

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

History of Wright County, Minnesota. By FRANKLYN CURTISS-WEDGE. In two volumes. (Chicago, H. C. Cooper Jr. and Company, 1915. xvi, x, 1111 p. Illustrated)

History of Renville County, Minnesota. Compiled by FRANKLYN CURTISS-WEDGE, assisted by a large corps of local contributors under the direction and supervision of HON. DARWIN S. HALL, HON. DAVID BENSON, and COL. CHARLES H. HOPKINS. In two volumes. (Chicago, H. C. Cooper Jr. and Company, 1916. xix, xiv, 1376 p. Illustrated)

History of Otter Tail County, Minnesota; Its People, Industries, and Institutions. JOHN W. MASON, editor. In two volumes. (Indianapolis, B. F. Bowen and Company, 1916. 694, 1009 p. Illustrated)

History of Nicollet and Le Sueur Counties, Minnesota; Their People, Industries, and Institutions. HON. WILLIAM G. GRESHAM, editor-in-chief. In two volumes. (Indianapolis, B. F. Bowen and Company, 1916. 544, 538 p. Illustrated)

History of Brown County, Minnesota; Its People, Industries, and Institutions. L. A. FRITSCHÉ, M.D., editor. In two volumes. (Indianapolis, B. F. Bowen and Company, 1916. 519, 568 p. Illustrated)

Compendium of History and Biography of Polk County, Minnesota. By MAJ. R. I. HOLCOMBE, historical editor, and WILLIAM H. BINGHAM, general editor. With special articles by various writers. (Minneapolis, W. H. Bingham and Company, 1916. 487 p. Illustrated)

The writing of county history appears to be a profitable commercial enterprise. But the value of local history lies not merely in the fact that it may be made the basis of a business undertaking. The material with which it deals deserves to be preserved in a permanent and carefully prepared form; for it is nothing less than the whole fascinating story of life, of development, from pioneer days to the present time, restricted, to be sure, to a comparatively small section of the state. Every phase of that life—economic, social, political, religious—has its peculiar signifi-

cance for the history of the West and of Minnesota. To write the history of the state as a whole in this way is a stupendous task, for there are eighty-six counties in Minnesota. But what a mine of information a set of carefully prepared histories of all these counties would be!

The primary motive underlying the output of county histories of this sort is, of course, commercial. To make a business success of his venture is the main problem the publisher has to solve, and, as a consequence, many features more or less open to criticism are included in the books in order to make them sell well to the people of the county. But if the writers have an adequate conception of what constitutes history, if they have had some training in the methods of historical writing, and if they do their work thoroughly and conscientiously, the resulting histories may have considerable scientific value despite the motive underlying their publication.

The present volumes give evidence of a better conception of what constitutes history, and show more care in preparation, than the average county history. "To perpetuate the story of these people [the pioneers] and to trace and record the social, religious, educational, political, and industrial progress of the community from its first inception, is the function of the local historian," declare B. F. Bowen and Company in their prefaces. To an unusual degree the *History of Otter Tail County* shows the careful use of documentary sources, many of them difficult of access. This can not be said, however, of the *History of Brown County*, just issued by this firm. H. C. Cooper Jr. and Company declare that the newspapers both of the county under study and of neighboring counties have been carefully perused, as well as county, township, village, city, and church records. In addition, the investigators have examined "hundreds of minute books" and "thousands of letters and original manuscripts." The value of this statement is lessened by the fact that it is a stereotyped phrase appearing in the forewords of several of the histories published by this company. In all fairness, however, one thing must be noted which undoubtedly makes the writing of county history difficult, and which has been responsible in part for the poor quality of the work done in this field, namely, the careless

and unsystematic way in which the local archives are kept. Classification of records, accessibility, and possibly centralization, to a certain degree, would greatly aid the local historian in his research.

The volumes under review contain 6,152 pages, of which 3,437, or considerably more than half, are devoted to biographical sketches. Some of these are similar in character to those found in county histories of the older type—very eulogistic, and well calculated to appeal both to a man's vanity and to his purse. In the *History of Polk County* the men described all appear to be well known, prominent, successful, eminent, strong, able, enterprising, progressive, frugal, and upright. In a somewhat less degree the inhabitants of Nicollet, Le Sueur, and Brown counties are showered with kindly adjectives. The estimates of the worth of the citizens of Otter Tail County are more conservative, though there is an occasional extravagant outburst. B. F. Bowen and Company disclaim responsibility for errors in this material, for "every biographical sketch in the work has been submitted to the party interested, for correction, and therefore any error of fact, if there be any, is solely due to the person for whom the sketch was prepared." In the Cooper histories the personal estimates are more moderate, and appear to have been written with discrimination. The editors have had the sketches revised and corrected by the subjects themselves, or by relatives or friends; but "all personal estimates are the work of the editors and inserted in biographies only after consultation with the various members of the staff." Eulogistic expressions in county histories are part of the publisher's stock in trade, of course, and, realizing this, one can be less severely critical of their use. The writer of these biographies should aim at moderation and accuracy, however, for these attributes add distinctly to their worth. In addition to making one familiar with a large number of residents in the county, these sketches are, in certain respects, a real historical source, though a source to be used only with care and judgment. For a study of a large group of people, sketches of this sort are of value, even though they may, in individual cases, contain inaccuracies. In investigating the sectional elements in population, in comparing immigration at various periods and in different aspects, and in other studies similar in character,

they may prove invaluable, and may furnish much intimate information not to be found in census statistics.

Of the six works under review, five are put out in two-volume form. Like most county histories, they are bulky. Those issued by the Bowen Company present the best appearance. In the quality of paper stock and binding, in illustrations, type, and other external features, these volumes leave little to be desired. While the Cooper works are not quite so attractive, yet they are, on the whole, elaborate, and well put up. The *History of Polk County*, on the other hand, is inferior in general appearance to the other volumes. Little effort has been made in all six histories to secure illustrations of real historical worth. The pictures are mainly portraits, views of public buildings, or present-day scenes, and of course these are not without some value. The *History of Polk County* has, however, a number of pictures of more definite historical interest. One is a view of the old crossing of Red Lake River, near Fisher, in 1858, made by Manton Marble, and printed in *Harper's Magazine* for January, 1861. There is also an interesting picture of a claim shanty erected in 1872, the first building in Crookston, and there are some early views of that city. The *History of Otter Tail County* has a view of Otter Tail City in 1858, and some pictures of Fergus Falls in 1871. A most noticeable defect in these histories is their lack of maps. Surely it ought to be possible in each case to print a good map of the county, showing the townships, villages, and cities that are discussed in the text in so much detail. Then, too, a map of Minnesota would not be amiss for the purpose of showing the geographical relations of the county to other counties of the state. In some of the volumes early exploration and early travels are discussed; such chapters, as well as those dealing with other phases of the history, might well be illustrated with maps. The publishers could increase the value of future histories by the inclusion of such recognized historical apparatus. All the books under review are equally deficient in this respect.

The general arrangement of material in these six histories is topical. A chronological account is given up to a certain point, rarely extending beyond the period of settlement; following this are separate chapters on such topics as military history, agricultural development, banks and banking, physicians and surgeons,

and the inevitable bench and bar. Were a chronological and connected history of a county to be given, the writer would have to exercise more discrimination as to what to include and what to omit. The Cooper histories differ from the others in the arrangement of the biographical material. The sketches, instead of being grouped together in one volume, are scattered about through both volumes in so-called "Biographical Reviews." The purpose of this arrangement is not apparent; the plan of giving a separate volume to the biographies, or of placing them at the end, is more logical than this hide-and-seek method. The Cooper histories have an index to portraits and another to biographies in the introductory pages of the first volumes. The same indexes are reprinted in the second volumes. There is no subject index. The Bowen histories contain fairly good historical and biographical indexes preceding the text in the first volumes and reprinted in the second volumes. The *History of Polk County* has a list of illustrations and an index of portraits in the front of the book, and at the end a general index, which is merely biographical, however. None of these books has an adequate general name-and-subject index, and only one has its index in the normal place at the end.

Much more attention is given to the period of exploration and to the early history of Minnesota in the histories published by the Cooper Company than in the Bowen group. In the latter, however, there is more compact information on the related history of the state. In the former histories appear lists of events during the period of exploration. The latter, on the other hand, contain a very curious chronology of Minnesota history, ranging from the expedition of Jean Nicollet to the recent discovery of discrepancies in the office of the state treasurer.

