

Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library
A State Library Services Program

LOCALLY PRODUCED CASSETTE BOOKS

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About this Collection

The following is a comprehensive list of cassette books recorded at, and made available through, the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library. In order to listen to these cassettes, one must possess a 4-track cassette player. These recordings feature volunteer narrators whose names appear within each book's annotation.

Search the Library Catalog to view title availability and/or to place requests.

NOTE: Although there is not an easy way to browse the Library Catalog to find every locally produced title, searching the catalog with "MBTBL Recordings" as the subject will provide a listing of most titles produced at the library. Locally produced audio books on cassette can be identified by their book number prefix: "CMN" ("CMN" stands for "cassette - Minnesota").

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Titles Starting with 'A'

A is for At Bat: A Baseball Primer By Ken LaZebnik and Steve Lehman Book Number: CMN 12 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Jenifer Wagner

Provides a rollicking, rhyming, alphabet book style, and introduction to baseball terminology. A short glossary follows the text and expands on some of the terms and names used in the rhymes. For grades K-3 and older readers.

American Daughter

By Era Bell Thompson

Book Number: CMN 13 (2 cassettes)

Narrated by Clare O'Connor

Autobiography of one of the few black North Dakotans during the early 1900's. Includes lively descriptions of childhood adventures, early jobs and college days. She also discusses the impact of her North Dakota background on her later life in St. Paul and Chicago. Some strong language.

Among the Sioux of Dakota: Eighteen Months' Experience as an Indian Agent

By D.C. Poole

Book Number: CMN 11 (2 cassettes)

Narrated by Al Esterline

Memoir of the Brule and Oglala bands of the Sioux's first attempt at reservation life. Depicts the daily life at the agency and provides a record of Sioux customs and beliefs. First published in 1881.

Titles Starting with 'B'

Be a Perfect Person in Just Three Days!

By Stephen Manes

Book Number: CMN 10 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Jenifer Wagner

Milo, tired of problems with his sister, parents, and classmates, finds a book in the library that promises to make him a perfect person in just three days. For grades 3-6.

Be the Best You Can Be

By Kirby Puckett

Book Number: CMN 18 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Ted Thompson

In a brief, inspiring autobiography the popular Minnesota Twins baseball player outlines his childhood in the housing projects of Chicago and lauds his supportive family which aided him in attaining his dream of playing major league baseball. Kirby includes his maxims for achieving success in whatever you do in life. For grades 2-4 and older readers.

The Broken Blade

By William Durbin

Book Number: CMN 42 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Ernest Martz

In 1800, thirteen-year-old Pierre LaPage never dreams he'll be leaving Montreal to paddle a canoe twenty-four hundred miles. But when Pierre's father has an accident, Pierre quits school and enlists as a voyageur for the Northwest Company so his family will have money to survive the winter. Life is hard for Pierre as the youngest brigade member. But there's no turning back. Pierre must endure the harsh trip to Grand Portage and home again. For grades 4-7 and older readers.

Buddha Boy By Kathe Koja

Book Number: CMN 61 (2 cassettes)

Narrated by Charles Constantine

Teamed up with an unusual new high school student, Jinsen, for a class project, Justin discovers Jinsen's artistic skills. Intrigued by Jinsen's calm attitude toward the school bullies who torment him, Justin learns about Buddhism and reexamines his own values. Some strong language. For junior and senior high readers. Maud Hart Lovelace nominee 2006-2007. 2003.

Titles Starting with 'C'

Canoe Country

By Florence Page Jaques

Book Number: CMN 16 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Jenifer Wagner

Journal of a three week, honeymoon canoe trip through the Minnesota-Ontario border lakes taken in 1927 by Florence Page and Francis Lee Jaques.

Canoeing With the Cree

By Eric Sevareid

Book Number: CMN 07 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Al Esterline

Account of the 1930 canoe voyage from Minneapolis to Hudson's Bay by teen-aged future newscaster Eric Sevareid and a companion. Originally published in 1935, this is both an adventure tale and a historical record of canoe trekking seventy years ago.

A Country Doctor's Casebook: Tales from the North Woods

By Roger A. MacDonald

Book Number: CMN 44 (2 cassettes)

Narrated by Jill Joseph

In the years after World War II, young Dr. MacDonald began his practice in northeastern Minnesota. The only doctor for miles, Dr. MacDonald traveled to small towns, remote cabins, logging camps and Indian reservations to heal tough and independent individuals of this region. Dr. MacDonald served this area for almost four decades. Foreword by Roger Welsch. Some strong language.

