020s. This book shares the collective history of life-altering events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, mass uprisings for racial justice, and the insurrection on January 6, 2021, over the 2020 election results. Inspired by the documentation of American life during the Great Depression and World War II, this book is a compilation by twenty-first-century writers who share their personal experiences throughout this period

of time. Minnesota attorney general Keith Ellison writes about his grief over the loss of his mother to COVID-19 in an essay titled “Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child.” The end of this decade and this chapter in history remains unwritten; it is all of our responsibility to complete this slice of our American story.

NEWS AND NOTES

■ Minnesota students took home an array of awards at the National History Day competition, including seven medals, six other top 10 finishers, and nine honorable mentions.

Minnesota’s delegation, known as “Team Minnesota,” was made up of 59 students from around the state. They competed against over 2,600 contestants from across the country at the University of Maryland, College Park campus.

In all, over 17,000 Minnesota students participated in History Day 2023. The students, representing grades 6 through 12, presented exhibits, papers, documentaries, performances, and websites that showed off months of research based on this year’s theme, “Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas.” The medal winners are:

- Ireland Person, Lydia Svien, Margaret Frohman, DeLaSalle High School, Minneapolis. 1st Place, Senior Group Documentary
- Adele Haeg, DeLaSalle High School, Minneapolis. 1st Place, Senior Individual Website
- Zoey Dahl, Sanford Middle School, Minneapolis. 2nd Place, Junior Individual Exhibit
- Ola Okoro, East High School, Duluth. 2nd Place, Senior Individual Performance
- Frances Bull, Heidi Bull, Sanford Middle School, Minneapolis. 2nd Place, Junior Group Website
- Theo Orsted, Twin Cities German Immersion School, St. Paul. 3rd Place, Junior Paper
- Eleanor Hern, Juliette Weier-Rauscher, Maeve O’Brien, Sunrise Park Middle School, White Bear Lake. 3rd Place, Junior Group Exhibit



LETTERS

From reader Karen Chobot:

In the summer issue of *Minnesota History*, there is an EyeWitness essay about Camp Ojiketa. In the essay, Aimée Bissonette references the accompanying photograph of girls swimming either as a “communal dip or synchronized swimming.” I can tell you exactly what the girls are doing in the photo, as we did the same thing at Girl Scout camp.

The girls are doing a “buddy check.”

With a large group of girls swimming at the same time, it is very difficult for the swim staff to be sure no one is in trouble. Each girl in the water was required to swim with a buddy and keep her in sight at all times. Once or twice in the session the life-guard supervising the session, either a free swim or a lesson, would blow her whistle and call, “buddy check.” Each girl would then grab her buddy’s hand and hold it up, exactly as the picture shows.

The girls are also wearing swimming caps of different colors, which were assigned by swimming ability. At our camp in Wisconsin, white caps were for beginners, red caps were for intermediate swimmers, and blue caps were for advanced swimmers.

All in an effort to help the staff keep the girls safe in the water.

I enjoyed the article very much, as Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls camps were a wonderful way for girls to expand and have a chance to live a bit independently from their families. I greatly valued my own experience. As Scout-type camps disappear from the landscape, most of us who attended feel the loss greatly. . . .

(This letter has been edited for length and clarity.)

REMEMBERING BILL LASS (1928–2023)

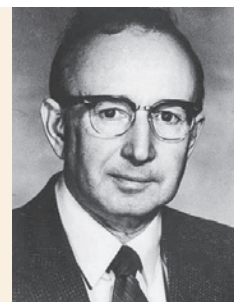
With the passing of William E. Lass on August 12, 2023, the state lost a champion for Minnesota history.

Bill Lass was born in 1928 and grew up on a farm in rural South Dakota. After graduating from high school, he served two years in the Army. He enrolled at the University of South Dakota and earned a BA in history in 1951. A member of the Army Reserve, Bill spent two years stationed in Alaska during the Korean War before joining the USD MA program in 1953. Bill met Marilyn Waddel, a woman who became his wife and partner in his academic work, in Vermillion. With Marilyn’s support, he earned a PhD in history at the University of Wisconsin in 1960. Bill’s dissertation became his second book, *A History of Steamboating on the Upper Missouri* (1962). Bill carried out research at the Minnesota Historical Society for the dissertation and the book, and a long-term relationship with the institution began.

