



Minnesota Historical Society Press

NEW TITLES

Spring 2020



The Minnesota Historical Society Press is a leading publisher of the history and culture of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. The Press advances research, supports education, serves the local community, and expands the reputation of the MNHS through the publication of books and e-products, the *Minnesota History* journal, and the free, digital encyclopedia MNopedia.

THE LANGUAGE WARRIOR'S MANIFESTO

How to Keep Our Languages
Alive No Matter the Odds

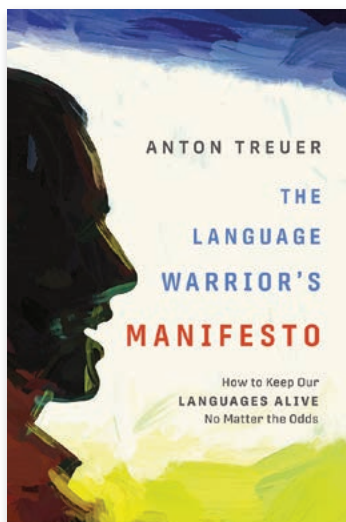
ANTON TREUER

Across North America, dedicated language warriors are powering an upswell, a resurgence, a revitalization of indigenous languages and cultures. Through deliberate suppression and cultural destruction, the five hundred languages spoken on the continent before contact have dwindled to about 150. Their ongoing survival depends on immediate, energetic interventions.

Anton Treuer has been at the forefront of the battle to revitalize Ojibwe for many years. In this impassioned argument, he discusses the interrelationship between language and culture, the problems of language loss, strategies and tactics for resisting, and the inspiring stories of successful language warriors. He recounts his own sometimes hilarious struggle to learn Ojibwe as an adult, and he depicts the astonishing success of the program at Lac Courte Oreilles, where a hundred children now speak Ojibwe as their first language.

This is a manifesto, a rumination, and a rallying cry for the preservation of priceless languages and cultures.

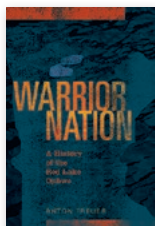
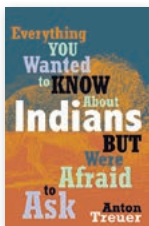
Anton Treuer, professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji State University, is the author of *Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask* and thirteen other books on Ojibwe history and language.



AVAILABLE FEBRUARY

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES,
208 PAGES, 6 × 9, INDEX
PAPERBACK, \$18.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-154-5
E-BOOK, \$9.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-155-2

ALSO OF INTEREST



**Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians
But Were Afraid to Ask**

Anton Treuer

PAPERBACK, \$17.95, ISBN: 978-0-87351-861-1

E-BOOK, \$12.99, ISBN: 978-0-87351-862-8

Warrior Nation: A History of the Red Lake Ojibwe

Anton Treuer

PAPERBACK, \$19.95, ISBN: 978-0-87351-963-2

E-BOOK, \$14.99, ISBN: 978-0-87351-968-7

TOURNEY TIME

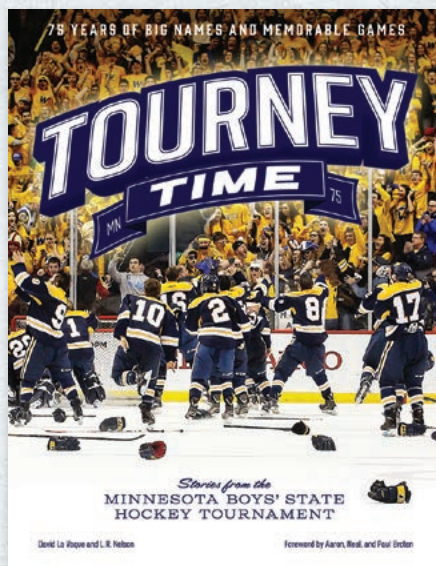
Stories from the Minnesota Boys' State Hockey Tournament

DAVID LA VAQUE AND L. R. NELSON

Foreword by Neal, Aaron, and Paul Broten

Every spring, the state of Minnesota—from urban metropolises to remote Canadian borderlands—is riveted by the spectacle of the boys' high school hockey tournament. Going back to the inaugural competition in 1945, the state tournament has produced incredible drama on and off the ice, featured legendary players, invigorated communities—and showcased some of the best hockey hair the world has ever seen. The tournament draws thousands to St. Paul, and countless more tune in on television screens around the state.

In *Tourney Time*, longtime sports journalists David La Vaque and L. R. Nelson take readers year by year through the tournament, highlighting the key games, the backstories, and the players that made each one shine. Interviews with players,



AVAILABLE MARCH

SPORTS, 288 PAGES, 8½ × 11, 200 B&W PHOTOS, NOTES, INDEX, TABLES, BIBLIOGRAPHY
PAPERBACK, \$29.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-149-1

coaches, and fans bring firsthand perspectives and insights to the games and tournaments, while in-depth statistics and results reveal the numbers behind the memories. In addition, the authors share their rankings of the most memorable moments, performances, characters, nicknames, upsets, and more from seventy-five years of tournament play.

