

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

David Thompson's Narrative of His Explorations in North America, 1784-1812 (The Champlain Society, *Publications*, no. 12). Edited by J. B. TYRRELL. (Toronto, the society, 1916. xcviii, 582 p.)

The explorer whose narration is here published was a Welshman, born April 30, 1770, of humble parents, with little possessions, who had migrated to London, living in its then suburb of Westminster. Before the baby boy was two years old, his father died. At the age of seven he was admitted as a charity pupil in the Grey Coat School, distant about five minutes' walk from Westminster Abbey. From this school he was indentured, when fourteen years old, to an apprenticeship of seven years in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, which he began in the summer of 1784, coming at first to the fur-trading post named Churchill Factory. Two years later he went to remote posts on the Saskatchewan River, and his places of service were several times changed.

In 1789, at nineteen years of age, Thompson began at Cumberland House his great work as a surveyor and geographer, determining the exact geographic position of that trading post by a large number of astronomical observations. Thenceforward, through a quarter of a century, he was a most efficient explorer and cartographer of the vast region stretching from Hudson Bay and Lake Superior west to the Fraser and Columbia rivers and the Pacific Ocean, and north to Reindeer and Athabasca lakes.

After eight years of surveys with the Hudson's Bay Company, he transferred his service in 1797 to the Northwest Company. For both these corporations he was engaged largely as a fur-trader, his surveying and mapping being done in the intervals of time that could be spared from that work. Only two expeditions were made chiefly for exploration to supply maps, these being in the winter and spring of 1797-98, when on a journey to the villages of the Mandans, on the Missouri River, and in the closely ensuing travel through northern Minnesota by the headwaters of the Mississippi.

During March and April of 1798 Thompson traveled thus from the Red River Valley to Red Lake and to Turtle Lake, the latter situated on the most northern tributary of the Mississippi River, mapping these lakes and streams. Thence he proceeded in May down the Mississippi to Sandy Lake, and by the Savanna and St. Louis rivers to Fond du Lac, at the west end of Lake Superior. This part of his narration has the greatest interest for Minnesota readers.

In 1813 and 1814 Thompson drafted for the Northwest Company a large map of the Northwest Territory of Canada, and with additions through surveys made by others he extended his mapping from the 84th to the 124th meridian, and in latitude from the 45th to the 60th parallel. A reduced facsimile of this manuscript map is published in the present work. Parts of it, and many notes of its place names and other observations from Thompson's field books, were published in 1897 by Dr. Elliott Coues, in his *New Light on the Early History of the Greater Northwest*. The reader should likewise consult an earlier paper by the present editor, Mr. J. B. Tyrrell, published in pamphlet form under the title *A Brief Narrative of the Journeys of David Thompson in North-Western America* (Toronto, 1888), and appearing also in the *Proceedings* of the Canadian Institute, third section, volume 6, 1887-88, pages 135-160.

Thompson's field plats and notes, including many determinations of latitude and longitude throughout the vast area of his explorations, fill about forty record books, in the surveys branch of the crown lands department of Ontario, at Toronto. These have been carefully compared by Mr. Tyrrell with this *Narrative*, which was written by Thompson in his declining years, with the hope to see it published. Its chapters telling of the travel in the Red River Valley and past the upper Mississippi to Fond du Lac were written in 1848, when the author was seventy-eight years old.

After 1815, when the surveys narrated in this volume and their delineation on its map had been completed, Thompson was during ten years a Canadian government surveyor, defining and mapping the international boundary line, from where the forty-fifth parallel crosses the St. Lawrence River west to the Lake of the Woods, and surveying also the other proposed routes for the boundary

adjoining Minnesota, by the St. Louis River and by the more northern Kaministiquia River.

During the progress of the boundary work and for many years afterward, his home was in Williamstown, Glengarry County, Ontario. Thence he removed to Longueuil, near Montreal, where his latest years were darkened by failing eyesight and by poverty, and where he died February 10, 1857. His wife, Charlotte Small, a half-breed of Scotch and Ojibway blood, to whom he was married at Isle à la Crosse on June 10, 1799, survived him by only three months, dying May 7; and they were buried, beside children who had preceded them, in Mount Royal cemetery, Montreal.

The following quotations from what Thompson wrote of his journey to Red Lake and the Mississippi River indicate well the descriptive and historical value of this work. From the trading house of Baptiste Cadotte, on the Red Lake River at the site of the town of Red Lake Falls, he started on April 9, 1798, to ascend the tributary Clearwater River by canoe with three Canadian boatmen.

"On the twelfth we arrived at the Carrying Place which leads to the Red Lake River, having come sixty four miles up this sinuous River. The east side, or right bank had fine Forests, but as we advanced, the Aspin became the principal growth of the Woods. The West Bank had patches of hard wood trees, with much fine meadow which led to the Plains, the whole a rich deep soil.

"The Carrying Place is four miles in length of part marsh and part good ground to the Bank of the Red Lake River, in Latitude 48. 0. 55 N Longitude 95. 54. 28 W. Variation 10° East.

"Our course was now up this River to the Red Lake, a distance of thirty two miles. Both banks of this River well timbered with Oak, Ash and other hard Woods, intermixed with much Aspin and Poplar. A rich deep soil, but now from the melting of the Snow every where covered with water, the country so level, that only a chance bit of dry bank was to be seen. . . .

