

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Owatonna: The Social Development of a Minnesota Community.

By EDGAR BRUCE WESLEY, head of social studies department, University High School, and professor of education, University of Minnesota. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1938. xvi, 168 p. Illustrations. \$2.00.)

Several years ago the late Melvin E. Haggerty, dean of the college of education in the University of Minnesota, projected a study of the cultural development of a small Minnesota city. Owatonna, the seat of Steele County, was selected for the study. This little history of Owatonna is a preliminary volume in a series contemplated by the directors of the Owatonna Art Education Project.

In six concise and interestingly written chapters, Professor Wesley traces the development of this Minnesota city. He tells how A. B. Cornell and W. F. Pettit, two pioneers who achieved no small reputation in Minnesota as town builders, speculators, and public figures, staked out claims on the site of present-day Owatonna in the early summer of 1854. In the following year the village was platted, and the newly founded community was named the seat of Steele County.

Owatonna, in its early years, was not very different from other frontier Minnesota towns. The force that transformed it from "an uncertain but hopeful settlement to the assured status of a Minnesota city," Professor Wesley says (p. 25), was the construction of railroads to the community in 1866. That fact made possible the growth of the community from a village with a population of about nine hundred and fifty in 1865 to a city of some seventy-five hundred people in 1930. It also made possible the development of an industrial community of no small importance. Professor Wesley tells us that early Owatonna businessmen "looked to railroads and industry to build a city that would far exceed the somewhat lowly status of a mere agricultural center" (p. 48). They established wagon factories, wood-working establishments, earthenware factories, breweries, and at one time they even started a hoop skirt factory. The community's interest in industrial development was illustrated in 1870 when a special bond issue of ten thousand dollars was voted to aid in rebuilding a foundry and

machine shop which had been destroyed by fire. The faith of the community in the venture was justified, for two years later the debt was repaid. It was in this shop, according to Professor Wesley, that John Appleby perfected his device for binding grain with twine instead of wire.

After about 1890, the author says, the community became increasingly aware of the possibilities afforded by industries related to agriculture. A growing program of crop diversification led to an increase in dairying, the raising of cattle and hogs, and the growth of feed crops such as corn. This, in turn, led to the development of processing and marketing agencies, and the increasing wealth of the agricultural community encouraged the development of new and varied industries. As early as 1881 there was a successful farmers' mutual fire insurance company, a butter churn concern ran profitably for several years in the nineties, an automobile factory was operated for a time after 1901, and a radio concern built one-tube radio sets in the early twenties. Quite unrelated to the agricultural community was a concern which specialized in the manufacture of novelty jewelry.

The material growth of the community, Professor Wesley says, was accompanied by a development of cultural institutions, such as schools and churches. A public high school was opened, although as late as 1875 there were only eighteen students enrolled. During the 1870's Pillsbury Academy, a private school sponsored by the Baptist church, and the Sacred Heart School, sponsored by a Catholic order, were established, and in the 1880's a state school for dependent and neglected children was opened there. In these decades also a large number of social organizations came into being, and a literary society, established during the Civil War, flourished for many years. An illustration of a community love for the arts is the conspicuous success of musical organizations and dramatic groups.

While Owatonna was growing socially and economically, it also was growing politically. Professor Wesley shows how in the Owatonna community were brought together the political ideals of Whigs, Republicans, and Democrats from the East or the South, and those of immigrant settlers. Under the leadership of able newspaper editors and other public figures, a spirit of partisanship was heightened by local questions of liquor control and public utility franchises. But Owatonna, nevertheless, developed a "civic personality" (p. 100), as an evidence of which Professor Wesley points to the large number of

utility and service agencies — schools, parks, a public library, a hospital, an electric plant, a gas system, and a garage — owned by the city. The marked success of the city government, he says, may be attributed in part to the fact that a large number of persons were trained for public service in the administration of these various public agencies.

Professor Wesley found that throughout the history of Owatonna there was a considerable foreign-born element in the population. Numerically, the Germans, Czechs, and Danes have been most important, although other national groups were represented. In 1930 about half of the people were foreign born or were the children of parents one or both of whom were foreign born. Professor Wesley points out that this foreign ancestry has not permanently affected the life of the community, however, because "Owatonna, like America as a whole, has absorbed its immigrants, and in so doing it has unwittingly destroyed some elements that might well have been nurtured and maintained" (p. 129).

It is not difficult to evaluate this piece of work. Professor Wesley himself, in an address delivered at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society in January, 1938, set up certain standards by which to measure the values of local history (see *ante*, 19:1-20). Among them were the following: to make the community intelligible; to create an interest in and a love for the community; to aid in understanding state, national, and world affairs; to create an appreciation of the whole field of history; and, finally, to evaluate current affairs. This reviewer thinks that Professor Wesley has achieved these aims. He has given a clear picture of this community. To the reader, Owatonna is not just another Minnesota city, for in these pages is set forth the very personality that time and circumstance have stamped upon it. In writing the biography of this Minnesota city, Professor Wesley has set up a high standard for local historians.

ARTHUR J. LARSEN

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL

Minnesota, A State Guide. Compiled and written by the FEDERAL WRITERS' PROJECT OF THE WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION. (New York, The Viking Press, 1938. xxx, 523 p. Illustrations, maps. \$2.50.)

If "many heads are better than one," *Minnesota, A State Guide*, has been indeed favored in its preparation. It represents a co-operative venture of considerable size. Contributors throughout the state have been numerous, specialists in various fields have been consulted, and a staff employed by the Federal Writers' Project has written the book. The result of these combined labors is a volume of importance both to residents and tourists of the state, to whom it should give a greater appreciation of the region in which they are living or traveling.

The reader will be pleased by the fifty pages of carefully selected photographs which present "Minnesota in Pictures," and will turn with interest to "Minnesota: Past and Present," the section which contains a brief historical survey, and discussions of natural resources, agriculture, industries, and social and cultural activities. Each topic is treated with some historical analysis and a summary of its status today.

A second section in the text contains an interesting comparison of Minneapolis and St. Paul and well-written accounts of the individual development of the Twin Cities, Duluth, St. Cloud, Winona, and Rochester, with outlines of tours of each city. The third section describes the routes for state-wide tours. Picturesque bits from the history of many villages and towns make this section a mine of information for travelers about the state. Possible itineraries for canoe trips, and general information on railroads, highways, motor vehicle laws, and hunting seasons may add to the volume's usefulness for tourists. The map on the front end paper shows the network which the tours make in covering all sections of Minnesota. Pen-and-ink drawings at the beginning and end of many chapters add to the attractive appearance of the volume.

The material in the different sections shows that a real effort has been made to add flavor and zest. One reads of stovepipes used as fake cannons in New Ulm during the Sioux Outbreak, of the Winona sculptor who designed the buffalo nickel, and of the red-coated English fox hunters of Fairmont in the 1870's. Humorous elements are not overlooked; in the discussion of Minnesota lakes, for example, one

county is noted which has within its borders a list of lakes including Kettle, Spider, Spoon, Cup, Knife, Rabbit, Deer, Fire, Fry, and Cook.

When measured by standards of careful scholarship, the book can be criticized severely on a number of scores. Its composite authorship has led to many repetitions and contradictions that careful checking and indexing might easily have prevented. Finnish zeal for co-operatives is mentioned four times (p. 79, 107, 172, and 242). Comment on Bishop Whipple's defense of the Indians in 1862 occurs on pages 37, 55, 117, 315, and 423, and the founding of Hamline University is noted on pages 51, 112, 117, 211, and 226. On page 172 Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis is said to commemorate a seventeenth-century explorer, and only two pages farther on, it is said, this time correctly, to be named for the nineteenth-century scientist. As a rare botanical find for bluffs near Winona, red cedar or juniper is listed incorrectly on page 17, and on page 306 white cedar, the correct species, is noted in describing the same area. According to a statement on page 56, lumbering was counted "still the major industry in the 1870's," but the writer of page 68 feels that agriculture had become the principal industry by 1850.

It is to be expected that much of the material in such a book would become obsolete in a short time, but the use of current material would have given a truer statement of conditions at the time of the book's release. The origin of the name "Itasca" is no longer disputed (p. 310). The nonresident fishing license was four dollars, not three dollars, when the book was published (p. xxiii). Although statistics on file at the state game and fish division estimate the 1937 deer population as over three hundred thousand, the authors use a figure of one hundred thousand estimated in 1930, thus ignoring later investigation and research (p. 20).

Only careless use of sources can explain such errors as the mention of 22 miles of railroad in Minnesota in 1865, instead of 210 (p. 84). Mrs. Ellet's description of Minnesota applies to the period of the 1850's, not 1820 (p. 111). Cultural interests in the Twin Cities in the 1880's centered about the visits of celebrities like Oscar Wilde and Mark Twain, but Fredrika Bremer and Emerson should not be listed for that decade (p. 134). Of these four individuals, Mark Twain's name is the only one listed in the index, and this particular page is not even noted for him. The Nonpartisan League was established in North Dakota in 1915, not 1916 (p. 62). Edward Eggle-

ston did not write the *Hoosier Schoolmaster* while in Minnesota (p. 141). Emil Oberhoffer did not organize the Philharmonic Club (p. 146).

The tourist who goes to the Red Lake area to see "one of the large HERDS OF CARIBOU in the United States," consisting of "thirty or forty animals" (p. 20, 351), will learn that only four or five animals have been known to exist in the region for the last five years. The abundance of wildcats in the vicinity of Heron Lake (p. 317) is another exaggeration. The common gull on the North Shore of Lake Superior is the herring gull not the ring-billed, which passes only in migration (p. 288). The name, "western meadow chickadee," may puzzle amateur and professional ornithologists alike (p. 440). Indian pipe is not a plant of the peat bogs (p. 348).

The map in the envelope at the end of the book, like the text, shows the lack of exactness which is shielded by the anonymity of the volume. The United States Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge is ambiguously titled and the area indicated is a diminutive section of the actual district involved. Only three areas are indicated as refuges for the entire state, while actually there are a hundred and forty-nine state game refuges in Minnesota at present. The Beltrami Island State Forest alone of the twenty-seven state forests is indicated, another instance which illustrates the haphazard method used on this part of the work.

The book can certainly be commended for its interesting style, attractive appearance, and colorful information, but scientific and historical accuracy definitely have not been achieved.

