

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

The John Askin Papers, vol 1: 1747-1795 (*Burton Historical Records*, vol. 1). Edited by MILO M. QUAIFE, secretary-editor, the Burton Historical Collection. (Detroit Library Commission, 1928. 657 p. Illustrations.)

The appearance of the initial volume of this new documentary series should give much gratification to students of the early history of the Northwest, not only for what it contains but also as an earnest of good things to come, for it is well known that the Burton Historical Collection contains a wealth of valuable material. The papers chosen for the first series are those of a merchant who operated at Mackinac and Detroit from 1764 on, and they throw much light on many aspects of the history of the Northwest. Not all the Askin Papers for the period are included, however, and it is to be regretted that the editor did not find it feasible to supply a calendar or descriptive list of the omitted documents. On the other hand pertinent documents from other collections, such as the Canadian Archives, have wisely been included.

The volume opens with an introduction of twenty-one pages, which contains a brief sketch of Askin's career and information about members of his family. The documents prior to 1774 are few and relate principally to real estate transactions in the vicinity of Detroit, and the first item of general importance is the "Diary of John Askin at Mackinac, 1774," which actually covers 1775 as well. This is of interest to students of Minnesota history for its references to Grand Portage, including a note of the sailing of the schooner "Captain De Peyster" for that place on May 1, 1775. About a hundred pages are devoted to Askin's "Mackinac Letter Book," covering the period from April 27 to July 7, 1778, and this constitutes one of the most valuable sections of the volume. Askin was engaged at this time in supplying provisions to the Northwest traders, and many of his letters are written to correspondents at Grand Portage or contain information about

the trade that centered there. Light is thrown also upon the effects of the American Revolution on this far-away region. It is unfortunate that the editor did not call attention to the fact that about a quarter of these letters have previously been published by Dr. Thwaites in volume 19 of the *Wisconsin Historical Collections*. Curiously four of the letters selected by Dr. Thwaites have been omitted from the present publication. The student will be obliged to use both volumes, therefore, and then will wonder how many of the letters are still unprinted and what they contain.

Unfortunately no other letter books of Askin appear to be extant, and the remainder of the volume, with the exception of some legal documents for 1780-85, consists almost entirely of letters received by him from 1786 on. Few of these are of any special Minnesota interest, but they contain valuable information about the nature and conduct of the fur trade; the retention of the posts, relations of British citizens, including Askin's son, with the Indians when Wayne was negotiating with them at Greenville; speculations concerning Jay's treaty; and the attempts of Askin and others to feather their nests by buying up large tracts of land from the Indians in advance of the surrender of the posts. The hope of the Canadian traders that the blunder (from their point of view) that was made when the boundary was fixed in 1783 might be rectified is frequently in evidence. Thus James McGill wrote on January 24, 1792, about a representation of the traders sent by Governor Simcoe to Hammond, the British minister to the United States, "pointing out some incongruities in the Treaty of Peace which if properly used at this juncture may have some Effect towards obtaining a new line." Two months later William Robertson, a connection of Askin, wrote from London that there appeared to be no disposition to comply with the American demand for the posts and that "a new line has been suggested for a frontier between the Indians & Americans"—the line of the Ohio. On January 10, 1794, McGill wrote of advices from London dated September 18, 1793, to the effect that the posts would probably be given up "but that the Indian Trade will be free within the American line to us & within our line to them."

Dr. Quaife has supplied a wealth of annotations to the documents, especially biographical and genealogical information concerning individuals mentioned, including several traders who operated in Minnesota at one time or another. Documents in French are printed in the original, but are followed by accurate translations, and the editor appears to have succeeded in his aim "to present a scrupulously accurate copy of the original manuscript" without "slavish adherence to mere pedanticism." He is not always consistent, however, in his method of indicating editorial explanations (see p. 45, 50), and his failure to distinguish between editorial matter in brackets and words supplied in brackets may cause some confusion. The omission of technical descriptions of the documents will probably not occasion any difficulty, but there seems to be no good reason why they should not be given, especially as it is so easy to do so by means of the customary symbols, "A. L. S." and the like. The extensive index will be especially valuable for locating information in the footnotes.

SOLON J. BUCK

The Life of George Rogers Clark. By JAMES ALTON JAMES, William Smith Mason professor of American history, Northwestern University, (Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, 1928. xiii, 534 p. Illustrations.)

Nearly twenty years ago Dr. James began to assemble the widely scattered source material relating to Clark and to edit it for publication in the *Illinois Historical Collections*. As a result of his labors in this field there have appeared two volumes of *George Rogers Clark Papers*, with extensive historical introductions and many articles on phases of Clark's career and of the Revolution in the West. Now the fruits of the author's research have been made available not only to the student but also to the general reader in a single scholarly and readable volume. The scope of the book is considerably wider than its title would indicate; in effect it is a history of the trans-Allegheny West from 1773 to 1800. A very brief account of Clark's early years is followed by a sketch of the early settlement of Kentucky and the Indian troubles that preceded the Revolution. Chapters are

then devoted to the "Organized Defense of the Frontier" in 1777 and 1778, "The Illinois Country," and "Spanish Influence in the West during the First Years of the Revolution," which provide an adequate background for the well-known story of Clark's operations north of the Ohio in 1778 and 1779. The seesaw of American and British influence in the region in the years that followed, which is less well known, also receives adequate treatment. The complications resulting from Spanish and French interest in the Mississippi Valley after the Revolution are described and Clark's somewhat inglorious connections with them are set forth without apologies.

Of special Minnesota interest are the account of the expedition down the Mississippi in 1780 under the leadership of British traders, in which Wabasha and some two hundred Sioux participated, and the discussion of the expansion of British fur-trade in the Northwest after the Revolution, which brings out the importance of Grand Portage. The author does not distinguish clearly, however, between the Northwest Company, which operated in the region beyond Lake Superior, and the independents who carried on most of the trade in American territory.

Dr. James has avoided exaggeration in his story of Clark's occupation of the Illinois country, although one of his chapter headings refers to the region as "Conquered Territory." He does not consider the aid possibly rendered to Clark in the occupation of Kaskaskia by the American party in the village and he avoids the problem of how the "boats were procured" that enabled the troops to cross the Kaskaskia River in two hours. Contrasting opinions both of contemporaries and of later historians as to what Clark accomplished are set forth and the author apparently tries to find middle ground. Admitting that American troops had been withdrawn from the Illinois villages before the end of the war, he contends that the fact that Clark's forces at Louisville were nearer to the villages than the British at Detroit gave him "military control" and that this "must have been patent to the negotiators of the peace terms, and served no doubt to confirm Lord William Shelburne [*sic*] in his decision to yield to the demand that the American Commissioners were instructed to make that the Mississippi and the Great Lakes should constitute the boundaries."

With this conclusion the reviewer cannot agree. He doubts if Lord Shelburne had ever heard of Clark and his operations or would have been influenced by them if he had, and he cannot believe that, had they been a factor in the negotiations, they would have remained unmentioned in the somewhat voluminous correspondence and other records of the commissioners. The appraisal of Clark's services by contemporaries and historians has been beclouded by the erroneous assumption that his objective was the conquest of territory for the United States or Virginia. His campaign was rather in the nature of an offensive defense of Kentucky, which was just beginning to be settled, and even his plans for the capture of Detroit had the same end in view. When the available forces proved insufficient for the continuance of this type of operations he fell back to the Ohio and devoted his energies to guarding the frontier and making occasional raids into the enemy's territory. Despite the fact that bands of Indians at times got across the border and attacked the Kentucky settlements, Clark's tactics were successful to the extent that they made possible the continued influx of settlers, with the result that at the end of the Revolution Kentucky had a population of fifteen or twenty thousand. That was the real achievement of George Rogers Clark.

The fact of this westward push of American settlers was probably known to Shelburne and may well have confirmed him in the belief that the future friendship and trade of the Americans could be secured only by giving them room for expansion; and thus Clark's operations may have had an indirect influence on the negotiations. The final instructions to the American commissioners did not require them to insist upon a Great Lakes-Mississippi line, however, and the debates in Congress make it clear that even Virginia would have accepted the Ohio as a boundary. The available evidence would seem to indicate that the acquisition of title to the Northwest by the United States in 1783 was due primarily to the enlightened attitude of Shelburne and the astuteness of Franklin in playing up to that attitude.

SOLON J. BUCK

The Norwegian-American Historical Association Studies and Records, vol. 3. (Northfield, Minnesota, The Association, 1928. vi, 133 p.)