"At the Lake the kind old Chief, Sheshepaskut with six Lodges of Chippeways were camped. He gave us three pickerel and two large pike, a welcome change from dried meat. . . . This, the Red Lake is a fine sheet of Water of about thirty miles in length by eight to 10 miles in breadth; the banks rise about twenty to

thirty feet, the soil is somewhat sandy and produces Firs of a fine growth, with the other usual woods, and in places, the white Cedar but of short growth. This Lake like several other places, has occasionally a trading House for one Winter only, the country all around, being too poor in furs to be hunted on a second winter. The Lake being covered with ice, and patches of water, at places we paddled the Canoe, and where the ice was firm, made a rude Sledge on which we placed the Canoe and Baggage, and hauled it over the ice to a patch of water and thus continued for seventeen miles; a laborious work and always wet, the weather frequent showers of Rain and Sleet, and then clear weather. We now came to a Carrying Place of six miles in length, in a south direction, over which we carried our Canoe and things.

"The Road was through Firs and Aspens, with a few Oaks and Ash. Near the middle of the Carrying Place the Ground had many ascents and descents of twenty to forty feet, the first we have seen since we left the Red River. By 9 PM on the 23rd of April we had carried all over, and now had to cross the country to the Turtle Lake, the head of the Mississippi River at which we arrived on the 27th. Our Journey has been very harassing and fatigueing; from Pond to Pond and Brook to Brook with many carrying places, the Ponds, or small Lakes were some open, others wholly or partly covered with ice; the Brooks so winding, that after paddling an hour we appeared to have made very little, or no advance" (pp. 267-269).

"From M^r Cadotte's House on the Red [Lake] River to this place, the Turtle Lake we have been nineteen days, rising early and putting up late, and yet by my astronomical observations, the course and distance is S 71 E 56 statute miles, in a direct line not quite three miles a day. These circuituous routes deceive the traveller, and induce him to think he is at a much greater distance from a given place than what he actually is. The Turtle Lake, which is the head of the Mississippi River, is four miles in length, by as many in breadth and it's small bays give it the rude form of a Turtle" (p. 271).

"We entered the Red Cedar Lake [now known as Cass Lake] in a fine Stream of fifteen yards in width by two feet in depth, and three miles an hour. Proceeding five miles over the Lake we came to the trading house of M^r John Sayer, a Partner of the

North West Company, and in charge of this Department" (p. 274).

"On the third day of May we took leave of our kind host ; our provisions were wild rice and maple sugar, with powder and shot for ducks. One mile beyond the house we entered the River, now augmented to twenty six yards in width by three feet in depth, at two miles an hour. The valley of the Mississippi lay now clear before me, it's direction South East ; it's appearance was that of a meadow of long half dried grass without water of about half a mile in width, or less. . . .

"At 7 PM we put up in Lake Winepegoos [Winnibegoshish] formed by the waters of this River. It's length is seventeen miles, by about six miles in width, the principal fish is Sturgeon. The woods have all day had much Fir, both red and black, the latter very resinous and much used for torches for night fishing" (p. 276).

"Whatever the Nile has been in ancient times in Arts and Arms, the noble valley of the Mississippi bids fair to be, and excluding its pompous, useless, Pyramids and other works ; it's anglo saxon population will far exceed the Egyptians in all the arts of civilized life, and in a pure religion. Although these are the predictions of a solitary traveller unknown to the world they will surely be verified (1798)" (p. 280).

"On the 6th day of May we arrived at the Sand Lake River, up which we turn and bend our course for Lake Superior. Since we left the Red [Lake] River on the 9th day of April we have not seen the track of a Deer, or the vestige of a Beaver, not a single Aspin marked with it's teeth. The Indians we met all appeared very poor from the animals being almost wholly destroyed in this section of the country ; their provisions were of wild rice and sugar ; we did not see a single duck in their canoes, ammunition being too scarce ; nor did we see a Bow and Arrows with them" (p. 281).

Not only Minnesota, but also North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, and Washington, are much indebted to Mr. Tyrrell and the Champlain Society for this *Narrative* and map, which shed "new light" on their early history. Thompson preceded Morrison, Cass, and Schoolcraft in exploration of the upper Mississippi, and he was twenty-five years earlier than Beltrami at Red and Turtle

lakes; but yet earlier white traders had their trading posts on Red, Cass, and Sandy lakes, though leaving no written records for history.

WARREN UPHAM

Chronicles of Canada. Edited by GEORGE M. WRONG and H. H. LANGTON. In thirty-two volumes. (Toronto, Glasgow, Brook, and Company, 1914-1916. Illustrated)

To produce a comprehensive history of a country which shall be at the same time scholarly and reliable in content, and popular and attractive in form is a worthy but difficult undertaking. Such, however, appears to have been the aim of the publishers and editors of this work, and in that aim they have been surprisingly successful. They have secured the services of a group of writers, most of whom have established reputations as historical students, and these writers have demonstrated anew the proposition that there is no essential antithesis between scholarship and literature. The series has the usual excellencies and defects of coöperative work. Each volume, as a rule, is the work of a specialist in the subject dealt with and thus embodies the results of the most recent investigations, but there is necessarily considerable unevenness in quality from both the scholarly and the literary standpoints, and the series as a whole is loosely organized. The thirty-two volumes are grouped into nine parts, beginning with "The First European Visitors" (2 v.). This is followed by "The Rise of New France" (5 v.), "The English Invasion" (4 v.), and "The Beginnings of British Canada" (3 v.). Thus far the arrangement is essentially chronological, but part 5, entitled "The Red Man in Canada," consists of biographies of Brant, Pontiac, and Tecumseh, while part 6 (6 v.) is a sectional group dealing with the "Pioneers of the North and West." The chronological treatment reappears in part 7, "The Struggle for Political Freedom" (4 v.), and part 8, "The Growth of Nationality" (3 v.), but the last part (2 v.) is a topical group on "National Highways." Nearly half of the volumes are essentially biographical in character, a fact which adds to the interest of the individual volumes but detracts from the unity of the series as a whole. The books are small, averaging only about two hundred pages, well printed, and attractively

bound. Numerous illustrations and a few well-executed maps are included. There are no footnote references, but each volume contains a brief bibliographical note. The indexes are quite inadequate.