EVADENE BURRIS SWANSON

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

Father Louis Hennepin's Description of Louisiana, Newly Discovered to the Southwest of New France by Order of the King. Translated from the original edition by MARION E. CROSS. With an introduction by GRACE LEE NUTE. (Published for the Minnesota Society of the Colonial Dames of America by the University of Minnesota Press, 1938. xvii, 190 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

The University of Minnesota Press and the Minnesota Society of Colonial Dames have performed a real historical service by publishing a new and very readable translation of Hennepin's *Description de*

la Louisiane, which has just been issued in very attractive dress. As is well known, this was Hennepin's first book, after his return from his five years in America, and is considered by critics more accurate and reliable than his later *Nouvelle Découverte* and *Nouveau Voyage*. Singularly there has never been but one translation into English of this *Description de la Louisiane*, that of John G. Shea in 1880, which the publishers of the present edition say "is now almost as difficult to obtain as the original itself." *La Louisiane* was a best seller in its day, three editions in French, and Italian, Dutch, and German translations having been issued before the close of the seventeenth century.

Minnesotans of the present day will certainly remember that Father Hennepin, while not the first Frenchman to visit their river and lakes, was the first to publish a description of a voyage up the Mississippi, left a memorial of that visit in the name of the Falls of St. Anthony, and went, as a captive of the Sioux Indians, as far north as Mille Lacs. He left the royal arms of France on the bark of an oak near that lake and records the arms in miniature on the map accompanying his account of his journey.

If it be true that each generation writes history for itself, it is also true that each generation issues anew the basic texts in which its history is recorded. Within recent years has come a new account of Father Membré, one of Hennepin's associates; the full and complete journal of Jean Cavalier, brother of La Salle, published by the Institute of Jesuit History; and Lahontan's *Dialogues Curieux* issued by the learned Professor Gilbert Chinard. To these and other reproductions of seventeenth-century texts Hennepin's *La Louisiane* is a notable addition.

The introduction by Dr. Nute brings into notice also the controversy between the Jesuits and the Recollects or Franciscans; and the existence of a court clique, which was intent on pushing La Salle's interests, and disparaging the discoveries of the Jesuit missionaries and of Jolliet. Her hints at editorial and propaganda uses of Hennepin's book throw new light on the vexed question of his extravagant claims for discovery. Dr. Nute appears to think that Hennepin's narrative was edited by Claude Bernou, in the interests of La Salle's later plans. This the reviewer thinks is probable, when one considers the many allusions that occur in the text which would in all probability be foreign to Hennepin's thinking, such as the comparison of the Iroquois chiefs to Venetian senators (p. 25 of this edition). None the less,

there is plenty of evidence that the vainglorious Recollect wrote most of the book himself. Little personal vanities appear often, "Sieur de la Salle and I made a decision," Frontenac "begs" Hennepin to accompany Sieur de la Salle; "I was the most familiar with war." Apparent also are Hennepin's personal prejudices, wherein he is most unjust to Tonty, blaming him for deserting old Father Gabriel de la Ribourde, when the fate of the entire party depended on haste.

The text of *La Louisiane*, if more accurate, also misses some of the delights of the *New Discovery*, especially such cuts as those of Niagara Falls and the buffalo. The present edition, reproducing that of 1683, necessarily shows only one early map. The modern map opposite it omits Hennepin's return journey across the Wisconsin-Fox route with Du Lhut, which is for Wisconsin historians a most interesting feature of Hennepin's travels, since it is the first recorded journey along the Wisconsin-Fox route from the west to the east. The reputed oil portrait of the author, of which a half tone serves as frontispiece, is most interesting; the humorous quirk of the mouth associates itself with the character of the Franciscan, as known by his writings.

In addition to the idiomatic translation of the text into modern English, the book is improved by a number of well-written and scholarly notes. The reviewer takes exception to one or two, however. It is well known that early explorers found along the Illinois River a species of small parrots enlivening the landscape with their bright plumage; none the less, the note maker (p. 66, n. 5) turns "paroquets" into "pirogues," following Shea who makes a similar comment. Notwithstanding that slaves were originally captives of war, the reviewer disagrees with the statement (p. 27, n. 7) that there was no real slavery among the Indians. Anyone familiar with the *Mackinac Register* would be certain that the French families had Indian slaves, who had been enslaved by the Indians and lived in that relation to their Indian masters. These, however, are but slight matters in the series of notes, which so well assist the reader to understand the seventeenth-century text. The translator, editor, and press are all to be congratulated on this volume, which will no doubt prove its usefulness and availability for many years.

LOUISE PHELPS KELLOGG

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON

Journal of Occurrences in the Athabasca Department, 1820 and 1821, and Report (Hudson's Bay Record Society, *Publications*, no. 1). By GEORGE SIMPSON. Edited by E. E. RICH, M.A., with an introduction by CHESTER MARTIN, M.A., LL.D. (London, published by the Champlain Society for the Hudson's Bay Record Society, 1938. lix, 498 p. Illustrations.)

The Hargrave Correspondence, 1821-1843 (Champlain Society, *Publications*, no. 24). Edited with an introduction and notes by G. P. DE T. GLAZEBROOK. (Toronto, The Champlain Society, 1938. xxvi, 472, xii p. Illustrations.)

Three figures dominate the confusing history of northwestern North America in the first quarter of the nineteenth century: the fifth earl of Selkirk, Colin Robertson, and George Simpson. No adequate biography of any of these men has been written. The Hudson's Bay Company, apparently conscious of the lack of authentic data for writing such biographies, has wisely opened its series of publications (through the Hudson's Bay Record Society) with a journal of Simpson's. It is reported that the next volume will consist of Robertson's diaries. Though the great mass of the Selkirk papers at St. Mary's Isle will scarcely appear in this series, their publication in the near future would be a great boon to Canadian and American scholars. Until all three men can be studied minutely and simultaneously, no reliable biography of even one of them is possible.

Any diary by Simpson would be worthy of publication—and it is to be hoped that the huge mass of his diaries and letters will eventually appear in print—but this journal of 1820-21 has especial significance. As Mr. Chester Martin says in his competent, authoritative introduction, it “marks the end of one epoch and the beginning of another.” It also serves to bring the three dominating figures into focus for the last time in one field of vision. To be sure, Selkirk died a few weeks before the diary opens, but his influence was still making itself felt and the results of his mastering, if not masterly, coup in the Red River Valley were still painfully apparent. Simpson, on the other hand, was just beginning his meteoric rise to fame and fortune.

Of the certainty that Simpson would be master of his fate and richly earn all that came to him, this diary is prophetic. An obscure man when the diary opens, he quickly proves himself a master of men with an analytic mind of the first order. When the journal ends,

he is about to become governor of the northern department. By 1826 he was governor in chief. He was knighted in 1841. As the moving spirit in the new regime of the Hudson's Bay Company from 1821 to his death in 1860, he led his organization from victory to victory and from near ruin to prosperity.

The volume covers a period extending from July 30, 1820, to June 19, 1821, the last and deciding year of the Northwest Company's rivalry in the Athabaska country. Simpson had weathered the storm in that war-torn area, had proved his mettle, and had served his apprenticeship, when in June, 1821, he moved on to greater things. The journal is, strictly speaking, both a diary and a letter copy-book. Simpson is famous as a prolific letter writer. The letters of this volume show his early style, his forcefulness, and his extraordinary powers of observation.

Besides the diary and letters, this initial volume of the Hudson's Bay Record Society contains Simpson's report on the Athabaska district when he ended his labors there. It is a masterly summary of the situation in the Athabaska country, with no attempt made to gloss over human failings or the company's shortsightedness. The author's real strength and forcefulness come out in his recommendations. Here the Governor Simpson of the reorganized, revitalized Hudson's Bay Company of later years is already speaking.

As appendixes there are a convenient list of posts and districts, each with a brief history, and biographical sketches of most of the persons to whom reference is made in the text. There are also excellent maps. The long introduction by Mr. Martin is worthy of special mention. Here in compact form one finds the most scholarly and discerning sketch of the rivalry between the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Company that has appeared. Here, too, is an evaluation of Simpson's momentous year in the Athabaska country.

The volume is too bulky for comfortable use. A lighter paper of equal quality would have reduced the weight of the book and added to the reader's pleasure. Type and format are of excellent quality, annotation is adequate and not overpowering, and errors are few. The ambiguous use of personal pronouns, especially in the appendixes, is regrettable, for serious questions of fact sometimes arise therefrom, as in the sketch of Sir George Simpson. "Alexander Simpson states that George was brought up and educated by his father's sister" is an example. It may be asked whether the date 1791 for the actual

establishment of a Hudson's Bay Company post at Rainy Lake (Lac la Pluie) is not an error. It has generally been conceded that though a place for the fort was selected in 1791, it was only in 1793 that the actual founding occurred.

One will not be kept awake by reading Simpson's writings before retiring. The governor's forte was to rule, not to interest men. Though the Champlain Society also publishes James Hargrave's correspondence and makes the volume only less unwieldy than Simpson's diary, discomfort will be forgotten in reading the gossip, chuckles, and good yarns that the old fur traders delighted to send to their well-loved friend, Hargrave. From end to end of the fur country they wrote—McTavish, McPherson, Rowand, Ross, Simpson, Finlayson, Cameron, and Grant—a sampling of the clans. The letters—176 in all—are but a part of the correspondence now in the possession of the Champlain Society. The published letters begin with 1821, shortly after Hargrave migrated to Canada, and end with 1843, just prior to his appointment as a chief factor in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company. Most of the time he was at York Factory on Hudson Bay, "the nerve centre of the whole territory" of the company, as the short introduction aptly terms his post.

The letters open with one from Lake of the Woods; many are from the Red River settlement; Thomas McMurray writes from Rainy Lake in 1830 of his American Fur Company opponent, "no less a person . . . than a negro alias Stephen Bonga"; several tell of David Aitken at Pembina; J. D. Cameron of the Rainy Lake post writes of William A. Aitken, James Abbot, and Vincent Roy on the American side opposite Fort Frances; William Cockran reports William G. Rae's passage with Kentucky sheep across Minnesota in 1833, and Donald Ross tells of Rae's amusing experiences in Yankeeland; there is a plate reproducing Peter Rindisbacher's water color of the chaplain's house on the Red River in 1821; Dugal Mactavish, a company clerk, writes on his seventeenth birthday of the singing of his voyageurs, and describes the "fine sight" of two Montreal canoes of six fathoms and sixteen paddlers each in full race; epidemics of whooping cough, influenza, cholera, scarlet fever, infantile paralysis, and dysentery among whites and Indians are mentioned in many letters; Thomas Simpson tells of Peter Haydn and the other Red River emigrants to St. Peter's and points below on the Mississippi; many letters, in turn, refer to Simpson's last tragic trip over the same

route to St. Peter's, a part of the way as a corpse; John Charles of Fort Frances writes of posts being withdrawn in 1838 from Leech Lake, Lake Winnibigoshish, and Red Lake; a number of letters mention the fisheries on Lake Superior; James Douglas, of Fort Vancouver, describes Sir George Simpson's arrival "with a dashing train of Knights and squires," as was his wont throughout the fur country; and James Evans, the Wesleyan missionary to the Indians, has an occasional mention, which is not disparaging, as are the usual references to other missionaries and priests with their "praying & singing," to quote John Rowand.

