

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*The Gateway to History.* By ALLAN NEVINS. (Boston, D. C. Heath and Company, 1938. vii, 412 p. \$3.00.)

Fortunately for the serious student of history a few historians are like the players in *Hamlet* — “they’ll tell all.” The guild secrets are thus released, and the young apprentice can inspect the methods of a master craftsman. Bernheim, Freeman, Harrison, Seignobos, Langlois, Jusserand, Vincent, Fling, Allen Johnson, Barnes, and others have devoted great energy, not only in the training of beginners, but in raising the standards of those who are actively engaged in historical writing. High ideals and lofty standards are proclaimed for the purpose of challenging the competent and disheartening the dilettante. To the select group of those who have described and analyzed history and endeavored to improve its quality the name of Allan Nevins must now be added.

*The Gateway to History* is aptly named; it serves as a guide and monitor. The volume contains a defense of history; broad and catholic definitions; adequate descriptions of historical materials and their accretion; descriptions of various types of documents, together with abundant illustrations; an analysis of evidence; a consideration of historical problems as opposed to simple narratives; a discussion of the geographic, social, biographical, and literary aspects of history; notes on reading; and three bibliographies. The volume is not catalogic or tabular; neither is it abtruse nor vague. On the contrary, it abounds in concrete materials and tangible suggestions.

Any work of this kind inevitably reflects the reading and experience of the author. It is the good fortune of the reader that Professor Nevins has read widely, observed keenly, written clearly, and pronounced judiciously. His citations, extracts, and examples are drawn from all periods and lands. He seems equally at home in discussing the Q Gospel, Livy’s history, and the objectivity of the *Herald-Tribune*. This wealth of illustration enriches the treatment and promotes full appreciation on the part of every serious reader.

A few comments on some of the content will give the reader of this review a more specific idea of the range and quality of the vol-

ume. The author claims a place for history because it is the creator and inspirer of nations; because it furnishes the materials for poetry, philosophy, and drama; because it helped materially in laying the foundations of democracy in America; and because it serves such a multitude of needs, interests, and tastes. The author is emphatic, almost vehement, in guarding history against the dogmatists who assert that it is an art or a science, that it is a regular process of evolution, that it must be absolutely impartial and unbiased, and that it must be unembellished in style. He describes the familiar classes of sources, including artifacts, oral traditions, and written materials, and traces in summary fashion the steps by which many of these materials have been collected and preserved. This part (chapter 4) closes with a brief but important analysis of why some kinds of recent and present-day history face an actual diminution of sources. The chapters devoted to the kinds of documents and the nature of evidence are not particularly different from previous treatments of these topics, but they are vitalized by colorful examples and incisive comments. The discussion of problems, hypotheses, interpretations, philosophies, and ideas occupies two well-written and richly illustrated chapters (8 and 9). The contents of the remainder of the book are adequately indicated by saying that they deal with geographic influences, with society and history, with biography, with literary qualities in history, and with suggestions on the reading of history.

In the opinion of the reviewer chapter 1, "In Defence of History," is quite ineptly named. Such phrasing tends to arouse suspicion. This fear is realized in part when the author declares that history is more dignified than poetry, philosophy, and drama, when he talks about an attitude being "unjust" to history, and when he says he will demonstrate that history deals with more ideas than any other study. Such a protective and defensive treatment is unnecessary, for there are few signs of any concerted or effective attack upon the subject.

In spite of the fact that the author declares that the central focus of attention should be society rather than the state (p. 12) and that he seems to approve Voltaire's dictum that the community rather than the individual should receive more emphasis (p. 253), the chapter on society and history seems less convincing than the ones on biography and on literary qualities. For one thing, too much space is devoted to Carlyle and Lamprecht and to mild taunts over the failure of soci-

ology to supply all that its early proponents promised. The author does, however, give his verbal blessing to sociology as a contributor to history.

The chapter (13) on the literary aspects of history is devoted largely to the problems of organizing content, to the methods of composition of various historians, to the vanity, timidity, and clumsiness of beginners, and to a denunciation of those historians who select only the picturesque and the dramatic. There are a few passages on style and design.

The author devotes considerable energy and a few pages (231-236) to the *nunc pro tunc* fallacy. He seems to think that the historian should not judge Pitt's policy toward Ireland as harsh or brutal because at that time it seemed reasonable; that the Inquisition was not so cruel as we have thought because it was no more cruel than the civil law of that time; that Egyptian art was not naive or ludicrous because the people of that day did not so regard it; and that the present-day traveler who goes by airplane underestimates the problem of Daniel Boone in blazing the Wilderness Trail. Here appears a confusion of judgments and facts. The facts of the pertinent period or topic must by all means be carefully collected and understood, but only confusion can flow from a doctrine that our opinions, judgments, and tastes must be softened, modified, or changed because of those which prevailed at the time of the event. Our ideas must inevitably constitute the point of reference and furnish us the standard of comparison. The author himself prophesies that twenty centuries hence our art will "appear incredibly quaint and absurd." There is the answer to most of his discussion on the *nunc pro tunc* fallacy. If our art then appears "quaint and absurd," it will then be quaint and absurd, and no sympathy with or understanding of art in 1939 will change the fact. Perhaps the point hinges partly on the tenses of the verbs, particularly the past and the present tenses. Fortunately the author is saved, in part, on this point by the much clearer dictum of Lord Acton, which, strangely enough, he quotes with apparent approbation. This section ends in confusion and inconsistency by declarations that the "historian should have certain fixed moral canons," and that "murder is always murder, robbery always robbery, cruelty always cruelty." It is certain that the student of ethics or social customs will reject these dicta, and it is doubtful that the historian is justified in proclaiming them.

A few scattering criticisms of a minor nature occur to the reviewer. "Both causes and effects in history are always events" (p. 214). It is possible that a political idea, a social practice, or an economic institution might lead to a certain effect, yet these factors can scarcely be correctly labeled as "events." In spite of the fact that the book is didactic and hortatory, some of the exhortations may be too emphatic. If the author will analyze the meaning and pertinency of the phrase "after all," he will probably use it less often. The author seems to be uncertain of his opinion of Parkman's *Conspiracy of Pontiac*. On page 209 the volume is cited as a brilliant example of a monograph devoted to a single problem, but on page 381 it "is not worth reading." The chapter on biography is particularly valuable. No comments are made concerning the bibliographies, for the ones who need them will think they are entirely satisfactory.

EDGAR B. WESLEY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS

*Ole Edvart Rølvaag, A Biography.* By THEODORE JORGENSEN and NORA O. SOLUM. (New York and London, Harper and Brothers, 1939. vii, 446 p. Illustrations. \$4.00.)

Here are answers to many of the questions which rise in one's mind as he reads *Giants in the Earth*. Rølvaag's biographers have, for example, set down all the external events of his life that one can ask for. The record is as moving as it is simple: harsh, beautiful years as a fisher lad in Norway (here made peculiarly appealing by the charm of an autobiographical fragment in which Rølvaag records them); deadening toil as a laborer in Dakota; anguished, exhilarating growth as a student in Dakota and Minnesota; inspired and inspiring labor as a teacher in St. Olaf College; discouragement, misunderstanding, and ultimate triumph as a novelist in America and in Norway. These annals are detailed, exhaustive (sometimes to the point of repetition), and elaborately documented.

A portrait of Ole Rølvaag may be reconstructed from scattered comments by his biographers and a few pertinent incidents. In youth, it appears, he was sensitive, fanciful, irresolute, naive. In maturity, he attained self-reliance, with no loss in simplicity. A persistent preacher of virility, he was himself a fighter and ruggedly masculine.

Fluent in profanity, skilled in hearty anecdote, jovial, and even boisterous, Rølvaag kept both feet on the earth. Even more significant, however, were his high seriousness, ineradicable religious sense, and innate mysticism. Finally, hidden in his heart was capacity alike for calm but supreme elevation and for abysmal depression. He was, as he declared and his biographers realize, a mystic but no saint.

How came Rølvaag to create his masterpiece, *Giants in the Earth*? First, according to this biography, came forty years of preparation: devotion to poetry and rigorous apprentice work in Norwegian prose, observation of American life and meditation on immigrants' problems. Then, spurred by the announcement that Johan Boyer contemplated a novel on Scandinavians in the Northwest, he took leave from St. Olaf and escaped to the beauty and the solitude of northern Minnesota. As he struggled there in creative agony, on him fell the high inspiration which rarely comes more than once to a novelist. His task completed during an interlude in Norway, Rølvaag had the extraordinary good fortune to meet Lincoln Colcord while the latter was a temporary resident in Minneapolis. Deeply stirred by the novel, Mr. Colcord recast it in English even more powerful than the original Norwegian. The result, the biographers remark, "can hardly be called a translation"; and nothing in their volume is more fascinating than a series of examples demonstrating how the book was thus reworked.

By minutely tracing Rølvaag's thought from youthful pietism to a mature acceptance of blind chance as coexistent with the will of God, a rejection of the idea of progress, and a steady movement toward pessimism (his own and Dean Inge's), his biographers do him a disservice, by suggesting, perhaps unconsciously, that he should be viewed as a philosopher. Only on one theme is his thinking original, namely, on the relations between immigrant and native cultures in the Northwest. Repelled by the shallowness of American life and captivated by the richness of European civilization, he attempted simultaneously to find some good in the first, to conserve the second, and to reconcile both. The most valuable passages in this rich volume are those devoted to his long campaign to enlist fellow churchmen and fellow schoolmen in the preservation of Norse culture. Although such attempts, it appears, end, after a few generations, in defeat, all native Americans should rejoice when the foreign born or their de-

scendants crusade, ingenuously and idealistically, to bring together the best elements of Old World and New. Such a crusader was Rölvaag and such, one concludes, are his biographers.

TREMAINE MCDOWELL

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS

*A History of the Settlement of German Mennonites from Russia at Mountain Lake, Minnesota.* By FERDINAND P. SCHULTZ, teaching assistant in history, University of Minnesota. (Minneapolis, published by the author, 1938. 119 p. Illustrations.)