Some of the volumes of the series have a special interest for students of Minnesota history. Stephen Leacock's *Dawn of Canadian History* deals with early man in America, the Indians, and the Norsemen, but makes no mention of the Kensington Runestone. T. G. Marquis' *Jesuit Missions* has chapters on "The Dispersion of the Hurons" and "The Missionary Explorers." Agnes Laut's *'Adventurers of England' on Hudson Bay* is "A Chronicle of the Fur Trade in the North," and L. J. Burpee's *Pathfinders of the Great Plains* is "A Chronicle of La Vérendrye and His Sons." Louis A. Wood tells the story of Lord Selkirk's ill-fated enterprise in *The Red River Colony*. In *All Afloat*, by William Wood, and *The Railway Builders*, by O. D. Skelton, is seen the connection between the development of transportation in Canada and the United States.

SOLON J. BUCK

History of Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, Minnesota; Their People, Industries, and Institutions. JOHN A. BROWN, editor-in-chief. In two volumes. (Indianapolis, B. F. Bowen and Company, 1916. 595, 486 p. Illustrated)

In many respects this work is similar to the histories of Otter Tail, Nicollet and Le Sueur, and Brown counties which were brought out by the same publishers and were recently reviewed in these pages.¹ It is apparently the work of company agents and local contributors under the supervision of a prominent resident. The two volumes display the same excellence of external form, together with the usual admixture of good and bad in internal structure and content. "History" is still not history, but rather is it historical material partially unified in a form that might better be called a county bluebook. Biographies yet partake too much of the character of eulogies. There is still room for improvement in the matter of maps, illustrations, and indexes. Progress, however, has undoubtedly been made, and it is to be

¹ See *ante* 378-386.

hoped that, even within the limitations necessarily imposed by commercial considerations, the standard of future publications of this and other companies engaged in the production of county histories will more and more nearly approximate the scholarly ideal.

A number of features more or less peculiar to this history of Cottonwood and Watonwan counties appear worthy of remark. The two counties are considered separately in the historical volume, but with sufficient similarity in method and content to warrant a review of the volume as a whole. A commendable feature of the work is the extent and variety of the sources used. Particularly in evidence is a large mass of information gleaned from the most valuable and oftenest neglected source available, the county records. It is probable that the company was fortunate, in this connection, in securing as editor-in-chief a man whom long experience as an official had acquainted with the character and value of the county archives. Instead of merely dipping into the records or ignoring them altogether, the compilers apparently made an effort to search out, select, and organize all the significant material therein. The results obtained are encouraging. For example, from the office of the register of deeds is drawn information relating to the original distribution of the public lands, which, together with data to be found in the biographies, census statistics, and reminiscences, furnishes a wealth of material bearing upon the causes, character, conditions, and progress of settlement in those counties. Still more extensive use is made of the auditor's records, and especially of the proceedings of the county commissioners. Here were found significant facts relating to the organization and administration of the counties, towns, and school districts. These and other archival data, together with facts and extracts from official reports, semipublic records, newspapers, and reminiscences, make up an exceedingly valuable, though incompletely organized, body of historical material.

In most cases, where passages of any length are adapted or quoted, the sources are duly indicated. No acknowledgment, however, is given in connection with the chapters on the geology and topography of the two counties. These are evidently taken, with only obviously necessary changes, from Warren Upham's chapters on "The Geology of Watonwan and Martin Counties" and

"The Geology of Cottonwood and Jackson Counties" in volume one of the *Final Report* of the Minnesota Geological and Natural History Survey. Another passage, quoted, descriptive of the Sioux Indians, is thus tantalizingly introduced, "The subjoined account was written of them [the Sioux] long years before they had caused the pioneers of the Northwest so much trouble in their warfare." Omissions and obscurities of this sort could and should be avoided.

The work contains a number of excellent contributed articles, of which C. W. Gillam's account of the "Windom City Schools" deserves especial mention. Some of the other material included, such as the chapter on "Related State History" and Dr. Asa W. Daniels' "Reminiscences of the Little Crow Uprising," has been used before in other county histories published by the Bowen Company. The reprinting of this material is probably justifiable, but the reader should have been apprised of the fact that Benedict Juni's account of his seven weeks' captivity among the Indians has been printed many times before. Numerous interesting stories and unusual bits of history serve to offset the instructive but uninteresting lists of names. For example, the account of the two stolen townships which were once a part of Cottonwood County and are now included in Brown County reveals an uncommon situation. Of more than local interest are stories of the "grasshopper scourge" of 1873-77. To outsiders and students of history a somewhat fuller treatment of such subjects as the Mennonites and the Cottonwood County Immigration Society would have been acceptable.

FRANKLIN F. HOLBROOK

Proceedings of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association for the Year 1914-15. Volume 8. Edited by MILO M. QUAIPE, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. (Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the Torch Press, 1916. 361 p.)

The volume opens with an account of the eighth annual meeting of the association, held at New Orleans, April 22-27, 1915, in which are embodied a number of committee reports presented at that meeting. The committee on administration of historical societies reported that a large amount of information had been

collected, and recommended the preparation of an elaborate report "indicating the most generally successful form of organization for a historical society, giving in detail the reasons for and against the various features suggested." The report of the committee on historic sites advocated the development in each state of "a central agency for the creation of state parks and reserves and for the preservation and marking of historic sites, this agency to be vested by law with general supervision of this entire field and receive such state aid as may be deemed adequate."