The method of production employed differs. The history of Wright County is written by Mr. Curtiss-Wedge, while that of Renville County is compiled by Mr. Curtiss-Wedge, "assisted by a large corps of local contributors." The history of Polk County has an historical and a general editor, and a large number of writers of special articles. The Bowen histories are edited by prominent local men, though most of the work, of course, is done by agents of the publishing company. The credit for writing

the *History of Otter Tail County* is given in Mr. Mason's foreword to that work to Ernest V. Schockley, Ph.D.

The chapters on geology in both the Otter Tail and Nicollet-Le Sueur histories are technical, and appear to be taken from or based upon the writings of a geologist. The account of the geology of Otter Tail County contains extracts from General Pope's report of 1850, in which a visit to the Otter Tail region is described.

A valuable feature of the *History of Otter Tail County* is the chapter summarizing the various legislative acts bearing on the county. This chapter and others, as, for example, those on the census of 1860, transportation, and churches, bear evidence of considerable research. One of the most valuable features of the book is the section devoted to reminiscences (pp. 536-694). Besides being of real historical value, some of these are extremely entertaining, particularly those of John W. Mason, the editor.

In the Nicollet-Le Sueur history a disproportionate amount of space is given to the Indian treaty of 1851. The account consists almost entirely of a compilation made by General Le Duc for his *Minnesota Year Book* for 1852, of letters written at Traverse des Sioux during the conference and printed in various contemporary newspapers. This compilation, somewhat abridged, was published in the *St. Peter Herald*, June 14-July 3, 1914, and later, with some additional material, was issued in pamphlet form by the St. Peter chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution with the title *A Brief Sketch and History of the Signing of the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux*. The letters are interesting, but a concise statement of the making of the treaty, based upon this material and other available sources, might have been more satisfactory from an historical standpoint. The account of the early settlement of Nicollet County is based largely upon Stephen R. Riggs's *Mary and I*, and upon the St. Peter newspapers of the sixties. It seems as though more might have been made of this phase of the county's history, for example, of the trading post at Traverse des Sioux established by Louis Provençal, agent of the American Fur Company. The Little Crow uprising is discussed by Dr. Asa Daniels in a chapter which is reprinted from volume 15 of the *Minnesota Historical Collections*. Chapter 17, prepared by Dr. Conrad Peterson, deals

with the Swedish-American element in Nicollet and Le Sueur counties, though merely in a general fashion. An examination of the biographical sketches shows clearly that the population of these counties is very heterogeneous in character. Of the subjects of the first one hundred sketches, for example, twenty-nine are foreign-born, forty-eight are of foreign parentage, and twenty-three of native parentage, the countries represented being Germany, Sweden, Norway, Bohemia, England, Brazil, Canada, Wales, Switzerland, Ireland, Scotland, and France. A general discussion of all the foreign elements and their influence might, therefore, have been of considerable value.

The *History of Brown County* falls far short of the standard set by its publishers in their *History of Otter Tail County*. Although the volume contains less than half as much material, they have been able, by the use of wide margins and large type, to give it the conventional bulk of a county history. The first forty pages, for instance, are made up of the same material, word for word, that occupies the first twenty-three pages of the Otter Tail history. In general, the book appears to have been put together hurriedly, with as little expenditure of effort as possible. Little thorough investigation of documentary sources is apparent, the writers preferring to keep to the beaten path. The chapter on the Indian massacre of 1862, containing 138 pages, is almost entirely a compilation of reminiscences, most of which had been printed before. The narrative opens with an extensive account of the outbreak taken from the writings of Rev. Alexander Berg-hold. This is followed by the section on the Milford massacre by Christopher Spellbrink, and by Therese Henle's account. Next comes an extract from Daniel Buck's *Indian Outbreaks*, followed by Dr. Asa W. Daniels' reminiscences, so often utilized. The chapter closes with material reprinted from the Nicollet-Le Sueur volume. In such a compilation there is naturally considerable duplication. The most valuable material in the book is found in the chapters on pioneer settlement and township organization. One looks in vain for any satisfactory discussion of the German element, which forms so large a proportion of the population of this county.

The opening sentences of the Wright and Renville histories illustrate a certain economy of effort that is apparent to a great

extent in the first chapters of these works, and, indeed, in most similar publications. "On its splendid course from Itasca to the Gulf, the mighty Mississippi passes no fairer land than that which it touches in the central part of Minnesota, where, well tilled and populous, Wright county stretches away in sightly prospects." "On its splendid course through the mighty state to which it has given its noble name, the turgid Minnesota passes no fairer land than that which it touches from Hawk Creek to Camp, where, well tilled and populous, Renville county stretches away in sightly prospects." But this is giving away the secrets of the trade! In both works are included chapters which give from the land office records the names of the original claimants of land in the various townships of the counties. An introduction to this list very properly points out its value and significance, speaking of it as "the roll of honor of those who dared the rigors of a pioneer country and started the first developments." In the first volume of the *History of Renville County* more than 120 pages are given to the Sioux outbreak, a considerable part of this material consisting of reminiscences already in print. Chapter 23, volume 2, of the *History of Wright County* contains a mass of what appears to be valuable information in regard to the townships and villages. Special chapters are: "Pioneer Boyhood," which gives the experiences of John B. Walker; "Swedish Influence," prepared with the assistance of Rev. S. Johnson; "The Catholic Church in Wright County," by Rev. Mathias Sava; "Dairying and Creameries," edited by E. G. Redman; and "County Schools," by August A. Zech. In chapter 18 eleven pages are given over to "Wright County Murder Trials," in which many gory and hair-raising details are carefully elaborated. There is little significance in including this material, but naturally some thrills must be supplied.

In the *Compendium of History and Biography of Polk County* there is an introductory chapter on its geography and geology by Warren Upham, fortunately not too technical. The following 122 pages are devoted to the history of the county. The rest of the volume, 341 pages, is biography. Special chapters to be noted are: "History of Agriculture in Polk County," "The Northwest School of Agriculture and Experiment Station," and

"The Crookston School of Agriculture," all three written by Mr. C. G. Selvig; "The Newspapers of Polk County," by W. E. McKenzie; "Crookston and Its Institutions," by James A. Cathcart; "The Schools of Polk County," by N. A. Thorson; and "The Rise and Fall of Columbia County," by Charles L. Conger. The series of historical chapters dealing with the early Indian inhabitants, the first white men in Polk County, the fur-traders, early American explorations in the Red River Valley, and the chief historic features of early times, has been written with considerable care, and there are occasional concise references to the sources used. In connection with the discussion of the first white men in Polk County, the writer gives considerable attention to the Kensington rune stone. He inclines to a belief in its genuineness, and asserts that "this opinion is firmly held by a large majority of the experts that have examined it. Those who doubt its authenticity do so on seemingly insufficient grounds." Attention is called to the report on the subject in volume 15 of the *Minnesota Historical Collections*, but no mention is made of Professor Flom's investigation, the results of which have been published by the Illinois Historical Society. Mr. Flom, as the spokesman of a committee of seven university professors, each chosen because of his philological knowledge of Old Norse, pronounced the inscription on the stone a forgery of recent manufacture.

The manner of arrangement of the contents and the coöperative method of production of these histories make impossible any sustained excellence of style. Much of the writing is perfervid and journalistic, with little attention to nicety of distinction in word-meanings. The desire to please subscribers and to do full honor to the pioneers leads to a distressingly tumid kind of writing, and to a positive scourge of triteness. But there are indications of more thorough and serious research into available sources than has heretofore obtained in publications of this sort. If superficiality can thus be eliminated, faults of style may well be condoned.

THEODORE C. BLEGEN

History of the First Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, 1861-1864. (Stillwater, Minnesota, Easton and Masterman, printers, 1916. 8, 508 p.)

In its origin and general features this work conforms to the typical Civil War regimental history. It is a compilation made under the direction of a commission composed largely of members of the regiment. Its plan is chronological. It is never uncomplimentary. A roster of the regiment, a number of addresses, and other addenda are included. But in its subject matter the book profits by the distinction which this regiment has long enjoyed. The First Minnesota was the body of men which made good the first tender of volunteer troops in the Civil War. It was the only Minnesota regiment in the Army of the Potomac. Its members were the heroes of a famous charge made at a critical moment in the battle of Gettysburg against overwhelming numbers and at the cost of eighty-two per cent of the men engaged. These and other facts about the regiment, notable and otherwise, are treated by the compiler, R. I. Holcombe, in the spirit and with the understanding possible only to one who himself participated in the great conflict.

