

**Building America: Minnesota's Iron Range,  
U.S. Industrialization, and the Creation of a World Power**

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[http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Special/ironrange\\_rdg\\_harney.pdf](http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Special/ironrange_rdg_harney.pdf)

Lamppa, Marvin G. *Minnesota's Iron Country: Rich Ore, Rich Lives*. Lake Superior Port Cities, 2004. ISBN: 978-0942235562

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[http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Special/ironrange\\_rdg\\_miller.pdf](http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Special/ironrange_rdg_miller.pdf)

Thompson, Pamela, and Donald L Boese, Delores Lakso, Dr. Timothy Roufs, and Kathleen Salminen. *Iron Range Country*. Eveleth, Minnesota: The Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board and the State of Minnesota, 1979.

- Introduction, [http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Special/ironrange\\_rdg\\_eveleth1.pdf](http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Special/ironrange_rdg_eveleth1.pdf)
- The Vermillion Range,  
[http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Special/ironrange\\_rdg\\_eveleth2.pdf](http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Special/ironrange_rdg_eveleth2.pdf)
- The Mesabi Range,  
[http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Special/ironrange\\_rdg\\_eveleth3.pdf](http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Special/ironrange_rdg_eveleth3.pdf)

### *Online resources/web sites*

#### **Immigration and History Research Center, University of Minnesota**

<http://ihrc.umn.edu/research/projects/07-12/IHRChistory/Timothy%20Smith-Factors/index.html>

This is a digitized essay (and accompanying images) written by Timothy Smith in 1963, "Factors Affecting the Social Development of Iron Range Communities." This essay is one sample of the IHRC's collection of Iron Range documents. There are many links between the IHRC and the Iron Range. The IHRC is in the process of developing a new section of its web site dedicated to the beginnings of the Center in the early 1960s. The goal of the project is not to write a definitive history of the Center or to define the larger context in which the Center came to existence in the interaction with the developments in the related scholarly fields or with the social transformations of the 1960s.

#### **Iron Range Research Center**

<http://www.ironrangeresearchcenter.org/>

The Iron Range Research Center is a library and archival facility located at the Ironworld Discovery Center, Chisholm, Minnesota. A special library, the Research Center focuses on the regional, local and personal history of Minnesota's iron ranges and the people who settled here. An integral part of the [Ironworld Discovery Center](#), the Research Center is a repository and resource for historical documentation and interpretative information. Primary interest areas are geology, [mining](#), settlement, industrial development, immigration, ethnicity, logging, natural resources, social, political and economic history and [genealogy](#).

#### **Lesson/Activity Samples:**

##### **The Changing Role of the Iron Range – a lesson**

<http://askeric.org/cgi->

[bin/printlessons.cgi/Virtual/Lessons/Social\\_Studies/Geography/GGR0048.html](http://askeric.org/cgi-bin/printlessons.cgi/Virtual/Lessons/Social_Studies/Geography/GGR0048.html)

##### **Iron Mining Association of Minnesota**

[http://www.taconite.org/mining\\_101/curriculum.html](http://www.taconite.org/mining_101/curriculum.html)

**Taconite Rocks!** is a comprehensive curriculum developed by educators on Minnesota's Iron Range to be used in sixth-grade classes. Combining science, language skills, mathematics and social studies, Taconite Rocks! offers a number of modules that can be used in a variety of classroom settings.

##### **Minnesota, A History of the Land**

<http://www.historyoftheland.org/teachersguide.htm>

A teachers' guide to accompany the DVD series. This guide is intended to help middle-school students view the series and develop an understanding of the following key concepts: the land (physical environment) has played powerful role in shaping Minnesota's economies and communities, Minnesotans have had an enormous impact on the state's waters, plants, and wildlife and have an important role to play as stewards of the environment, and the historical causes of the landscape's current condition - its health,

use, and long-term sustainability - are essential to understanding crucial issues of conservation and natural resource management.

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Soudan Underground Mine Activities**

[http://www.dnr.mn.gov/education/teachers/activities/soudan\\_mine/index.html](http://www.dnr.mn.gov/education/teachers/activities/soudan_mine/index.html)

Classroom activities to use before, during and after a tour of the Soudan Underground Mine and high energy physics lab.

**Minnesota Historical Society – Lesson Plan: Iron Range**

<http://www.mnhs.org/school/classroom/communities/teachers/lessons/IRNlesson.html>

This unit focuses on the Mesabi Range, which was, at the time of its discovery, the largest, richest source of iron yet found on the Great Lakes.

