

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

William E. Lass
708 Mound Avenue, Apt. 5210
Mankato MN 56001

Phone: 507-995-7595
Email: william.lass@mnsu.edu

Education:

B.A., University of South Dakota, 1951. M.A., University of South Dakota, 1954.
Ph. D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1960.

Academic Experience:

Retired May 2002.

Southwestern State College, Weatherford, Oklahoma, 1957-1960. Minnesota State University, Mankato, 1960-2002. Assistant Professor (1960-1963), Associate Professor (1963-1966) and Professor of History (1966-2002). History Department Chairman, 1973-1980. Director, Southern Minnesota Historical Center, 1969-1999 and Director of University Archives and Records Management, 1981-1999.

Current Status: Professor Emeritus of History, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Awards:

- 1) Lyman C. Draper Fellowship, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1955-1956.
- 2) Woods Fellowship in Nebraska History, 1961-1964. Nebraska State Historical Society.
- 3) Public Affairs Fellowship, Minnesota Historical Society, 1971-1972.
- 4) Award of Merit, September 18, 1973, from the American Association for State and Local History for writing *From the Missouri to the Great Salt Lake: An Account of Overland Freighting*.
- 5) Selected by the American Association for State and Local History to write *Minnesota: A Bicentennial History* in the States and the Nation Series, 1975.
- 6) Larry Rowen Remele Award, October 1, 1993, for significant contributions to the Northern Great Plains History Conference.
- 7) 1995 Editor's Award from the State Historical Society of North Dakota for the best article in 1994 *North Dakota History: Journal of the Northern Great Plains*. Article title: "The History and Significance of the Northwest Fur Company, 1865-1869."
- 8) John Lyman Book Award in United States Maritime History, 2008, from the North American Society for Oceanic History for writing *Navigating the Missouri: Steamboating on Nature's Highway, 1819-1935* (2008).
- 9) Lifetime Achievement Award from Northern Great Plains History Conference, September 28, 2012. (First recipient of the award).

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

William E. Lass

BOOKS:

Stanley J. Morrow: Frontier Photographer. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1956. (co-author).

A History of Steamboating on the Upper Missouri River. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1962. Reprint ed., University of Nebraska Press, 1977.

From the Missouri to the Great Salt Lake: An Account of Overland Freighting. Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1972.

Minnesota: A Bicentennial History. New York: W. W. Norton, 1977.

Minnesota's Boundary with Canada: Its Evolution since 1783. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1980. Reprint, 2006 by Minnesota Historical Society Press.

Minnesota: A History. Second ed. New York: W. W. Norton, 1998. Paperback edition released in July 2000.

Navigating the Missouri: Steamboating on Nature's Highway, 1819-1935. Norman : The Arthur H. Clark Company (an imprint of the University of Oklahoma Press), 2008.

The Treaty of Traverse des Sioux. St. Peter, MN: Nicollet County Historical Society Press, 2011.

Shaping the North Star State: A History of Minnesota's Boundaries. St. Cloud, MN: North Star Press of St. Cloud, 2014.

A South Dakota Country School Experience. Mankato, MN: Minnesota Heritage Publishing, 2014.

Minnesota State University, Mankato, 1868-2018: A Sesquicentennial History. Mankato, MN: Minnesota State University, Mankato, 2018.

BOOKLET:

Joseph R. Brown and His Times. Henderson, MN: Joseph R. Brown Interpretive Center Task Force, 1995.

CHAPTERS:

- “Introduction.” Reprint edition of *Canoe Voyage up the Minnaya Sotor* by George W. Featherstonhaugh. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1970, xv-lxiii.
- “Steamboats on the Yellowstone.” *The Great Sioux War 1876-77*. Edited by Paul L. Hedren. Helena: Montana Historical Society Press, 1991, 207-229.
- “The First Attempt to Organize Dakota Territory.” *Centennial West: Essays on the Northern Tier States*. Edited by William L. Lang. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1991, 143-169.
- “The Northwest Fur Company in the Fort Union Region.” *Fort Union Fur Trade Symposium Proceedings September 13-15, 1990*. Williston, ND: Friends of Fort Union Trading Post, 1994, 69-78.
- “Missouri River Steamboating,” in *The Centennial Anthology of North Dakota History: Journal of the Northern Great Plains*. Edited by Janet Daley Lysengen and Ann M. Rathke. Bismarck: State Historical Society of North Dakota, 1996.
- “The Eden of the West,” in *Making Minnesota Territory 1849-1858*. Edited by Anne R. Kaplan and Marilyn Ziebarth. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1999.
- “Harold E. Stassen: Governor, Naval Officer, and Diplomat,” in *The Human Tradition in the World War II Era*. Edited by Malcolm Muir, Jr. Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 2001.

