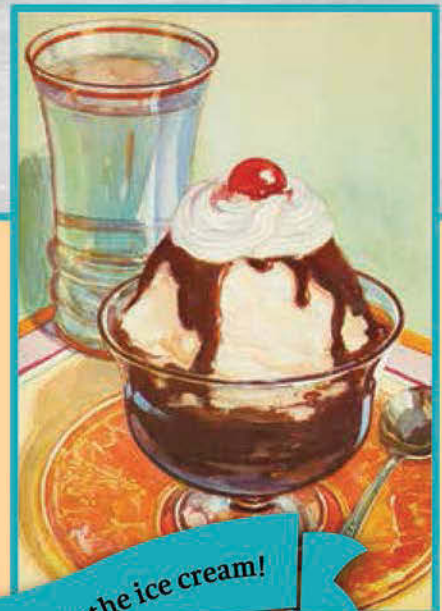




*How It Started; How It's Going*

## **Land O'Lakes Celebrates Ten Decades of Innovation**

KAREN MELLOTT-FOSHIER, PAGE 1



**Don't forget the ice cream!**

## By the Numbers . . .

Does Minnesota “do dairy?” You bet it does! Dairy farmers and related agribusinesses across the state are some of the nation’s leading producers of butter, milk, cheese, and other dairy products. Check out the numbers below:

Fourth in total value of manufactured dairy products:  
**\$5 billion annually**

Sixth in cheese production:  
**657 million pounds annually**

Seventh largest dairy herd:  
**460,000 dairy cows**

Eighth in milk production:  
**9.5 billion pounds annually**

Eighth in dairy product exports:  
**\$190 million annually**

Eighth in employment in dairy product manufacturing:  
**5,500 people**

Number of major dairy product companies and brands:  
**5\***

\*Dairy Queen, General Mills, Kraft Heinz, Land O’Lakes, and Schwan’s.

One dairy company (a co-op actually) has been buttering our bread and putting milk (and ice cream!) and other products on our tables for over a century. To learn more about the nation’s No. 1 butter company, see Karen Mellott-Foshier’s article “*How It Started; How It’s Going: Land O’Lakes Celebrates Ten Decades of Innovation*” on page 1.

SOURCES: “Minnesota’s Dairy Industry: A Fact Sheet for Businesses,” Minnesota Employment and Economic Development, 2018, accessed May 24, 2021, [https://mn.gov/deed/assets/dairy-fact\\_tcm1045-315966.pdf](https://mn.gov/deed/assets/dairy-fact_tcm1045-315966.pdf).

### ON THE COVER



A fleet of ten refrigerated trucks purchased for \$15,000 in 1923 provided early marketing and distribution services to consumers around the Twin Cities. The first drivers, who sold product from their vehicles, eventually opened sales branches in cities across the state. The later model truck pictured here not only advertised butter but other Land O’Lakes products, including dry milk, which became especially popular and essential during the war years. Courtesy of Land O’Lakes, Inc.

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## Message from the Editorial Board

For over a year, we’ve been separated from one another—each of us uniquely affected by the global pandemic. But, Summer 2021 has offered a welcome respite from separation and much-needed time to reconnect and heal.

This issue of *Ramsey County History* reminds us of the many ways we connect, and how we are better together than apart—from the Minnesota farmers who pooled their resources, talents, and butter to build an innovative business model; to the traditions kept alive through family gatherings; to the 320 St. Paul bridges that transport us to points north, south, east and west; and to our shared history of conflict and violence—the connections between us are many.

First, Karen Mellott-Foshier brings us a history of Land O’Lakes, Inc., the cooperative that united dairy farmers a century ago, building a more stable market for member-owners and better products for consumers. Kao Kalia Yang shares an intimate account of Hmong traditions cemented through frequent gatherings, many generations, and the shared memories of faraway places that bring and keep families together. And then there are bridges. Whether emotional or physical, bridges offer us a way to meet one another. Christine Podas-Larson has written a loving depiction of St. Paul’s exquisite South Channel and Montreal bridges. Finally, our community is tied to our shared histories, and that often includes conflict. Mary Lethert Wingerd reviews *Massacre In Minnesota* by Gary Clayton Anderson, a refreshed narrative of the 1862 US-Dakota War that offers an unflinching perspective of the damage wrought to all sides by ethnic violence.

This summer, as we finally gather again, we have much to celebrate, mourn, and contemplate as a community.

*Anne Field*  
Chair, Editorial Board

*The Ramsey County Historical Society thanks Board Member James A. Stolpestad and affiliate AHS Legacy Fund for supporting the updated design of this magazine. Publication of Ramsey County History is also supported in part by a gift from Clara M. Claussen and Frieda H. Claussen in memory of Henry H. Cowie Jr., and by a contribution from the late Reuel D. Harmon. Sincere thanks to Land O’Lakes, Inc., for their financial support.*

# Book Review

## Massacre in Minnesota: The Dakota War of 1862, the Most Violent Ethnic Conflict in American History

Gary Clayton Anderson

Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2019

384 pages; hardcover, 42 b&w illustrations, 2 maps, \$32.95

REVIEWED BY MARY LETHERT WINGERD

Did we really need another book about the Dakota War? My response is a resounding affirmative when the historian is as accomplished, thorough, and knowledgeable as Gary Clayton Anderson. From the outset, Anderson makes clear that he intends to pull no punches. His intention is writ large in the title itself: *Massacre in Minnesota*. This term has not been acceptable in describing the US-Dakota War of 1862 for twenty years, recalling sensational, anti-Indian accounts that held sway for more than a century following the events.

