Early Minnesota History and Exploration

Capping the northwestern end of Lake Superior, Minnesota is where midwestern America begins. It was carved out of the eastern half of the Minnesota Territory and admitted to the Union as the 32nd state on May 11, 1858. Nicknamed "Land of 10,000 Lakes," the state's name comes from the Dakota word "min-ni-sotah," meaning "sky-tinted water". Those waters, together with forests, parks and wilderness areas, offer visitors many outdoor recreational opportunities.

More than half of Minnesota's residents live in the “Twin Cities,” as the Minneapolis–Saint Paul metropolitan area is known. It is the center of transportation, business, industry, education, and government, and home to a flourishing arts community. The remainder of its nearly 87,000 square miles consists of western prairies, farmland, forests, and the less populated North Woods.

1996 • Scott 3078
Prehistoric Animals
Woolly Mammoth

1996 • Scott 3079
Prehistoric Animals
Mastodon

1991 • Scott C131
Pre-Columbian America Series
First Americans Crossed Over From Asia

Massive glaciers covered Minnesota 12,000 years ago — a frosty year-round climate like Minnesota winters today. Man shared this prehistoric world with truly remarkable creatures, relying on them for meat, tools, clothing and shelter. The largest of these were the giant woolly mammoth and the mastodon. Relatives of the Asian elephant, these massive, powerful creatures traveled in herds from the Bering Sea to the Eastern Seaboard, but vanished about 10,000 years ago. Their extinction may have been due in part to hunting by early Paleo-Indians, who probably followed the earliest of those herds from northeastern Asia to the Americas 13,000 years ago or more.

1968 • Scott 1356
Father Jacques Marquette (1637–1675)

In 1673, French explorers Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet explored the upper part of the Mississippi River, including what is now Minnesota. Their voyage opened central North America to white settlements.

1970 • Scott 1409
Fort Snelling 150th Anniversary

In 1680, Father Louis Hennepin was the first explorer to visit southeastern Minnesota. Nearly 150 years later, Fort Saint Anthony was established where the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers meet. When Colonel Josiah Snelling's soldiers complete construction, they renamed it Fort Snelling in honor of their commander. It was vital in controlling the fur trade and settlement of the “Great Northwest,” as it was then called. In 1960, Fort Snelling became Minnesota's first historic landmark, designated a National Historic Landmark and restored to its original condition.

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Nicolet, "an interpreter, sent on by [Samuel de] Champlain, was probably in the vicinity of the Sault Ste. Marie" in 1639 and may have laid eyes on Lake Superior. However, the first Europeans to extensively navigate Lake Superior were two French explorers, Groseilliers and Radisson. They explored the area in 1659, establishing France’s claim to the region. After visiting the Apostle Islands, they went north, crossing the narrow end of Lake Superior to the mouth of the Cross River near what is now Schroeder, Minnesota. They spent the winter with the Dakota in a region known as Mille Lacs, French for “Thousand Lakes.”
1925 • Scott 620
Norse-American Sloop Restaurationen

Restaurationen ("Restoration"), a Norwegian sloop built in 1801, became a symbol of Norwegian-American immigration. It sailed in 1825, with 52 people aboard, on the first organized Norwegian emigration to America. The Norse-American Centennial, held in Minnesota in 1925, to commemorate the voyage, was marked by this stamp depicting the ship. Today, Minneapolis has the largest concentration of Norwegians outside Norway.

1948 • Scott 958
Swedish Pioneer

The 100th anniversary of the emigration of Swedish pioneers to the American Midwest was commemorated in 1948. This stamp pictures a Swedish pioneer with an ox-drawn covered wagon headed westward, with a dozen stars for the 12 Midwestern states settled by Swedes, including Minnesota. The Swedish Council of America is headquartered in Minneapolis.

1937 • Scott 795
Northwest Territory Ordinance

The Northwest Ordinance was an act of the Congress of the Confederation of July 13, 1787, signed into law by George Washington, that created the Northwest Territory from lands south of the Great Lakes, north and west of the Ohio River, and east of the Mississippi River, including what is now the Arrowhead Region of northeastern Minnesota. Covering more than 260,000 square miles, in 1787 it was inhabited by about 45,000 Native Americans and 4,000 traders, mostly French and British — although both included the Métis, a sizeable group descended from native women and European or Canadian traders. Their unique culture ruled the Upper Midwest for over a century.