Combining archival research, personal recollections, and vivid imagery, *Tourney Time* offers a detailed and insightful history of the nation's greatest high school sports event and one of Minnesota's most cherished institutions.

David La Vaque is a reporter for the *Star Tribune* and the newspaper's point person for high school hockey since 2010. **L. R. Nelson** is founder of LegacyHockey.net, Minnesota's number-one resource for high school hockey's past, present, and future.

FROM THE BOOK . . .

Edina scoring twenty-two seconds into the first period on a Rick Fretland breakaway, Warroad rallying for a 2-1 lead by the end of the first, Edina storming ahead 3-2 with two early goals in the second—all of the game's early highlights and wild momentum shifts were reduced to mere afterthoughts when Edina defenseman Jim Knutson and Warroad's Henry Boucha collided against the boards in the most infamous body check in state hockey history.

Boucha, on a rush late in the second period, fired a shot that Edina goaltender Hastings steered toward the right corner. Boucha chased after the rebound, arriving at the puck a split second before Knutson.

Knutson delivered a high, hard hit. The side of Boucha's head slammed off the Plexiglas, and the Warroad star slumped to the ice.

Boucha was still lying on the ice when Knutson, called for elbowing, headed to the penalty box. Boucha was helped up from the ice but was unable to regain his equilibrium—the ice was permanently tilted.

"I'm done," he told coach Dick Roberts before he was taken to the Met Center's training room for examination. The Warroad coach slammed his fist on top of the boards in disgust and was crying between the second and third periods when interviewed by reporters.

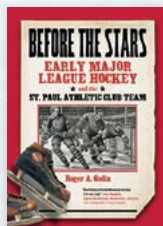
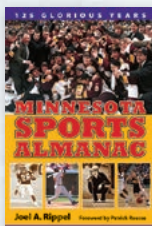
Was the hit dirty? A photo taken by an amateur photographer in the stands at the opposite end of the rink shows Knutson's elbow at the level of Boucha's ear, but the Warroad star was already sagging toward the ice. By all accounts, there was no calculated attempt to injure.

"His elbow was high, you can see it in the photo," Boucha said. "But I don't think he was trying to knock me out of the game."

"You are always going to try your hardest against the other team's number-one player," Knutson said.

*Seventy-five years of big names and memorable games—
chronicling the highs and lows, the memories, and the legends
from the Minnesota boys' state high school tournament.*

ALSO OF INTEREST



Minnesota Sports Almanac

Joel A. Rippel, Foreword by Patrick Reusse
PAPERBACK, \$29.95, ISBN: 978-0-87351-558-0

Before the Stars: Early Major League Hockey and the St. Paul Athletic Club Team

Roger A. Godin
PAPERBACK, \$19.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-076-0

LOUD FAST WORDS

Soul Asylum
Collected Lyrics

DAVE PIRNER

The collected lyrics of one of the most beloved alternative rockers of the past thirty years, with insights into the creative process behind the songs.

As the primary songwriter for Soul Asylum, Dave Pirner has penned hundreds of songs over the course of nearly four decades and has helped to shape the alternative-rock world through his artful lyrics and distinctive vocals. With twelve full-length studio albums under their belts, Pirner and Soul Asylum have produced songs that have captured multiple generations of music fans.



AVAILABLE MARCH

MUSIC, 240 PAGES, 5½ × 8½, 30 B&W PHOTOS
AND ILLUSTRATIONS
PAPERBACK, \$17.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-172-9
E-BOOK, \$9.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-174-3

The lyrics collected here represent Pirner's life's work (to date): nearly 150 songs printed in their full form, annotated by Pirner with his own recollections and reflections on the inspiration behind each song and what they mean to him and his career. Supplemented with photographs and reproductions of his handwritten lyric pages, *Loud Fast Words* reveals the creative process and the soulful spirit behind this impressive collection of songs.

Dave Pirner is a singer, songwriter, guitarist, producer, and longtime frontman for the band Soul Asylum, one of the most successful acts in alternative rock. When he's not on tour, he splits his time between Minneapolis and New Orleans.

FROM THE BOOK . . .

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

At this point we were part of a family that was operating around 26th Street and Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis—right where the studio we’re working at today is located. Twin/Tone Records and Hüsker Dü had their offices upstairs, and the studio was

downstairs. Paul Stark was the ringleader of Twin/Tone. They called him “Fish Finder,” but I never really understood why. Maybe it was because he was always trying to get a fish tank to work properly in the office. The atmosphere was glorious. Twin/Tone and Hüsker Dü and the people who were running the studio, especially Roz at the front desk—they were amazing. Dave Ayers was our manager, and I would see him and Peter Jesperson and Abbie Kane and all these people every day, because we also practiced in the back of the building. And then, voilà, Twin/Tone hired my guitar mentor, Chris Osgood of the Suicide Commandos. I love Chris. If you’re trying to figure out who’s cool and who are your favorite local musicians, I picked the right guy for that. I mean, Chris is super smart, and really funny. So, it was a no-brainer to hire him to produce *While You Were Out*. It was a bit of a dream come true.



