Minnesota Historical Society Press

NEW TITLES

Spring 2022
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.
Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis has been a much-loved place for a very long time. Native people visited the waterfall for millennia before 1855, when Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s *Song of Hiawatha* put its “laughing waters” into the American imagination. Tourists from cities in the East soon began arriving on new railroads to view its picturesque loveliness. And Minnehaha Regional Park is still a favorite place for walking, biking, and glorying in the sights and sounds of the famous waterfall.

But from the 1850s until the 1910s, Minnehaha Falls was a scene of surprising mayhem. The waterfall was privately owned through 1889, and entrepreneurs made money from hotels and concessions. Even after the area became a city park, shady operators set up at its borders and corrupt police ran “security.” Drinking, carousing, sideshows, dances that attracted unescorted women, and general rowdiness reigned—to the neighbors’ dismay. Social reformers began to redeem Minnehaha Park in the 1890s. During the struggle for control, the self-indulgent goings-on there became more public and harder to ignore.

Karen E. Cooper tells the astonishing stories of the time when Minneapolitans went to the falls to turn a profit and raise a ruckus.

Karen E. Cooper, photo historian and writer, has been collecting photographs and researching the history of Minnehaha Falls for more than twenty years.
The Park Board had a serious problem with park police sergeant John O’Brien, who lived in the park and supervised Minnehaha’s small police force. O’Brien had his own little graft operation going, which included shaking down couples who were canoodling in the bushes. Some of these people weren’t even in the park, but when O’Brien threatened to arrest them, they paid with cash, boxes of cigars, or whatever else they could convince him to take.

In 1905, the scandal broke. O’Brien had been having parties—involving women and kegs of beer—in the Stevens House. The other policemen on the Minnehaha Park police force then provided evidence of more crimes. O’Brien eventually faced a laundry list of charges: neglecting the animals in the zoo, shooting captive deer to eat at his keg party (which he dubbed the “Deer and Beer Party”), stealing fodder from the zoo for his cows, stealing building materials, allowing unlicensed vendors, firing employees who worked on the political campaigns of Park Board president Abraham Adams, and shaking down the public on threat of arrest. Even with this packed schedule, he also managed to be charged with sleeping on the job.
The lost history of Minneapolis’s Minnehaha Falls—featuring dance halls, secret saloons, wild behavior, lawsuits, and plenty of whiskey.

Augie’s Secrets: The Minneapolis Mob and the King of the Hennepin Strip
Neal Karlen
PAPERBACK, $18.95, ISBN: 978-0-87351-932-8
E-BOOK, $12.99, 978-0-87351-897-0

Dirty Doc Ames and the Scandal That Shook Minneapolis
Erik Rivenes
PAPERBACK, $17.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-092-0
ROCHESTER
An Urban Biography

VIRGINIA M. WRIGHT-PETERSON

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

Rochester, Minnesota’s third-largest city, is best known for its world-renowned medical facility, the Mayo Medical Center—yet its history and contemporary life are filled with countless other stories, people, and pivotal moments. Rochester has always been a crossroads. For centuries, Dakota and Ho-Chunk people have lived in this beautiful area around the Zumbro River. The town itself began in 1854 as a stagecoach stop for people traveling between St. Paul, Minnesota, and Dubuque, Iowa.

In this brief and engaging history, Virginia M. Wright-Peterson explores fascinating stories of the community: the area’s indigenous people; the importance of the region’s agriculture on the karst, driftless, prairie landscape; the persistent flooding of the Zumbro River; the hidden histories held in the unmarked graves of Potter’s Field; the cyclone of 1883 and the famous medical center it spawned; the growth and contraction of an important IBM design and manufacturing plant; the emergence of an increasingly diverse community; and Destination Medical Center, a twenty-year plan to develop the area as a global destination for health care—and the largest public-private economic initiative in Minnesota’s history.