The report of the secretary-treasurer on the work of the association for the year, which follows, contains an account of the dinner held in Chicago on December 28, 1914, and of the joint conference with the American Historical Association on December 31. This is followed by a comprehensive report of the committee on the establishment of departments of state history in state universities. This committee made a thorough investigation of the existing situation, and its report contains lists of courses in regional and state history offered by such institutions throughout the country. Among the conclusions reached are these: that "the formation of a distinct teaching department of state history in our state universities is not desirable"; that "it is possible and desirable for most departments of history in state universities to offer at least one course in which the history of the state may be studied, even by undergraduates"; and that such departments "should assume a special, though by no means an exclusive, obligation to foster research in the history of their own commonwealths and to utilize those materials which lie nearest at hand."

Eighteen addresses and papers read at the meetings of the year are printed in full. Of greatest interest to students of Minnesota history is "Joseph Reynolds and the Diamond Jo Line Steamers, 1862-1911," by George B. Merrick, which contains a wealth of information about steamboating on the upper Mississippi. "The Agrarian History of the United States as a Subject for Research," by William J. Trimble, contains many valuable suggestions; and a variety of ways in which historical museums can be turned to good account, especially in teaching, are brought out by Edward C. Page in "How the Museum of History Works."

S. J. B.

South Dakota Historical Collections. Volume 8. Compiled by the State Department of History. (Pierre, State Publishing Company, 1916. 596 p. Illustrated)

The "State Department of History" appears to be but another name for the State Historical Society of South Dakota, which was organized in 1901 and now has about a hundred active members. Besides the usual function of an historical society, the department takes the state censuses, has charge of vital statistics, and serves as a legislative bureau. It is required by law to publish a volume of *Collections* for each biennium. The bulk of the present volume consists of "as much as concerns the South Dakota region of the official correspondence pertaining to the Indian war which followed the great outbreak of the Sioux Indians in Minnesota, beginning on August 18, 1862." The documents have been taken principally from the *Rebellion Records*, although "a considerable amount of fugitive matter" has been included. They belong nearly as much to Minnesota as to South Dakota history, and it will be convenient to have them collected in a single volume and arranged in chronological order. The volume contains also a number of pioneer reminiscences, sketches of the "Progress of South Dakota" in 1914 and 1915 by Doane Robinson, the superintendent of the department, and a description, with several maps, plans, and photographs, of "Dakota Military Posts." It is to be regretted that a more adequate index was not provided.

S. J. B.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

At the stated meeting of the executive council, October 9, 1916, Messrs. William W. Cutler and Victor Robertson were elected members of the council to fill the vacancies created by the deaths of Messrs. James J. Hill and Edward C. Stringer. Provision was made at this meeting for a special membership committee of five, with power to increase its number.

The following new members, all active, have been enrolled during the quarter ending October 30, 1916: Charles H. Bigelow, Henry B. Hall, Charles R. Boostrom, Clara F. Baldwin, James A. Nowell, Mary B. Kimball, M. Blanchard Carpenter, Charles W. Farnham, Charles Donnelly, Dr. Arthur J. Gillette, Emerson Hadley, Benjamin O. Chapman, Mrs. George C. Squires, Oliver Crosby, Louis Betz, Joseph McKibbin, Charles L. Sommers, William W. Cutler, Benjamin Sommers, Charles M. Power, George T. Slade, Howard F. Ware, Ira C. Oehler, Rev. Charles E. Haupt, Patrick Keigher, Charles W. Gordon, Thomas D. O'Brien, Nathaniel P. Langford, Isaac Summerfield, and Rush B. Wheeler of St. Paul; Paul J. Thompson, Franklin F. Holbrook, Mary E. Palmes, Marjorie Wildes, Carl L. Becker, Edward E. Smith, Fletcher H. Swift, John Day Smith, and Dr. Caryl B. Storrs of Minneapolis; Burt W. Eaton, Dr. Christopher Graham, Elliott A. Knowlton, Dr. Charles H. Mayo, Dr. William J. Mayo, George W. Granger, and James A. Melone of Rochester; Elias Steenerson, John J. Kelly, and William A. Marin of Crookston; Rev. Francis L. Palmer and George H. Sullivan of Stillwater; William Hayes and James A. Tawney of Winona; Obert R. Nelson of Madison; A. J. Peterson of Dawson; Montreville J. Brown of Bemidji; George W. Buck of Duluth; Oliver W. Shaw of Austin; Edwin Nordstrom of Sacred Heart; William F. Odell of Chaska; Frank H. Peterson of Moorhead; William M. Taber of Park Rapids; W. E. Parker of Wadena; Arthur P. Silliman of Hibbing; and James Hazen Hyde of Paris, France.

In the BULLETIN for February, 1916, announcement was made of a coöperative enterprise on the part of the historical societies and departments of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota, for the purpose of searching for and calendaring material in the various archives depositories in Washington bearing on the history of these states. As a result of the first year's work, principally in the state department archives, each of the institutions now possesses a very valuable calendar of several thousand documents of importance for the history of the Northwest. So successful was the experiment that the institutions agreed unanimously to continue the work, and the archives of the interior department are now being searched. It is expected that ultimately the coöperative plan will be extended to the securing of photostatic copies of the more important of the documents now being calendared.

The most significant development in the work of the society during the recent months has been the appointment of a field agent, Mr. Franklin F. Holbrook, who is to devote his time to work for the society in various parts of the state. It is the intention that he shall ultimately visit each county and while there make an inventory of the county and local archives, search for material of historical value in private hands, securing the same for the society whenever possible, and finally get in touch with the leading men in each community, inform them about the society and its work, and, if conditions seem favorable, invite them to become members. Several counties have already been visited by Mr. Holbrook, and the value of the work which he is doing is becoming more and more apparent. It is expected that the members and friends of the society in each place visited will do everything in their power to facilitate the work.