Here is another bright detail for the mural of Minnesota. Four hundred years ago a priest in north Holland renounced the Catholic church and became the leader of a persecuted heretic sect. Taking their name from his, Mennonite from Menno Simon, his followers and their descendants have sought in many countries the freedom to follow their own design for life and worship. Some of them found a measure of it for a time in Prussia, but growing militarism there so threatened their principle of nonresistance that many moved on, at the invitation of Catherine the Great, to the steppes of southern Russia on the northern shores of the Black Sea. There, rewarded for their sober thrift and model farms by the grant of virtual autonomy, they lived in peace and prosperity until Alexander II's reactionary program of Russianization suggested again the expediency of emigration. The Mennonites turned to America, and America, eager for men to people its western lands, gave them welcome. Canada vied with Minnesota, Minnesota with Kansas, Nebraska, and Dakota, to present the most attractions to these hard-working farm folk who would be desirable settlers.

It was some eighteen hundred of these emigrants from Russia who, in the years from 1873 to 1880, established a Mennonite community in and about the village of Mountain Lake in Cottonwood County. The area was not raw wilderness when the Mennonites arrived; settlement had been under way long enough to lay the foundations for typical American institutions. The Mennonites, soon so numerous in the community that the responsibility for its development was entirely theirs, had to build on those foundations, but they stamped the structure of farm, village, church, and school with the mark of their own

culture and made the Mountain Lake settlement unique among Minnesota neighborhoods. Now, in the third and fourth generations, the circle is coming full round and Mountain Lake is once again hardly to be distinguished, at least by the casual eye, from other American communities.

That, very briefly, is the story Mr. Schultz has reconstructed in considerable detail. He has done a good job. He has collected his facts carefully from a wide variety of sources — Mennonite histories, newspapers, letters, diaries, community chronicles kept by some of the pioneers, personal interviews with old settlers, and his own experience as a member of the younger generation in the Mountain Lake community. He has put the facts together in a clear narrative, well rounded and always interesting, though told with the kind of scholarly restraint that leaves much of the drama and human color to be supplied by the reader's imagination.

The best chapters are the early ones, telling the story of the Mennonites, of Mountain Lake, and of how the two were joined. The later chapters on the development of the community are more generalized, less rich in specific incident. This we regret, for though the latter topic may be less colorful, it is at least equally significant. Surely for the purpose the author suggests in his introduction — that of contributing to a "detailed study of the specific processes and influences of the frontier" to the end of strengthening or modifying the Turner thesis — a fuller and more penetrating analysis of the interaction between the American frontier environment and the peculiar cultural pattern of the Mennonites would be in order. And the forces which have worked toward the assimilation of the Mennonites are worth more direct attention than the paragraph the author gives them (page 88).

But those are problems for further study rather than criticisms of the present work. In this reviewer's opinion, Mr. Schultz has certainly realized his hope of making a "worthwhile contribution to historical knowledge," for he has lifted another strand free from the tangle of the obscure in Minnesota's origins. The work was originally prepared as a master's thesis in the University of Minnesota, at the suggestion of Dr. Ernest S. Osgood and under the direction of Dr. Theodore C. Blegen.

The book has apparently been published without benefit of experienced book designers or proofreaders, and several errors, mostly in

cross-reference page citations, have occurred in the printing. We hope for the time when funds will be available for publishing in proper and pleasing form these pieces of work that are worth distributing but that do not promise a wide enough market to pay for themselves. Until that time we must be grateful for having them made available in any form.

HELEN B. CLAPESATTLE

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MINNEAPOLIS

*Wind Without Rain.* By HERBERT KRAUSE. (Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1939. 364 p. \$2.50.)

A good many rural novels have slipped from the presses since Hamlin Garland first ventured to depict the everyday life of the Middle Western farmer. Writers have learned that threshing and ploughing, corn husking and barn dances are just as valid material for fiction as life in the tenements or in the night clubs. Indeed, recent agrarian fiction has been distinguished for its sharp, unsparing realism, frequently couched in a style sprinkled with Anglo-Saxon words of one syllable.

Herbert Krause's novel of a German Lutheran community in Otter Tail County is even blunter and franker than most farm novels. For the characters of *Wind Without Rain* are earthy, coarse, toiling creatures weighed down by work and adversity. The Vildvogel family is tyrannized over by a grim and brutal father, whose dogged industry is matched only by his mismanagement of the farm and his failure to treat his wife and sons as human beings. To him they are work animals, his to order about and punish as he wills. The result is that Minna dies, Walter and Fritzie run away, and Franz and crippled Jeppy are left to run a farm that all six in good health could not make prosper. There is little gaiety in *Wind Without Rain* but rich local color: pig-sticking, German school supervised by the Lutheran pastor, a christening, "shindandies" where fiddlers cause pulses to beat fast and beer flows freely, Sabbath mornings when the pastor thunders hell-fire and damnation and alludes unmistakably to the derelictions of his writhing parishioners. Mr. Krause has pictured sharply and bitterly the life of a homogeneous and isolated Minnesota farming community before the days of the automobile.

Artistically the novel is by no means flawless. It is obviously

overwritten, the writer's evident gift for picturesque language often leading him into strained similes and superfluous images. Moreover, the wealth of detail is overwhelming; in his second novel Mr. Krause might well consider such virtues as concision and selection. But the real power and vividness of *Wind Without Rain* allow the reader to overlook many a blemish. One does not immediately forget the abortive attempt of Franz to find release from labor in the strings of a fiddle, nor the general incubus of poverty and despair, nor the description of such dishes as *schwat Suer* — "black soup, made of new pig's blood and meat, butter-flecked and vinegary, full of potato dumplings and swelled-up prunes, and stringy pieces of chicken, heavy with a smell like sausage boiling."

JOHN T. FLANAGAN

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS

*Trails of a Paintbrush.* By NICHOLAS R. BREWER. (Boston, The Christopher Publishing House, 1938. 372 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Students both of American cultural history and of pioneer life in the Middle West should be interested in this autobiography of a St. Paul artist. Here will be found the story, charmingly related, of a childhood spent in the Root River Valley of southern Minnesota; of a yearning to paint, which took the author to St. Paul in 1875; of years of struggle in a community that had little to offer in training or employment for a budding artistic talent; and of an ultimate success which now makes it possible for Mr. Brewer to record that "the trail of my exhibitions . . . has extended to fifty-nine cities in twenty-four states."

The author of this narrative is the son of a German immigrant who started for the West in the gold rush of 1849, changed his plans after reaching Missouri, turned northward, and eventually settled near what became the village of High Forest in Olmsted County. There, in 1857, Nicholas was born. In the fertile valley of the Root River, he records, "life was easy to support. Clothes, a little coffee, flour, and seasoning, and a roof overhead were all that was needed to raise a family of husky boys. Wild plums, crabapples, and berries grew everywhere. The snow-covered forest was lined with rabbit paths," and small game of all kinds was abundant. The boy was kept busy

plowing, reaping, churning, milking, and attending the one-room log school of the neighborhood. Nevertheless he found time to watch his father work at the forge and lathe, where he constructed a lumber wagon, furniture for the cabin, and other useful articles; to attend the first circus to visit the vicinity; and above all to indulge his natural instinct for drawing.

Two delightful chapters on boyhood experiences are followed by an account of early years in St. Paul. The youth was disappointed to find that in 1875 the "town possessed neither art nor artists," but he finally found a "German named Henry J. Koempel, who painted copies of pictures and decorated churches" and who agreed to give the ambitious boy lessons at fifty cents each. As the city grew, it offered greater opportunities, and eventually Mr. Brewer came to know there such leaders in the world of American painting as Homer Martin, Alexis Fournier, and Charles N. Flagg. The cultural development of the Twin Cities is reflected in these pages, which contain accounts of the Minneapolis exposition of the 1880's, "with eight or ten large galleries for the display of painting and sculpture," of the beginnings of the Minneapolis Institute of Art, and of the private collection of James J. Hill in St. Paul.

Noteworthy too are Mr. Brewer's characterizations of prominent Minnesotans whose portraits he painted — Archbishop Ireland, Pierce Butler, Frank B. Kellogg, Bruno Beaupre, Governor Johnson, and many others. Several of these portraits are reproduced in the volume. Illustrated also are sketches of the cabin in which the author was born and the log school that he attended, and paintings of such Minnesota scenes as the "Mills of Minneapolis" and "Winter on the Mississippi." Unfortunately, many of the reproductions fail to do justice to the original paintings. The book is marred also by numerous typographical errors. Both text and illustrations possess much merit, and they deserved kinder treatment at the hands of a publisher.

BERTHA L. HEILBRON

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ST. PAUL

## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

DR. TREMAINE McDOWELL ("Regionalism in American Literature") is associate professor of English in the University of Minnesota and a recognized authority in the field of American literature. He is one of the compilers of an anthology entitled *American Sketchbook* which was reviewed in this magazine for December, 1938. The Reverend George Henry Gunn ("Peter Garrioch at St. Peter's, 1837"), is a Presbyterian minister at East Lockport, Manitoba, who is engaged in editing a diary of unusual interest for Middle Western history. It is this diary, which was kept by his uncle, that he exploits in the present article. Mr. Gunn is a grandson of the pioneer Manitoba historian, Donald Gunn. Dr. John T. Flanagan ("Fredrika Bremer: Traveler and Prophet") continues in this issue his series of articles on the Minnesota visits of famous authors. Dr. Flanagan, who is assistant professor of English in the University of Minnesota, has recently returned from California, where he spent some time in research at the Huntington Library. Dr. Charles W. Nichols ("The Northampton Colony and Chanhassen"), associate professor of English in the University of Minnesota, presents in this number the last of three articles on the Northampton Colony and its members, based upon the papers of his grandfather. G. Hubert Smith ("Excavating the Site of Old Fort Ridgely") directed for the National Park Service the excavations that he describes in this article. He is now serving as archaeologist at Fort Laramie, Wyoming. Laura M. Hamilton ("Stem Rust in the Spring Wheat Area in 1878") is a clerk in the bureau of entomology and plant quarantine of the United States department of agriculture at the University Farm in St. Paul. The present study was made under the direction of Dr. E. C. Stakman, who suggests that it is especially significant as an illustration of the value of the historical approach to scientific problems. Dr. Herbert Heaton ("Business Records"), professor of history in the University of Minnesota, is the author of an *Economic History of Europe* and other important works. Evadene Burris Swanson ("The Manuscript Journal of Thoreau's Last Journey") is a graduate student in

history at the University of Minnesota. She located in the Huntington Library this journal of a Minnesota visit of 1861, which she here compares with a printed version that has long been available. Alice E. Smith ("Peter Rindisbacher: A Communication") is curator of manuscripts on the staff of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The reviewers include Dr. Edgar B. Wesley, professor of education in the University of Minnesota; Helen Clapesattle, assistant editor at the University of Minnesota Press; and Bertha L. Heilbron, assistant editor of this magazine.