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

Virginia M. Wright-Peterson is on the administrative team at the University of Minnesota Rochester. She is the author of Women of Mayo Clinic: The Founding Generation and A Woman’s War, Too: Women at Work During World War II.
ST. PAUL
An Urban Biography
Bill Lindeke
PAPERBACK, $18.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-200-9

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Tom Weber
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DULUTH
An Urban Biography
Tony Dierckins
PAPERBACK, $18.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-159-0
Whiteness in Plain View
A History of Racial Exclusion in Minnesota

Chad Montrie

Minnesota is a paradox. Widely seen as a progressive stronghold of the Midwest, the state also has some of the greatest racial disparities in the nation. Those disparities have their roots in Minnesota’s earliest days as a territory and in the decades that followed. From enslaved people brought to the territory by military officers to migrants traveling to the North Star State after the Civil War, African Americans have long been present in Minnesota’s history. Yet while many came here looking to establish new lives, they were often met with White resistance and attempts to exclude them. Efforts to maintain the supremacy of White interests over those of Black residents can be found in towns, cities, and suburbs throughout the state.

Whiteness in Plain View examines the ways White residents across Minnesota acted to intimidate, control, remove, and keep out African Americans over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Their methods ranged from anonymous threats, vandalism, and mob violence to restrictive housing covenants, realtor deceit, and mortgage discrimination, and they were aided by local, state, and federal government agencies as well as openly complicit public officials. What they did was not an anomaly or aberration, in some particular place or passing moment, but rather common and continuous. Chapter by chapter, the book shows that Minnesota’s overwhelming Whiteness is neither accidental nor incidental, and that racial exclusion’s legacy is very much woven into the state’s contemporary politics, economy, and culture.

Chad Montrie is a professor in the history department at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He is the author of four books, and his article “In That Very Northern City: Recovering a Forgotten Struggle for Racial Integration in Duluth” appeared in Minnesota History magazine.
When workers in Austin began organizing a union at the George A. Hormel plant in the early 1930s, there was not a single African American in the packinghouse, although John Winkels, an employee there, later claimed that the company briefly employed a group of Black men from out of town during the campaign. He was involved in chasing them away. “They hired forty of them and they put them in the plant all at one time,” he remembered, and the whole lot lived in “the jungles,” a wooded area just east of the packinghouse. “We told them after work, ‘You better get the hell out of town because you’re not going to come in here tomorrow.’” To make good on the threat, that night Winkels and other White workers armed themselves with clubs, went to the woods, broke up the cooking fires, and ran the African American workers out. “After that,” he said, “they didn’t come in no more because they knew [Hormel] couldn’t hire them.” Likewise, the remaining local Black residents also knew not to bother. “We had Frank,” Winkels recalled. “He was shining shoes in the barbershop and then afterwards he would bellhop for the bus, and everybody liked him.” But, he noted, Frank would “never go in the packinghouse because he knew we didn’t want him there.”

An examination of White Minnesotans’ efforts to exclude African Americans from local communities, jobs, and housing across the state and through the decades.

Slavery’s Reach: Southern Slaveholders in the North Star State
Christopher P. Lehman
PAPERBACK, $18.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-135-4

The Relentless Business of Treaties: How Indigenous Land Became US Property
Martin Case
PAPERBACK, $18.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-090-6
TALES FROM THE MINNESOTA SPORTS BEAT
A Lifetime on Deadline

PATRICK REUSSE WITH CHIP SCOGGINS
FOREWORD BY DAN BARREIRO

Minneapolis Star Tribune senior columnist Patrick Reusse is a fixture in Minnesota sports. Like his late colleague Sid Hartman, known by most as “Sid,” he is known by his legion of fans (and those who find him curmudgeonly) by one name: Reusse!

Reusse’s unique writing style and eye for human-interest angles has made him a master storyteller. Starting as a sportswriter in 1965 and still going strong in 2022, Reusse has covered every major sporting event and met scores of unforgettable characters during his long career in newspapers, radio, and television. He has collected a trove of stories along the way: from growing up in tiny Fulda as the son of an undertaker to landing a columnist gig at a big-city newspaper; from covering the Twins championship teams to handing out fictional turkeys every Thanksgiving; from Olympic triumphs and failures to countless major moments from Twin Cities sports teams. He shares his encounters with Minnesota sports icons—including hall of fame athletes like Alan Page, Kirby Puckett, Kevin Garnett, and Rod Carew and legendary coaches Herb Brooks, Bud Grant, Tom Kelly, and John Gagliardi, and many, many more.

Reusse has seen a lot in his more than half a century reporting on sports in Minnesota and around the country. With coauthor and fellow Star Tribune sports journalist Chip Scoggins, he brings together his favorite stories, characters, and memories in that distinctive Reusse voice.