1948 • Scott 1334
Finland's Independence

This 1967 stamp celebrating a tradition of friendship between Finland and the United States was first placed on sale at Finland, Minnesota. Though not as numerous as other early European arrivals, the first Finnish immigrants to reach Minnesota came in 1864. Many settled in northern Minnesota, especially the Arrowhead Region, often working in that region's iron mines. Minnesota now ranks second among the states in Finnish population.

1938 • Scott 837
Northwest Territory Sesquicentennial
MINNESOTA: MORE EARLY HISTORY

1983 • Scott 2040
Concord-German Immigration

1925 • Scott 620
Norse-American
Sloop Restaurationen

1948 • Scott 958
Swedish Pioneer

1967 • Scott 1334
Finland’s Independence

1937 • Scott 795
Northwest Territory Ordinance

1938 • Scott 837
Northwest Territory Sesquicentennial
**MINNESOTA BECOMES A STATE**

**1953 • Scott 1020**
Louisiana Purchase

The Louisiana Purchase was the acquisition in 1803 by the US of 828,000 square miles of France’s claim to the territory of Louisiana, including parts of Minnesota west of the Mississippi River, for $15 million dollars — in 2013 dollars, a cost of less than 42¢ per acre. The 3¢ stamp depicts "MONROE / LIVINGSTON / and / MARBOIS" "Signing the / Louisiana / Transfer / Paris / 1803." The signing also is depicted in the 37¢ stamp, along with facsimiles of the agreement and a map showing the territory acquired in the transfer.

**1949 • Scott 981**
Minnesota Territory

Carved out of the 1838 Iowa Territory, Minnesota Territory included what is now Minnesota, most of what later became Dakota Territory east of the Missouri River, and portions of Wisconsin Territory between the Mississippi River and Wisconsin. This organized incorporated territory existed from 1849 to 1858, when its eastern portion joined the Union as the State of Minnesota. Often drawn by oxen, the two-wheeled all-wood cart, as depicted on this stamp, were used in the fur trade and in westward expansion. It is named for the Red River and the plains west of the Red River Colony, part of which was in what is now the northwesternmost part of Minnesota.

**1958 • Scott 1106**
Minnesota Statehood

Issued in St. Paul, this 3¢ stamp showcases the many lakes, islands and low, rolling hills of Minnesota's North Woods. It emphasizes the unusual branches of the state's tree, the red or Norway pine. Called the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," Minnesota actually has 11,842 lakes 10 acres or larger in size.

**2003 • Scott 3782**
Louisiana Purchase

**2008 • Scott 4266**
Minnesota Statehood

The first-day ceremony for this stamp was held on the grounds of the Capitol during the state's Sesquicentennial Festival. It features a photograph by Richard Hamilton Smith of Park Rapids, Minnesota, showing a sunset view northwest of the city of Winona located in picturesque bluff country. The image includes the 72-year-old Highway 43 Bridge on the Mississippi River in the southeastern corner of the state, on its eastern border with Wisconsin.
MINNESOTA BECOMES A STATE

1953 • Scott 1020
Louisiana Purchase

2003 • Scott 3782
Louisiana Purchase

1949 • Scott 981
Minnesota Territory

1958 • Scott 1106
Minnesota Statehood

2008 • Scott 4266
Minnesota Statehood
Symbols of the State

1976 • Scott 1664
American Bicentennial: State Flags: Minnesota

Adopted in 1957, Minnesota’s flag shows the state seal on a blue field. The years “1819” (establishment of Fort Snelling), “1858” (statehood) and “1893” (adoption of the first state flag) appear in gold. The 19 gold stars arranged to form points of a star allude to Minnesota as the 19th state added after the 13 colonies, while a necklace of 87 beads around the seal represent the state’s 87 counties.

2009 • Scott 4299
Flags of our Nation III: Minnesota

In addition to the state flag, this stamp pictures a grain elevator on a riverbank with swans in the foreground. Minnesota was nicknamed “the Bread and Butter State” at the 1902 Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, N.Y., because of its superior wheat, flour, and dairy products. The waterfowl shown on the stamp are trumpeter swans. Hunted to near extinction by the mid-1800s, wildlife program efforts in Minnesota and other states have allowed these majestic birds to once again be seen in the wild.

1987 • Scott 2253
Transportation series
Milk Wagon 1900s

In 1984, milk was declared the state drink of Minnesota, which ranks sixth among states in dairy production. From the late 19th century to the 1940s, cold milk was brought to American homes early each morning by a horse-drawn wagon like the one on this stamp. The horses that drew the knew when it was time to stop, when it was time to turn, and when it was time to wait until the milkman returned from each delivery.

