

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Building Minnesota. By THEODORE C. BLEGEN, professor of history in the University of Minnesota and superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society. (Boston, D. C. Heath and Company, 1938. xii, 450, xvi p. Illustrations. \$1.48.)

We have had some excellent histories of Minnesota for children, and few states as young as our own can boast of a more substantial record of its past for adults than that supplied to us by William W. Folwell. In the present work, however, we have a history of the state which everybody can read with profit. It is intended for the schools and is leveled at that uncertain age, the junior high school, where childhood and maturity blend themselves in such unpredictable confusion. But the junior high school student might well be warned at the outset that he is going to have difficulty keeping this book out of the hands not only of brother and sister, but also of papa and mamma.

And why not? The story of Minnesota is here unfolded in continuous development from its earliest known beginnings right up to the present. It reaches from the archaeological Minnesota maiden of Pelican Rapids to Elmer Benson and "Bernie" Bierman. It traces the widening and deepening of human activity in this region from the days when its forests, waters, and prairies served only a sparse nomadic or seminomadic population of Indians to the present when this same region is providing over two and a half million people with a relatively comfortable and happy life. Agriculture and industry, commerce and politics, religion and education, literature and learning, music and art and recreation are here supplied with their Minnesota names and dates and places. The reviewer knows of no comparable work which deals with so wide a range of social activity in such concrete terms and within such limited space.

The book is overpowering in its interest. Expecting to read a chapter at a time over a period of some weeks, the reviewer found himself well beyond page 150 when he laid it down for the first time and all the way through the 450 pages when he put it away the third time. It is told in simple language, as simple as the increasing com-

plexity of the state's activities permits. Portions of it will enthrall children of the primary grades and yet not hide their sober significance for the growth of our society from the most mature adult. There is drama, of course, all the way from the uncompromising struggles of the Sioux and the Chippewa, through the period of exploration by French and British, the contest of British and Americans, the fur trade and pioneer settlement, the penetration of the wilderness by canoe and steamboat, by cart and highway, by railroad and airplane. The development of the state's resources, its furs and its forests, its fields and its mines, and after them the less material, though no less important, resources of social life and the products of mind and spirit—all this is recounted vividly with that judicious mixture of concrete detail and social significance which commands the attention of young and old alike.

No one volume that the reviewer knows presents within such brief compass as nearly a complete picture of the intricate pattern of social elements which make up a large modern society as this. It would be futile to enumerate merely the names of the leaders in the many activities which are discussed in this work. All the great leaders commonly mentioned are there, but also many others whose services have not been so commonly known. Leaders in politics, in commerce, in industry and agriculture, in religion, in education, in social welfare, in music, art, and science are not merely mentioned. The part which groups, national, religious, social, economic, and political, have played in the growth of the state is recognized to an extent hitherto unequalled. Few adults, however familiar with the history of the state, will fail to find in this book some important incidents, characters, or activities which they did not previously know.

This story of Minnesota is told with rare skill. Its wealth of information is made more easily available by the intermingling of vivid detail, abundant, clearly printed pictures, helpful maps well placed, occasional bits of poetry and song. There is pathos naturally, but there is also humor. The heroes, and their number is much greater than is found in other single volumes, are not all of the battlefields. They are found in this book, as they are in life, also in the pulpit, in the forum, the factory, and the field. There is no glossing over of the fact that our society had its misfortunes as well as its successes. It recognizes the fact that there were important failures not only of enterprise but also of character, that instances of unfairness

and even rascalities occurred. The process of adjusting life from the simple, almost self-contained, economy of the pioneer farm to the highly intricate interdependence of a society of several millions is revealed with its recurring strains and tensions, and its misunderstandings with charges of bad faith that were often unfounded. All this is recounted in its proper perspective as part of the story of our state. It is written as history should be written, without malice, with fairness and sympathetic insight into the human story which is our history.

In addition to the qualities of style and illustrative materials already mentioned, the book has been further enriched for school use by carefully devised pedagogical aids. The author, whose own teaching experience is abundantly evident, has been aided by Professor Edgar B. Wesley of the University of Minnesota. As a result each division or "unit" is provided with bibliographical suggestions for pupils, questions for study, and problems and projects which both teachers and pupils will find stimulating.

It would be a mistake, however, to confine the use of this book to a single grade or even a small group of grades. It has material of value for every grade. There are stories, incidents, and characters which the teacher can use with primary pupils. There are other materials which will be new and suggestive even to college students. The book should therefore be put to use in all grades.

One of its uses will be appreciated most by teachers of the upper high school grades. In bringing the story of Minnesota up to the present the author has of necessity nominated many new characters, episodes, and incidents for the Minnesota hall of fame. Some of these are as yet but little known or known only to a few. There is a possibility that many others should also be included. It will be a challenge to every community in Minnesota to canvass its own history for the discovery of others equally important. This can be done by high school students under the guidance of their teachers. The author will, I am certain, welcome any of the discoveries so made.

The chief criticism which the reviewer has to offer is that the author should give us another book incorporating nearly all that he has included, but written for the general reader. By omitting the purely didactic elements, the author could interweave the recent material more fully into the unified story of the state. He could trace the process whereby the burdens of life in the pioneering days, which are

so well described, came to be shared between farm and city to the increasing happiness of all. The process has all the drama of frequent misunderstanding, even to the point of conflict at times. Most of this the author has already indicated. In a book for the general reader he could complete this task and thus give us one of the clearest pictures to be found anywhere of how we became the closely interdependent society that we now are. This book has shown us that the author can do it, and then this book will more nearly seem, as it already actually is, a history of Minnesota for everybody.

A. C. KREY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

Check List of Minnesota Imprints, 1849-1865 (American Imprints Inventory, no. 2). By MAMIE R. MARTIN, associate librarian, State Teachers College, St. Cloud, Minn. (Chicago, Historical Records Survey, Division of Women's and Professional Projects, Works Progress Administration, 1938. ix, 219 p. Mimeographed.)

WPA. What magic in those symbols! The golden age of Augustus. The Renaissance under the Medici. Dancing, music, painting, murals, poetry, the drama, creative writing, the arts and sciences. We may have a burst of the Renaissance in America rivaling that of Italy in the Middle Ages—if only the government can continue to borrow the money. But we are wandering. Here at least is one project that seems to historically-minded folk worth while. It is a check list arranged chronologically by years of all material printed and published in Minnesota from the earliest publication in 1849 down to and including the year 1865. It does not purport to include newspapers, however, a list of which is to be issued by the Minnesota Historical Society, nor periodicals, nor legislative bills. It does include governors' messages, addresses, reports, business prospectuses, sermons, pamphlets, political broadsides, and miscellaneous material of all kinds, bound and unbound; although naturally bound books are comparatively few. There is added also a list of territorial documents compiled by Miss Esther Jerabek of the Minnesota Historical Society staff. The book consists of something over two hundred mimeographed pages and is well indexed. The material, it seems,

was prepared by Miss Martin several years ago as part of a master's thesis in the school of library service at Columbia University, and she has generously consented to its publication in its present form. It has had the benefit of the general supervision of Mr. Douglas C. McMurtrie, the well-known authority on early printing, who contributes a preface. Appreciation of the co-operation of Miss Gertrude Krausnick and others of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society in checking the lists is expressed in the preface.

It is surprising to learn how much general printing was carried on in Minnesota's early days. There are 640 items listed, ranging from fourteen in 1849 to forty-nine in 1865, with a high of sixty-nine in 1860. It is hardly to be expected that there should not be some omissions, indeed several have already been discovered. Miss Martin's extensive search has led her to locate Minnesota imprints of this period in thirty-three libraries of the country, among them all the better-known collections. It will be gratifying to members of the Minnesota Historical Society to know that of the 640 items listed in this inventory, less than twenty-five are missing on the shelves of the society, and those relatively unimportant.

The first newspaper in Minnesota was Goodhue's *Minnesota Pioneer*. Volume 1, number 1, which appeared in St. Paul on April 28, 1849, was printed upon a press that the editor brought with him up the river ten days previously. This issue was of course the first piece of printing in Minnesota. The place of honor, however, as the first Minnesota imprint other than newspapers, should be given probably to a broadside, Governor Ramsey's proclamation of July 10, 1849, calling for the election of a delegate to Congress from the new territory and of members to the new territorial legislature. This was followed in succeeding weeks by the governor's *Message* to the first legislative assembly, *Rules for the Government of the Council of Minnesota Territory*, and various other minor imprints including *By-laws of St. Paul Lodge, No. 1 of Free and Accepted Masons* and a *Hymn* printed in English and Chippewa at Leech Lake on a press newly acquired by the missionaries at that post. The first imprint in St. Anthony, now part of Minneapolis, was apparently Governor Ramsey's *Message* of 1852. It was published by the *St. Anthony Express*, the community's earliest newspaper, the first issue of which appeared on May 31, 1851. It is interesting to note that the governor's message of 1849 was published in French as well as in Eng-

lish. The practice of issuing the message in a foreign tongue was not followed again until 1860, when it was published not in French this time, but in Swedish and German. Among a number of "firsts" is the *First Annual Catalogue* of the preparatory department of Hamline University at Red Wing, issued in August, 1855; and the *Report* of the board of regents of the University of Minnesota to the legislature of 1860. Another "first" was the call for a Republican convention, issued on June 1, 1856. The first St. Paul *Directory* appeared in 1856 and the first St. Anthony and Minneapolis *Directory* in 1859. Volume 1 of the decisions of the supreme court was published in 1858 and volume 1 of the *Annals* of the Minnesota Historical Society appeared in 1850, showing the beginnings of this society almost before Minnesota had any recorded history at all. An echo of the past also is the *Sonnets of Shakespeare*, an essay published in 1859, privately, by "Ignatius Donnelly, A.M." Dull business at Nininger at this time probably gave him ample leisure to write. We have not read the book and do not know whether or not Bacon wrote the sonnets as well as the plays.

There is not space here to go further into detail in the printed pages of those early interesting years of the state's history. "Of the making of books there is no end." Suffice it to say that this book about books is a very valuable guide to the location of printed source materials not only for the collector of Minnesota-ana and the special research individual, but also for the general student of Minnesota history.

EDWARD C. GALE

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The Early Writings of Frederick Jackson Turner. With a list of all his works compiled by EVERETT E. EDWARDS, and an introduction by FULMER MOOD. (Madison, The University of Wisconsin Press, 1938. xi, 316 p. Portrait. \$3.50.)

The early writings of Turner which are included in this volume are his essay on "The Significance of History" (1891) and that on "Problems of American History" (1892), his doctoral thesis on "The Character and Influence of the Indian Trade in Wisconsin" (1891), and the first version of "The Significance of the Frontier in American History," being that published in the *Proceedings* of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin for 1893 (1894). The last

of these items is accompanied by an appendix containing variant readings from the version issued in the same year by the American Historical Association in its *Annual Report* for 1893, from that included in the National Herbart Society's *Fifth Yearbook* in 1899, and from that which forms the first chapter of the volume entitled *The Frontier in American History* published in 1920. The parallel passages on pages 189-192 and 280-282 may be commended to the attention of the reader as a beautiful example of the transformation of a mere series into a process, of the discovery of the formula which will colligate the facts satisfactorily and fit them into a reasoned theory. "If we pay heed only to external relations," it has recently been said, "we treat events as we treat material things like counters or pieces of wood. They lose their internal validity."¹ The two passages reveal the transition from such a perception of external relations to an interest in what men have done as thinking beings. Between the one and the other, Turner has become master of the idea of which these items are the external evidence, and the passage, from being an accumulation of notes, has become history. Upon the same level as this careful treatment of the text are Mr. Fulmer Mood's biographical note and the very full and accurate bibliography of Turner's writings. To the latter is added a list of references on the life and work of Turner. The format of the book is worthy of its contents, although the very pleasant binding may prove not to be very serviceable.