Errors are few. On page 453 the original manuscript should certainly read Alexander Fisher, but perhaps the editor has copied just what he saw. Writers often make odd mistakes with proper names. On page 178 "boules" should read "boutes," in order to make sense. The index is of small value. Two-thirds of the references to persons and places in the preceding paragraph, for instance, have no entry.

GRACE LEE NUTE

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL

Romancero du Canada. By MARIUS BARBEAU. (Toronto, The Macmillan Company of Canada Limited, 1937. 251 p. \$2.75.)

Fortunately for the preservation of our Minnesota folk songs, M. Marius Barbeau goes on year after year collecting and publishing the songs of French Canada. As yet no one has gone out among the many descendants of French-Canadian voyageurs and settlers in Minnesota to gather up variations of these songs on our own soil. Yet so many of them are here that within the year I have heard of a group of French Canadians in St. Paul who spent an entire evening singing them, one after another. Unless someone skilled in recording songs rescues these airs and their words from oblivion, we shall soon have no other recourse than general collections like M. Barbeau's when we would know what the earliest whites of Minnesota sang. The special Minnesota flavor will be entirely missing.

This volume will astonish some who have never given thought to the antiquity of our songs. Nearly all French-Canadian folk songs had reached American shores from France before 1680. Many were already ancient when they reached this continent. Thus the com-

plaint of King Renaud was composed in Scandinavia toward the end of the Middle Ages, entered France through Brittany, spread through that country, and passed to Canada in the seventeenth century. One of our best voyageur songs, "Le Prince d'Orange," was composed in 1544, as internal evidence proves; and another, often heard from the throats of picturesque canoemen, "Le Prince Eugène," was composed about 1526. One can even learn from this volume the part of France from which a song came. Thus one of our Minnesota canoe songs, "Voici le printemps," is described as originating in the Loire Valley, as did the *habitants* of Three Rivers and Montreal, whereas the settlers at Quebec came largely from Normandy.

Besides the fifty songs which are given with their airs, there is a historical sketch of every song, an indication of its range in Canada, its rhythmic formula and musical analysis, and a catalogue of its versions in both Canada and France.

G. L. N.

Radisson. By SARAH LARKIN. ([Three Rivers, Quebec, Canada,] 1938. 147 p.)

This rather short narrative poem is another attempt by a woman to express her admiration for that legendary Radisson of whom Lily A. Long wrote many years ago. The real Radisson has eluded both writers—the Radisson whose vision pierced beyond the Indians and furs of a western trading venture to behold a new empire ready to take shape in northwestern North America. The author stresses Radisson's youthful adventures, which are interesting but not very significant; pays little attention to his brother-in-law, Groseilliers, surely the leader of the two in their joint enterprises; makes the old mistakes of chronology, such as a Lake Superior trip with Groseilliers between 1660 and 1663, though there is ample evidence that the latter was elsewhere; marries Radisson to a Mary Kirke, who bemoans his loss in 1729 (presumably his poetic death date, for he actually died in 1710), and ignores the fact that the name of the widow of 1729 was Elizabeth; sends him to Hudson Bay at the command of Louis XIV in 1684, conveniently oblivious to Louis' rage and the price he set on the renegade's head when he realized that Lord Preston had bribed Radisson back to English interests; and makes him in general a rather feeble caricature of the robust, realistic, vivacious, capable rogue that he was. Even the verse form is feebly uncertain of its proper length and gait.

G. L. N.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

DR. E. M. FREEMAN ("A Scientist Looks at History") is dean of the college of agriculture, forestry, and home economics in the University of Minnesota, where he has served as professor of plant pathology since 1908. His publications include a study of *Minnesota Plant Diseases*. Mr. Ellworth T. Carlstedt ("When Fond du Lac Was British") is a member of the faculty of the Bloomfield Junior College, Bloomfield, Iowa. Mr. LeRoy G. Davis ("Some Frontier Institutions") has recently contributed to this magazine articles on frontier words and phrases and on home remedies and sanitation. Dr. Theodore C. Blegen ("The Minnesota Historical Society in 1938"), Miss Bertha L. Heilbron ("The 1939 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society"), and Dr. Grace Lee Nute ("Rindisbacher's Minnesota Water Colors") are members of the society's staff. Mr. Homer P. Clark ("Everett Hoskins Bailey") has been a member of the society's executive council since 1927. He is the chairman of the board of the West Publishing Company of St. Paul. The reviewers include Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, head of the society's newspaper department; Mrs. Gustav Swanson of St. Paul, who published a series of articles on pioneer Minnesota life in this magazine some years ago; Dr. Louise Phelps Kellogg, senior research associate on the staff of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; and Dr. Nute, the curator of manuscripts for the Minnesota Historical Society.

Contributions by Miss Nute and Miss Ackermann appear in a volume of *Papers* presented at the 1938 conference of the American Library Association, edited by Jerome K. Wilcox and A. F. Kuhlman and published under the title *Public Documents with Archives and Libraries* (Chicago, 1938. 429 p.). "Principles for the Selection of Materials for Preservation in Historical Manuscript Collections" are discussed by Miss Nute, and the "Organization and Preservation of the Manuscript Collections in the Library of the Minnesota Historical Society" are described by Miss Ackermann.

Rodney C. Loehr's article on "Minnesota Farmers' Diaries" which appeared in this magazine for September, 1937, is reprinted in the Oc-

tober number of *Agricultural History*. In its original form, the article was one of the series of discussions of "Some Sources for Northwest History."

The articles on "Wendelin Grimm and Alfalfa" and on "T. L. Haecker, the Father of Dairying in Minnesota" which Mr. Everett E. Edwards contributed to the issues of this magazine for March and June, 1938, appear in German translations in the *Tägliche Volkszeitung* of St. Paul for November 30. This issue of the *Volkszeitung* is a sixtieth anniversary edition, which includes articles on Knute Nelson, James J. Hill, Archbishop Ireland, German organizations and churches in the Twin Cities, and a number of other subjects of historical interest.

Twenty-six additions to the active membership of the society, including one sustaining member, Mrs. Frederick R. Bigelow of St. Paul, were made in the last quarter of 1938. The new annual members are Sydney S. Alwin of Minneapolis, F. S. Baldwin of Seattle, Washington, Dr. L. N. Bergh of Montevideo, Mrs. Hildegard Binder-Johnson of Minneapolis, H. J. Carlson of Boston, Dr. Harry B. Clark of St. Cloud, Mrs. Alice F. Drechsler of Minneapolis, Dr. F. H. Dubbe of New Ulm, Alois F. Eibner of New Ulm, J. H. Fraser of Minneapolis, Fred W. Gosewich of Minneapolis, Dr. Raymond F. Hedin of Red Wing, Gertrude A. Jacobsen of Minneapolis, M. L. Joslyn of Hinsdale, Illinois, Morton S. Katz of St. Paul, Mrs. N. P. Langford of St. Paul, Mrs. William H. Lightner of St. Paul, Mrs. W. T. Leonard of Duluth, Thomas M. McGill of Minneapolis, Victor W. McGrorty of Minneapolis, Mrs. Mary A. Petran of Albert Lea, Mrs. E. R. Sanford of St. Paul, Edith Woolsey of Minneapolis, Mrs. Philip G. Wright of St. Paul, and Lewis O. Zahrendt of Morristown.

The Fillmore County Historical Society, the Hennepin County Historical Society, and the Northern Pacific Railway Veterans' Association of St. Paul recently enrolled as institutional members of the society.

The public schools of Alexandria, Arco, Aurora, Biwabik, Dawson, and Hallock have been added to the roll of schools and libraries that subscribe to the society's publications. Seven additional subscriptions have been taken out by the Minneapolis Public Library, which now carries a total of twenty subscriptions.

The society lost five active members by death during the last three months of 1938: Levi E. Day of Farmington on October 9, William L. Darling of St. Paul on October 27, Everett H. Bailey of St. Paul on November 10, Edwin L. Lindell of Minneapolis on November 10, and Anton C. Weiss of Duluth on November 27.

About sixty-five members of the society joined an excursion to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, conducted by the Burlington Railroad on October 23. There they had an opportunity to see the restored home of Hercules L. Dousman, the well-known fur trader, and his descendants, to examine the excavations on the site of old Fort Crawford, and to visit the old French cemeteries and the local Catholic church. Mrs. Edward B. Young of St. Paul, a granddaughter of Dousman and a member of the society's executive council, was present to guide the tourists through her grandfather's home; and the Reverend L. R. Cooper, who has directed the excavations on the site of the fort, explained the methods used and the results achieved.

Three members of the society's staff, the superintendent, the curator of manuscripts, and the head of the newspaper department, attended the fifty-third annual meeting of the American Historical Association, which was held in Chicago on December 28, 29, and 30. Mr. Blegen went to Washington on December 3 for a meeting of the advisory board of the American Council of Learned Societies, and Miss Nute attended the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists at Springfield, Illinois, from October 24 to 26.

Six members of the society's staff presented sixteen addresses and talks before various organizations and groups during the last quarter of 1938. The superintendent discussed the work of the society at a meeting of the St. Anthony Falls chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Minneapolis on November 17, and he presented an address on "From Carver to Pike, or in the Days of Old Grand Portage" before members of the Informal Club of St. Paul on December 19. He was interviewed on the subject of *Minnesota: A State Guide* over radio station WCCO on November 30, and he described the National Archives over station WLB on December 19. Miss Nute presented a paper on "Early References to the Minnesota Valley" before the Mankato chapter of the American Association of University Women on November 14; she spoke on the work of the manuscript division at a

meeting of the League of Minnesota Poets in St. Paul on November 12; she described the adventures of "An English Hunter in the West in 1847" for the Kiwanis Club of St. Boniface, Manitoba, on November 17; she discussed the explorations of "Radisson and Groseilliers" before the Caledonians of Winnipeg on November 18; and on the same day she addressed a meeting of the Manitoba Historical Society on "The Voyageur." Mr. Babcock spoke on the "Grand Medicine Society of the Chippewa Indians" before the St. Paul chapter of the Interprofessional Club on October 6, on the "Lure of Minnesota History" at a meeting of the Waseca County Historical Society at Waseca on October 7, and on the "1938 Campaign at Grand Portage" before members of the society's executive council on October 10. Mr. Larsen recalled "Minnesota in the Day of Sibley" for members of the Henry Hastings Sibley chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Minneapolis on November 17; Miss Fawcett read papers on "Some Early Minnesota Bells" before the John Prescott chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and on "Some Cultural Aspects of Pioneer Life in the Fifties" before a Minneapolis chapter of the P.E.O. on November 11; and Miss McCann spoke on "T. L. Haecker and His Work" at a meeting of the St. Paul Consumers Co-operative Club on October 14.

