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## Book Alert on the Border: Russell M. Magnaghi & 906 Heritage

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## **Book Alert on the Border**

**Russell M. Magnaghi & 906 Heritage**

Beginning with this issue of *Upper Country* we are initiating a new section dealing with books related to the region. It will be in two sections. One will deal with the latest published books and the other will pull together books published in the past but probably missed by our readers.

Although we are neighbors it is difficult for people in the United States, even on the border, to become aware of books from Canadian publishers dealing with the region. As you will see that there are many titles which enrich the history of our knowledge of the region and bring the stories to Americans. Fortunately, on-line purchases through amazon.com make these titles available.

**Ernest R. Zimmermann. Edited by Michael Beaulieu and David K. Katz. *The Little Third Reich on Lake Superior: A History of Canada's Internment Camp R*. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2015.**

For eighteen months during the Second World War, the Canadian military interned 1,145 prisoners of war in Red Rock, Ontario (about 100 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay). Camp R interned friend and foe alike: Nazis, anti-Nazis, Jews, soldiers, merchant seamen, and refugees whom Britain feared might comprise Hitler's rumored "fifth column" of alien enemies residing within the Commonwealth. For the first time and in riveting detail, the author illuminates the conditions in one of Canada's forgotten POW camps. Backed by interviews and meticulous archival research, Zimmermann fleshes out this rich history in an accessible, lively manner. *The Little Third Reich on Lake Superior* will captivate military and political historians as well as non-specialists interested in the history of POWs and internment in Canada.

**Michel Beaulieu. *Labour at the Lakehead: Ethnicity, Socialism and Politics, 1900-1935*. Vancouver, BC: University of British Columbia Press, 2012.**

In the early twentieth century, politicians singled out the Lakehead as a breeding ground for radical labor politics. Michel S. Beaulieu returns northern Ontario to its rightful place as a birthplace of leftism in Canada by exposing the conditions that gave rise to an array of left-wing organizations. Cultural ties among workers helped bring left-wing ideas to Canada, but ethnicity weakened the left as each group developed a distinctive vocabulary of socialism and as Anglo-Celtic workers defended their privileges against Finns, Ukrainians, and Italians. At the Lakehead, ethnic difference often outweighed class solidarity – at the cost of a stronger labor movement for Canada. Reviewers to Canadian journal have praised the work of this professor at Lakehead University, Thunder Bay.

**John R. Tester, et al. *Minnesota's Natural History*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2021.**

This is the definitive work on Minnesota's natural history and ecology – updated, expanded and copiously illustrated to account for profound changes to the state's natural landscape over the past twenty-five years. Readers are introduced to the major ecosystems—the lakes and rivers, forests and prairies, farmlands and wetlands—that give the state its rich and varied character and have been profoundly altered in the twenty-five years since the book's first edition.

The second edition of *Minnesota's Natural Heritage* introduces readers to the major ecosystems—the lakes and rivers, forests and prairies, farmlands and wetlands—that give our state its rich and varied character and have been profoundly altered in the twenty-five years since the book's first edition.

**Amalia T. Baldwin. *Becoming Wilderness: Nature, History and the Making of Isle Royale National Park*. Houghton, Mich.: Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association. 2011.**

The work explores the little-known backstory of Isle Royale's twenty-year journey from a largely unknown island in Lake Superior to the nation's first wilderness national park. Author Amalia Baldwin reveals the complex interplay of people, politics, and the evolving concept of wilderness behind the simple story that has been told of the park's formation.

The story of Isle Royale National Park is a complex one; it is a story that involves large social and political movements, geographic challenges, and action by people who love the island. It is a story that is not over. The questions asked and decisions made in the history of the park are questions and decisions that are still contemplated today. What exactly is a wilderness? How should it look? Who belongs there? The way in which these questions are answered determines how future visitors will see Isle Royale's past. Wilderness on Isle Royale is a living, changing landscape. It is the people who love it that give it breath, shape its contours, and decide which story will be told in the years to come.

The **906 Heritage Press** in Marquette, Michigan has released two titles. Both are by historian-author Dr. Russell M. Magnaghi. *Pictured Rocks as Described by Visitors: 1659-1959* uses travel accounts and newspaper articles that capture the essence and beauty of Pictured Rocks during decades when color photographs of the Rocks did not exist. It is a wonderful way to visit the cliffs and waters without having to travel there during the pandemic. It is a colorful and fun read. The second title, *Bishop Frederic Baraga: The Man, His Legacy, and the House* begins with a little-known and appreciated biography of the Catholic missionary-bishop by his good friend Rev. Edward Jacker. It proceeds with how people, especially Protestants have viewed the man and his legacy over the years. It concludes with a history of the home that he lived in in Marquette, the oldest structure in the city. The book is short, but valuable because of the new focus that it takes dealing with the saintly man of the Lake Superior region. The books are available at book stores in Marquette and on-line through lulu.com.