The most notable contribution made by the volume is the republication of the essay on "Problems of American History" from *Ægis*, a Wisconsin undergraduate publication, where it has been beyond the reach of most readers. The essay is a striking advance upon that on "The Significance of History," and in it are the germs of the essay upon the "Frontier," which followed it a few months later, and some of its most striking phrases (compare, for example, pages 72 and 187, 73 and 186, 83 and 229). The two papers together make it abundantly clear that Turner drew his strength from the two sources which have been of prime importance in modern American historiography, Germany and the Middle West. The channels of German influence were his Wisconsin professor, W. F. Allen, trained in Germany in the middle fifties, and H. B. Adams' seminar at Johns Hopkins; and however discontented Turner may have been with the

¹ F. M. Powicke, *History, Freedom and Religion* (*Riddell Memorial Lectures*, tenth series, 1938).

restricted view of the proper field of historical study which prevailed at Johns Hopkins, it is clear that it is to the traditions of the German seminar that he owed, in a very large measure, not only a technical competence in the use of his tools in whatever field he might choose to labor, but also his philosophical habit of thought. The contribution of the Middle West was an open mind, a fresh outlook, and the rich collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Of the frontier thesis, now that almost half a century has passed since it was formulated, it must suffice to note that the acceptance of its major premise that the true point of view was not the Atlantic coast but the West, has wrought a revolution in the interpretation of American history which has been the outstanding achievement of recent American historiography; but that, of the two principal subordinate theses, the one has been incompletely investigated, and the other perhaps overdriven. That the Atlantic coast and the Old World itself were profoundly affected by what occurred in the West is a generalization which wins very ready acceptance but, in respect to the Old World at least, still awaits detailed examination. That in the continual contact on the frontier with the simplicities of primitive society and in the pressure of environment, the freedom from European influence, and the mingling of populations are to be sought the origins of those traits and institutions which are peculiarly American, is a generalization which doubtless needs some revision. Intellectual progress did not cease in the East; the traffic in ideas was not all one way; and men perhaps brought with them to the West more deeply ingrained habits of thought and behavior than Turner was inclined to allow. On the other hand, while the vigorous virtues of the frontier are not to be denied, they are not the whole of the story. No traveler in the Mississippi Valley and the Far West can fail to be impressed by the colossal labor which has gone to the building of a civilization in the wilderness. But neither can he fail to observe the frenzied robbery of the great storehouse of nature. It is perhaps time that that aspect of the story was looked at more closely. Turner only glanced at it. Possibly the Middle Border, and the Southwest, and the mountain states will afford a point of view a little different from that of the old Northwest.

H. HALE BELLOT

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
LONDON, ENGLAND

The Marcus W. Jernegan Essays in American Historiography. By his former students at the University of Chicago. Edited by WILLIAM T. HUTCHINSON. (Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, 1937. x, 417 p. Portrait. \$4.00.)

In this volume of twenty-one chapters, each bearing the name of a historian for its title, the authors have achieved objectivity, brevity, and literary quality, sometimes bordering on excellence. It is not for this reviewer to pick a quarrel with the editor for his choice of subjects; he accepts the volume as it is and judges it accordingly. Most of the essayists are relatively young men who have yet to achieve distinction. Obviously much of what they have written about eminent historians is based on what others have said about them in reviews, in correspondence, and through less formal channels. The essays conform to much the same patterns, with slight variation. There is something about the historian's ancestry, which precedes a thumbnail sketch of his career, academic or otherwise. The reasons that dictated his choice of subjects and the influences that molded or shaped his approach or philosophy are followed by a discussion of his methods, his workmanship, his merits and demerits, and his *tendenz*. Every page is supported by generous citations to authorities or sources of information.

Some of the essays, like Commager's on Henry Adams, challenge unusual attention because of exceptionally skillful execution; others, like Craven's on Frederick Jackson Turner, because of intimate touches and effective, if kindly, treatment of critics who understood neither the personality nor the interpretation of the man "who wrote less and influenced his generation more than any other important historian." Fahrney's appraisal of Channing, in spite of judicious and penetrating observations, leaves the impression that the author falls short of understanding the historian who was incapable of understanding Turner, who for a time was his colleague. In the case of Sears, who has written one of the best chapters, the attempt to find the "explanation for the heart and kernel" of Woodrow Wilson's political philosophy and "his firm adherence to the right of self-determination," brings him back to Wilson's youth in postwar Georgia, "where the devastation of the Civil War led him to an obvious conclusion." The lesson that was echoed at Versailles, according to Sears, was that if the South had enjoyed the self-determination it so

ardently desired, the waste and horror of war need never have occurred.

A characteristic common to authors who have occasion to refer to slavery is the disposition to criticise Hildreth, von Holst, Rhodes, and Roosevelt for their anti-southern bias, which means that they condemned the institution of slavery. One is tempted to conclude from these and other writers that an objective historian is one who is "amoral" and chary of praising Garrison, Wendell Phillips, Parker Pillsbury, the Grimké sisters, and even Lincoln because they believed slavery to be wrong. Perhaps the historian who writes in the twenty-first century, in order to prove his objectivity, will refrain from passing judgment on a system of which Jay Gould, Daniel Drew, John D. Rockefeller, and George M. Pullman were instruments because there were thousands of their contemporaries who treated their employees with benevolence and kindness.

However, it is just as easy for a reviewer to be unjustly critical of men who executed a difficult assignment as it was for them to fall from grace a time or two. The workmanship of editor, authors, and publisher is refreshing. Only the index is below par.

GEORGE M. STEPHENSON

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

American Sketchbook. Collected by TREMAINE McDOWELL, WINFIELD H. ROGERS, JOHN T. FLANAGAN, HAROLD A. BLAINE. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1938. xvi, 706 p. Illustrations. \$2.00.)

One of the curiosities of higher education in America is its indifference to matters American. It is hardly expected of the graduate of our universities that he know the land he lives in or the ideas that formed it. Any textbook, therefore, which presents American life to the freshman student is to be received with thanks, but one so fresh, so vivid, so varied as *American Sketchbook* is doubly welcome.

The title aptly describes this extensive collection of sketches in prose and verse, in story and essay, in fact and fiction. More than a hundred and fifty profiles, portraits, incidents, and episodes accumulate for the reader the characters and scenes which he needs to build an adequate impression of life in New England, the mid-Atlantic states, the South, the Middle West, and the Far West. A hundred

nineteenth- and twentieth-century American writers are drawn upon for these illuminations of our nation.

For readers in the Mississippi Valley the most interesting parts of this volume will be the fourth and fifth sections and possibly these will also prove the most valuable in presenting to the college student an unfamiliar but important two-thirds of his country. Here are the Indian, the squatter, the homesteader, Paul Bunyan, Abraham Lincoln, Colonel Sellers, threshing, meat packing, lumbering, cowboys, gold seekers, fur traders, the Great Plains, the great river, the mountains, the village school, the city newspaper, and the pony express. Rölvaag, Irving, Dobie, Parkman, Cooper, Artemus Ward, Edward Eggleston, William Joseph Snelling, Dreiser, Owen Wister, Neihardt, E. W. Howe, John Hay are but a few on the roll of artists whose sketches make the great West alive before us.

American Sketchbook, then, will inform the student of the life and character of his people. It will not, however, make clear to him the current of American ideas nor the quality of American thought. The essay or two which close each geographical division of the book are not sufficient to synthesize the materials of the section. The editors apparently have recognized this weakness, for they round out their volume with a group of "American Attitudes." These are disappointingly brief. It is only in the last seven essays that the student is provided with the kind of stimulation he needs if he is to think.

Nevertheless, *American Sketchbook* is an excellent piece of work. It is thorough and widely representative; it is forceful and clear. In the best sense it is American and it will ably introduce many a college student to men and matters he ought to be acquainted with but isn't.

JOHN FRANCIS McDERMOTT

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Teaching the Social Studies: Theory and Practice. By EDGAR BRUCE WESLEY, head of social studies, University High School, associate professor of education, University of Minnesota. (New York, D. C. Heath and Company, 1937. xvii, 635 p. \$2.80.)
A Regional Program for the Social Studies. By A. C. KREY. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1938. xiii, 140 p. \$1.25.)

Probably three of the most essential ideas that have permeated education and have led to improved teaching in social studies are that

meanings depend on experiences; that the ideas conveyed by words differ according to the experiences of the reader or listener who brings his own meanings to words; and that only so far as the child identifies himself with the problem does it vitally affect his attitude and understanding.

That peer of teachers, Henry Johnson, formerly of Columbia University, opened a recent discussion of principles for curriculum building with, "Relate the instruction to the child's experience; and if he has not had the essential experience, provide him with material which recounts such experience." His valuable advice is ably championed by Dr. Krey, the leader in social studies teaching who acted as chairman of the commission on the social studies. In his carefully written *Regional Program in Social Studies*, weighty in value far beyond its unpretentious appearance, he states, "Social concepts can have little or no meaning to pupils until they have experienced the situation from which the words have been derived or to which they may be applied" (p. 37). He finds that "The value in transmitting information is, therefore, directly dependent on the extent to which speaker and listener have had the same or similar experiences and understand in common the terms used in referring to those experiences" (p. 35). Where would the child secure these experiences? How would reality be created?

Dr. Krey proposes that the community with its resources for experiences be used as the initial approach or the "springboard" from which the child reaches out from reality into more reality. For in present society, "The community is discovered to be not an entity in itself, but one in which every important activity is subject to influences from every part of the world and from the full sweep of time. The community is the point of contact between the individual and this whole social web" (p. 33).

Dr. Wesley confirms this view too in his *Teaching the Social Studies*. "The pupil who fails to identify the local counterpart of what he studies in a book is failing to utilize the most promising material," he writes (p. 442). "The local community furnishes instances of every fundamental process. The problem for the teacher and the pupil is to identify and understand the local manifestations of these processes. Since the local community furnishes these fundamental instances, it behooves the school to discover and utilize them." Dr. Wesley presents several examples of community survey plans that

should be suggestive of the first steps in discovering the possible contacts. Dr. Krey would have such surveys put more emphasis on the "wider relationships" of this community to the past and to all parts of the world. In his opinion, "The community should therefore *always* be studied, not merely at one time" (p. 35).

But further than this, the two writers realize the need of the child to identify himself with these problems, to feel a concern that comes from sensing the relationship of himself and his community to the whole social web. "In Minnesota, the chief local activities—industries related to dairying and grain products—may be linked to a wider knowledge by outlining their development and organization in other civilizations and at successive periods in the history of this state," according to Dr. Krey (p. 76).