During September and October Mr. William B. Nickerson conducted archeological explorations for the society in Blue Earth County, completing the investigation of the Jones village site near Cambria, where some work was done by Professor Winchell and Mr. Nickerson in 1913. It is expected that Mr. Nickerson's final report on the results of this investigation will be completed early in 1917. Some field work on the peculiar type of lowland mounds of Dakota, Rice, and Goodhue counties

was carried on during the summer by President Edward W. Schmidt of Red Wing Seminary, under the auspices of the society.

GIFTS

Through the kindness of Mrs. Houlton and other members of the family of the late William H. Houlton of Elk River, Minnesota, the society has become custodian of the large number of letters and papers, business account books, and miscellany which Mr. Houlton accumulated during a long and active career. The papers range in date from 1793 to 1915, and number several thousand. An adequate description of them must of necessity wait upon the more thorough inspection which will accompany their preparation for filing. In the meantime a summary account of Mr. Houlton's life and activities will serve to indicate the general character of the collection. Mr. Houlton came west with his father in 1854 as a lad of fourteen years. After a two years' stay in Illinois he settled in Minnesota, first at Monticello, and later, in 1866, at Elk River. His death, in August, 1915, brought to a close a residence of fifty-nine years in the state. During this time the greater part of Mr. Houlton's energies was devoted to mercantile, milling, real estate, and banking enterprises, and particularly to the manufacture of lumber and of lumber products. But occupied though he was with business affairs, he was able also from time to time to serve the public interest, notably as a volunteer in the Indian and southern campaigns of 1862-65, as a county official, as a state senator, and as superintendent of the St. Cloud reformatory. To Mr. Houlton's habit of saving all of his own papers and to his interest in the gathering of early family records, is due the extent and apparent continuity of the collection.

The society has acquired through Hon. John B. Sanborn of St. Paul a collection of books and papers, among which are included the first docket kept by the law firm of Sanborn and French from its beginning, January 1, 1855, a number of documents, letters, and papers of General John B. Sanborn, and a manuscript report presented by Father De Smet to the United States commissioners for the negotiation of peace with the Sioux

Indians in 1868, giving an account of his preliminary expedition to the Indians on Powder River for the purpose of inducing them to enter into negotiations. This latter document was apparently unknown to Messrs. Chittenden and Richardson, compilers of the four-volume edition of the *Life, Letters, and Travels of Father Pierre-Jean De Smet among the North American Indians*, and it is of very considerable historical value.

From Mr. James P. Greeley of St. Paul has been received a book containing the manuscript minutes or proceedings of the Minnesota Soldiers' Aid Society from June 6, 1862, to October 6, 1863. This society, made up of Minnesota men in Washington, was organized for the purpose of looking after the interests of the soldiers from the state. Accompanying the book were some letter-press copies of letters written by Mr. J. F. Stoek, 1863-69. During these years Mr. Stoek was Minnesota state agent in the general land office in Washington, and was active in caring for the interests of Minnesota soldiers.

A collection of about sixty papers of Willis A. Gorman, governor of Minnesota Territory from 1853 to 1857, has been received from Mr. Charles W. Farnham of St. Paul. It consists of vouchers, accounts, abstracts of bids for supplies, and other material of a similar character, accumulated by the governor in his capacity of superintendent of Indian affairs for the territory.

From an anonymous donor has been received a printed circular containing the call for the territorial Republican convention of 1855, the first of the party in Minnesota. Accompanying the call is a form letter urging the recipient to take a leading part in arranging for the appointment of delegates. This copy is addressed to J. M. Boal and bears a penciled annotation to the effect that it was found among General Sibley's papers on December 10, 1893.

Miss Mina E. Pomeroy of St. Paul has donated to the society a crayon portrait of her grandfather, Rev. Wentworth Hayden, a Baptist clergyman, who came to Minnesota in 1854, and who was a member of the territorial legislature of 1857, of the state legislature of 1861, and of the Republican constitutional convention.

A large manuscript map of Mille Lacs County, dated November, 1895, has been presented by Mr. Charles Keith of Princeton, and another manuscript map of the same county, without date, but drawn apparently a few years later, has been received from the county auditor.

Through the courtesy of Dr. William W. Folwell, Mr. Warren B. Dunnell has presented a collection of nineteen letters written to Hon. Mark H. Dunnell in the late seventies and early eighties by such men as C. K. Davis, L. F. Hubbard, Captain Castle, and Stephen Miller. Most of the letters relate to political matters and are of considerable historical value.

Chronicles of the Cochrans; Being a Series of Historical Events and Narratives in Which Members of This Family have Played a Prominent Part (1915. 149 p.) is the title of a book presented by the author, Mrs. Ida Cochran Haughton of Columbus, Ohio. As indicated by the subtitle, the work is something more than a genealogy.

A file of the *Northwestern Chronicle*, a weekly newspaper published in St. Paul during the sixties, has been received from Mrs. J. C. Devereux, the widow of the publisher. By means of this gift the society has been enabled to complete its partial file of this paper.

Mr. and Mrs. William R. Weide of St. Paul have donated an interesting collection of curios, consisting of Indian and Civil War relics, old newspapers and documents, mostly in facsimile, and a number of deeds and other official papers relating to property in St. Paul.

Mr. Herbert C. Varney has presented a file of the genealogical pages of the *Boston Transcript* and has offered to keep it up in the future. It is expected that this file will be very useful to the many workers in genealogy who use the society's library.

The Minnesota Steel Company of Duluth, through its president, Mr. William H. McGonagle, a member of the society, has presented a piece of the first steel billet made by this company to commemorate the beginning of this industry in Minnesota.

