



John Beargrease: Legend of Minnesota's North Shore

Daniel Lancaster

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"Thanks to St. Paul author Daniel Lancaster's new comprehensive biography, lovers of northern Minnesota now not only have a chance to meet the man who began delivering the mail on the North Shore 130 years ago, but they also get to understand how Beargrease helped bridge the cultural gap between the Ojibwe community and white settlers of the late 1800s."—Minneapolis StarTribune

"Daniel Lancaster has brought our heritage to life. His extensive research shows in every page as he weaves through the magical tales of the Ojibwe people. A must-have book for all of us with Anishinabe blood."—Marlys Marie Zebott, great-granddaughter of John Beargrease

"A book that fills in several missing pieces of North Shore history . . . a very enjoyable read."—Howard Sivertson, author and illustrator of *Tales of the Old North Shore*

John Beargrease (1862–1910), the son of an Anishinabe chief, hauled the mail by dogsled between pioneer communities along Minnesota's tempestuous Lake Superior shore line. The annual John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon is named in his honor.

... it was sometimes best to just keep going ... pushing through three feet of snow, plowing over drifts six and seven feet deep, making their way among the boughs of the trees.

Daniel Lancaster follows the legendary Beargrease through the settlement and development of the North Shore on his difficult traverse from traditional Anishinabe life to the modern world. Rich in history, mythology, and local legend, this is an engrossing read for anyone who has ever fallen in love with Lake Superior's wave-washed shores and snowy winters.

Daniel Lancaster studied literature and creative writing at Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota, and completed a BA in literature at Metropolitan State University in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where he lives. He has been a contributor to various publications and periodicals in the fields of religious studies, early Christianity, and Judaism.



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