Teachers who would attempt to utilize the valuable guidance of these two excellent books will find in them a challenge to be well informed in the richness of local and state development and its relation to national and world development, in order to see possibilities of richer building, of richer contacts, of more realism in the guiding of pupil experiences. How essential this will be for teachers is obvious under the new regional planning which proposes to leave the adaptation in curriculum building to the teachers. In Dr. Krey's words, "The social studies acquire life and meaning and yield real value to the pupil only insofar as the teacher consistently endeavors to weave together the *here* and *now* with the *there* and *then* and to show the connection existing between the remote in space and time and the immediate both in the community and the pupil's own life" (p. 56).

ELLA HAWKINSON

STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

There Were Four of Us, or, Was It Five. By THOMAS D. O'BRIEN. ([St. Paul, 1938.] 105 p. Illustration. \$1.00.)

We turn the last of these few pages wistfully; Judge O'Brien could have told us so much more that we should like to know. He was one of a family whose collective experience witnessed the full span of Minnesota's development from youth to maturity and touched upon the process at several points. Dillon O'Brien, the father, came to America from County Galway among the Irish immigrants of the middle years of the nineteenth century. A succession of steps west-

ward brought him to Minnesota by the early sixties, and here he wrote and lectured and organized as an active crusader for temperance and for Irish colonization. He was right-hand man to Archbishop Ireland in both of those causes. His four sons became prominent men of affairs in St. Paul, the three oldest, John, Christopher, and Thomas, as lawyers, and the youngest, Harry, as a distinguished surgeon and a teacher in the university school of medicine. Christopher and Thomas were also politically minded. The former served Ramsey County as attorney for four years and St. Paul as mayor for two. The latter, Judge O'Brien, as a leader in the Democratic party at a time when that party managed to interrupt the Republican control of the executive office, came into close contact with some of the men and matters that have reached the pages of Minnesota history. He walked and talked with men like John Lind and John A. Johnson, and often advised with them on matters of policy. He directed the defense of the state officials through the long maze of the celebrated Minnesota rate cases; he served on the national Democratic committee; he held public office as city attorney, county attorney, state insurance commissioner, and justice of the state supreme court. His memories should have been a mine for historians. Yet little of substance from this experience appears in these pages; the men, yes, a procession of them in amusing incident and personal foible—the social and political stage on which they moved and the larger roles they played, no.

But it would not be fair to judge this book by what we wish it were. Judge O'Brien never intended it to be the "record of the life of a family, a city, and a state" that the "Foreword" grandiloquently calls it; he more modestly and more accurately described it as a "record of the activities, interests, and friendships in my life." And as such it is full of humor and of charm. There are pleasant pictures of boyhood days on a Meeker County farm, and of long vacation hours passed in hunting and fishing, when the river setting or the sight of bronze and white sandhill cranes in stately dance on the prairie made the bagging of game almost immaterial to the success of the excursion. There are glimpses of a bygone St. Paul: the gambling saloons of the late frontier days, when keepers of such resorts were fined regularly once a month, in lieu of a license system; the early regattas, picnic trips, and formal balls of the Minnesota Boat Club; the amateur performances by the St. Paul Dramatic Club "in the old Atheneum on Exchange Street"; the drills, parades, and com-

munity gatherings in old Bridge Square; the first ice palaces and carnivals, to which certain influential citizens objected because they "felt that an ice carnival unduly emphasized our winter climate." There are stories too, like that of the Democratic state convention at Duluth in 1904, when radical and conservative factions battled for control so tumultuously that men shouted themselves permanently hoarse and a former governor's secretary engaged in fisticuffs with the police who had been called to quell the disturbance.

But most frequent of all are the candid camera shots of a host of the lawyers, jurists, and politicians whom Judge O'Brien knew: Judge Brill turning evidence into decisions like a sausage machine; Pierce Butler presenting his first case in court; Ignatius Donnelly, when O'Brien tried to make peace among the Populists to strengthen their support of Bryan, banging his fist on the desk and shouting "If Owen doesn't move to expel me, I'll move to expel him"; Cushman K. Davis as a trial lawyer, impatient and sarcastic and given to classical allusions in addressing the jury; John Lind cuffing the ears of a St. Paul editor who persistently maligned him; and many, many others. It is clear that when Judge O'Brien composed and dictated these memoirs during the last two months of his life, the things remembered were happy times and friendly associations—and the good stories that always brought a chuckle.

Unfortunately the format of the volume adds nothing to the reader's pleasure. The bookmaker seems to have had no further concern than to get the words onto pages and the pages between covers. Some of the typographical errors, at least, are inexcusable.

HELEN B. CLAPESATTLE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

"History of the Minnesota Supreme Court." By RUSSELL O. GUNDERSON, clerk of supreme court. (Hectographed. 23 sections.)

There is a great field to be exploited in the history of the American judiciary and American court practices. In this study, a step has been taken in the exploitation of the Minnesota phase of that subject. Interspersed between amusing anecdotes, Mr. Gunderson has presented a mass of solid information about the history of Minnesota's highest court, the arbiters in that court, and the people whose

interests have been the subject of court action. The story begins with the earliest attempts to administer justice in Minnesota and is carried to the end of 1936.

The reader probably will gather several broad impressions from this study. One of them will be that of the high caliber of the men who have represented Minnesota on the supreme court bench; another will be that of the heavy burden of labor that has fallen on the shoulders of the justices; and a third, that of the wide variety in the subject matter of the cases which have been brought to the court's attention. The first case on record to be heard by the Minnesota supreme court, for example, was one involving a stray cow and the right of its finder to receive compensation for its upkeep until the owner claimed it. The range of subjects includes the case of Mrs. Bilanski, the first woman hanged in Minnesota, cases arising from the ill-fated gold rush to the Vermilion Lake region in the sixties, and, in our own times, one testing the validity of a mortgage moratorium law. From the organization of the court in 1849 to January 1, 1937, an astounding total of more than thirty-one thousand opinions has been handed down.

ARTHUR J. LARSEN

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL

Moccasins in the Wilderness. By ELIZABETH HAWTHORN BUCK.
(Philadelphia, The Penn Publishing Company, 1938. 238 p.
Illustrations. \$1.50.)

The plot of this novel for young people is laid on the frontier during the American Revolution. Though the scene is mostly western Pennsylvania and the upper Ohio Valley, the book has a slight Minnesota interest because of one character, Brown Bird, a captive Chippewa lad among the Wyandots, who at the end decides to return to his own people near Grand Portage. There is a hint by the author, the wife of the former superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, that Brown Bird will shortly be encountered in a sequel to this book. Since Dr. and Mrs. Buck have spent portions of many summers at Grand Portage and know its history thoroughly, it is pleasant news to find that the well-drawn characters of *Moccasins in the Wilderness* may soon reappear in a Minnesota setting.

The chief white characters of the story are, appropriately for a

Pennsylvania frontier, a Scotch-Irish family. With the departure of the father for military duty in the war and the capture of the mother and the youngest child by the Wyandots, the stage is cleared early in the book for the main action to be performed by a girl in her teens and her younger brother. Through their eyes a youthful reader can see a log home on the frontier, become acquainted with household duties and customs, watch Indian raids and warfare, and even get a glimpse of wilderness ways. A Canadian voyageur, who befriends the children, is not quite so convincing, especially in his language and customs, as the rather stiff Scotch-Irish with their tart ways and speech.

G. L. N.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

MR. LEROY G. DAVIS ("Frontier Home Remedies and Sanitation") is well known to the readers of this magazine as the author of descriptions of pioneer conditions based largely upon his own experience and memory. His home is at Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. Miss Gertrude W. Ackermann ("George Northrup, Frontier Scout") is the assistant curator of manuscripts on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society. Her article is one of several frontier studies that she has made. In the September, 1931, issue of this magazine she published an interesting essay on "Joseph Renville of Lac qui Parle." Dr. Grace Lee Nute ("Father Hennepin's Later Years"), curator of manuscripts for the Minnesota Historical Society, found and used most of the materials upon which this article is based while in Paris and London last summer. She is the author of the historical introduction to the newly published translation of Hennepin's *Description of Louisiana* issued by the University of Minnesota Press. Dr. John T. Flanagan ("Bayard Taylor's Minnesota Visits"), assistant professor of English in the University of Minnesota, is one of the four scholars responsible for the *American Sketchbook*, reviewed *ante*, p. 436. Miss Bertha L. Heilbron ("Seth Eastman's Water Colors") is the assistant editor of this magazine. She has interested herself in artists who have recorded Minnesota scenes. Among her publications is the volume entitled *With Pen and Pencil on the Frontier in 1851*, in which the diary and sketches of Frank B. Mayer are presented. Miss Lois M. Fawcett ("Minnesota's Western Boundary") is the reference librarian of the Minnesota Historical Society. She contributed an article on "Some Early Minnesota Bells" to the December, 1937, issue of this magazine. The reviewers include Professor August C. Krey of the University of Minnesota, a national leader in the field of the teaching of the social studies; Mr. Edward C. Gale, president of the Minnesota Historical Society; Mr. H. Hale Bellot, professor of American history in the University of London; Dr. George M. Stephenson of the University of Minnesota, the author of a new history of the United States since the Civil War; Dr. John

Francis McDermott of the department of English in Washington University, St. Louis; Miss Helen B. Clapesattle, assistant editor on the staff of the University of Minnesota Press; Miss Ella Hawkinson, principal and supervisor of the college high school at the Moorhead State Teachers College; and Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, head of the society's newspaper department.

The ninetieth annual meeting of the society will be held in St. Paul on Monday, January 16, with a local history conference in the morning, a luncheon program, an afternoon session, and the annual address in the evening. An interesting program is being planned and it is hoped that there will be a large attendance.

The curator of manuscripts was in Europe from May to August, searching for Minnesota materials in archives and special collections in several countries. In Sweden she collected information on the backgrounds of the Lindbergh family; in Edinburgh she examined, in the papers of Lord Strathcona, several volumes of Northwest Company records and made arrangements for photographing the material relating to early Minnesota; and in London she found and copied a number of valuable items in the archives of the Hudson's Bay Company. On her way home she stopped at West Point to photograph in colors eighteen original water colors, chiefly of Minnesota scenes, by the pioneer artist Peter Rindisbacher.

Mr. LeRoy G. Davis' article on "Some Frontier Words and Phrases," which appeared in the September issue of this magazine, has been the subject of some interesting comment on the part of its readers. Dr. Louise Phelps Kellogg remarks in a letter to the editors that the "article is unique and gave me a great deal of pleasure. My ancestry was New England and Wisconsin frontier," she continues, "and most of the expressions were perfectly familiar to me." Upon checking them over, Miss Kellogg found that she knew "at least five-sixths of the expressions." An even larger proportion were familiar to Mr. Fred Landon, librarian of the University of Western Ontario at London, Canada. "I have read with great interest your article in MINNESOTA HISTORY on frontier words and phrases because ninety per cent. of them I have heard in this western part of Ontario," he writes in a communication to the author. "There has always been a large American element in this section and I suppose that these

words and phrases came into use here just as they were carried to Minnesota," he comments. "My own parents and relatives used just such words and phrases in ordinary conversation in the 1880's and 1890's and there are plenty of them still in use here. The other evening some friends were in who had been raised in this province and I read the article to them. They recognized the large majority at once." Mr. Landon recalls that he "had an old uncle who when he wished to emphasize a statement would say 'By General Jackson,'" and he remarks that "No doubt that would be heard in Minnesota also."

