

## The Haymakers: A Chronicle of Five Farm Families

By Steven R. Hoffbeck

(St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2000. 213 p. Cloth, \$24.95.)

**“HAY IS HUMBLE STUFF,”** Steven Hoffbeck writes in the prologue to this quiet and powerful book. Hoffbeck describes how five different farm families from five different generations, ethnic groups, and counties within Minnesota cut, dried, gathered, and stored their hay. Anyone interested in the ways work was accomplished in the past will find the book fascinating. Hoffbeck takes us from haymaking with scythe and pitchfork, to horse-drawn mowers and loading slings, to tractors and balers, and, finally, to choppers and “air-tight” silos. The book literally teaches a reader how to use a scythe or how to stack bales on a bale rack so that they won’t fall off.

Because Hoffbeck is so careful to describe how things were done, the book takes on another and deeper level. Haymaking has always been the essence of farming, and the subject draws the reader deeply into the familial and personal lives of the people Hoffbeck writes about. We learn, for instance, that on the Simon Marthaler farm in the 1880s, “Young Gilbert supplied the muscle power, turning the grindstone while his father held the sickle against it,” and that the Rongen children during the 1950s were told by their grandfather to play in the hay loft only where there was no hay stored. “How would you like to have your food stepped on?” the grandfather asks. Again and again Hoffbeck provides details that reveal the lives and characters of his people—how they thought and lived.

At perhaps the deepest level of all, the book is a history of technological change and its impacts on farming and farmers. But such changes are personal, close, intimate; the true marvel of the book is that Hoffbeck manages to show this intimacy with such power—yet he maintains a quiet, impartial, and professional tone. The most poignant and ironic chapter of the book is the final one, where he uses his own family to define the final advance in haymaking. His older brother, Larry, takes over the farm after their father dies in a combine accident and is convinced by salesmen to invest in a steel, air-tight silo

and put up haylage. Larry soon finds himself forced “to become an agribusiness man; that is, he had to raise capital and maintain a debt load.”

“It was a cruel irony,” Hoffbeck writes. “He ended up working harder than ever to pay for a laborsaving method of farming.” The core of the book, finally, is this tension between the sheer drudgery of farm work and farmers’ hopes that technology will relieve it—and the effects on the lives of people both when it does and when it doesn’t. When the Rongen family of Fertile, Minnesota, made the switch, only half-willingly, to a hay baler, technology betrayed them, too. A poorly designed knotting mechanism caused endless frustration, but by the time they realized the trouble, “Art [Rongen] had sold his team and owed on his new machinery, so there was no turning back to the horse-powered method of making hay.”

Larry Hoffbeck died in a freak accident involving the very machinery he impoverished himself and his family to buy in the hopes that it would free them from poverty and the constant work that the land required. Ultimately, his brother has ennobled his death by placing him within a long tradition of farmers who struggled with the very same dilemma. The pattern Steven Hoffbeck outlines in this history of a humble thing has repercussions that leave the reader thinking hard and deeply for a long time after finishing the book.

*Reviewed by Kent Meyers, author of New York Times notable books The River Warren and Light in the Crossing, as well as the essay collection Witness of Combines, which won the Friends of American Writers Award. Meyers grew up on a farm in Minnesota and currently teaches at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota.*

## Packinghouse Daughter—A Memoir

By Cheri Register

(St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2000. 288 p. Cloth, \$24.95.)

**PACKINGHOUSE DAUGHTER** brings readers into post-World War II Albert Lea and deftly connects the lives and experiences of ordinary workers to the large-scale transformations

in the nation's economic and political landscape of the late twentieth century. Register's starting point in writing this memoir, however, was her need to understand "how and why the values of a working-class upbringing refuse to fall away completely," long after she has left her hometown and taken up the middle-class occupations of writing and teaching.