1982 • Scott 1975
State Birds & Flowers: Minnesota

Minnesota adopted the common loon as the official state bird in 1961. The loon’s eerie, echoing calls can be heard across the northern lakes of Minnesota. These large birds (their wings may span up to 5 feet, and their body it up to 3 feet long) are high-speed flyers and excellent underwater swimmers, diving up to 90 feet in search of small fish.

The pink and white lady’s slipper was designated the official state flower in 1902. Lady’s slippers can live up to 50 years but may take up to 16 years to produce their first flower. Since 1925 this rare wildflower has been protected by Minnesota state law (it is illegal to pick the flowers or to uproot the pink and white lady’s slipper).

1987 • Scott 2287
North American Wildlife
Monarch Butterfly

1999 • Scott 3351j
Classic Collections: Insects & Spiders
Monarch Caterpillar

Attractive in orange and black, the common Monarch is perhaps the best known of all North American butterflies. It is famous for its southward migration and northward return in summer from Canada to Mexico and Baja California, which spans the life of three to four generations of the butterfly. Minnesota adopted the monarch butterfly as the official state butterfly in 1998. Distinctively striped Monarch caterpillars (pictured on Scott 3351j) feed on milkweed, which grows throughout Minnesota.

2010 • Scott 4462
Monarch Butterfly

1999 • Scott 3351k
Classic Collections: Insects & Spiders
Monarch Butterfly
Symbols of the State

1976 • Scott 1664
American Bicentennial: State Flags:
Minnesota

2009 • Scott 4299
Flags of our Nation III:
Minnesota

1982 • Scott 1975
State Birds & Flowers: Minnesota

1987 • Scott 2253
Transportation series
Milk Wagon 1900s

1987 • Scott 2287
North American Wildlife
Monarch Butterfly

1987 • Scott 2287
North American Wildlife
Monarch Butterfly

1999 • Scott 3351j
Classic Collections:
Insects & Spiders
Monarch Caterpillar

1999 • Scott 3351k
Classic Collections:
Insects & Spiders
Monarch Caterpillar
Minnesota Waterways

1966 • Scott 1319
Great River Road

The Great River Road follows the mighty Mississippi River from its beginning in Itasca State Park, Minnesota, to the Gulf of Mexico. Visitors can see forests, farmland, museums, historic sites, and more as they travel the 575 miles of the Great River Road through the state. A raindrop falling near the headwaters in Lake Itasca, Minnesota, would reach the Gulf of Mexico in about 90 days, traveling at about 3 miles per hour.

1955 • Scott 1069
Soo Locks

The Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie enable ships to travel between Lake Superior and the lower Great Lakes. Iron ore from Minnesota's northeastern Iron Range is shipped through the Soo Locks to U.S. Steel's mills along Lakes Michigan and Erie in Ohio and Indiana.

2006 • Scott 4047
Wonders of America: Land of Superlatives
Largest Lake: Lake Superior

Minnesota has 154 miles of shore along the northwestern end of Lake Superior. Americans often refer to the Minnesota shoreline between the city of Duluth at its western end to the international border at Grand Portage as “the North Shore.” The largest lake in the United States and largest of the Great Lakes, Lake Superior has the largest surface area of any freshwater lake in the world and the fresh water it holds is equal to all the water in the other Great Lakes, plus three more Lake Eries.

1959 • Scott 1131
St. Lawrence Seaway

When the St. Lawrence Seaway was completed in 1959, vessels were able to travel from Minnesota to the Atlantic Ocean. Millions of tons of iron ore are shipped from the state, as well as coal that is brought by train from Montana and Wyoming to be shipped from the ports in Minnesota.

1984 • Scott 2092
Migratory Bird Hunting and Preservation Act

A newspaper cartoonist from Iowa designed the first federal Migratory Waterfowl Hunting stamp in 1934, but Minnesota has the impressive top honors on what are popularly known as US “duck stamps.” As of 2013, 15 Minnesota artists had won the annual duck stamp competition a record 25 times. Most living Minnesota artists who had won the federal duck stamp contest were on hand to help lay the foundation for what they hope will someday become a wildlife art museum at Owatonna, Minnesota.