ALSO OF INTEREST



Complicated Fun: The Birth of Minneapolis Punk and Indie Rock, 1974-1984—An Oral History
Cyn Collins

PAPERBACK, \$19.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-032-6

E-BOOK, \$12.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-033-3

First Avenue: Minnesota's Mainroom
Chris Riemenschneider

HARDCOVER, \$34.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-044-9

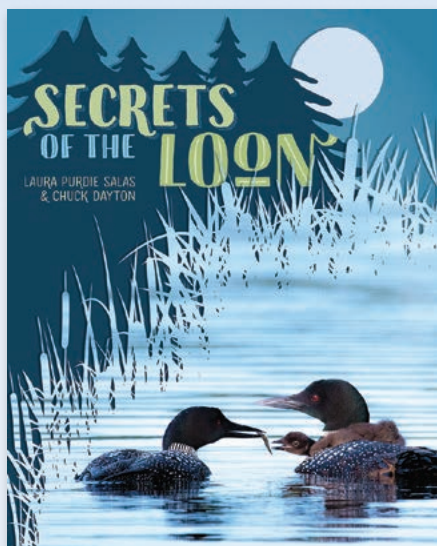
SECRETS OF THE LOON

**LAURA PURDIE SALAS
AND CHUCK DAYTON**

*Below white pines, at water's edge,
in guarded nest of mud and sedge,
squeezed inside an olive egg,
bill meets wing meets folded leg.*

With these few words, the scene is set for the hatching of Moon Loon. During her first summer with her parents and brother in the northland, Moon Loon has a lot to learn. Mom and Dad teach essential lessons, like how to catch and eat fish, how to avoid becoming a snack for snapping turtles, and what songs to sing and when. Moon Loon also discovers her secret skills, like how to float, how to dive, and—eventually—how to fly.

Laura Purdie Salas's poetic recounting of a loon's adventurous first summer celebrates the piney northern landscape and features the gradual development and occasional drama that fills Moon Loon's days. Supplementary back matter by Chuck Dayton highlights fascinating details of loon biology and ecology,



AVAILABLE MAY

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS, AGES 3-7,
32 PAGES, 8 × 10, FULLY ILLUSTRATED,
AUTHOR'S NOTE, BIBLIOGRAPHY
HARDCOVER, \$16.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-158-3

gleaned from expert sources as well as observation. Dayton spent five summers photographing loons from his kayak on a northern Minnesota lake, capturing key moments in the lives of these iconic birds.

Combining imaginative language and striking photography, *Secrets of the Loon* introduces readers to the sights, sounds, and survival strategies of Minnesota's state bird.

Vivid depictions in words and photos illuminate the mysterious world of loons, viewed through the lens of a chick learning how to survive—and thrive—in her first year.

Laura Purdie Salas has written more than 130 books for kids, including *Animal Babies and Their Families*; *Water Can Be . . .*; and *Snowman – Cold = Puddle: Spring Equations*. As an environmental lawyer, **Chuck Dayton** protected the landscapes and animals he now observes, camera in hand.



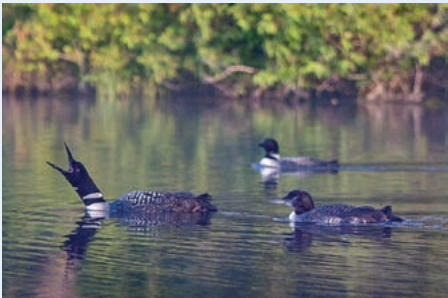
Summer wears sunshine or fog, soft and gray,
and skips by so quickly,
while Moon grows each day.

Lake wrinkles and twinkles below shimmering skies,
but danger flies over—
with sharp, hungry eyes.

Mother's wild call, its rise and its fall,
warns Moon of the eagle.
Can Moon Loon survive?

Her heavy bones whisper:
Moon Loon, you can DIVE!

Moon dives underwater.
She glides, fast and sleek,
escapes the bald eagle's talons and beak.



ALSO OF INTEREST



Hungry Coyote
Cheryl Blackford,
illustrated by Laurie Caple
HARDCOVER, \$16.95,
ISBN: 978-0-87351-964-9, AGES 3-7

North Woods Girl
Aimée Bissonette,
illustrated by Claudia McGehee
HARDCOVER, \$16.95,
ISBN: 978-0-87351-966-3, AGES 3-7

STARING DOWN THE TIGER

Stories of Hmong American Women

EDITED BY PA DER VANG

Captivating stories of the courage, resilience, and everyday brilliance of Hmong American women.