Register links her powerful sense of class identity to the histories of her paternal and maternal forebears, to the history of her hometown, and to the history of the meatpacking industry that dominated it for much of a century. Class identity, for Register, is also about work, and she associates her own pride in her work and rigorous work habits with what she learned from her parents—though her mother remains largely in the shadows through much of the memoir.

Register writes vividly of the work that defined Albert Lea's working class. Her descriptions of the jobs of the skimmers, "gutsnatchers," and others in the plant reveal to readers the bloody reality that packinghouse workers take for granted. In narrating her father's work history, his pride in a job well done, and the injuries that are another given of packinghouse life, she shows readers the crucible within which her family's values regarding work were born and solidified. Interlaced throughout is the union, recognizing and fighting for the dignity of packinghouse workers' lives and work and winning—for a time—one of their most prized treasures: job security.

At the center of the memoir lies the 109-day strike at the Wilson packing plant in 1959 that brought to the surface the deep class divisions woven through the social fabric of Albert Lea. For the 14-year-old daughter of a packinghouse worker, the strike was "a classical loss-of-innocence, a jarring into consciousness of right and wrong." Register pieces together a gripping narrative of personal risk and loss, corporate greed and intransigence, and union persistence and dedication to workers' well being, but her account also compares her memories with the documentary record. The strike did not quite develop as her memories had recorded it; nonetheless, her archival research affirmed the conclusions she drew from that strike as a passionate teenager. Though intending to "suspend disbelief" as she sifted through the documents, she completed her research understanding far more clearly why she had come away from the strike with "a couple of gut-level convictions, born of instinct, it seemed, and appropriate to a true-believing teenager."

Register's memoir draws its strength from its rootedness in the physical, economic, political, and social geography of Albert Lea. We learn not only about its socioeconomic layout but also about the rich farmland that surrounds it, the back-room deal that kept the Wilson packing plant outside the city limits for almost 50 years, and the recent Wal-Mart—both symptom and cause of the disappearance of the hometown that has always stayed with Register. Yet *Packinghouse Daughter* is as much about

all stable blue-collar communities made up of workers with "a strong, focused union to defend their interests" that have been lost to local and global economic and political realignments. This memoir demonstrates why, as Register writes in her introduction, "The nation is spiritually poorer for [this loss] and many of its hard-working citizens materially poorer."

In focusing on this town of 14,000, long in the shadow of its more prominent packing-town sister, Austin, Register suggests new ways of bringing to life the history of communities in "Greater Minnesota." Like Albert Lea, many of these cities were once thriving industrial centers with unionized workers and a proud working-class life. Retrieving the memories and legends that remain of those working-class communities and resituating them within the larger histories of lumbering, mining, and food processing can enrich the study of Minnesota's past and, at the same time, link it to national developments and transformations. *Packinghouse Daughter* very movingly demonstrates how the personal and the local are very much political and national—and even global.

*Reviewed by Colette A. Hyman, who teaches history and women's studies at Winona State University. She is currently at work on the history of Winona as seen through the eyes of women.*

## A Man's Reach

*By Elmer L. Andersen; edited by Lori Sturdevant*  
(Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000. 434 p. Cloth, \$29.95.)

*A MAN'S REACH* is a surprisingly light and lively read for a political autobiography, a genre often characterized by ponderous prose and self-justifying airs. Andersen and his skillful editor Sturdevant have produced a book that refreshes the spirit by reminding us of the possibilities of a life devoted to the service of others.

The book is organized into four chronological sections covering Andersen's childhood, his assumption of business, political, and family responsibilities, his term as governor of Minnesota, and his challenges and experiences as a businessman and involved citizen. These sections are bound together by a unifying theme, unobtrusively reiterated: persistence in the service of a good cause never fails to bring results.