Patrick Reusse has been a sportswriter since 1965 and has earned too many awards to mention. In 2019, he was inducted into the Minnesota Broadcasting Hall of Fame. Sports columnist Chip Scoggins joined the Star Tribune in 2000 and is a three-time Minnesota Sportswriter of the Year.
The baby boomers—and the next generation, too—were spoiled on a damn good first decade of baseball here in Minnesota. Just a few years after reaching the World Series in 1965, the Twins put together more powerhouse teams in 1969 and ’70, winning nearly 100 games both years. They just ran into a tough Baltimore Orioles squad in the playoffs.

The on-field successes built the team’s popularity, and the Twins led the American League in total attendance for the decade of the ’60s. They averaged 1.4 million fans per year. It was a great decade.

The following decade was not as flush. There was no “Cheap Calvin” Griffith in the ’60s; “Cheap Calvin” coincided with Rod Carew’s heyday in the ’70s. For that next generation of Twins fans, Carew is their man because he was the only thing they had. There are all kinds of 70-year-olds like me for whom Tony Oliva was our favorite player, and there are all kinds of 50-year-olds for whom Carew was their favorite player.

I take great pleasure in knowing that I’m one of the few guys who can needle Rodney. I told him after he recovered from his heart attack, “You and I are the same age. Too bad you didn’t take care of yourself like me.”

I called him Sir Rodney in print. He was one of a kind.

*Memories and stories from more than half a century of writing, reporting, and ranting by a Minnesota sportswriting legend.*
MASHKIKI ROAD

The Seven Grandfather Teachings

ELIZABETH S. BARRETT

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
JONATHAN THUNDER

Three young cousins explore the woods in search of medicines that heal and purify, also gathering advice from wise beings who offer life lessons cherished through generations.

“I’m running low on medicines,” says Grandma Mindy. At once, Lily, Ogimaa, and Ellie are ready to help. Together they will travel Mashkiki Road—the road where the medicines grow—in search of sage and cedar for Grandma.

Not too far into the woods they encounter Makwa (Bear), who introduces them to the Seven Grandfather Teachings. Makwa advises them to have courage to do what is right. Farther along the path they meet Sa’be (Bigfoot), who represents honesty, and Mashkode-Bizhiikii (Buffalo), who encourages respect. When the cousins reach a grove of sage plants, they know what to do. They put out tobacco, give thanks, and gather just the amount Grandma needs—no more, no less.

As they continue on Mashkiki Road, they meet Ma’iiingan (Wolf), Amik (Beaver), and Mikinaak (Turtle), who each offer their own lessons. At the cedar grove, the children put out tobacco, give thanks, and gather what they need. As they head home at last, Migizi (Eagle) glides by to assure them he has been watching over their journey. Migizi offers the seventh Grandfather Teaching: love.

Back at Grandma’s, Lily, Ogimaa, and Ellie have much treasure to share: cedar and sage from Mashkiki Road, and also tales of the wisdom they gained along the way.

Writer Elizabeth S. Barrett (Red Lake Ojibwe) is an English language arts teacher at Red Lake Secondary School. Jonathan Thunder (Red Lake Ojibwe) is an award-winning painter and digital media artist living in Duluth.
In the entrance of the clearing, they spotted a large, looming animal. “Buffalo!” Ellie cried, bouncing in excitement. She had never met a buffalo before. “Come on, let’s go see.” She pulled Lily and Ogimaa forward.

The great Buffalo bowed his head in greeting. “Boozhoo,” he said. “Are you here for the medicines?” He was surrounded by sage plants.

“Yes, we are,” Ogimaa said. He patted his bucket. “Remember to practice respect, especially when gathering medicines,” Buffalo said. “These are sacred plants. You should treat them with care.”

The three thanked him. “Miigwech!” Then they scattered into the clearing.

First, they put out tobacco. Then they gathered enough sage for Grandma Mindy. They were careful to snap the sage stems and leave the roots in the ground. That way, the plants would grow back.

They filled their bags halfway, leaving room for cedar.
New in Paperback

HARD WORK AND A GOOD DEAL

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Minnesota

BARBARA W. SOMMER

“The oral histories throughout Hard Work and a Good Deal add immeasurably to this readable, thorough contribution to Minnesota history. A generation of young men whose talents could so easily have been lost in the Great Depression describe their hard work as well as the day-to-day life in ccc camps. Well done!” —Victoria Ford, coauthor, The Civilian Conservation Corps in Nevada: From Boys to Men

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Foreword by Mahmoud El-Kati
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