ACCESSIONS

Photographic copies of eight letters written between 1818 and 1822 from trading posts in the West, chiefly in Minnesota, by Samuel Ashmun, Jr., and John H. Fairbank have been made for the society from the originals in the possession of Mr. Hugh McLellan of Champlain, New York. Ashmun's contract to serve as a clerk of the American Fur Company also has been copied. The letters, which are addressed to Mr. McLellan's grandfather, Bartlett Nye, were published in the *Moorsfield Antiquarian* for May, 1938 (see *ante*, 19:348). They give intimate glimpses of life at Mackinac and at posts in the Fond du Lac department of the American Fur Company.

About three hundred items of Minnesota and Northwest interest among the letters received by the office of Indian affairs chiefly from 1820 to 1827 have been photographed for the society from the originals, now in the National Archives in Washington. Letters from Major Lawrence Taliaferro, the Minnesota Indian agent, in which

he refers to the location of fur traders in his agency, applies for an appointment as agent to the Osage Indians, and expresses his disapproval of John Marsh as subagent, are included. Among the letters from Governor Lewis Cass in the group are some relating to his exploring expedition of 1820, his plan to publish a history of Indian customs and languages, and the appointment of George Johnston as subagent at La Pointe. Here also are to be found items relating to such important Northwest figures as William Joseph Snelling, Joseph Rolette, William A. Aitken, Alexander Faribault, Joseph Laframboise, William Morrison, Scott Campbell, and Henry R. Schoolcraft.

An abstract of votes cast in Clayton County, Iowa Territory, in September, 1838, recently copied for the society by the photostatic process from the original in the possession of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa at Des Moines, includes returns from the St. Peter's precinct, at the mouth of the Minnesota River. The abstract shows that a number of residents of what is now Minnesota cast votes for a delegate to Congress and for members of the Iowa territorial legislature, for all Minnesota west of the Mississippi was included in the newly organized territory. Pioneer Minnesotans also are listed in a census of Clayton County, Wisconsin, which has been photographed from the original in the office of the secretary of state at Madison, Wisconsin. The census was taken in May, 1838, just before Iowa Territory was organized and while Clayton County was still a part of Wisconsin.

A reminiscent narrative and several letters of Alonzo Barnard, a missionary to the Minnesota Chippewa in the 1840's, have been photographed from the originals in the possession of Mr. William Douglas of Winnipeg. In these documents Barnard gives accounts of the printing press that was used at the Cass Lake mission, and of the method he used in studying the Chippewa language.

Mr. Charles L. Chandler of Philadelphia has presented a photostatic copy of a draft of a letter in his possession which was written to the secretary of war by Gouverneur Kemble on March 3, 1841. Kemble, a leading American iron founder, presents a proposal to develop the copper mines of the Lake Superior country, which he was interested in leasing from the government.

The archiepiscopal archives at St. Boniface, Manitoba, up to 1868 have been examined recently for material of Minnesota interest, and some thirteen hundred filmstrips have been made of selected items. For the years before 1850, the interest lies largely in the papers of Henry Fisher, a fur trader and a brother of Mrs. Hercules L. Dousman of Prairie du Chien. These papers include material on such well-known traders as Joseph Rolette, Bernard W. Brisbois, and Norman W. Kittson; and they contain accounts of life at Pembina, trips between St. Peter's and Fort Garry, and many other subjects of Minnesota interest. For a later period, the archives reveal a wealth of material about the Sioux War of 1862-64, with numerous letters by and about Henry H. Sibley and Major Edwin A. C. Hatch. Items relating to Catholic missionary activities in Minnesota and the Northwest include material about and by Father J. B. M. Genin, the earliest Oblate missionary in the upper Red River Valley, and the reminiscences of the Reverend Joseph Goiffon, written in 1908 when he was almost eighty-five years old for the archbishop of St. Boniface. A longer and slightly different version of the latter document, which fills twenty-seven closely written pages, is owned by the St. Paul Seminary (see *ante*, 9:68).

A series of diaries kept from 1873 to 1901 by Edward H. S. Dartt, who conducted an experiment station for fruit trees near Owatonna, has been presented by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Harvey S. Dartt of Minneapolis. The volumes are especially valuable for their comments on the growing of fruit in southern Minnesota, on county fairs, and on meetings of the state horticultural society. Information about Dartt's activities at Kingston, Wisconsin, where he lived before removing to Minnesota in 1868, and about his early years in the latter state is to be found in account books for the period from 1846 to 1875, which are also included in the gift. In these volumes are records of a store that Dartt conducted at Kingston, minutes of meetings of the trustees of a proposed academy at that place in 1856, a record of real-estate transactions, and lists of prices received for trees and fruit raised in Minnesota.

A diary kept by Governor Alexander Ramsey in 1850, while engaged in a canoe trip from St. Paul to Leech, Cass, and Sandy lakes via the Mississippi, has been added to his papers by his granddaughter,

Miss Laura Furness of St. Paul. The journey described in this little book seems to have been made in anticipation of a treaty with several bands of Chippewa for the sale of their lands, but Ramsey was careful to make no mention of this plan, explaining in the diary that such a course at the time might lead the natives to demand excessively high prices for the land. Ramsey's record is of special value for its detailed descriptions of individual Indians and traders, including Flat Mouth and George Bonga; of the buildings and personnel at the mission stations established on Cass Lake and Lake Winnibigoshish by the so-called Oberlin band of missionaries; and of the Methodist mission at Sandy Lake.

Photographic and typewritten copies of the diary kept by George B. McClellan while engaged in the Pacific railroad survey of 1853 have been made for the society from the original in the Library of Congress. McClellan led the party that worked eastward from the Pacific coast and eventually met the expedition under Isaac I. Stevens that pushed westward from St. Paul.

"We have made between 80 and 90 gallons of Molasses from the Chinese sugar cane this fall and 60 for other folks 150 in all and it is much better than we can buy at the stores," wrote Ditus Day from Castle Rock in December, 1858. The letter in which he makes this report about his manufacture of sorghum syrup is one of several written by Day and his wife from 1858 to 1860, which have been presented by Mrs. Schuyler V. R. Hendryx of Austin. Mrs. Day describes the equipment used in making the syrup in a letter of October 5, 1858. Her husband and son used "two wooden rollers turned by horse power to crush out the juice," she reports. "Then they have 2 sheet iron pans to boil [it] in."

The Red River rebellion, temperance societies in Minnesota, the founding of Nininger, the Spirit Lake massacre, and fruits and crops produced in Minnesota are among the subjects touched upon in items recently transcribed for the society from files of eastern newspapers preserved in the Public and Congregational libraries of Boston. They were found in files of the *Portland Eclectic* and the *Liberator* for the 1850's, in the *Advance* of the 1860's and the 1870's, and in the *Pilot* of the latter decade. "You see plenty of strong, robust looking men and women, many of whom you will be surprised to learn, came to

the State as confirmed consumptives," wrote a Minnesota correspondent to the *Advance* in 1869. Calendar cards made for items in numerous papers and periodicals in the same libraries show that they contain material relating to such subjects as the Floral Culture Association of Minnesota, Jane Grey Swisshelm, the Hutchinson family, George Copway, I. I. Stevens' survey of a route for a Pacific railroad, and Congregational churches in Minnesota.

The diaries kept between 1864 and 1873 by John W. Murray, a farmer and horticulturist living near Excelsior, have been presented by his daughter, Mrs. Byron Wilson of Excelsior. They contain an unusual record of the raising of bees, as well as entries relating to the diarist's experiences as a hospital steward in Missouri during the Civil War, the Congregational church at Excelsior, a meeting of the Congregational conference in Minneapolis in 1865, a trip by stage and rail through southern Minnesota in the same year, fairs, social life, country schools, and weather conditions.

A typewritten copy of the reminiscences of John J. Sherman, describing experiences in southern prisons during the Civil War, has been presented by his daughter, Miss Florence L. Sherman of Morton, Illinois. Sherman was a member of Company G, Eighth New York Heavy Artillery.

Seven letters written between 1868 and 1871 by Mrs. Hannah E. Boyce, the wife of a farmer near Fairmont, have been photographed from the originals in the possession of the Martin County Historical Society, through the courtesy of Mr. Arthur M. Nelson of Fairmont. All the letters are addressed to William Rutherford of Lisbon, New York, the writer's father. She reports on various phases of pioneer life, giving prices of farm products and revealing that her husband was obliged to pay thirty-two per cent interest on money borrowed to buy a reaper.

A large collection of the papers of Solomon G. Comstock, lawyer, state legislator, and Congressman, covering the period from 1875 to 1920, has been presented by his children through the courtesy of Miss Jessie Comstock of Moorhead. Comstock's correspondence includes many letters from prominent Minnesotans, such as Knute Nelson, William S. Pattee, Christopher C. Andrews, and Cushman K. Davis. Much information on local politics between 1876 and 1891, on Com-

stock's activities as a member of the board of regents of the University of Minnesota and of the state normal school board, and on his locating of townsites in western Minnesota, North Dakota, and Montana, in partnership with Almond A. White, is to be found in these papers.

Letters from American authors and illustrators regarding the publication of their works in the *Northwestern Miller* and the *Bellman* are among twenty-six letters written between 1885 and 1923 to William C. Edgar, the Minneapolis editor, that have been photographed for the society from the originals in the Minneapolis Public Library. The correspondents include Edwin A. Abbey, James L. Allen, Charles Barnard, Samuel L. Clemens, Alice French, Richard W. Gilder, Edward E. Hale, Mrs. Anton Lang, Brander Matthews, William J. Mayo, Edgar W. Nye, Howard Pyle, Frederic Remington, Frank R. Stockton, George E. Vincent, and Constance F. Woolson.

