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Cover image based on an illustration from The Toy and the Twister and is provided courtesy of Kevin Krull and the P-20 Center at NIU.

From Furs to Farms
The Transformation of the Mississippi Valley, 1762–1825
John Reda

“Reda provides a welcome, readable account of the formative years of Missouri and Illinois. While emphasizing the place of economics in their formation, he also restores the Mississippi River to its historical role as a short fence between close neighbors, rather than an impermeable barrier.”

This original study tells the story of the Illinois Country, a collection of French villages that straddled the Mississippi River for nearly a century before it was divided by the treaties that ended the Seven Years’ War in the early 1760s. Spain acquired the territory on the west side of the river and Great Britain the territory on the east. After the 1783 Treaty of Paris and the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, the entire region was controlled by the United States, and the white inhabitants were transformed from subjects to citizens. By 1825, Indian claims to the land that had become the states of Illinois and Missouri were nearly all extinguished, and most of the Indians had moved west.

John Reda focuses on the people behind the Illinois Country’s transformation from a society based on the fur trade between Europeans, Indians, and mixed-race (métis) peoples to one based on the commodification of land and the development of commercial agriculture. Many of these people were white and became active participants in the development of local, state, and federal governmental institutions. But many were Indian or métis people who lost both their lands and livelihoods, or black people who arrived—and remained—in bondage.

In From Furs to Farms, Reda rewrites early national American history to include the specific people and places that make the period far more complex and compelling than what is depicted in the standard narrative. This fascinating work will interest historians, students, and general readers of US history and Midwestern studies.

John Reda received his PhD from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is assistant professor of history at Illinois State University, specializing in colonial American history and the history of the Early American Republic.
THE TOY AND THE TWISTER

Gillian King-Cargile

ILLUSTRATIONS BY KEVIN KRULL

“The Toy and the Twister is a colorful adventure into the heart of a tornado that will take the fear out of a terrifying situation and help keep kids safe!”
—Andrea Beaty, author of Rosie Revere, Engineer

In the first book in the Stuffed Bunny Science Adventure Series, a fluff-brained bunny named Bear gets left outside during a storm. The only thing that can save him is science . . . and a sassy doll named Sadie Scientist. Together, the toys get sucked into a tornado. Sadie helps Bear understand extreme weather and storm safety, but when they begin to fall, Bear has to think quickly to save his new friend. This fun, fast-paced adventure will entertain young readers while introducing them to weather and climate concepts. After the adventure, read an interview with a real-life meteorologist!


THE TOY AND THE TIDE POOL

Gillian King-Cargile

ILLUSTRATIONS BY KEVIN KRULL

In the second book in the series, Bear gets lost at the beach and befriends Princess Shelleena, a mermaid doll. He learns about tides and the fascinating creatures who call tide pools their home. But can Bear’s new friend help him find a way to signal for help before the high tide sweeps him out to sea? This silly, salty adventure introduces young readers to interesting ocean animals and helps them understand concepts of biodiversity and earth system science. It concludes with an interview with a marine biologist from Chicago’s world-renowned Shedd Aquarium.


Gillian King-Cargile is director of Northern Illinois University’s STEM Read program.

Kevin Krull’s illustrations have appeared in Creative Quarterly and have been shown in the Chicago area.
NIU Press is pleased to work with the P-20 Center at Northern Illinois University to publish a series of STEM-based storybooks for young readers. The P-20 Center collaborates with university and community partners to promote innovation in teaching and learning, and foster educational success for all ages.

The Stuffed Bunny Science Adventure Series for young readers is an extension of STEM Read, a P-20 program that helps readers explore the science, technology, engineering, and math concepts behind popular fiction.

This series shares the adventures of a fluff-brained bunny named Bear and his favorite boy, Jack. In each story, Bear meets other toys who teach him about the world around him. The books explore the importance of working together and making friends. They also incorporate STEM concepts aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. Learn more about the Stuffed Bunny Science Adventure Series and find resources, videos, and games at stemread.com.
In the depths of a depression in 1894, a highly successful Gilded Age businessman named Jacob Coxey led a group of jobless men on a march from his hometown of Massillon, Ohio, to the steps of the US Capitol. Though a financial panic and the resulting widespread business failures caused millions of Americans to be without work at the time, the word unemployment was rarely used and generally misunderstood. In an era that worshipped the self-reliant individual who triumphed in a laissez-faire market, the out-of-work “tramp” was disparaged as weak or flawed, and undeserving of assistance. Private charities were unable to meet the needs of the jobless, and only a few communities experimented with public works programs. Despite these limitations, Coxey conceived a plan to put millions back to work building a nationwide system of roads and drew attention to his idea with the march to Washington.