Perseverance in the face of adversity is an Andersen trait perhaps explained by an unusually challenging childhood. Born in 1909 in humble circumstances, by age 15 he had been abandoned by his father, stricken with polio, and stunned by the death of his beloved mother. In recounting these tragedies, Andersen is able to find positive outcomes. After contracting polio, for example, he found it difficult to enunciate words that began with

particular letters. He worked to overcome this problem by taking a speech class, which he suggests made him a more effective public speaker. He concludes, "Polio was not a deterrent in my life. It might have given my life more vigor, by convincing me that whatever happened could be overcome."

Minnesota politics in the midtwentieth century was cast with a diverse set of actors who left their mark on the national stage. Andersen's impressions of some of these individuals are often surprising. Harold Stassen, whose perennial presidential campaigns won him more derision than votes, was in Andersen's eyes "by far the ablest Minnesota governor, the one who had the greatest accomplishment in total." Stassen could be ruthless, and Andersen speculates that such is usually the case with people who assume great responsibilities. Stassen's toughness was used for the good of the public, notes Andersen, that "never saw him do one single thing for personal profit or gain."

If Andersen's recollection of Harold Stassen surprises some readers, his discussion of Hubert Humphrey may be even more startling. By this point in the book, it is clear that Andersen is not a man who bears partisan grudges, so one reads with respect his view that Humphrey had a chameleon-like tendency speak on all sides of an issue, had a weak personal character, and was rather ineffective as a political leader. ("If you look around Minnesota," Andersen reflects, "there are not many things that you can point to and say, 'that wouldn't be there if it hadn't been for Humphrey.'") Humphrey's most significant shortcoming, Anderson suggests, was "a terrible lust for personal advancement and power." Andersen notes that he and Humphrey had a friendly relationship in later years and candidly admits that he had particular reason for disliking the man who, he believes, was the architect of Andersen's reelection defeat in the 1962 gubernatorial race.

In the aftermath of the seemingly interminable battles over the 2000 presidential election, Andersen's two chapters on his bid for a second term as Minnesota's governor are especially interesting. Andersen endured a particularly unpleasant smear campaign from his opponents—led by Humphrey—who charged that the governor had rushed the construction of Interstate 35 in an effort to have a dedication ceremony on the Thursday before the election. The hurried construction, his critics charged, resulted in faulty work. The negative publicity of this false charge contributed to a cliffhanger election and ballot recount that lasted an agonizing four-and-a-half months. In the end, Andersen refused to challenge a ruling by a three-judge panel that gave the victory to his opponent, Karl F. Rolvaag. "The state had already endured four and a half months of uncertainty in state government. I could not ask Minnesotans to wait any longer for the final results."

Andersen's decision reflected the same taste and disinterest that have guided him throughout his life. This delightful memoir will rejuvenate the faith of all who

believe in the value of honesty and the power of perseverance harnessed to a noble cause.

*Reviewed by Alec Kirby, Ph.D., an assistant professor of history and government at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. His article on Stassen and the politics of presidential nominations appeared in the Winter 1996–97 issue of Minnesota History.*

## Debt and Dispossession: Farm Loss in America's Heartland

By Kathryn Marie Dudley

(Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000. 195 p. Cloth, \$22.50.)

**KATHRYN DUDLEY** has carefully blended her compassion for farmers caught in the crisis of the 1980s with an analysis of public and private lending policies. Her intent is to examine the culture of farm communities and of farming as a way of life in the spotlight of whiplash-fast changes in land values, commodity prices, and policies that forced some farmers out of business and revealed great rifts in the moral economy of farm communities.

The crisis of the 1980s challenged the farm community and its culture. The crisis evolved from several sources. During the 1970s farmers were encouraged to increase production. Inflation and exports of grain to the Soviet Union raised commodity prices and land values. Loans were contracted on the basis of these inflated values, and lenders encouraged farmers to borrow money to buy new equipment, build or improve barns, and remodel their homes. Government farm agencies, private-sector bankers, and insurance companies promoted borrowing without restraint. Farmers who wanted to sell out or reduce their debt load had a hard time finding someone who could help them work out their plans. Then, when the Carter administration imposed the grain embargo in 1980, commodity prices fell. Over the next four years land values plummeted, and lenders began to declare loans made on inflated land values "bad." Farmers faced sudden recall of their loans and, unable to make the payments, were forced into foreclosure or into mortgaging more equipment and land. The fickleness of government farm policies affected both those who borrowed from the public sector and those who borrowed from private lenders but, more to Dudley's point, the crisis revealed deep class and social divisions within the farm community.