1995 • Scott 2969
Lighthouses: Great Lakes
Split Rock, Lake Superior

Split Rock Lighthouse is located southwest of Silver Bay, Minnesota, on the North Shore of Lake Superior. It was built in response to the loss of 29 ships during the infamous Mataafa Storm of 1905. The Split Rock Lighthouse was completed in 1910 by the United States Lighthouse Service at a cost of $75,000, including the buildings and land.
**MINNESOTA WATERWAYS**

- 1966 • Scott 1319  
  Great River Road

- 2006 • Scott 4047  
  Wonders of America: Land of Superlatives  
  Largest Lake: Lake Superior

- 1955 • Scott 1069  
  Soo Locks

- 1959 • Scott 1131  
  St. Lawrence Seaway

- 1984 • Scott 2092  
  Migratory Bird Hunting and Preservation Act

- 1995 • Scott 2969  
  Lighthouses: Great Lakes  
  Split Rock, Lake Superior
Voyageurs National Park was the subject of both a 60¢ aerogramme issued in 1999 (with the design near the printed denomination depicting a swimming loon) and an 80¢ self-adhesive international-rate airmail stamp released in 2011 in the Scenic American Landscapes series, with a photograph of the park by Richard Olsenius showing rocks and marsh grass in water. Established in 1975 in northern Minnesota near famously frosty International Falls, the park honors les voyageurs — French-Canadian fur traders who were the first Europeans to travel the region. Notable for its outstanding waters, the park is popular with canoeists, kayakers, other boaters and fishermen. To the east of the park lies the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

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MINNESOTA: LAND OF LAKES

2002 • Scott 3583
Greetings From America: Minnesota

2002 • Scott 3718
Greetings From America: Minnesota

1999 • Scott UC65
Voyageurs Park aerogramme

2011 • Scott C148
Scenic American Landscapes Series
Voyageurs National Park
Great Minnesota

1950 • Scott 991
Washington Sesquicentennial 1800-1950
United States Supreme Court

The US Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States, and those chosen by the President and confirmed as justices of the Supreme Court are among the most influential jurists in the nation. Minnesota played a role in the lives of four such men. The first Minnesota justice of the Supreme Court was Pierce Butler. He practiced in St. Paul and specialized in railroad law until he was appointed by President Harding. Born in Maine, Minnesota, in 1898, Democrat William O. Douglas served Franklin D. Roosevelt as the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission before he was appointed to the court in 1939. He was a liberal, known for his support of civil rights and personal and civil liberties. Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he received his law degree and practiced, Warren E. Burger was an assistant attorney general with the Department of Justice and a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals before Richard Nixon appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1969. Nominated as a conservative and advocate of judicial restraint, Burger did little to limit or reverse the liberal decisions of the court. Born in Illinois, Harry Blackmun grew up in Dayton’s Bluff, a working-class neighborhood in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He attended the same grade school as future Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, with whom he eventually served on the Supreme Court for 16 years. Blackmun was general counsel to the Mayo Clinic, became a federal circuit court judge and was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Nixon. Blackmun was initially allied with conservatives on the court, but is best known for his 1973 majority opinion in Roe v. Wade, legalizing abortion. By the 1980s, Blackmun was a reliable liberal on most matters, particularly civil rights.

1991 • Scott 2189
Great Americans Series
52¢ Hubert H. Humphrey

Hubert Horatio Humphrey, Jr., was the 38th Vice President of the United States, serving under President Johnson. He graduated from the University of Minnesota, where he returned as an instructor and doctoral student from. Humphrey became a professor of political science at Macalester College in Saint Paul, after which he worked as a Minneapolis radio news commentator. He was instrumental in the merger of the Democratic and Farmer-Labor parties to form the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party. He served as a mayor of Minneapolis, was a U.S. Senator, and was selected as left the Senate to assume the vice presidency. Despite hard work, his desire to become president was never fulfilled. In his most successful attempt, as the Democratic nominee, he lost the 1968 election by less than 1% of the popular vote but only carried 13 states. He died in 1978 at his home in Waverly, Minnesota, and his body lay in state in the rotunda of both the US Capitol and the Minnesota State Capitol before he was interred in Minneapolis.

1964 • Scott 1251
Doctors William & Charles Mayo

Rochester, Minnesota’s Mayo Clinic is the first and largest not-for-profit medical practice and research group in the world. With more than 3,800 physicians and scientists and 50,900 health staff, it specializes in treating difficult cases, and spends over $500 million a year on research. In 1889, Saint Mary’s Hospital was opened, with William Worrall Mayo as a consulting physician, and his two sons, William James and Charles Horace seeing patients and performing surgeries. As time passed, talented new doctors were added, some of whom focused on specific tasks such as laboratory work or diagnostics. Thus the Mayo Clinic introduced the concept of medical specialties, establishing orthopedics, neurology, thoracic surgery, dermatology, and pediatrics. This concept of medical treatment resulted in many innovations, including having the patient’s medical records in a single file, available at each treatment. In 1919, the Doctors Mayo brothers turned over their practice and most of their life savings to a charitable organization that maintains the Mayo Clinic. More than five million people have been treated at this highly respected facility, which today includes three clinics and four hospitals, the largest of them still at home in Rochester, Minnesota.