Mr. James M. George of Winona has presented a collection of old papers, consisting for the most part of certificates, commissions, licenses, deeds, and similar material, relating to the family of L. H. Bunnell, a former resident of that city.

A copy of the *Glencoe Register and Soldiers' Budget* for February 7, 1862, has been received from Mr. E. M. Swift of Robertsedale, Alabama. This number helps to fill in a gap in the society's file of this paper.

Through the courtesy of Mr. J. A. Chamberlain, business manager of the publication, the society has been receiving the *Minnesota Border Patrol*, a weekly published by the First Minnesota Infantry at Camp Llano Grande, Mercedes, Texas.

A photograph of Company E, Eighth Minnesota Infantry Volunteers, taken at Fort Snelling in 1862, has been presented by Mr. George Tourtillotte of Elk River.

NEWS AND COMMENT

The Wisconsin Historical Society has recently acquired by bequest the estate of George B. Burrows of Madison, the present value of which is estimated to be in excess of \$250,000. "The income from such a fund," writes the superintendent, "will make possible the prosecution by the State Historical Society of many important enterprises in the field of Wisconsin and western history which lack of funds has hitherto rendered impracticable." Not only the Wisconsin society but all interested in western history are to be congratulated on this splendid endowment.

The Journals of Captain Meriwether Lewis and Sergeant John Ordway, Kept on the Expedition of Western Exploration, 1803-1806 (1916. 444 p.) has been issued as volume 22 of the *Collections* of the Wisconsin Historical Society. The documents are ably edited by Dr. Milo M. Quaife, superintendent of the society, and form a valuable supplement to the Lewis and Clark material collected and edited by Dr. Reuben G. Thwaites. It is quite fitting that this work should be put out by the Wisconsin Historical Society, but it is unfortunate that it should be included in the series of *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, which has hitherto been confined in the main to Wisconsin material. As it is, the book affords an interesting dilemma to librarians. Its logical place in any classification scheme would be with the other Lewis and Clark material, but most librarians will probably put it with the rest of the set in the class devoted to Wisconsin history.

Historical Pageantry: A Treatise and a Bibliography, by Ethel T. Rockwell, has been issued as no. 84 of the *Bulletins of Information* of the Wisconsin Historical Society (1916. 19 p.).

The *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for September, 1916, contains two papers read at the Nashville meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association: "Some Verendrye Enigmas," by Orin G. Libby, and "The Function of Military History," by A. L. Conger. "The Organization of the British Fur Trade"

is the subject of an article by Wayne E. Stevens, and Lawrence J. Burpee contributes an account of "Historical Activities in Canada" during the past year.

The *Somerset County* (New Jersey) *Historical Quarterly* for October, 1916, contains a note on General Zebulon M. Pike, from which it appears that his birthplace probably was not "Lamberton, near (now part of) the city of Trenton," as stated in all sketches of his life, but Lamington in Somerset County.

The *Ohio History Teachers' Journal* is the title of a new quarterly published by Ohio State University for the Ohio History Teachers' Association. The first issue, for March, 1916, contains papers read at the meetings of the association in 1915. One of these, by C. L. Martzloff, entitled "Justification for a Study of Ohio History in Our Schools," is a plea for more attention to the history of the state in general courses in United States history. Of interest in the same connection is the report by H. C. Hockett of the plans of the association for publishing "A Source Book on the National Aspects of Ohio History."

The second part of Miss Ruth Gallaher's "Indian Agents of Iowa" in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for October, 1916, contains an account of the St. Peter's agency established near Fort Snelling in 1819.

Acta et Dicta, the serial published by the Catholic Historical Society of St. Paul, appears in an improved format with the issue of July, 1916. It is now edited by Rev. William Busch of St. Paul Seminary. This number opens with the first four chapters of a "Life of the Rt. Rev. Joseph Cretin, First Bishop of the Diocese of St. Paul," by Archbishop Ireland, which deal with the early life and education of Bishop Cretin in France. "The Catholic Church in Wright County," by Rev. Mathias Savs, and "The Catholic Church in Goodhue County," by Rev. James H. Gaughan, are reprints of articles in recently published histories of those Minnesota counties. A valuable "Glossary of Chippewa Indian Names of Rivers, Lakes, and Villages" is contributed by Rev. Chrysostom Verwyst. Sections are devoted to "Documents" ("Letters of Bishop Loras, 1829 and 1830"),

"Contemporary Items," "Obituary Notices," "Our Library and Museum" (including a list of accessions of the past year), and "Notes and Comment."

A Description of the Massacre by Sioux Indians in Renville County, Minnesota, August 18-19, 1862, by Marion P. Satterlee, has been published by the Fisher Paper Box Company of Minneapolis (1916. 18 p.). Besides detailed narratives of the events in different parts of the county, the pamphlet contains a "List of the Victims," one hundred and seventy in all, and an account of "The Riggs Mission Party."

About sixty of the delightful "Visitin' 'Round in Minnesota" sketches by Dr. Caryl B. Storrs, noted in the August, 1916, issue of the BULLETIN (p. 412), have been reprinted by the *Minneapolis Tribune* in book form (1916. 175 p.). The fact that the book is labeled "first series" gives grounds for expecting that more of these sketches will ultimately be reprinted.

A series of attractive pamphlets on the towns of Redwood County is being brought out under the editorship of Mr. Charles W. Howe of Redwood Falls. The first of these to be issued are *A Half Century of Progress; Walnut Grove, Minnesota, and Vicinity, 1866-1916* (56 p.) and *Forty Wonderful Years; Morgan, Minnesota, and Vicinity, 1876-1916* (64 p.). In each case the editor has included a few introductory pages dealing with the history of the township from its first settlement, and has devoted the major portion of the book to a detailed description of the township of the present day—its peculiar advantages, its agricultural opportunities, its educational and religious institutions, and its business houses—together with biographic sketches of its prominent citizens. If the editor's purpose to make each narrative "an accurate, historical work" has been faithfully carried out, the future historical student will find the series of decided value.

