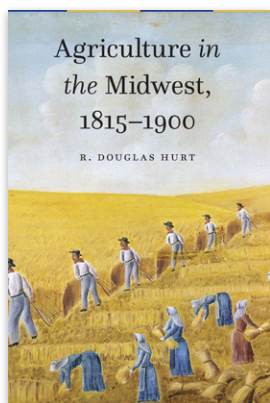
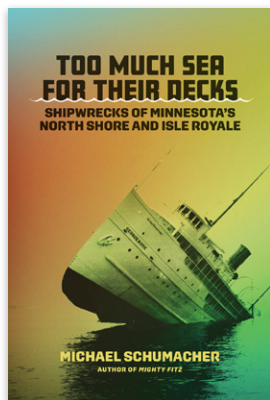


## TAKE THREE



**Agriculture in the Midwest, 1815-1900** by R. Douglas Hurt (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2023, 448 p., hardcover, \$70). At the start of the nineteenth century, forest covered most of the land that is now known as the Midwest (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin). The land is some of the most fertile in the world, and the hope of a better life brought hundreds of thousands of settlers to the region. In this book, R. Douglas Hurt presents the major developments in agricultural history in the Midwest from the end of the War of 1812 to the turn of the twentieth century. Some settlers were successful; others failed. From adopting new techniques and technology to expanding agricultural education to political involvement, the trials, tribulations, and accomplishments of these early farmers shaped the Midwest into the “garden spot of the nation and world.”



**Too Much Sea for Their Decks: Shipwrecks of Minnesota's North Shore and Isle Royale** by Michael Schumacher (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2023, 256 p., hardcover, \$24.95). These are the stories of loss on the water. Michael Schumacher in his sixth book about Great Lakes shipwrecks tells the history of the vessels lost while trying to navigate the largest freshwater lake in the world, Lake Superior. The stories span nearly a century and are told chronologically. The first section covers five shipwrecks along Minnesota's North Shore. Next are the tales of eight vessels lost near Isle Royale, a large island approximately 17 miles southeast of Grand Portage. The third section covers the biggest storms in Great Lakes

history, including Lake Superior's toughest storm, the 1905 *Mataafa* storm, known for the freighter stranded near Duluth Harbor; the 1913 hurricane on the lakes, the worst storm to ever hit all five lakes; and the 1940 “Armistice Day Storm,” arguably the worst snowstorm to hit Minnesota.



**Latin Art in Minnesota: Conversations and What's Next** edited by William G. Franklin (Edina, MN: Afton Press, 2023, 264 p., hardcover, \$34.95). Through artwork and candid conversations, this book presents a picture of contemporary Latin art in Minnesota. Twelve Latin artists were interviewed by Latino leaders and activists, providing an intimate connection to this vibrant arts community. The artists featured provide diverse perspectives: they are originally from Mexico, Chile, Cuba, Venezuela, and Tejana and Chicano cultures; they use a wide range of mediums for their artwork; some are established, while others are emerging; and some live in the Twin Cities, while

others live in Greater Minnesota. As for the second part of the book's title, “What's Next,” Mexican-born designer Luis Fitch provides a glimpse with this quote, “I'm more interested in Latinos coming together so we can help the younger generations who are coming.”

## NEWS AND NOTES

■ The 174th Annual Meeting of the members of the Minnesota Historical Society was held on November 14. Over 450 members and guests attended in person at the History Center in the 3M Auditorium and the Education Wing; 103 participated via livestream.

The membership of the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) elected five new members to the executive council: Elizabeth (Libby) Driscoll Hlavka, Carolyn (Carie) M. Essig, Sharon Sayles Belton, Jennifer S. Murray, and Roger J. Sit.

“The Minnesota Historical Society is extremely fortunate to welcome these new members to our executive council,” said Kent Whitworth, director and CEO of MNHS. “The knowledge and experience each new member brings will help us carry out our mission of creating a powerful engagement with history.” The new members will commence their first three-year terms on January 1, 2024.

The MNHS Executive Council also elected Judge Peter M. Reyes Jr. as the 58th president of the Minnesota Historical Society. He will succeed David R. Hakensen, who will conclude his fifth year as president at the end of the year. In addition, the executive council elected Thomas Forsythe to his first term as vice president.

Colonel Donald G. Patton was elected to the MNHS Honorary Council, which is a lifelong term. Col. Patton served in the army for 30 years; he is the co-organizer of the World War II History Round Table, which showcases oral histories from WWII veterans.