After teaching in Oklahoma for three years while writing his dissertation, Bill secured a faculty position at what was then Mankato State College in 1960. He spent the rest of his academic career there, retiring in 2002. Living in Minnesota, Bill decided he needed to engage in research on the history of the state. As a result, he became one of the foremost scholars of Minnesota history. In 1977, *Minnesota: A Bicentennial History* came out; a revised version was published in 1998. Bill also began producing articles for *Minnesota History* during this period. His 1963 article on the removal of Dakotas and Ho-Chunk from Minnesota still engages scholars. In all, Bill wrote 12 articles for *Minnesota History* (of 45 academic articles). He published six books on Minnesota history and five books on the history of the Northern Great Plains. He continued to work on book and article projects during the summer of 2023. Bill also frequently presented papers at conferences, especially the Northern Great Plains History Conference, and served as a popular public speaker in Mankato and the surrounding area. Additionally, Bill was a beloved professor and long-time director of the Southern Minnesota Archives and the University Archives.

Teacher, meticulous scholar, friend, and father, William E. Lass left an indelible mark. He is survived by his daughter, Barbara (Wade Huntley), his son, Bill (Vickie), as well as nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. The history program at Minnesota State University, Mankato, will be hosting a Minnesota history symposium in spring 2024 to honor Bill’s legacy.


—Dr. Lori Ann Lahlum, Minnesota State University, Mankato



Corrections

■ Thanks to historian and Civil War scholar Stephen Osman for corrections to the article “Fighting Words: Shakespeare and Minnesota’s Experience of Civil War.” Osman points out that the term “enlisted officer” for James Wright is incorrect: he was a sergeant, a noncommissioned officer, during his term of enlistment. This and the overall use of the term “enlisted officers” has been replaced in the article’s digital archive.

We also note a correction in reference to Daniel Bond, on page 222 of the same article. According to Osman, the Bond brothers had joined the First Minnesota in 1862, and so had time yet to serve when the regiment mustered out in early 1864. They became members of the First Battalion, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. A number of men, including the Bonds, were captured at Petersburg, Virginia, in July 1864, not at the Siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

 **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.



EXPLORE MNOPIEDIA



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LOOKING BACK

From the article archives of *Minnesota History*



1923 • 100 Years Ago

From the Library of Congress the society has purchased a photostatic copy of a letter of Minnesota interest in the *Courier des Etat-Unis* of New York for January 12, 1847. Monsieur Lamare-Picquot, a French traveler who visited Minnesota in 1846, wrote for that paper a letter describing the country and its inhabitants. Comments on Chief Little Crow and his family add to the interest of the letter.
—“*Minnesota Historical Society Notes*,” Vol. 5, No. 3, August 1923, p. 228.

1948 • 75 Years Ago

The whole world cannot produce a climate more salubrious than that of Minnesota. We have never yet known a case of fever and ague in it; nor any unwholesome water, either in wells, springs, lakes or streams. *It is for our cool, healthful climate, that braces up the human frame for vigorous exertion, physical or mental, that we regard Minnesota incomparably superior to any other new State or Territory in North America.*
—James M. Goodhue, “Minnesota,” originally published in the *Minnesota Pioneer* (St. Paul), April 8, 1852, and reprinted in “*James Goodhue’s Minnesota*,” edited by Mary W. Berthel, Vol. 29, No. 3, September 1948, p. 197.

1973 • 50 Years Ago

The church served not only as a center of worship but also as a gathering place for social events. This aspect of Swedish church life in America was noted by George M. Stephenson: “Unlike the Swedish parish churches, the Swedish-American churches were in fact ‘meeting-houses,’ and the phrase ‘go to meeting’ soon became current.”
—Robert C. Ostergren, “*Cultural Homogeneity and Population Stability Among Swedish Immigrants in Chisago County*,” Vol. 43, No. 7, Fall 1973, p. 260.

1998 • 25 Years Ago

Outside there was a “huge” lawn with benches and, in the summer, a sizable vegetable garden. . . . The 13 residents, 7 men and 6 women, all lived on the second floor. Each had a private room, well ventilated and humbly furnished with a bed, dresser, and easy chair. . . . Most were ambulatory; some needed custodial care, were blind, or were simply ill and “nervous.”
—Paul D. Nelson, “*Orphans & Old Folks: St. Paul’s Crispus Attucks Home*,” Vol. 56, No. 3, Fall 1998, p. 115.

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