The volume before the reviewer is a mosaic of articles and documents, ably translated and edited, throwing light on a variety of topics relating to the history of emigration from Norway to the United States chiefly in the years before the Civil War. In the words of the managing editor, Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, several documents illustrate the "common people's debate" relative to the desirability of deserting the fatherland in favor of the new country, which to millions of emigrants from every country of Europe was described either as the "land of Canaan" or as Tophet. In the "America letters" the United States was either great, grand, and good, or else unspeakably bad, depending upon the temperament and experiences of the writers. Among the millions of these letters—naïve documents that open windows through which the historian can look into the cottages in America and Europe—none excel those written by Norwegian and Swedish immigrants in penetrating criticisms and keen observations pointed to conditions in the old land and the new. Considering the fact that only in exceptional cases were the writers possessed of an education in the accepted meaning of that term, one can but marvel at their ability to express themselves and at their sound and wholesome instincts. The person who has the patience to spell his way through a mass of these documents will acquire a far deeper insight into the character of the immigrants and a more profound understanding of conditions that produced the phenomenon of immigration than if he spends an equal allotment of time pouring over statistics, government reports, and "social surveys." The writers unconsciously reveal that in their native land they had thought seriously over their own problems and those of their community; but it was the first weeks and months in America that gave vent to their feelings and emotions and tried their powers of expression, which had previously lain dormant. America gave them a basis for comparison and contrast; church, government, and society appeared in an entirely different light. There are, of course, among the letters a few that express regret that the transatlantic adventure was undertaken and reveal a

bitterness toward those who had painted America in such attractive colors and in that way had lured the writers into misery; but the overwhelming number of them are almost fulsome in praise of the adopted country and bitterly hostile to the land that gave them birth.

Variations of these points of view are reflected in the documents printed in the present volume. The disappointments of immigrants who expected to find a land peopled by saints, abounding only in good, are voiced in Haaeim's pamphlet entitled *Information on Conditions in North America*, translated and edited by Gunnar J. Malmin. The writer found Norwegian immigrants living in miserable houses, high prices that taxed the pocketbooks of immigrants, diseases that took heavy toll of lives, and other conditions that caused him to return to Norway in 1841. The director of an agricultural school in Norway, in a letter which is translated by A. Sophie Bøe, while disposed to expose to the public a number of advantages enjoyed by the American farmer, advises emigration only as a last resort. Over against more meat to eat, a greater area of land to cultivate, more exertion, and a shorter life, he places love for the memories of childhood, the mother tongue, and native home. Another lonesome immigrant in a letter from Chicago, translated and edited by Brynjolf J. Hovde, writes that it will be a joyous day when once again he sets foot on the cliffs of Norway. Henrietta Larson contributes a letter from a man who is more optimistic about America than he is about the likelihood of his readers back home believing what he might write about it. A man writing from St. Louis, whom D. G. Ristad designates as a "doctrinaire idealist," compares the moral order and religious spirit of both countries, greatly to the advantage of the western republic.

The translators are to be commended for converting the originals into readable English, but it is impossible to reproduce the spirit of these "hardy Norsemen" through the medium of the king's English. The reviewer will be pardoned for expressing the opinion that there are enough survivors of the mighty band of Norwegian immigrants and a goodly number of scholars who would enjoy and profit by reading the words penned by the writers in their humble homes.

In the remaining pages of the volume Albert O. Barton introduces the reader to a fruitful field of research on emigration societies; J. Magnus Rohne emphasizes the historical value of church records; Thorstina Jackson discusses the cultural backgrounds and early settlements of Icelanders in America; and Knut Gjerset presents a sketch of the pioneer life of "A Norwegian-American Landnamsman: Ole S. Gjerset," who emigrated in 1871 and settled on a homestead in Chippewa County, Minnesota.

In sheer desperation reviewers sometimes criticize volumes of this nature because of the absence of "unity" in the several articles; and when a thread of "consistency" runs through the pages the editor is berated because of neglect of other "fruitful topics." This reviewer finds himself in sympathy with neither school. Each contributor to this volume has made a "contribution" to history; and when a *magnum opus* on American immigration is planned — an event the editor thinks is near at hand — the writer will make levies under each caption.

GEORGE M. STEPHENSON

Dansk-amerikanske portrætter. By ARNE HALL JENSEN. (Copenhagen, Denmark, Woels Forlag, 1928. 121 p. Illustrations.)

In this book Arne Hall Jensen sets himself the task of exhibiting representative Danish-Americans to the reading public of Denmark and of interpreting to this audience certain aspects of life among the children of Denmark in America. The men he selects and the aspects he depicts are those with which he has become familiar principally through his connection with the *Danske Pioneer* of Omaha, Nebraska. The author's objectives are those of the journalist and his material that which has news value. His success is that of the journalist who knows his public and goes directly to the material that will fulfill his purpose. Men and places are not given finished treatment, but the portraits are, as stated in the preface, "snap shots."

There are sketches of prominent Danish-Americans in the fields of literature, art, and science, and even a sketch of a life prisoner at Stillwater. An appreciative account is given of Sophus F. Neble, the publisher of the *Danske Pioneer*. Settlements and

places described are located principally in Nebraska, with one chapter on "Minneapolis-profiler," which, however, is largely biographical in content. It includes brief sketches of Christian Rasmussen, founder of the C. Rasmussen Publishing Company, and Christian Nielsen, manufacturer and merchant.

In executing these sketches, the author makes a desirable addition to the literature bearing on Danish contributions to American life. Although the men and places represented are few, the volume tells a story that will piece into other similar productions to compose, finally, an entire canvas. The author's easy, journalistic style makes the book very readable.

J. H.

Hill Country: The Story of J. J. Hill and the Awakening West.

By RAMSEY BENSON. (New York, Frederick A. Stokes Company, 1928. 356 p. Portrait.)

The Empire-builder: A Biographical Novel of the Life of James J. Hill. By OSCAR M. SULLIVAN. (New York and London, The Century Company, 1928. 372 p.)

These books are both classed as fiction, but they interest the historian for several reasons. One is that they represent the increasing literary consciousness of the second and third generations of the prairie country and the success with which the young writers of this region are finding in their own background subject matter for imaginative treatment. Another reason is that they are contributions to James J. Hill literature and, in a wider sense, to an understanding of his influence in the Northwest.

Hill, as the title indicates, is the dominating personality in *The Empire-builder*. In *Hill Country*, as the title again indicates, the emphasis is rather on a community as influenced by Hill's activities. Thus these books supplement each other in a valuable way. In *The Empire-builder* the "chief" is seen through the eyes of a young attorney in the legal department of the Great Northern Railway Company, and is worshipped as a superman. *Hill Country* presents a more critical view, representing, as it does, the members of an average community taking sides—usually the bankers and business men upholding Hill and the farmers decrying him because they feel themselves completely in his power.

But even in *Hill Country* a Swede admits at the end that "Yim Hill he ban pur-r-ty goot feller." The attitude of the Swedes — first amazed wonderment, then frank suspicion, and finally slow acceptance — is well brought out by Mr. Benson.

Both authors have been diligent in historical research and both parade their findings to the detriment of their story. As a result, in both cases the story is of secondary importance and the reader must be willing to find his interest in the historical pictures and background resurrected. *Hill Country* as a novel has excellent moments, but lacks unity and continued suspense. Weese Overturf, the heroine, becomes a personality in her own right, perhaps, but the other characters exist only as types created to register certain forces and principles. In both books situations are made to order and love affairs and other emotional themes are treated in conventional manner. Neither author has succeeded in welding fiction and history into an animate colorful whole as did Rölvaag in *Giants in the Earth* or Willa Cather in *My Antonia*.

One almost wishes that Mr. Benson had written a good local history of a community on the Great Northern, giving the influence of the railroad careful consideration (a study that is much needed and would command more serious attention than the novel); and that Mr. Sullivan had written a history of the Great Northern Railroad from the inside, which is also lacking. Both writers display the qualifications needed for capable work of this sort. Mr. Benson's insight into the turbulent political life and methods of the eighties is notable and provides much of the value of *Hill Country*. Bits of social history and pictures of social gatherings and events are plentiful and well done in both books. *The Empire-builder* furthermore provides a more condensed picture of Hill and the building of the Great Northern than is supplied in Joseph G. Pyle's excellent two-volume *Life of James J. Hill* published in 1917. Historians will find much of value in both of these books, and the general public may be led through them to a more active interest in their own Northwest as it was in its adolescent period.

OLIVER W. HOLMES

Saint Paul. Location — Development — Opportunities. By F. C. MILLER, PH.D. (St. Paul, Webb Book Publishing Company, 1928. 223 p. Illustrations.)

This small volume forms an interesting addition to the growing collection of studies of community and county units in various parts of Minnesota that have appeared in recent years. As announced in the preface, the book has been prepared with the laudable purpose of fostering civic pride and loyalty in the school children of St. Paul.

The author, who is a teacher of physiography in Central High School of St. Paul, is led by his interests and his hobbies in the field of geology to give considerable emphasis to the geological formation of the chief surface features, past and present. This is a distinct advantage, however, for few teachers are as well informed on the subject as Dr. Miller or as familiar with the present-day evidences of glacial action on which his assumptions are based. It might not have been amiss to explain the reasons for the application to those ancient landscape features of such extremely modern names as River Warren, Platteville limestone, and St. Peter sandstone.