Additionally, Joanell M. Dyrstad (Red Wing), Linda Brekke Mona (Edina), and Dr. Gwen N. Westerman (Good Thunder) were elected to second three-year terms. Dr. Ford W. Bell (Wayzata) and M. Mitchell (Mitch) Davis (St. Peter) were elected to their third three-year terms.



Trista Raezer-Stursa receives Solon J. Buck Award from MNHS director and CEO Kent Whitworth.

The MNHS Annual Meeting also saw the awarding of the annual Solon J. Buck Award for 2022, which recognizes originality, excellence, and creativity in research and writing for articles published in *Minnesota History*. The 2022 award was given by director and CEO Kent Whitworth to Trista Raezer-Stursa for her article, “‘I Thought I Would Wright You a Few Lines’: Solomon G. Comstock and Civil War Veteran Pensions,” which appeared in the Fall 2022 issue. At the beginning of the US Civil War, the federal government enacted laws to grant pensions to soldiers who were disabled during their war service. Through careful research of important primary resources, Raezer-Stursa illuminates the struggles of those disabled Civil War veterans often living in poverty and the challenges of navigating the Pension Bureau’s complicated bureaucracy. Judges for the award this year, Dr. Kim Heikkilä and Peter DeCarlo, called the article “well written, flowing between voices from the letters and historical context,” and noted that it “makes an excellent case for the importance of archives and research.” Trista Raezer-Stursa is the university archivist at Minnesota State University

Moorhead, and has a master’s degree in library and information science from San José State University and a master’s degree in history from North Dakota State University.

Honorable Mention for the Solon J. Buck Award is awarded to Dr. Jessica Milgroom and Don Wedll for their article, “Preserving Minnesota’s Wild Rice: The Importance of Indigenous Knowledge,” which also appeared in the Fall 2022 issue.

### New Exhibits

■ **Reframing Our Stories.** Stories by Native people, instead of *about* them. Using a visually stunning photo gallery as their canvas, the Native American Initiatives department, along with Indigenous community members, reexamine and reframe photographs taken by Twin Cities journalists from the 1950s–90s in a brand new exhibit at the Minnesota History Center, *Reframing Our Stories*.

The exhibit is a powerful addition to *Our Home: Native Minnesota*, transforming the narratives of photos from a box simply labeled “Indians.” Striking photos line the gallery walls, with new text showcasing strength and resilience

of Native communities—both past and present—in their own words.

“Community involvement is the most important aspect of this exhibit,” said Amber Annis, director of Native American Initiatives at the Minnesota Historical Society. “Throughout the development, our team sought out the input and opinions of several Native community members from across Minnesota. Our goal is to create a space where Native Community members feel represented, as well as an opportunity for visitors to connect with our communities and develop cultural empathy.”

Many of the featured photographs have not been seen since their initial publication and focus on Native community members, organizations, activities, and events, with particular attention to topics still extremely relevant in the lives of community members today. The exhibit aims to connect the past to the present by highlighting the memories of Native community elders, friends, descendants, and their organizing successors. Open through October 31, 2025.

■ **Spirits Dancing: Photographs of the Night Sky.** A new, free photography exhibit at Mill City Museum explores the wonders of the stars and how we understand our place in the universe.

Showcasing the work of photographer Travis Novitsky (Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa), the new exhibit, titled *Spirits Dancing: Photographs of the Night Sky* highlights majestic, starry nights in northern Minnesota. *Spirits Dancing* reveals how the union of Western science and Indigenous knowledge enriches our understanding of our place in the universe.

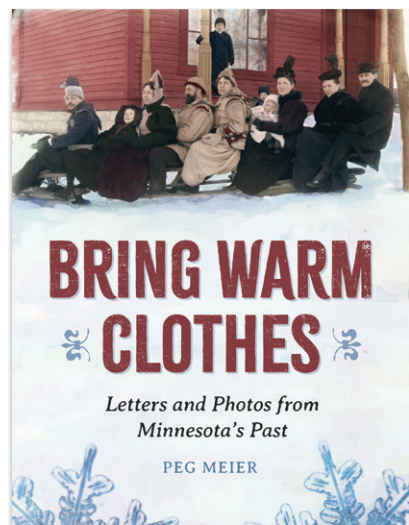
The photos, drawn from the recently released book *Spirits Dancing: The Night Sky, Indigenous Knowledge, and Living Connections to the Cosmos* by Novitsky with text by Annette S. Lee, PhD, MFA (Communities Ojibwe and D(L)akota) and published by MNHS Press, tell the story of how humans have long mar-





veled at the night sky and found peace in stargazing.

Located in the Mill Commons area of the Mill City Museum, the exhibit is free and open to the public during regular museum hours through April 7, 2024.



