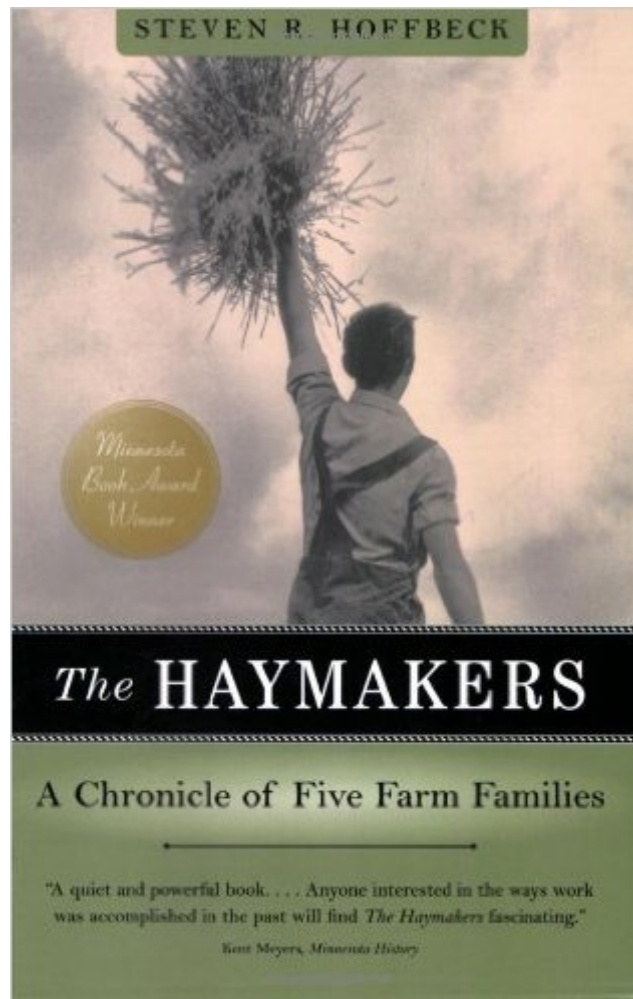


The book was found

# The Haymakers: A Chronicle Of Five Farm Families (Minnesota)



## Synopsis

Winner of the Minnesota Book Award and the Red River Heritage Award! *The Haymakers* is an epic—the history of man’s struggle with nature as well as man’s struggle against machines. It relates the story of farmers and their obligations to their families, to the animals they fed, and to the land they tended. But *The Haymakers* is also an elegy—to a way of life fast disappearing from our landscape. In the most heartfelt essays, Hoffbeck chronicles his own family’s struggle to hold onto their family farm and his personal struggle in deciding to leave farming for another way of life. Hoffbeck also seeks to document and preserve the commonplace methods of haymaking, information about haying that might otherwise be lost to posterity. He describes the tools and the methods of haymaking as well as the relentless demands of the farm. Using diaries, agricultural guidebooks and personal interviews, the folkways of cutting, raking, and harvesting hay have been recorded in these chapters. In the end, this book is not so much about agricultural history as it is about family history, personal history—how farm families survive, even persevere.

## Book Information

Series: Minnesota

Paperback: 223 pages

Publisher: Minnesota Historical Society Press; 1 edition (March 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0873513959

ISBN-13: 978-0873513951

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #826,104 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #343 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > Midwest #698 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Agriculture #4385 in Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences

## Customer Reviews

Dr. Steven Hoffbeck’s fast-moving book is about haying, or the process of putting up of hay, to feed farm animals through the long winter months. This is an unusual topic and if the book were only about haying techniques, it would have little interest except to farming historians, but the book is more than haying, much more. "The Haymakers" is about the struggles and triumphs of real people