The chapters devoted to the historical origin and development of the community are somewhat lacking in balance and proportion and are burdened with a superfluity of unimportant names and figures, but occasional anecdotes and apt turns of phrasing give vivid touches to the recital of events. About half the volume is devoted to a survey of present-day developments under such headings as "St. Paul Parks and Boulevards," "Educational Institutions," "Transportation," and "St. Paul Industries." These chapters show a commendable thoroughness of attention to details and many grown-ups who have been life-long residents of the city will find much set forth that will both interest and surprise them. It is questionable, however, whether a freckled-faced urchin in the fifth grade will be greatly intrigued to know the annual total of local telephone calls or to learn that the style of a well-known religious edifice is "modified Gothic on English precedent."

If the book is to be judged as a text for class use, it is open to criticism on the score that the author frequently seems uncertain as to the age and mental development of the children for whom it is intended. There are occasional lapses into a markedly juvenile simplicity, especially in the somewhat pious sketches of notable citizens and in the questions at the close of each chapter, but much of the subject matter seems to be addressed to the more advanced grades. This neglect to establish a definite audience leads to unevenness in treatment throughout the book.

There has been a real need for such a piece of work as this, and Dr. Miller has put into his contribution a fine zest and enthusiasm for inspiring in the school children of St. Paul an understanding and love for their home city. Its value as a textbook would have been enhanced, however, if it had been taken firmly in hand by a capable grade-school teacher and adapted to fit more closely the uses for which it is intended.

MARY V. CARNEY

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

At a special meeting of the executive council following the business session of the society on January 21, Mr. John P. Upham of St. Paul was elected assistant treasurer of the society and was authorized to act as treasurer pro tem. in the absence of the treasurer from the state.

The first volume of *Minnesota in the War with Germany*, by Franklin F. Holbrook and Livia Appel, was published by the society in December and has been distributed to members and subscribing libraries. A review of the volume will appear in a later number of MINNESOTA HISTORY. The second and final volume of the work is now in preparation and it is expected that it will be published before the end of the year.

Fifteen names were added to the roll of members during the quarter ending December 31, 1928. The names of the new members, grouped by counties, follow:

CROW WING: Mrs. Martha A. Bronson of Merrifield.

HENNEPIN: Oswald J. Arnold, Mrs. Fred E. Barney, Josiah E. Brill, Dr. James F. Corbett, Franklin M. Crosby, Jr., Charles J. Gotshall, Roy P. Ingmundson, E. Fitch Pabody, and Albert M. Slocum, all of Minneapolis.

ITASCA: John A. Vandyke of Coleraine.

LAKE OF THE WOODS: Arwood S. Northby of Baudette.

RAMSEY: Caroline F. Fairchild of St. Paul.

NONRESIDENT: George E. McVicker of North Bend, Nebraska; and George J. Schottler of White Plains, New York.

The society lost ten active members by death during the last three months of 1928: E. Bird Johnson of Minneapolis, October 1; Michael J. Daly of Perham, October 5; Colonel Charles H. Graves of Santa Barbara, California, October 7; Joseph F. Wilson of Cloquet, October 23; Dr. Arthur Sweeney of St. Paul, November 7; Ambrose Tighe of St. Paul, November 11; Mrs. Fred A. Bill of St. Paul, November 14; Edward A. Everett of

Waseca, November 27; William H. Eustis of Minneapolis, November 29; and Frank A. Day of Fairmont, December 27. The deaths of two active members, Dr. Howard M. Hamblin of Washington, D. C., on September 15, 1923, and Dr. Pearl D. Winship of Park Rapids, on February 26, 1928, have not previously been reported in the magazine.

The superintendent and the curator of manuscripts represented the society at the meetings in Indianapolis, from December 28 to 31, of the American Historical Association, the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, the Agricultural History Society, the Conference of Historical Societies, and the Conference of State Historical Agencies in the Upper Mississippi Valley.

Mr. Arthur J. Larsen, a graduate student at the University of Minnesota, who has been assisting in the newspaper department of the library since September 1, is now in charge of the division, having been appointed to succeed Mr. Bryce E. Lehmann, who resigned on January 15. Miss Dorothy Miles resigned as catalogue clerk on December 15 and was succeeded by Miss Esther Johnson.

An interview with Dr. Blegen in Norway is reprinted in the *Decorah-Posten* for January 4 from the *Drammens Tidende*, a Norwegian newspaper. In it he tells of his work in collecting "America letters" and explains their nature and significance.

Dr. Buck spoke on Minnesota history before the Lions Club of Minneapolis on November 7, gave a radio talk over WCCO on November 29 on the work of the society and "Some Thanksgiving History," and discussed "The New Interpretation of the American Revolution" before the Saturday Lunch Club of Minneapolis on December 8. Mr. Chatelain spoke on "An Appreciation of Minnesota History" at the Bethel Academy in St. Paul on October 13. Dr. Nute gave two addresses in a series of public lectures by members of the faculty of Hamline University on October 22 and 29, taking as her subjects the *voyageur* and the pioneer woman of the Northwest; she gave an illustrated talk on the *voyageur* before the Hamline Fortnightly Club on October 8; and she read a paper entitled "Some Conclusions from a

Resurvey of the Minnesota Archives" at the archives session of the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Indianapolis on December 29.

The museum collections have been drawn upon to a considerable extent during the past year by commercial concerns that have arranged historical displays. Objects have been loaned to the Dayton Company, E. E. Atkinson and Company, the First National Bank, and the First Minneapolis Trust Company of Minneapolis; and Schunemans and Mannheimers, the Merchants National Bank, and the Merchants Trust Company of St. Paul.

A brief sketch of the society and its activities, by the superintendent, appears in the *St. Paul Year Book* for 1928.

ACCESSIONS

Among the transcripts of missionary material recently received by the society are some twenty letters and reports of Methodist missionaries to the Sioux and Chippewa in Minnesota, copied from the file of the *Christian Advocate and Journal* in the office of that paper in New York City, and several letters and reports of Minnesota interest in the papers of the Society for Propagating the Gospel among the Indians, in the possession of the Essex Institute at Salem, Massachusetts.

An original document of very great interest recently added to the Ramsey Papers by the governor's daughter, Mrs. Charles E. Furness, is the "Journal (from August 18 to Nov. 27, 1851) of the United States Commission To Treat with the Chippeway Indians of Pembina & Red Lake; with the Proceedings of the Council held at Pembina on the Red River of the North, Minnesota Territory." This document of twenty-four pages is in the handwriting of Dr. Thomas Foster, secretary of the commission, the other members being Governor Ramsey and Hugh Tyler. No details of the trip to Pembina and back are given, but the account of the council, with the speeches of the governor and the Chippewa chiefs make very interesting reading. Mrs. Furness has also presented several hundred books and pamphlets, including a business directory of Minnesota for 1869-70, which was

lacking in the society's file, and what may be the only extant copy in complete form of the first book or pamphlet printed in Minnesota. This is the *Message from the Governor of the Territory of Minnesota to the First Legislative Assembly, September 4, 1849* (Saint Paul: Chronicle and Register, print., 1849. 20, xxxi p.). Another copy of the same publication is in the secretary of state's archives in the custody of the society, but it lacks the appendix of accompanying documents.

A notable addition to the manuscript records of pioneer communities is a little volume containing the constitution, by-laws, and minutes of the Strafford Western Emigration Company, presented by Mrs. Katherine W. Kellett of Minneapolis. This town-site company was responsible for the settling of Zumbrota in 1856 and, according to its minutes, it continued to function until 1865. Lists of members and of lots purchased or assigned to them are recorded, and occasionally one finds evidence of attempts on the part of the company to regulate phases of village life. For example on September 26, 1856, it was voted "That a provision be inserted in each deed given by the Company, restraining purchasers of lots from selling or allowing to be sold on their premises any spirituous liquors as a beverage." For the history of Zumbrota the volume is invaluable, and for details of a town-site company's procedure it is almost equally significant.

A book of township maps of the Mesabi Range area, marked, presumably in 1889, by Alfred and C. C. Merritt and probably in part by Kelsey D. Chase of Faribault to show discoveries of iron ore; typewritten plans and specifications for constructing the Duluth, Missabe and Northern Railway, built by Chase to connect the range with a terminus on Lake Superior; a prospectus of the Biwabic Mountain Iron Company printed in 1891; and a circular printed about 1892 describing the Mesabi Range have been presented by Chase's son, Mr. Kelsey S. Chase of St. Paul. Chase, who was a close personal friend of the Merritts, joined them in the exploration of the Mesabi Range in 1889, and he was one of the first persons to whom they turned for financial backing after they had become convinced of the value of the iron deposits in northeastern Minnesota. Mr. Chase has also pre-

sented a large horn used by his father in the band of Company K, Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil War.