The 1939 summer tour and convention of the society will be held on June 15, 16, and 17, beginning with a trip on Thursday afternoon, June 15, to Rochester. An evening program at that place will include a paper on the story of early Rochester by Miss Helen Clapesattle of the University of Minnesota Press. The stay at Rochester will be marked by a visit to the Mayo Clinic and medical museum, and also by the dedication of the museum of the Olmsted County Historical Society. On Friday the tour will be continued to Harmony, where a luncheon program will be held, and thence down the scenic Root River Valley to the Mississippi and Winona. There a dinner meeting will be held, the principal feature of which will be an illustrated lecture on upper Mississippi River steamboating by Dr. William J. Petersen of the University of Iowa and the State Historical Society of Iowa. Dr. Petersen, who is known to many as "Steamboat Bill," is the author of a recent book telling the colorful history of the upper river. On Saturday the tourists will push northward along the river route — a drive famed for its picturesque beauty. The final session will be held at old Frontenac on Lake Pepin, not far from the site of Fort Beauharnois, established by the French in 1727. This tour will be the seventeenth held under the society's auspices. Announcements giving further details of the program are being mailed to members of the society.

At a meeting of the society's executive council on April 17, Dr. John M. Armstrong of St. Paul and Mr. William H. Bovey of Minneapolis were elected to membership in the council. Following the meeting, a special program, which was attended by more than a hundred members and friends of the society, was presented in the auditorium of the Historical Building. Dr. Grace Lee Nute of the society's staff spoke briefly on the early history of Prairie du Chien,

Wisconsin, stressing particularly its relation to the story of Minnesota. Her talk served as an introduction to the principal address of the evening, which was delivered by the Reverend L. R. Cooper of Prairie du Chien. Under the title "Exploring Old Prairie du Chien," he presented an account, illustrated by slides, of the excavations recently conducted under his direction on the site of Fort Crawford. A special exhibit of objects unearthed by workers engaged in this Wisconsin archaeological project was placed on display in the society's museum in connection with the program.

The Minnesota Historical Society "is doing wonderful work in acquiring, preserving and classifying the various records not only of the State of Minnesota but generalizing as well on anything which is of importance to neighboring states and our own Dominion of Canada," writes Mr. J. P. Bertrand in the *Port Arthur News-Chronicle* of March 24, after a visit to the Historical Building in St. Paul. He reports, too, that the society is successfully "stimulating interest, through the various county historical societies," in local backgrounds, and is making an "economic contribution" by encouraging the "intelligent preservation" by counties of materials relating to the past, which "will not only assist them in maintaining but in increasing" the state's valuable tourist trade.

One life member, Mr. Julian B. Baird of St. Paul, and twenty-seven annual members joined the society in the first three months of 1939. The names of the latter follow: George A. Barnes of Redwood Falls, Louis H. Burbey of Detroit, Michigan, Rev. James F. Cecka of St. Paul, Guy Chase of St. Paul, John P. Devany of Minneapolis, Louis C. Dorweiler, Jr., of Minneapolis, Carl A. W. Franzmann of St. Paul, George W. Gauthier of St. Paul, Mrs. E. W. Kohlsaot of St. Paul, Dr. Henry Lysne of Minneapolis, Malcolm B. McDonald of Minneapolis, Dr. George W. Moore of Hopkins, Dr. James Morrow of Austin, Albert G. W. Nelson of Scandia, John M. O'Halloran of St. Paul, Dr. William G. Paradis of Crookston, Dr. Arthur H. Pedersen of St. Paul, William P. Randel of St. Paul, Frank F. Romberg of Sleepy Eye, Dr. C. W. Rucker of Rochester, C. R. Sattgast of Bemidji, Mrs. Harold H. Shepard of St. Paul, Dr. L. Sogge of Windom, Mrs. M. E. Stone of St. Peter, Dr. Jan H. Tillisch of Rochester, Mrs. Myrtle A. Vance of Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Elsie A. Van Dusen of Minneapolis.

The society now has 207 subscribing schools and libraries on its rolls. The public schools of Chandler, Clara City, Clearbrook, Halstad, and Hibbing, and the public libraries of Bovey, Detroit Lakes, and Taylor's Falls have recently been added to the list of subscribers.

During the three months from January 1 to March 31 the society lost the following eleven members by death: John Leslie of Minneapolis on January 20, Mrs. Luther Ford of Minneapolis on February 3, John B. Meagher of St. Paul on February 11, Haydn S. Cole of St. Paul on February 13, Harris Richardson of St. Paul on February 23, Mrs. William J. O'Toole of St. Paul on March 9, Samuel A. Challman of Minneapolis on March 11, John M. Freeman of Olivia on March 14, Frank Heywood of Minneapolis on March 16, George W. Granger of Rochester on March 22, and Joseph E. Smith of Minneapolis on March 23.

An interview with Mr. Babcock, in which he describes the ceremonies of the grand medicine society of the Chippewa, is reported by Fred S. Heaberlin in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for January 1. Attention is called to some of the materials preserved by the Minnesota Historical Society relating to this Indian lodge.

The superintendent presented an address on "Ballads and Songs of Immigrant and Pioneer" at the junior college of La Salle, Illinois, on January 23, before the social science group of a district meeting of the Iowa State Teachers' Association at Mason City on March 24, and at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul on March 29. He spoke on "Community Records" before a meeting of the Blue Earth County Historical Society at Mankato on January 11, on "Minnesota's Pioneer Citizens" for the Mendota chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on February 16, on the Minnesota Historical Society and its work before the North Star chapter of the same organization on February 20, on "Grand Portage and the Early Fur Trade" at a meeting of the Minneapolis College Women's Club on February 27, on "Seeing Minnesota's Past through the Eyes of Contemporaries" at Northrop Collegiate School in Minneapolis on March 16, and on "Forwarding the Study of Local History" before a conference of rural teachers and county superintendents at Mason City, Iowa, on March 24. Mr. Babcock gave talks on

"Community Memory" before meetings of the Scott County Historical Society at Jordan on January 31 and the Hennepin County Historical Society at Edina on March 18, and he spoke on "Indian Lore" for a group of St. Paul Campfire guardians on February 21.

Letters and other manuscripts from the papers of the Reverend Henry M. Nichols, pioneer Presbyterian minister at Stillwater, were quoted by Miss Nute in a paper presented before the Friday Club of Stillwater on March 17. Nichols' papers were presented to the Minnesota Historical Society last year by his grandson, Professor Charles W. Nichols of the University of Minnesota, who based upon them the articles published *ante*, 19:129-147, 247-270. Items in this collection relating to Stillwater in the 1850's were used extensively by Miss Nute, whose paper appears in installments in the *Stillwater Post-Messenger* for March 23, 30, and April 6.

#### ACCESSIONS

The story of the westward migration of members of the Humphrey family from Connecticut to Ohio, Wisconsin, and Minnesota in the middle decades of the past century can be traced in a collection of papers recently presented by Mr. Jerome Baer of St. Paul. The central figure in the story is Marcus N. Humphrey, who was living at Hudson, Ohio, in the 1830's, when the earlier letters in the collection were written, and who had settled at Taylor's Falls in Minnesota by the early 1860's. He served as postmaster of the latter place for many years and in 1875 he was elected judge of probate for Chisago County. Letters of his wife, his children, his nephew, and other members of the family, many of whom resided at Taylor's Falls, are included in the collection, which covers the period from 1833 to 1898.

A letter written on May 30, 1853, from Fort Snelling by George Fuller, a civil engineer engaged in a government survey, has been presented by Mr. Harry W. Morris of Santa Cruz, California. It was written shortly after the writer's arrival at the frontier post and is addressed to his wife. "I find I was very much mistaken when I supposed that I was coming to the outskirts of civilization," Fuller confesses. He was surprised to find that the "country is thickly settled" and the "city of St Pauls has 5000 inhabitants." The writer describes his voyage up the Mississippi, with its "exceedingly bold and picturesque" scenery, to Fort Snelling, and his meeting with Isaac I.

Stevens, who was about to start westward on his famous Pacific railroad survey. With the letter, Mr. Morris has presented several charming views of upper Mississippi River scenes prepared by Fuller in Minnesota — miniature water-color paintings of Maiden Rock and Fort Snelling and a pencil sketch of Minnehaha Falls.

The interesting and unusual papers of Wilfred J. Whitefield, son of the artist, Edwin Whitefield, have been presented by his daughter, Mrs. John H. Law of Sauk Center. They include two records of trips in late territorial or early statehood days — one west from St. Paul via Fort Snelling, Bloomington, Carver, and the Big Woods to Sauk Lake, and thence down the Sauk Valley to St. Cloud; the other along the upper Mississippi from St. Paul to St. Cloud. The latter includes interesting comments on the roads, the taverns, the weather, and the countryside. A diary of forty large pages kept at the Whitefield farm near Sauk Center from November 1 to the end of 1859 tells of the arrival of a prairie schooner, of hunting deer, of following a trap line, of entertaining Indians, both Chippewa and Sioux, and of the arrival of Sir Francis Sykes and his hunting party on November 30 with "thirteen elk, twenty or thirty deer, a few moose & antelope, also several buffalo." The diarist goes on to tell the range of the hunt: "over several hundred miles, starting from Shayenne on Red River down through Pembina to Selkirk as far as Fort Garry." Typed copies of some twenty letters written by Whitefield as a member of Sibley's punitive expedition against the Sioux in 1863 are included in the gift. They are full of details about camps, lines of march, topography, Indian fighting, and frontier forts like Ridgely, Abercrombie, Ripley, and Snelling. Supplementing the letters is a little notebook in which Whitefield made pencil sketches on this expedition containing nearly fifty accurate illustrations of the history of the campaign. A few other papers relate to the events and persons of the same period.