**Minnesota Historical Society**

**Visual images collection- The Iron Range**

<http://collections.mnhs.org/VisualResources/Results.cfm?Page=1&Keywords=Oliver%20Mining%20Company&CFID=3452962&CFTOKEN=77565206>

Information about photographs, artwork, posters, and fine art photographs from the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society are included in this database. This link is directly to the Iron Range material. Information is posted on the site regarding obtaining permission for use of the images.

**Minnesota Public Radio, After the Mines: Can the IRRRB Help the Iron Range Prepare for the End of Mining? (1999)**

[http://news.minnesota.publicradio.org/features/199912/06\\_newsroom\\_irrrb-m/index.shtml](http://news.minnesota.publicradio.org/features/199912/06_newsroom_irrrb-m/index.shtml)

The history, controversy, and future of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board

**National Register of Historic Places**

[http://nrhp.mnhs.org/iron\\_range.html](http://nrhp.mnhs.org/iron_range.html)

More than 1,500 Minnesota listings, encompassing over 6,000 properties from all counties in the state, can be found on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the nation's official list of properties deemed worthy of preservation. In Minnesota the National Register program is administered by the Society's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Learn more about the Hull-Rust-Mahoning Mine and the underground Soudan Mine, how iron ore was transported to Great Lake cities, and how iron mining companies took the lead in establishing communities and serving the educational and social needs of immigrant miners and their families.

**North Central Minnesota Historical Geographies/MAGE**

<http://mage.geog.macalester.edu/mnvgeog05/NCtours.html>

The Minnesota Alliance for Geographic Education's "Minnesota Field Trip" guides - select the Duluth and Hibbing/Iron Range section. Each subsection has a different historical transect of the regions shown on the Iron Range map.

*Video/DVDs*

**Iron Country. Duluth, MN: WDSE-TV.**

A twelve part series. Contact WDSE-TV for more information, 218-724-8567 or 1-888-563-9373. [http://www.wdse.org/prd\\_ic\\_prgs.asp](http://www.wdse.org/prd_ic_prgs.asp)

**The Iron Range: A People's History.** Produced by Laurie Stern and Barbara Wiener. Saint Paul, MN: KTCA, 1994.

Tens of thousands of immigrants settled on Minnesota's Iron Range at the turn of the century, creating the unique culture that is alive and thriving today. The dramatic history of this little-known area of our state is revealed through the stories and experiences of Iron Range elders and historians captured in this documentary.

**Minnesota, A History of the Land.** Produced and Directed by Barbara Coffin and John Whitehead. University of Minnesota, Bell Museum of Natural History, and TPT, 2004.

<http://www.historyoftheland.org/about.htm>

A four part documentary series featuring nature videography from across the state, never before seen historic images, state-of-the-art animations and historic recreations.

**Spies in Steel: The Dollar a Day Man.** Directed by Tom Selinski. Duluth, MN:

<http://www.tomselinski.com/>, 1999.

An expose of the United States Steel companies use of labor spies in the mining Communities of northern Minnesota from 1900 to 1940. The film was based on the small book by the same name and investigated by Colorado labor journalist Frank L Palmer in 1928.

### *Articles and Books*

Alanen, Arnold. *Preserving Cultural Landscapes in America*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000. ISBN: 9780801862649

Scholars in history, architecture, landscape architecture, urban studies, and geography at various U.S. universities address protecting both nature and culture in historic landscape preservation, selling heritage landscapes, the history of urban parks and cemeteries, preserving Puerto Rican barrios, vernacular landscapes of small towns and rural areas, Asian-American imprints on the western landscape, ethnographic landscapes, and the notion of integrity in preservation.

Aulie, Berger. *The Milford Mine Disaster*. W.A. Fisher Company, 1994.

On February 5, 1924, mud and water from a nearby lake flooded the Milford Mine near Crosby, Minnesota, drowning 41 of the 48 men working underground. Thirty-three were married, and this left 88 children fatherless. <http://www.cuyunaheritage.org/publication.html>

Avery, Patricia G., Dana Carmichael-tanaka, Jennifer Kunze, and Nonie Petersen Kouneski . "Writing about Immigration: Authentic Assessment for U.S. History Students." *Social Education* 64, issue 6: (2000):372.

Banning, Margaret Culkin. *Mesabi*. NY, NY: Harper and Row, 1969.

A novel of the life and times of an iron ore executive on the Mesabi Range by the prolific Duluth writer.

Beck, Bill and C. Patrick Labadie. *Pride of the Inland Seas: An Illustrated History of the Port of Duluth-Superior*. Afton Historical Society Press, 2004. ISBN: 978-1890434557

Set against a backdrop of the key industries that helped build North America: iron and steel, forest products, grain, and coal, *Pride of the Inland Seas* tells the fascinating tale of the development of the Twin Ports during three centuries of economic, technological, political, and social change.