A scouting expedition to Bloomington made recently by the assistant superintendent and the curator of manuscripts resulted in a gift from Mr. Gideon H. Pond of five of his diaries covering the period from 1886 to 1914 and a cashbook. They contain information about farming activities and interests, such as bee culture, prices of farm products, weather conditions, and the like, and should be of value for the study of social conditions in rural communities. The donor is a son of Gideon H. Pond, the missionary, and the diaries contain some allusions to the father's career. Museum objects obtained on the trip include a pair of fire tongs from Mr. Pond, a pair of blacksmith's pincers from Miss Mathilda Bailiff, and a small spinning wheel for flax from Mrs. Alida Vollender and Mrs. Celina Bolkom.

A photostatic copy of a manuscript in the Royal Colonial Institute of London, which is believed to be a draft of a book entitled *On the Origin and Progress of the Northwest Company of Canada*, published in 1811 and supposedly written by Nathaniel Atcheson, has been presented to the society by the Public Archives of Canada. It affords information on companies engaged in the fur trade, on the western Indians, and on Anglo-American relations in the Northwest just prior to the outbreak of the War of 1812.

Among the material in the United States archives recently calendared for the society and coöperating institutions are the files of various army departments; and the cards received for the department of the Northwest disclose many documents relating to the protection of the frontier after the Sioux Outbreak of 1862.

To the records of the Nonpartisan League already in the possession of the society (see *ante*, 6: 207) some eight thousand cards have recently been added. These include a list of newspapers in Minnesota and other states with comments on their reactions to the league and circulation figures; a membership list of the National Federation of Women's Nonpartisan clubs; data

concerning subscription renewals to league publications; a list of "boosters"; names of persons who applied for official publications; a list of meetings held by the league in 1918 with the date, place of meeting, and names of the speakers; and a list of delegates, senators, and representatives by legislative districts with symbols apparently indicating their feeling toward the league.

From the Woman's Missionary Society of the Synod of Minnesota (Presbyterian) has been received a collection of manuscripts dating from 1880 to 1928, consisting largely of minutes of meetings and records of apportionments of funds.

The registration cards of the Minnesota conventions of the American Legion in 1927 and 1928, lists of the Minnesota delegates to the annual conferences of legion commanders and adjutants from 1925 to 1928, and a list of the delegates to the spring conference of the American Legion Auxiliary of the department of Minnesota are included in a gift of some sixty-five hundred cards from the Minnesota department of the legion.

A unique "Building Map of Minneapolis," probably published in 1858, which was designed and drawn by Orlando Talcott, a surveyor and land agent, has been presented by Mr. E. Welles Hodgson of Minneapolis through the courtesy of Mr. Jefferson Jones. "Buildings built in 1857" and those "built previous to 1857" are graphically shown on the map, and a brief explanatory note carries the information that previous to 1857 there were but 176 buildings in Minneapolis and that in that year 246 structures were erected. Sketches of some of the city's more important buildings, such as the court house and the Nicollet House, appear on the margins of the map.

As a result of visits to newspaper offices by Mr. Lehmann, the newspaper librarian, in connection with the compilation of the bibliography of Minnesota newspapers (see *ante*, 9: 297), gaps in the society's files of the *Hastings Gazette* and the *Goodhue County Republican* and other Red Wing papers that have been consolidated to make up the latter paper have been filled through the gifts of the editors, Mr. S. W. Isham of Hastings and Mr. Jens K. Grondahl of Red Wing; and a nearly complete file of the

Kellogg Enterprise, covering the years from 1903 to 1918, has been received from the publisher, Mr. A. M. Howe of Kellogg.

Two rare books of great Minnesota interest that were lacking in the society's library are now available in the form of photo-stats recently secured from the Library of Congress. One is the earliest printed account of Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike's expedition into the Minnesota country in 1805 and 1806, published anonymously in 1807 under the title *An Account of a Voyage up the Mississippi River, from St. Louis to Its Source*. According to a statement on the title page, this narrative was "Compiled from Mr. Pike's Journal," though it differs considerably from the explorer's own account of his travels published in 1810. As the title indicates, this record is confined to the Mississippi journey, whereas the later book includes an account of Pike's southwestern travels. The second volume is C. N. Brainerd's *My Diary: or Three Weeks on the Wing. A Peep at the Great West*, a travel narrative published in 1868. It tells of the author's westward journey in the summer of 1867 by way of Chicago and Wisconsin into Minnesota, where he traveled by boat, rail, and stage through the southeastern section of the state. This account is especially valuable for its portrayal of some of the smaller Minnesota towns of the period, such as Winona, Owatonna, Mankato, and Winnebago City.

Through the courtesy of Mrs. Percy J. Lawrence of Minneapolis, the Lewis Publishing Company of New York has presented a considerable number of local histories and biographical works relating to the eastern states that were lacking in the society's library.

What appears to be one of the issues of the famous medal struck off by the United States in honor of the Seneca chief Red Jacket in 1792 has been presented to the society by Mr. Charles A. Boalt of St. Paul. This medal, which is larger than most of the medals issued for presentation to the Indians, is oval in shape and is characterized by a design on the reverse side showing an American eagle with awkward outspread legs. The specimen received is much worn but it proves upon careful examina-

tion to bear this design and on the obverse side are faint traces of an Indian with a pipe raised to his lips and of a second figure, presumably that of President Washington. Mr. Boalt purchased the medal some twenty-five years ago from the post trader at the Red Lake Indian agency, who received it about twenty years earlier from Maescocuneeya, the son of the Red Lake Chippewa chief, Moose Dung. It was said to have been given to the chief at the treaty of Red Lake in 1863, which both he and his son signed. It seems doubtful, however, that such can be the case, for the medal in use at that time was the round peace and friendship medal of President Lincoln.

Mr. Paul P. Thompson of Winona has presented a copy of a large silver trade cross, recast from the metal in a cross of similar design found in an Indian grave near Winona. An iron trade ax is the gift of Mr. Gus Olson of Grand Marais.

Three interesting old daguerreotypes showing Fort Snelling, the first suspension bridge across the Mississippi at Minneapolis, and the house of Colonel John Stevens in Minneapolis with a group of Sioux tepees near by are the gift of Mr. Edward C. Gale of Minneapolis. Other additions to the picture collection include a large photograph of the governor and members of the House of Representatives in 1901 and portraits of several Minnesota attorneys general, from the state tax commission; and eighteen stereoscopic views, for the most part of Minneapolis, presented by Mr. Frank K. Crowell of San Francisco.

Articles illustrative of pioneer and domestic life recently added to the museum collection include a gun and case, a hunting pouch, a powderflask, and a cane formerly belonging to O. W. Streeter, from Mr. W. O. Streeter of Superior, Wisconsin; a pair of metal boot hooks used by General Christopher C. Andrews, from Miss Alice Andrews of St. Paul; some hand forged knives, a razor, and a pair of spectacles, from Mr. Edward D. Smith of Lake City; two boom pins used with ropes of chains to hold boom logs in place, from Mr. Paul P. Thompson of Winona; a clock with wooden works and ornamented with a Currier print, made in Connecticut in 1829, from Mr. Frank W. Merrill of St. Paul;

and a walnut cradle of 1883, from Miss Nellie C. Heyd of St. Paul.

Recent additions to the costume collection include a scarf of white Canton crêpe embroidered in silver and gold and bordered with a heavy fringe, dating from 1791, given by Mrs. James T. Morris of Minneapolis and Washington; two infants' dresses of 1872 and lingerie of 1880 from Miss Esther Johnson of Minneapolis; and several bonnets and a fan from Mr. Edward D. Smith of Lake City.

NEWS AND COMMENT

An American History Conference composed of persons engaged in advanced research in American history in the Twin Cities and vicinity was started with a dinner meeting in Minneapolis on December 6. Members of the faculties of six universities and colleges in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Northfield, and members of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, to the number of sixteen, attended the meeting; and each outlined to the group the research work upon which he is engaged. It was agreed that three or four meetings should be held each year and Dr. Ernest S. Osgood of the University of Minnesota was elected convener.

American Idealism by Luther A. Weigle (*The Pageant of America*, vol. 10 — New Haven, 1928) is concerned with religion and education. Although one chapter is devoted to "Religion on the Frontier," the work of missionaries among the Indians of Minnesota is ignored and the names of Williamson, the Pond brothers, and Bishop Whipple are not to be found in the index. The section on education is very brief and the only reference to the University of Minnesota is in the caption to a picture of Pillsbury Hall.

A substantial chapter in American transportation history is covered in an article entitled "Railroad Building from 1865 to 1885," by Philip J. Green, in the *Quarterly Journal* of the University of North Dakota for November. The author treats in outline the building of the more important roads of the period and explains the tendencies that influenced their development. In a section on "Regulation" he discusses the Minnesota railroad law of 1874.