A draft of a letter written by Henry H. Sibley to Isaac V. Heard on July 4, 1890, regarding the Senate investigation of the Sioux treaties of 1851, has been presented by the former's daughter-in-law, Mrs. Fred Sibley of Los Angeles, through the courtesy of Miss Eugenie F. McGroarty of St. Paul.

A filing box of the papers of Theophilus L. Haecker, professor of dairy husbandry at the University of Minnesota for many years and a promoter of co-operative creameries throughout the state, has been presented by his daughter, Mrs. Robert Lansing of St. Paul. The collection covers the period from 1890 to 1936, and includes correspondence with Coates P. Bull, Frank A. Day, William A. Henry, William D. Hoard, Cyrus Northrop, and Alfred F. Woods. In addition there are clippings relating to Haecker's work in the development of the dairy industry, copies of his speeches and of articles on the feeding of cattle and on agricultural co-operation, and notebooks of experiments at the school of agriculture.

Minutes of the meetings held from 1894 to 1932 by St. Agnes court of the Catholic Order of Foresters, a fraternal benefit society of St. Paul, have been presented through the courtesy of Mr. Alvis E. Mathe, its recording secretary. The minutes are written entirely in German from 1894 to 1917, alternately in German and English

from 1918 to 1928, and thereafter in English. Accompanying the minutes is a register of endowment certificates issued by the organization.

Two letter books and a few papers kept by Leonard A. Rosing, chairman of the Democratic state central committee in 1897 and candidate for governor in 1902, have been presented by his daughter, Mrs. W. L. Patterson of Fergus Falls. Included in the collection are letters from Governors John Lind and John A. Johnson. The letter books, which cover the period from April, 1904, to March, 1905, relate to the affairs of the Minnesota Municipal and Commercial League, of which Rosing was president; to its interest in increasing the power of the Interstate Commerce Commission to fix railroad rates; to the influence exerted upon Senator Moses E. Clapp and Congressman F. C. Stevens toward this end; to the activities of the Commercial Club of Cannon Falls; and to the state board of control, of which Rosing was a member.

The papers of Ransom J. Powell, a Minneapolis attorney who handled numerous cases involving lands on the White Earth reservation, have been presented by his daughter, Mrs. Alyce Vick of Anoka. The collection, which fills five filing boxes, includes correspondence for the years from 1906 to 1922. It relates for the most part to land titles on the reservation and the blood status of certain Indians. Township plats on which are indicated the lands claimed by Powell's clients and by others also are included in the collection.

A revised copy of a doctoral dissertation submitted at Clark University in 1933 by George H. Primmer and entitled "The Influence of Location on the Evolution of Duluth, Minnesota" is the gift of the author, a member of the faculty of the Duluth State Teachers College.

NEWS AND COMMENT

"THE HISTORIAN of the future who seeks to interpret our contemporary life without taking into account the shaping forces of modern business will but touch the fringe of his subject," writes Oliver W. Holmes in a discussion of "The Evaluation and Preservation of Business Archives" which appears in the *American Archivist* for October. "For more than a generation people have spoken of two capitals, Washington and Wall Street," he continues, adding the comment that "We are careful to preserve the records of one capital, but have sadly neglected the records of the other." He points out that the preservation of business archives is doubly important "because few business records are ever printed," making it necessary for the historian who would satisfactorily interpret and fully understand the operations of a business concern to depend upon its manuscript records. The writer concludes that bold and careful planning "is necessary if the resources stored in the experiences of the past and the present are to be conserved for the future."

Mr. Frank E. Ross, whose detailed review of the "Fur Trade of the Western Great Lakes Region" appeared in the issue of this magazine for September, 1938, contributes an article on the "Early Fur Trade of the Great Northwest" to the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* for December. Among the traders and explorers whose exploits are noted are La Vérendrye, David Thompson, Lewis and Clark, Zebulon M. Pike, and Manuel Lisa. The well-known story of Pike's expedition into the Minnesota country in 1805-06 is retold in some detail, and an account of the beginnings of the Red River settlements, including Pembina, is presented.

The Reverend Gilbert J. Garraghan is the author of a three-volume history of the *Jesuits of the Middle United States*, beginning with the "arrival of Father Van Quickenborne and his Belgian novices at Florissant, Missouri, in 1823." The work of this order in the past century has not been prominently identified with Minnesota. The author does bring out the fact, however, that the Jesuits have "maintained a residence" at Mankato since 1874, and he devotes a

short section to the work of the society in this Minnesota city. He notes also the unsuccessful attempts of Bishops Cretin and Grace to attract Jesuit missionaries to the Minnesota frontier.

A number of early Minnesota periodicals are mentioned by Frank Luther Mott in his detailed *History of American Magazines, 1865-1885* (Cambridge, 1938. 649 p.). Among them are trade journals, such as the *Northwestern Miller* and the *Northwestern Architect*; agricultural periodicals, such as *Farm, Stock, and Home*; medical magazines, such as the *Journal-Lancet*; and religious, temperance, and other periodicals. Note is made also of the *Northwest Magazine*, a "‘booster’ monthly" published at St. Paul for two decades.

Under the heading "Norsemen in Ontario," eleven articles by J. W. Curran appear in the *Sault Daily Star* of Sault Ste. Marie from August 13 to October 22. They are reprinted with an introductory sketch in a special section issued by the *Star* in November. Mr. Curran deals particularly with discoveries recently made in Canada of objects reported to be of Norse origin. Among them are the "armor of a Norseman . . . pronounced of 11th century make" found near Lake Nipigon in 1930 by James E. Dodd, and a "Norse spear-head" found on the shore of Lake Superior in August, 1938. Mr. Curran touches on the Kensington rune stone as an evidence of the presence of Norsemen in the Northwest and in Canada in the fourteenth century. A novel based upon the Kensington story is Hjalmar J. Loken's "Great Medicine," which appears in installments in the *Glassmate* of Cincinnati from June 4 to July 16, 1938. With the opening chapter, Mr. Hjalmar R. Holand presents a brief account of "The Writing Stone: Story of a Missionary Expedition 130 Years before Columbus Discovered America." It is accompanied by two views of the Kensington stone, showing the runic inscriptions.

Professor George M. Stephenson surveyed "Scandinavian Contributions to American Life" at a session of the Chicago meeting of the American Historical Association on December 30. Dr. Guy Stanton Ford, president of the University of Minnesota and a member of the executive council of the Minnesota Historical Society, presided at the session, and Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, superintendent of the society, participated in the discussion which followed.

Members of the National Grange, en route to a convention at Portland, Oregon, stopped at Elk River on November 11 to participate in ceremonies at the home of Oliver H. Kelley, the founder of the Grange. A bronze and granite marker on the Kelley homestead was unveiled, and brief talks commemorating Kelley's services were presented by Mr. James Kelly of the Minnesota highway department, Mr. E. K. Eckert and Mr. L. J. Taber, officers of the National Grange, and Mr. M. L. Wilson, assistant secretary of agriculture. The latter speaker asserted that the Kelley homestead "should become to agriculture what Mount Vernon is to the nation."

Minnesota and Northwest influences figure prominently in Theodore Jorgenson's study of "The Main Factors in Rølvaag's Authorship," which appears in volume 10 of *Norwegian-American Studies and Records* (1938.). The Minnesota author's Norwegian background, his life in South Dakota, his college career, and his services as a member of the faculty of St. Olaf College after 1906 are discussed at length. Mr. Jorgenson believes that Rølvaag's "duties as a college professor kept him on the main highway of his literary interest," and that "it is extremely doubtful that he ever would have reached beyond the apprentice stage as a writer had he chosen any other profession than the teaching of Norse literature."

Holiday celebrations of various racial groups—the Swedes, the Dutch, the Germans, the Belgians, the English, the Irish—in frontier Wisconsin receive considerable attention in the first installment of Lillian Krueger's study of "Social Life in Wisconsin," which appears in the December issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. Dances, banquets, and other festivities in which the Wisconsin pioneers of the forties, fifties, and early sixties participated also are described. In this issue of the *Magazine* appears the concluding installment of Thomas Pederson's "Recollections" (see *ante*, 19:465). He tells here of his later years at Randall in Morrison County and of his removal to Mildred in Cass County in northern Minnesota.

Various phases of social life in Iowa Territory a century ago are described in three articles appearing in the *Palimpsest* for December. William J. Petersen takes as his subject "Homespun Amusements"; Jack T. Johnson deals with the "Mandatory Thrift" that characterized frontier life; and Luella M. Wright presents some typical

examples of "Journalistic Literature" of 1838. "Except for an occasional steamboat excursion (the *Brazil* carried a party to the Falls of St. Anthony)," writes Mr. Petersen, "the Iowa pioneers had little imported diversion." They managed, however, to utilize "every element of their social life as a vehicle for fun." Among the amusements discussed by Mr. Petersen are bees, hunting and fishing expeditions, sleighing and skating, dancing, amateur theatricals, and holiday celebrations. Mr. Petersen also is the author of an interesting article on "The Pioneer Cabin" as it existed in Iowa from about 1830 to 1870, published in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for October. Log cabins, sod houses, and dugouts occupied by settlers in various parts of the state are described, and the methods by which they were constructed are explained.

Representatives of historical organizations in Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota participated in a program near Larchwood, Iowa, on October 9 at which a recently restored marker designating the meeting point of these three states was dedicated (see *ante*, 19:424-426). The original iron post placed at the southwest corner of Minnesota in 1859, as restored, bears the following inscription: "This marker erected in 1859 by the U. S. government marking junction of Iowa, Minnesota and Dakota territory. Marker damaged by vandals, repaired and reset under direction of the Department of the Interior, by Lyon county, Iowa; Rock county, Minnesota; and Minnehaha county, South Dakota. Sponsored by the Minnehaha County Historical Society. A.D. 1938."

A History of Transportation in Canada by G. P. de T. Glazebrook has been issued as one of a series of studies dealing with the "relations of Canada and the United States" (Toronto, 1938. 475 p.). Grand Portage and the lakes and rivers that now form the northern border of Minnesota figure prominently in the opening chapters, which bear the titles "Water Transport in the French Régime" and "The Fur Traders, 1763-1821." Grand Portage is described as the "meeting place of the traders and the point at which the goods or furs were transferred from the *canots du maître* to the *canots du nord*" for the voyage into the interior. The writer points out that after the treaty of 1783 the "Grand Portage route was the only satisfactory one known, and the traders were plunged into deep

gloom at the thought of losing it to the United States," and he shows how this important transportation route was eventually replaced by the Kaministiquia route. In later chapters, particularly those relating to the Pacific and other transcontinental railways, the position of James J. Hill is given due prominence.