In Coxey’s Crusade for Jobs, Jerry Prout recounts Coxey’s story and adds depth and context by focusing on the reporters who were embedded in the march. Their fascinating depictions of life on the road occupied the headlines and front pages of America’s newspapers for more than a month, turning the spectacle into a serialized drama. These accounts humanized the idea of unemployment and helped Americans realize that in a new industrial economy, unemployment was not going away and the unemployed deserved attention. This unique study will appeal to scholars and students interested in the Gilded Age, US history, and labor history.

Jerry Prout is a visiting professor of political science at Marquette University. He served as vice president of government and public affairs for FMC Corporation from 2000 to 2013, having joined the company in 1979. His articles on corporate social responsibility have appeared in publications such as Society and Business Review and Corporate Environmental Strategies.
Robert Nixon and Police Torture in Chicago, 1871–1971
Elizabeth Dale

“Dale offers a highly readable, well-researched analysis of an important criminal case with a fresh perspective. What is especially impressive is the book’s accessibility and its use of the particular case of Robert Nixon as a window into the history of police torture in the US.”
—Michael J. Pfeifer, author of Rough Justice: Lynching and American Society, 1874–1947

In 2015, Chicago became the first city in the United States to create a reparations fund for victims of police torture, after investigations revealed that former Chicago police commander Jon Burge tortured numerous suspects in the 1970s, ’80s, and ’90s. But claims of police torture have even deeper roots in Chicago. In the late 19th century, suspects maintained that Chicago police officers put them in sweatboxes or held them incommunicado until they confessed to crimes they had not committed. In the first decades of the 20th century, suspects and witnesses stated that they admitted guilt only because Chicago officers beat them, threatened them, and subjected them to “sweatbox methods.” Those claims continued into the 1960s.

In Robert Nixon and Police Torture in Chicago, 1871–1971, Elizabeth Dale uncovers the lost history of police torture in Chicago between the Chicago Fire and 1971, tracing the types of torture claims made in cases across that period. To show why the criminal justice system failed to adequately deal with many of those allegations of police torture, Dale examines one case in particular, the 1938 murder trial of Robert Nixon. Nixon’s case is famous for being the basis for the novel Native Son, by Richard Wright. Dale considers the part of Nixon’s story that Wright left out: that the legal system mistreated Nixon’s claim that he only confessed after being strung up by his wrists and beaten. This original study will appeal to scholars and students interested in the history of criminal justice, and general readers interested in Midwest history, criminal cases, and the topic of police torture.

Elizabeth Dale is professor of history and law at the University of Florida. She has written a number of books on law and history, including The Chicago Trunk Murder (NIU Press, 2011) and Criminal Justice in the United States, 1789–1939. She was a civil rights lawyer in Chicago before attending graduate school.
doesn’t she have the right to enjoy at least the crumbs at the table of the revolutionary feast?” Disabled single mother Maria Zolotova-Sologub raised this question in a petition dated July 1929, demanding medical assistance and a monthly subsidy for herself and her daughter. While the welfare of able-bodied and industrially productive people in the first socialist country in the world was protected by a state-funded insurance system, the social rights of labor-incapacitated and unemployed individuals such as Zolotova-Sologub were difficult to define and legitimize.

The Right to Be Helped illuminates the ways in which marginalized members of Soviet society understood their social rights and articulated their moral expectations regarding the socialist state between 1917 and 1950. Maria Galmarini-Kabala shows how definitions of state assistance and who was entitled to it provided a platform for policymakers and professionals to engage in heated debates about disability, gender, suffering, and productive and reproductive labor. She explores how authorities and experts reacted to requests for support, arguing that responses were sometimes characterized by an enlightened nature and other times by coercive discipline, but most frequently by a combination of the two.

By focusing on the experiences of behaviorally problematic children, unemployed single mothers, and blind and deaf adults in several major urban centers, this important study shows that the dialogue over the right to be helped was central to defining the moral order of Soviet socialism. It will appeal to scholars and students of Russian history, as well as those interested in comparative disabilities and welfare studies.

Maria Cristina Galmarini-Kabala is assistant professor of history at James Madison University. The recipient of a Davis Center fellowship, she has published articles and essays on Soviet history in English, Russian, and Italian scholarly journals.
This lucidly written biography of Aleksandr Men examines the familial and social context from which Men developed as a Russian Orthodox priest. Wallace Daniel presents a picture of Russia and the Orthodox Church different from the stereotypes found in much of the popular literature. Men offered an alternative to the prescribed ways of thinking imposed by the state and the church. Growing up during the darkest, most oppressive years in the history of the former Soviet Union, he became a parish priest who eschewed fear, who followed Christ’s command “to love thy neighbor as thyself,” and who attracted large, diverse groups of people in Russian society. How he accomplished those tasks and with what ultimate results are the main themes of this story.