2001 • Scott 3501
Black Heritage Series
Roy Wilkins

Children attend integrated schools today due partly to the efforts of Roy Wilkins, honored on the 24th stamp of the Black Heritage Series. Wilkins was born in St. Louis, but after his mother died, he and his siblings were raised by an aunt and uncle in St. Paul, Minnesota. Wilkins graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in sociology in 1923. After graduation, Wilkins worked as a journalist at The Minnesota Daily and became editor of The Appeal, an African-American newspaper. He went on to become executive secretary and executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for 22 years, and helped win the 1954 Supreme Court decision that ended segregated education.
Great Minnesotans

1950 • Scott 991
Washington Sesquicentennial 1800-1950
United States Supreme Court

1991 • Scott 2189
Great Americans Series
52¢ Hubert H. Humphrey

1964 • Scott 1251
Doctors William & Charles Mayo

2001 • Scott 3501
Black Heritage Series
Roy Wilkins

Bronze statue of Charles Mayo (left) and William Mayo (right), in front of the Mayo Clinic Gonda Building in Rochester, Minnesota.
Great Minnesotans

2011 • Scott 4541
American Scientists
Chemist Melvin Calvin

Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, Melvin Calvin earned his Doctorate in chemistry from the University of Minnesota. As a professor, Calvin, along with others, used carbon-14 isotopes as tracers to map the route carbon takes through a plant in photosynthesis, starting from its absorption as atmospheric carbon dioxide to its conversion into glucose and other compounds. They showed that sunlight acts on chlorophyll in a plant to fuel that process, rather than on carbon dioxide as previously believed. Calvin received the 1961 Nobel Prize for Chemistry for what is sometimes known as the Calvin cycle, the first recognized of the light-independent reactions that create glucose, a fundamental building block of life.

2011 • Scott 4546d
Pioneers of Industrial Design
Donald Deskey

A native of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Donald Deskey studied architecture at the University of California, becoming an artist and a pioneer in industrial design. In Paris he attended the 1925 International Exposition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts, which influenced him profoundly. He established a consulting firm, and later the firm of Deskey-Vollmer, specializing in furniture and textile design. His designs in this era progressed from Art Deco to Streamline Modern. In the 1940s he started the graphic design firm Donald Deskey Associates and made some of the most recognizable icons of the day: Crest toothpaste packaging, the Tide bullseye, a widely used New York City lamppost model, as well as the simple but elegant table lamp featured on the stamp.

2002 • Scott 3649t
Masters of American Photography
Minor White

Born in Minneapolis in 1908, Minor White earned his degree in botany at the University of Minnesota in 1933. He composed 100 sonnets while working at the University Club. In 1938, he began his career in photography in Oregon. After WW II, White moved to New York, studied at Columbia and developed a distinctive style in black and white. He met great photographers; learning concepts crucial to his mature work. White taught extensively, and co-founded the influential magazine Aperture, which he edited until 1975.

2001 • Scott 1931
American Architecture
National Farmers' Bank, Louis Sullivan

The National Farmers' Bank in Owatonna, Minnesota was designed by Louis Sullivan, an influential architect who has been called the father of skyscrapers and father of modernism. Built in 1908, the bank was the first of Sullivan's famed "jewel boxes." The elegant structure is clad in red brick with green terra cotta bands, and features two large arches. Internal elements include two stained glass windows, a mural and four immense cast iron "electroliers" (or electric chandeliers). In 1976, the extensively refurbished bank was recognized as a National Historic Landmark for its architectural significance.

1993 • Scott 2781
National Postal Museum
Charles Lindbergh

As a 25-year-old U.S. Air Mail pilot, Charles Lindbergh soared to world fame following his prize-winning non-stop solo flight in 1927, from Long Island, New York, to Paris, France. An Army Air Corps Reserve officer, he was also awarded the nation's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his historic flight. Lindbergh was born in Detroit in 1902, but spent most of his childhood in Little Falls, Minnesota. His boyhood home in Little Falls is a today National Historic Landmark. Terminal 1 at Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport was named after him, and a replica of The Spirit of St. Louis hangs there.