Tsov tom, or tigerbite—an insult in Hmong culture—means you were stupid enough to approach a tiger and get bitten. In this remarkable new book, Hmong American women reclaim that phrase, showing in prose and poetry that they are strong enough and brave enough to stare down the tiger.

Contributors celebrate the power of bonds between daughter and mother, sister and sister, and grandmother and granddaughter. Only after climbing a mountain in Nepal can Kia M. Lor finally understand her mother's life. Pa Xiong provides a recipe for squirrel stew, remembering in telling detail the gender roles that mark each step—and how her mother broke those rules. Kao Kalia Yang sketches the extraordinary everyday achievements of a Hmong leader, her older sister, Dawb. Contributors to this volume bring life and character to the challenges of maintaining identity,



AVAILABLE MARCH

HMONG STUDIES, 192 PAGES, 5½ × 8½,
6 B&W PHOTOS, READING GUIDE
PAPERBACK, \$17.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-150-7
E-BOOK, \$9.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-153-8

navigating changes in gender roles, transitioning to American culture, and breaking through cultural barriers.

These pieces were brought together through the work of Hnub Tshiab: Hmong Women Achieving Together, an organization founded in St. Paul to be a catalyst for lasting cultural, institutional, and social change to improve the lives of Hmong women.

Pa Der Vang, an associate professor of social work at St. Catherine University, researches Hmong Americans and the effects of acculturation. She is on the board of Hnub Tshiab: Hmong Women Achieving Together.

FROM THE BOOK . . .

From “Lub Ntuj Tshiab: Under a New Sky” by Kia M. Lor

I stand here imagining how I might share this epiphany with you when I return home. I picture you and me alone in the kitchen because that is the only place where we can have civil conversations. In the kitchen you were my teacher and I was your student. You would be boiling chicken for dinner, your spoon hitting the side of the pot as you stir salt and black pepper into the broth. I would be rinsing the jasmine rice twice, then putting it in the rice cooker and pressing it down to cook. Our backs would be turned toward each other. We have never been able to meet eye to eye, but we would be able to listen ear to ear. In the silence I would work up the courage to tell you that I was standing on the highest mountain range in the world, and it was the most beautiful view ever, and on that mountain peak it hit me that you’ve climbed a much higher mountain than that one. In fact, you’ve climbed many mountains higher than Everest; you’ve seen more of the world than I give you credit for. And I would apologize for blaming you for everything. I’d take back the excruciating words I’d thrown at you. . . . One by one I would take out those daggers and heal your wounds. . . . I would turn around and see you standing there smiling at me with your short gray hair and the forty-four-year-old wrinkles around your dark brown eyes. You would say to me that I was everything you wanted me to be and that you knew all along I was going to realize it on my own. We would be liberated from our haunting past.

Contributors:

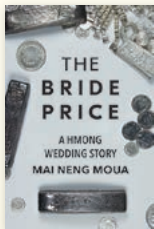
MayKao Y. Hang
Npaus Baim Her
Gaosong V. Heu
Linda Vang Kim
Dee Kong
BoNhia Lee
Duabhav BJ Lee

Tou SaiKo Lee
Kia M. Lor
Kia Moua
Mai Neng Moua
Mainhia Moua
Douachee Vang
Gao Vang

Maly Vang
Pa Der Vang
Talee Vang
MaiThao Xiong
Pa Xiong
Renee Ya
Boonmee Vang

Kao Kalia Yang
Lyncy Yang
Nou Yang
Song Yang

ALSO OF INTEREST



The Bride Price: A Hmong Wedding Story
Mai Neng Moua

PAPERBACK, \$16.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-036-4

E-BOOK, \$12.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-037-1

Hmong in Minnesota: The People of Minnesota
Chia Youyee Vang

PAPERBACK, \$13.95, ISBN: 978-0-87351-598-6

E-BOOK, \$9.99, ISBN: 978-0-87351-737-9

A WOMAN'S WAR, TOO

Women at Work
During World War II

VIRGINIA M. WRIGHT-PETERSON

Dramatic stories of women discovering their own potential in a time of national need, surprising themselves and others—and setting the roots of second-wave feminism.

World War II was a total war, devouring the military and civilian resources of nations. Women in Minnesota—like women across the country—made bold, unconventional, and important contributions to the effort. They enlisted in all branches of the military and worked for the military as civilians. They labored in factories, mines, and shipyards. They were also tireless peace activists, and they worked to relocate interned Japanese American citizens and European refugees. They served as cryptologists, journalists, pilots, riveters, factory workers, nurses, entertainers, and spies.