One of the divisions in the unnamed western Minnesota county that Dudley studied was between those who borrowed from the federal agencies and were considered by their neighbors to be "poor managers" or dependent on government "handouts," and those who borrowed from private lenders or who had avoided borrowing extensively during the 1970s. This division was deepened by the

protests of farm activists, who were labeled “outside agitators” in “Star Prairie,” a town pseudonym. Little sympathy was directed toward those whose government loans were foreclosed.

The social divisions were perhaps less visible at first. Farm men and women were expected to maintain a public display of fiscal and emotional competence even when their financial situation, family relationships, and emotional health were stressed to the breaking point. But when the facade failed, farmers committed suicide, ran away, or attacked bankers and farm agents. Farmers did not offer support to neighbors who faced loss and foreclosure, the author finds, out of fear of their own failures or in order to allow the others to maintain some public dignity. Star Prairie had to come to terms with itself in the light of a new reality: “Competition, greed, a whole series of things seem to ball up together and provide us with a nasty attitude toward the guy next to us.”

Dudley makes clear that the losses were not simply material, but personal and communal. Star Prairie was changed by the crisis. The loss of farms and farm families was heightened by the knowledge that the competitive nature of farming in a capitalist economy prohibits the formation of a society that embraces all farmers.

This slim volume holds a great deal of passion and common sense. Dudley writes beautifully and clearly about the farm crisis and its effect on the community of Star Prairie. However, she leaves the readers asking for further exploration of farming as a career and why it is so hard to give up. She just barely touches on the personal importance of productive work that emerges from the voices of the farmers she interviewed, and she neglects to explore the implications of gender roles for men and women on Star Prairie farms. These complaints suggest the need for a second volume, not weaknesses in this balanced account of a community in crisis.

*Reviewed by Barbara Handy-Marchello, who is associate professor and chair of the University of North Dakota-Grand Forks history department, where she conducts research on women and agricultural society on the northern plains.*

## Lost Minnesota: Stories of Vanished Places

By Jack El-Hai

(Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000. 203 p. Paper, \$19.95.)

A CHRISTMAS TREE, an outhouse, and the fuselage of a B-29 bomber join such well-known lost landmarks as the second Minnesota state capitol building, the Metropolitan Building (Minneapolis’s venerable granite pile), and Winona’s Prairie School masterwork, Rockledge, in *Lost Minnesota: Stories of Vanished Places*. This compact book

presents historic photographs and short (four-to-ten-paragraph) descriptions of these and 83 other Minnesota places that are no more.

Minneapolis writer Jack El-Hai has contributed the “Lost Minnesota” column to *Architecture Minnesota* for the past 10 years, and many of the Twin Cities buildings and structures featured in this book were also featured in those columns. To add geographic diversity, El-Hai used records in the State Historic Preservation Office to find buildings outside the Twin Cities that have been removed from the National Register of Historic Places. He selected buildings that reflected the “richness of commercial, agricultural, and social activities” of Minnesota’s inhabitants.

“Stories” is the key word to describe El-Hai’s approach. In the book’s introduction, he explains that though his magazine-column audience consists of architects, his focus has shifted from architectural history to the stories of the people who built and used the buildings. Based in historical research, the descriptions in *Lost Minnesota* are written in a footnote-free journalistic style aimed at “readers who seek inspiration—as well as entertainment and edification—from the past.”