"Pembina is a wretched place, and the wretched American Post Office in the other, *i.e.* American, side of the line is still more miserable." Thus wrote Captain John Palliser, the leader of a British exploring expedition in the Canadian West, when he visited the border post in July, 1857. "We walked up to a wooden post driven into the ground, indicating the boundary line; it was placed there by the Americans," Palliser reports. He "took the latitude and found it very correct." A letter from Palliser describing a journey from Fort William to Fort Garry and Pembina, including these comments on the latter place, appears with a brief introduction by H. S. Patterson in the December issue of the *Beaver*. The same number includes a sketch by Ross Mitchell of Dr. John Bunn, a pioneer physician in the Canadian Red River settlements from 1832 to 1861.

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

"To make more generally known and available the mass of material bearing on social conditions in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, to reveal what has been reported on and studied in a variety of fields, and to indicate where these studies are available" are the purposes of a *Guide to Studies of Social Conditions in the Twin Cities: An Annotated Bibliography*, prepared by Calvin F. Schmid, Raymond F. Sletto, and A. Stephen Stephan, and published by the bureau of social research of the Minneapolis Council of Social Agencies (Minneapolis, 1938. 474 p.). Listed herein are nearly twenty-five hundred books, articles, and reports, issued for the most part since 1920 and dealing with a great variety of subjects. Included are sections devoted to such diverse topics as child welfare, industry and business, schools and colleges, city planning, arts and music, health, immigrant groups, libraries, hospitals, fire prevention, welfare and relief, settlement houses, traffic regulations, and taxation. Any student who undertakes a study of the history of almost any phase of social life and conditions in the Twin City area, or even in Minnesota as a whole, will do well to consult this bibliography. If the entire work can

be judged, however, by the section on history, which includes 116 items, it should be used with discretion. Under the heading of the Minnesota Historical Society are listed only two of the seventeen volumes of *Collections* that this organization has published, though two or three other works in this series are included under the names of their authors. The society's *Check List of Minnesota Public Documents* appears twice, once under the names of the compilers and once under that of the publisher. A few selected articles that have been published in MINNESOTA HISTORY are included, as is the index to the first ten volumes of this periodical. The section relating to "Racial, Nationality, and Immigrant Groups" omits many standard items in the fields of Swedish and Norwegian immigration, not a few of which contain material of Twin City interest.

To the *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota*, initiated by the Minnesota Historical Records Survey in 1937 (see *ante*, 19:88-90), three bulky volumes were added late in 1938. They make available lists of the archives of Nicollet County located at St. Peter (no. 52—195 p.), of Traverse County preserved at Wheaton (no. 78—235 p.), and of Washington County preserved at Stillwater (no. 82—284 p.). Each volume opens with a historical sketch of the county and an account of the "Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records" preserved in its courthouse. The Historical Records Survey has also published recently another section of its *Inventory of Federal Archives in the States* (see *ante*, 19:462)—a list of the records of the federal department of the treasury preserved in Minnesota. The majority of its 169 pages are devoted to inventories of the records of customs and internal revenue offices in the state.

A new edition of Antoinette E. Ford's *Gopher Tales*, which was originally issued in 1932 (see *ante*, 13:420), has been published by Lyons and Carnahan (Chicago, 1938. 214 p.). The text remains unchanged, but a section devoted to "Minnesota Counties" has been added. It includes a paragraph about each county in the state, giving the date of its establishment and the origin of its name.

A number of letters written in 1839 and 1840 from Fort Snelling by Dr. John Emerson, the "Owner of Dred Scott," are quoted in an article by the Reverend Charles E. Snyder in the *Annals of Iowa* for October. The letters, which were addressed to Antoine LeClaire,

are now among the latter's papers in the Davenport Public Museum. Although they relate chiefly to property that Emerson acquired while stationed at Fort Armstrong, they contain illuminating passages about events at the Minnesota post to which the army surgeon was transferred and to which he took his slave in 1836. In a letter of July 14, 1839, for example, he reports on the recent "sad affair between the Sioux and the Chippewas," telling how the Sioux, after losing one of their number at the hands of the Chippewa, pursued the latter and took "one hundred fifty scalps." "They have nearly exterminated, a band of the Chipp called in french the *Mil Lac band*," writes Dr. Emerson, "all done on the public lands in the Territory of Wisconsin and within fifty miles of their Fort."

A brief note on "Fr. Pierz among Minnesota Indians," which appears in *Central-Blatt and Social Justice* for October, is based upon a letter of Pierz that is published in *Wahrheitsfreund* for June 6, 1861. In this letter, which unfortunately is not reprinted in full, Pierz "speaks of the distribution of seeds and bulbs, his treatment of the Indians' ailments with homeopathic remedies, his method of teaching and his use of the Baraga Catechism." Particularly interesting might be the missionary's comments on plants that he was introducing, since the letter was written when he was stationed at Crow Wing.

The memory of a childhood spent as the daughter of a missionary in northern Minnesota has been translated by Mrs. Lois D. Hagen into an appealing volume, published under the title *A Parish in the Pines*, to which clings a faint and haunting aroma of pine boughs (Caldwell, Idaho, 1938. 263 p.). A puritanical father, William Denley, and a gracious mother, both from England, gave the best years of their lives first as home missionaries of the Congregational church at Wadena and Brighton; and later as Episcopalian missionaries to Indians at White Earth, Red Lake, and Cass Lake. Mostly the narrative is dramatic with small incidents and characters—births, deaths, journeys, a murder, a devoted country doctor's funeral, schools, tutors, the purchase of the first cow, and Indian personalities and psychology. But through the pains and pleasures of life on a late frontier runs a gay thread of delight at the beauties of northern woodlands and lakes. Now and again historical characters appear,

though with names that half conceal their identity. "The Reverend J. W. Gillian, Archdeacon of the Episcopal church," was surely the famous Indian missionary, Joseph Alexander Gilfillan; "Enamnigabo (or Mr. Johnson as we knew him)" was certainly the well-known Enmegahbowh, or John Johnson. The "Richelieu" brothers strongly suggest the Beaulieu brothers. Despite such minor distortions the book, besides being entertaining, is of historical value. G. L. N.

A 1939 *Supplement* to Roy G. and Gladys C. Blakey's volume on *Taxation in Minnesota*, published in 1932, has been issued by the University of Minnesota Press (32 p.). In the present pamphlet the authors undertake "to summarize the main tax changes and the developments affecting taxation in the state since 1932." Another recent publication of this press is a book entitled *Ninety Days of Lawmaking in Minnesota*, in which an effort is made to present "a realistic picture of how the Minnesota legislature is organized and how it functions as a lawmaking body."

With three installments of Dr. John M. Armstrong's "History of Medicine in Ramsey County," *Minnesota Medicine* continues, in its issues for October, November, and December, its history of medical practice in the state (see *ante*, 19:463). Dr. Armstrong opens his narrative with brief accounts of Dr. Thomas S. Williamson, the missionary to the Sioux, and of post physicians who served at old Fort Snelling. From 1847, when Dr. John J. Dewey settled at St. Paul, however, Dr. Armstrong presents a year-by-year account of the medical history of the community. He has scanned with care the files of the *Minnesota Pioneer*, the first Minnesota newspaper, which began publication at St. Paul in 1849, and he reproduces in his narrative many items of medical interest discovered in these columns. Among them is the advertisement of "Dr. Jarvis, Dentist and Daguerrean," published in May, 1850. The author has drawn also upon manuscripts preserved by the Minnesota Historical Society. The list of deaths in Ramsey County appearing in the manuscript census of 1850 is reproduced, as are certain items from the account book of Dr. Thomas R. Potts, who began to practice medicine in St. Paul in May, 1849. The last installment published in 1938 carries the narrative to the year 1854. Dr. Armstrong has made a contribution of unusual interest and value to the history of Minnesota.

An entire section of the *Minnesota Daily* for November 1 is devoted to articles about the growth of musical activity on the campus of the University of Minnesota in the past two decades. Special attention is given to the University Artists Course, which opened its twentieth season on November 7. Included is a list of artists who have given performances in this series since 1919. Accounts of the growth of the university's school of music and of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra's connection with the university also appear in the section.

The history of the Archdiocese of St. Paul since its establishment half a century ago is reviewed by Florence Brown in the *Catholic Bulletin* of St. Paul for December 24. The division into dioceses, the establishment of schools and seminaries, and the careers of Archbishops Ireland, Dowling, and Murray are discussed by the writer.

The Northern Pacific Railway Veterans' Association is attempting to establish in the general offices of the road in St. Paul a railway museum, and it has appealed to its members for pictures and museum objects. Among the articles in which the association is interested are lamps, bells, early types of rails, old telegraph equipment, dining car service articles, and the like. Members also have been asked to furnish autobiographical sketches, giving special attention to their rail-roading experiences.

In a pamphlet entitled *Growth Dictated by Demand*, the Northern States Power Company of Minnesota presents a concise review of its organization and early history and of the growth of its services (27 p.). The company originated at Stillwater in 1909 with the incorporation of the Washington County Light and Power Company.

Several hundred people attended a dinner meeting honoring the memory of Ignatius Donnelly at Hastings on November 30, when plans for establishing a state park on the site of his former home at Nininger were outlined. Mr. E. Dudley Parsons of Minneapolis presented a review of Donnelly's career which is published in full in the *Hastings Gazette* for December 9.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

An asset of which any community, regardless of size, could be justly proud is the museum of the Brown County Historical Society

at New Ulm. This handsome fireproof structure is an ideal home for one of the largest and most interesting local historical collections in the state. Modern in design, the building is constructed of a glistening white manufactured stone, known as American Artstone. The ground floor, with an entrance on the east, is occupied by the museum; the second story, which has its own entrance on the north, is devoted to the city library's reading room and offices. The building was opened to the public in February, 1937.

The museum consists of two large exhibit rooms, one just inside the east entrance, and the other on the extreme west. They are connected by a corridor from which a stairway ascends to the library and into which the directors' room opens. Exhibits are arranged in wall cases which line a large part of both rooms and in eleven floor cases. Some wall space is devoted also to large portraits and other pictures, such as lithographs showing New Ulm in 1860 and 1870. Extensive collections of Indian objects and of articles illustrative of pioneer domestic life are on display. Most of the exhibits are permanent, but four floor cases in the west room are devoted to temporary displays which are changed every two weeks. Photographs and documents of timely interest and portraits of pioneers are exhibited in these cases.