Crow and Weasel

By Barry Lopez

Book Number: CMN 17 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Ted Thompson

Novella-length fable set in the distant era of myth time when people and animals still spoke the same language. Two young men, Crow and Weasel, set out to travel farther north than any of their people have ever gone. They travel through varied landscapes and meet danger and beauty and gain wisdom from other animals they encounter and the Inuit people they meet. For grades 4-7 and older readers.

Crusaders: The Radical Legacy of Marian and Arthur LeSueur By Meridel LeSueur

Book Number: CMN 05 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Dorithy Freund

Biography of the author's parents who were major forces in the first great labor movements of the twentieth century. Vividly portrays life among the working class in Midwestern America, the issues of the day and the ideals for which they worked.

Titles Starting with 'D'

Days of Rondo

By Evelyn Fairbanks

Book Number: CMN 28 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Valerie Braun

In the 1930's and 1940's Rondo Avenue was at the heart of St. Paul's largest black neighborhood, a vibrant, vital community that was in many ways independent of the white society around it. Fairbanks writes about everyday worlds of church and school, street games and dating and about how World War II touched her life.

Dining Car Line to the Pacific: An Illustrated History of the NP Railway's "Famously Good" Food, with 150 Authentic Recipes

By William A. McKenzie

Book Number: CMN 26 (2 cassettes)

Narrated by Clare O'Connor

Behind-the-scenes story of the Northern Pacific Railway's acclaimed dining car service. Based on railroad records from the 1860's through the 1960's and recollections of former employees of the dining car service. Includes 150 recipes for foods served on the line.

Donuthead

By Sue Stauffacher

Book Number: CMN 55 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Dan Carlson

Franklin Delano Donuthead is fearful of germs, junk food and making friends. His single, caring mom attracts Sarah Kervick, the new girl at Franklin's school, who bullies Franklin into helping her untangle her hair. Despite this bad beginning, Franklin comes to care about Sarah and helps her with reading. For her part, Sarah knows how to deal with the class bully while showing Franklin a thing or two about the people around him. Maud Hart Lovelace Nominee 2006-2007. For grades 4-7.

Titles Starting with 'E'

Escaping the Giant Wave

By Peg Kehret

Book Number: CMN 58 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Dan Carlson

Thirteen-year-old Kyle is babysitting his eight-year-old sister, BeeBee, during a family vacation at Fisher Beach, Oregon, when an earthquake creates a tsunami. Kyle tries to save himself, BeeBee and Daren, who has bullied him for years. Maud Hart Lovelace nominee 2006-2007. For grades 4-7.

Titles Starting with 'F'

The Fires of Autumn: The Cloquet-Moose Lake Disaster of 1918

By Francis M. Carroll and Franklin R. Raiter

Book Number: CMN 36 (4 cassettes)

Narrated by John Hagen

In the fall of 1918, devastating forest fires swept across a major portion of northeastern Minnesota. Drawing on published survivor's accounts and on trial testimony, the authors bring light to this saga of destruction, resurrection and resilience in the face of adversity.

Fox Under First Base

By Jim Latimer

Book Number: CMN 27 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Ted Thompson

Fox has managed to steal (he says "collect") one hundred baseballs while games are in progress. Detective Porcupine must catch the thief. She needs Bear's help. Bear learns about baseball, and then reforms Fox, and all is well. For grades K-3.

Full Tilt

By Neal Shusterman

Book Number: CMN 47 (2 cassettes)

Narrated by Charles Constantine

Sixteen-year-old Blake, a straight-arrow, and college-bound, is at a carnival with Quinn, his thrill-seeking brother, and two friends. A beautiful girl invites Blake to a carnival that only admits invited guests. When Quinn steals Blake's invitation and disappears, Blake follows. Tiny bits of Blake's memory form the stuff of an alternate universe and the nightmare carnival in which he must take seven wild rides before dawn in order to escape. Now and then, Quinn appears and disappears on the rides, but in one ride Quinn and Blake discover that they must cooperate if they are to survive. Maud Hart Lovelace nominee 2005-2006. For grades 5-8.

Titles Starting with 'G'

Ghostly Tales of Minnesota

By Ruth D. Hein

Book Number: CMN 35 (1 cassette)

Narrated by John Hagen

A collection of stories about eerie happenings, unexplainable events and mysterious situations. Whether you believe in ghosts or not, "Ghostly Tales of Minnesota" is reading that is entertaining and thought-provoking.