In 1938, before the United States joined the conflict, a Minnesota woman was covering the war in Europe as a reporter. Another was a military nurse at Pearl Harbor when the bombs fell. Minnesota women witnessed the fall of France, the defeat of Axis forces in North Africa and



AVAILABLE APRIL

WWII HISTORY/WOMEN'S STUDIES, 256 PAGES,
6 × 9, 45 B&W PHOTOS, NOTES, INDEX,
APPENDIXES, BIBLIOGRAPHY
PAPERBACK, \$19.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-151-4
E-BOOK, \$9.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-152-1

Italy, the Battle of the Bulge, D-Day and the invasion of Normandy, the liberation of France and of the concentration camp at Dachau, and the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

In this rich chronological account, Virginia M. Wright-Peterson reframes our understanding of the war through the specific and powerful stories of individual women. It was their war, too.

Virginia M. Wright-Peterson has taught writing for more than fifteen years and is on the administrative team at the University of Minnesota Rochester. She is the author of *Women of Mayo Clinic: The Founding Generation*.

FROM THE BOOK . . .

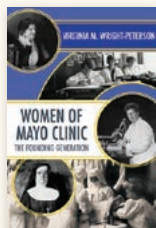
Cynthia was just the spy OSS needed to obtain the French codes that would help assure that Operation Torch in North Africa would be successful. In March 1942, Cynthia collaborated with Colonel Ellery C. Huntington Jr. of the OSS Security Branch. She had been nurturing an affair with Charles Brousse, a diplomat in the Vichy French embassy in Washington, DC, for nearly a year. She had initially met him under the false pretenses of being a reporter wishing to interview him. She flattered him and quickly seduced him.

Brousse had been a bombardier with the French air force during World War I and was the co-owner of a leading regional newspaper in France. In mid-April 1942 a pro-Nazi politician was made head of Vichy France, and Brousse saw his government become a puppet of Nazi Germany. He decided working with the Allies was the best way to save his country, so he began forwarding French embassy reports to Cynthia regularly. She approached Brousse directly about getting the code books. At first, he refused, thinking it was too dangerous. The consequences would be severe if they were caught.

Brousse eventually agreed to help, but he did not have access to the safes containing the code books. Cynthia proposed a plan. She suggested they pretend to meet for a romantic evening at the embassy after all of the other staff left. The night guard, knowing Brousse, would leave them alone. They would crack the safe, sneak the books out, and copy and return them before the morning staff arrived. They were nearly caught, but eventually succeeded. The code books were copied in a nearby apartment by other OSS agents taking photographs of them. The ciphers were immediately sent to London and used to assist General Eisenhower's command, ultimately leading to Operation Torch's success, an important turning point for the Allies in North Africa.



ALSO OF INTEREST

**Alice in France: The World War I Letters of Alice M. O'Brien**

Nancy O'Brien Wagner

PAPERBACK, \$17.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-026-5

E-BOOK, \$14.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-027-2**Women of Mayo Clinic: The Founding Generation**

Virginia M. Wright-Peterson

PAPERBACK, \$19.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-000-5

E-BOOK, \$14.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-001-2

Cities, like people, are always changing, and the history of that change is the city's biography. This new series illuminates the unique character of each city, weaving in the hidden stories of place, politics, and identity that continue to shape its residents' lives.

DULUTH

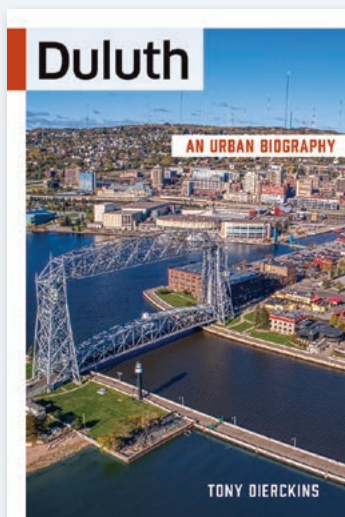
An Urban Biography

TONY DIERCKINS

Duluth, the beautiful city at the head of the world's largest freshwater lake, has gone from boom to bust to boom and back again.

In this richly textured urban biography, author Tony Dierckins highlights fascinating stories of the city: Its significance as the Ojibwe's sixth stopping place. The failed copper rush along Lake Superior's North Shore that started the city's growth. The natural port on the St. Louis River that made shipping its first and most important business. The legend of the digging of the ship canal. The unique aerial transfer bridge and its successor, the lift bridge. The city's remarkable park system. The 1920 lynching of three African American circus workers. The Glensheen murders. How Duluth has been dissed in popular culture. The evolution of the city's east-west divide. And throughout the years, the big lake and river have sustained Duluth's economy, shaped its residents' recreation, and attracted the tourists who marvel at the city's beauty and cultural life.

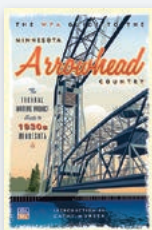
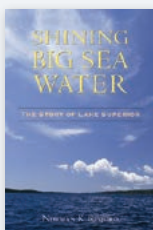
Tony Dierckins is the publisher of Zenith City Press (zenithcity.com) and the author of a dozen books about Duluth and western Lake Superior, including *Lost Duluth* and *Duluth's Historic Parks*.