Miss Lois M. Fawcett, the society's reference librarian, contributes an account of "Lay Leaders in Minnesota Education" to the September issue of the *Minnesota Journal of Education*. The contributions of Martin McLeod, Edward D. Neill, Alexander Ramsey, John W. North, Henry H. Sibley, John S. Pillsbury, and John D. Ford are among those mentioned. A portrait of McLeod appears with the article.

The superintendent's address on "The Community and the Pioneer Tradition," presented at International Falls on June 9 before the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the League of Minnesota Municipalities, appears in the August issue of the league's monthly magazine, *Minnesota Municipalities*. Dr. Blegen contributed an article on "Minnesota and the Northwest" to a special edition of the *Minnesota Legionnaire*, issued on August 10 in connection with Minnesota's participation in the Northwest Territory celebration.

A total of 421 readers used the resources of the society's manuscript division during the quarter ending on October 1. Included were Mrs. Bess Wilson of the *Minneapolis Journal*, Mr. Everett M. Dick of Union College, Lincoln, Nebraska, Miss Helen W. Wheeler of the United States department of agriculture, and Miss Ingrid Gaustad of Oslo, Norway.

During the months of July, August, and September, seventy-three more readers used the society's newspaper collections than were recorded for the entire year 1928. The total number of readers for the summer quarter of the present year is 964, a figure that surpasses that of the same period in 1937 by 162.

One sustaining member, Mrs. Nora S. Smith of Minneapolis, and the following nine annual members joined the society between July 1 and September 30: LeRoy V. Alwin of Mound, Duncan H. Baird of St. Paul, Mrs. Clara S. Broms of St. Paul, Dr. Lawrence H. Cady of Minneapolis, C. A. Fosness of Montevideo, Frederick N. Hegg of Minneapolis, Oscar R. Knutson of Warren, Dr. R. Theodore Muller of St. Paul, and Ruth Nordquist of Minneapolis. A recent subscriber to the publications of the society is the St. Peter Public Library.

The society lost four active members by death during the past quarter: Henry McColl of St. Paul, July 29; Theophilus L. Haecker of St. Paul, August 12; Dr. Lotus D. Coffman of Minneapolis, September 22; and Otto E. Albrecht of St. Paul, September 28.

The superintendent spoke on "Immigration and the Westward Movement in Ballad and Song" at a University of Minnesota convocation on July 14; and he gave a radio talk on the "Northwest Ordinance and Minnesota" over station KSTP on July 27. Mr. Babcock addressed a meeting of the Thunder Bay Historical Society at Port Arthur, Canada, on the "Romance of the Fur Trade" on August 26; he spoke on the same subject at a meeting of the Cook County Historical Society at Grand Marais on September 30; and he reviewed the history of the "Grand Portage Stockade" before members of the CCC camp at Grand Portage on September 6.

ACCESSIONS

A valuable addition to the society's collection of materials relating to the expedition under Major Stephen H. Long which explored the Minnesota and Red river valleys in 1823 is a copy of a diary kept by the astronomer and assistant topographer of the party, James E. Colhoun. The original, in the possession of Mrs. John Galligan of Lanesboro, has been copied on film slides. Colhoun presents some interesting comments on Fort St. Anthony, now Fort Snelling, where members of the Long expedition stopped early in July. They found a "garrison consisting of about 200 men . . . under the command of Col. Snelling" at this "remotest Northwest military post." "Its site is perfectly healthy," writes Colhoun, "the fertility of the sur-

rounding country, the beauty of its prospect & its commanding & interesting location render this, by far the most desirable, as a residence, of all the Outposts I have seen." After visiting the Falls of St. Anthony, Minnehaha Falls, and some of the lakes in the vicinity of the fort, Colhoun concluded that "Few places are superior to Fort St. Anthony in having, in their neighborhood, a greater variety and number of interesting natural objects, inviting to little excursions over fine plains."

A book of orders issued at old Fort Snelling from January 1 to May 30, 1826, by Colonel Josiah Snelling and in 1828 by his successor as commandant, Major J. H. Vose, has been copied by the photostatic process from the original in the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library through the courtesy of Dr. M. M. Quaife. Many of Snelling's orders relate to cases of court martial. When a soldier was found guilty of misconduct, the penalty often was the cutting off of his whisky ration for thirty days. The need for a good supply of vegetables caused the colonel to issue the following order in the spring of 1826: "All parades and Military duties, guard Mounting excepted, will be suspended, and every man not on detail, will be employed in gardening." The record also contains material relating to the establishment of a post library, which was planned by a council of administration made up of officers. A photostatic copy has been made also of a diary and account book kept by Colonel Snelling in 1827, the original of which is owned by Mrs. William Ritchie of Omaha. Many of the entries relate to Indian affairs and to the colonel's property and personal belongings at Fort Snelling. An article based upon this diary appeared in MINNESOTA HISTORY last year (see *ante*, 18:399-406).

A manuscript Sioux-English dictionary compiled by the Reverend John F. Aiton, a missionary who went to Red Wing's village in 1848, is the gift of Mr. L. A. Rossman of Grand Rapids. He has presented also a copy of an *English and Dakota Vocabulary* by Mrs. Mary Ann C. Riggs, published at New York by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in 1852. The latter was reprinted from the *Grammar and Dictionary of the Dakota Language* which was edited by Stephen R. Riggs and issued by the Smithsonian Institution in the same year.

A diary kept from 1852 to 1877 by Samuel C. Gale, who settled in Minneapolis in 1857, has been photographed for the society through the courtesy of his son, Mr. Edward C. Gale of Minneapolis, who owns the original. Some of the earlier entries were made while the author was a student at Yale University; later entries record events of local interest in frontier Minneapolis and reflect the writer's views of state and national politics.

Nineteen items from the papers of John Nicols, who settled in St. Paul in 1851 and became a state senator and a regent of the University of Minnesota, have been presented by his granddaughter, Mrs. Leisa G. Bronson of Claremont, California. One letter in the collection, written by Philip Ross at St. Paul on September 22, 1854, includes an account of the recent land sale at Stillwater and describes the efforts of members of the Military Reserve Claim Association to safeguard the rights of its members. "It was the wildest scene I ever witnessed," writes Ross.

A wealth of material relating to members of the Hutchinson family, their musical activities, and the Minnesota town that they established in 1855 has been received from Mrs. Lyman E. Wakefield of Minneapolis, a daughter of Abby Hutchinson. Included are the original constitution drawn up and signed by members of the company that laid out the townsite of Hutchinson, certificates of shares in the townsite, correspondence and legal documents relating to the sale or transfer of shares and lots, and letters written by John W. and Asa B. Hutchinson. Mrs. Wakefield has loaned for photographing a number of programs and advertisements of concerts given by members of the Hutchinson family, two volumes of songs composed or sung by them, several family pictures, and a diary kept in 1865 by Abby Hutchinson while on a concert tour in the East. A photographic copy has been obtained also of a diary kept in 1844 by Asa B. Hutchinson, now in the possession of his great granddaughter, Miss Mary Anderson of St. Paul.

A journey from Indiana to Minnesota in 1855 is described by Calvin R. Fix in his reminiscences, which have been photographed for the society through the courtesy of Mrs. Benjamin Sandy of Minneapolis. Information is included also on the author's ancestry, pioneer life in Scott County, his experiences as a member of the

Fourth and Eleventh Minnesota regiments in the Civil War, the Vermilion Lake gold rush of 1865, and other subjects.

Eight items from the papers of Charles Vanderburgh, a pioneer Minneapolis lawyer, have been photographed through the courtesy of Miss Anne G. Faries of Minneapolis. In one letter, written on April 28, 1856, he revealed that Minneapolis was "building up very rapidly. Four years ago not a habitation existed on its site."

"Some Reminiscences of My Childhood Days among the Indians in Minnesota, 1856-1862" recorded by Mrs. Sarah Purnell Montgomery of Minneapolis have been photographed for the society from the original in her possession. Her father, Edmund Purnell, emigrated with his family from Wisconsin to Minnesota in 1856, settling at South Bend.

Nine items from the papers of Joseph Fortier, a member of the Renville Rangers during the Sioux Outbreak and owner of a store at the Yellow Medicine agency, have been presented by his daughter, Mrs. Henry A. Walker of Chicago, Illinois. Included are articles by Fortier on the causes of the outbreak and on the activities of Gabriel Renville in organizing the rangers, and an account book covering the period from 1863 to 1897 and giving the amount of hides and furs bought and sold by Fortier from 1878 to 1882. The earlier entries in the account book are written in French. Mrs. Walker also has presented a crayon portrait of Fortier and pictures of his store.

The activities of the Irish Emigrant Aid and Land Colonization Society, organized in New Jersey in 1870 through the efforts of Dillon O'Brien of St. Paul, the Graceville colony in Minnesota, and St. Patrick's Day celebrations at St. Paul and Austin are among the subjects of articles published in the seventies in the *Pilot*, a Catholic newspaper issued in Boston, recently copied for the society from a file in the Boston Public Library. From the *Advance* for the same period, items relating to the Red Lake and White Earth Indian reservations and to the route of the Northern Pacific Railroad have been copied. Comments on the treaty of Traverse des Sioux, George Copway, and Jane Grey Swisshelm have been copied from the *New York Tribune* for the fifties.

Registers kept at the Lakeside Hotel of Frontenac in 1871 and 1872 and from 1887 to 1893, when the Mississippi River town was a popular summer resort, have been received from the estate of Miss Celestine Schaller through the courtesy of Mrs. Thomas Quinby of Minneapolis.

A scrapbook of letters written to Hiram W. Slack, a teacher and principal in St. Paul schools between 1876 and 1908, is the gift of his daughter, Miss Marie L. Slack of Providence, Rhode Island. Among his correspondents were Newton H. Winchell, Cyrus Northrop, Frederick C. Stevens, and Ralston J. Markoe. Included are letters of recommendation from St. Paul teachers and principals, and data on the teachers' training school conducted at Lindstrom in 1895, on the summer camp for boys operated by Slack on Lake Pokegama in 1902, and on the St. Croix Collegiate and Military Academy at Hudson, Wisconsin, of which Slack was principal before going to St. Paul. Miss Slack also has presented a vest, tie, gloves, and slippers worn in 1876, and items of children's clothing dating from 1830 and 1880.

Information on the building of the first railroad from Duluth to the Soudan mine at Tower is to be found in a biographical sketch of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Owens by their daughter, Mrs. Maybelle Owens Strand, that has recently been photographed for the society. Mr. Owens was at one time an assayer of ores at Soudan, and he now resides at Two Harbors.

Fourteen certificates and other papers kept by Dr. Carl J. Holman, one of the founders of the Mankato Clinic, have been presented by his widow, Dr. Madge T. Holman of Los Angeles, California. The gift includes Dr. Holman's diploma from Rush Medical College, his licenses to practice medicine in Illinois and Minnesota, certificates of appointment as a member of the Minnesota state board of medical examiners, his portrait, and a picture of the Surgeon's Club of Rochester in 1909.

Two volumes of minutes of meetings of the Trades and Labor Assembly of St. Paul for the years from 1914 to 1925 have been added to the records of that organization (see *ante*, 17:99) through the courtesy of its secretary, Mr. E. D. McKinnon.

Mrs. Carl Moe of Oxboro Heath has presented two volumes of minutes of meetings held from 1920 to 1924 by the Community League of Oxboro Heath, a women's organization which undertook to finance a Sunday school, establish a community church, and promote civic enterprises. It disbanded in 1926 after a community church had been built.

