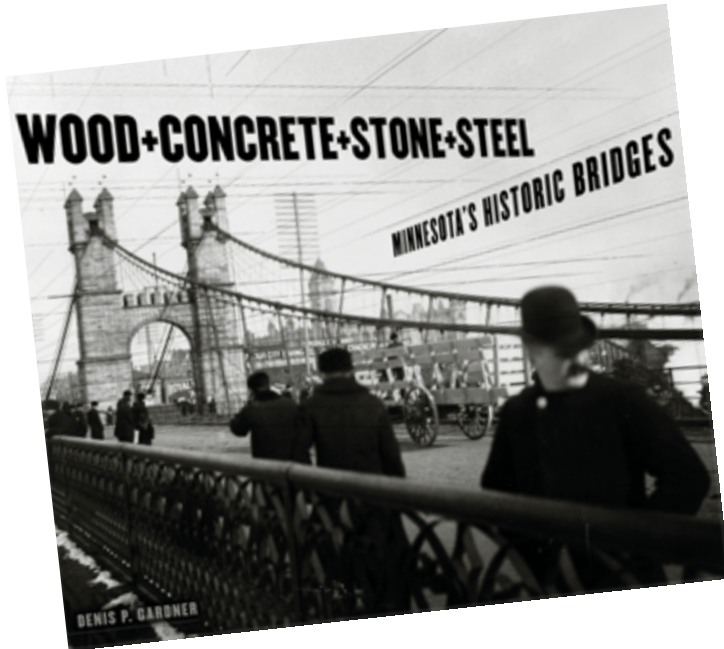


WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



News Release

John Wingate
612-782-8551
john@wingategroup.com

*Wood, Concrete, Stone and Steel:
Minnesota's Historic Bridges*
By Denis Gardner
University of Minnesota Press

What: WCHS Book Signing
When: Saturday, June 21, 2 p.m.
Where: WCHS Warden's House Museum
Free and open to the public

Saturday, June 21st WCHS Book Signing at Warden's House Museum to Showcase *Wood, Concrete, Stone, and Steel: Minnesota's Historic Bridges*

Author Denis Gardner presents the first illustrated history of Minnesota's bridges

Stillwater, Minn. – When the 35W bridge collapsed on August 1, 2007, Minnesotans instantly recognized the crucial place of bridges in our lives. Author Denis Gardner will feature his latest book on a timely topic – *Wood, Concrete, Stone and Steel: Minnesota's Historic Bridges* – at a free presentation and book signing at 2p.m. Saturday, June 21 at the Warden's House Museum in Stillwater.

The Gardner presentation is being hosted by the Washington County Historical Society, a leading heritage organization that supports efforts to share Minnesota's rich, diverse history with the public.

“The Gardner book is a fascinating look at nearly every type of bridge in rural and urban Minnesota, and how these structures impact our life and culture,” said WCHS Executive Director Brent Peterson. “The book includes the Soo Line High Bridge which connects Washington County and Somerset, Wisconsin, so this will be a fascinating presentation for Washington County residents.”

From Pratt trusses to bowstring arches, Gardner's *Wood, Concrete, Stone, and Steel* describes nearly every bridge type, including railroad spans, and features more than 225 illustrations of historical and extant bridges. Gardner details the development of engineering and construction innovations (complete with a guide to trusses) and traces the fascinating politics and personalities behind the task of creating and maintaining safe, often beautiful, crossings.

Through arresting photographs and lively narrative, Gardner makes a compelling argument for the value of preserving our bridges and the cultural heritage they carry and brings to life their importance in Minnesota's past, present, and future.

"Gardner's exhaustive history of bridge building in Minnesota is a refreshing reminder that we once lived in a state where government—and the private sector—took pride in creating artful infrastructure. With the help of historical photographs, Gardner offers a rare glimpse at the engineering feats that characterized Minneapolis's early years." **Minneapolis Observer Quarterly**

"This marvelous book reminds us that bridges have played a significant role in Minnesota's history, shaping the pattern of its development as well as the visual character of its landscape. In these pages, Denis Gardner provides a wide-ranging guide to the varied spans that have supported and ornamented our state's roads and railways, from the monumental Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis to the spidery steel Soo Line High Bridge near Stillwater and the pagoda-topped Lester Park Rustic Bridge that once graced my hometown of Duluth. Equally important, he tells the compelling story of the visionary people, historic events and technological advances that helped make Minnesota the special place we know and cherish." **Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation**

Denis P. Gardner is an award-winning historian who has documented properties for the National Register of Historic Places and the Historic American Engineering Record. He is the author of *Minnesota Treasures: Stories behind the State's Historic Places*.

Founded in 1934, the Washington County Historical Society is a donor-supported, nonprofit organization with more than 700 individual, family, and business members. WCHS is supported by individual gifts, membership fees, and foundation grants.

For more information, please visit www.wchsmn.org.