A large collection of the papers of Hans Mattson, immigration agent, journalist, Minnesota secretary of state, United States consul at Calcutta, Civil War officer, accomplished linguist, author, and traveler, has been presented by his son, Mr. Edgar Mattson, and his grandson, Mr. Edgar M. Jaeger, both of Minneapolis. Included are letters, commissions, four diaries, an account book, three scrapbooks, minutes of meetings of the Scandinavian-American Publishing Com-

pany for 1890, and many other items. Two long letters that Mattson wrote to his children from India in 1882 are in a sense an autobiography, for they tell charmingly the story of his life, and particularly of his experiences after emigrating from Sweden. The diaries, which were kept at intervals from 1868 to 1889, afford a record of Mattson's experiences while serving in Sweden as immigrant agent for Minnesota, while traveling in various European countries, in India, and in New Mexico, and while serving as Minnesota secretary of state. In the scrapbooks are hundreds of clippings from Swedish and American newspapers for the period from about 1860 to 1890 relating to such subjects as the Civil War, activities of veterans' organizations, Christopher C. Andrews' service as American minister to Sweden, the Maxwell Land Grant Company, of which Mattson was the American agent, and the attractions of Minnesota as advertised in the newspapers of Sweden and the East. With this collection are many of the papers of Mattson's son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Luth Jaeger of Minneapolis. There are numerous articles and addresses prepared by Jaeger, a well-known Norwegian-American journalist, and many items of correspondence, including letters from Jacob Fjelde, the sculptor. Many of Mrs. Jaeger's papers relate to her activities in numerous women's organizations, including the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, the National Woman's Party, the Scandinavian Woman Suffrage Association, and the like.

A letter written from Sauk Center on October 27, 1862, by Lieutenant Colonel S. Nasmith is among several letters of Sioux War interest recently presented by his son, Mr. J. S. Nasmith of Marion, New York. The inspection of troops stationed at Hutchinson, Kingston, Forest City, Paynesville, Richmond, and Mannanah is mentioned by the writer, who remarks that troops are needed at these points to keep the settlers in their homes.

Three small Sioux and Civil war diaries kept by Edson D. Washburn, a member of Company E, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, have been presented by his son, Mr. Edson Washburn of St. Paul. They contain a record of Washburn's service in 1863 at Fort Ripley and Paynesville, where his company was stationed for the protection of the Minnesota frontier after the Sioux Outbreak, as a member of the Sully expedition, and in the South.

An account of a hunting expedition of 1866, with Pierre Bottineau as guide, is included in a letter written from Lake Minnetonka, recently copied for the society from the *Springfield* [Massachusetts] *Weekly Republican* of September 8, 1866, in which it was published. Among other items transcribed from a file of this paper in the Boston Public Library are accounts of the Vermilion Lake gold rush, references to Minnesota crop prospects in 1869, and descriptions of St. Paul, Rochester, Duluth, and Minneapolis. An article on the latter city reports that in 1868 "eight flouring mills, six planing mills, eight saw-mills, two woolen mills, one paper and one oil mill" were dependent upon the water power of the Falls of St. Anthony. From the *Advance*, a Chicago paper, copies have been made of articles about a Northern Pacific Railroad excursion of 1871; about Julia Laframboise and Sioux missions in South Dakota, by Stephen R. Riggs; and about the Bois Fort band of Chippewa, by S. N. Clark, an Indian agent.

Twenty-two volumes of records for the period from 1872 to 1926 of Trinity Lutheran Church of St. Paul, formerly called the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church, have been presented by the church through its secretary, Mr. Alden Peterson. Included are minutes of meetings of the congregation from 1875 to 1913, treasurers' accounts and records of contributors, and minutes of meetings of church societies. The records are written mainly in Norwegian.

A collection of letters, clippings, scrapbooks, speeches, and other items from the papers of Frank M. Nye, who served as a Minnesota Congressman from 1907 to 1911, and of his brother, Edgar W. Nye, famed as a humorist under the name of Bill Nye, is the gift of the former's son, Mr. Edgar W. Nye of Minneapolis. Two scrapbooks of Frank Nye contain a record of his career as prosecuting attorney of Hennepin County, Congressman, and district judge. Among several letters of Bill Nye is one dated May 24, 1881, and written on the letterhead of the *Daily Boomerang*, the paper that he edited at Laramie City, Wyoming; and another penned at Hudson, Wisconsin, in August, 1885, when he was living on a St. Croix Valley farm near the home of his childhood. There is also a program of a performance presented in 1889 by Nye and James Whitcomb Riley, and a letter written after the humorist's death to his brother by Riley.

A small group of papers of Charles W. Brandborg, who was president of the Otter Tail County Farmers' Alliance in the 1890's, has been presented by his son, Mr. Harris A. Brandborg of Henning. Among them are letters from leaders of the Farmers' Alliance in Minnesota, and clippings and pamphlets relating to the activities of the Socialist Labor party in the state after 1900. From Mr. Brandborg also has been received a collection of important Socialist Labor newspapers. Included are an incomplete file of *The People* of New York, for the years from 1896 to 1926; three issues of the *National View* of Washington, D. C., for 1893; Chicago papers, such as the *Sentinel*, *Unity*, and the *Vanguard*, for the early 1890's; issues of the *Journal of the Knights of Labor* of Philadelphia for 1890 and 1892; the *Tocsin* of Minneapolis for December 22, 1898, and June 3, 1899; and the *Referendum* of Faribault for May 7 and December 17, 1910.

Two volumes of records of the Pioneer Rivermen's Association have been presented by Mrs. Jessie B. Clark of St. Paul, a daughter of Captain Fred A. Bill, who was secretary or president of the organization from its inception in 1915 until his death in 1936. Included are minutes of meetings held from 1915 to 1922, correspondence, treasurers' records, biographical sketches of members, and newspaper clippings of obituaries. The association was composed of persons who had been employed in steamboating or rafting on the Mississippi and its tributaries or the Red River.

Master's theses on "Farm Labor Parties in the United States, 1918-1925" by Cecil R. Crews and on the "Farmer-Labor Party of Minnesota" by Howard A. Merritt, prepared at the University of Wisconsin in 1935 and 1937, have been photographed for the society through the courtesy of the university library.

A great deal of Minnesota material of unusual interest is included in seven volumes of typewritten and photostatic family records recently presented by the genealogical records committee of the Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution. From the *Duluth Minnesotian*, the first newspaper published in Duluth, records of marriages and deaths, 1869-75, are copied. Marriage records from official record books in the St. Louis County Courthouse covering the years 1871-85 have been copied and arranged in alphabetical lists, convenient for consulting. Among miscellaneous items also copied from

early issues of the *Duluth Minnesotian* are lists of jurors, delinquent tax lists, and real-estate transfers. Diaries and letters of Uriah S. Karmany of Mankato, George Barnum of Duluth, and Milan M. Chase of Afton, Minnesotans who took active parts in campaigns of the Civil War, and Chase's diary of a trip to Minnesota in 1857 are included. A reminiscent account by Addie Van Alstine entitled "Sketch of life in Early days, Iowa and Minnesota" gives a charming picture of a happy childhood in the 1860's. The Bible records, ancestral charts, and family histories presented in these volumes will be of much value to genealogists.

Among several recently acquired items from the estate of the late A. C. Loring of Minneapolis is a volume by Asa P. Brooks entitled *The Reservation: A Romance of the Pioneer Days of Minnesota and of the Indian Massacre of 1862* (235 p.). Neither date nor place of publication is given, but an author's inscription of 1908 appears on the title page. The narrative, which is "largely fiction," tells of the immigration of several German families from the Oberamergau region in the 1840's, of their settlement in Minnesota, and their experiences in the Sioux War. *The Church and the Indians: Shay-day-ence, or the Little Pelican* (New York, 1876. 15 p.) is a narrative written by the Reverend J. A. Gilfillan, a well-known Episcopal missionary in northern Minnesota. It tells of a Chippewa medicine man who was born at Gull Lake, was converted at the White Earth Reservation, and became a missionary. *A Year in Manitoba* (London, 1883. 116 p.) includes an account by a retired British army officer of a trip across northern Minnesota from Duluth to Glyndon, St. Boniface, and Winnipeg.

Recent additions to the costume and accessories collection include a gentleman's vest of white brocaded silk, worn about 1857, from Dr. J. M. Armstrong of St. Paul; a white brocaded silk wedding gown of 1890, from Mrs. Paul N. Myers of St. Paul; a black silk cape shawl, a black lace scarf, and several fans from Miss Ann Berryhill of Cleveland, Ohio; and a white scarf, a souvenir of the St. Paul Ice Palace of 1887, from Miss Nellie Dunn of Dellwood.

Several bronze World War medals, a Lafayette medal, and a number of other items of numismatic interest are the gifts of Miss Theresa Erickson of Minneapolis.

Two swords obtained by Captain William H. Hart of the Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry in the Philippine Insurrection and a Lincoln presidential campaign medal have been presented by Judge Kenneth G. Brill of St. Paul. From Mr. L. H. Chapman of St. Paul have been received canteens and other items of Civil War interest that his father, George H. Chapman, picked up on the battlefield of Shiloh in 1864. Uniforms, belts, a helmet, a sabre, and other items of military dress used by the late Colonel Haydn S. Cole while a student at the United States Military Academy at West Point and while serving as an army officer are the gifts of his son, Dr. Wallace Cole of St. Paul.

A large oil portrait of the Reverend Samuel G. Smith, who served for many years as the pastor of the Peoples Church of St. Paul, has been received from members of the congregation through the courtesy of Mrs. Woodard Colby. Mrs. E. P. Brush of Fergus Falls has presented twenty-eight photographs of members of the Minnesota house of representatives of 1889.

## NEWS AND COMMENT

"HISTORY is a wonderful hobby, and it is strange that more people do not study one period of it and make it their own," writes Lady Tweedsmuir in an essay on "The Amateur Historian" which appears in the March issue of the *Canadian Historical Review*. The amateurs, she suggests, "sometimes help to reveal something in the darkness of the past which has been left out and forgotten in the march of time. The great thing," she continues, "which both the professional and non-professional seeker after historical truth have in common is a love of the subject, a reverence for the history of man, and a deep anxiety to find out as near as possible the truth." She points out that some "non-professional historians have had their triumphs. They have sometimes fallen heir to rich stores of material in old houses, and have edited letters and manuscripts with intelligence and skill," or they have "discovered some valuable manuscripts in a famous library which had been completely overlooked." The suggestion is made that the study of history may "help us to avoid some of our worst mistakes; it may show us, at any rate, what not to do."