Nine filing boxes of the papers of the late Edwin H. Brown, a Minneapolis architect who was a member of the building code committee of the department of commerce from 1921 to 1930 and who participated in the president's conference on unemployment in 1921-22, have been presented by his widow, a resident of Minneapolis. Included are minutes of meetings of the building code committee; reports on minimum requirements for small dwellings, for masonry wall construction, for fire resistance in buildings, and for building codes; reports on plumbing and on stresses in timber, steel, and concrete; and mimeographed reports on unemployment in various industries.

Three boxes of papers of the Thirteenth Minnesota Regimental Association, including material relating to a Minnesota law of 1931 granting a bonus to Spanish-American War veterans, correspondence relating to reunions, and treasurers' accounts for the years from 1923 to 1932, have been received from the association through its secretary, Mr. L. P. Burlingham of Minneapolis.

A copy of a doctoral dissertation by Frank Heck entitled "The Civil War Veteran in Minnesota Politics" has been presented by the department of history of the University of Minnesota. Copies of two master's theses, "History of the Early Development of Owatonna, 1854-1901" by Andrew F. Jensen, and "The Winnebago Indians, 1634-1863" by Joseph T. Estabrook, are gifts of the same department. "Adult Education in Churches" is the title of a master's thesis by Miss Edith L. Guyor that has been presented by the author.

The history of Gooseberry Falls State Park is reviewed in a paper read by Mr. Edwin S. Cay at the tenth annual North Shore Historical Assembly on July 29, a copy of which has been presented by the Lake County Historical Society. A letter written on July 5,

1938, to Mr. Cay by Mr. Henry S. Butler of Superior, Wisconsin, giving information on the acquisition of property for the park, has been copied for the society through the courtesy of the latter's sister, Miss Anna B. Butler of Superior.

A copy of *Blanchard's Map of Minnesota and Dakota Showing the Counties, Towns and Rail Roads*, which was published at Chicago in 1867, has been presented by Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh.

Among recent additions to the toy collection are a fully dressed baby doll of 1905, from Miss Marie C. Stanek of St. Paul; an iron doll bed with bedding, dating from 1868, from Mrs. James H. Skinner of St. Paul; a set of toy furniture and a doll's parasol of the middle seventies, from Miss Frances Firkins of Minneapolis; and a savings bank in the form of a skyscraper, from Dr. James C. Ferguson of St. Paul. Mrs. Skinner also has presented a gentleman's wedding vest of 1858 and a calico wrapper of the sixties, and Miss Firkins an evening dress of pink brocaded silk, slippers, and a fan, dating from 1896.

A silver card case dated 1860, a tortoise shell case of 1827, a carved ivory one of 1800, and a masonic apron which belonged to the donor's grandfather in 1800 are the gifts of Mrs. F. W. Van Slyke of St. Paul.

A military cape and cap, a sword, a saddle and bridle, an army blanket, a mess kit, and numerous articles of gentlemen's clothing that belonged to the late Captain William B. Folwell have been presented by Miss Mary H. Folwell of Minneapolis. Other additions to the costume collection include a gentleman's dress suit of 1903, from Mrs. Bernard Blum of St. Paul; a blue taffeta wedding dress of 1876, from the Fort Snelling chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; a red velvet dress with a matching bonnet worn in 1887, from the estate of the late Mrs. Josiah Thompson of Minneapolis; a white organdy dress and several pieces of lingerie, from a trousseau of 1903, from Mrs. Lewis L. Metzger of St. Paul; suits of black velvet and silk, a white organdy dress of 1905, a beaded cape of the eighties, and a silk parasol of 1890, from Mrs. Albert W. Lindeke of St. Paul; a large muff and a fan, from Mr. Paul E. Davenport of Minneapolis; and a red woolen shawl, a black lace

fichu, a scarf, and a handkerchief with a gold chain used in carrying it in 1850, from Mrs. H. W. Kingston of St. Paul.

An oil portrait of Charles Hoag, a Minneapolis pioneer of 1852 who suggested the name for the future city, is the gift of Mrs. C. A. Olson of Minneapolis. Mrs. Harrison McKusick of Stillwater has presented portraits of two early St. Croix Valley lumbermen, Jonathan E. and William McKusick. Other additions to the picture collection include views of Melrose, from Mr. Everett E. Clark of Sleepy Eye; a picture of a log cabin at Climax, from Mr. Louis W. Hill, Jr., of St. Paul; a picture of a *kubberulle*, from Mr. E. T. Barnard of Fergus Falls; a number of logging views made between 1897 and 1900, from Mr. H. J. Cundy of Wenatchee, Washington; and portraits of members of the Minnesota legislature of 1907, from Mr. L. H. Johnson of Minneapolis.

NEWS AND COMMENT

"ONE HUNDRED sample entries" are included in a *Guide to Depositories of Manuscript Collections in the United States*, prepared and issued in mimeographed form by the Historical Records Survey (Columbus, Ohio, 1938. 134 p.). In the preface, Luther H. Evans, national director of the survey, explains that the "depositories selected for this sample edition have been chosen to show the scope of our work and to represent every state." Minnesota is represented by its state historical society and by one of the half-hundred local historical societies—that of Otter Tail County at Fergus Falls—now organized in the state. For each depository, information is given about its history and purpose, with a description of the building in which it is housed, the nature and extent of its holdings, and facilities available for using and copying manuscripts.

Methods of fumigating, cleaning, flattening, and repairing records are discussed by Arthur E. Kimberly in an article on "Repair and Preservation in the National Archives," which appears in the July number of the *American Archivist*. He tells also how the "operation of the air-conditioning system so as to insure optimum storage conditions" is regulated.

The "Hudson's Bay Company's Activities" in caring for and planning the publication of its archives are discussed by E. E. Rich in the September issue of the *Pacific Historical Review*. The writer estimates that "over 30,000 separate files and volumes" are included in the collection of documents now assembled in London. Of these "nearly 17,000 pieces have been carefully classified, catalogued and arranged. The remaining 13,000 odd pieces have been roughly classed, and the work of making them available for consultation is still continuing." Mr. Rich explains that "the Hudson's Bay Company has vested the rights of publication of its archives in the Hudson's Bay Record Society." In time this organization will doubtless make available in print many priceless sources for Northwest history. It plans to publish first, for example, the journal kept in 1820-21 at Athabaska by George Simpson, with an introduction by Professor Chester Martin of Toronto University. For each of its publications,

writes Mr. Rich, "the Society hopes to secure an Introduction written by a historian who is an acknowledged authority on the topic under discussion, and who will have the full resources of the Company's archives at his disposal."

A section of Professor Edwin H. Ford's valuable *History of Journalism in the United States: A Bibliography of Books and Annotated Articles* (1938. 42 p.) is devoted to books and articles about journalism in the West and the South. Here, for example, is listed the volume of Jane Grey Swisshelm's letters published by the Minnesota Historical Society in 1934. A *Bibliography of Literary Journalism in America* also has been prepared by Mr. Ford. Both lists have been published by the offset process.

Accounts of French posts on the upper Mississippi from 1685 to 1760 are presented by Glenn T. Trewartha in an article on "French Settlement in the Driftless Hill Land," which appears in the *Annals* of the Association of American Geographers for September. Included are brief sketches of Trempealeau, Fort St. Antoine, Fort St. Nicolas, a post built by Perrot near the lead mines, Fort Le Sueur on Prairie Island, Fort Beauharnois, Fort Linctot, Fort St. Pierre, French posts on the site of Prairie du Chien, and Fort Marin. The author points out that "the French came as exploiters, not as settlers, and as a result their settlements were temporary and unsubstantial in character." Some interesting maps appear with the article. A review of "Materials Bearing upon the Geography of the Atlantic Seaboard, 1790 to 1810" is contributed to the same issue of the *Annals* by Ralph H. Brown, whose article on "Early Accounts of Minnesota's Climate" appears *ante*, 17:243-261. The writer opens his present discussion with a survey of "Recent Viewpoints in Historical Geography."

In a recent biography of *Horatio Seymour of New York*, Stewart Mitchell analyzes an address delivered by Seymour before a "grand mass meeting of the Democracy" at St. Paul in August, 1859 (Cambridge, 1938). Although his pro-slavery speech was a "public success," the Minnesota election of 1859 resulted in victory for the Republicans. Among the leaders of the latter party who won votes by speaking in the new state in the fall of 1859 were Schuyler Colfax, Francis P. Blair, Jr., and Carl Schurz.

Studies of *Ojibwa Sociology* and of *The Ojibwa Woman* by Ruth Landes have been published as volumes 29 and 31 of the Columbia University *Contributions to Anthropology* (1937, 1938. 144, 247 p.). Both deal with the Chippewa of southwestern Ontario, and both include accounts of practices followed by the Chippewa of northern Minnesota as well as of the Canadian province. The earlier volume includes chapters on the political, kinship, and gens organizations of these people, and on marriage and property; in the later publication chapters are devoted to the youth, marriage, occupations, abnormalities, and life histories of Chippewa women.

The missionary activities among the Indians of the Northwest of Bishop Frederic Baraga are reviewed in an article bearing the title "Father Baraga May Be Beatified," which appears in the *Duluth News Tribune* for August 28. Included are accounts of his work at Arbre Croche, Grand River, La Pointe, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, and other points in northern Michigan and Minnesota. The story of the missionary's arrival at the mouth of Cross River after a stormy voyage on Lake Superior also is retold.

In a discussion of "The Western Frontier of 1860," appearing in the *Aerend*, a publication of the Kansas State Teachers College, for the winter of 1938, Raymond L. Welty gives some attention to Minnesota, most of which at the time was "really outside of the frontier." He points out, however, that the "frontier line of settlement, which divided the regions having a density of two or more persons to the square mile from those of less than two persons," in 1860 struck the southern boundary of the state "near the 94th meridian" and thence "ran north between the 94th and 95th meridians to about the central part of Minnesota, where it turned east running in a generally easterly direction to Lake Michigan." The same author contributes an account of "The Policing of the Frontier by the Army, 1860-1870," to the *Kansas Historical Quarterly* for August. He reveals that "the legislature of Minnesota petitioned congress for the establishment of a military post at Pembina because of the revolution in the Red river valley and the apprehension of incursions by renegade hostile Sioux who had been driven to Canada from Minnesota and the territory of Dakota in 1862 and 1863. Congress appropriated \$50,000 for the construction of a post and by the fall of 1870 it was practically completed." Troops stationed at this post helped to con-

trol an "illicit trade in powder, arms and whisky with the Indians" that reached Minnesota over the Canadian border, according to Mr. Welty.

"The Mississippi River as an Artistic Subject" in both the literary and pictorial fields is discussed by Lucius W. Elder in a volume of *Papers in Illinois History and Transactions for the Year 1937* issued by the Illinois State Historical Society (Springfield, 1938. 241 p.). Descriptions of explorers, narratives of travelers, and a few mediocre verses are noted, but the writer concludes that "verbal description fails to interpret adequately except when employed by the highest art; and persons endowed with the highest art certainly were not prevalent in the western world at large." He points out, however, that nature can "be drawn with the pencil or painted with the brush of the pictorial artist," and that as transportation became simpler, many artists attempted "to visualize, for the public, the glories" of the Mississippi Valley. Specifically mentioned are Bodmer, Lesueur, Banvard, and Lewis, and the lithographs of Currier and Ives. Sixteen Mississippi River views reproduced with the article add greatly to its interest.