Conflict and controversy marked every stage of Men’s priesthood. His parish in the vicinity of Moscow attracted the attention of the KGB, especially as it became a haven for members of the intelligentsia. He endured repeated attacks from ultra-conservative, antisemitic circles inside the Orthodox Church. Father Men represented the spiritual vision of an open, non-authoritarian Christianity, and his lectures were extremely popular. He was murdered on September 10, 1990. For years, his work was unavailable in most church bookstores in Russia, and his teachings were excoriated by some both within and outside the church. But his books continue to offer hope to many throughout the world—they have sold millions of copies and are testimony to his continuing relevance and enduring significance. This important biography will appeal to scholars and general readers interested in religion, politics, and global affairs.

Wallace L. Daniel is Distinguished University Professor of History at Mercer University. He is the co-editor of Perspectives on Church-State Relations in Russia and the author of The Orthodox Church and Civil Society in Russia, as well as many articles on Russian economic, social, and religious history.
Molly Brunson tackles a very complicated subject and elaborates a serious philosophical context. An analysis and appreciation of this kind are long overdue.”
—John Bowlt, editor of Russian Avant-Garde Theatre: War, Revolution, and Design

One fall evening in 1880, Russian painter Ilya Repin welcomed an unexpected visitor to his home: Lev Tolstoy. The renowned realists talked for hours, and Tolstoy turned his critical eye to the sketches in Repin’s studio. Tolstoy’s criticisms would later prompt Repin to reflect on the question of creative expression and conclude that the path to artistic truth is relative, dependent on the mode and medium of representation. In this original study, Molly Brunson traces many such paths that converged to form the tradition of nineteenth-century Russian realism, a tradition that spanned almost half a century—from the youthful projects of the Natural School and the critical realism of the age of reform to the mature masterpieces of Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoevsky, and the paintings of the Wanderers, Repin chief among them.

By examining the classics of the tradition, Brunson explores the emergence of multiple realisms from the gaps, disruptions, and doubts that accompany the self-conscious project of representing reality. These manifestations of realism are united not by how they look or what they describe, but by their shared awareness of the fraught yet critical task of representation. By tracing the engagement of literature and painting with aesthetic debates on the sister arts, Brunson argues for a conceptualization of realism that transcends artistic media. Russian Realisms integrates the lesser-known tradition of Russian painting with the familiar masterpieces of Russia’s great novelists, highlighting both the common ground in their struggles for artistic realism and their cultural autonomy and legitimacy. This erudite study will appeal to scholars interested in Russian literature and art, comparative literature, art history, and nineteenth-century realist movements.

Molly Brunson is associate professor of Russian literature at Yale University.
BOUNDARY

Zofia Nałkowska

TRANSLATED BY URSULA PHILLIPS

“Boundary is an integral part of the Polish literary canon and an important achievement of European modernism. The translation will undoubtedly reshape the transatlantic version of that canon and fortify the presence of the author among English language readers.”

—Bożena Shallcross, University of Chicago

AVAILABLE FOR THE first time in English, Zofia Nałkowska’s Boundary was originally published as Granica in Poland in 1935. The modernist novel was widely discussed upon its publication and praised for its psychological realism and stylistic and compositional artistry. Over the years, it has been translated into several languages and made into a feature film, and remains a standard text in the Polish secondary school curriculum.

Nałkowska was a pioneer of feminist fiction in Central Europe. Her observation of inequality in the treatment of men and women is at the heart of Boundary, which explores a transgressive love affair and its repercussions. She perceived that men—especially of the upper and middle classes—felt free to have sexual relations with lower-class women, whereas it was not socially acceptable for women of any class to have sexual relations outside of marriage, or even admit to enjoying sex. This meant that working-class women were seduced and then abandoned when they became pregnant, leaving them with the stigma of illegitimate children and the problem of finding work. Meanwhile, the higher class wives found themselves betrayed.

While Boundary can be interpreted as a novel about power and its abuses, it contains several dimensions—philosophical, emotional, existential, moral—that render it a consummate piece of social criticism. An elegantly composed work of imaginative fiction, it does not preach or offer solutions. Ursula Phillips’s excellent translation will interest readers of early twentieth century novels and scholars and students of Polish literature, feminist studies, and European modernism.

Ursula Phillips is a translator of both literary and academic works, and a writer on Polish literature. She received the 2015 Found in Translation Award for her translation of Zofia Nałkowska’s Choucas (NIU Press, 2014).
Imagine a hawk’s view of the magnificent bluegrass pastures of Kentucky horse country. Circle around the remnants of a breeding farm, four beautiful horses grazing just beyond the paddock. Inside the ramshackle house, a family is falling apart.