Going the Moose Way Home

By Jim Latimer

Book Number: CMN 15 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Jenifer Wagner

Moose, tall and bony, "a hill on hoofs," has many an adventure going his moose way home. One day he helps an inefficient Easter Rabbit deliver eggs; he confronts the troll who guards the bridge, and he is nearly buried in a sudden snowfall; he celebrates holidays and his birthday in special moose fashion. Winner of the 1988-89 Minnesota Book Award in the children's book category. For grades K-3.

Goodbird the Indian

By Edward Goodbird

Book Number: CMN 34 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Ted Thompson

A Hidatsa Indian man, living in North Dakota at the turn of the century, relates the story of his life and the history and customs of his people.

Grover G. Graham and Me

By Mary Quattlebaum

Book Number: CMN 56 (1 cassette)

Narrated by John Hagen

Eleven-year-old Ben Watson, a long term foster-care child, longs for a real home. His current foster family includes a baby, Grover G. Graham. Ben enjoys helping with the baby. When Grover's teen mother begins to visit and plan for Grover, Ben makes a decision that affects everyone involved. Maud Hart Lovelace Nominee 2006-2007. For grades 4-7 and older interested readers.

Growing Up in Minnesota; Ten Writers Remember Their Childhoods Edited by Chester G. Anderson

Book Number: CMN 38 (2 cassettes)

Narrated by Ted Thompson

Ten authors write about childhood experiences as they grew up in Minnesota.

Titles Starting with 'H'

High & Inside: A Chronicle of 1987's Daze of Autumn from the Metrodome to Kent Hrbek's Duck Blind

By Jim Klobuchar

Book Number: CMN 29 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Ted Thompson

"People have said Minnesota was too mannerly, pliant, and orderly to win much of anything. That was mythology. It was blown to bits an hour before midnight on October 25, 1987, when the Twins made Minnesota #1 by winning the World Series." This is a collection of twenty-nine columns celebrating the Twins' victory that originally appeared in the Star Tribune Newspaper of the Twin Cities.

Titles Starting with 'I'

I Love This Game!: My Life and Baseball

By Kirby Puckett

Book Number: CMN 37 (2 cassettes)

Narrated by Tom Gagnon

Kirby Puckett relives the events that led to his rise as one of baseball's most proficient and popular players. Puckett writes of his deep respect for the game, a conviction that governs his approach to matters on and off the field. This book is a testimonial of a player who focuses on the craft of baseball.

Titles Starting with 'J'

James Bear and the Goose Gathering

By Jim Latimer

Book Number: CMN 22 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Ted Thompson

Ever-mischievous James Bear entertains and tricks his gullible neighbor geese with his story of the "golden age of geese." But is it just a fanciful tale? For grades K-3.

James Bear's Pie

By Jim Latimer

Book Number: CMN 20 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Ted Thompson

James Bear is tired of alfalfa. He wants something with more protein, more calories and more taste. His friends, Skunk and Crow, help him start to bake a pie. The pie engulfs Bear but his friends arrive just in time to rescue him from his delicious creation. For grades K-3.

Journal of a Prairie Year

By Paul Gruchow

Book Number: CMN 01 (2 cassettes)

Narrated by Al Esterline

The vast open expanse of prairie that the pioneers faced in Minnesota and Iowa exists today in small, scattered, protected tracts. These are the recorded observations and thoughts of the author as the seasons mark the passage of another year on the prairie.

Titles Starting with 'L'

Lumber Camp Library

By Natalie Kinsey-Warnock

Book Number: CMN 49 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Dan Carlson

Ten-year-old Ruby Sawyer is her lumberjack father's favorite. He wants Ruby to learn to read and write so that she can become a teacher. Pa's death in a logging accident makes life much more difficult for her family--until the Sawyers meet Aurora Graham. Aurora, a blind woman, has a house full of books and an appreciation for learning. Mrs. Graham shares her books and her large house with the Sawyer family. Ruby returns to learning and to the logging camp. She begins to teach some of the loggers to read, and find herself on the path to her life's work. Maud Hart Lovelace nominee 2005-2006. For grades 2-4.

Titles Starting with 'M'

Minnesota's Capitol: A Centennial History

By Leigh Roethke

Book Number: CMN 45 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Jill Joseph

This narrative history describes the building of the Minnesota state capitol, its exterior and interior design and the monuments erected on the capitol grounds. For junior high and older readers.

Mischief, Mad Mary and Me

By Dawn Knight

Book Number: CMN 39 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Wayne Erickson

When Britt encounters a stray dog, she makes plans to keep it without considering the possibility that it could belong to her eccentric next door neighbor Mad Mary. For grades 3-6.