El-Hai’s aim is to unearth stories that reflect the “diversity of human activities,” and he succeeds in telling an array of often quirky tales: Abraham Lincoln’s funeral railroad car meets a fiery end in Columbia Heights, an overflowing cauldron of candy causes the demise of most of St. Paul’s public library collection in 1915, and a hotel in Glencoe evolves from housing travelers to bedding chickens. The stories of the lost National Register properties located outside the Twin Cities tend to be more prosaic tales of neglect, natural disaster, and demolition of mills, farmhouses, railroad buildings, and county courthouses.

While *Lost Minnesota* is the first book to cover buildings from all regions of the state, it cannot be characterized as a statewide version of the acclaimed *Lost Twin Cities* by Larry Millett (MHS Press, 1992). Neither book claims to inventory all lost buildings under its purview, but Millett’s book offers a narrative of Minneapolis and St. Paul’s geographic, social, and architectural history, providing a context for individual building descriptions. Other than a brief introduction and note on sources, *Lost Minnesota* consists solely of discrete descriptions of individual properties. El-Hai hopes the stories of some of Minnesota’s lost places will cause readers to consider more thoughtfully the buildings and landscapes that are still here. He has succeeded in that aim.

*Reviewed by Laura Weber, whose article “Wins and Losses: The National Register of Historic Places in Minnesota” (Minnesota History, Fall 1997) won the David Gebhard Award from the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians in 2000. She is an independent scholar living in Minneapolis.*



“UNION IN THE NORTH WOODS: The Timber Strikes of 1937” (*Minnesota History*, Spring 1999) has received the national Forest History Society’s annual Theodore C. Blegen Award for the best article in forest and conservation history published in 1999. The article’s author, Stacy Mitchell, is a researcher at the Institute for Local Self-Reliance in Minneapolis. The award, which will be made in Durham, North Carolina, later this year, carries a cash prize, plaque, and recognition for the publishing journal.

ARRESTING PHOTOGRAPHS of people and places capture the essence of Minnesota at the turn of the millennium in *Minnesota in Our Time: A Photographic Portrait* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2000, 182 p., cloth, \$45.00, paper, \$27.50). This book, edited by George Slade and including an interpretive essay co-authored with art historian Rob Silberman, presents a sampling of the work of 12 photographers chosen by the Minnesota 2000 Photo Documentation Project: Joe Allen, Tom Arndt, Stephen Dahl, Chris Faust, George Byron Griffiths, Terry Gydesen, David Heberlein, Wing Young Huie, Mark Jensen, Peter Latner, David Parker, and Keri Pickett. Each selected a broad theme, such as teenagers, urban Indians, small-town diversity, or Main Street, and fanned out across the state to document lives and landscapes. *Minnesota in Our Time* is one result of the project; a photo exhibition, curated by project director Bonnie G. Wilson at the Minnesota Historical Society in 2000, and 360 archival prints added to the MHS collection are other legacies of the project.

SPAM’n’Banana Fritters, anyone? Hormel’s infamous product takes center stage in Carolyn Wyman’s *Spam, A Biography: The Amazing True Story of*

*America’s “Miracle Meat”* (San Diego: Harcourt, Brace, and Co., 1999, 135 p., paper, \$15.00). Heavily illustrated and leaning just as heavily on pop culture, this irreverent book covers the genesis of the product, its use in wartime, its production and marketing, its fans and foes. Recipes, celebrity plugs, and chapters on “SPAM Around the Globe” and “CyberSPAM” tell all one might want to know—but was afraid to ask—about this native Minnesota product.

NEW in the Rural and Regional Essays series of the Society for the Study of Local and Regional History (and the History Center, Southwest State University, Marshall, Minnesota) is Alan R. Woolworth’s 54-page chapbook, *The Genesis and Construction of the Winona and St. Peter Railroad, 1858–1873*. This slender volume provides a detailed and interesting look at a carrier that was “not a great transcontinental railroad; instead, it was a typical under-financed, struggling land-grant enterprise that went from one crisis to another during its early years.” In the end, however, it opened up large tracts in western Minnesota and eastern Dakota Territory to settlement and became a conduit for goods and services in the countryside. This well-researched, handsomely illustrated booklet is available for \$3.00 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling from the Society, P.O. Box 291, Marshall 56258.