An important article on "Buffington and the Skyscraper" by E. M. Upjohn, published in the *Art Bulletin* for 1935, has not previously been commented upon in this magazine. Professor Upjohn drew upon Buffington's unpublished "Memoirs," his papers, and his architectural drawings in the library of the University of Minnesota, as well as upon certain manuscript sources in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. The writer concludes that the "honor of building the first skyscraper" must go to Colonel W. L. B. Jenney, for a building erected in 1883. He shows, however, that in 1882 Leroy S. Buffington of Minneapolis conceived the "revolutionary construction which has made possible the towering structures characteristic of American cities," and that "it was the publicity given to his twenty-eight-story building which was responsible in large part for the spread of the knowledge of this form of construction in the architectural world."

One phase of the career of Thomas Say, the distinguished naturalist who went through Minnesota with the Long expedition of 1823, is discussed by R. E. Banta in an article on "The American Con-

chology: A Venture in Backwoods Book Printing," which appears in the *Colophon* for the winter of 1938. Say was one of the original settlers of the idealistic New Harmony community in Indiana, and there his *Conchology* appeared in parts from 1830 to about 1838. A news release issued by the National Park Service on September 24 has for its subject "Thomas Say, the 'Father of American Descriptive Entomology.'" It mentions Say's connection with the Long expeditions of 1819 and 1823, but states erroneously that the former was "Long's first expedition." The writer evidently overlooked the "canoe voyage" to the mouth of the Minnesota River in 1817.

Our Racial and National Minorities: Their History, Contributions, and Present Problems is the title of a recent volume edited by Francis J. Brown and Joseph S. Roucek (New York, 1937). Sections on Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish Americans, by B. J. Hovde, Roy V. Peel, and A. T. Dorf, have perhaps a greater interest for Minnesotans than other portions of the volume. Mr. Hovde, particularly, gives attention to Minnesota's significance as a center for Scandinavian settlement.

A detailed biographical essay on Senator Knute Nelson is included in a volume of *Portrætter og profiler* by the distinguished Norwegian writer and statesman, C. J. Hambro (Oslo, 1938). Among these "portraits and profiles" also is a notable essay on Colonel Hans C. Heg, the commander of the Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment in the Civil War, based primarily upon the colonel's letters as edited and published in a recent volume by T. C. Blegen.

My Reasonable Service is the title of a little volume in which Deaconess Ingeborg Sponland presents her autobiography (Minneapolis, 1938. 158 p.). In a chapter entitled "Pioneering in the Northwest," she tells of emigrating from Norway in 1891, of joining relatives in Minnesota, of serving from 1891 to 1904 as head of the Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis, and of establishing similar hospitals in smaller communities in Minnesota and North Dakota.

In a survey of "Art and Artists in Baltimore," which appears in the *Maryland Historical Magazine* for September, Latrobe Weston gives some attention to the life and career of Frank B. Mayer. It will be recalled that the western sketches and diary of this Baltimore

artist were published by the Minnesota Historical Society in 1932 in a volume entitled *With Pen and Pencil on the Frontier in 1851*.

Many of the articles that are being published in Iowa to commemorate the centennial of its organization as a territory are significant also as records of Minnesota frontier history, for all the land west of the Mississippi in the more northern state was included in the territory organized in 1838. The overlapping of territorial and historical backgrounds in these states of the Midwest becomes evident, for example, when one reads in the July issue of the *Palimpsest* that "From Lake Itasca to the mouth of the Des Moines River, the Father of Waters flowed almost half its length (1100 miles) along the eastern border" of Iowa Territory. The statement appears in William J. Petersen's survey of "The Geography of Iowa," which is accompanied by an interesting map of the territory. That Lawrence Taliaferro of St. Peter's was a candidate for the office of delegate to Congress from the territory in 1838 is brought out by Jack T. Johnson in an article in the September *Palimpsest* on William W. Chapman, the "Pioneer and Politician" who was elected to the position. Articles on the "Background to the Establishment of the Territory of Iowa" by O. E. Klingaman, and on "Iowa's Struggle for a Territorial Government" by Kenneth E. Colton appear in the *Annals of Iowa* for July. A "Joint Centennial Edition" of the *Decorah Public Opinion* and the *Decorah Journal* was issued in six sections on August 25 to mark the anniversary. Among the scores of special historical articles and community histories in this edition is a detailed review of the "Early History of Winneshiek County" by Sigurd S. Reque, shorter accounts of Spillville, Calmar, and Fort Atkinson, and a description of the Norwegian-American Historical Museum at Decorah. The Iowa highway map of 1938 calls attention to the "statewide territorial centennial," and on its reverse side appear a list of "historic spots" in the state and numerous pictures of sites of interest.

The Reverend M. M. Hoffmann has compiled and edited a *Centennial History of the Archdiocese of Dubuque* (Dubuque, 1938), which is of some interest to Minnesotans because the original diocese, created in 1837, included the territory embraced by the present state of Minnesota. Until the diocese of St. Paul was established in 1850,

the sphere of influence of Bishop Mathias Loras of Dubuque extended throughout the Minnesota country.

In *Down through 80 Years*, Mr. Lorenzo D. Davidson of Minneapolis presents his "random observations on the life and times of these past and most stirring eight decades" (Hopkins, Minnesota, 1938. 149 p.). Experiences in many states of the Middle West are recorded, but most of the author's earlier recollections are localized in Indiana. Of interest for all students of frontier life, however, are chapters dealing with such subjects as "The Country School," "The Old Time Church," "The Old Time Doctor," "The Country Store," "The Country Dance," "Those McGuffey Readers," "Turnpike and Toll Gate," the "Spelling Bee," and the "Horse and Buggy Drugstore."

"Father Marquette Exploring the Shores of Lake Superior" is the subject of a mural painted by Dewey Albinson of Minneapolis recently for the post office at Marquette, Michigan.

La Vérendrye, the French explorer of the upper Northwest, was honored at Winnipeg and St. Boniface during the first week in September in celebrations which marked the two-hundredth anniversary of his arrival at the forks of the Red and Assiniboine rivers. The story of his adventures in what are now Minnesota and Manitoba was reviewed in a pageant, the opening performance of which was presented at the Winnipeg Auditorium on September 3. A monument commemorating the services of the explorer, and particularly his founding of Fort Maurepas, was unveiled at Fort Alexander, at the mouth of the Winnipeg River, on September 4. Participating in the ceremonies were members of the Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba, the Historical Society of St. Boniface, and the Metis Historical Society. Another feature of the celebration was a parade of historical floats on September 5. A special section of the *Winnipeg Free Press* of September 2 is devoted to articles about La Vérendrye, his sons, and his nephew in the Northwest. Here are included accounts of the explorer's search for the Northwest Passage, of the tragedy of Massacre Island, of the discovery of the remains of Fort St. Charles, and of the chain of forts that he and his followers built.

Clifford P. Wilson is the author of a brief account of "La Vérendrye 200 Years Ago" and of the French explorer's search for the

Western Sea, appearing in the *Beaver* for September. In the same issue "More Light on Thomas Simpson," the Arctic explorer who met his tragic death while on a journey from Fort Garry to St. Paul in 1840, is provided by Douglas MacKay and W. Kaye Lamb.

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

Two substantial volumes, composed of 357 mimeographed sheets, are occupied by the second section of the *Inventory of Federal Archives in the States* to be published by the Minnesota Historical Records Survey (St. Paul, 1938). Here are listed the voluminous archives of the United States department of agriculture found in bureaus and branch offices located in every section and every county of Minnesota. Included are inventories of the records of the federal bureaus of agricultural economics, agricultural engineering, animal industry, biological survey, entomology and plant quarantine, plant industry, and public roads; of the agricultural adjustment, commodities exchange, food and drug, and resettlement administrations; of the extension, forest, and soil conservation services; and of the ten stations of the United States weather bureau in Minnesota. These volumes are among the products of the survey of federal archives in Minnesota, made in 1936 and 1937 as a project of the WPA. It was directed by Theodore C. Blegen, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, and Jacob Hodnefield, who is now in charge of the Historical Records Survey. The first volume issued by the Minnesota survey listed the archives of the department of the navy in the state; inventories of the records of all other federal departments operating in the state have been completed, and they are now being edited, preparatory to their production in mimeographed form.

A volume of selected *Readings in Early Minnesota History*, edited by Theodore C. Blegen, has been issued by the University of Minnesota in mimeographed form (1938. 286 p.). The selections, which have been extracted mainly from source materials, such as letters, diaries, newspaper accounts, travel narratives, and official documents, cover the period from the early French explorations to the end of the Civil War. It makes available illustrative readings to supplement Mr. Blegen's newly published volume, *Building Minnesota*.

The publication late in November, as a volume in the *American Guide Series*, of *Minnesota: A State Guide* has been announced by the

Minnesota Federal Writers' Project, under whose auspices the book was compiled and written. Chapters on the Indians of Minnesota, the history of the state, agriculture, immigration and racial elements, transportation, education, the press, sports, the arts, and on individual cities and villages are included in this volume of more than five hundred pages. Here, too, are outlined twenty automobile trips in the state, and fifteen canoe trips in the Superior National Forest. A review of this newly published guidebook will appear in a future issue of MINNESOTA HISTORY.

Those who have traveled the waters of Minnesota's northern borderland and have found themselves inarticulate before its bewitching beauty will find in Florence Page Jaques' *Canoe Country* a sympathetic and satisfying expression of their emotions (1938. 78 p.). The book is an informal record of a three-weeks' canoe trip made by the author and her husband on boundary waters—a splendid adventure that Mrs. Jaques shares with the reader through her keen sensitivity, her vitality and humor, and the simplicity and sincerity of her writing. Supplementing the author's word pictures of the canoe country are the numerous and superb illustrations drawn in black and white by her husband, Francis Lee Jaques, who is well known for his exquisite bird paintings—among them those in Dr. Thomas S. Roberts' *Birds of Minnesota*—and for his bird habitat groups in the American Museum of Natural History. The publishers, the University of Minnesota Press, are to be congratulated on the perfection of design and format of the book. M. W. B.

The "History of Medicine in Minnesota" which has been appearing in installments in *Minnesota Medicine* since the first of the year is continued in the July, August, and September issues with a review of "Medicine in Washington and Chisago Counties" (see *ante*, p. 357). Two physicians were among those who entered the St. Croix Valley immediately after the treaty of 1837 in search of pine lands, according to this account. The "first practicing physician north of Prairie du Chien," however, is said to have been Dr. Christopher Carli, who settled at Dakotah, later Stillwater, in the spring of 1841.

"The Grand Portage Trail is truly the first white man's road in Minnesota," writes Harry D. Thorn in an article on "The Trail of

the Voyageurs," which appears in the *M. A. C. Gopher* for August. The writer draws a contrast between the busy trading post that once existed at Grand Portage and the sleepy village now to be found at the east end of the old portage trail.

The centennial of the establishment of the Catholic church at Grand Portage by Father Francis Pierz was commemorated in the little North Shore community on August 28. Priests from neighboring communities and from St. John's Abbey at Collegeville and representatives of historical societies and of Catholic organizations went to Grand Portage to join members of the congregation in celebrating the centennial. Father Pierz "blessed a chapel, constructed of cedar bark" at Grand Portage on July 25, 1838.