### In memory of Kade Ferris (1969–2023)

We at the Minnesota Historical Society would like to acknowledge the passing of historian, archaeologist, and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) of the Red Lake Nation, Kade Ferris, Giniw Wiidokaage (Eagle Helps Him), who made his journey back to the ancestors in November 2023.

Kade was one of the first THPOs and Native archaeologists in the country. Throughout his career Kade advocated for the sovereignty and preservation of many tribal nations in the country. His dedication to the work in the fields of history, archaeology, and tribal preservation led to his assistance in the development of many THPOs across the region. Kade was immensely proud of the work he did to support others seeking to preserve the history and culture of their tribal nations.



■ Peg Meier has updated her best-selling and award-winning 1981 book, *Bring Warm Clothes: Letters and Photos from Minnesota's Past* (MNHS Press, \$29.95), and written a new introduction. Meier's charming volume is still

filled with vintage photos, clippings, and letters that portray the history of the North Star State from 1800 to the 1940s, and this newest printing restores the reproductive quality of her original volume.

## LETTERS

### From reader Teri Willenbring:

"Regarding 'Discovering the Universe of Home' by Paul Gruchow in the Fall 2023 issue: What a beautiful read! Indeed, taking pride in and not minimizing our own personal, local, state, and Midwest past is something which we should strive for in all of our children. In addition, the article 'Mansions of Memories,' by Alexander Lawrence Ames, inspired my two girlfriends and me to visit the mansions in early December. They were decorated for Christmas and were such a delight to see!"

### From reader Beth Waterhouse:

"You did an amazing job of editing the piece by Paul Gruchow in the Fall 2023 issue—first to keep all of it and second to so carefully introduce him to new readers, and finally to pull the very most powerful quotes, in my opinion.

"Paul was an amazing writer, as you know, and humble, funny, and clear of voice. I miss his writing, and the world needs it so. For you to find and reprint this particular piece at this particular time is genius—it is so well timed for now. It makes me hungry for a time when we were discussing things at this level and trying to make change in the world of agriculture and rural community development. Some of those changes happened. But we have lost so many voices and leaders; Paul especially, but I name Bill Holm and Carol Bly among them. Luckily, Joe Paddock is still writing in his home in Litchfield."


### From reader Kathryn Oakley:

"As a researcher whose doctoral dissertation some years ago was a sociological/historical study of two Catholic women's colleges, one of which failed while the

other 'survived and thrived,' I enjoyed Mark Granquist's article about 'the other Luther Seminary' in the Fall 2023 issue. I wondered what became of the seminary buildings pictured on pages 260 and 262. Do they still exist? If not, were they put to other uses before being demolished? I'd be interested to learn of their fates."

### Response from author Mark Granquist:

"I believe the building in Afton is still standing. It was used and reused many times. I have been told that the buildings in St. Paul are gone (except perhaps one or two personal residences that might still be there)."

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



# EXPLORE MNOPEDIA

## LOOKING BACK

From the article archives of *Minnesota History*



### 1923 • 100 Years Ago

... Dr. Ford commented on the general enthusiasm for Minnesota history which the people of the Minnesota Valley had shown and pointed out that the intelligent interest of the people as a whole is of the utmost importance for the success of the state historical society's work. This increasing popular interest in history is in part explained by the expanding scope of the historian's work. —*"The State Historical Convention at Redwood Falls," Vol. 5, No. 4, Winter 1923, p. 270.*

### 1948 • 75 Years Ago

By steamboat, canoe, Red River cart train, stagecoach, even on foot, they came—explorers, travelers, missionaries, soldiers, fur traders, artists, authors, Indian chiefs, government officials, scientists, settlers. Regardless of eventual destination, most of them at least paused at Fort Snelling. —*Bertha L. Heilbron, ed., "Territorial Daguerreotypes: Fort Snelling and Minnesota Territory," Vol. 29, No. 4, Winter 1948, p. 316.*

### 1973 • 50 Years Ago

If alienated people feel that community leaders are not concerned with their needs, that their goals are elusive, that they cannot rely on their fellow men for aid, and that the operations of society are capricious, then many farmers in the Middle West and the South were alienated. —*Martin Ridge, "The Populist as a Social Critic," Vol. 43, No. 8, Winter 1973, p. 299.*

### 1998 • 25 Years Ago

Trapped like the otter he harvested every winter, Ojibwe had to sign more treaties to get more annuities. The more he gave up, the harder it became to live as he and his ancestors had for centuries. —*Anton Treuer and David Treuer, "A Day in the Life of Ojibwe," Vol. 56, No. 4, Winter 1998, p. 174.*



Photo © Pam McClanahan

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