SCHOOLS, churches, businesses, and, above all, people fill the pages of Genny Zak Kieley’s *Pride and Tradition: More Memories of Northeast Minneapolis* (Minneapolis: Nodin Press, 2000, 288 p., paper, \$19.95). As she did in *Heart and Hard Work*, her first book on this subject, Kiely has gathered photographs and memories from the diverse group of people who have called “Northeast”

home over the years—including Lebanese, Irish, French, Polish, and Norwegian immigrants. The resulting book has the warm, nostalgic feel of a family album, one that insiders and outsiders alike will enjoy perusing.

USING LETTERS, diaries, and public records from the Minnesota Historical Society and the Bentley Library in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Bonnie Beatson Palmquist has created a book of poetry that transports readers into the lives of people in other times and circumstances. *Voices of Minnesota History, 1836–1946* copies, sometimes rearranges, and blends snippets of historical writing with Palmquist’s own words. The result is an evocative collection of voices and an interesting, nontraditional foray into understanding history. The 152-page paperback, published in 2000, is available from Galde Press, P.O. Box 460, Lakeville MN 55044 for \$12.95 plus \$4.00 shipping.

IN *Seven Sons: Millionaires and Vagabonds*, Theodore A. Webb details the careers of a remarkable set of siblings, the Washburn brothers of Livermore, Maine. Readers of *Minnesota History* will, perhaps, be most interested in the three with direct ties to the state: Cadwallader C., Minneapolis milling magnate, among other achievements, and the first brother to become a millionaire; William D., who made his millions in lumber, flour milling, and railroads and, like Cadwallader, attained elective office; and the lesser-known Samuel, a former lieutenant in the Union navy, who owned a lumber business and served as mayor of Owatonna. The 392-page book contains a bibliography and endnotes but, unfortunately, no index. Published in 1999, the \$35.25 book is available from Trafford Publishing: [www.trafford.com/robots/99-0024.html](http://www.trafford.com/robots/99-0024.html).

**THE NORTH COUNTRY READER:** *Classic Stories by Minnesota Writers* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2000, 450 p., paper, \$19.95) edited by Jean Ervin features an array of classic and contemporary voices—native Minnesotans and immigrants, farmers and city folks, the sweet and the bitter-sweet. First published in 1979, the anthology includes excerpts from novels, short stories, essays, and memoirs by writers ranging from Carol Bly, Patricia Hampl, Mabel Seeley, and Meridel LeSueur to Sinclair Lewis, Gordon Parks, Jon Hassler, Garrison Keillor, and Paul Gruchow.

**SEEDS ON GOOD GROUND:** *Biographies of 16 Pioneer Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet* (St. Paul: the Sisters, St. Paul Province, 2000, 372 p., paper, \$16.95 plus \$4.00 postage and handling) by Sister Ann Thomasine Sampson, CSJ, examines the eventful lives and works of the women who began to arrive in Minnesota in 1851 to teach immigrants and Indian children and provide health care during a cholera epidemic. Eventually the Sisters opened more than 100 institutions for education and health care in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The book includes oral-history excerpts and a list of all who served in the order in Minnesota to the present time. It is available from the author at Bethany Convent, 1870 Randolph Ave., St. Paul 55105.

A new pictorial history, *The Basilica of Saint Mary: Voices from a Landmark*, by Peg Guilfoyle documents the community history of the nation's first basilica. The handsome 134-page book with many well-reproduced photographs takes a look at the Minneapolis landmark's long history as the home of a large and diverse parish, a public space of beauty, and a leader in civic affairs. The book, published in 2000, is available at the Basilica and some local bookstores for \$19.95.