The narrative opens with an account of the stirring scenes attendant upon Governor Ramsey's tender of a thousand men to President Lincoln, of the call for volunteers, of the organization and mustering-in of the First Minnesota, of the work of drilling and equipping the men, and of their departure for Washington in response to the call to service in the East. As the regiment soon joined the Army of the Potomac, with which almost its entire three years of service were spent, the greater part of the narrative is concerned with the campaigns and battles of that famous organization in the so-called eastern theatre of the war—Virginia, Maryland, and southern Pennsylvania. The period of inactivity following the regiment's baptism of fire at Bull Run is described as a time of incessant drill, picket duty, and intermittent skirmishes with the enemy. Several chapters are devoted to the Peninsular campaign, in which the pioneers from Minnesota gained distinction by providing for the Union forces a much-needed passage over the Chickahominy by the construction of the so-called grapevine bridge over that stream.

At Antietam, Fredericksburg, and in minor engagements the Minnesotans acquitted themselves well, but the climax of the regiment's career was reached when, at Gettysburg, in the words of James J. Hill, Colonel Colvill "shouted the 'Charge' that sent the First Minnesota to death and glory where the Nation's future was wavering in the balance." After Gettysburg nothing of especial interest is recounted of the surviving remnant of the regiment, unless it be the description of the trip to New York City, whither it was sent to prevent a repetition of the draft riots of July, 1863. The story closes with an account of the regiment's return to Minnesota in 1864 at the end of its term of service, of the reception accorded it in Washington, and of the heroes' welcome it received at home.

Although it was the avowed purpose of the compilers to include extended accounts of the operations of other troops only when needed "to properly frame the actions or services of the regiment," the amount of space devoted to such material is very considerable, and might well have been reduced by condensations and by the elimination of a few lengthy repetitions. The reader never entirely loses sight of the regiment, however, and the readableness of the narrative is enhanced by inspiring passages, humorous incidents, information about names and places, and a style of writing in which there occasionally crop out colloquialisms of both ancient and modern vintage.

In general, the book is reliable, though it is well to examine the grounds for particular assertions. For example, on page 2 appears the statement that Governor Ramsey, after his tender of troops to Lincoln, "promptly telegraphed the acting Governor of Minnesota, Lieut-Gov. Ignatius Donnelly, instructing him to issue an immediate call for volunteers." This is evidently drawn from Lieutenant William Lochren's "Narrative of the First Regiment" in *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars* (volume 1, page 2). But on page 2 of the second volume of the same work appears a copy of a telegram from Ramsey to Adjutant General Acker directing him to issue a proclamation in his (Ramsey's) name. Also, a letter in the Donnelly Papers leaves no doubt that Donnelly received no such order, and that he issued the proclamation on his own initiative as acting governor.

From the point of view of the student of history more complete references to authorities would have been desirable. The authority most frequently cited is referred to by the use of the author's name alone. Inasmuch as this work happens to be included in a volume with a number of others, it is not easily located. The book contains half-tone engravings of Governor Ramsey, of the four successive colonels of the regiment, of monuments and tablets commemorating the regiment's deeds, and of members of the commission in charge of the preparation of the history. There are four maps illustrative of the operations centering at Gettysburg. The index is quite inadequate, and there is no list of maps and illustrations.

FRANKLIN F. HOLBROOK

Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin at Its Sixty-third Annual Meeting, October 21, 1915. (Madison, the society, 1916. 231 p.)

As is customary in the series to which it belongs, this volume contains the minutes of the annual meeting of the society, the report of the executive committee, reports of auxiliary societies, the annual address, and a number of historical papers, which were read by title only at the meeting. The report of the executive committee is an admirable statement of the activities of the society for the year ending September 30, 1915, with suggestions for "future expansion." The society's disbursements for the year, exclusive of two large items for property repairs and insurance, amounted to about fifty-eight thousand dollars, of which nearly forty thousand dollars were for services and thirteen thousand for books, furniture, museum exhibits, and binding.

Notable among the manuscript acquisitions reported is a set of the papers of the federal commission on industrial relations, consisting of the exhaustive reports of investigations and hearings which formed the basis of the published report of the commission. This is a duplicate of the set filed with the bureau of labor at Washington, and contains material of immense value for "economists of the present day, as well as historians of the future." The extensive search which the society has carried on for a number of years in the United States archives at Washington has

resulted in the acquisition of photographic copies of ten thousand pages of manuscript from the House files and twenty-five thousand from the Indian office. In the former case the search extended to 1848, in the latter to 1860, and in both not only everything of importance relating to Wisconsin but much of value to the surrounding region has been secured. About eight hundred pages of manuscript relating to the fur trade in the Northwest were copied from originals in the collections of the Missouri Historical Society at St. Louis, and sixteen hundred prints of documents in the Cuban archives were secured, "the contents of which pertain to the activities of the Spanish in the Mississippi Valley." The society has recently established a department for the repair and mounting of manuscripts, which is slowly putting its invaluable collections into condition for consultation and permanent preservation. Among new projects planned or under way are an historical atlas of the state, a documentary history of Wisconsin's constitutions, and the publication of the state's executive records, which will run to many volumes. The suggestion which was put forward in the report for 1914 that attention should be given to the subject of the adequate housing and care of the state archives is renewed with vigor. The society responded to the suggestion by appointing a special committee to take up the matter.

The annual address, which is by Gaillard Hunt, chief of the division of manuscripts of the Library of Congress, is entitled "The President of the United States." Among the other papers in the volume are two of special interest to students of Minnesota history: "British Policy on the Canadian Frontier, 1782-92; Mediation and an Indian Barrier State," by Orpha E. Leavitt; and "Remains of a French Post near Trempealeau." The latter is a tripartite production consisting of an "Archeological Sketch," by Eben D. Pierce; "Additional Archeological Details," by George H. Squier; and an "Historical Sketch," by Louise Phelps Kellogg. The conclusion is reached that "Perrot's wintering establishment, 1685-86" and "Linctot's post, probably 1731-36" were at the same place "near Mount Trempealeau, and that there is much reason to think that the exact site has at length been discovered and explored."

The volume closes with an important document, "Extracts from Capt. McKay's Journal—and Others," edited by the superintendent, Dr. M. M. Quaife. The document, which appears to have been put together for the benefit of Lewis and Clark in the winter of 1803-4, opens with an account of the Grand Portage on Lake Superior and of the routes leading thence into the Canadian Northwest. This is followed by accounts of expeditions up the Missouri in 1795 and 1796 and by "Notes on the Above Journals Made by John Hay." These notes include a "Description of the Route from Makina to the Interior parts of the North West Country by the South Side of Lake Superior; which Journey or Voyage was performed by John Hay and others in the Year 1794"—a narrative of special interest to the student of early Minnesota history. Hay made his way from Grand Portage up the St. Louis River and by way of Sandy Lake to the Mississippi, then down that stream to the Crow Wing, up the Crow Wing and Leaf rivers and by way of Otter Tail Lake to the Red River, down that stream and up the Assiniboine. Detailed information is given about directions, distances, and portages, and the journal throws considerable light on conditions of travel and transportation in northern Minnesota at the close of the eighteenth century.

SOLON J. BUCK

Strong and Woodman Manuscript Collections in the Wisconsin State Historical Library (State Historical Society of Wisconsin, *Bulletins of Information*, no. 78). (Madison, the society, November, 1915. 22 p.)

The Keyes and the Civil War Manuscript Collections in the Wisconsin Historical Library (State Historical Society of Wisconsin, *Bulletins of Information*, no. 81). (Madison, the society, March, 1916. 20 p.)

In these two pamphlets the Wisconsin Historical Society supplements its *Descriptive List of Manuscript Collections* with rather full accounts of four large collections of papers recently acquired. All these collections have a value that transcends the boundaries of Wisconsin, and two of them contain considerable material pertinent to Minnesota history. The Moses M. Strong

collection covers the years 1825 to 1894 and will, when the process of repairing and binding is completed, comprise over two hundred volumes. Strong located in Mineral Point in 1836, and from 1838 to 1841 was United States district attorney for Wisconsin territory, which included Minnesota east of the Mississippi River. He led an active life as a lawyer, politician, surveyor, land agent, land speculator, lumberman, miner, railroad promoter, and historian, and all these activities are reflected in the papers. His operations in land extended into Minnesota, and he was connected with various enterprises for the promotion of railroads from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi and elsewhere in Wisconsin and Minnesota. The papers in the collection relating to lumbering furnish a detailed picture of that industry as it was conducted in the pine woods of the upper Mississippi and its tributaries. The Cyrus Woodman collection is somewhat similar in character and of even more interest to Minnesota. It covers from 1832 to 1889, and fills 181 volumes. Woodman came to Wisconsin in 1844, and he, also, located at Mineral Point. For the first eleven years he was in partnership with C. C. Washburn in land operations in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and other western states. His interests included also lumbering, banking, mining, railroad promotion, and politics, and his papers, like those of Strong, contain a wealth of material for nearly all aspects of the history of the upper Mississippi Valley in the middle of the nineteenth century.