1977 • Scott 1710
Solo Transatlantic Flight

Charles Lindbergh's “Spirit of St. Louis”

Just as Lindbergh's flight set records for flight, so did the Lindbergh airmail stamp set records in the world of postage stamps. The rules of the US Post Office were NOT to issue a stamp honoring a living American. The got around the ban by showing Lindbergh's airplane instead. The stamp was issued less than a month after he landed in France. Booklets with the first impressions were presented to Lindbergh and his mother at a Washington, D.C., reception. The stamps were issued in Little Falls, Minnesota, as well as three other locations in the United States.
**Great Minnesotans**

2011 • Scott 4541
American Scientists
Chemist Melvin Calvin

2011 • Scott 4546d
Pioneers of Industrial Design
Donald Deskey

2002 • Scott 3649t
Masters of American Photography
Minor White

2001 • Scott 1931
American Architecture
National Farmers’ Bank, Louis Sullivan

1993 • Scott 2781
National Postal Museum
Charles Lindbergh

1977 • Scott 1710
Solo Transatlantic Flight

1927 • Scott C10
Lindbergh’s “Spirit of St. Louis”
Minnesota Sports

1980 • Scott 1798
Olympic Games, Winter Ice Hockey

With its long midwestern winters, it is fitting that the state sport of Minnesota is hockey. The University of Minnesota’s Golden Gophers hockey team has played since 1921, recording 5 national championships. For 26 seasons, the Minnesota North Stars represented the state in the National Hockey League (NHL), and the St. Paul-based Minnesota Wild has been active in the NHL since the 2000-01 season. An often overlooked U.S. hockey stamp is the 1976 Christmas stamp depicting Nathaniel Currier’s 1855 hand-colored lithograph Winter Pastime. The 1980 Winter Olympic Ice Hockey stamps have special relevance for Minnesota; Coach Herb Brooks (a St. Paul native) and 13 of the 20 members of the gold-medal winning “Miracle on Ice” U.S. squad have Minnesota connections.

1976 • Scott 1702
Holiday Celebration: “Winter Pastime”

2003 • Scott 3808
Early Football Heroes
Bronko Nagurski

Bronislau “Bronko” Nagurski’s family moved to International Falls, Minnesota, when he was just 5 years old. Discovered by the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers, he played both tackle on defense and fullback on offense. Nagurski went pro with Chicago, helping the Bears win two NFL championships. He is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

2003 • Scott 3809
Early Football Heroes
Ernie Nevers

Born in Willow River, Minnesota, Ernest Alonzo Nevers played football for Minnesota’s Duluth Eskimos and the Chicago Cardinals of the National Football League. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1951 and the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1963. To this day, he is the only player in NFL history to score 40 points in a game; Nevers scored all 6 touchdowns and 4 extra points for the Chicago Cardinals in a 40-0 rout of the crosstown-rival Chicago Bears.

1999 • Scott 3188n
Celebrate the Century 1960s
Roger Maris 61 in ’61

Roger Eugene Maris was born in the city of Hibbing, Minnesota. He was a Major League Baseball right fielder for 12 seasons and on four teams, from 1957 through 1968. Playing for the New York Yankees, Maris hit a Major League record 61 home runs during the 1961 season — celebrated on the “61 in ’61” stamp. Maris’ record remained unchallenged for 37 years. Maris was an American League Most Valuable Player, All-Star, and Gold Glove winner. He appeared in seven World Series, five as a member of the Yankees and two with the St. Louis Cardinals.
MINNESOTA SPORTS

1980 • Scott 1798
Olympic Games, Winter Ice Hockey

1976 • Scott 1703
Holiday Celebration: "Winter Pastime"

1999 • Scott 3188n
Celebrate the Century 1960s Roger Maris 61 in ‘61

2003 • Scott 3808
Early Football Heroes Bronko Nagurski

2003 • Scott 3809
Early Football Heroes Ernie Nevers
Minnesota in the Arts

1998 • Scott 2936
Great Americans Series
Lila & DeWitt Wallace

Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, William Roy DeWitt Wallace's first job was working for a publishing firm. Later in life he wanted to create a journal with short articles on many subjects for easy reading. Wallace shared his dream with Lila Bell Acheson, whom he soon married. The Wallaces published the magazine themselves, marketing it by direct mail. Reader's Digest soon became one of the most widely circulated periodicals in the world. DeWitt donated much of his massive fortune to Macalester College. He also funded the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum, at Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. In 1972, DeWitt Wallace was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

1985 • Scott 1856
Great Americans Series
Sinclair Lewis

Born in the Sauk Centre, Minnesota, Harry Sinclair Lewis was a novelist, short-story writer, and playwright. In 1930, Lewis became the first American writer to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature. He is respected for strong characterizations of modern working women. One of his later novels, Kingsblood Royal (1947) is set in the fictional city Grand Republic, Minnesota. Based on trials in Detroit in which a black doctor was denied the chance to buy a house in a "white" section of the city, it was a powerful, early contribution to the civil rights movement.