Mississippi Trial, 1955

By Chris Crowe

Book Number: CMN 54 (3 cassettes)

Narrated by Dan Carlson

At first Hiram is excited to visit his grandfather in Greenwood, Mississippi. Soon, he realizes that Greenwood is not the town he remembers as a child. Hiram meets another Greenwood visitor, Emmett Till, a black teen from Chicago and witnesses how local whites mistreat black who don't "know their place." Maud Hart Lovelace nominee 2005-2006. For grades 5-8.

Moose and Friends

By Jim Latimer

Book Number: CMN 19 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Jenifer Wagner

In the third book of his adventures, Moose visits all his friends while trying to learn how to teach Skunk to whistle; produces a perfect mousse from Fox's cookbook; celebrates Halloween; and investigates a mysterious vandal. For grades K-3.

Murder in Minnesota

By Walter N. Trenerry

Book Number: CMN 02 (2 cassettes)

Narrated by Al Esterline

The fifteen murderous chapters in Trenerry's book prove once and for all that the "good old days" were not crime-free. While this volume does not solve or produce any additional evidence about the crimes detailed, it does provide a fascinating review of the bloody history of Minnesota's first sixtyone years as a state. Violence and some strong language.

Titles Starting with 'N'

Night Flying Woman: An Ojibway Narrative

By Ignatia Broker

Book Number: CMN 33 1 cassette

Narrated by Pat Tuma

Through accounts of the lives of several generations of Ojibway people in Minnesota, the author relates the story of her great-great grandmother, Ni-Bo-Wi-Se-Gwe (Night Flying Woman or Oona, as she was called), who lived during a time of enormous change, including the move to the White Earth Reservation.

Titles Starting with 'O'

One Hundred Years of Sight and Sound: 1866-1966

Book Number: CMN 24 (1 cassette)

Narrated by John Hagen

Commemorative history and reminiscences of the first century of the Minnesota Braille and Sight Saving School. Includes lyrics to all of the school songs written over the years and a list of the members of the graduating classes for 1873 through 1965.

One Woman's War: Letters Home from the Women's Army Corps, 1944-1946

By Anne Bosanko Green

Book Number: CMN 09 (3 cassettes)

Narrated by Calista Williams

This is the inside story of one WAC's experiences in World War II as chronicled in her weekly letters home and excerpts from letters from her parents. Exceptional details provide a close-up view of life in the women's service during the war.

Titles Starting with 'P'

Prairie Smoke

By Melvin R. Gilmore

Book Number: CMN 21 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Ted Thompson

Fifty-eight traditional stories from the Pawnee, Sioux, Hidatsa, Mandan, Arikara and Omaha Indians that describe the customs, way of life and ties to the land of the first peoples of the Plains. First published in 1929.

Prime Fathers

By Frederick Manfred

Book Number: CMN 30 (1 cassette)

Narrated by John Hagen

Eight biographical essays in which the author reminisces about some of the important and colorful individuals who helped shape his life and discusses writers and writing, especially in the American West.

Titles Starting with 'R'

Reapers of the Dust: A Prairie Chronicle

By Lois Phillips Hudson

Book Number: CMN 08 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Calista Williams

Reminiscences of the author's early life in Wyoming and North Dakota and, when the dust storms drove them west, the family's existence as migrant pickers near Seattle. Despite drought, depression, changing schools and the other uncertainties of life, the child was not without hope or security.

Robber and Hero: The Story of the Northfield Bank Raid

By George Huntington

Book Number: CMN 03 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Calista Williams

First published nineteen years after the September 7, 1876, bank raid, Robber and Hero is the fascinating account of the James-Younger Gang's unsuccessful attempt to rob the Northfield, Minnesota bank and their defeat and capture by the citizens of Northfield. Includes a new introduction by John McGuigan.

Titles Starting with 'S'

The Saga of Saga Hill

By Theodore C. Blegen

Book Number: CMN 04 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Al Esterline

Memoir of boyhood summers spent at Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota, in the 1890's and early 1900's. An intriguing portrait of life on a major resort lake at the height of the Victorian era.

Season of Dreams: The Minnesota Twins' Drive to the 1991 World Championship

By Tom Kelly

Book Number: CMN 32 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Tom Gagnon

Twins Manager Tom Kelly and sportscaster Ted Robinson reveal the strategy behind the Twins 1991 season comeback and World Series victory. Foreword by Kent Hrbek.