The papers of Elisha W. Keyes cover from about 1850 to 1910, and are of value primarily for the political history of Wisconsin, although they undoubtedly contain correspondence with Minnesota politicians. The collection, which fills over a hundred manuscript boxes, is not accessible to the public as yet because of the confidential character of many of the papers. The Civil War collection is a part of the archives of the state, comprising all documents found in the governor's vault, "which in any way touched upon the activities of Wisconsin . . . during the Civil War." It contains about thirty thousand papers and twenty-eight bound volumes. This invaluable historical material, which was formerly practically inaccessible to students, was turned over to the society in 1914, and has been carefully classified and arranged. The bulk of it relates to the organization and administration of

the army, to relief work, and to military affairs. One group, consisting of communications and papers exchanged with departments of the federal government and executives of other states, doubtless contains Minnesota material. All these collections, and especially the first two, should be searched for documents bearing on Minnesota history, and a calendar, or better still, photostatic copies of such documents should be secured for the Minnesota Historical Society.

S. J. B.

Life Story of Rasmus B. Anderson. Written by himself with the assistance of ALBERT O. BARTON. (Madison, Wisconsin, 1915. xix, 678 p.)

The parents of Mr. Anderson were among the early Norwegian immigrants to America, coming to this country in 1836. Mr. Anderson was born ten years later. This life story, therefore, spans almost the whole period of Norwegian immigration. Its author has been for a long time a prominent figure among the Norwegians in this country, and has been connected in peculiar degree with many of the movements in this element. At present he is the editor of *Amerika*, a well-known Norwegian weekly newspaper, in the columns of which the present autobiography appeared. He has been professor of Scandinavian languages and literature at the University of Wisconsin, and from 1885 to 1889 he served as United States minister to Denmark. Mr. Anderson has been particularly eminent as a writer. Appended to the present work is a bibliography of his writings which lists between forty and fifty items. The best-known of these are perhaps *Norse Mythology*, *Viking Tales of the North*, *America not Discovered by Columbus*, and *The First Chapter of Norwegian Immigration*. The latter deals with the period 1821-40, and, though somewhat verbose and in parts uncritical, is of much value. As a translator Mr. Anderson has turned into English some seven volumes of the writings of Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, in addition to Winkel Horn's *History of the Literature of the Scandinavian North*, Rydberg's *Teutonic Mythology*, and other works. He is also the editor of the sumptuous *Norræna Library*, in sixteen volumes, and the four-volume edition of the *Heims-*

kringla. His literary productions, especially his translations, have been extensive. Because of his activity in these directions, and the pioneer nature of this work, he has been called the father of Norwegian literature in America.

Mr. Barton writes in his preface that Mr. Anderson's "autobiography will be particularly interesting from two points of view, his accounts of the beginnings of Norwegian settlements in this country, and his recollections and estimates of notables he met not only during his five years' residence near the court of Denmark, but also before and since." From the standpoint of immigration the book contributes little that is new. Some of the material can be found, in another form, in his *First Chapter of Norwegian Immigration*. On the other hand, there is interest and significance in his recollections of prominent men. Among these are to be noted especially a number of church leaders in the Norwegian Synod in the sixties, as well as later churchmen in the Northwest, such as Professors Sven Oftedal and Georg Sverdrup; likewise men connected with the beginnings of educational work among the Scandinavians in the West; distinguished Norwegians, more especially the poet Björnson, Henrik Ibsen, and Ole Bull, and a large number of prominent Danes and Swedes with whom Mr. Anderson associated while United States minister to Denmark; literary men like Longfellow, John Fiske, Bayard Taylor, Mark Twain, W. D. Howells, and others; politicians and local leaders in Wisconsin and other northwestern states. Many interesting names occur in these pages, and frequently the accompanying characterizations are shrewd, although occasionally the strong personal bias of the writer is apparent.

Mr. Anderson is a controversialist of the first rank, and in his disputes he can be exceedingly obstinate, bitter, and persistent. Naturally he has made many enemies; in fact, he feels that he has alienated the majority of his countrymen in the United States. In the accounts of these controversies much light is thrown upon the conditions that have obtained among Norsemen in this country—their religious, social, and educational activity.

Like many autobiographies this is in some degree a defence. In connection with many of the affairs of which Mr. Anderson writes, bitter feeling and deadly animosity are still harbored.

Parts of the book are therefore in themselves controversial, as, for example, the chapter dealing with the Norwegian Society, an organization the purpose of which was to promote Norwegian culture. Mr. Anderson had protested vigorously against the sort of literature produced by Ibsen, Björnson, Brandes, and other prominent Norwegian writers, in their later years, and he found himself opposed by most of the Norwegian-American newspapers. He also carried on a spirited campaign for the purpose of purging the Norwegian newspapers of unclean and vicious advertisements. As one of the founders, he proposed that the Norwegian Society should be a Christian, and to all intents and purposes a Lutheran, organization. The admirers of the later works of Ibsen and Björnson, he felt, would have "to take a back seat." A violent controversy ensued, and complete control of the Norwegian Society passed into the hands of Mr. Anderson's opponents. Another chapter is devoted to R. M. La Follette. Unlike the majority of Norwegians in Wisconsin, Mr. Anderson has been a stern opponent of La Follette, and considerable space is used in an attempt to prove that the Wisconsin senator is the Iago of American politics. There are few matters in which Mr. Anderson has not been in the right, according to his story; but of course most controversies have two sides. The following is a typical sentence: "While I was defending decency, morality, and Christianity my enemies made me the object of persecution, and most of those who ought to be my friends left me in the lurch" (p. 630).

As a source of information regarding the Norwegian element in this country, as well as an intimate study of Rasmus B. Anderson, this life story is of considerable value, but it will have to be used with utmost care. Things are looked at from one point of view throughout, and the author is strictly partisan. Moreover, an autobiographer is naturally the center of the story which he weaves, and the perspective may, therefore, at times be greatly distorted. The rôle of a writer may not always have been what his own recital suggests. Careful study of evidence is necessary in order to determine just what his true position was. Throughout this volume the author relates in considerable detail the many honors that have been conferred upon him. In referring to his publications, he supplies copious extracts from favorable reviews,

and has much to say about the influence of his writings, and the effect of his speeches.

Mr. Anderson has rendered a very worthy service by making America familiar with the great literary wealth of Scandinavia. For this alone he will occupy no insignificant place in the history of the Norwegian element in the United States, and his autobiography will have permanent value.

THEODORE C. BLEGEN

By the Great Wall: Letters from China. Selected correspondence of ISABELLA RIGGS WILLIAMS, missionary of the American Board to China, 1866-97. With an introduction by ARTHUR H. SMITH. (New York, etc., Fleming H. Revell Company, 1909. 400 p. Illustrated)

The writer of the letters published in this volume was a daughter of Stephen R. Riggs, the famous missionary to the Sioux Indians in Minnesota. The first chapter, entitled "A Goodly Heritage," deals with the life and experiences of the Riggs family in Minnesota. It opens with a few pages of memories of the early days in the mission home at Lac qui Parle by Anna Riggs Warner, another daughter, and continues with letters written by Isabella Riggs, mostly from Minnesota, during the years 1854 to 1865. This chapter forms an interesting supplement to the classic account in *Mary and I, or Forty Years with the Sioux*, by the father of the family.

In 1866 Isabella Riggs was married to Mark Williams, and in a few weeks the young couple started for China to devote their lives to missionary work. The remainder of the book, with the exception of the last chapter, consists of letters from China from 1866 to the death of the writer in 1897, and presents a vivid picture of missionary activities and of Chinese life and conditions. The last chapter contains letters, mostly from China, by a daughter, Henrietta Williams, whose death followed shortly upon that of her mother.