On September 11, the centennial of the birth of Archbishop John Ireland, a plaque in his memory was dedicated at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. Among the speakers who recalled his services as the first archbishop of St. Paul were the Most Reverend John G. Murray, the present archbishop, and Bishop John J. Lawler of Rapid City, South Dakota.

A chapter on the "Minnesota Gymanva" is included in a volume entitled *One Hundred Years of Welsh Calvinistic Methodism in America* by Daniel J. Williams (Philadelphia, 1937). Special attention is given to Welsh settlements in Blue Earth County, on the Iowa boundary in Fillmore County, and in Minneapolis. The author points out that an interesting feature of Welsh settlement in Minnesota was the fact that Welshmen who went to this state "emigrated from other Welsh settlements in states east of the Mississippi River" rather than direct from Wales.

"Trommald, Manganese, Cuyuna, Northland—all were once thriving communities, with prosperous stores, banks and other business places," writes Fred H. Strong in an article on "Ghost Towns" of the Minnesota iron ranges, which appears in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for August 28. He tells also of Babbitt on the Mesabi Range, and of Barrows and Oreland on the Cuyuna, once prosperous towns that are now "mere skeletons, with grass growing in the streets." A "Dream Town That Never Came True," Hennepin in the county of the same name, is the subject of

a short sketch in the *Minneapolis Journal* for July 8. A plat of this town, prepared in 1852, is in the office of the Hennepin County register of deeds. Some ghost towns of the Minnesota Valley, particularly in the vicinity of Morgan, are described by Gordon H. West in the *Morgan Messenger* for September 1. Among those noted are Wayburne, Rowena, Paxton, Golden Gate, Lone Tree Lake, and Riverside.

Life at Randall in Morrison County in the nineties of the past century is described by Thomas Pederson in an installment of his "Recollections" appearing in the September issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. There the author operated a sawmill and conducted a grocery business. His narrative includes a description of the forest fire of 1894 in central Minnesota.

Brief historical sketches of banks established in southern and eastern Minnesota in the fifties and sixties of the past century have been appearing as advertisements in the weekly issues of the *Commercial West* since May 28. Included are accounts of the First National banks of Winona, Stillwater, Hastings, St. Peter, Shakopee, and Owatonna, and of the Root River State Bank of Chatfield.

The excavations on the site of the Joseph R. Brown home near Renville and plans for its reconstruction are the subjects of numerous articles in recent issues of local newspapers, particularly those published in Minnesota Valley communities. In July, the *Sacred Heart News* reprinted in installments the imaginary letters of a visitor to the Brown mansion in 1861, which were written by Dr. Folwell and first published in MINNESOTA HISTORY, *ante*, 12:111-133. "Joseph R. Brown's Steam Wagon" is the subject of an article by George Allanson in the *Henderson Independent* of August 19, and in the same issue appears an account of the capture of members of the Brown family by the Sioux in August, 1862. The first of a series of articles about Brown, the "Man of Many 'Firsts,'" appears in the *Redwood Gazette* for September 8.

The seventy-sixth anniversary of the Sioux War was marked at a meeting of the Fort Ridgely State Park and Historical Association held at the site of the old fort on August 22. Among the speakers was Mr. Henry N. Benson of St. Peter, who told something of the

early history of Traverse des Sioux, and Mr. Joseph Tompkins of Minneapolis, who recalled Fort Ridgely as he knew it when he was a boy.

Sketches of several members of a Minneapolis milling family are included in a two-volume work on the *Ancestry of Charles Stinson Pillsbury and John Sargent Pillsbury* compiled by Mary L. Holman (1938. xii, 1212 p.). Among those whose biographies appear in the volumes are George A. Pillsbury, who removed to Minneapolis in 1878, became associated with his son in the milling firm of C. A. Pillsbury and Company, and served as mayor of Minneapolis; his brother, Governor John S. Pillsbury; his sons, Charles A. and Fred C. Pillsbury; and his grandsons, Charles S. and John S. Pillsbury.

Accounts of a beech tree on Gray Cloud Island and of a white pine of unusual size at Cass Lake are included in a booklet on *Famous Trees*, prepared by Charles E. Ramdall and D. Priscilla Edgerton and issued by the United States Department of Agriculture as number 295 of its *Miscellaneous Publications* (1938. 115 p.).

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Among the local historical societies that have solved successfully the problem of displaying and storing their collections is that of Rice County. This organization is particularly fortunate in having quarters in the handsome Buckham Memorial Library at Faribault, completed in 1930. In a large and attractive room on the third floor, museum objects, manuscripts, books, pamphlets, pictures, newspapers, maps, and other items of historical value accumulated by the society since its organization in 1926 are safely and appropriately housed. In one large display case, Indian artifacts, bead work, and the like are placed on exhibit; another is devoted to objects illustrative of pioneer domestic life in the county; and a third contains articles sold in early Faribault stores, accounts of some early industrial concerns, and other items that reflect the commercial development of the community. Of special interest among the many pictures that decorate the walls are a color lithograph of Faribault in 1874, an oil painting of the city executed about 1880 by an itinerant artist, and a small lithograph of "Gorman's Brigade at Camp Stone," including the

First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, in the fall of 1861. Notable portraits in the collection are an oil painting of Bishop Henry B. Whipple, and a daguerreotype of James Shields made in 1858 while he was a resident of Minnesota.

Particularly significant are the manuscripts assembled by the Rice County society. Bishop Whipple, whose home was in Faribault, is represented by a series of manuscript sermons dating from 1851 to 1860, an account book of 1871, and a few miscellaneous letters. The business records of the law firm of Batchelder and Buckham of Faribault, of which Judge Thomas S. Buckham was a member, are here. Included are account books, land warrants, and lists of real-estate transactions for the years from 1853 to 1911. The records of the Brown-Martin Lumber Company of Northfield are preserved by the Rice County society, as are the court dockets of the Faribault justice of the peace for 1856, 1857, 1864, and 1867. The society has in its possession many records of institutions and organizations, including those of the state school for the deaf from 1863 to 1887, the Travelers Club of Faribault from 1900 to 1928, the Live Topics Club from 1909 to 1925, and the Musical Art Society for 1920. The society is making an effort to collect items relating to the important schools and colleges in the county, and it has succeeded in assembling notable files of catalogues, programs, and publications of these institutions. Local church and cemetery records also are preserved in its files. Some of the society's material is arranged in vertical filing cases of metal, but many of the manuscript record books and letters are stored in wooden cases and drawers. An accessions record is kept, and a card catalogue is being prepared. With the co-operation of the local WPA, the society is making an index of material in Rice County newspapers. Here is a tool of inestimable value for students of local history, librarians, and all who are interested in the county's past—a guide to material in files preserved by the Faribault Public Library, covering the years from 1857 to 1928. Although the index now occupies some eighteen thousand cards and fills thirty-six drawers of a large filing case, it is still growing, for according to present plans it will be brought up to date. Mrs. H. C. Theopold is curator of the Rice County museum, and to her belongs much of the credit for its attractive appearance and for the systematic manner in which its collections are arranged.

B. L. H.

To stimulate interest in the organization of a local historical society, residents of Aitkin County were invited to display objects of historical interest at the county fair, which was held from August 22 to 24. A prize of five dollars was offered to the individual "exhibiting the article or articles of greatest interest." "It is hoped that the exhibit will lay the foundation for an Aitkin County Historical Society and a historical museum which can be housed in the new Industrial building," reads an announcement in the *Aitkin Republican* for August 4.

The collections of the Blue Earth County Historical Society and cases in which to display them have been removed from the public library in Mankato and arranged in the Hubbard home, recently acquired by the society. Much space is devoted to the display of museum objects, but a room on the second floor has been reserved for manuscripts, books, and newspapers of local historical interest. What was a carriage house will be used for the display of large museum objects, many of which formerly were kept at Sibley State Park. Miss Margaret Gable is curator of the new museum, which was opened to the public early in the fall.

About seventy-five members of the Brown County Historical Society participated in the first tour held under its auspices, visiting the site of an early trading post at Little Rock and Birch Cooley State Park on September 4. Mr. Fred W. Johnson spoke at both places, recalling the historical backgrounds of these interesting sites. Among the traders who operated at Little Rock were such well-known figures as Hazen Mooers and Joseph La Framboise; one of the most important battles of the Sioux War took place at Birch Cooley. Extensive articles about these sites, supplied by the local historical society, appear in the *New Ulm Daily Journal* for August 30 and September 2.

The Clearwater County Historical Society was organized at a meeting held at Bagley on July 26. L. Jensen of Clearbrook was named president, E. H. Reff of Bagley, vice-president, J. D. Ellis of Bagley, secretary, and John H. Gordon of Shevlin, treasurer.

"The Romance of the Fur Trade" was the subject of an illustrated address presented at a meeting of the Cook County Historical

Society at Grand Marais on September 30 by Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society. The speaker gave special attention to the operations of French and British traders in the Grand Portage area.

A collection of arrow points, consisting of 268 items and representing Indian tribes in every section of the United States, has been presented to the Crow Wing County Historical Society by Miss Elizabeth Cowden of Geneva, Ohio. The collection was given as a memorial to the donor's brother, the late Fred Cowden, who assembled the arrowheads during his extensive travels over a period of more than forty years as a member of a circus company. Another notable addition to the Crow Wing County museum is a miniature model of a logging camp, constructed by Dudley J. Gordon of Daggett Brook Township. It is the subject of a detailed description in the *Brainerd Daily Dispatch* for July 12, where notice is given also to the many original logging tools and items of logging equipment to be seen in the museum at Brainerd.

The collection of articles of local historical interest that is being assembled by the Hennepin County Historical Society in the Oak Hill School at St. Louis Park is described in an illustrated article in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for August 27. A pair of "bog shoes" used on horses or mules when crossing swamps, a copy of the *Dakota Friend* of 1852, a candle mold, a spinning wheel, and various other objects are listed.

About forty members of the Hutchinson Historical Society participated in a tour held under its auspices on July 15. Henderson, Le Sueur, St. Peter, and New Ulm were among the points visited. The tourists stopped to see the Mayo house at Le Sueur and the museum of the Brown County Historical Society at New Ulm.

About three thousand people attended a picnic arranged jointly by the Marshall County Historical Society and the local old settlers' association at Menzel's Grove near Argyle on July 31. Mr. Clifford Bouvette of Hallock addressed the meeting, reviewing the early history of Marshall County and describing life in the vicinity of Pembina after 1869, when his father settled there.

To help the people of Sherburn celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of their village, members of the Martin County Historical Society held their tenth annual summer meeting and picnic in this community on August 28. More than three thousand people were present to witness the presentation of a pageant, "Do You Remember," in which the history of the village was reviewed in eleven episodes. Special historical exhibits, arranged in the windows of local stores for the occasion, are described in detail in a "Historical Section" of the *Sherburn Advance-Standard*, which appears with the issue of September 1. Included also is a "Sherburn Chronology" for the first year of its existence.

Mr. Frank B. Lamson has issued another in the series of pamphlets dealing with *Meeker County History* and published under the auspices of the Meeker County Historical Society (see *ante*, p. 117). The present booklet contains miscellaneous items of information relating to the history of the towns of Acton, Cosmos, Danielson, Swede Grove, and Union Grove, and the villages of Cosmos and Grove City.