Broker, Ignatia. *Night Flying Woman: An Ojibwe Narrative*. Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1983. ISBN: 978-0873511674

Ignatia Broker recounts the life of her great-great-grandmother, Night Flying Woman, who was born in the mid-19th century and lived during a chaotic time of enormous change, uprootings, and loss for the Minnesota Ojibway

Caddy, John. *The Color of Mesabi Bones*. Milkweed, 1989. ISBN: 978-0915943401  
Caddy's poems carefully detail the milieu of several generations of Minnesota miners.

Chislock, Carl H. *Watchdog of Loyalty: The Minnesota Commission of Public Safety During WWI*. Minnesota Historical Society Press. ISBN-10: 0-87351-264-2

This book offers the first hard look at the motives and activities of this uniquely powerful state agency, which used loyalty as a weapon to protect the existing socioeconomic order against a rising tide of radicalism on the home front.

Davis, Edward W. *Pioneering with Taconite*. Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2004. ISBN: 978-0873514965

This is the story of the discovery of then-valueless taconite on Minnesota's Mesabi Iron Range in 1870 and several decades of attempts to process taconite commercially.

de Kruif, Paul. *Seven Iron Men: The Merritts and the Discovery of the Mesabi Range*. University of Minnesota reprint, 2007. ISBN: 978-0816652624

In the tradition of great American rags to riches stories, *Seven Iron Men* weaves together the history of how the seven Merritt brothers discovered iron ore on the Mesabi Range. In 1890 they were poised to become one of the wealthiest families in America but lost it all to industrialist John D. Rockefeller.

Eliseuson, Michael. *Tower Soudan, the state park down under*. Minnesota Parks Foundation, 1976.

Forester, Jeff. *The Forest for the Trees: How Humans Shaped the North Woods*. Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2004. ISBN: 978-0873514804

Gruchow, Paul. *Boundary Waters: The Grace of the Wild*. Minneapolis, MN: Milkweed Editions, 1999. ISBN: 978-1571312358

Set astraddle the Minnesota-Ontario border, these four essays meander around the idea of wilderness.

Hudelson, Richard and Carl Ross. *By the Ore Docks: A Working People's History of Duluth*. University of Minnesota Press, 2006. ISBN: 978-0816646371

Located on the shore of Lake Superior near the Iron Range of Minnesota and, for much of its history, the site of vast steel, lumber, and shipping industries, Duluth has been home to people who worked tirelessly in the rail yards, grain elevators, and harbor. Here, for the first time, *By the Ore Docks* presents a compelling, full-length history of the people who built this port city and struggled for both the growth of the city and the rights of their fellow workers.

“Iron Country”. *Time*, August 13, 1928.

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,928779-1,00.html>

An article which includes information on Calvin Coolidge’s visit to the Iron Range.

Jarvenpa, Aili. *In Two Cultures: The Stories of Second Generation Finnish Americans*. North Star Press of St. Cloud, 1992. ISBN: 978-0878390748

Johnston, Basil. *The Manitous: The Spiritual World of the Ojibway*. Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2001. ISBN: 978-0873514118

In this latest effort, Ojibway scholar and writer Johnston continues his fine series of writings about his people (*Ojibway Tales*, Univ. of Nebraska Pr., 1993) and his experiences (*Indian School Days*, Univ. of Toronto Pr., 1988). Manitous are spiritual beings who have aided the Ojibway people since the world was created. Working roughly chronologically according to when the various manitous appeared in Ojibway history, Johnston begins with the creators, then follows the exploits of the half-human, half-manitou spiritual helpers of the Ojibway people.

Kates, James. *Planning a Wilderness: Regenerating the Great Lakes Cutover Region*. University of Minnesota Press, 2001. ISBN: 978-0816635795

The story of how the land, devastated by logging, was regenerated.

King, Frank Alexander. *The Missabe Road: The Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range Railway*. University of Minnesota Press, 2003. ISBN: 978-0816640836

In 1865, the nation's largest iron ore deposits were discovered in northern Minnesota, and life in the area was irrevocably altered as an economic boom transformed the region. In the 1880s and 1890s, two railroads, the Duluth and Iron Range Rail Road and the Duluth, Missabe and Northern Railway (which later merged), moved massive shipments of ore to the docks on Lake Superior. The *Missabe Road* tells the complete story of the DM&IR: its construction, early operation, line extensions, passenger service, rolling stock, steam locomotives, and today's modern diesels. Frank King examines underground and open pit mining operations, modern-day taconite mining, the handling and transportation of ore to the docks, and the loading of boats.