Yet Anderson is no reactionary revisionist. Two previous books—*Kinsmen of Another Kind: Dakota-White Relations in the Upper Mississippi Valley, 1650-1862* and *Little Crow: Spokesman for the Sioux*—demonstrate a textured understanding of the Dakota people and their culture. In fact, more than any other historian, he has the bona fides to establish a balance between narratives that described Dakota warriors as bloodthirsty savages and those that characterized them as epic figures fighting a last battle to save their homeland. In Anderson's telling, there are few heroes or villains in this calamitous conflict, a tragedy that wreaked almost unimaginable wreckage on everyone it touched.

As the title notes, the war was the most violent ethnic conflict in American history and, as in all wars, atrocities occurred and innocent people died, sometimes in horrific ways. By refusing to elide these realities, Anderson treats the Dakota, as well as the whites, as fully articulated humans, capable of both good and evil. In the chapters leading up to the war itself, he delineates the blunders, corruption, and rampant thievery of Minnesota's leading men that finally provoked some Dakota warriors to a violent response. But he also argues that, by definition, the attacks on unarmed, unsuspecting settlers—more than 600 people died—certainly constituted a massacre. Nonetheless, this was not a war made by the "Dakota Nation," which simply did not exist in the unitary form understood by Euro-Americans. Rather it was a strike by primarily young Mdewakanton warriors that swept other, often

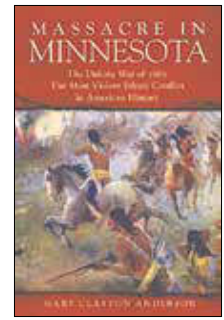
unwilling, Dakota people into its vortex. And all the Dakota were punished in the aftermath and exiled, a profound and tragic injustice.

Anderson notes that, for many years, he has been pondering how this dreadful event had come to happen. It was so out of character for the Dakota who had never been aggressive toward white interlopers, despite innumerable offenses against them. Who bore responsibility for this eruption of violence? In search of answers, he engaged in massive, years-long research, mining archives for official documents and unearthing hundreds of first-person testimonies and accounts, dozens from Dakota individuals as well as from whites. The result is an evidence-driven narrative that sheds new light on important aspects of the conflict.

One chapter of particular note examines the treatment of the many white women who were taken captive during the hostilities. The common wisdom has been that very few captives had been victims of sexual assault because almost none testified to their violation. Anderson makes a compelling case that rape was a much more common experience than was officially reported, but he also notes that many of the captors saw it quite differently. Most of the warriors who took women captives intended to have them as wives, not simply as spoils of conquest. In fact, there was a serious shortage of marriageable-age girls among the Dakota. Severe hardships on the reservation had driven many young women to trade on their sexuality, living with traders, soldiers, or other white men in return for food and relative safety for themselves and their families—yet another grievance to stoke Dakota fires of resentment, as well as motivation to capture white women to take their place. When viewed within this larger context, captivity narratives take on added complexity that enhances the volume as a whole.

The author's style is one of dispassionate reportage with very little overt analysis. Though his perspective certainly shapes the narrative, in large part, he lets the evidence speak for itself. And speak it does, loudly and dramatically, without undue favor to either side. While I may not entirely agree with all of Anderson's conclusions, I greatly appreciate this important contribution to Minnesota history. This is the most balanced, thorough, and scholarly sound account of the Dakota War to be published. And it is eminently readable, as well. For anyone with an interest in Minnesota history, *Massacre in Minnesota* is highly recommended.

*Mary Lethert Wingerd is an emerita professor of history at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota. She is the author of North Country: The Making of Minnesota and Claiming the City: Politics, Faith, and the Power of Place in St. Paul. She also is a member of the Ramsey County Historical Society Editorial Board.*



According to reviewer Mary Lethert Wingerd, Gary Clayton Anderson's book, *Massacre in Minnesota*, presents a meticulous and balanced reportage of the 1862 US-Dakota War.

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# RAMSEY COUNTY History

A PUBLICATION OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preserving our past, informing our present, inspiring our future.

The Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) strives to innovate, lead, and partner in preserving the knowledge of our community, deliver inspiring history programming, and incorporate local history in education.

The Society was established in 1949 to preserve the Jane and Heman Gibbs Farm in Falcon Heights, which the family acquired in 1849. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, the original programs told the story of the Gibbs family. In 2000, with the assistance of a Dakota Advisory Council, RCHS also began interpreting Dakota culture and lifeways, now telling the stories of the remarkable relationship between Jane Gibbs and the Dakota people of Heyáta Othújwe (Cloud Man's Village).