Laurence F. Schmeckebier is the author of a volume on the *Office of Indian Affairs: Its History, Activities and Organization*, which has been published by the Institute for Government Research as number 48 of its *Service Monographs of the United States Government* (Baltimore, 1927. 591 p.).

Disparus et survivants is the title that the Reverend A. G. Morice of Winnipeg gives to a volume of ethnographic studies on the American Indian that appeared originally in the *Bulletin* of the Société de géographie de Québec (Winnipeg, 1928. 372 p.). He challenges the conclusions of certain savants who attempt to reduce the number of accepted linguistic groups, and then passes on to a consideration of several groups that have become extinct. Among them are the Mandan, whose habits and history have always evoked great interest. The latter portion of the volume is devoted to certain surviving groups and includes, incidentally, some discussion of the causes and the effects of the Sioux Outbreak of 1862.

In a little volume entitled *Chippewa Tales* (Los Angeles, 1928), Jeanne L'strange Cappel, whose Indian name is "Wabe-no O-pee-chee," presents a series of Indian legends, many of which relate to Minnesota, that she heard from her grandmother as a child at Bass Lake, Minnesota. Another group of Chippewa legends, also recently published, is recorded by Jack Rohr, or Hotan-Tonka, in a book that he calls *Ojibway Trails* (Ottawa, Illinois, 1928).

Two chapters of a doctoral dissertation by Raymond L. Welty, originally published in the *Cavalry Journal* for July and October, 1927, have been reprinted in the form of a pamphlet entitled *Studies in the Western Army Frontier, 1860-1870*. One presents a most interesting account of the "Daily Life of the Frontier Soldier," and the other deals with the "Indian Policy of the Army, 1860-1870."

The Swedish Historical Society of America held its annual meeting in the auditorium of the Historical Building in St. Paul on December 7. Mr. Levin Faust of Rockford, Illinois, discussed the "Industrial Progress of the Swede" and Professor A. A. Stomberg of the University of Minnesota spoke on the attitude toward immigration in Sweden. The general outlines of the program were presented in the December issue of the *Swedish-American Historical Bulletin*. Since the appearance in March, 1928, of the first number of this quarterly publication (see *ante*,

9: 167), three issues in the form of news letters carrying announcements to members of the society have appeared.

Emigration from Belgium in a sailing vessel in 1865, experiences in the Chicago fire, and adventures as a soldier in Montana following the Custer massacre are recalled by Mr. John Benz of St. Paul in an interview published with his portrait in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for December 2.

Photostatic copies of the original Carver journals made for the Minnesota Historical Society at the British Museum and copies of other Carver documents secured from London by Mr. T. C. Elliott of Oregon have been used by Dr. Louise P. Kellogg in the preparation of an article on "The Mission of Jonathan Carver" published in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for December. A study of this new Carver material leads Dr. Kellogg to the conclusion that "few critics have ventured upon so wild a surmise as the facts disclose—that Carver came to Wisconsin to discover the Northwest Passage through North America, and intended to cross by land to the Pacific, there to explore for the western end of the long-desired opening north of the continent as a sea route to the Orient." She tells how Carver was commissioned on August 12, 1766, by Major Robert Rogers, the commander at Mackinac, to explore and map the region around Green Bay and westward to the Falls of St. Anthony; how he was ordered to join a party commanded by James Tute on the journey across the continent; how he met the party at Prairie du Chien in the spring of 1867; and how the travelers were forced to turn back because they failed to receive supplies and orders from Rogers. In the "Documents" section of the same issue of the magazine is reprinted the first installment of the "Journal of William Rudolph Smith," which was published recently in book form and reviewed *ante*, 9: 159-161.

In an article in the October issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine* entitled "Hiawatha and Longfellow," Theodore Coleman traces some of the historical "conceptions and interpretations widely at variance with known facts" to be found in the poem. The November number contains a journalistic sketch entitled "The

Ghosts of Prairie du Chien," by May L. Bauchle, in which false and misleading statements are made concerning members of the Dousman and Rolette families.

Professor L. H. Pammel of the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at Ames is the author of *Reminiscences of Early La Crosse, Wisconsin*, which appear in pamphlet form as a reprint from the *La Crosse Tribune* and the *Leader Press* of La Crosse (1928. 102 p.). As the subtitle indicates this is mainly "An Account of the men and women who lived in LaCrosse and vicinity and who shared in its progress and in the building-up of its commercial, professional, and educational interests." Some of the people dealt with are or have been residents of Minnesota.

In Cabins and Sod-houses, by Thomas H. Macbride, is a recent publication of the State Historical Society of Iowa (1928. 368 p.). The narrative, which has something of the character of fiction, deals with the period between 1846 and 1860 and is intended to "portray the intellectual life of the men and women who four-score years ago laid the foundations of the prairie Commonwealth of Iowa." Chapters are included on such topics as "Building the Schoolhouse," "The Sunday School," and "The Lyceum."

Financial conditions in the Middle West preceding, during, and after the World War are reflected in an autobiography entitled *Grief* by Leo F. Schmitt, a banker in Minnesota and Iowa from 1910 to 1928 (Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1928. 444 p.). During the war years the author was employed by a bank at Brown's Valley, and his account of Liberty Bond sales and of the inflation brought on by the war forms an interesting chapter in the history of western Minnesota. The bulk of the volume deals with Mr. Schmitt's disastrous experiences in a bank at Bellevue, Iowa, from 1920 to 1928.

An interesting journal kept by William H. Clandening, a Canadian engineer who "joined the gold rush to the eastern Montana gulches" in 1863, is published under the heading "Across the Plains in 1863-1865" in the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly*

for July. The first part of the journal deals with Clandening's progress across Minnesota by way of the Red River trail that passed through St. Cloud and Breckenridge. At St. Paul he made "arrangements to go Overland with an escort now being sent over by the United States Government," evidently the Fisk expedition of 1863. Clandening's entries give frequent sidelights on Minnesota life. On June 13 near St. Cloud he "Saw the first Red River Carts. 18 of them coming down laden with fur." Farther west at Battle Lake he found the shore "lined with dead flies (grasshoppers) of all kinds about four feet wide and two inches deep"; and on the Otter Tail River he saw the remains of the town of Dayton, which had been burned by the Indians during the outbreak of the previous year. In the same issue of the *Quarterly*, Allen L. Truax tells of "Manuel Lisa and His North Dakota Trading Post"; and the October number contains the first installment of Louis A. Tohill's study of "Robert Dickson, British Fur Trader on the Upper Mississippi," a doctoral thesis submitted at the University of Minnesota in 1926, published in mimeograph form in 1927, and reviewed *ante*, 9: 153-156.

Experiences as a "pony express rider" in South Dakota are recalled by Richard W. Clark, otherwise known as "Deadwood Dick," in an interview published in the *Minneapolis Journal* for November 4. According to this account Mr. Clark left St. Anthony with a caravan bound for the Black Hills in 1876, traveling over much the same route that he had covered by airplane just before the interview.

The work that is being done with state archives in Illinois is outlined in a section of the *Biennial Report* of the secretary of state for 1926-28 (p. 18-20). "In 1921 the General Assembly passed an act to reorganize the State Library and created an archives department as one of its three divisions. . . . The purpose of this archives division is to act as a central filing bureau for such State records as are not in everyday use in the various departments, a place where the records can be found expeditiously when needed and where they will receive scientific care looking towards their preservation for future use." The superintendent of archives reports that "much of the work of the department

has been concerned and will be for some time to come, with repairs necessitated by improper storage conditions of the past. . . . The organization for caring for the records of the present day is similar to that of the filing department of any large business corporation. . . . Since the Archives Division has undertaken the care of the records of the Secretary of State's office questions that formerly took hours of search to answer can now be answered in a few moments." The division also coöperates "with officers in procuring permanent papers and inks" for record-making and checks up on officers and boards that neglect to file official reports. An appreciation of the importance of the care of public archives, from the administrative as well as the historical standpoint, is slowly spreading, and the time will come when the other states of the Middle West will take heed of the excellent examples set by Iowa and Illinois.

An account of the participation of Sioux Indians of the upper Mississippi Valley in the campaigns of the American Revolution is included in an article by A. P. Nasatir dealing with "The Anglo-Spanish Frontier in the Illinois Country during the American Revolution, 1779-1783," which appears in the *Journal* of the Illinois State Historical Society for October. Dr. Nasatir has relied to a considerable extent for his material on the Spanish archives, and it is obvious that they contain many documents throwing light on early Minnesota history. Thus some of these papers show that Wabasha and his Indians were courted assiduously by the British, who sent Augustin Rock or Rocque and another agent "to incite the savages to attack the Illinois the following spring." To combat the "evil influence" of these British agents, Cruzat, the Spanish lieutenant governor of upper Louisiana, sent in his turn a man named Dorion, who succeeded in winning most of the Sioux — with the exception of Wabasha — to the Spanish cause. The British attack on St. Louis is described in the article, as well as many other activities on the western front during the last years of the Revolution; and the author concludes that the ultimate triumph of British influence among the Indians was due to a scarcity of trade goods on the part of the Spaniards. In the same issue of the *Journal* is an article on "Genet's Western Intrigue, 1793-1794," by F. R. Hall.