The Brown County society's most important possessions, however, are to be found not in its exhibit rooms, but in its directors' room. There, filed in steel cases, are the enormous collections of portraits, pictures, newspaper clippings, manuscripts, and the like accumulated and arranged by its president, Mr. Fred W. Johnson. The portrait collection alone represents a unique achievement on the part of Mr. Johnson, who has made local history his hobby. Some years ago he consulted the manuscript population schedules of the Minnesota census for 1860, in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. There he found listed every individual who lived in Brown County at the time of the first federal census taken after Minnesota was admitted to statehood. To find and assemble pictures of all the people listed for Brown County became Mr. Johnson's ambition. The success with which he has met may be judged from the fact that he now has portraits of five hundred of the six hundred and fifty people who lived in New Ulm in 1860. For one township, Milford, which had a population of three hundred and fifty in 1860, he can show two hundred and seventy-five portraits. For the county as a whole he now has over ten thousand portraits—a collection that he describes as a

"family album" of Brown County. Most of these likenesses of the pioneers who toiled and lived and played in the Brown County of 1860 Mr. Johnson obtained from their descendants, some of whom reside in the county, but many of whom are scattered far and wide. The portraits have been mounted on boards of uniform size and filed in alphabetical order. Whenever possible, newspaper clippings about and biographical sketches of the individuals pictured are included.

Of unusual interest and value also is a chronological file of items relating to the history of Brown County. This consists largely of newspaper clippings, manuscripts, photostatic or typewritten copies of manuscripts and government documents, and pictures, which, like the portraits, have been mounted on boards of uniform size. These items are arranged under specific headings or topics, beginning with the treaty of Traverse des Sioux, by which the area of Brown County was opened to settlement. Other subjects included are the Sioux reservation in the Minnesota Valley, the Ramsey investigation, the Spirit Lake massacre, missions and missionaries in the county, Fort Ridgely, and the Sioux War. The creation of the county, changes made in its boundaries, its political history, and the organization of its townships also are covered. That Mr. Johnson has located and included in his file the original petition for the organization of every township in the county is an example of the thoroughness with which he works. His interest in social history is reflected in a file of programs, advertisements, and newspaper accounts of some three hundred musical and dramatic entertainments staged in New Ulm after 1866. With this material are filed pictures of amateur and professional musicians and actors who appeared in the performances.

Among the society's treasured possessions are 224 volumes of New Ulm newspapers covering the years from 1858 to the present. Included is a complete file of the rare *Neu Ulm Pionier*, the city's first paper, which was published in German from 1858 to 1862. It was turned over to the society by the local Turnverein. Many other newspaper volumes were received from the city of New Ulm, which had preserved them with its archives. Mention should be made also of Mr. Johnson's large and valuable collection of autographed photographs of celebrities, which he expects eventually to turn over to the society.

The Brown County Historical Society was organized in 1929, and it now has some two hundred life members, each of whom has paid a membership fee of five dollars. Under Mr. Johnson's capable and

enthusiastic leadership, they have given to their county a model museum — a safe and beautiful home in which the records of its past can be permanently preserved.

B. L. H.

At a meeting of the Becker County Historical Society held at Detroit Lakes on October 11, Mrs. Alice Braden was named president, Mr. Walter Bird, vice-president, Mrs. W. H. Johnson, secretary, and Mr. Carl Hansen, treasurer.

A paper on the life and career of Joseph Renville was presented by Edwina Gould before about forty members of the Chippewa County Historical Society at Montevideo on October 27. Miss Gould, who is curator of the society's museum, reported that its collection now includes more than seventeen hundred items, and that the museum is outgrowing its present quarters. Officers elected at the meeting include Mr. David Fisher, president; the Reverend E. I. Strom, vice-president; and Mrs. L. M. Pierce, corresponding secretary.

Well-attended meetings of the newly organized Clearwater County Historical Society were held at Gonvick and Leonard on October 11 and December 9. About a hundred and thirty-five people gathered at the earlier meeting to hear Mr. Nels Fredensburg and Mr. Frank A. Nordquist speak on the history of Gonvick. Two pioneer residents of Leonard recalled their early experiences before an audience of about sixty people at that place.

At a meeting of the Cottonwood County Historical and Old Settlers' Association, held at Windom on October 8, Mr. I. I. Bargaen recalled some of his experiences as county superintendent of schools in the 1890's. About seventy people attended the meeting. A history of Storden Township, written by the late A. H. Anderson and preserved among the collections of this society, is published in installments in the *Cottonwood County Citizen* of Windom, beginning with the issue of October 26.

Members of the Crow Wing County Historical Society gathered at Brainerd for the eleventh annual meeting of the organization on December 5. The following officers were elected: Carl Wright, president; Mrs. Rose Powell, vice-president; Dr. A. K. Cohen, treasurer; Mrs. Sarah Heald, secretary; and Judge L. B. Kinder, historian. The

society is making an effort to obtain more space in the courthouse for the display of its rapidly growing museum collection.

Mr. Burt W. Eaton of Rochester was the speaker at the annual meeting of the Fillmore County Historical Society, which was held at Preston on October 11. Mr. John C. Mills was elected president, Mr. J. C. White, vice-president, Mrs. S. B. Johnson, secretary, and Mrs. John Galligan, treasurer. This local society now has more than a hundred members.

That the Hennepin County Historical Society has assembled more than eight hundred items of local historical interest in the few months that have passed since its organization was revealed at its first annual meeting, which was held in Minneapolis on November 16. The collection, which includes newspapers, manuscripts, and many museum objects, is now in the Oak Hill School at St. Louis Park. It was described at the meeting by Mr. Edward A. Blomfield. Officers elected for the coming year include Mr. Robert E. Scott, president; Mr. Dana W. Frear, vice-president; Miss Ruth Thompson, secretary; and Mr. Edward C. Gale, treasurer.

Meetings held at Hallock on November 14 and December 8 resulted in the organization of the Kittson County Historical Society. A constitution drafted by a special committee was adopted at the latter meeting. Mr. Paul O. Hanson of Hallock is president of the new organization and Mr. Don Holland of Lancaster is secretary.

Plans for the removal of the museum of the Hutchinson Historical Society from the public library building to that of the local high school were made at a meeting held on December 9. In greatly improved quarters, it is hoped that the society's collections can be displayed to good advantage. Officers elected at the meeting include Mr. S. S. Beach, president; Mr. W. S. Clay, vice-president; and Mrs. Sophie White, secretary-treasurer.

Judge Bernard B. Brett was re-elected president of the Marshall County Historical Society at its annual meeting, which was held at Warren on November 17. Mr. O. M. Mattson was named vice-president, Mrs. Synneva Knapp, secretary, and Mrs. H. I. Yetter,

treasurer. Plans were made for holding the 1939 summer meeting of the society at Newfolden on the last Sunday in July.

Officers of the Martin County Historical Society who were re-elected at its annual meeting on October 3 are Judge Julius E. Haycraft, president, Mrs. H. W. Brodt, vice-president, and Mr. E. Howard Fitz, treasurer. It was tentatively planned to hold the society's next summer meeting at Okamanpedan State Park.

Under the auspices of the Morrison County Historical Society a marker has been placed on the grave near Little Falls of the elder Hole-in-the-Day, the Chippewa chief. The marker was donated by the Little Falls Granite Works. The society also has placed a marker in a Catholic cemetery of Little Falls over the grave of Nathan Richardson, a local pioneer who led the movement for the organization of the county in 1856.

The Otter Tail County Historical Society now has in its collection at Fergus Falls about twelve hundred museum objects, nearly a thousand portraits of pioneers, and about four hundred photographs of buildings of historical significance in the county. This was revealed in a report of the secretary, Mr. E. T. Barnard, submitted at a meeting of the society's directors in October. He estimates that almost twenty thousand visitors have viewed the society's museum displays in the past four years. Notes on the accessions of the society appear from time to time in the Fergus Falls papers.

The Pennington County Historical Society was organized at Thief River Falls on December 1, and plans were made to hold its first annual meeting on February 6. Temporary officers elected to serve until that time are Mr. Paul Lundgren, president; Mrs. J. M. Bishop, vice-president; Mrs. Mary V. Shaw, secretary; and Mr. Lincoln Arnold, treasurer.

An ambitious program of activity for the Pope County Historical Society in the winter of 1938-39 is outlined by G. C. Torguson, supervisor of a WPA project under the auspices of this society, in the *Pope County Tribune* of Glenwood for December 8. Included on the program are the indexing of local newspapers, assembling of biographies of pioneers, transcribing church and other records, gathering information for village and township histories, and writing articles on local history.

Plans for a combined library and museum building at Morgan, to be erected by Mr. Charles O. Gilfillan in memory of his father, the late C. D. Gilfillan, are announced in the *Morgan Messenger* for October 13. With a structure such as this in prospect for the housing of collections, it is to be hoped that a Redwood County historical society will be promptly organized. By the time that the building is completed, such a society could have ready for display hundreds of items illustrative of the interesting history of this Minnesota Valley county.

Early Swedish settlement in Rice County was the general theme of papers and talks presented at a meeting of the Rice County Historical Society at Faribault on November 16. The "Backgrounds of Swedish Immigration" were discussed by Professor A. M. Holmquist of St. Olaf College; the experiences of a Rice County pioneer, August Mortenson, were recalled by his daughter, Mrs. E. Holway; and an account by Alice C. Olson of early Swedish settlement at Millersburg was read by Miss Maude Stewart. The papers by Professor Holmquist and Miss Olson appear in the *Northfield Independent* for December 1 and 29. The following officers were elected for the coming year: Mr. C. N. Sayles, president; Mrs. Joseph Gannon, vice-president; Mr. Donald Scott, treasurer; and Mr. Theodore Estabrook, secretary.

A meeting held at Jordan on November 7 resulted in the organization of the Scott County Historical Society. A temporary committee, of which Mr. Harry A. Irwin of Belle Plaine is chairman and Mr. Edward F. Smith of Belle Plaine, secretary, is in charge of the work of the new society.

The Stearns County Historical Society has assembled more than a thousand items of historical interest and some two thousand biographies of local pioneers, according to an article in the *St. Cloud Daily Times* for January 4. The society is hampered by lack of space and of display cases. Five cases in the corridors of the Stearns County Courthouse are available for its use, but only a small number of objects can be displayed there at one time. Recently funds for two additional cases were placed at the disposal of the society through the generosity of the Richmond Commercial Club and Mr. Alvah Eastman of St. Cloud.