1996 • Scott 3104
Literary Arts Series
F. Scott Fitzgerald

A F. Scott Fitzgerald stamp marks the 100th anniversary of his birth, issued in St. Paul, Minnesota. The stamp features a portrait of the author like others in the Literary Arts series, with a background scene inspired by a description from The Great Gatsby, one of his most widely read novels. Born in St. Paul, Fitzgerald was educated at Princeton University. His first novel, This Side of Paradise (1920), established him as the spokesman for the Jazz Age — a term he coined. His most ambitious work was Tender Is the Night (1934).

2008 • Scott 4252
American Journalists
Eric Sevareid

Of Norwegian ancestry, Eric Sevareid was raised in Minneapolis. At 18, Sevareid entered journalism as a reporter for the Minneapolis Journal. He studied in London and later in Paris, where he also worked as an editor for United Press, then city editor of the Paris Herald Tribune. He left to join CBS as a foreign correspondent, broadcast the fall of Paris before leaving for London and finally Washington, where he became bureau chief in 1942. From 1964 until he retired in 1977 Sevareid’s two-minute commentaries on the CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite were avidly followed, earning two Emmy Awards and three Peabody Awards.

1980 • Scott 2786
Classic Books
Little House on the Prairie

Now regarded as classic childrens' fare, Little House on the Prairie started with the series of books for children by Laura Ingalls Wilder first published between 1932 and 1943. The fourth book in that series, On the Banks of Plum Creek, takes place from 1871 to 1874, and follows the Ingalls family as they move from Kansas to Pepin, Wisconsin, to an area near Walnut Grove, Minnesota, and settle in a dugout "on the banks of Plum Creek (Redwood County, Minnesota)."
MINNESOTA IN THE ARTS

1998 • Scott 2936
Great Americans Series
Lila & DeWitt Wallace

1985 • Scott 1856
Great Americans Series
Sinclair Lewis

1940 • Scott 864
Famous Americans: Poets
Henry W. Longfellow

2007 • Scott 4124
Literary Arts Series
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

1996 • Scott 3104
Literary Arts Series
F. Scott Fitzgerald

2008 • Scott 4252
American Journalists
Eric Sevareid

1993 • Scott 2786
Classic Books
*Little House on the Prairie*
More Minnesota

1990 • Scott 2445
Classic Films
The Wizard of Oz
Judy Garland was born Frances Ethel Gumm in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Renowned as an American actress, singer and vaudevillian, she was described by Fred Astaire as "the greatest entertainer who ever lived" and celebrated for her contralto voice. She attained international stardom in a career that spanned more than 40 years as an actress in musical and dramatic roles, as a recording artist and on the concert stage. Respected for her versatility, she received a Juvenile Academy Award and won a Golden Globe Award as well as Grammy Awards and a Special Tony Award.

1997 • Scott 3161
Legends of American Music: Classical Composers & Conductors
Eugene Ormandy
Born in Budapest, Eugene Ormandy began studying violin at age five, gave his first concerts at age seven and graduated at 14 with a Master’s degree. When Arturo Toscanini was too ill to conduct the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1931, Ormandy was asked to stand in. This led to his first major appointment as a conductor, with the Minneapolis Symphony, which he led until 1936. RCA Victor contracted Ormandy and the symphony for many recordings, and sent its best technicians and equipment to record in Minneapolis, including several important premieres.

1996 • Scott 2934
Great Americans Series
Cal Farley
Cal Farley grew up in Elmore, Minnesota. He played semi-professional baseball and later competed as a wrestler in the U.S. Army during WW I, turning professional after the war. In 1934, he started the Maverick Club, an athletic club for boys, and in 1939 founded the residential childcare facility Boys Ranch, north of Amarillo, Texas. He founded the Cal Farley Boys Ranch for orphaned and abandoned boys, and later started Girlstown, a similar facility for girls. Boys Ranch and Girlstown engage needy children with a wide variety of activities, non-denominational religious services and education. Farley is known as “America's Greatest Foster Father.”