S. J. B.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

Considerable progress has been made by the library staff, with the assistance for a few weeks of Mr. Theodore C. Blegen, in the work of checking, classifying, and cataloguing the Nelson collection of material relating to the Scandinavians in the United States. Several hundred of the pamphlets, including a number of very rare items, have been bound. The issue of *Folkebladet* (Minneapolis) for July 19 contains an article in English by Mr. Blegen entitled "The Minnesota Historical Society," which deals especially with the work and plans of the society in the field of Scandinavian-American history. It contains a brief description of the Nelson collection, with a list of some of the more important titles. The article is reprinted in the August 11 issue of *Amerika*, published by Rasmus B. Anderson at Madison, Wisconsin.

The society has lost two members of the executive council by death recently: Mr. James J. Hill, who died May 29, and Mr. Edward C. Stringer of St. Paul, whose death occurred July 8. A memorial address in honor of Mr. Hill will be presented by Mr. J. G. Pyle at the annual meeting of the society in January. Mr. Pyle is writing a biography of Mr. Hill which will be published serially in *World's Work*, the first installment to appear in the October number.

General Le Duc's article on the "Genesis of the Typewriter" in the February number of the BULLETIN was reprinted in full in the March issue of the *Magazine of History* without any indication that it had ever been published before.

GIFTS

Mr. Edward E. Ayer of Chicago has presented number 93 of a three-hundred edition of *The Memorial of Fray Alonso de Benavides, 1630*, translated by Mrs. Edward E. Ayer and annotated by Frederick Webb Hodge and Charles Fletcher Lummis (Chicago, privately printed, 1916. xiii, 309 p.). Copies of the original Spanish edition of this work, which was printed in

Madrid in 1630, are extremely rare, the one from which the present translation was made being found in the remarkable collection of books and manuscripts relating to the American Indians which Mr. Ayer has gathered together and which he has given to the Newberry Library in Chicago. Father Benavides spent seven years traveling throughout the province of New Mexico as a missionary, and in his *Memorial* set down an account of the country and of the Indian tribes dwelling therein—invaluable source material for the student of the Southwest. Detailed and scholarly annotations add to the serviceableness of the work. The translation is accompanied by a facsimile reproduction, page for page, of the original Spanish text, and by forty photogravure plates giving views of old mission churches and other appropriate scenes. An excellent quality of paper, pleasing type, and an attractive binding contribute to the making of a volume which, in its format, leaves little to be desired.

Two interesting additions to the society's collection of books in the Dakota language are *Wowapi Wakan: the Holy Bible, Containing the Greater Part of the Old Testament and the New Testament in the Dakota Language*, translated from the originals by T. S. Williamson and S. R. Riggs, missionaries (New York, American Bible Society, 1877); and *Hymns in Dakota for Use in the Missionary Jurisdiction of Niobrara*, published by the Indian Commission of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The volumes are gifts from Mr. E. A. Bromley.

A copy of the *Minnesota Advertiser*, the first paper published in St. Cloud, for August 27, 1857—number 32 of volume 1—has been received from Hon. W. B. Mitchell of St. Cloud. It bears the names of George F. Brott as proprietor and James Mowatt as publisher, thus supplementing the information given by Daniel S. B. Johnston in his article on territorial journalism in the *Minnesota Historical Collections* (vol. 10, part 1, p. 312). As was the case with so many of the early papers, the *Advertiser* appears to have been run primarily to promote the interests of the town site. The last page of this issue contains a sketch of "St. Cloud,—Her Resources and Prospects," accompanied by a large "Map of Minnesota" showing all roads and railroads centering in the embryo city.

Mr. Marion P. Satterlee of Minneapolis has compiled a "List of Victims of the Sioux Indian Massacre of 1862, in Minnesota," a copy of which he has deposited with the society. After extensive research during a period of more than four years, Mr. Satterlee believes that he has succeeded in securing the names of practically all who were murdered, killed in battle, or died of starvation, as a result of the outbreak. The list contains the names of 391 settlers and 76 soldiers, making a total of 467.

Through its secretary-treasurer, Mr. Benjamin Brack of St. Paul, the Eleventh Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Association has presented to the society a valuable album containing photographs of the members of Company C, Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. The pictures were taken at Fort Snelling, July, 1865, when the company was mustered out of the federal service. The album, which contains also photographs of most of the first sergeants, all the company officers, and the field and staff officers of the regiment, was presented to their captain, Theodore E. Potter, by the men of the company as an expression of their affection for him.

Mr. H. T. Drake of St. Paul has procured from an English book dealer and presented to the society a set of the monumental and profusely illustrated work entitled *The Old-Northern Runic Monuments of Scandinavia and England*, now first collected and deciphered by Professor George Stephens, F.S.A., which was published in London in three parts dated 1866, 1868, and 1884.

Some thirty large boxes of books from the library of Senator W. D. Washburn, mostly government documents, have been presented by Hon. W. D. Washburn Jr. He has also presented to the state a marble bust of Senator Washburn and a large painting of Lincoln by George Peter Alexander Healy, dated 1887. The bust will be placed in the senate chamber of the Capitol, and the picture will hang in the hall of the house of representatives.

Governor Burnquist has turned over to the society a curious pointed bullet received from Mr. Henry Buck of Le Sueur. It is a specimen of the balls used in the old Russian muskets which were supplied to settlers by Governor Ramsey in 1862 in order that they might protect themselves against the Indians. Mr.

Buck, who came to Minnesota in 1852, was one of the settlers thus equipped.

An interesting addition to the society's exhibit of old firearms is a Colt pistol deposited by Mr. Charles H. Kilbourne of Minneapolis, to whose father, Major L. S. Kilbourne of the Seventy-second Indiana Volunteers, it was surrendered in October, 1863, by Frank Gurley, the Confederate guerilla leader. Gurley stated that it was the weapon with which he had killed General Robert Latimer McCook of the Army of the Ohio on August 6, 1862.

Through the courtesy of Mrs. Charles L. Alden of Troy, New York, the society has received a framed copy of a portrait of her father Consul James W. Taylor, a sketch of whose life appeared in the *BULLETIN* for November, 1915. The original painting, executed by V. A. Long in 1893, hangs in the city hall of Winnipeg.

Mr. E. A. Bromley has presented two blue-print plans for the reconstruction and enlargement of Fort Snelling, drawn in 1902 and 1903. On the back of one of them is a penciled sketch of the plan of the fort in 1844.

Miss Margaret M. Burdick of Minneapolis has presented a small oil painting, executed about 1854, of Fort Garry, located on the site of the present city of Winnipeg. The painting belonged to her father Mr. R. C. Burdick, who was for a number of years a member of the society. Mr. Burdick came to St. Paul in 1851 and later lived for a time at Fort Garry.

Mr. William R. Weide of St. Paul has presented a crayon portrait of his father Nicholas Bernard Weide, who came to St. Paul in 1853 and opened a grocery store on Third Street.

NEWS AND COMMENT

The Chicago Historical Society's *Annual Report* for the year ending October 31, 1915 (120 p.) announces the acquisition of "some 3000 manuscripts known as the Law Family Papers, purchased last summer. These papers cover the half century from 1800-1850 and throw light upon the fur-trade of the entire Northwest." The account of the history lectures for school children given weekly in the society's building is suggestive of what might be done in other cities.

The *Third Annual Report* for 1915 of the Michigan Historical Commission (1916. 16 p.) announces that "the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Michigan Federation of Women's Clubs have arranged a prize essay contest open to pupils in Michigan schools of the eighth grade in the high school or of corresponding grade in any other school. The subject of the essays is the settlement and development of the city or town in which the essay is being written."

Various phases of general northwestern history are touched upon in "Episodes in the Early History of the Des Moines Valley," by Jacob Van der Zee in the July number of the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*. The article covers from the beginning of explorations to the Black Hawk War, and is to be followed by another "dealing with the opening of the valley to settlement by the whites." The same issue contains the third of the series of articles by Ruth A. Gallaher on "Indian Agents in Iowa," this one dealing specifically with "Agents among the Sacs and Foxes."

"Virginia and the West; an Interpretation," by Clarence W. Alvord, in the June number of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, presents certain aspects of western history before and during the revolutionary period in quite a different light from that in which they usually appear. The same number contains a suggestive article by Louis B. Schmidt on "The Economic History of American Agriculture as a Field for Study" and a useful

survey of "Historical Activities in the Old Northwest" during the past year by Arthur C. Cole.

The excellent paper by Dr. John W. Oliver on "The Position of the Historian in Statehood Centennials," which was read at the meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association in Nashville last April, has been printed in the June issue of the *Bulletin* of the Indiana State Library.