To a series of articles dealing with "Books That Changed Our Minds" in the *New Republic*, Charles A. Beard contributes a discussion, in the issue of February 1, of Frederick Jackson Turner's *The Frontier in American History*. Turner's Chicago address of 1893 "was destined to have a more profound influence on thought about American history than any other essay or volume ever written on the subject," writes Dr. Beard. He points out that "At the age of thirty-two Turner had matured his conception of American history and given it to the world. That was in truth enough for one man to do in a lifetime."

In the *American Archivist* for January, Albert Ray Newsome makes a plea for "Uniform State Archival Legislation." Such legislation, "based upon the most effective laws anywhere," he asserts, "would seem to be the most direct course to a general improvement in the administration of state and local archives." He suggests that

the Society of American Archivists should "formulate the best existing archival legislation in the states and endeavor to mobilize all available support in obtaining uniform or similar laws in all of the states."

The work of the Historical Records Survey and the WPA in compiling and publishing inventories of state and local archives, of federal archives located in the states, and of American imprints is described and evaluated by Luther H. Evans in an article on "Government and Local History" which appears in the *Pacific Historical Review* for March. When this program is "brought to completion," writes Mr. Evans, it will "provide the local historian with bibliographies more adequate to guide and assist him in his work than have ever been prepared in advance for the student of any field of scholarly work." He expresses the belief that "these bibliographies will give stimulus to the already significant movement to study local history scientifically, as the basis for a reevaluation of national history."

Topics relating to Minnesota history appearing in the *List of Doctoral Dissertations in History Now in Progress at American Universities*, issued by the Carnegie Institution of Washington in December, 1938, include "The Progressive Movement in Minnesota, 1900-1912" by Wilfred O. Stout, Jr. (Princeton), "The Non-partisan League" by Robert H. Bahmer (Minnesota), "The Farmer-Labor Party in Minnesota" by Renata R. Wasson (Minnesota), and "The Catholic Church in Minnesota, 1850-1918" by Sister Grace McDonald (Minnesota). Among other items of Northwest interest listed are "The Liquor Traffic and the Jesuit Missions of the Northwest" by the Reverend Joseph P. Donnelly (St. Louis), "Wisconsin Lumber Industry" by Bernard Kleven (Minnesota), "The Correspondent in the West, 1850-1860" by Thomas W. Tweito (Iowa), "The Administration of the Public Domain in South Dakota" by Charles I. Green (Iowa), "The Administration and Disposal of the Public Lands in Iowa" by Roscoe L. Lokken (Iowa), "The Opening of the Black Hills of Dakota, 1861-1876" by Olaf T. Hagen (Minnesota), and "Frontier Conditions in Wisconsin" by Charles J. Kennedy (Wisconsin).

The *Americana Collection of Herschel V. Jones: A Check-List [1473-1926]* compiled by Wilberforce Eames has been privately printed and issued in an edition of two hundred volumes by William

E. Rudge's Sons (New York, 1938. 220 p.). This beautifully printed bibliography represents the last work of Dr. Eames, who left the preface incomplete when he died in December, 1937. The *Check-List* of some 1,750 titles, chronologically arranged, is, according to the compiler, "intended to be a complete record of the very remarkable Americana library formed by the late Herschel V. Jones of Minneapolis." Bibliographical references are supplied for each title, and the list is carefully indexed. The value of the Jones collection is stressed by Lathrop C. Harper in an "Appendix to Preface," in which he ventures the opinion that "this is undoubtedly the finest collection of Americana in private hands."

Some twenty-five items are listed in the Minnesota section of Henry Putney Beers's *Bibliographies in American History: Guide to Materials for Research* (New York, 1938. 339 p.). Included are the bibliographical publications of the Minnesota Historical Society, several articles that have appeared in its quarterly magazine and its series of *Collections*, and Theodore C. Blegen's study outline entitled *Minnesota, Its History and Its People*.

Sections on the Chippewa, the Winnebago, and the Sioux are included in the *Indian Costume Book* recently published by Julia M. Seton (Santa Fe, 1938. 212 p.). Detailed descriptions of articles of clothing worn by members of each tribe are presented, with instructions for making them. Decorative devices, such as beading and embroidery, and the designs followed in employing them also are discussed. Illustrative drawings by Ernest Thompson Seton visualize the costumes and designs. Habitations, games, pipes, and certain customs of the Indians also receive attention in this very interesting volume, which is a product of the Seton Village Press.

"Viking Weapons Found Near Beardmore, Ontario," in 1930 are described in the March issue of the *Canadian Historical Review* by C. T. Currelly, who tells how he acquired these objects for the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology, of which he is director. According to Dr. Currelly, the pieces found "formed a set" similar to a number that in the past "have been found in Scandinavia." Pictures of the weapons, which the writer believes date from about the year 1000 A. D., appear with the article. The relationship of this find to the problem of the Norse voyages to America is brought out in the

same number of the review by W. S. Wallace, who contributes a survey of the "Literature Relating to the Norse Voyages to America." This writer devotes considerable space to the subject of the Kensington rune stone and the writings of Mr. Hjalmar R. Holand and others relating to it. While Mr. Wallace is "profoundly sceptical" about many of Mr. Holand's conclusions, he finds "it easier to believe that the Kensington rune-stone is genuine than that it is a modern forgery."

Many aspects of social and cultural life among Norwegian Americans in the Northwest are touched upon by N. N. Rønning in his recently published autobiography, *Fifty Years in America* (Minneapolis, 1938. 243 p.). In the earlier chapters the writer describes his Norwegian background and tells of his American education, in the public schools of Faribault, at Red Wing Seminary, and at the University of Minnesota in the nineties. His experiences "As a Writer and Editor" and "In the Publishing Business" are the subjects of two chapters. The latter deals with the Norwegian Lutheran church papers to which Mr. Rønning has devoted much of his life.

In a discussion of "Banvard's Panorama and the Flowering of New England," appearing in the December issue of the *New England Quarterly*, Dorothy Dondore suggests that the "really striking thing about the exhibition" of the most successful of the Mississippi panoramas in Boston was "that men saw in it what they wanted to see." An abolitionist editor made a review of the panorama a point of departure for a "characteristic exhortation" on the evils of slavery; dwellers on stony hill farms became discontented with their lots after viewing this picture of the fertile valley; and several New England writers were stimulated to record their impressions in the literature of their day. Miss Dondore notes that Longfellow was "one of the earliest literary visitors" to a showing of Banvard's panorama, and that its influence is evident in at least two of his works. She believes that "Whittier got from the Panorama [of Banvard] the title poem for his 1856 volume, *The Panorama and Other Poems*," from which she quotes at length. She refers also to "this or a similar Mississippi panorama" mentioned in a Thoreau essay published in 1862. Thoreau's reference to the "fresh ruins in Nauvoo" in the picture that he viewed precludes all possibility that he saw Banvard's painting,

which showed the Mississippi only from the mouth of the Missouri to New Orleans.

The *County Fair* that has become so picturesque a feature of rural life in America is the subject of a recently published booklet by Phil Stong with numerous photographic illustrations by Josephine von Miklos and others (New York, 1938). Mr. Stong devotes much of a section on "Racing at the Fairs" to the "incomparable Dan Patch" and his owner, M. W. Savage of Minneapolis, "who will probably go down in history as the greatest harness-horse showman of all time." Savage and his famous pacer figure prominently also in Dwight Akers' volume entitled *Drivers Up: The Story of American Harness Racing* (New York, 1938. 367 p.). This writer pictures Dan Patch at Memphis, at Lexington, at the Minnesota State Fair, where, in 1906, "before a crowd of ninety-three thousand, the largest ever assembled at a harness racing track, he paced a mile in 1:55." A record of 1:55 $\frac{1}{4}$  made a year earlier, according to Mr. Akers, for technical reasons "stands on the books of harness racing as his fastest record. Today, after thirty-three years, that figure remains the record for the world's fastest mile in harness." The writer makes some interesting comments upon the use of Dan Patch made by Savage, who "saw no reason for drawing a hard and fast line between his pleasures and his business opportunities." By linking the "name of the pacing marvel of the ages to the name of his manufactured product," writes Mr. Akers, Savage "was but anticipating a device that over the air today links toothpastes and prima donnas, food products and symphony orchestras."

A chapter on the "Discovery and Early Development of the Iron Ranges," by Carl Zapffe, is included in a volume on *Lake Superior Iron Ores* compiled and published by the Lake Superior Iron Ore Association (Cleveland, 1938. 364 p.). The volume is of value chiefly for a comprehensive "Directory of Lake Superior Iron Mines," arranged under the names of the individual ranges, with tables of shipments from each mine by years; and for the many other tables, charts, and maps that are included.

Recollections of the Sibley expedition of 1863 by Harry L. Patch, who accompanied it as a horse herder, are presented in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for February 12. The author was born at St. An-

thony in 1850 and was thus a boy of thirteen when the expedition started westward. Nevertheless, he gives a vivid picture of the march, of Indian battles, and of western forts.

Dr. John T. Flanagan, whose article on Fredrika Bremer appears in the present issue of this magazine, contributes a review of the career of "Morgan Neville, Early Western Chronicler" to the *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine* for December, 1938. Neville, according to Dr. Flanagan, is remembered chiefly for his tale "The Last of the Boatmen," which "remains a landmark in early western fiction." There he "succeeded in characterizing memorably the keel-boats and their crews that once dominated the Ohio River from Pittsburgh southward," and in presenting a "remarkable portrait of that greatest of all the bullies and rafters who once ruled the western rivers—Mike Fink."

Alexander Henry, Henry R. Schoolcraft, Dr. William Beaumont, and many other prominent frontier characters of the old Northwest figure in Raymond McCoy's booklet entitled *The Massacre of Old Fort Mackinac* (1938. 90 p.). Interesting accounts of methods employed in the fur trade are included, and there is a descriptive statement of the layout of the fort. To illustrate the latter, the author supplies an imaginary drawing of "Old Fort Michilimackinac about 1765-66," based upon a map in the Gage Papers.