A list of officers of Morrison County from 1856 to 1882 is printed in the *Little Falls Daily Transcript* for August 30. The original list is in the files of the Morrison County Historical Society.

At the annual meeting of the Nicollet County Historical Society, held at St. Peter on August 15, plans for the erection of a building to house the society's museum collection were discussed. Mr. Edward C. Gale of Minneapolis, president of the Minnesota Historical Society, was the principal speaker. The following officers were elected: Henry N. Benson, president; Mrs. M. E. Stone, vice-president; Miss Hattie I. Johnson, secretary-treasurer; and Dr. Conrad Peterson, historian. To aid the historical society in its building plans, the St. Peter Association has named a committee, of which Mr. W. S. O'Brien is chairman.

Scenes from the early history of Nobles County were depicted in a pageant presented at the annual meeting of the Nobles County Historical Society on August 21. Officers for the coming year were elected at the meeting. They are C. R. Saxon, president; Mrs. J. A. Gardner, vice-president; Oscar Kunzman, secretary; and Mrs. Bert Malmquist, treasurer.

About seventeen thousand visitors to the museum of the Otter Tail County Historical Society in the courthouse at Fergus Falls have registered during the past four years, according to a recent report of the secretary, Mr. E. T. Barnard. A number of recent additions to the collections of this museum are described in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for September 12.

Plans for the organization of a historical society in Pennington County were discussed at a meeting of the Thief River Falls society of the American Sons and Daughters of Sweden on July 29. To consider the matter and make plans for a permanent organization, Mr. Henry C. Eckland was instructed to name a committee of five, of which he would act as chairman.

Among the speakers who addressed a meeting of the Pipestone County Historical Society at Pipestone on September 5 were Mrs. Carrie Ludolph, who described "Early School Days" in the county, and Mrs. Lillian Weigert, who recalled "Early Days of School Teaching in Pipestone County." Mrs. Ludolph was named president of the organization for the coming year. Other officers elected were Mrs. Laura Brown, secretary, Mr. J. E. Morgan, treasurer, and Miss Marion Farmer, historian.

The aims of the Pope County Historical Society were explained by Mr. G. C. Torguson before members of the local old settlers' association meeting at Glenwood on September 11. The early history of the county was reviewed and the origins of many of its place names were explained by the principal speaker of the day, the Honorable Julius Schmahl.

Among the objects recently added to the museum collection of the Pope County Historical Society is a wooden shovel which has been used on Minnesota farms since 1851. It is the gift of Mr. G. H. Lewis of Benson. His account of its history appears in the *Pope County Tribune* of Glenwood for September 15.

The Roseau County Historical Society sponsored the presentation of a pageant, reviewing incidents in the early history of the county, which was presented at Pelan Park, near Greenbush, on August 21. According to one local paper, ten thousand people were present to

view the pageant. The Roseau County society now has more than a hundred members, according to the *Roseau Times-Region* of August 4.

The suggestion that a Sibley "county historical society be formed with headquarters in Henderson" is made in editorials in the *Henderson Independent* for September 16 and 30. The need for a museum in which objects of local historical interest can be properly housed and cared for as well as displayed is stressed by the writer, who believes that the city should "set aside a room in the community building for this purpose."

About sixty members of the Washington County Historical Society went to Marine on July 23 to attend a picnic, visit the Centennial House, and view exhibits arranged to mark the centennial of the village on the St. Croix (see *ante*, p. 363).

Mr. Fred W. Johnson of New Ulm was the principal speaker at the first annual picnic of the Watonwan County Historical Society, which was held at Long Lake on August 28. About four hundred people heard Mr. Johnson review the early history of Watonwan County, which once was a part of Brown County.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

An "Account of the Events Leading up to the Founding of New Ulm," recorded by Frederick Beinhorn, one of the city's first settlers, appears in the *New Ulm Review* for August 15. He tells of the organization at Chicago under his leadership in August, 1853, of the Chicago Land Society, one of the two colonization projects that were responsible for the founding of New Ulm. His manuscript narrative, written in German on wrapping paper, is owned by the Brown County Historical Society. It was translated for publication by Martin L. F. Eyrich of New Ulm.

Two pages from a scorebook in which are to be found records of games played in 1867 and 1868 between the baseball clubs of Mankato and St. Peter are reproduced in the *Mankato Free Press* for August 16. This interesting manuscript record was found by Mr. C. A. Keene of North Mankato among his father's papers.

A "History of Amboy Township," prepared by Mabel Fairbairn, was read at a meeting of the Amboy Farm Bureau on June 26. The story of the Cottonwood County township is traced back to the survey of 1858-59 in this narrative, which is published in the *Jeffers Review* of June 30.

A historical sketch of St. Nicholas, the "first village" in Freeborn County, which was platted in 1855 by Jacob Lybrand and Samuel M. Thompson, is contributed to the *Albert Lea Evening Tribune* of September 13 by the Reverend W. E. Thompson.

"A Pioneer Boy's Experiences in a Corner of Goodhue County" are described by I. F. Grose in *Our Young People*, a Sunday school weekly published in Minneapolis, for September 4, 11, and 18. The writer, who was born in Kenyon Township in 1862 and lived there for fifteen years, presents a charming picture of his frontier home and of the schools that he attended. "Our house was a conventional white washed log dwelling with a log shanty attached," he writes. "Its cellar held potatoes, cheese, barrels of salt pork, and kegs of butter. The first floor, making up one room only, performed potentially the functions of parlor, living room, dining room, bedroom, and kitchen." Mr. Grose tells of attending common school in a one-room log schoolhouse and religious school in the farmhouses of the vicinity. When the community "established a library containing seventy books," he read them all, and then he turned to an "emigrant-chest full of books" belonging to a neighbor's hired man.

A "History of the Houston Baptist Church," read originally at a celebration commemorating its seventy-fifth anniversary in August, 1928, has been published in a pamphlet entitled *Historical Sketch of Eighty-five Years Existence and Work of Houston Baptist Church* (1938. 43 p.). Some sections dealing with the progress of the congregation in the past decade have been added. Church records and local newspapers are among the sources upon which the narrative is based.

Mr. L. A. Ogaard, who taught the first school at what is now International Falls, is the author of a brief article telling of his frontier experience there in the *Daily Journal* of International Falls for September 15. He tells of opening the school in the fall of 1894 in

a log structure measuring twelve by twenty feet. The furniture consisted of a long table, two benches, and a small blackboard. "There was no other equipment or furniture and no books, save what we borrowed from different homes," writes Mr. Ogaard. "The term of school was fixed at five months and the teacher's salary at \$35 per month." Seven pupils ranging in age from five to twelve years were enrolled.

Extracts from letters written from Fairmont between 1868 and 1871 by Mrs. John Boyce are quoted in a story of "Home Building in Pioneer Days" which appears in the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel* for June 28. From northern New York, Mrs. Boyce went to Fairmont as a bride in the spring of 1868, and in letters to her mother and other members of her family in the East she pictured the raw new community and the conditions under which she lived on the frontier. She had "hardly expected to see the prairies look so large"; she found her neighbors "very friendly," and remarked that "most of them are from the east somewhere"; she was hungry for the apples that were so plentiful in her home state but scarce in the West. She reported that "Dried apples are about \$5 a bushel and green ones about \$6 or \$7. Just common ones. They had some down at the fair which they sold three for ten cents. It is hard to stretch a body's conscience to pay that much for anything." Mrs. Boyce's letters were preserved by members of her family and recently they came into the possession of her son, Mr. William R. Boyce of Fairmont.

A historical account of "The Farm Bureau and Agricultural Extension Work in Meeker County, 1918-1938" has been prepared by Ralph W. Wayne, the county agent, and issued in multigraphed form. Students of recent agricultural history and of the co-operative movement will find this brief narrative of value.

A "History of Polk County" by Julius Schmahl appears in installments in the *Crookston Daily Times* from August 17 to 24. The writer deals with the Indians of the county, explorers who passed through the region, the organization of the county, and the founding and naming of its cities, villages, and townships. An account of the progress of the Crookston Band under the direction of Mr. G. Oliver Riggs, who became bandmaster forty years ago, appears in the *Times* for September 23.

Rice County: The Story of Its Discovery and Settlement is the title of a narrative by Raymond Munson, which has been issued as a multigraphed pamphlet by the Minnesota Federal Writers' Project, under the sponsorship of the state department of education (45 p.). It is one of a series of Minnesota county histories intended to acquaint children in the grade schools with the stories of their localities. The central figure in the present narrative is Alexander Faribault, the founder of the city that bears his name and the "Father of Rice County." Much of the text is presented in the form of conversations between Faribault and other early settlers in Rice County. Joseph N. Nicollet, John North, and Bishop Whipple are among other historical characters who appear in these pages.

Members of the Faribault family and other pioneer settlers of Rice County figure prominently in Johanna M. O'Leary's *Historical Sketch of the Parish of the Immaculate Conception, Faribault, Minnesota, with Some Biographical Data and Records of Pioneer Families* (Faribault, 1938. 131 p.). The beginning of the parish is traced to the late 1840's, when Father Ravoux celebrated a mass in the home of Alexander Faribault. The booklet contains not only a history of the parish, but sketches of the priests who have served it, accounts of the parish schools and of the academy established at Faribault by the Dominican sisters in 1865, and lists of Catholic settlers. The latter are drawn from baptismal and other records, including a "'time book' used by James O'Leary in 1865, when the Milwaukee tracks were laid into Faribault." In a foreword, Archbishop John G. Murray expresses a desire to see histories similar to this parish record prepared "for every Church in the Archdiocese of St. Paul within the next year or two" in order to provide material "for the historian who is to record the story of this territory in time to have it ready for publication on the occasion of the centenary of the Chapel of Saint Paul" in 1941.

The West Union community in Scott County and its Lutheran church are the subjects of a historical sketch by the Reverend Richard Johnson in the *Belle Plaine Herald* for August 11. Swedish settlement at West Union is traced back to 1851, the eightieth anniversary of the church is noted, and sketches of the pastors who have served the congregation since 1858 are included.

"There is no doubt but this is the best place I ever saw for a young man to do well." This conclusion was reached in May, 1865, by Draton S. Hale, a Virginian who had lived earlier in Iowa, after spending less than a month near Sauk Centre in Stearns County. An enthusiastic letter about the region, written to a cousin in Virginia, has been preserved by members of the family; articles based upon it appear in the *Sauk Centre Herald* for August 4 and the *Long Prairie Leader* for September 1. "If I was you and I ever intended to go to a new country I would come here," Hale advised his cousin. "I am satisfied it is healthy and the water is good." The Southerner related that he had found "plenty of game and fish" in his new home. "The woods are full of plum bushes and they say they are full of fruit every year," he continues. "The soil is a black sandy loam and clay bottom. But it must be cold in the winter. One has to prepare for it."

The founding of the *Stillwater Gazette* on August 6, 1870, is recalled in the issue of this paper for August 6, 1938, where its sixty-eighth anniversary is noted. Attention is called to the fact that during the paper's "entire life time, W. E. Easton has directed its destiny."

The issue of the *Canby News* for September 16 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the paper, which was established by Addison Morrison in the fall of 1878. Among the articles of historical interest in the issue is a review of the early history of the community.



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