Two biographies of Lord Strathcona, recently published, are of interest to students of Minnesota history, especially in connection with the beginnings of the Great Northern Railroad. They are *The Life of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal*, by Beckles Willson (Boston, 1915. 2 v.) and *Strathcona and the Making of Canada*, by W. T. R. Preston (New York, 1915. xi, 324 p.). Professor George M. Wrong of the University of Toronto thus characterizes the two works in an admirable review published in the July issue of the *American Historical Review*: "Following quickly upon the death of Lord Strathcona these two lives have appeared, Mr. Willson's a eulogy, Mr. Preston's the opposite. Mr. Willson thinks that Lord Strathcona was so great a factor in the life of Canada that his name was 'long synonymous throughout the British Empire with Canada itself'; Mr. Preston considers Lord Strathcona an opportunist, bent on creating a fortune, the servant of great financial interests, the corrupter of political morality in Canada by the lavish use of money in elections. Mr. Willson has had the advantage of access to Lord Strathcona's papers and is, of course, highly official in tone; Mr. Preston writes as an outside critic who has lived through the events he describes. Mr. Willson is diffuse, in two volumes, Mr. Preston is brief and sometimes pungent." Another work on the same subject by Dr. George Bryce appeared serially in the *Canadian Magazine* from July, 1915, to March, 1916, under the title "The Real Strathcona."

Memoirs, Historical and Edifying, of a Missionary Apostolic of the Order of Saint Dominic among Various Indian Tribes and among the Catholics and Protestants in the United States of America is the title of a book issued by Saint Clara College at Sinsinawa, Wisconsin (1915. xxv, 375 p.). The book is a trans-

lation by Sister Mary Benedicta Kennedy of Saint Clara Convent of the work of Samuel Charles Mazzuchelli, written in Italian and published in Milan in 1844. Father Mazzuchelli came to the Northwest as a missionary priest in 1830, and his narrative is a valuable source of information about religious activities and general development in the upper Mississippi Valley, particularly Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois, during the following years. The translation is preceded by an introduction by Archbishop Ireland, which is an account and appreciation of the work of Mazzuchelli. The volume contains a half-tone engraving of the copy of Mazzuchelli's portrait in Saint Clara College and facsimile reproductions of three maps and the frontispiece from the original work. A reproduction of the original title-page and a good index would have added to the value of the book. The so-called "Index" at the end is merely a table of contents and should have been placed at the beginning.

In an article entitled "The Massacre of Seven Oaks" in the *Manitoba Free Press* of June 17, 1916, Isaac Cowie describes the tragedy which marked the culmination of the bitterly waged contest between the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Fur Company for the control of the fur trade of the Red River and Saskatchewan regions, the immediate occasion being the attempt of Lord Selkirk, backed by the Hudson's Bay Company, to plant an agricultural colony on the Red River. In the same issue of the *Press* is an account of the ceremony commemorating the one-hundredth anniversary of the Seven Oaks massacre to be held on June 19 at the monument erected in Winnipeg in 1891 to mark the spot where Governor Semple and twenty of his men from Fort Douglas, the colony headquarters, were killed.

The passenger traffic department of the Great Northern Railway Company has recently published "an annotated time table" entitled *See America First* (1916. 168 p.), in which many interesting things, "scenic, geographic, agricultural, industrial, and historical" are told of each station which the traveler comes to along the various lines of this transcontinental road. Added interest and value are gained by the use of numerous maps and illustrations. Pages 1-19, 31-37, and 135-148 contain the notes on Minnesota stations.

The office of judge-advocate-general of the United States army has issued a revised edition of *United States Military Reservations, National Cemeteries, and Military Parks* (1916. 544 p.), a section of which deals with the title and rights of jurisdiction of the federal government in the St. Louis River military reservation, the St. Paul quartermaster and commissary depot, and the Fort Snelling reservation.

The *American-Scandinavian Review* for July-August, 1916, contains a brief sketch of Erik Norelius, president emeritus of the Swedish Augustana Synod, whose death occurred on March 15. Dr. Norelius came to Minnesota in the fifties, and has been prominently identified with the religious and educational work of the state.

There are signs that the states are waking up to the importance of taking proper care of their archives. The Virginia legislature recently appropriated four thousand dollars for the purchase of fire-proof filing cases for the manuscripts of the state department of archives and history.

The cause of western history lost one of its most enthusiastic workers in the death, on June 14, of Mr. Clarence S. Paine, secretary of the Nebraska Historical Society. Mr. Paine was a leader in the organization and development of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association and served it as secretary-treasurer from its beginning until his death.

The history faculty of the University of Minnesota will be increased this fall by two new appointments, Professor Carl Becker from Kansas University and Dr. Wayne E. Stevens from the University of Illinois. Professor Becker's special field of work is the eighteenth century in both Europe and America. Dr. Stevens has just completed his graduate work, his major subject being American history, and his thesis a study of the "Fur Trade in the Old Northwest, 1774-1796." An addition to the history faculty of Hamline University is Dr. J. D. Hicks, who received his degree from the University of Wisconsin last June.

The leading event of the home-coming celebration in Mankato July 1-4 was the production of the Mankato historical pageant, in which were portrayed some of the principal events in the history and development of the city. The pageant was given on July 4 in Sibley Park on ground where at least two of the incidents represented, the coming of Le Sueur and the sentencing of the thirty-eight Sioux Indians for participation in the outbreak of 1862, actually took place. Although planned by the Anthony Wayne Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, the pageant was a community affair, over eight hundred persons taking part in the production. It consisted of seven tableaux or episodes. In the first was pictured an Indian village of 1700, whither came Le Sueur and his company of French voyageurs and miners, searching for copper. The treaty of Traverse des Sioux, 1851, was the subject of the second, the gathering of the Indian tribes, the arrival of the United States commissioners, the speeches made on both sides, and the signing of the treaty being graphically reproduced. In the third episode—the settlement of Mankato, 1852—was shown the arrival of the first English settlers and of the first German families, followed by the coming of the Welsh immigrants. The fourth episode—the log school-house, 1855—consisted for the most part of processions and dances symbolic of what education means to an individual and to a community. The fifth episode—the boys of '61—representing the first company of volunteers recruited for the Civil War and their departure for the front, was typical of a scene enacted in the village many times during the four-year conflict. In the sixth episode was unfolded the tragedy of the Sioux outbreak of 1862. The coming of the Scandinavian settlers after the Civil War and the part played by this important element in the life of the community formed the subject of the seventh episode and was illustrated by the reproduction of Swedish folk dances and a Norwegian peasant wedding. Interludes in the form of appropriate music and symbolic dances added to the beauty of the production. A twenty-four-page pamphlet containing a brief synopsis of each episode and the names of those taking part in it, together with historical and explanatory notes, was issued by the pageant committee in the form of a souvenir program.

One of the results of the interest aroused in local history by the production of the Mankato historical pageant was the organization of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, incorporated May 30, 1916. The society will collect, preserve, and publish materials relating to the history and development of the county, will obtain biographic sketches and portraits of its pioneers and prominent citizens, and gather articles of historic interest and value for a museum. It will maintain also for the general public a library of books, pamphlets, and manuscripts relating to local and general history. Three members of the Minnesota Historical Society are among the charter members of the county society, Thomas Hughes, George M. Palmer, and Judge Lorin Cray, all of Mankato, the latter being chosen as president.

"The Pageant of Lake Minnetonka" was presented at Excelsior Commons, Lake Minnetonka, on the evenings of July 27-29, 1916, under the patronage of the Woman's Club of Lake Minnetonka. The scenario of the pageant, comprising four acts, was written by Willard Dillman of Excelsior. It follows in its bare outlines the plan one is becoming accustomed to in Minnesota pageants. The first tableau opens with an Indian village scene and closes with the arrival of the French explorers, forerunners of the new civilization, exemplified in this case by Father Hennepin. The second act pictures the settlement of Excelsior in 1853 with the resulting withdrawal of the Indians farther into the wilderness. The third act shows the village in 1861, the inhabitants surprised in the midst of a picnic by the president's call for volunteers; a company of recruits forms and marches away. The final act represents Minnetonka at the present time—the playground of Minnesota, with tableaux and dances personifying different sports and recreations. Musical numbers and picturesque dances formed interludes between the acts, and the whole pageant, well-costumed and staged, was an attractive and interesting spectacle. Its educational value would have been enhanced, however, by a little more attention to the truth of history. The production abounded in anachronisms, historical personages appeared in curious places and connections, and events were portrayed which were not merely imaginary but historically impossible. Unfortunately the program contained no historical

or explanatory notes which might have aided the observer in distinguishing between fact and fiction. A twenty-eight-page pamphlet containing the book of the pageant was printed as "advance proof for use in production."