In 1964, the Society began publishing its award-winning magazine *Ramsey County History*. In 1978, the organization moved to St. Paul's Landmark Center, a restored Federal Courts building on the National Register of Historic Places. An expansion of the Research Center was completed in 2010 and rededicated in 2016 as the Mary Livingston Griggs & Mary Griggs Burke Research Center.

RCHS offers public programming for youth and adults. Visit [www.rchs.com](http://www.rchs.com) for details of upcoming History Revealed programs, summer camps, courthouse and depot tours, and more. The Society serves more than 15,000 students annually on field trips or through school outreach. Programs are made possible by donors, members, corporations, and foundations, all of whom we appreciate deeply. If you are not a member of RCHS, please join today and help bring history to life for more than 50,000 people every year.

### Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, & Inclusion

RCHS is committed to ensuring it preserves and presents our county's history. As we continue our work to incorporate more culturally diverse histories, we have made a commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion that is based on this core idea: RCHS exists to serve ALL who call Ramsey County home. To learn more, please see [www.rchs.com/about](http://www.rchs.com/about).

### Acknowledging This Sacred Dakota Land

Mnisóta Makhóche, the land where the waters are so clear they reflect the clouds, extends beyond the modern borders of Minnesota and is the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Dakhóta (Dakota) people. It is also home to the Anishinaabe and other Indigenous peoples, all who make up a vibrant community in Mnisóta Makhóche. RCHS acknowledges that its sites are located on and benefit from these sacred Dakota lands.

RCHS is committed to preserving our past, informing our present, and inspiring our future. Part of doing so is acknowledging the painful history and current challenges facing the Dakota people just as we celebrate the contributions of Dakota and other Indigenous peoples.

Find our full Land Acknowledgment Statement on our website, [www.rchs.com](http://www.rchs.com). This includes actionable ways in which RCHS pledges to honor the Dakota and other Indigenous peoples of Mnisóta Makhóche.

R.C.H.S.  
RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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(651) 222-0701

# Anne Field Named Chair of RCHS Editorial Board

Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) is pleased to announce that Anne Field has been named chair of the Society's Editorial Board. This group advises staff on publishing program policy and projects, assists with overall publishing efforts by connecting RCHS to writers and resources, as well as writing, editing, and reviewing manuscripts. Field, who is also on the RCHS Board of Directors, serves on the Collections Committee, and is co-chair of the Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI) Committee, joined the Editorial Board in 2019. In her new role, she will lead monthly meetings, consult on editorial projects, oversee the production of *Ramsey County History* magazine, write its quarterly "Message from the Board" column, and offer insight into other publishing efforts.

"The work of the Editorial Board is essential in bringing unique and remarkable history content to the magazine, podcasts, books, and more," said RCHS President Chad Roberts. "We are thrilled to have Anne Field take on this essential leadership role. She brings a wealth of experience and passion for history to this outstanding team. High-quality research and publishing are at the center of what RCHS does. With Anne at the helm, I am confident we will continue to build on a tradition of excellence."

Field, a native of Minnesota's Iron Range and a graduate of the University of Minnesota, lives in Mendota Heights. She follows Anne Cowie, who has been involved with RCHS in different capacities since 1967. Cowie served as chair of the Editorial Board for the last fifteen years, overseeing sixty-two issues from Winter 2006 through Spring 2021, along with many other publishing projects. RCHS has greatly benefited from her insight and historical knowledge.

"Steadfast, inquisitive, thoughtful, and enthusiastic partner are all superlatives that start to tell the story of Anne Cowie and her time with RCHS," Roberts said. "It is a credit to her that *Ramsey County History* magazine is the field-leading publication it is today. We are grateful for her faithful commitment to the Society and local history as she continues to advise RCHS as an Editorial Board member."



Anne Field



Anne Cowie



## Upcoming Events at RCHS & Gibbs Farm

### September 2021

- Sept. 11 Gibbs Farm Tree Tour
- Sept. 16 *History Revealed: Hwy 61 Through Minnesota*
- Sept. 21 RCHS Member Celebration at Gibbs Farm
- Sept. 25 Gibbs Farm Apple Festival

### October 2021

- Oct. 21 *History Revealed: St. Paul: An Urban Biography*
- Oct. 23 Gibbs Farm Volunteer Day
- Oct. 30 Gibbs Farm Halloween

For information & additional programs, see

[www.rchs.com](http://www.rchs.com)  
or email [events@rchs.com](mailto:events@rchs.com)

R.C.H.S.  
RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*The Aesthetics of Bridge Design*

## **A Paean to Two of St. Paul's Elegant Park Bridges**

CHRISTINE PODAS-LARSON, PAGE 17



Canoers enjoy the view of the South Channel Bridge in 1905. By 1918, there were 1,000 privately owned canoes on Lake Phalen in addition to fifty canoes and eighty-five rowboats rented by the city. To read more about the bridge at Phalen Park and the Montreal Bridge at Highland Park, see Christine Podas-Larson's article on page 17. *Photograph by E. A. Bromley, courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society.*