AVAILABLE APRIL

MINNESOTA HISTORY, 192 PAGES, 6 × 9,
45 B&W PHOTOS, NOTES, INDEX
PAPERBACK, \$18.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-159-0
E-BOOK, \$9.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-160-6

ALSO OF INTEREST



Shining Big Sea Water: The Story of Lake Superior Norman K. Risjord

PAPERBACK, \$16.95, ISBN: 978-0-87351-590-0
E-BOOK, \$12.99, ISBN: 978-0-87351-751-5

WPA Guide to the Minnesota Arrowhead Country: The Federal Writers' Project Guide to 1930s Minnesota—Federal Writers' Project

Introduction by Cathy Wurzer
PAPERBACK, \$16.95, ISBN: 978-0-87351-634-1
E-BOOK, \$14.99, ISBN: 978-0-87351-709-6

MINNEAPOLIS

An Urban Biography

TOM WEBER

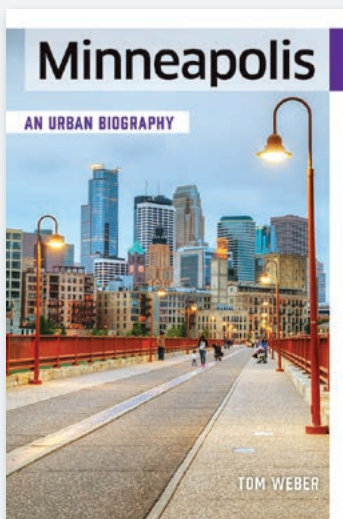
A concise history, featuring stories that are familiar, surprising, and sure to change the way you see the City of Lakes.

Minneapolis is Minneapolis because of the water—because of the Mississippi River, and St. Anthony Falls, and the beautiful lakes that dot the city's neighborhoods. Energized by the power of a magnificent waterfall, it became a major, even global, city.

In this succinct and thought-provoking book, Tom Weber provides a biography of the City of Lakes, starting with Bdote, the confluence of the Mississippi and the Minnesota River and a sacred place for Dakota people, who have lived here for millennia. Since the city's beginnings in the 1850s, Minneapolis has experienced continual collapses and rebuilding. Some collapses were real, as when the falls were nearly destroyed; some are metaphorical, as when corruption and the mob threatened to overtake the life of the city. Taking readers to specific places on the Mississippi, Weber highlights stories of immigrants, milling, the American Indian Movement, the KKK, the university, business innovators, the vibrant arts and music scene, powerful sports teams, and a wealth of other topics.

The serenity of Minneapolis's beautiful waters underlies the tumultuous, contentious striving that has built the city. This book tells the story of its residents, living their history in the balance.

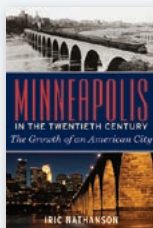
Tom Weber, an award-winning writer, journalist, and radio host, is the author of *100 Things to Do in the Twin Cities Before You Die*.



AVAILABLE APRIL

MINNESOTA HISTORY, 192 PAGES, 6 × 9,
45 B&W PHOTOS, NOTES, INDEX
PAPERBACK, \$18.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-161-3
E-BOOK, \$9.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-162-0

ALSO OF INTEREST



Downtown: Minneapolis in the 1970s
Photographs by Mike Evangelist,
Text by Andy Sturdevant
PAPERBACK, \$19.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-117-0

**Minneapolis in the Twentieth Century:
The Growth of an American City**
Iric Nathanson
PAPERBACK, \$17.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-071-5
E-BOOK, \$16.99, ISBN: 978-0-87351-805-5

CONFLUENCE

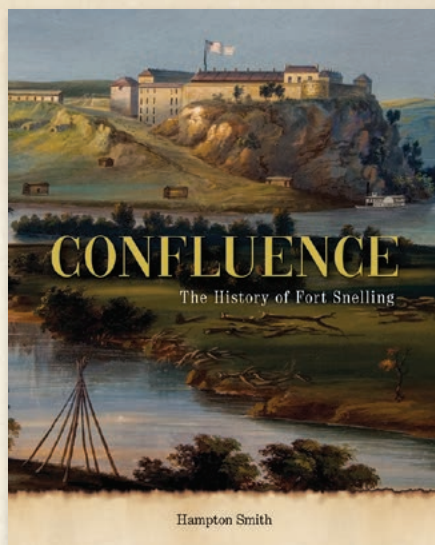
The History of Fort Snelling

HAMPTON SMITH

Compelling stories from behind and around the massive limestone walls of Minnesota's major historic site.

