

pages devoted to this, giving details of the controversy.

Felwell, who devotes a couple of pages to the episode concludes that Catlin was permitted to go unharmed for the reason that Wood was an Englishman.

We now come to the explorations in 1838 of Jean N. Nicollet and John C. Fremont. The qualifications of Nicollet for work of exploration have received the highest praise, which a reading of his notes of the trip thru Nicollet County shows to be fully deserved, for in Nicollet we find first of all, that he located his camps by astronomical means and elevations by barometric observations. We discover, too, that he was a geologist and botanist, and had the happy faculty of getting along amicably with the wild tribes which he encountered. In short he was a fine combination of explorer, scientist and educated French gentleman.

Fremont, his assistant, was then but 25 years of age, and was not commissioned until two years later. He had not as yet become, as later, troubled with the Presidential bee. In Nicollet he found an excellent instructor in the work of exploration in which he so greatly distinguished himself in later years.

It is thought that Fremont assisted in the map work for I find in his Nicollet Co. sketch maps, with copious notes in French, occasional English words, which one can hardly attribute to Nicollet.

I have been living part of the time since retirement in Washington and by good fortune had my attention directed to the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, where were found a series of Nicollet's note books, with field notes, sketch maps and journals of exploration, all in French and apparently in the handwriting of Nicollet himself.

I had copied and translated about five typed pages of these

with his sketch maps describing his journey from Traverse des Sioux,proceeding south of west across Nicollet County June 18th & 19th 1838to where Rivière aux Liards,as called by the French,and now known as ^{Big} Cottonwood ^{River} Creek,comes in from the southwest. This is not far from the site of New Ulm.

A copy of the notes of Nicollet has been filed with the Society's Archives and will be used by Judge Hughes in his forthcoming historical work. Nicollet was escorted across the County which now bears his name with considerable ceremony,with the stars and stripes conspicuously displayed by Chief Sleepy Eye,(Ish-ta-ba)

He tells us: "I had promised those braves that I would give some help to their women and children. I fulfilled this promise with pleasure,The good old mother of Sleepy Eye came herself on two ~~sticks~~ to offer me as a present a bustard just cooked and dismembered that they were doubtless about to eat when they heard of our arrival. These are the Savages who take the food from their mouths to solace the Traveller! "

On arrival at Lac qui Parle they were entertained by the missionaries,Doctor and Mrs.Riggs.

The next important arrival at Traverse des Sioux was that on June 22,1845,of Capt.E.V.Sumner,commanding Co.B,1st U.S.Dragoons, from Ft.Atkinson,Iowa Territory.

He was met on his arrival by a boat from Ft.Snelling with supplies consisting of howitzers,provisions,&c.the latter consisting of 17 barrels of flour. This indicates that even this early,barges of considerable size were being used on the St.Peter's River.

Sumner marched thence to Lac qui Parle for a council with a large band of Warpeton Sioux and with another of Sissetons at Big Stone Lake. From there he marched to Devil's Lake and returned

to Traverse des Sioux Aug.7th remaining there until the 11th when he returned to Ft. Atkinson.

His detailed report will be found in Senate Doc. #1, 29th Cong. 1st Session pp. 217-220. It was of peculiar interest to me for I served in that regiment (then called 1st U.S. Cavalry) for 27 years and in the Bannock Campaign of 1879 served under the Dragoon Captain's son, Capt. E. V. Sumner, Jr. 1st U.S. Cav'y. These two, father and son, ~~were~~ served in that regiment for over 43 years.

Mayer Sketches.

About a year ago when I was in consultation with Judge Hughes in Mankato regarding the Traverse des Sioux history, and about to leave for Chicago, he remarked that the sketches of Frank Barnwell Mayer, the artist, whose portrayal of the Treaty of July 23, 1851 hangs in the Historical Society, were then the property of Mr. E. E. Heye of Chicago, and if they could be found, it was probable that we might secure some additional interesting particulars of that event.

The following morning, immediately on arrival in Chicago, I went to the Field Museum, got in touch with the Secretary and an hour later with Mr. Heye, who sent me to the Newberry Library where the desired sketches were found, and accompanying them a journal and notes. Many of the members of the Society are doubtless aware that Mayer in 1851 journeyed all the way from Maryland to Minnesota to attend this Treaty and make sketches of whatever might present itself in that connection. This was before the days of dry plate photography and the transportation, under the circumstances, of any wet plate outfit was probably impracticable. He joined the party at St. Paul and came up the river with it.

I spent some four or five very interesting hours in the examination of the several hundred artist's sketches, some 30 of which had

been completed and appeared to be of sufficient historic interest to be copied.

Shortly afterward I prevailed on the Chief Signal Officer of the Army ,with the permission of Mr.Heye,to have these copied. The negatives are now on file with the Army Fictorical Section of the office of the Chief Signal Officer,and a set of the prints are here in our Historical Society. With these sketches were Mayer's journal and quite detailed notes of what one might expect from an artist and tenderfoot. These have since been copied by photostat and are now filed with the Archives of the Society. That which immediately refers to the Treaty,and what he saw at Traverse des Sioux,covers some 30 typed pages,and describes much that will not be found in the strictly official account,such as the various dances,sports,mode of life,domestic habits,and superstitions of the Indians gathered to take part in this important event. Until these were brought to light as above described they were so far as their use historically was concerned practically lost.

Sources of Historical Information.

As the invitation to address the Society contained a suggestion that reference be made to some of the sources of historical information which had come to my notice I would say that we all realize that the Library of Congress is perhaps the best source.