Showshoe Country

By Florence Page Jaques

Book Number: CMN 31 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Val Braun

Journal entries covering the period from October 12, 1942, through January 21, 1943, during which time the Jacques temporarily resided on Gunflint Lake in Minnesota's North Country. It received the John Burroughs Medal for the best nature book of the year in 1946.

Summer of Ordinary Ways

By Nicole Lea Helget

Book Number: CMN 50 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Jill Johnson

Helget's rural Minnesota childhood included joys and gritty reality. She is one of six girls born to a farmer with dashed baseball aspirations. From churchgoing to caterpillar hunting, Helget's youthful innocence was tempered with hard lessons taught by her parents. Some strong language and some violence.

Summer of Riley

By Eve Bunting

Book Number: CMN 46 (2 cassettes)

Narrated by John Hagen

After William's grandfather dies and his parents separate, William's mother takes him to an animal shelter to find a pet. William picks, Riley, a golden lab. Riley is a loving, loyal and constant companion. When William and Riley visit a good neighbor, Peachie, everything changes. Riley charges Peachie's retired race horse causing a leg injury. When Riley repeats his behavior, the animal control takes Riley away. Local laws state that animals that chase are put down. It is up to William to try to save Riley from death. Maud Hart Lovelace nominee 2005-2006. For grades 3-6.

Titles Starting with 'T'

The Tale of a Comet and Other Stories

By Helen M. White

Book Number: CMN 23 (3 cassettes)

Narrated by Clare O'Connor and John Hagen

Eight true tales from Minnesota history presenting slices of life from bygone days. Includes a soldier's story from Fort Snelling; a utopian experiment; Civil War memories; a stranded circus; and Ignatius Donnelly's Tale of a Comet.

The Transmogrification of Roscoe Wizzle

By David Elliott

Book Number: CMN 52 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Dan Carlson

Ten-year-old Roscoe Wizzle lives with his father who works in a cymbal factory and his mother who is an orphan. When Gussie's restaurant opens, many are excited because Gussie's serves great hamburgers. After eating many meals there, strange things begin to happen. Several children, including Roscoe, find themselves slowly changing into bugs! Roscoe and his best friend Kinchy investigate and discover the truth about Gussie's. Maud Hart Lovelace nominee 2005-2006. For grades 3-6.

Tyler on Prime Time

By Steve Atinsky

Book Number: CMN 51 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Dan Carlson

Twelve-year old Tyler lives in Chicago. When his parents schedules conflict, Tyler is sent to Hollywood to spend two weeks with his uncle, an award-winning writer for a popular TV sitcom. Tyler, a would-be actor, considers this to be his lucky break and is determined to have a successful audition. Division One, Maud Hart Lovelace Nominee 2005-2006. For grades 4-7.

Titles Starting with 'W'

We Made It Through the Winter

By Walter O'Meara

Book Number: CMN 06 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Al Esterline

Fond reminiscences of life at the turn of the century in Cloquet, a small, northern Minnesota logging town.

When Moose was Young

By Jim Latimer

Book Number: CMN 14 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Jenifer Wagner

Moose is back in a new set of adventures. He comes to the rescue of his friend Skunk when she ventures into the Broccoli Forest, cuts loose with some celebrating turkeys, and sets out to pursue Fox's wonderful dream. Sequel to "Going the Moose Way Home" (CMN 15). For grades K-3.

Wintering

By William Durbin

Book Number: CMN 43 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Ernest Martz

Sequel to <u>The Broken Blade</u> (CMN 42). Pierre, the 14-year-old hero of <u>The Broken Blade</u>, spends a winter with the North West Company in the wilderness of French Canada. The canoe-men build a camp beside an Ojibwa village where Pierre learns deep-winter survival skills and the secrets of fur traders and trappers. For grades 4-7 and older readers.

Women of Minnesota: Selected Biographical Essays

Edited by Barbara Stuhler and Gretchen Kreuter

Book Number: CMN 25 (4 cassettes)

Narrated by Calista Williams and Jenifer Wagner

Biographies of seventeen prominent Minnesota women of the 19th and 20th centuries. Also includes brief entries about women who served in the Minnesota Legislature. The final chapter consists of paragraph-length entries on over 100 additional important Minnesota women.

The World According to Humphrey

By Betty G. Birney

Book Number: CMN 59 (1 cassette)

Narrated by Dan Carlson

When Humphrey becomes a pet hamster at Longfellow School, he plays an important role helping his classmates and teacher. He also learns a lot about humans, especially on weekend visits with families. Maud Hart Lovelace Nominee 2006-2007. For grades 3-6. 2004.