Fort Snelling, a foundational place in the story of Minnesota, was built two hundred years ago at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, an area known to the Dakota people as Bdote. For millennia, Bdote has been a vital and sacred place for the native peoples of the region. It is also the "birthplace of Minnesota," the site where citizens of the United States first lived in what would become the state. The fort's history encompasses the intersection of these peoples—and many others.

In this book, historian Hampton Smith delves into Fort Snelling's long and complicated story: its construction as an improbably enormous structure, the daily lives of its inhabitants and those who lived nearby, the shift in its function when a spectacular influx of speculators and land-hungry immigrants flooded the territory, its participation in wresting the land from the Dakota, its evolution as two cities grew up around it, and its roles in two world wars—up to the reinterpretation of the fort as Minnesotans mark its two-hundredth anniversary.



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Hampton Smith, a former reference librarian at the Minnesota Historical Society, is the editor of *Brother of Mine: The Civil War Letters of Thomas and William Christie*.

FROM THE BOOK . . .

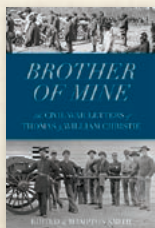
An important part of [Agent Thomas] Forsyth's role, and the primary purpose of his presence with the [1819] expedition, was to smooth their way with the Dakota. Though the government had made peace with some bands following the War of 1812, the Americans knew that the Dakota were unhappy with the Americans' failure to follow up on the promises Pike had made in 1805. A few days after departing from Prairie du Chien, the troops reached the village of chief Wabasha. . . .

The agent expounded at length the purpose of the soldiers and their good intentions. He explained the advantages for Wabasha and his people in having a fort located so strategically near them. There would be opportunities for trade, and the blacksmith located there could repair "any little thing" for them. He further assured them that the soldiers would protect them from their enemies anytime they visited the post, and the Dakota in turn must promise not to attack any visiting Ojibwe. He further assured Wabasha "that if their Great Father, the President, meant them any harm, he would not send a man of my years having so many grey hairs in his head as I have, to do anything but what is good." . . .

The expedition continued upstream, stopping at the villages of Red Wing and Little Crow along the way. Forsyth was particularly impressed by Little Crow, who had also been present at the council with Pike in 1805. "His independent manner I like," wrote the agent. "I made him a very handsome present, for which he was very thankful, and said it was more than he expected." This extra-generous gift may have been part of the long-delayed treaty payment.

On August 23, the troops reached the area of Bdote, and on the following day, after much scouting for a good location, they chose a spot down in the river valley, "immediately on the mouth of the St. Peter's River, on its right bank." This would be close to the later site of the American Fur Company post at Mendota. The soldiers were immediately put to work constructing winter quarters, which Colonel Leavenworth christened Cantonment New Hope. The name would soon prove ironic.

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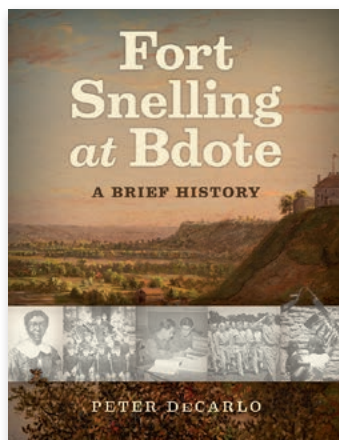
PETER DECARLO

For millennia, the place where the Minnesota River joins the Mississippi has been a crossroads, a place of strategic power. In the 1820s, the newly arriving US troops built Fort Snelling on the bluff above the rivers. That limestone fortress has stood for almost two hundred years as both an actor and a symbol in Minnesota's history.

But that symbolism is complicated. The fort is a powerful reminder that most Minnesotans today are descendants of immigrants, living on conquered land. Many Dakota people consider the area to be their sacred place of origin as well as a site of genocide. And, shockingly, some army officers at the fort held African Americans in slavery.

The site, a museum preserved and run by the Minnesota Historical Society, is undergoing a sweeping transformation to include not just the fort's military history but the stories of all Minnesotans. And this primer, *Fort Snelling at Bdote: A Brief History*, similarly provides an overview of the site's military significance as well as its import to native peoples, its role in the foundation of the state, and its meaning for Minnesota's diverse people. This new edition includes annotations to guide readers to further discoveries.

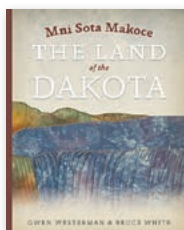
Peter DeCarlo works at the Minnesota Historical Society as a research historian. He holds an MA in American history, and his research interests include colonialism, borderlands, Native American studies, and public memory.