Their collection of maps is remarkably complete. It is frequently desirable to secure a copy of a map of a date many years back. They try to accommodate the public with these,and where the maps or other material is not still protected by copyright,one can have photostat copies made right at the Library at very reasonable rates.

Other sources,not so well known,are:

(a) The Historical Section Army War College (not at the War College proper, but at 6th & B Sts. S.W. in Washington.) This has been established only since the World War and one of its features is a collection, now numbering nearly 300 thousand, photographs depicting activities of all our wars since 1860. A call was sent out by this section to the Army several years ago requesting those who had photographs of old Army posts, noted Indian Chiefs, striking frontier scenes, &c. to loan these for copying. They also desire gifts or loan of:-

- (a) Maps bearing on operations against Indians;
- (b) Letters written during the progress of military operations and having a historical value;
- (c) Diaries made during the progress of Indian campaigns;
- (d) Memoirs or recollections based on written data prepared during such military operations.

You may present these or loan them as you choose. If simply loaned they will be examined and, if of material value, will be copied and the original returned. These copies will be carefully filed, indexed, safeguarded and made available for historical investigators under conditions specified by the owner, should conditions be made.

Photos which are loaned are sent to the photograph laboratory of the Chief Signal Officer of the Army, copied, and the negative of standard size of about 6"x 8", given a serial number whence copies may be secured for 15¢ each --- about the bare cost of materials. Old photographs, made a half century ago, and now fading out from imperfect materials then used, are ^{thus} preserved. Within a few years all such written data will be stored in the fire-proof Archives Building already appropriated for, and the construction of which will probably be commenced this year. Such material therefore will be given far more security

than could possibly be given by individual owners. It will thus be seen that there is a distinct advantage in giving or even loaning such material to the government.

The Smithsonian Institution has a Historical Division and a fine Library available for research workers, but my impression is that it is but little used because so little known. They have there a large proportion of the Catlin paintings, and negatives of photos of a large number of Indian Chiefs. I am indebted to their illustrator, Mr. D. L. Gill, for what is probably one of the best photos of Chief Sleepy Eye extant.

(c) The Pension Office has had few moves, and, when I have had occasion to call for information, action there has been surprisingly prompt. Those engaged in Genealogical Research work may be interested to know that the Pension Office keeps on file applications for pensions for 100 years back. In these the applicants have been required to give their military service in considerable detail, and photostat copies may be had for something like 25¢ per page.

(d) The Old Records Division of the Adj. Gen'l's Office is when we can get it, a wonderful and accurate source of historical information, for what one finds there in old Reports, Muster Rolls, and Monthly Returns is matter written at the time and on the spot.

The Adjutant General's Office I know is desirous of serving the public in every possible way in this matter, but the many changes which have taken place in the Army in the past 50 years, such as the breaking up of old posts, Departments and Divisions and sending records usually to Washington, where several changes in place of storage have taken place even in my time, seems to have militated against prompt and certain location of information. I was told some six months ago that due to lack of appropriation for clerk hire some of

these records are still packed in boxes, which means of course, that for the time being they are lost.. My experience has been that the Army is expected to do its best to make history. It records it as best it can.

If one desires a very concise outline of the history of our Army from the days of Washington to the World War, with a graphic description of its struggle for very existence, and the appalling and needless losses in both blood and money due to the neglect of the people to keep our National Defense to even a reasonable degree of security, I can unhesitatingly recommend to you the reading of Gano's History of the U.S. Army (the first history really ever written of it) and issued by Appleton in 1824. It supplements in a most useful way, Upton's "Military Policy of the United States."

The Regular Army has figured so prominently in early explorations, Indian Wars, map making and in the general development of the Great West and in addition to its military functions has been engaged in so many undertakings of purely civil nature, that those engaged in engaged in delving into that part of our country's history are constantly reminded of it, and my object in indicating as I have done, some of the military sources of pretty accurate historical data is not only to assist in work in which many of you are doubtless now engaged, but also to call attention to the splendid work performed by our little skeleton Army of which we may well be proud.

Huggins Alexander G.
Missionary

1850

"Third Trip up the Minnesota"

Minnesota Chronicle & Register
July 22, 1850

Travel-Steamboat Folder

Yankee vs Anthony Wayne Trip competition 1850
Minnesota River
"Trip of the Yankee"

St. Paul Minnesota Chronicle & Register

Aug. 12, 1850

Travel Steamboat Folder

"Yankee" Steamboat

1856

"River Notes; or 1856 Vs 1850
Signed L.M. Ford

St. Paul Minnesota W. Times

July 19, 1856

Minnesota General Folder

"Yankee" Steamboat

1856

"River Notes: 1856 versus 1850
Signed L.M. Ford July 12, 1856

St. Paul Minnesota W. Times

Aug. 9, 1856

Winona County Folder

"Anthony Wayne" Steamboat

1850

"Another Link -- Trip of the Anthony
Wayne"

Minnesota Chronicle & Register
July 1, 1850

"Anthony Wayne" Steamboat

1850

"Third Trip up the Minnesota"

Minnesota Chronicle & Register
July 22, 1850

Travel-Steamboat Folder

"Anthony Wayne" Steamboat

1850

"Trip of the Yankee

St. Paul Minnesota Chronicle & Register
Aug. 12, 1850

Travel Steamboat Folder

"Anthony Wayne" Steamboat

1850

"Still Higher Up -- the Nominee"

Minnesota Chronicle & Register St. Paul
Aug. 26, 1850

Travel Steamboat Folder



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