The fifty-ninth annual meeting of the Minnesota Old Settlers' Association, held at the Old Capitol, St. Paul, June 1, 1916, was attended by two of the four surviving members, John Daubney of Taylor's Falls and Auguste L. Larpenteur of St. Paul, also by one of the four honorary members, Warren Upham, and a number of invited guests and friends. At the formal business meeting Mr. Upham read a memorial sketch of John D. Scofield, whose death occurred September 18, 1915, and Mrs. Winifred Murray Milne gave an interesting series of biographic and other notes upon a number of St. Paul pioneers of 1856 and 1857. Mr. George H. Hazzard, secretary of the Minnesota Territorial Pioneers, presided as toastmaster at the banquet following the business meeting, and an entertaining program of responses, generally reminiscent in character, was given. It was decided that, owing to the advanced age of the surviving members of the association, only one more meeting would be held, on June 1, 1917, when the Territorial Pioneers of Minnesota will unite with the Old Settlers in the celebration of this anniversary day of the organization of the Minnesota territorial government.

The Old Settlers' Association of Kandiyohi County held its annual meeting at New London, June 21, 1916. The principal event of the morning was a parade made up of several sections, each representing some phase of history, development, or industry, the most noteworthy being the one showing the evolution in the means of transportation. The afternoon exercises were marked by an address by Senator P. A. Gandrud of Sunburg, in which the methods of legislation of the early days were compared with those of the present time, and by the reading of a paper entitled "Sixty Years Ago," prepared by Victor E. Lawson of Willmar, which contained valuable contributions to the early history of Kandiyohi County gathered by Mr. Lawson from various sources. Of particular value were the data which he obtained from Mr. Wilfrid Whitefield of Sauk Center, son of

Edward Whitefield, who, as artist and press agent, accompanied an exploration party to the Kandiyohi lakes in 1856, and whose pictures of early scenes in Minnesota are well known. Among his papers, which are now in the possession of the son, are letters written during 1856-57 from Minnesota, and a manuscript entitled "Kandiyohi, Fourth Article," describing in detail the discovery of the Kandiyohi lakes and the location of the townships of Whitefield, Kandiyohi, and Swainson. The June 29 issue of the *New London Times* contained an account of the meeting, and Mr. Lawson's paper was printed in full in the *Willmar Tribune* of July 5, 1916.

The annual meeting of the Territorial Pioneers' Association of Freeborn County was held in Albert Lea, May 11. Among the addresses given, that of Mrs. A. W. Massie on "Reminiscences of Pioneer Times" is deserving of mention. In 1859 Mrs. Massie, a girl of sixteen, accompanied her father's family in their journey overland in an emigrant wagon drawn by an ox team from Madison, Wisconsin to Carlston township, Freeborn County, where they settled on a squatters' claim. Her recollections of the difficulties attendant upon this primitive means of transportation, of economic and social conditions in the pioneer community, and of early schools and religious services were interestingly told. The address was printed in full in the May 15 issue of the *Albert Lea Standard*.

The annual meeting of the Old Settlers' Association of Renville County was held at Morton, June 14 and 15. Considerable interest had been aroused in this meeting because of the fact that Morton and its immediate vicinity are on historic ground, the battlefield of Birch Coolee lying to the northeast and the old stone house marking the site of the Lower Agency being directly across the Minnesota River. Stone monuments here and there commemorate incidents connected with the Indian outbreak of 1862. Trips to these points were planned for the visitors. At the exercises addresses were made by Governor Burnquist, Julius A. Schmahl, Frank B. Kellogg, and S. G. Iverson. A brief notice of the meeting appeared in the *Renville Star Farmer* of June 22, 1916.

On June 27, 1916, at Pipestone, occurred the thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Pipestone County Old Settlers' Historical Society. The morning session was devoted to the president's address and to the presentation of reports from the secretary-treasurer, historian, and township vice-presidents; at the afternoon session an interesting program of addresses was given, including "The Boom Spirit of Pioneer Days," by Dr. W. J. Taylor; "Reminiscences of Medical Work in the Early Days of Pipestone County and Southwestern Minnesota," by Dr. H. D. Jenckes; and "Incidents in My Twenty Years' Experience as a School Teacher in Pipestone County," by John Pierce. A full account of the exercises is to be found in the *Pipestone County Star* of June 27 and 30, 1916.

The fortieth annual reunion of the Old Settlers' Association of Dodge County was held in Kasson, June 27, 1916. At the formal exercises addresses were made by C. A. Severance and Samuel Lord, former residents of the county, now of St. Paul, followed by the reading of a paper "Some Pioneer Anniversaries of Dodge County" written by H. A. Smith, a pioneer editor of the county, now a resident of the state of Washington. The paper was printed in the *Dodge County Republican*, June 29, 1916, and reprinted in the *People's Press* (Owatonna), July 7.

The Mapleton and Sterling Old Settlers' Association held its annual picnic at Mapleton, June 14, 1916, on the grounds where the Mapleton settlement of 1856 celebrated its first Fourth of July. Governor Burnquist was the principal speaker at the exercises following the picnic dinner, and William Mead of Sterling gave the memorial address for those members of the association who have died during the last year, which was printed in the June 16 issue of the *Blue Earth County Enterprise*.

The annual meeting of the Hennepin County Territorial Pioneers' Association on June 3, 1916, was marked by exercises incident to the dedication of the memorial elm in Richard Chute Square, given to the pioneers by the Native Sons of Minnesota. A photograph taken of the members and their friends who were present at this meeting appeared in the June 25 issue of the *Minneapolis Journal*.

The January 9 issue of the *Minneapolis Journal* contained an account of a dinner given on January 8, 1916, at the Hotel Leamington in Minneapolis by Major George A. Brackett to fifteen pioneers of the village of St. Anthony. Judge J. B. Gilfillan presided as toastmaster, and each guest, as his name was called, responded by relating some incident of his early experiences. A reproduction of a photograph taken as the guests were seated accompanied the article.

Mr. L. E. Moyer of Montevideo and former Senator O. G. Dale of Madison are gathering material for a history of Chippewa and Lac qui Parle counties which B. F. Bowen and Company are to bring out. A history of Douglas and Grant counties, by the same firm, is also in course of preparation under the direction of Mr. Constant Larson of Alexandria.

Indian-White Amalgamation: an Anthropometric Study, by Professor Albert E. Jenks, is number 6 of the *Studies in the Social Sciences* of the University of Minnesota (1916. vi, 24 p.). The paper describes the methods used in an attempt at a scientific determination of "the blood status of certain persons whose ancestry is in question in the government suits" arising out of the sales of land in the White Earth Indian Reservation. Professor Jenks reached the conclusion that among the Ojibways of Minnesota "the pure-blood Indian type was noticeable chiefly by its absence." A brief statement of "the historical foundation for such a condition" is included in the paper.

The firm of Rand, McNally and Company of Chicago has recently issued a work without a title-page containing a "Land-owners' Directory, Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington Counties, Minnesota, as Compiled from the County Assessors' Records." This consists of ninety-six pages of photographic reproductions of typewritten lists of property owners, section by section, with detailed maps of each county. The remainder of the book is made up of pages 51 to 154 of the publishers' "New Ideal Atlas." Accompanying the work is a large folding "Map of East Central Minnesota," printed on cloth and covering a rectangle stretching south from Duluth to Red Wing and west from Wisconsin to Little Falls. Unfortunately neither the map nor the book is dated.

The United States Geological Survey has issued the "Minneapolis-St. Paul Folio" of its *Geologic Atlas of the United States* (1916. 14 p.). This consists of a "Description of the Minneapolis and St. Paul District" by Frederick W. Sardeson, maps of the topography and areal geology of the Minneapolis, St. Paul, Anoka, and White Bear quadrangles, and twenty-two illustrations from photographs.

Minnesota Day, by W. F. Webster of Minneapolis, has been issued by the state department of education as number 60 of its *Bulletins* (1916. 24 p.). The book contains brief statements on the population, natural features, resources, and industries of Minnesota, and is offered to the teachers of the state as a guide to the sort of information to be presented at exercises incident to the observance of Minnesota Day.

The Third Infantry Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Association has issued the *Proceedings* of its thirty-first annual reunion, held at Minneapolis, September 8, 1915 (11 p.). A group picture taken of the members of the association present is an interesting feature of the pamphlet.