DICTIONARY AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES:

- Seventy-eight sketches in *Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1960.
- “Minnesota: The Gopher State.” *The World Book Encyclopedia* 13:588-611. Chicago: World Book, Inc., 1988. (co-author).
- “Minnesota” in *The Encyclopedia of the United States Congress*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994.
- “Bullwhacker,” “Minnesota,” “Overland Freight,” and “Stagecoaches,” in *Encyclopedia of the American West*. New York: Macmillan, 1996.
- “George William Featherstonhaugh,” in *Biographical Dictionary of American and Canadian Naturalists and Environmentalists*. Edited by Keir B. Sterling *et. al.* Westport CT: Greenwood Press, 1997.

“Minnesota,” in *Encarta Encyclopedia*. Online and on CD-ROM. Redmond WA: Microsoft Corporation, 1999.

Sketches of the following in *American National Biography*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Bixby, Horace Ezra (steamboat pilot on Mississippi and Missouri rivers).

Grimes, Absalom Carlisle (Confederate mail-runner and Mississippi River steamboat pilot).

Johnson, John Albert (Minnesota governor).

Merriam, William Rush (Minnesota governor).

Rice, Henry Mower (United States senator from Minnesota).

Sellers, Isaiah (Mississippi River steamboat pilot).

Stevens, John Harrington (Minnesota pioneer and founder of Minneapolis).

Towne, Charles Arnette (United States senator from Minnesota).

Washburn, William Drew (United States senator from Minnesota and industrialist).

Windom, William (United States senator from Minnesota and secretary of the treasury).

“Minnesota: The Gopher State,” in *The World Book Encyclopedia* 13:587-607. Chicago: World Book, Inc., 1999 (co-author).

“Pony Express,” “Stagecoaches,” “Wells Fargo,” and “Western Trail,” in *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*. Edited by David J. Wishart. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2004.

“Riverene Systems,” p. 1349-52 and “Steamboats,” p. 1358-59, in *The American Midwest: An Interpretive Encyclopedia*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2007.

“Inkpaduta” and “Reynolds, Joseph ‘Diamond Jo’” in *The Biographical Dictionary of Iowa*, edited by David Hudson, Marvin Bergman and Loren Horten. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2008.

“Minnesota State University, Mankato.” MNopedia, 2011. (Minnesota Historical Society online encyclopedia.) Access at: [william e. lass mnopedia](#)

“The Northwest Angle.” MNopedia, 2014. (Minnesota Historical Society online encyclopedia.) Access at: [william e. lass mnopedia](#)

“Minnesota State Boundaries.” MNopedia, 2014 (Minnesota Historical Society online encyclopedia.) Access at: [william e. lass mnopedia](#)

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

“Stanley J. Morrow: Pioneer Photographer of Dakota Territory.” *Museum News* (W. H. Over Museum, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD) 15: 1-6 (April, 1954).

- “Stanley J. Morrow.” *Eye to Eye* (Bulletin of the Graphic History Society of America) 8: 1-56 (June 1956).
- “Belmont,” *Wisconsin Magazine of History* 40: 179-83 (Spring 1957).
- “Isaac P. Baker and the Baker Papers.” *North Dakota History* 24: 174-79 (October 1957).
- “Tourists’ Impressions of St. Louis, 1766-1859, Part I.” *The Missouri Historical Review* 42: 325-38 (July 1958).
- “Tourists’ Impressions of St. Louis, 1766-1859, Part II.” *The Missouri Historical Review* 43: 10-21 (October 1958.)
- “Isaac P. Baker Pioneered Missouri River Boating.” *The Waterways Journal* (St. Louis) 75: 26 (February 3, 1962). Reprint of Isaac P. Baker and the Baker Papers).
- “The Removal from Minnesota of the Sioux and Winnebago Indians.” *Minnesota History* 38: 353-64 (December 1963).
- “The ‘Moscow Expedition.’ ” *Minnesota History* 39: 227-40 (Summer 1965).
- “Steamboating on the Missouri: Its Significance on the Northern Great Plains.” *Journal of the West* 6: 53-67 (January 1967).
- “Ginseng Rush in Minnesota.” *Minnesota History* 41: 249-66 (Summer 1969).
- “How the Forty-Ninth Parallel Became the International Boundary.” *Minnesota History* 44: 209-19 (Summer 1975).
- “Historic Minnesota in Seven Days.” *Journal of the West* 18: 82-90 (July 1979).
- “Minnesota: An American Siberia?” *Minnesota History* 49: 149-55 (Winter 1984).
- “Steamboats on the Yellowstone.” *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 35: 26-41 (Autumn 1985).
- “Minnesota’s Separation from Wisconsin: Boundary Making on the Upper Mississippi Frontier.” *Minnesota History* 50: 309-20 (Winter 1987).
- “Missouri River Steamboating.” *North Dakota History* 56: 3-15 (Summer 1989).
- “Minnesota’s Quest for Salt.” *Minnesota History* 52: 130-43 (Winter 1990).
- “Minnesota River Valley Place Names.” *Currents: A Minnesota River Valley Review* 1(2):25-33 (Winter 1990).