In a study of "Detroit Nationality Groups" which occupies the bulk of the space in the spring number of the *Michigan History Magazine*, Lois Rankin is concerned with the Bulgarians, Macedonians, Finns, Greeks, Hungarians, Italians, Jugoslavs, Lithuanians, Poles, Rumanians, Russians, Syrians, and Ukrainians who have settled in the Michigan metropolis. The writer locates these foreign groups, and discusses their religious affiliations, social life, organizations, newspapers, occupations, contributions to community culture, and the like.

An unusual contribution to western cultural history is made by John Francis McDermott in a recent volume entitled *Private Libraries in Creole Saint Louis* (Baltimore, 1938. 186 p.). It consists of an interesting essay on "Cultural Conditions on the Confines of a Wilderness" and of catalogues of libraries owned by French citi-

zens of frontier St. Louis from 1764 to 1857. Lists of books have been drawn from records of estates to be found in the early French and Spanish archives of the city and in files of the probate court. Mr. McDermott discovered records showing that among the "six hundred and sixty-nine white inhabitants . . . who established themselves in Saint Louis between 1764 and 1800," there were "at least fifty-six (mostly heads of families) who possessed books." He believes "that there were in private libraries in Saint Louis before the Purchase between 2,000 and 3,000 volumes, not including duplicates." The interests and tastes of individual owners are reflected in the lists of their books; Pierre LaClède, for example, "emphasized political theory, especially as concerned with commerce and taxation," and "Auguste Chouteau was particularly interested in history and in the free-thinkers."

Descriptions of the area that was to become Minnesota are included in many of the "Guides to Iowa Territory" discussed by Jack T. Johnson in the March issue of the *Palimpsest*. Of significance both to Iowa and Minnesota historians are the handbooks on Wisconsin Territory published by Albert Lea and William R. Smith in 1836 and 1838. Mr. Johnson lists also a number of guides and descriptions issued after Iowa was organized as a territory in 1838, with much of what is now Minnesota within its borders. Included are Dr. Isaac Galland's *Iowa Emigrant*, J. H. Colton's *Sketches of Iowa*, and Major John B. Newhall's booklets on the territory.

That Henry H. Bennett of Kilbourn, Wisconsin, "photographed the Ice palace at St. Paul and the storming of the Ice palace by fireworks" in 1886 is brought out by A. C. Bennett in an article on "A Wisconsin Pioneer in Photography," appearing in the March number of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. According to the writer, "this is the first photographing of fireworks of which there is any record." In the same issue, Lillian Krueger continues her study of "Social Life in Wisconsin" (see *ante*, p. 86), giving special attention to sports and recreation.

The sprightly and informing inscriptions on *Montana Highway Historical Markers* have been assembled and made available for tourists in a pamphlet by Robert H. Fletcher (Helena, 1938). The markers, ninety-eight in number, are located on a useful index map.

The Utah State Historical Society has published a history of *Early Utah Journalism* by J. Cecil Alter (Salt Lake City, 1938. 405 p.). The volume, which bears the subtitle "A half century of forensic warfare, waged by the West's most militant Press," covers the period from 1850 to 1900. The arrangement is alphabetical, under the names of the communities in which newspapers were published.

Eight articles by Margaret A. MacLeod originally published in the *Winnipeg Free Press* are reprinted in a little pamphlet entitled *Bells of Red River* (1938. 41 p.). The first deals with "Lord Selkirk's Bell," presented to the Red River mission of Father Provencher in 1819, lost for many years, and recently discovered by Mrs. MacLeod in the basement of the Catholic Church of St. Francois Xavier. Among the subjects of other sketches in the pamphlet are a bell used by the Reverend John West in 1820, the famed "Bells of St. Boniface," bells used at old Fort Garry, and some early school bells.

#### GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

Readers of this magazine will be interested in knowing that the general extension division of the University of Minnesota now offers a correspondence course in the history of Minnesota. Individuals or groups with qualified leaders may register at any time for the course, which was prepared by and is given under the direction of Miss Helen Clapesattle. It consists of an introduction and sixteen lessons—a comprehensive survey of the history of the state from the day of the red man to the present. Among the topics covered in some of the lessons are the French and British periods in the Northwest, American exploration and occupation, the organization of the territory, pioneer life, the admission of the state to the Union, participation in the Civil and Sioux wars, the development of lumbering, milling, mining, and agriculture, the "Rise of Cities and Labor," and "Aspects of Maturity." Access to Dr. Folwell's *History of Minnesota* and to a file of MINNESOTA HISTORY is required for registration; many other publications of the Minnesota Historical Society are included in the lists of readings that accompany the lessons; and students taking the course make use of Theodore C. Blegen's study outline

entitled *Minnesota, Its History and Its People*, issued by the University of Minnesota Press in 1937.

The most recent addition to the *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota* that is being published by the Minnesota Historical Records Survey (see *ante*, p. 89) is a volume dealing with Scott County (no. 70—307 p.). More than two hundred pages are occupied with a list of the archives preserved at Shakopee; the remainder are devoted to a historical sketch of Scott County, an account of "governmental organization and records keeping," and a description of the "housing, care, and accessibility of the records." Similar sections are to be found in a volume dealing with the archives of Faribault County at Blue Earth, which is dated October, 1938 (no. 22—256 p.). To its *Inventory of Federal Archives in the States*, the Historical Records Survey has added a list of the records of the Farm Credit Administration in Minnesota (1939. 63 p.).

The "exclusive right and privilege of investigating, exploring and surveying, by and through the person or persons it may license for that purpose as hereinafter provided, all aboriginal mounds and earthworks, ancient burial grounds, prehistoric ruins, fossil bone deposits," and the like in Minnesota are reserved to the state under the provisions of a bill passed by the Minnesota legislature of 1939 and approved on April 12 (Ch. 207, H. F. No. 1216). The licensing power is placed in the hands of an "archaeologist, who shall be appointed by the department of anthropology and archaeology of the University of Minnesota from among its staff and be attached to the department of the commissioner of conservation." The new law calls for an annual license fee of twenty-five dollars and requires that "50 per cent of all articles, antiques, fossil remains, implements and material found . . . shall remain the property of the state."

Miss Frances E. Andrews is the author of a sketch of Grand Portage in the February-March issue of *Outdoor America*, the official publication of the Izaak Walton League of America. She tells briefly of the "oldest settlement in Minnesota . . . with its treasure of hills, woods, and water," the wilderness trails that connect it with the high falls of the Pigeon River and the site of old Fort Charlotte,

and the Northwest Company stockade that is now being reconstructed under the auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Dr. Guy Stanton Ford, president of the University of Minnesota, has named a committee to make plans for the publication of a comprehensive history of the university, according to an announcement in the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* for February 18. Professor Andrew Boss is chairman of the committee and E. B. Pierce is recording secretary.

Much information about the beginnings of the University of Minnesota was presented by Clarence A. Dykstra, president of the University of Wisconsin, in a Charter Day address presented at a convocation on the Minnesota campus on February 16. The address appears in two installments in the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* for February 25 and March 4.

Mr. Stan W. Carlson pays tribute to a coach who gave the best years of his life to the University of Minnesota in a little volume entitled *Dr. Henry L. Williams: A Football Biography* (Minneapolis, 1938. 132 p.). Three of the twenty-eight brief chapters are devoted to Dr. Williams' early life, education, and coaching experiences in the East before coming to Minnesota in 1900, and two deal with his experiences after his resignation more than two decades later. The remaining chapters are little more than accounts of victories and defeats on the part of twenty-two Minnesota football teams.

The decade from 1854 to 1864 is covered by Dr. John M. Armstrong in the three installments of his "History of Medicine in Ramsey County" appearing in the January, February, and March issues of *Minnesota Medicine* (see *ante*, p. 91). Accounts of pioneer doctors, dentists, and druggists, and of early hospitals in St. Paul are included in this narrative. Mention is made also of Minnesota's "first medical journal," the *Minnesota Homeopath* published by Dr. George Hadfield of St. Paul in 1859. Dr. Armstrong points out that the only known copy of this journal is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society. The writer has drawn extensively upon materials preserved by this society, including the census schedules for 1857 and 1860. From these sources he has compiled lists of physicians, dentists, and druggists then practicing in St. Paul and Ramsey County.

A completely revised version of the *Minnesota Capitol: Official Guide and History*, originally published by Julie C. Gauthier in 1907, has been issued by the office of the state auditor (1939. 81 p.). Much new material has been added — descriptions of the Minnesota Historical Building, the State Office Building, and the Science Museum; a brief sketch of Minnesota history; and an account of the state government. In addition to detailed descriptions of the exterior and interior of the Capitol, the guide proper includes sketches of its history and of Cass Gilbert, the architect. With the exception of the description of the Science Museum, which was prepared by its director, Dr. Louis H. Powell, the new sections were written by Mary W. Berthel of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, who also revised the portion relating to the Capitol and edited the booklet.

An abstract of a paper on the "Settlement of Minnesota," presented by Leonard S. Wilson before a meeting of the Association of American Geographers at Cambridge, Massachusetts, in December, 1938, appears in the *Annals* of the organization for March. Of Northwest and Minnesota interest also is an abstract of a study by S. Whittemore Boggs on the "Historical Geography of the United States-Canada Boundary."

A wealth of material relating to the history of the Red River Valley is to be found in a sixtieth anniversary edition of the *Weekly Record* of East Grand Forks, published on February 22. Many articles of general regional interest are included; among them are accounts of Indian tribes and mounds, of the buffalo herds that roamed the plains, of the exploration of the valley, of the fur trade, and of the Red River trails. Canadian connections are brought out in articles on the Selkirk colony and on the Riel rebellion of 1869. Steamboating on the Red River is the subject of several articles, and there are accounts of such river ports as Frog Point. The treaty of 1863, which opened this section of the Red River Valley to white settlement, is described. Separate articles are devoted to the organization of Polk County and the defining of its boundaries, and to the story of the founding of East Grand Forks in 1871. There are also accounts of agriculture in the Red River Valley, the coming of the railroads, the building of churches, schools, and hospitals, the development of mail service, and the growth of many local industries.

"The Good Old Days (Not So Long Ago) When the Livery Stable Was Busy Village Forum" are recalled by Dr. C. I. Oliver of Graceville in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for January 29. "The real big day of the year for the livery stable was the Fourth of July," writes Dr. Oliver. "All teams and conveyances were engaged weeks in advance" at a rate of ten dollars for the day. He relates that "most doctors had teams of their own which they drove in the day time, but depended on the Liveryman for the night trips."