In an article entitled "New Light on Old Cahokia" in the *Illinois Catholic Historical Review* for October, Gilbert J. Garraghan tells of Le Sueur's visit to the infant settlement in 1700, when the explorer was conducting his expedition "up the Mississippi to the Sioux country in the present Minnesota."

A Bibliography of the Laws of Indiana, 1788-1927, Beginning with the Northwest Territory, by John G. Rauch and Nellie C. Armstrong, has been published as volume 16 of the *Indiana Historical Collections* (Indianapolis, 1928. 77 p.).

A committee of the Indiana History Conference has drafted a bill relating to county support of historical work, which has been introduced in the legislature and is expected to become a law. Under existing laws counties may expend not to exceed five thousand dollars "for the construction and furnishing of rooms and fire-proof vaults" on state or county property for the use of county historical societies, and may appropriate not to exceed fifteen hundred dollars a year for their support. The proposed measure removes the restriction as to the location of the quarters and increases the amount that may be appropriated for maintenance to twenty-five hundred dollars.

Mr. Edgar B. Wesley's introduction to the "Diary of James Kennerly, 1823-1826," in the *Collections* of the Missouri Historical Society for October, calls attention to the relation between the founding of Fort Snelling and that of Fort Atkinson in what is now the state of Nebraska. Kennerly was sutler at the latter post.

The Missouri Historical Society has issued a booklet of *Illustrations of Colonel Lindbergh's Decorations and Some of His Trophies Received Within the Year Following His Trans-Atlantic Flight of May 20-21, 1927*, compiled by Nettie H. Beauregard. A brief account and a partial list of the trophies, which were first placed on exhibit by the Missouri Historical Society in the Jefferson Memorial at St. Louis on June 25, 1927, is included.

A recently published *History of Canada* by Carl Wittke includes some material on the Red River settlements and accounts of the Riel rebellions of 1867 and 1885 (New York, 1928).

Numerous documents of importance for Minnesota history are to be found in a volume of *Treaties and Agreements Affecting Canada in Force Between His Majesty and the United States of America, With Subsidiary Documents, 1814-1925*, compiled by the Canadian department of external affairs (Ottawa, 1927).

A new edition of the Reverend A. G. Morice's *History of the Catholic Church in Western Canada*, which was published in 1910, has appeared as a four-volume work entitled *Historie de l'église catholique dans l'ouest canadien du Lac Supérieur au Pacifique, 1659-1915* (Winnipeg, 1928). The author has expanded and altered slightly the text of the first French edition of the work, which appeared in three volumes in 1912; he has annotated more copiously than in the earlier editions; and he has added several appendixes. One of these relates to the papers of the McDonell family, which have recently come into the author's possession. Two members of this family, John and Miles, were intimately connected with the fur trade and with the settlements of the Red River Valley, including Pembina (see *ante*, 5: 306). The sections dealing with the missionaries at Pembina, Fort William, and Rainy Lake are based on many unpublished letters and contribute not a little to a better comprehension of a still unwritten chapter on Minnesota's Indian missions in the early nineteenth century. It may be added that the work contains not only church history but also much information on secular topics such as the Indians, exploration, the fur trade, the Riel rebellion, and social life.

Lower Fort Garry: A History of the Stone Fort by Robert Watson (Winnipeg, 1928) is a little book of sixty-nine pages that describes briefly the outstanding events in and about this Hudson's Bay Company's post, which is situated twenty miles north of Winnipeg, from its founding in 1831 to 1920. Its strategic position made it for years a center for the life of the Red River Valley, so the author has good reason for including

accounts of such events as the arrival of Colonel Crofton and his soldiers in 1846, the Riel rebellion, Wolseley's expedition, and the treaty with the Chippewa and Swampy Cree tribes in 1871. A list of the men in charge of the fort from 1832 to 1911 and an index add to the usefulness of the book. Since it is copyrighted by the Hudson's Bay Company, the author's statement in the foreword that "it is understood" that "certain records" of that company are to be published in the not distant future is presumably correct. When that long-hoped-for day comes, Lower Fort Garry will need a much more detailed history.

An experience of "The Earl of Selkirk in Michigan Courts" in 1818, when Solomon Sibley, the father of Henry H. Sibley, served as the British peer's lawyer, is described by William L. Jenks in the autumn number of the *Michigan History Magazine*.

The responsibility of the half-breed population of the Red River Valley for the battle at Seven Oaks in 1817 between the *engagés* of the Northwest Company and the servants and officials of the Hudson's Bay Company is briefly discussed in an article entitled "Une page de l'histoire de la nation métisse dans l'ouest du Canada," by A.-H. de Trémaudan, in *Le Canada français* for September.

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

Ceremonies in the House Chamber of the Capitol preceded the unveiling of the statute of Senator Knute Nelson on the Capitol grounds on December 18. Mr. Charles W. Gordon of St. Paul, chairman of the Knute Nelson Memorial Committee, presented the statue, and Governor Christianson accepted it for the state. A tablet fastened to the base of the monument bears the following inscription: "Knute Nelson. February 2, 1842. April 28, 1923. Three years a soldier in the Civil War. Three times a member of Congress. Twice governor of Minnesota. Five times our United States Senator. A brave son of Norway. A true patriot devoted in his allegiance to America. A wise statesman uncompromising in support of the principles in which he believed. A distinguished citizen of Minnesota."

A new theory as to the fate of the Goodhue press, on which the first issues of the *Minnesota Pioneer* were printed in 1849, is advanced in the *Publications* of the Canadian North-West Historical Society for 1928, a pamphlet devoted to "The Story of the Press." Several of the articles included deal with the *Nor'-Wester*, the "first newspaper printed in the Red River Settlement," and in one of these George B. Winship, who joined its staff as a printer in 1868, recalls the equipment that he found in its office. "Its material consisted of worn-out stuff discarded by printers in St. Paul and St. Anthony," he writes. "The Washington hand press had a history worthy of preservation in the archives of the Manitoba Historical Society. It was said to have been the original hand press from which the St. Paul Pioneer was printed in 1849." Other aspects of the close association between the Red River settlements and Minnesota are brought out in an account of the "Early Newspapers of Manitoba" by Alex. H. Sutherland, who describes the first issue of the *Nor'-Wester* and relates that "there are eighteen advertisements on the front page, almost entirely from St. Paul merchants."

A Minnesota community is described each week in words and pictures in the Sunday issue of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* on a page devoted to "Industrial Minnesota," and in many cases historical material is included. Some information about the Kensington rune stone is printed on October 21, when the general subject is Alexandria; the explorations of Albert Miller Lea are touched upon in the sketch of Albert Lea published on November 18; the significance of the pipestone quarries and the growth of the Pipestone Indian Training School are the subjects of brief articles in the issue for December 2; and the section on Willmar, printed on December 9, includes an account of the founding and early growth of the city and a narrative of the Sioux War experiences of a local pioneer, Swan Swanson.

The arrival in Minneapolis of a group of thirty-two Sioux War refugees is described by Mrs. Joseph H. Johnson in an interview published in the *Minneapolis Journal* for December 16. She tells the story as she heard it from her husband and relates that

the visitors, who were provided with food and shelter by her mother-in-law, remained in Minneapolis for three weeks.

An historical committee of the Minnesota State Medical Association, of which Dr. H. M. Workman of Tracy is chairman, is collecting material for a history of medicine in Minnesota. In order to stimulate interest in the project, brief articles about early doctors and pioneer medical practice in the state are being published in *Minnesota Medicine*.

The Children's Heritage: The Achievement of the Minnesota Trust Funds and How It Came About is the title of a pamphlet compiled by John Stone Pardee and published by the Minnesota Arrowhead Association (Duluth, 1928. 40 p.). It includes a series of brief sketches presenting the histories of the Minnesota public lands, land grants to the state, the school fund, the university endowment fund, the swamp land grant, timber proceeds and forest conservation, and iron ore royalties. A number of valuable charts and interesting graphic maps illustrate the pamphlet. Copies of the pamphlet can be secured from the association, which has its headquarters at 315 West Superior Street, Duluth.

The fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Benedictine mission on the White Earth Indian Reservation by Father Aloysius Hermanutz, who is still in charge, was celebrated at White Earth on October 3. Bishop Corbett of Crookston delivered the chief address, reviewing the history of Benedictine activity in this region.

A Brief History of the Zion Society for Israel is the title of a little volume by the Reverend C. K. Solberg, published to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of this missionary organization of the Norwegian Lutheran church (Minneapolis, 1928. 158 p.). One section is devoted to the activities of the mission in the "Twin City Field."