The Minnesotan for May contains a biographical sketch of Douglas Volk, director of the art school of the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts from its beginning in 1886 to 1893, by William Watts Folwell.

The Northwestern Miller has brought out the eighth annual issue, for 1916-17, of the *Miller's Almanack and Year-Book of the Trade; a Compilation of Statistical and General Information of the Milling Industry and the Grain Trade* (Minneapolis, 1916. 240 p.).

Vikværingen is the title of a new bi-monthly publication issued as the "official organ of *Kristianialaget*, an organization composed of Americans from Christiania and environs, Norway." The editor is G. N. Exstand, 3848 27th Avenue S., Minneapolis, and three numbers have appeared.

The First National Bank of Owatonna, Minnesota, has recently issued an attractive souvenir pamphlet entitled *Golden Anniversary* to mark the fiftieth anniversary of its establishment

on June 1, 1866 (30 p.). A brief account of the earliest settlements in Steele County and of the beginnings of Owatonna, and a sketch of Mr. W. R. Kinyon, one of the founders of the bank, are interesting features of the book.

In *Minnesota Lakes*, recently brought out by the Northern Pacific Railway Company (1916. 64 p.), are set forth for the benefit of the summer tourist the beauties and attractions of the many lakes situated in what is known as the Lake Park Region of central Minnesota, about the head waters of the Mississippi, and along the international boundary. Numerous illustrations reproduce for the reader scenes on some of the lakes described.

The June number of *Export American Industries* contains an article by E. C. Hillweg, assistant secretary of the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association, on "Minneapolis," the second in a series entitled "Industrial Centers of the United States." Some interesting facts in connection with the city's industrial development are brought out, especial attention being given to its growing importance as a factor in export trade. The article is illustrated with a number of photographs of the city's principal industrial plants and other points of interest, while a beautiful view of the Institute of Arts forms an attractive front cover.

"The Work of N. H. Winchell in Glacial Geology and Archæology" is the title of an article which appeared in the January issue of *Economic Geology*, by Warren Upham, archeologist of the Minnesota Historical Society (1916. pp. 63-72). A number of separates have been issued.

With its June 1 issue the *Minneapolis Tribune* began the daily publication of a series of sketches by Caryl B. Storrs entitled "Visitin' 'Round in Minnesota." Mr. Storrs's articles are not news articles. "He is just rambling around and writing his impressions and experiences." He takes part in the Memorial Day celebration at Winnebago, sees a real, old-time blacksmith forge at Blooming Prairie, attends an old settlers' meeting at Mapleton, is told "the true story of the death of Little Crow" at New Ulm, visits Jones' Ford on the Blue Earth, where he sees the site of Le Sueur's Fort L'Huillier, finds an old-fashioned Fourth of

July at Wabasha, visits an up-to-date farm at Granite Falls where farming is no longer "a job" but "a science" and is carried on by pressing a button or turning a switch, has interesting interviews with old pioneers from whom he learns many an old tale or legend or bit of valuable historical information—all of which, with many more experiences, he reproduces in sketches distinctly readable and entertaining. The value of the series as a whole will lie especially in the picture it affords of the life of the people of the state, in the towns and in the countryside, both in these present days and those more remote.

In *Wheelock's Weekly* (Fergus Falls), May 11–25, 1916, appeared a series of articles, by Major R. I. Holcombe of St. Paul, on the early explorations in Otter Tail County and the regions adjacent to it. Major Holcombe has given a detailed and interesting account of the expeditions of Joseph La France, David Thompson, the Henry's, Pike, Keating, and Beltrami, based on their own narratives, and has noted particularly the descriptions of the Otter Tail region as seen by the explorers or known to them only through hearsay. Lists of corrected Indian names with their English translations add to the value of the articles.

Mr. E. S. Lambert of Fergus Falls is the author of "Some Personal Reminiscences" which appeared in the *Fergus Falls Weekly Journal*, May 11 and 18, 1916. Though he was but a young lad when his family settled on a homestead near Hutchinson in 1859, Mr. Lambert's recollections of the hardships and the primitive methods of farming of his boyhood days are quite vivid. He describes also among other things the flight of his family to Mendota at the time of the Sioux outbreak of 1862, his life as a school boy at Mendota, Fort Snelling during the Civil War period, the building of the first railroad out of St. Paul to the East, and farming conditions in the state in the seventies.

The seventh and concluding number of the series of historical articles by Mr. Andrew C. Dunn of Winnebago, of which mention was made in the May number of the BULLETIN, appeared in the July 9 issue of the *Minneapolis Journal*. In this number Mr. Dunn tells of the difficulties encountered in Congress over the admission of Minnesota into the Union, and describes the stirring

events of the session of the first state legislature, the inner political significance of which he, as secretary of the senate, was in a position to know.

One of the episodes in the Mankato historical pageant described elsewhere in this BULLETIN contained a representation of the coming of the first Germans to the little settlement in 1854. In the July 4 issue of the *Mankato Review*, one of the surviving members of the party of five German families from St. Charles, Missouri, Mr. Phillip Hodapp, tells the story of their journey by boat from St. Louis to St. Paul, and thence overland by wagon to Mankato by way of Shakopee village, Le Sueur, the trading post of Traverse des Sioux, St. Peter, and Kasota.

The *Minneapolis Tribune* of May 14, 1916, contained extracts from an old diary kept by John G. Macfarlane, keeper of the first city wharf and owner of the first warehouse in Minneapolis. Some interesting facts are brought to light about the Minneapolis of sixty years ago, when the town was the head of navigation on the Mississippi River. Among the illustrations accompanying the article is one, taken in 1857, showing the steamer "Minneapolis" alongside the old wharf, situated just below the site of the present Washington Avenue bridge.

Under the heading "Pioneer Woman Compiles History of Minneapolis in Clippings of Sixty Years" in the *Minneapolis Journal* of May 21, 1916, is given an account of a scrapbook belonging to Mrs. Hannah Howard Munson, who came to St. Anthony on July 4, 1848, and whose interest in public men and affairs and in the development of the little settlement beside the Falls into the "big Minneapolis" of to-day, led her to keep this "illustrated diary of a half century of first and important events."

Some account of the fur-trading business and of the early travel routes of northern Minnesota was given in the *Duluth Herald*, July 12, 1916, by Joe Wakefield, in an article entitled "Aged Pioneer of Lake Region Recalls Scenes of Early Days." Wakefield came to Minnesota in the early fifties and made his way from St. Anthony up into the northern part of the territory, then practically unexplored, establishing himself as Indian trader near the site known later as Crow Wing.

The death of Colonel John S. Mosby, the noted Confederate cavalry leader, which occurred at Washington, May 30, 1916, brought back to many Civil War veterans memories of encounters with the troop of raiders commanded by this daring officer. Some of these reminiscences appeared in the *Minneapolis Tribune*, May 31, 1916.

"On the Minnesota River after Half a Century" is the title of an interesting sketch by Fred S. Bill in the *Saturday Evening Post* of Burlington, Iowa, for July 15.

A number of brief articles containing material of interest and value for the early history of the state have appeared in recent issues of Minnesota newspapers. In the *Todd County Argus* (April 27, 1916), Dr. J. F. Locke, formerly of Long Prairie, now of Brookfield, Vermont, "Recalls the Pioneer Days" of the early seventies. An account of the settlement of the eastern part of Bigelow township in Nobles County in 1871 by a group of young men who had but recently come to the United States from Sweden is related by Hans Nystrom in "Tales of the Pioneer Days" in the *Worthington Globe* (May 25, 1916). The proceedings of the first district court of Martin County, which was held in a small log cabin at Fairmont in October, 1861, and the obstacles to be overcome by the jurymen and other members of the court in their efforts to reach the meeting place in the days when transportation facilities were of the crudest, are graphically described in "Courting under Difficulties in Early Days" by A. R. Fancher in the *Martin County Sentinel* (May 26, 1916); the same article was reprinted in the *Blue Earth Post* (May 30, 1916). Mr. M. J. Aldrich, a pioneer resident of Martin County, under the title "Pioneer Reminiscences" in the *Martin County Independent* (June 21, 1916), describes a remarkable group of mounds near Elm Creek, estimated to be from two to three thousand years old, which at one time were very definitely defined, but which, with the passage of time, have become almost obliterated. The *Pipestone Leader* (June 22, 1916) contained an interesting narrative by Mrs. J. M. Bull, wife of a pioneer teacher and minister of Pipestone County, now of Gentry, Arkansas, of the early history of the county, with some account of the first settlers.



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