THE SEA PEOPLE of Michigan are the focus of *Mystery People of the Cove: A History of the Lake Superior Ouinipegou* (L'Anse, MI: the author, 1999, 214 p., cloth, \$27.95). Examining intriguing archaeological evidence found on Sand Point in Keweenaw Bay and early travelers' accounts, Ronald Stiebe weaves a

fascinating account of the mysterious people who influenced early French explorer Jean Nicolle's impressions of the region known as Copper Country.

The history of another Great Lakes community is recounted in a second edition of Hamilton Nelson Ross's *La Pointe: Village Outpost on Madeline Island* (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 2000, 200 p., \$14.95). Vacationers who visit the Apostle Islands tourism village will enjoy the fond insider's account of the original fur-post community. Originally published in 1960, the book has been reissued with a new foreword by Thomas Vennum Jr.

AN OVERVIEW OF ethnic history is available in Don H. Tolzmann's *The German-American Experience* (Amherst, NY: Humanity Books, 2000, 466 p., cloth, \$69.95, paper, \$24.95). The book covers the earliest seventeenth-century German settlements in the United States, immigration and settlement patterns, involvement in the American Revolution and the Civil War, the twentieth-century experience of wartime anti-German sentiment, and the recent decades' revival of interest in German heritage. Concluding chapters summarize German influences on American culture.

**THE SANDSTONE ARCHITECTURE** of the Lake Superior Region by Kathryn Bishop Eckert (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2000, 328 p., cloth, \$39.95) presents a fascinating survey of distinctive and substantial buildings erected in the locally prosperous years 1870–1910. Reddish-brown Jacobsville-formation and Bayfield-group sandstone—colorful, carvable, durable, and fireproof—was easily extracted in large blocks and cheaply shipped by water, making it an economical material for architects and builders. The result was the city halls, county courthouses, churches, schools, libraries, banks, commercial blocks, and houses that give the region a unique and enduring built environment. Detailed appendixes identify significant quarry companies and their stockholders; sandstone-building dates and locations in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota (including many in Duluth and the Twin Cities);

and locally quarried sandstone buildings in other states and countries.

A READABLE REFERENCE titled *Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its History, Principles, and Practice* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2000, 254 p., \$25.00) offers a one-volume overview with chapters on the preservation movement in the U.S., historic districts and ordinances, preservation's legal basis, documentation, architectural styles, contextualism (designing new buildings compatible with historic buildings), preservation technology, the role of preservation in downtown planning, and the economic benefits and burdens of preservation. This attractive book is recommended for readers seeking a crash course in historic preservation and its ongoing issues.

A NEW, consolidated microfilm resource for those researching the territorial period of Minnesota history has been produced by the Minnesota Historical Society's Division of Library and Archives. *Minnesota Territorial Census Schedules, 1849–1855* reproduces on one roll of microfilm the extant manuscript and published versions of the territorial censuses of 1849, 1853, and 1855, and the federal census of 1850. This microfilm edition also contains administrative orders and documents relating to the taking of the various censuses. Multiple versions of the 1849 and 1850 censuses have been filmed because of differences among them, especially in the spelling of names.

While most of these censuses contain lists of inhabitants of all—or parts—of Minnesota Territory, the 1850 schedules also include mortality, products of agriculture and industry, and social-statistics schedules. The census for 1853 includes only Dakota County and the village of Stillwater; 1855 includes only Chisago, Doty, Superior, and Wright Counties and "Winona Prairie and Town Proper." A 15-page inventory describes each records unit on the film and provides additional background information. Produced in 2000, this microfilm roll can be used in the Hubbs Microforms Room at the History Center and is available for purchase through the MHS Library's Copy Center (\$30.00



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GRANTS of up to \$2,000 are available from the James J. Hill Library to support research in the James J. Hill, Louis W. Hill, and Reed/Hyde papers. These papers are an extensive and rich source for studies of transportation, politics, finance, Native American relations, philanthropy, art collecting, urbanization, immigration, and economic development in the Upper Midwest, Pacific Northwest, and western Canada. They also document social and cultural activities and family life from the Gilded Age through World War II. The deadline for applications is November 1, 2001. For more information, contact W. Thomas White, curator, James J. Hill Library, 80 W. Fourth Street, St. Paul 55102; 651-265-5441; [twhite@jjhill.org](mailto:twhite@jjhill.org).