"The Sense of the State," an address delivered by President George E. Vincent of the University of Minnesota at the University of California, March 23, 1916, has been printed in the July number of the *University of California Chronicle*.

"Louis W. Hill, the Successor to the Empire Builder of the Northwest—His Training, His Achievements, and His Future Task" is the title of a brief article by French Strother in *World's Work* for September, 1916.

The Minnesota legislature of 1913 made provision for the placing of suitable memorials to the Minnesota soldiers who lost their lives in the Civil War and who are buried in the national cemeteries at Little Rock, Arkansas, Memphis, Tennessee, and Andersonville, Georgia. The work of constructing and erecting the monuments was completed in the summer of 1916, and the dedicatory exercises took place at the designated cemeteries on September 22, 23, and 26 respectively. A party of Minnesota Grand Army men and state officials, including Governor J. A. A. Burnquist, Adjutant General F. B. Wood, and General C. C. Andrews, conducted the exercises. The dedicatory address which was delivered at Little Rock by General Andrews was published in the *National Tribune* of Washington for October 26 under the heading "Minnesota in Arkansas."

The site of the stockade and old courthouse at Spirit Lake, Iowa, where refugees from the Minnesota settlements on the Des Moines River and people from the abandoned frontier settlements in northwestern Iowa were sheltered during the Sioux outbreak of 1862-63, has been marked by a boulder and bronze tablet. The dedicatory exercises, conducted under the auspices of the Daughters of the American Revolution, were held August 29, 1916. On September 20, 1916, a boulder was unveiled on the site of a similar stockade erected by the pioneer settlers of Sauk Centre, Minnesota, in August, 1862, and occupied by a small detachment of United States soldiers until 1865.

Carleton College staged an historical pageant in Laird Athletic Park, Northfield, October 14, 1916, reproducing in six episodes the history of the town and college. The first portrayed the vanishing of the Indians from the banks of the Cannon River. The early town of Northfield was represented in the second tableau, the coming of the first settlers in 1853, the first religious service in 1854, the first school, and the James-Younger bank raid of 1876, all being shown. Then followed four episodes

representing the founding of the college fifty years ago: the departments of the present institution; student life and activities; and the financial campaigns for the "Greater Carleton." A scenario of the pageant was published in an eight-page pamphlet entitled *Historical Pageant Presented at the Fiftieth Anniversary of Carleton College*.

The historical pageant presented on the evenings of August 18 and 19, 1916, in the stadium at Anoka, was somewhat unique not only in its subject but in its undisguised purpose to arouse in the spectators an interest in the advantages of rural life. The development of agriculture was traced in twelve episodes from its earliest crude beginnings in biblical days to advanced modern-day methods. Some idea of the method of treatment may be gained from the subjects of the episodes: the Garden of Eden; outside of Eden—a picture of the savage's struggle to exist on wild fruits and animals killed with a club; a prehistoric harvest—Seth's first effort to cultivate the land; a harvest in Palestine; a harvest on the Nile; Chinese coolies at work in the rice fields; agriculture as practiced by the North American Indians; New England pioneers in famine time; the cotton pickers of the South; the shiftless and poverty-stricken farmer of twenty years ago; the advent of the spirit of progressiveness; and an up-to-date farmers' picnic. The pageant was presented by the farm clubs of Anoka County, and over three hundred persons took part in the production. The book of words of the pageant, written by Roe Chase, editor of the *Anoka Herald*, has been issued in pamphlet form with the title *A History of Agriculture: a Pageant* (32 p.).

About five hundred members of the Territorial Pioneers' Association and the Pioneer Rivermen's Association, with their families and friends, participated in the river excursion from St. Paul to Stillwater on August 16, according to the *Minneapolis Tribune*, August 17, 1916. Among the guests were A. L. Larpenteur, one of the four surviving members of the Minnesota Old Settlers' Association, and Captain Jerry Purner of Lansing, Iowa, the oldest of the upper Mississippi River pilots.

The annual picnic of the Territorial Old Settlers' Association of Blue Earth County was held at Sibley Park, Mankato, August

10, 1916. Thomas Hughes of Mankato was the principal speaker on the afternoon program. That part of his address which was devoted to biographic sketches of pioneer settlers whose deaths occurred during the year was published in the August 10 issue of the *Mankato Daily Review*.

The Vermilion Range Old Settlers' Association held its second annual reunion at Tower, August 24-26, 1916. Over eight hundred members were in attendance. A full account of the reunion appeared in the September 1 issue of the *Ely Miner*.

The forty-second annual meeting of the St. Croix Valley Old Settlers' Association was held in Stillwater, September 20, 1916.

A full report of the addresses delivered before the fiftieth annual convention of the Minnesota Editorial Association, held in Minneapolis, February 17-19, 1916, appeared in the recently issued volume of *Proceedings* (124 p.). Among those of especial interest may be noted "A Retrospect," by Captain Henry A. Castle, which is a brief review of the history of the association from the days of its organization in 1867, together with biographic sketches of the editors present at the first annual meeting. Under the heading "Reminiscences" are grouped a number of short talks on pioneer newspaper days by Granville S. Pease of the *Anoka Union*, William B. Mitchell of the *St. Cloud Journal-Press*, Irving Todd of the *Hastings Gazette*, and Fred L. Smith, formerly of the *Minneapolis Chronicle*, all charter members of the association, and by Major Edwin Clark, publisher of the first daily paper at St. Anthony, the *Falls Evening News*.