2001 • Scott 3507
“Peanuts” by Charles Schulz
Snoopy
Charles Monroe Schulz was born in Minneapolis. He grew up and was educated in St. Paul, and loved drawing from an early age. Discharged from the US Army following WW II, he returned to Minneapolis. His first regular cartoons, titled “Li’l Folks,” were published by the St. Paul Pioneer Press. “Peanuts” debuted on October 2, 1950, and went on to become one of the most popular, profitable and influential comic strips of all time. At its height, “Peanuts” was published daily in 2,600 papers, 75 countries, and 21 languages. Over nearly 50 years, Schulz drew nearly 18,000 strips, and received many awards, but he may be best remembered in his home town for bronze statues of the “Peanuts” characters in Landmark Plaza and Rice Park in downtown St. Paul.

2006 • Scott 4077
Legends of Hollywood
Judy Garland

1996 • Scott 3084
Folk Heroes
32¢ Paul Bunyan
Beloved folk hero Paul Bunyan is a giant as well as a lumberjack of unusual skill, often accompanied by his sidekick, Babe the Blue Ox. Bunyan originated in folktales circulated among lumberjacks in the northeastern United States and eastern Canada, first appearing in a story by James MacGillivray published in 1906. A former lumber boom town, Akeley, Minnesota, has celebrated ’Paul Bunyan Days’ annually since 1955, and the town hosts a 25-foot statue of Paul Bunyan kneeling next to his own oversized cradle. Akeley is also home to the Paul Bunyan Historical Museum, with a collection of pictures and artifacts on the town’s early history. Paul Bunyan Land, a popular amusement park near Brainerd, Minnesota, features a talking statue of Paul with a statue of Babe.
1990 • Scott 2445
Classic Films
The Wizard of Oz

2006 • Scott 4077
Legends of Hollywood
Judy Garland

1997 • Scott 3161
Legends of American Music: Classical Composers & Conductors
Eugene Ormandy

1996 • Scott 2934
Great Americans Series
Cal Farley

2001 • Scott 3507
“Peanuts” by Charles Schulz
Snoopy

1996 • Scott 3084
Folk Heroes
32¢ Paul Bunyan
Traveling between Minnesota’s Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Chicago, the Hiawathas were a fleet of named passenger trains operated by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad (also known as “the Milwaukee Road”) between Chicago and various destinations in the Midwest and West. The most notable of these trains was the original Twin Cities Hiawatha, which served the Twin Cities in Minnesota, named for Longfellow’s epic poem. The first Hiawatha ran in 1935. In 1939, the Milwaukee Road introduced a second daily trip between Chicago and Minneapolis. The two trains sometimes were known as the Morning Hiawatha and Afternoon Hiawatha, or sometimes the AM Twin Cities Hiawatha and PM Twin Cities Hiawatha. The Milwaukee Road discontinued the Afternoon Hiawatha in 1970 while the Morning Hiawatha continued running until the formation of Amtrak in 1971. The engine depicted is a Milwaukee Road class A, one of four high-speed, streamlined 4-4-2 “Atlantic” steam locomotives built by the American Locomotive Company in 1935-37 to haul these express passenger trains. Among the last Atlantic types built in the United States, they were the largest and most powerful — the first locomotives in the world built for daily operation at over 100 mph, and the first class built to be completely streamlined.

Minnesota farmer Oliver Hudson Kelley and six associates established the National Grange (Order of the Patrons of Husbandry) in Washington, D.C., in 1867. Conceived as a cooperative social and educational organization for farmers, it was also involved in politics, a force for social betterment and an advocate for the people of rural America. The first local grange in Minnesota was established in 1868 at St. Paul, and the first state grange was organized in St. Paul in 1869. By 1962, a total of 827 local granges had been established in Minnesota. This stamp was issued on April 17, 1967, during National Grange Week. Its five-color design is reminiscent of the elaborate 19th-century posters that the Grange distributed to recruit new members in its early days. The Oliver H. Kelley Homestead in Elk River is maintained by the Minnesota Historical Society as a living history farm, showing people what life was like on a frontier farm in the 1850s.
More Minnesota

1999 • Scott 3336
All Aboard!
Hiawatha

1967 • Scott 1323
National Grange Centennial
The American Philatelic Society

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A special thank you to David and Julia Crawford for their assistance in identifying stamps related to the State of Minnesota.

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