STOPS AND STARTS, vivid personalities, and swirling politics are all part of the story Elinor Barr tells in *Thunder Bay to Gunflint: The Port Arthur, Duluth & Western Railway* (Thunder Bay: Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society, 1999, 143 p., paper, \$24.95 plus \$2.75 postage and handling). Beginning in the 1880s with hopes of becoming a thriving international railway, the PAD&W eventually became “an insignificant branch line of the

transcontinental Canadian Northern Railway.” In its heyday, however, the rail line, which connected Port Arthur on Thunder Bay, Ontario, with the Paulson Iron Mine in Minnesota, was seen as a monumental local achievement. This detailed, handsomely produced work of Canadian railroad history resonates across the international boundary.

FANS OF FOOTBALL, from high-school leagues to the pros, will find something of interest (and, most likely, something they didn’t already know) in Ross Bernstein’s *Pigskin Pride: Celebrating a Century of Minnesota Football* (Minneapolis: Nodin Press, 2000, 192 p., cloth, \$24.95). Statistics and stories, profiles of the greats, and photos of little-known players, such as the women of Gustavus Adolphus College in the 1920s, cram this large-format book, which also features a forward by Paul Giel and an afterword by John Randle.

A HANDY TOOL for researchers is now available: the newly issued *North Dakota History, Journal of the Northern Plains, Cumulative Index, 1945–1998*, compiled by Janet Daley and Ann M. Rathke (Bismarck: State Historical Society of North Dakota, 2000, 105 p., paper, \$16.95 plus \$2.50 postage and handling and \$1.00 for each additional copy). A CD-ROM accompanies the volume for easier searching of the index’s more than 7,000 entries.

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The Haymakers is an epic—the history of man's struggle with nature as well as man's struggle against machines. It relates the story of farmers and their obligations to their families, to the animals they fed, and to the land they tended. But The Haymakers is also an elegy—to a way of life fast disappearing from our landscape. In the most heartfelt essays, Hoffbeck chronicles his own family's struggle to hold onto their family farm and his personal struggle in deciding to leave farming for another way of life. Hoffbeck also seeks to document and preserve the commonplace methods of

Find many great new & used options and get the best deals for The Haymakers : A Chronicle of Five Farm Families by Steven R. Hoffbeck (2000, Hardcover) at the best online prices at eBay! Free shipping for many products! This title traces the role of haymaking in the lives of five farm families from the mid 19th century to 2000, as a tribute to those who died and those who endured. Product Identifiers. Publisher. As a daughter of a dairy farmer in New York State In the 1940's to the 1980's, I so related to the characters and stories in this book. The enormous amount of labor, dependence upon the weather and the reliance upon family members and the farming community was so authentic to me. I bought copies of this book for my 2 brothers and my 3 children to remind them of our farming life and how this experience has impacted us. Read more. He not only shares intimate details of his family's lives, we also see the history through the eyes of other farm families. So that we feel the evolution from early settlers, to those who still make a living in farming today. Some of the information was too technical for me, but that's okay, the info belonged in this beautiful book. Read more. The Haymakers is an epic—the history of man's struggle with nature as well as man's struggle against machines. It relates the story of farmers and their obligations to their families, to the animals they fed, and to the land they tended. But The Haymakers is also an elegy—to a way of life fast disappearing from our landscape. In the most heartfelt essays, Hoffbeck chronicles his own family's struggle to hold onto their family farm and his personal struggle in deciding to leave farming for another way of life. Hoffbeck also seeks to document and preserve the commonplace methods of