Lamppa, Marvin A. "From Art to Science: Mining at Soudan (1882-1924)." *Entrepreneurs and Immigrants*, Iron Range Research Center. 1991.

Longyear, Edmund J. with Grace Lee Nute (editor). *Mesabi Pioneer, Reminiscences of Edmund J. Longyear*. Minnesota Historical Society, 1951.

The author covers his experiences in helping develop the area from the sinking of his first diamond drill hole through to seeing the Mesabi Range emerge into one of the most highly industrialized section of Minnesota.

Maki, Vienna Saari. *Ready to Descend*. Sampo Publishing, 2000. ISBN: 978-1886698208  
Experiences as an underground miner on Minnesota's Iron Range.

Marvin, Isabel R. *A Bride for Anna's Papa, A Story of Finnish Immigrants*. Milkweed Editions, 2004. ISBN: 9781571316509

Life on the Iron Range of northern Minnesota in 1907 is not easy for thirteen-year-old Anna Kallio. Her Mother's death from diphtheria has left Anna to manage the house and take care of her younger brother, Matti, and her father, a blacksmith in the dangerous iron mines. (Ages 9-12)

Milkovich, Barbara A. *It's Gone; Did You Notice, A History of the Mesabi Range Village of Franklin, Minnesota, 1892-1994*. Magarac Books, 2000. ISBN: 978-0967998404

This book chronicles the development of her husband's hometown in the iron-mining region of northern Minnesota. Franklin was incorporated in 1915 along the city of Virginia's northeastern border. Numerous small mining communities, called locations, were located within the boundaries of Franklin, each successively mined out as the size of the open pits in the area grew. Today, only a small group of houses remains on the fringe of Virginia as a reminder that Franklin ever existed. <http://allnightcomputing.com/jjma/magaracbooks.html>

Nemanic, Mary. *One Day for Democracy: Independence Day and the Americanization of Iron Range Immigrants*. Ohio University Press, March 2007. ISBN: 978-0821417300

Just before the turn of the twentieth century, immigrants from eastern and southern Europe who had settled in mining regions of Minnesota formed a subculture that combined elements of Old World traditions and American culture. Their unique pluralistic version of Americanism was expressed in Fourth of July celebrations rooted in European carnival traditions that included rough games, cross-dressing, and rowdiness. In *One Day for Democracy*, Mary Lou Nemanic traces the festive history of Independence Day from 1776 to the twentieth century.

Nute, Grace Lee. *The Voyageur's Highway*. Minnesota Historical Society, 1965.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Rainy River Country*, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1950. ISBN: 978-0873510080

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Voyageur*. Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1987. ISBN: 978-0873512138

Olson, Sigurd. *The Singing Wilderness*. University of Minnesota Press, 1997.  
ISBN: 978-0816629923

A collection of essays on the north woods. "Olson tells his story through descriptions of the simple events in nature that bring meaning to his life: picking berries, looking for pine knots, fly-fishing, hiking through the forest, paddling a canoe. Olson describes his insights, sharpened by his knowledge of the natural world and warmed by his passion for the outdoors, challenge the reader

to participate in each fulfilling moment. As meaningful today as it was when he wrote it, *The Singing Wilderness* is an essential antidote to the trials of modern life.” UofMN Press  
\_\_\_\_\_. *The Listening Point*. University of Minnesota Press, 1997. ISBN: 978-0816629961

Paddock, Joe. *Keeper of the Wild: The Life of Ernest Oberholtzer*. Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2001. ISBN: 978-0873514095

The story of the original architect of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park.

Palmer, Frank L. *Spies in Steel: An Expose of Industrial War*. Labor Press, 1928.

A report of the spy system of the Oliver Iron Mining Company, in the Mesaba Iron Range in Minnesota. Includes information on spies in the Finnish community.

Thompson, Pamela, and Donald L Boese, Delores Lakso, Dr. Timothy Roufs, and Kathleen Salminen. *Iron Range Country*. Eveleth, Minnesota: The Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board and the State of Minnesota, 1979.

Tice, D.J. *Minnesota's Twentieth Century: Stories of Extraordinary People*. University of Minnesota Press, 2001. ISBN: 978-0816634293

Treuer, Robert. *Voyageur Country: A Park in the Wilderness*. University of Minnesota Press, 1979. ISBN: 978-0816608782

Vennum, Thomas Jr. *Wild Rice and the Ojibway People*. Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1988. ISBN: 978-0873512268

Walker, David Allan. *Iron Frontier: The Discovery and Early Development of Minnesota's Three Ranges*. Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1960. ISBN: 978-0873511452

A study of the period from 1880 to early 1900s of the development of the world's largest iron mining region.