dealing with the joys and many heartrendering difficulties of farm life. Dr. Hoffbeck takes the reader through 100 years of haymaking by describing and telling us the personal chronicles of 5 farm families. Haymaking methods are described, from the simple yet laborious scythe-harvest method through the making of large round and small square bales by machine. I found the evolution of haymaking facinating in itself, and it gave me an appreciaton of what farm familes have to go through to "get in the hay". For without hay, there is no winter feed for the many farm animals; and without farm animals, there is no farm. As any farmer will tell you, close calls and accidents are unfortunately all too frequent on the farm. Dr. Hoffbeck shares his experiences of losing his own father, and then tragically his brother, all due to accidents on the home farm. I was touched by the way Dr. Hoffbeck writes about these tremendous losses, and one can feel his pain, anguish, and loss through his words. Dr. Hoffbeck also clearly explains the farm crisis American farmers face today, that of debt, the trend to larger and larger farms, and the slow but steady passing of the small American homestead farm. Not having been raised, or even associated with the travails of farming life, I found his explanation quite enlightening.

Dr. Hoffbeck's fast-moving book is about haying, or the putting up of hay, to feed farm animals through the long winter months. But it is also more, much more. It is also about the struggles and triumphs of real people dealing with the joys and difficulties of farm life. Dr. Hoffbeck takes the reader through 100 years of haymaking through the chronicles of 5 farm families. Haymaking methods are described, from the scythe harvest method through the making of round and square bales by machine. I found the evolution of haymaking facinating, and it gave me an appreciaton of what farm familes have to go through to "get in the hay". As any farmer will tell you, close calls and accidents are unfortunately all too frequent on the farm. Dr. Hoffbeck shares his experiences of losing his father, and then his brother, all due to accidents on the home farm. I was touched by the way Dr. Hoffbeck writes about these tremendous losses, and one can feel his pain, anguish, and loss through his words. Dr. Hoffbeck also clearly explains the farm crisis American farmers face today, that of debt, the trend to larger and larger farms, and the slow but steady passing of the small American homestead farm. Not having been raised, or even associated with the travails of farming life, I found his explanation quite enlightening. When he describes the crushing debt load that farmers took on to survive and modernize their farms, I can almost feel the weight of that debt on my shoulders as well. It is easy to understand the economic problems farmers face after reading this book. If you are looking for fast adventure, high suspense, or international intrigue, this is not the book for you.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Haymakers: A Chronicle of Five Farm Families (Minnesota) Churches of Minnesota (Minnesota Byways) Irish in Minnesota (People Of Minnesota) Mosaic: A Chronicle of Five Generations Families in Poverty (Families in the 21st Century, Vol. 1) Financial Aid for Persons with Disabilities and Their Families 2012-2014 (Financial Aid for the Disabled and Their Families) Creative Country Farm Scenes Coloring Book: 30 Farm Inspired Design Pages for Immersive Fun, Relaxation, and Stress Relief (Adult Coloring Books - Art therapy For The Mind) (Volume 22) Old-Fashioned Farm Life Coloring Book: Nineteenth Century Activities on the Firestone Farm at Greenfield Village (Dover History Coloring Book) Life on a Pig Farm (Life on a Farm) Farmyard Fun!: Cute & Easy Cake Toppers for any Farm Themed Party! Tractors, Diggers and Farm Animals Galore! (Cute & Easy Cake Toppers Collection) (Volume 7) The Vermont Farm Table Cookbook: 150 Home Grown Recipes from the Green Mountain State (The Farm Table Cookbook) The New Mexico Farm Table Cookbook: 100 Homegrown Recipes from the Land of Enchantment (The Farm Table Cookbook) Funny Farm: Relax and Enjoy our 25 Farm Patterns (Relaxation & Meditation) Better Farm Accounting: A Practical Guide for Preparing Farm Income Tax Returns, Financial Statements, and Analysis Reports On The Farm For Kids: Fun Pictures for Kids on The Farm Real Estate Marketing To A Farm: How To Find, Grow and Reap The Benefits of a Geographic Farm (Realtor Marketing Book 1) Sleep Tight Farm: A Farm Prepares for Winter The Farm to Market Handbook: How to create a profitable business from your small farm FARM ANIMAL-SERIES BOOK 1: "RUSTY ROOSTER" :Beginner readers early learning (Children's kids eBook)Bedtime Story Picture Book(Preschool 4-8)Animals story ... reader)values (BIG LITTLE FARM) The House by the Lake: One House, Five Families, and a Hundred Years of German History

[Dmca](#)