Dutch settlement in Minnesota receives some attention in a two-volume work by Dr. J. Van Hinte entitled *Nederlanders in Amerika: Een Studie over Landverhuizers en Volkplanters in de 19^e en 20^{ste} Eeuw in de Vereenigde Staten van Amerika* (Gronin-

gen, Holland, 1928). Dutch colonies in Swift, Rock, Mille Lacs, Pine, and other Minnesota counties are dealt with in a chapter on "Kleindochters in de Dakota's en Minnesota," and another chapter is devoted to a more general discussion of Dutch colonization in Minnesota.

Traveling conditions and methods of transportation in western Minnesota in the winter of 1873 are vividly pictured in a diary of Dr. Thomas Millman, published under the title "Impressions of the West in the Early 'Seventies," in the *Transactions* of the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Toronto, no. 26 (1928). Dr. Millman was assistant surgeon for the British North American Boundary Commission, which between 1872 and 1874 was engaged in surveying the boundary from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains. The line from the Northwest Angle to the Red River had been surveyed before he joined the expedition at Pembina in March, 1873; but in traveling to that point from Toronto he passed through Minnesota, going from St. Paul to Brainerd, Detroit, and Moorhead by rail and thence by stage to his destination.

The history of the "Jefferson Highway Association" is reviewed by Mr. Hugh H. Shepard, a past president of the association, in an address delivered before a meeting of the United States Good Roads Association at Des Moines on May 30 and published in the *Annals of Iowa* for October. The author describes in detail the steps in the movement for good roads in the Middle West which culminated in the building of the Jefferson Highway between Winnipeg and New Orleans. Of special interest is his account of the determination of the route through Minnesota and of the effect of the highway in stimulating interest in road-building in the state.

An interesting example of historical activity by a commercial concern is furnished by the Northern Pacific Railway Company, which for some time has been collecting manuscript, printed, and pictorial material relating to its history and has now turned over to its veterans' association the task of arranging, preserving, and displaying that material. Ample space and equipment has been provided in the company's building in St. Paul, and the collection

is being arranged in accordance with a classification system suggested by Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society.

A long-neglected phase of the lumber industry in Minnesota and the Northwest is treated in a delightful manner by Charles Edward Russell in *A-Rafting on the Mississippi* (New York, 1928. 357 p.). Many spectacular events and incidents connected with this side of river transportation are recorded, and there are general sketches of the lumberjack, the raftsman, and the "Pilot and His Ways." The Minnesota interest of the volume may be judged from the fact that among its outstanding characters are Captain Stephen B. Hanks, Governor Samuel Van Sant, and James J. Hill. The illustrations, which are exceptionally good, include pictures of "St. Paul's Levee in the Old Days," "A Log Jam in the Mississippi above the Falls of St. Anthony," and "The Boom Times of Rafting: Reads Landing in the Old Days."

"Looking at Minnesota's Industrial Life" is the subtitle used for the December issue of the *Northwest Magazine*, previously known as the *Western Magazine*. The leading article, entitled "Minnesota Fights the Old Battle," by Alfred D. Stedman, is reprinted from the *American Forests and Forest Life Magazine* and deals with forest fires and the development of forestry in the state.

The Minnesota Reforestation Commission, appointed under a law of 1927, has published a *Report to House and Senate* (November, 1928. 129 p.) which not only gives its recommendations for the revision of laws relating to Minnesota forestry, but also presents accounts of the "Development of Forestry in the United States," of "Conservation in Minnesota," and of the progress of other states in this field.

On the Corn Frontier by R. S. Dunham, a pamphlet published by the Northwest Experiment Station of the University of Minnesota at Crookston as *Special Bulletin* no. 120, contains an account of the "Early History of Corn Growing" in the Northwest and a discussion of the methods used in adapting this grain to a northern climate.

Several pages of the *Minneapolis Journal* for November 11 are devoted to "A History of Northwest Grain Marketing, 1881-1928." One article deals with "Founding the First Grain Exchange 47 Years Ago in Minneapolis" and includes accounts of the Minneapolis Board of Trade, the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, and the city's grain elevators. "When Minneapolis First Rose to Greatness as Grain Market" is the title of another sketch dealing for the most part with the Chamber of Commerce but including a list of the Minneapolis mills in operation in 1876. Other sketches in the section treat of the Minneapolis Steel and Machinery Company and the development of the city as a brokerage center.

Pioneer Christmas and New Year's celebrations in St. Paul are described in two articles published in the issues of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for December 2 and 30. The first, based upon contemporary newspaper accounts, tells of the festivities that marked the Christmas holiday of 1849. The second describes Judge Charles E. Flandrau's first New Year's in St. Paul in 1854, when the custom of making calls was the fashion; and the writer quotes extensively from Flandrau's reminiscences, published in volume 9 of the *Minnesota Historical Collections*.

How the first Minnesota Thanksgiving was celebrated on December 26, 1850, is related in an article in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for November 30.

According to the *Year Book* for 1928-29 issued by the Minnesota society of the Daughters of the American Colonists, several of the organization's programs during the winter were to be devoted to Dr. Folwell and his *History of Minnesota*. Among the papers scheduled were a sketch entitled "A House Party at Farther-and-Gay Castle" by Dr. Folwell, October 25; an account of "Dr. Folwell and his History of Minnesota" by Mrs. A. J. Chesley, January 19; and "More of Dr. Folwell's History: Minnesota Statehood" by Miss Genevieve McDill, April 20.

The genealogy of the "Sibley, Campau and Allied Families" is traced by Walter S. Finley in *Americana* for October. A sketch and an excellent portrait of Judge Solomon Sibley, the father of Henry H. Sibley, are included.

Sketches of Samuel McKeehan Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis H. Petit, and Mrs. Charles Petran are among the longer biographies of Minnesota people to be found in a genealogical work dealing with the *Families of Joshua Williams of Chester County, Pa., and John McKeehan of Cumberland County, Pa., with Some Allied Families*, by Mrs. Bessie P. Douglas (Minneapolis, 1928. 476 p.). Many of the families represented in the volume settled in Minneapolis, and their part in the industrial and cultural development of the Mill City is well set forth.

In a volume of *Personal Recollections of Forty-five Years at and Around the Bar in Minnesota*, H. H. Phelps tells of his experiences as a lawyer in the Red River Valley in the eighties and in Duluth after 1891 (Glendale, California, 1928. 199 p.). The iron range region figures largely in the narrative, which includes records of the author's part in many important Minnesota cases and in the civic life of Duluth.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

Attention is called to the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of Mr. George D. Hamilton's editorship of the *Detroit Record* of Detroit Lakes in the issue of that paper for December 7. Mr. Hamilton, who served as editor of the *Record* from 1878 to 1911, presents his recollections of pioneer days in northwestern Minnesota and relates some of his early experiences as a newspaper man. A facsimile of the front page of the first issue of the *Record* that he published, dated November 23, 1878, appears on the first page of the December 7 issue.

A series of articles on early days in Carver County that has been appearing in the *Waconia Patriot* includes sketches of some Laketown Township pioneers, October 4; the story of Mrs. John Preiss, the "first white woman to become a permanent resident of Carver county," October 11; and an account of "wood cutting in pioneer days," December 6.

A pioneer Christmas celebration at Glyndon in 1879 is described in an article based upon a contemporary newspaper account and published in the *Weekly Valley Herald* of Chaska for December 20.

On the summit of Pilot Knob at Mendota members of the Masonic Order dedicated the Minnesota Acacia Memorial Park Cemetery on October 7. A brief sketch of the history of this locality appears in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 1.

"Some Early History of This Vicinity: From the Experiences of a Life-time Spent in Fillmore County" is the title of an article by L. O. Larson, published in two installments in the *Harmony News* for December 6 and 13. The author, who has lived on the same farm in Preston Township since 1854, presents his recollections of early life in this vicinity in a narrative that is both interesting and valuable, for it includes many of those details about conditions on the frontier that are usually preserved only in the memories of the pioneers. He relates that two main groups of immigrants—from Norway and from Scotland—settled in the township, and he tells how they reached the New World and describes the methods they used in building their frontier homes, breaking the land, farming, building roads, and marketing produce. In 1857, according to Mr. Larson, the settlers organized a school district and coöperated in building a school; each one "donated 2 or 3 logs, delivered them at the building site, and got a few stones to put under the walls."

A joint meeting of the Goodhue County Historical Society and the Burnside Farm Club, held at the Burnside consolidated school on October 12, was attended by about two hundred people. Some of the early history of the community was reviewed by Professor A. P. Anderson, and reminiscent papers by Mr. William Thompson and Mr. Charles Melin were read. A loan exhibit of objects illustrative of the pioneer life of the vicinity was arranged in connection with the meeting.

A brief history of Christ Episcopal Church of Red Wing, which celebrated its seventieth anniversary on November 25, appears in the *Red Wing Daily Republican* for November 23.