A movement which may result in the organization of a Traverse County historical society is under way in that vicinity. In order to arouse interest in the proposed organization, newspapers at Browns

Valley, Graceville, and Wheaton have been publishing articles on local history prepared by George C. Allanson, supervisor of a WPA historical project.

A paper on the "Geological History of the Lake Pepin Valley" was read by George H. Beatty at the annual meeting of the Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society, which was held at Lake City on October 10. The following officers were elected: G. M. Dwelle, president; Mrs. George Selover, vice-president; M. L. Erickson, treasurer; and W. H. Pletsch, secretary.

About a thousand objects of historical interest and other antiques were assembled and arranged by members of the Twentieth Century Club of Wadena and placed on display on October 22. Mr. G. E. Sarver of the Todd County Historical Society spoke at the exhibit, stressing the importance of organizing a Wadena County historical society which could insure the preservation of objects like those on display. A description of the exhibit, which was viewed by more than five hundred people, appears in the *Wadena Pioneer Journal* for October 27.

Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society, was the principal speaker at a meeting of the Waseca County Historical Society at Waseca on October 7. He took as his subject "The Lure of Minnesota History." Other speakers on the same program were Mrs. Fred Day and Mr. R. E. Hodgson.

At the annual meeting of the Washington County Historical Society, which was held at Stillwater on October 17, Mr. E. E. Roney of Stillwater was named president for the coming year, Mrs. Henry J. Baily of Newport and Mr. Roy Strand of Marine were elected vice-presidents, Miss Annie Connors of Stillwater was named secretary, and Miss Grace Mosier of Stillwater was chosen treasurer. Mr. M. W. Halloran of Minneapolis spoke at a meeting of the society on November 18, taking as his subject some early Minnesota political campaigns and elections.

The Watonwan County Historical Society presented a program of talks before a large audience when it held its regular meeting at La Salle on October 20. Mr. George Hage, president of the society, reviewed the early history of Riverdale Township, in which La Salle is located, and Miss Eva Bolin outlined the story of the schools in the township.

Most of the school districts were represented by pioneer pupils, who recalled the country schools that they attended. Papers on "Frances Slocum" and on the "Founding of Grogan" were read by Clifford Boynton of St. Paul and by Frank Morris of Madelia at a meeting at St. James on December 12. Officers of the society elected on the latter date include Mr. George Hage, president; Mrs. Will Curtis, vice-president; Mr. J. E. Setrum, secretary; and Mr. Carl Hawkinson, treasurer.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

"A fine two story brick building, about 40 x 28 feet; built of the light colored yellow brick, and standing upon what is going to be the public square of the town" was erected at Chaska in the fall of 1864 to house a Moravian academy and boarding school, according to Sylvester Wolle, who went to Chaska to teach in the school. He describes the frontier community and its institution of learning in a letter which is published in the *Weekly Valley Herald* of Chaska for November 17. The original, written to Wolle's brother Francis on September 28, 1864, is preserved in the archives of the Moravian Theological Seminary at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The writer urges his brother to send without delay a "good second-hand" piano for the use of the school. "By the middle of November navigation in the Mississippi closes altogether and after that it will be too late," writes Wolle. "If a piano could be got ready in one week's time from the receipt of this I think we would avoid the risks of its lying over all winter on the way."

The establishment of the Carlton County Farm Bureau in 1918 and the growth of the organization during twenty years are described in the *Carlton County Vidette* for October 27. Sketches of the leaders of agricultural work in the county and a year-by-year review of the activities of the bureau are included.

Some early Minnesota ferry boats and crossings were described in a talk presented recently at Montevideo by Mrs. Sarah West and published in the *Montevideo News* for October 21. In traveling to her frontier home at Lac qui Parle in 1870, Mrs. West crossed the Minnesota River by ferry at several points. She describes in some detail a crude boat that was used at a crossing known as the Bushman Ferry.

A community historical museum has been built up in the Rush City school under the direction of C. H. Hedberg, superintendent. An account of the collection and an appeal to turn over to the museum objects of local historical interest and particularly photographs of Chisago County pioneers appears in the *Rush City Post* of October 28.

The story of the incorporation of the village of Bagley, which took place early in 1899 after a census of the inhabitants had been taken, is reviewed in the *Farmers Independent* of Bagley for November 17. Village and county records were used in preparing the account, which includes a "list of inhabitants residing within the territory proposed to be incorporated, on Nov. 28, 1898."

Storden Township in Cottonwood County is the subject of a historical sketch by A. H. Anderson which appears in installments in the *Cottonwood County Citizen* of Windom from November 2 to 16. The author opens his narrative with an account of conditions in the township in the early seventies, when it was known as Norsk.

One chapter of the social history of Minneapolis is exploited by S. Wirt Wiley and Florence Lehmann in their recent volume entitled *Builders of Men: A History of the Minneapolis Young Men's Christian Association: 1866-1936* (1938. 339 p.). The period from the founding of the association by Russell H. Conwell in 1866 to its fiftieth anniversary is covered by Mr. Wiley; Miss Lehmann carries the story from that point to 1936. Included in the earlier section are accounts of the organization of the Y. M. C. A., of its early days, of the growth of its educational and social activities, of the struggle to raise funds for a building of its own, of the erection of the building and its occupation in 1892, and of the fiftieth anniversary celebration.

The founding of the Maternity Hospital of Minneapolis in 1887 is recalled in an interesting pamphlet issued to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary (1937. 24 p.). Special attention is given to the career of Dr. Martha G. Ripley, who established the hospital.

The Reverend John E. Bushnell is the author of a volume on the *History of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1907-1937* (1938. 169 p.), which has been issued as a continuation of Charles T. Thompson's review of the church's first fifty years, published in 1907. In the opening chapter of the present work

Mr. Bushnell reviews briefly the "Story of Origins" which began with the organization of the church in 1857, thus providing a background for detailed accounts of its activities in the three decades that followed its golden anniversary.

One of Minnesota's most recently settled communities, Bear River in Koochiching County, honored its pioneers in a celebration held on November 20. More than three hundred people witnessed a pageant reviewing the history of Bear River, beginning with the trail blazers of 1900. The arrival of the first settlers, the organization of a town board, and the establishment of a post office, a school, a newspaper, a ball club, and a church were depicted in the various episodes. A brief review of the history of this frontier settlement of the twentieth century appears in the *Grand Rapids Herald-Review* for November 30.

The future historian who undertakes to study and record the story of the public health movement in Minnesota will find useful a little *History of the McLeod County Public Health Association* by Mrs. C. J. Schmitz (7 p.). This narrative, which covers the years from June, 1919, when the association was organized, to 1938, has been issued as a multigraphed pamphlet.

Articles on pioneer life in McLeod County appearing in recent issues of the *Hutchinson Banner* include accounts of hunting trips of the fifties, in the issues of October 28 and December 30, and descriptions of some early Fourth of July celebrations, in the issue of October 21. A historical sketch of the Bear Lake Sunshine Society, a women's club organized in 1910, is contributed to the issue of November 11 by Mrs. J. A. Smutka.

The records of a district school in Fox Lake Township, Martin County, were used by Elsy M. Drewes in preparing an article on the history of the school which appears in the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel* for December 13. The writer found that bonds to the amount of a hundred and fifty dollars were issued in 1877 to defray the expenses of building a schoolhouse. A sorghum mill established near Fairmont in 1863 by George Brockman is the subject of a brief article by Mrs. O. P. Lawrence in the *Sentinel* for November 11.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the chartering of Fidelity Lodge of the Masonic Order at Austin is the occasion for an interesting article

about the history of this fraternal organization in the *Austin Daily Herald* for November 10. The account is in large part based upon the manuscript records of the lodge, which, according to the writer, "contain for the historian and sociologist a vivid picture of Austin life during the second half of the last century." A number of items in this collection, such as programs, invitations, bills, and accounts, are described.

Senator Elmer E. Adams is the author of a series of "Reminiscences of Vernon A. Wright," the first installment of which appears in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for October 31. Wright's father, George B. Wright, the founder of Fergus Falls, figures prominently in the narrative. The son, a well-known architect, continued his interest in Fergus Falls long after leaving there and he designed a number of buildings for that community.

The first installment of a history of the medical profession in Otter Tail County, prepared by Dr. W. W. Drought for the county medical society, appears in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for October 4. The writer opens his narrative with an account of Dr. R. M. Reynolds, "the first physician in Fergus Falls and probably the first in the county," who settled there in 1871. In the installment for October 11, Dr. Drought tells of early hospitals in the county; and he presents a list of early doctors with brief sketches of their careers in the issue for December 15.

The golden jubilee of the Church of St. Luke in St. Paul, which was marked by members of the parish on October 25, was the occasion for the publication of a booklet about the history of the parish, its school, and various affiliated organizations (1938. 143 p.). The progress of this Catholic church since 1888, when a little chapel was erected in the hill district of St. Paul, is reviewed by Mary A. Cannon.

The history of the Ramsey County abstract office is briefly outlined in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 16. According to this account, abstracts are first mentioned in the proceedings of the county board for 1861; abstract records were kept by the register of deeds after July, 1862; and a separate abstract office was established in 1873.

The restoration of the Joseph R. Brown house near Renville is the subject of an article by George G. Allanson, Major Brown's grandson, in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 30.

An interesting description of the house and an account of its destruction in the Sioux Outbreak of 1862 are included.

The first installment of a "History of Renville High School Football" by L. F. Reid appears in the *Renville Star Farmer* for November 3. The writer opens his narrative with an account of the season of 1900, when the Renville team played its first games with teams from other communities.

About five hundred graduates of the Minnesota School for the Deaf at Faribault attended a celebration commemorating its seventy-fifth anniversary on October 15. Some information about the history of the school appears with an account of the anniversary ceremonies in the *Faribault Daily News* for October 17.

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the village of Sherman, the *Rock County Star* of Luverne for November 3 publishes a sketch of the community's history by Mrs. John Grange. She reveals that the town was "laid out in 1888 by the Willmar and Sioux Falls townsite company."

The history of the College of St. Scholastica at Duluth, which traces its beginnings to a high school established in 1898 by the Benedictine sisters, is the subject of a feature article in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for October 23. Many pictures of college buildings erected since 1909 on the heights above the city illustrate the article. In the same paper for November 20 is a feature article, furnished by the Minnesota Writers' Project, in which the "Glories of Grand Portage" in the days of the fur trade under the Northwest Company are recalled. Some dramatic attractions presented in Duluth in 1903-04 are described in the *News-Tribune* for November 27. The account is based on a scrapbook of clippings and programs relating to the theater.



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