Hack, the patriarch breeder and trainer, is aged and blind, and his wife, Louetta, is confined by rheumatoid arthritis. Their daughter, Jewel, struggles to care for them and the horses while dealing with her own home and job—not to mention her lackluster second husband, Eddie, and Carley, her drug-addicted daughter. Many days, Jewel is only sure she loves the horses. But she holds it all together. Until her brother, Cal, shows up again. Jewel already has reason to hate Cal, and when he meets up with Carley, he throws the family into crisis—and gives Jewel reason to pick up a gun.

Every family has heartbreaks, failures, a black sheep or two. And some families end in tatters. But some stumble on the secret of survival: if the leader breaks down, others step up and step in. In this lyrical novel, when the inept, the addict, and the ex-con join to weave the family story back together, either the barn will burn to the ground or something bigger than any of them will emerge, shining with hope. A novel about perception, *Remember My Beauties* grows large and wide as it reveals what may save us.

*Lynne Hugo* is an award-winning novelist, poet, and memoirist. Her 2014 novel, *A Matter of Mercy*, won an Independent Publisher silver medal for best regional fiction. The recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, she holds a bachelor’s degree from Connecticut College and a master’s degree from Miami University. She lives with her husband in Ohio.
NEW IN PAPER / BIOGRAPHY / RUSSIAN HISTORY

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**Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolaevich**
Supreme Commander of the Russian Army

*Paul Robinson*

Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolaevich Romanov (1856–1929) was a key figure in late imperial Russia and one of its foremost soldiers. In 1905, his cousin, Tsar Nicholas II, assigned him the duty of coordinating defense and security planning for the entire Russian empire. At the outbreak of World War I, the tsar appointed him Supreme Commander of the Russian Army. From 1914 to 1915, and then again briefly in 1917, he commanded the largest army in the greatest war the world had ever seen. At six foot six, the Grand Duke towered over those around him, and his fierce temper was a matter of legend. However, as Paul Robinson’s vivid account shows, he had a more complex personality than either his supporters or detractors believed. This groundbreaking biography—the first to appear in English—examines both the Grand Duke’s private life and his professional career.

*Paul Robinson* is professor of public and international affairs at the University of Ottawa. He is the author of several books, including *The White Russian Army in Exile, 1920–1941*.


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**Merging Lines**
American Railroads, 1900–1970

*Richard Saunders Jr.*

This authoritative history examines the decline of railroads from the glory days of the early twentieth century and explores the reasons why many railroad mergers in the 1950s and 1960s went sour. Beginning with a wide-ranging analysis of the role of railroads in the economic and social fabric of American life, Richard Saunders Jr. traces the causes and results of the twentieth century’s “merger mania.” *Merging Lines* details the impact of shifting political control of railroads as no history has done before. The fates of both workers and railroad companies were dictated by the rise and fall of business and governmental leaders. As power struggles erupted, the original goals of the mergers were thwarted by consumer frustration, violent labor strikes, and organizational collapse. Saunders explores these and other crucial developments in this extensive work.

*Richard Saunders Jr.* is a railroad historian and professor emeritus of history at Clemson University.

ISBN 978-0-87580-735-5 $35.00 x Paper January 2016 6x9 505 pages 68 illus
On the evening of May 25, 1950, one of Chicago’s new fast, colorful, streamlined streetcars—known as a Green Hornet—slammed into a gas truck at State Street and 62nd Place. The gas erupted into flames, poured onto State Street, and quickly engulfed the Hornet, shooting flames two-hundred-fifty feet into the air. Thirty-three people perished. It was Chicago’s worst traffic accident ever—and the worst two-vehicle traffic accident in US history. Craig Allen Cleve vividly brings to life this horrific catastrophe by turning to several sources, including eyewitnesses, journalists, and survivors who were present on that fateful day. By weaving these accounts together, Cleve reveals the remarkable combination of natural events, human error, and mechanical failure that led to the disaster, and this moving history recounts them—as well as the conflagration’s human drama—in gripping detail.

Craig Allen Cleve is an independent historian. He is the author of *Hardball on the Home Front: Major League Replacement Players of World War II*.

From the late 1940s to the early 1970s, farmers transformed the Corn Belt into an industrial powerhouse of large-scale production, mechanization, and efficiency. J.L. Anderson explores why farmers adopted new tools, techniques, and chemical technologies, and explains how the cost of new equipment and chemicals made unprecedented demands on farm capital. In order to maximize production, farmers planted more acres with fewer but more profitable crops, or specialized in raising large herds of a single livestock species. The industrialization of agriculture gave rural Americans a lifestyle resembling that of their urban and suburban counterparts. Yet the rural population continued to dwindle, and many small farmers, unable or unwilling to compete, chose to sell out. *Industrializing the Corn Belt* offers a fresh look at a period of agricultural change through the eyes of those who made the decisions that transformed the nature of the family farm and the Midwestern landscape.

J.L. Anderson teaches US history at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta. He is the editor of *The Rural Midwest Since World War II* (NIU Press, 2014).
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