A description of a journey from Norway to America and of settlement on the Minnesota frontier near Faribault before the Civil War opens a recently published booklet of *Memoirs of a Pioneer* by K. Neutson (37 p.). About 1874, Mr. Neutson records, "I entered as a clerk the insurance office of S. H. Jaques at Faribault, Minnesota and, with the exception of a few months' intermission . . . I continued in the business of fire insurance for over fifty years." Records of the writer's experiences in this business at various points in Minnesota are included. He presents also accounts of adventures in the Red River country, where he spent the years from 1870 to 1873. Of special interest are the illustrations, which include a view of Winnipeg in 1870 and pictures of the steamboat "Selkirk" on the Red River and of a York boat.

The February number of the *Vets Call*, a monthly publication issued at Fort Ridgely State Park, includes a number of letters and articles of historical interest. "Famous Names from Ridgely's Roster" is the title of a sketch of the fort's history, with special emphasis upon the military leaders who have figured in its story, contributed by G. Hubert Smith. The superintendent of the park, Floyd Tilden, is the author of a brief account of the excavations on the fort site and of the restoration of one of the buildings.

Sketches of William Pitt Murray, a prominent Minnesota pioneer, and his descendants are to be found in the *Murray-Conwell Genealogy and Allied Families*, compiled by Maude L. Lawrence and Geraldine L. Lombard (St. Paul, 1938. 115 p.). Much of the material for the volume was assembled in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society, according to Mrs. Winifred Conwell Murray Milne, who writes the preface.

*Howdy Folks: Selections from the Writings, Verse and Speeches of Larry Ho* is the title of a volume compiled by Laurence K. Hodgson (St. Paul, 1937. 249 p.). It serves as a fitting memorial to his father, Laurence C. Hodgson, a former mayor of St. Paul and a well-known journalist whose writings appeared under the pseudonym "Larry Ho."

#### LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Although the life span of the Hennepin County Historical Society extends back little more than a year, the organization has assembled, catalogued, and arranged more than three thousand museum objects, manuscripts, and pictures. This impressive collection is to be found in the Village Hall of St. Louis Park, where the society has its headquarters in two large exhibit rooms and an office. With the exception of a few items of more than ordinary value, which are placed in the two or three glass cases available for display purposes, small museum objects are arranged on open tables. Among the latter are china and glassware, bells, toys, Indian objects, a set of cooper's tools, lamps and candlesticks, kitchen utensils, and small agricultural implements. Larger objects, such as spinning wheels, a grandfather clock, beds, chairs, and other items of furniture are arranged on the floor. Pictures and manuscripts are filed in a case, each occupying one large drawer. About a hundred prints from the Bromley collection of early Minnesota photographs and a copy of a portrait of Pierre Bottineau are among the more valuable items in the picture collection. Manuscripts include letters of such frontier leaders as John H. Stevens, John S. Pillsbury, and James J. Hill; some sermons of Gideon H. Pond; archives of Dayton Township; a Civil War muster roll of Company D, Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry; and the records of a school at Wayzata. Five issues of the *Dakota Friend*, the rare newspaper issued by Gideon Pond in 1850 and 1851, have been acquired by the society.

The assembling and arranging of the collections of the Hennepin County society have been accomplished for the most part by twenty workers engaged in a WPA project under the direction of Mr. Edward A. Blomfield, who has charge of the museum. Fifteen workers have spent their time in collecting material; others have arranged and

accessioned the collections and prepared a card catalogue of all items. A scrapbook of clippings from county newspapers and other publications relating to the activities of the society supplies a valuable record of its progress since its organization on April 11, 1938. Many of these clippings relate to special exhibits of museum objects arranged by the society—at the county fair in Hopkins, in the Northwestern Bank Building of Minneapolis, in the buildings of the Minneapolis Gas Company and the Northwestern Telephone Company, at the Minneapolis Public Library, at Edina, and in Eden Prairie Township. The society is co-operating with the Hennepin County schools in gathering material for a history of the locality. The Hennepin County society has made an auspicious beginning. Its museum collections deserve a home in a fireproof building equipped with adequate display cases.

B. L. H.

At a meeting of the Anoka County Historical Society held at Anoka on February 13, reminiscent narratives prepared by Mrs. W. H. LaPlant and Mrs. Mary Faherty were presented.

More than a hundred people attended the annual dinner meeting of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, which was held at Mankato on January 11. An address was given by Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, who discussed the preservation of historical source material by the local historical society, giving special attention to newspapers and manuscripts. The Blue Earth County society has made plans for a series of monthly meetings, the first of which was held on March 28, when Mr. Frank Babcock recalled some of the frontier experiences of his father and his grandfather, pioneers who settled in Blue Earth and Le Sueur counties.

The organization of a historical society for Carlton County is suggested in the *Carlton County Vidette* of Carlton for February 16. The paper notes that the need for such an organization had been pointed out by Mr. J. Emil Kangas of Esko, and it asks others who are interested to express their ideas on the subject.

More than thirteen hundred visitors have viewed the exhibits displayed in the museum of the Chippewa County Historical Society since it was opened to the public in May, 1937, according to an ac-

count of its activities in the *Dawson Sentinel* of January 20. In this issue Helen Blostad describes some of the more interesting displays in the museum and discusses the objectives of the society. She reveals that more than two thousand objects of local historical interest are on exhibit in this museum, which is maintained at Montevideo as a WPA project. Displays of interest both for Chippewa and Lac qui Parle counties are exhibited, since the latter county lacks a historical society and museum. The need for a historical museum in Lac qui Parle County is stressed by Mrs. Claribel O. Mongrain in the *Independent Press* of Madison for March 3.

"Incidents and Individuals of Days Gone By" in Goodhue County are briefly described by C. A. Rasmussen, president of the local historical society, in a section entitled "An Historical Potpourri" which began publication in the *Red Wing Daily Republican* of January 26. A similar section has been appearing also in the *Red Wing Daily Eagle*.

The suggestion that the "Old Carlson Barn" at Red Wing should be removed to a new site and used "for a local historical building in which to preserve the old furniture, utensils, books, pictures and paintings that might be donated or acquired before they are gone forever" is made by A. J. R. in his column, "With the Long Bow," in the *Minneapolis Journal* for January 20. He describes the barn as a "remarkable structure" that "was built in the early days of the native stone by an old world builder who was a natural artist," and he urges that it be transformed into a "historical building or museum for the use and benefit of the whole city."

Some recent accessions of the Grant County Historical Society are described by its secretary, W. H. Goetzinger, in the *Grant County Herald* of Elbow Lake for February 2, which devotes a section to "Historical Society Notes." A muzzle-loading pistol found recently on the old Red River trail near Stony Lake, a flintlock from an old gun picked up in Delaware Township in 1921, a spur found at Pomme de Terre, and an awl are among the items described.

At Edina on March 18 the Hennepin County Historical Society held the first of a series of program meetings that it is planning for various localities in the county. Mrs. Frank Archer reviewed the

history of the local Minnehaha Grange, in whose hall the meeting was held; Mr. Robert E. Scott, president of the society, called attention to the value of its work; and Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society, spoke on "Community Memory." On March 8, Mr. Edward A. Blomfield, director of the society's museum collections, was interviewed about its activities by Florence Lehman over station WCCO.

The importance of preserving "private records, diaries, and letters with early information . . . in some place where they will not be subject to being destroyed by fire" is stressed in an editorial appearing in the *Willmar Tribune* for January 13. The writer points out that "In this state there have now been organized some fifty-odd county historical societies which function in connection with the state historical society," and that with these organizations the Kandiyohi County Old Settlers' Association may be grouped. "It would be a mighty fine thing," the writer continues, "if some fireproof room could be secured where under the auspices of this organization records bearing on past events . . . might be accumulated, classified and preserved." In the same editorial praise is accorded Mr. A. A. C. Bloomquist, Kandiyohi County clerk of court, for his work in assembling and caring for county archives.

A paper on "Early Day Remedies in Minnesota" was read by Dr. W. F. Wilson at a meeting of the Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society at Lake City on February 13.

The museum of the Hutchinson Historical Society was removed to new quarters in the basement of the local high school early in January. Mr. S. S. Beach, curator of the museum, announced that twelve new cases had been provided for the display of the society's collections.

Some two hundred and fifty objects of local historical interest have been assembled in the museum of the Morrison County Historical Society in the courthouse at Little Falls, according to a report of its president, Val E. Kasperek, which appears in the *Little Falls Daily Transcript* for January 21. Some of the items recently presented are listed with their donors in this and other issues of the *Transcript*. According to Mr. Kasperek's report, more than a thousand biographies of Morrison County pioneers have been recorded for the society.

Examples are being published from time to time in the Little Falls newspapers, the *Transcript* and the *Herald*.

A report on the work accomplished in 1938 by the Pope County Historical Society, prepared by C. G. Torguson, supervisor of a WPA project under its auspices, appears in the *Starbuck Times* for January 12. He reveals that thirteen workers engaged in the project have collected a wealth of material and prepared numerous special articles relating to the early history of the county, have located and excavated Indian mounds in the vicinity, have assembled records of school districts and churches, and have collected several hundred museum objects, manuscripts, books, and pamphlets for the society. Local newspapers have co-operated by publishing many of the articles prepared by Mr. Torguson and other workers. Noteworthy among them are accounts of "Skiing, Then and Now," appearing in the *Pope County Tribune* of Glenwood for February 2 and 9, and of a board of trade organized at Glenwood in 1883, in the *Glenwood Herald* for March 23.

The author of a recently published *Historical Sketch of the Parish of the Immaculate Conception, Faribault*, Miss Johanna M. O'Leary, was honored at a dinner meeting of the Rice County Historical Society at Faribault on February 20. On that occasion her book was reviewed by Dr. F. F. Kramer; a descriptive note on the volume appears *ante*, 19:475. Appearing on the same program were Genevieve Gustafson, who read a "History of the Faribault Library," and Richard Gaard, who reviewed the "Story of Shattuck."

The "Early History of the Floodwood Region" was reviewed by E. W. Johnson before an audience of some hundred and fifty people who attended a meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society at Floodwood on January 27. Among other speakers on the program were Mr. D. T. Grussendorf, who discussed "Agriculture in the Floodwood Area," and Mrs. Carl Sandberg, who recalled her early experiences as a teacher in the vicinity.