The coming of the first Swedes to the Root River Valley in Houston County seventy-five years ago is the subject of a valuable and well-written article by Oliver W. Holmes in the *Houston Signal* for August 2. The European background of the immigration—in this case the persecution of the Baptists in Sweden—is

described, and the influence of an "America letter" telling of the wonders of the Root River region, which was published in a Swedish newspaper, is explained. The author tells of the voyage to America, the westward journey to La Crosse, the arrival at the pioneer settlement of Houston in 1853, and the founding of a Swedish community there. The heading of the article calls attention to the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Houston Baptist church, established by these immigrants.

The Pioneer Historical Association of Montgomery is a recent addition to the state's growing list of local historical societies. Plans have been made by the association to erect in Community Park at Montgomery a log cabin, which is to be used as an historical museum.

Some recollections of Mr. Jacob Gish of Le Sueur about pioneer election methods appear in the *Le Sueur News-Herald* of October 31 as one of a series of local history articles.

The arrival of McLeod County's first Bohemian settlers, who founded a colony in Hale Township in 1859, is described in the *Hutchinson Leader* for October 19 in one of a series of articles on local history. A number of other articles in the series deal with the early history of Renville County. These include an account of pioneer days in Boon Lake Township and some reminiscences of one of its early settlers, Orrin Hodgdon, published on October 26 and November 2; the story of the early settlement of Preston Lake Township, printed in the issue for November 30; and a description of a pioneer school in the latter township, Kellogg Academy, which was conducted by the Reverend and Mrs. S. B. Kellogg in the seventies, published on December 7.

Among the articles in a local history series appearing in the *Glencoe Enterprise* are a review of the development of the McLeod County school system, October 11; an account of some early Thanksgiving celebrations at Glencoe, November 29; and some recollections of Mr. John Zrust, a local merchant, concerning the clothes worn by the pioneers, December 6.

A group of articles dealing with the history of Methodism in Martin County appears in the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel* for

December 8. A history of the church in this region, beginning with the first Methodist services held in the county at Center Creek in 1859; accounts of Methodist pioneers; and sketches of the pastors who have served the Methodist congregations of the county are included.

A pioneer childhood in Fairmont is recalled by Mrs. F. N. Hunt in a sketch presented before the October meeting of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and printed in the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel* for October 15. Mrs. Hunt tells of her playmates, her early home, the primary school that she attended, her first music teacher, and numerous other phases of life in this frontier community in the sixties and seventies.

An interview with Mr. "Dick" Rasicot, a pioneer resident of Little Falls who visited the city recently after an absence of fifty-three years, appears in the *Little Falls Daily Transcript* for November 28. Mr. Rasicot recalls many of the city's early landmarks and tells of the excitement caused by the Sioux War, when a stockade was erected for protection in case the Indians should attack the community.

An interesting and valuable account of the development of Rochester as a medical center and of the activities of the Mayos, by Robert Douglas, appears in the *New York Times Magazine* for October 21 under the title "A Clinic City on Minnesota's Prairies." The author traces the origin of St. Mary's Hospital back to the emergency created by the tornado of 1883; he relates the story of Dr. William Worrall Mayo and his pioneer Minnesota experiences in the Sioux War, as one of the founders of the Minnesota State Medical Society, and as a country doctor at Rochester; and he tells of the education and medical training of the two men who are known to the world as the Mayo brothers and who made Rochester into the "scientific Lourdes of Minnesota." The modern city with its new "skyscraper clinic," hospitals, and fine hotels also is described, and the activities of the Mayo Foundation are explained. A portrait of the Drs. Mayo appears with the article.

A sketch of Dr. William C. Allen, who came to Minnesota in 1865 as one of the army of health-seekers that invaded the state around that time and who has been practicing medicine at Rochester since 1872, appears in the *Minneapolis Journal* for September 2.

Among the papers presented before the annual meeting of the Otter Tail County Historical Society at Fergus Falls on October 18 were an account of "Early Days in Perham" by Steve Butler, a "History of Amor Township" by John Lien, "Reminiscences of Pioneer Days in the County" by Mrs. M. H. Wellman, a "History of Parkers Prairie" by Frank Saunders, and a "History of Erhards Grove" by Albert Knutson.

The records of the Glenwood Literary Club, a pioneer debating society organized in 1888, are used as the basis for a brief article on its activities published in the *Pope County Tribune* of Glenwood for November 22. A list of the members of the club and the subjects of many of their debates are included.

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the village of Sacred Heart was celebrated by the people of the community on October 9. As part of the program Mr. H. C. Omholt presented a sketch of the history of the village, which is printed in the *Sacred Heart News* for October 11.

The music of the American Indians was the subject of an illustrated talk by Miss Margaret Densmore of Red Wing before the annual meeting of the Rice County Historical Society at Faribault on October 16. Judge M. M. Shields presented his reminiscences of some of the presidential campaigns of the past. Miss Densmore's paper is published in the *Faribault Daily News* for October 16.

Over three hundred people attended a meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society held at Gilbert on December 18. Among the papers presented were a "History of Sparta and Gilbert," by the Honorable Mark Nolan of Gilbert; an account of the "Discovery of Ore and Development of the Mining Industry in the Gilbert Region," by L. C. David of Elcor; and a review of

"Agriculture, Past and Present, in the Gilbert Country," by Alfred Hoel of Gilbert.

A special edition of the *Duluth Herald* issued on November 12 to commemorate the completion of the new Duluth city hall includes numerous pictures and several articles dealing with the progress of the city "from trading post to trading center." Among the latter is a review of the "City Hall Project"; a history of the Duluth Public Library since its establishment in 1890; and an account of the local press, especially of the city's first paper, the *Tribune*, which was "moved across bay during night" from Superior in 1869. The illustrations include a pictorial record of the building of the city hall and a number of views of Duluth in the seventies.

A history of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Owatonna was presented by Mrs. M. A. Chadwick before members of the congregation on December 1, as part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the church. The paper is published in part in the *Owatonna Journal-Chronicle* for December 7.

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the *Minneapolis Journal* on November 26 has been marked by the publication by this paper of a wealth of historical material, beginning with an elaborate special edition issued on November 25. Every section of this issue is approached from the historical point of view. On the first page is reproduced full size in facsimile the opening sheet of volume 1, number 1 of the *Journal*. The sport section includes a survey of American sports in 1878 and a picture of a famous football struggle of that year; the "want ad" section reproduces advertisements from some early issues of the *Journal*; portraits of some Minneapolis belles of 1878 and an account of the social activities of that day by Agnes von Scholten appear in the society section; "Women Play Big Part in 50 Years of State History" is the subject of a sketch by Sue M. Phillips in the section devoted to women's organizations; articles in the "Books and Art" section recall "Best Sellers of Just 50 Years Ago" and the "City's First Art Show," a loan exhibition arranged by John S. Bradstreet and Mr. and Mrs. William H. Hinkle; and

accounts of early theatrical attractions in Minneapolis by Merle Potter and of the city as a musical center by Victor Nilsson, with pictures of some pioneer theaters, appear in the section on amusements. Numerous articles of a more general nature also are included. Among them is a comparison of the present volume of Minneapolis business with that of fifty years ago and a description of the physical appearance of the city when the "first Journal newsboys" started out to sell papers on the "unpaved streets and at fine homes where [the] loop is now." Other articles deal more directly with the history of the paper itself. Mr. F. E. Curtis of Los Angeles, one of the three founders of the *Journal*, contributes an account of his experiences in its early years; and another article outlines the story of its progress. More interesting, however, is the detailed history entitled "Up From Horse Car Days—A Story of the Journal," by A. J. Russell. The opening chapters of this narrative are published in the issue of November 25, and installments continue to appear in the daily issues for several months. Each is accompanied by a facsimile reproduction of some interesting article or item from the *Journal* for the year with which the narrative deals. Attention should be called also to the excellent illustrations used in the anniversary edition and to a special roto-gravure section, which not only presents a pictorial history of Minneapolis, but includes photographs of many other Minnesota towns in the late seventies.

The history of the old Cataract Mill, "the first of the Minneapolis 'big mills,'" is outlined in the *Minneapolis Journal* for November 15. A picture of the mill, which was built in 1859 and was recently torn down, appears with the article.

The transatlantic flight of the "Graf Zeppelin" is the occasion for the publication of two stories of pioneer airship flights around St. Paul in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. According to the first, published on October 12, Count Ferdinand Zeppelin built his first airship at Fort Snelling in 1863, "had the military tailor at the fort sew up the bag, which he then filled with as many cubic feet of gas manufactured by the St. Paul Gas company as that company would sell him," and managed to raise it a few hundred

feet from the ground. The second article, which appears in the issue of October 15, tells of the flight in the same year of Mrs. Charles E. Furness in a captive balloon owned by a Professor Steiner at St. Paul.

Conditions in St. Paul seventy years ago when Mrs. David Day arrived in the city as a bride are described in an interview with her in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for October 30.



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