- “Minnesota’s Salt Lands Saga.” *Minnesota History* 53: 9-24 (Spring 1992.)
- “The History and Significance of the Northwest Fur Company, 1865-1869.” *North Dakota History* 61(3): 21-40 (Summer 1994).
- “The History of the Minnesota Boundary in the Grand Portage Area.” *The Sugarloaf Interpreter* 3(4):3. (Summer 1996).
- “The North Dakota-Canada Boundary.” *North Dakota History* 63(4): 2-23 (Fall 1996).
- “The Birth of Minnesota.” *Minnesota History* 55: 267-79 (Summer 1997).
- “Nebraska City’s Steam Wagon.” *Nebraska History* 79(1): 24-33 (Spring 1998).
- “The Eden of the West.” *Minnesota History* 56: 202-14 (Winter 1998-99).
- “The Fate of Steamboats: A Case Study of the 1848 St. Louis Fleet.” *Missouri Historical Review* 96: 2-15 (October 2001).
- “Elias H. Durfee and Campbell K. Peck: Indian Traders on the Upper Missouri Frontier.” *Journal of the West* 43 (2): 9-19 (Spring 2004).
- “Dakota Resources: Trader Edward T. Latta’s ‘List of Wood Sold to Steamboats,’ 1866-1867.” *South Dakota History* 35(2): 152-78 (Summer 2005).
- “The Mythical Platte River Voyage of the Steamboat *El Paso*,” *Nebraska History* 89: 54-66 (Summer 2008).
- “Enlarging Minnesota,” *Minnesota History* 61: 306-11 (Fall 2009).
- “Histories of the U. S.-Dakota War of 1862: A Review.” *Minnesota History* 63: 44-57 (Summer 2012).
- “Rediscovering Camp Lincoln.” *Minnesota’s Heritage* 6: 20-37 (July 2012).
- “Missouri River Steamboating: The Supplier of the Oregon-California Trail.” *Overland Journal* 30: 44-64 (Summer 2012).
- “‘Utterly Blind, Stupid and Absurd:’ Minnesota Press Reaction to the Capital Removal Attempt.” *Minnesota History* 63: 281-93 (Fall 2013).
- “The Northern Boundary of the Louisiana Purchase.” *Great Plains Quarterly* 35:27-50 (Winter 2015).

“The Naming and Spelling of Mankato, Minnesota.” *The Blue Earth County Historian* 22(3): 9-11 (Summer 2015).

“Historical Sketch of the Northern Great Plains History Conference 1966-2015.” *Studies in Midwestern History* 1(8): 74-83 (October 2015). (Online journal).

“The Fur Trade in the Minnesota River Valley,” *The Blue Earth County Historian* 22(4): 10-14 (Fall 2016).

OTHER:

“Foreword” to *Minnesota Beginnings: Records of Saint Croix County, Wisconsin Territory, 1840-1849*. Stillwater MN: Washington County Historical Society, 1999.

“Foreword” to *Paddlewheels on the Upper Mississippi, 1823-1854: How Steamboats Promoted Commerce and Settlement in the West*. By Nancy and Robert Goodman. Stillwater, MN. Washington County Historical Society, 2003.

“Foreword” to *The Life and Times of the Steamboat Red Cloud or How Merchants, Mounties, and the Missouri Transformed the West*. By Annalies Corbin. College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 2006.

BOOK REVIEWS:

129 reviews in a number of historical journals including *Agricultural History*, *The Journal of American History*, *Journal of the West*, *Minnesota History*, *Nebraska History*, *North Dakota History*, *Pacific Historical Quarterly*, *South Dakota History* and *The Western Historical Quarterly*.