The *Year Book* for 1916 of St. Mark's Church of Minneapolis (145 p.) contains three pages of "Historical Notes" arranged in chronological order from 1861 to 1915.

The *Proceedings* of the Masonic Veteran Association of Minnesota at the twenty-fourth annual reunion in 1916 contains biographic memorials of recently deceased members.

The McGill-Warner Company of St. Paul has published an excellent indexed map of the "City of Saint Paul" (1916), compiled "from the official records in the city engineer's office, U. S. topographic surveys and other sources."

An account of the celebration of the fifty-fourth anniversary of the memorable three-day battle of Fort Ridgely, which took place at the Fort Ridgely State Park grounds on August 22, 1916, appeared in the August 23 issue of the *Mankato Daily Free Press*. The arrangements were in charge of the Fort Ridgely State Park Association, and about two thousand people were in attendance. Among those who gave addresses were several pioneers who were defenders of the fort. A party of about fifty Mankato people likewise commemorated the return of this anniversary by a picnic excursion to Fort Ridgely on August 19. At the exercises held in the afternoon at the stadium Thomas Hughes gave an address on the "History of Fort Ridgely" from its establishment in 1853 to its abandonment in 1867, with some account of the military officers stationed there during that period, which was published in the August 22 issue of the *Free Press*; Judge Lorin Cray's address describing the two major attacks on the fort by Little Crow and his warriors on August 20 and 22, 1862, appeared in the August 29 issue of the *Mankato Review*. In the same issue of the *Review* is an article by Thomas Hughes entitled "Battle of Fort Ridgely."

The citizens of Redwood Falls have presented to the Ramsey State Park the cabin which Colonel Samuel McPhail built in 1864 on the site where this village is now located. It was the first log house in the vicinity, and the building of it was the first step in establishing a settlement above New Ulm in the region depopulated by the Sioux massacre of 1862. H. M. Hitchcock of Redwood Falls is the author of an extensive account of the cabin, as well as of the village, which appeared in the *Minneota Mascot* of July 14, 1916. The article closes with a sketch of the life and character of Colonel McPhail, which is illustrated with his photograph. A part of the article was reprinted in the *Houston County Chief* (Hokah) for October 12.

A series of early-day reminiscences of more than usual historical value are those of the late Marshall T. Comstock, published in the *Mankato Daily Free Press*, August 9, 15, and 31, 1916, from a manuscript now in the possession of Mr. C. A. Chapman of Mankato. Mr. Comstock describes the arrival of himself and party at St. Paul in the spring of 1853, and their subsequent jour-

ney to the small settlement on the site of the present city of Mankato. With two associates, George Van Brunt and James McMurtree, Mr. Comstock spent the succeeding winter and spring in the construction of a sawmill and dam on the Le Sueur River. The narrative covers the years 1853-55 and contains some interesting material on the social life and economic conditions obtaining in the territory at that time.

In the *Minneapolis Tribune*, August 6, 1916, under the title "Minnesota Pioneer Experienced Wild Night Ride to Warn Settlers of Prospective Indian Raid" Samuel J. Brown of Browns Valley relates the story of a 150-mile ride he took on the night of April 19, 1866, from Fort Wadsworth, Dakota Territory, westward through wild and hostile country to a military outpost on the Elm River to give warning of a seemingly imminent Indian raid. Arriving at the outpost, Brown learned that the party of Indians whose trail had been discovered was not a war party but a band of trusted messengers returning from a mission to the Minnesota Sioux on the upper Missouri to induce them to meet the United States peace commissioners at Fort Rice; so he immediately started back to Fort Wadsworth in order to prevent further needless alarm.

A. N. Fancher of Granada contributed an article of unusual interest to the *Martin County Sentinel* (Fairmont), August 18, 1916. The author was one of the first settlers of the county and took a prominent part in the development of the community, having been county surveyor, school superintendent, and assessor of Fairmont precinct. It was while Mr. Fancher was superintendent that the first school district was formed in Martin County. The value of the sketch lies chiefly in his account of local politics at the time when Fairmont precinct contained two hundred and fifty square miles and had only thirteen names on the assessor's list, and in his narrative of the trials of a pioneer farmer.

"Reminiscences of a Pioneer," in the *St. Paul Farmer*, August 12, 1916, is an account of the early experiences of Charles Smith, a Goodhue County farmer. Mr. Smith came to Minnesota in 1856, and located a claim at Wheatland. During the winter of that year he engaged in hauling coal from Winona to St. Paul,

and the narrative of his journeys contains material of interest to the student of transportation on the frontier. The article closes with an account of Mr. Smith's farming operations in recent years, which form a vivid contrast to his earlier efforts.

Under the heading "Pioneer Escapes Two Ills, Freezing and Publicity," in the *Minneapolis Tribune*, August 20, 1916, is given an account of the life of Ezekiel G. Rogers of St. Paul, who came to Minnesota in 1855. After the Civil War Rogers settled in Dakota County, where he carried on an extensive trade with the Indians of the Red River Valley. It was while on one of his trading trips that he almost lost his life from freezing. Besides an account of the Indian trade the article contains some interesting reminiscences of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The *New Ulm Review*, September 6, 1916, presents a picture of the change brought about by the construction of the railroad west of New Ulm. The sketch is made up of two articles reprinted from the *Sleepy Eye Herald-Dispatch* and from the *Lafayette Ledger*. In the first the early method of transporting lumber by wagons from New Ulm to Prairieville is described; while the second tells of the rapid growth of Lafayette after the railroad was built.

Several pictures of lake steamers and schooners, reminiscent of early-day Duluth history, were reproduced in the *Duluth Herald*, August 5, 1916. The originals are a part of a large collection of photographs similar in character now in the possession of Captain C. O. Flynn of Duluth.



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