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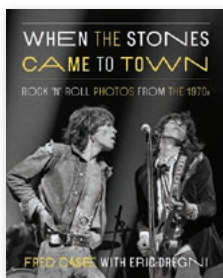
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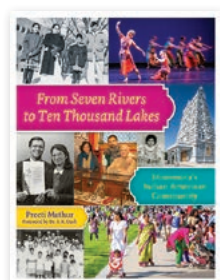


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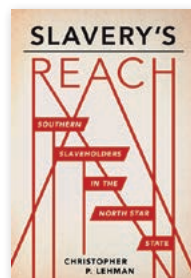


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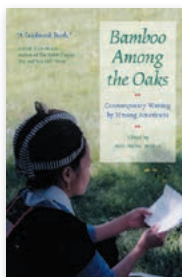
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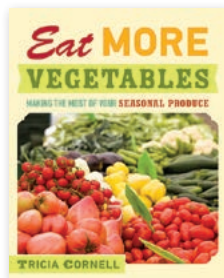
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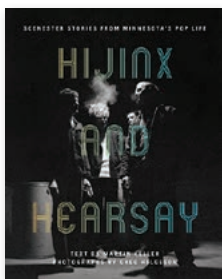


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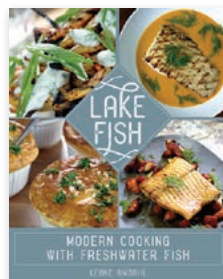


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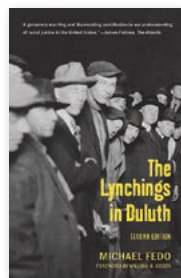
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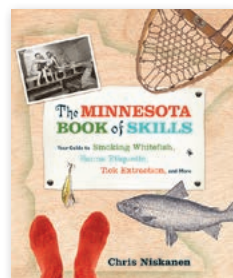
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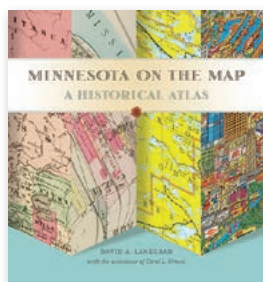
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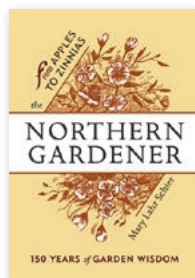
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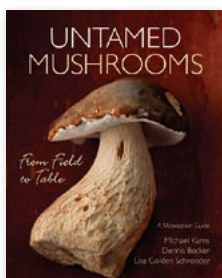


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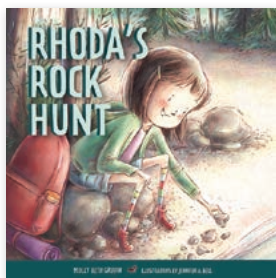
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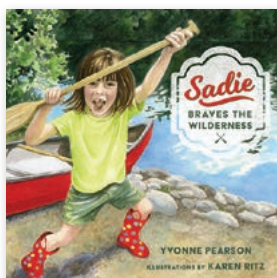
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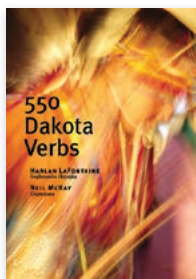
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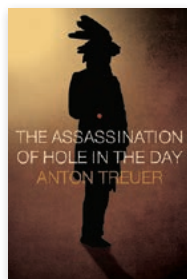
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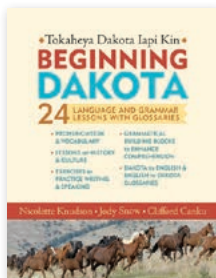


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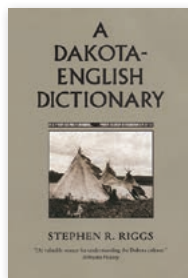
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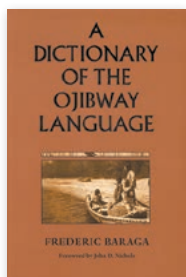
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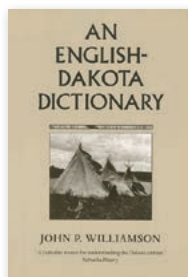


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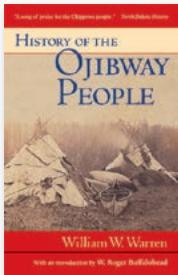
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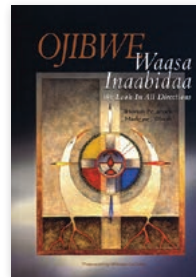
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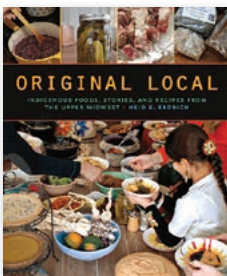


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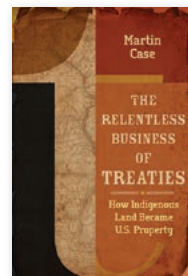


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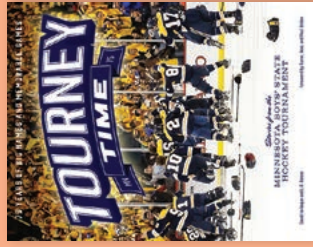
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