Steps toward the permanent organization of the Scott County Historical Society were taken at a meeting held at Jordan on January 31, when a committee of five was named to draw up bylaws for the new organization. About forty people were present to hear Mr.

Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society, read a paper on "Community Memory," and Mr. Richard R. Sackett, assistant supervisor of the Minnesota Historical Records Survey, discuss the work of the survey with special reference to Scott County.

In its editorial column for February 3, the *Henderson Independent* suggests that the "organization of a historical society for Henderson and Sibley county as a whole would prove a laudable undertaking."

More than a thousand objects of local historical interest have been assembled at St. Cloud for the museum of the Stearns County Historical Society, according to an announcement in the *St. Cloud Daily Times* for January 4. A list of donors from whom items have been received appears in the *Times* for January 18.

A log cabin once used as a residence will be removed to Trowbridge Park in Waseca and equipped for use as a museum by the Waseca County Historical Society, according to an announcement in the *Waseca Herald* for January 26. At the annual meeting of the society on January 21, the following officers were elected: Herman A. Panzram, president; Judge Fred W. Senn, vice-president; Arnold Runnerstrom, secretary; and C. H. Bailer, treasurer.

Papers on the early history of Lake Elmo by Maurice Sliney and Marion Stevens were read at a meeting of the Washington County Historical Society held at Lake Elmo on February 28.

About two hundred people attended a meeting of the Watonwan County Historical Society held at Butterfield on March 2. Many pictures, newspapers, and museum objects owned by Mr. George S. Hage, president of the society, were placed on display in connection with the meeting. Mr. R. E. Casey reviewed the history of the Butterfield schools, and sketches of Mennonite, Lutheran, and Presbyterian churches in the community were read. A history of the village, prepared for the meeting by Mr. J. O. Ness, appears in the *Butterfield Advocate* for March 9.

A local Finnish-American Historical Society was organized at Cokato on March 2. It plans to gather information about Finnish settlement at Cokato, Dassel, French Lake, and Kingston, and to publish an account of this subject.

## LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

The history of the Kiwanis Club of Anoka, which was chartered in 1922, was reviewed by O. E. Smith before a meeting of the organization held on January 11. Lists of officers and charter members and accounts of community service are included in the address, which is published in the *Anoka Herald* for January 18.

"Sketches of Pioneer Life in Big Stone County" by an "Old Timer" who has lived there since 1877 make up an interesting series that appears in the *Clinton Advocate* from January 4 to March 22. The writer describes the claim shanty to which his father took his family as a one-room structure measuring ten by twelve feet, with "rough board walls, dirt floor, board roof, and 'bunks' filled with wild hay for beds." He reports that "Housekeeping was an easy task, for as one of the girls wrote to a friend, 'we make up the beds with a pitchfork and sweep the floor with a shingle.'" Many similar sidelights on frontier domestic life are furnished in the narrative, which includes also some interesting accounts of pioneer holiday celebrations.

The career of a pioneer New Ulm photographer, Mr. A. J. Meyer, is the subject of an article in the *New Ulm Review* for March 6. In 1894, according to this account, Mr. Meyer "bought out Anton Gag, who was a photographer by trade though a painter at heart," acquiring not only Mr. Gag's studio, but his collection of negatives and the painting of the battle of New Ulm that is now owned by the Minnesota Historical Society.

The fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation as a village of Barnum in Carlton County is the occasion for the publication of a history of the village in the *Barnum Herald* of February 9. It includes a chronological list of events from the building of the railroad through the township in 1870 to 1928, and a detailed account of the incorporation of the village.

An interview with Mr. Darius C. Benjamin of Jackson, founder of the first newspaper at Mountain Lake, appears in the *Mountain Lake Observer* for March 9. Mr. Benjamin relates that he established his paper, which he called the *Mountain Lake View*, in December, 1893, and sold it the following September to Eugene E. Lane.

*The Story of Pine Bend* in Dakota County, prepared for members of the local scout club by Edward G. Dobrick, Jr., has been multi-graphed and issued in the form of a little pamphlet (15 p.). Geology, wild life, exploration, Indians, settlement, and steamboating are among the topics touched upon. The village is located on the Mississippi on the site of the Sioux village of Medicine Bottle, and the writer makes much of the story of this Indian chief.

An anniversary edition of the *Minneapolis Journal*, issued on November 24, marks the completion of sixty years of publication on the part of this paper. Among the articles of special interest in this number is an interview with Mr. Clarence French, who founded the *Journal* in November, 1878. After his newspaper office was destroyed by fire in 1881, he went to Monticello and founded the *Times*, according to Vivian Thorp, who records the interview. Many aspects of the progress of Minneapolis are considered in other sketches and articles. Among those dealing with phases of social history are accounts of early society, of the city's growth as a musical center, of changes in the theater, and of the progress of churches and schools. There are also articles on such sports as football, baseball, and golf; a review of political changes; an account of Minneapolis weather conditions during sixty years as recorded in the *Journal*; and a review of "direct news coverage of governmental affairs" at Washington. The reader is reminded that the years since the paper was founded have seen the "coming of telephone, trolley, auto, airplane."

The history of a Jewish congregation organized in Minneapolis in 1888 by immigrants from the Lithuanian section of Russia is reviewed in a *Golden Anniversary* booklet (44 p.) issued by Keneseth Israel Synagogue in April, 1938. The building of synagogues, the services of church leaders, the activities of church clubs, and the like are covered in the pamphlet.

The career of George F. Peterson, the *Scribe of Bear River*, who went to what was still the Minnesota frontier in 1911 and established the *Bear River Journal*, is reviewed by L. A. Rossman in a recently published pamphlet (Grand Rapids, 1938. 15 p.). The sketch is reprinted in installments in the *Daily Journal* of International Falls from January 16 to 19.

Church, county, and school records, and interviews were used by S. D. Lincoln in gathering material for a history of the Church of St. Rose de Lima, a French Catholic congregation at Argyle. The narrative, which appears in the *Marshall County Banner* of Argyle for January 5, reveals that services were held in private homes and in the schoolhouse until a frame church was erected in 1883.

The story of the "first warrant and first official financial transaction" in Nobles County, covering the years from 1871 to 1873, is outlined in the *Worthington Globe* for February 23. The warrant was issued to Hiram B. Wallace at Graham Lakes for expenses incurred while serving as sheriff. It was discovered with the sheriff's expense account when documents in the county auditor's vault were refiled recently. In the *Globe* for February 28 appears a facsimile reproduction of part of the second issue of the *National Colony Journal*, which was issued at Toledo, Ohio, in January, 1872, to promote the settlement that became Worthington. Illustrated "Stories of Early Days" in Nobles County are contributed by Perry Carter to the *Globe* of January 29 and February 5.

The growth of Faribault as an industrial center since 1854, when a steam sawmill was erected there by J. G. and H. Y. Scott, is traced in the *Faribault Daily News* for January 24. Among the early industrial plants described are a brewery, a furniture factory, a brick yard, several flour mills, a woolen mill, and a nursery. The career of a blacksmith, Mr. Joseph Benjamin, who has practiced his trade at Northfield for fifty years, is described in an article in the *News* for February 23.

The marking of historic sites in and around Duluth is being planned by a committee of which Mr. Arthur L. Roberts is chairman and on which are serving representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the St. Louis County Historical Society, the National Youth Administration, the Kiwanis Club, and various other societies. A tentative list of sites to be marked appears in the *Duluth Herald* for January 29. Included are the Duluth ship canal, the portage on Minnesota Point, the Merritt home, the Cody house, and the site of the Fond du Lac mission school.

A "Historical Sketch of the Early Settlements of the Township of Cedar Lake, Scott County" is contributed by W. J. Casey to the *Jordan Independent* of February 9. From the arrival of the first settlers, Michael Flynn and Thomas O'Donnell, in 1855, the writer traces the story of an area that has "remained strictly rural" and that "has had neither railroads nor municipal activities within its borders." He gives attention, however, to the development of churches, schools, and post offices, and to political, social, and agricultural activities. A valuable appendix gives a list of "Land Filings on Record in the U. S. Land Office" for Cedar Lake Township from 1855 to 1874. Under the title *A History of Cedar Lake Township*, Mr. Casey's narrative has been published also as a small pamphlet (1939), accompanied by a map of the township.

The first of a series of articles on the early history of Steele County is contributed by John R. Hartwig to the *Blooming Prairie Times* of March 9. The author, who is county recorder of deeds, draws upon records in his care for an account of "'Abandoned' Towns in Steele County," villages that were platted in the 1850's and that failed to materialize.

A booklet on *Wabasha County* by Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge is one of a series of *Minnesota County Histories* that is being issued by the Minnesota Federal Writers' Project under the sponsorship of the state department of education (71 p.). It reviews the story of Wabasha County in simple terms for pupils in the grades, with stories of the native red men, of French exploration, of the fur trade, of steamboating, of pioneer settlement, and of frontier social life.

Catholic congregations at Jordan, Sleepy Eye, Norwood, and Springfield are the subjects of articles in the *Wanderer* of St. Paul for March 2, and parishes in Waseca County and at Belle Plaine are described in the issue of the same paper for March 16. The activities of the Franciscans, dating back to 1875, are stressed in the accounts of Jordan and Belle Plaine.

A historical sketch of the Long Lake Farmers' Club of Echols in Watonwan County, presented by Mrs. W. G. Monroe at a meeting of the organization on December 30, is published in the *Watonwan County Plaindealer* of St. James for January 12. The club's social

activities, which included the establishment of a camp for girls, are described by the writer.

With some brief notes on pioneer "Concerns Still Doing Business" in Winona, William Codman, historian of the Winona County Old Settlers Association, opens a series of articles in the *Winona Republican-Herald* for January 6. Among the subjects of later sketches are the "Great Fire of 1862" (January 14), some buildings erected after the fire (January 20), parks in the county (February 3), and the line of chiefs bearing the name of Wabasha (February 10 and 17). Harold Peterson is the author of a history of the Winona Little Theater Group, which was organized in 1925 and has since produced fifty plays, appearing in installments in the *Republican-Herald* from March 11 to 14. In the same paper for March 29 is an account of a volume of records kept in Winona Township since its organization in 1858.



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