

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*America in Midpassage (The Rise of American Civilization, vol. 3).*

By CHARLES A. BEARD and MARY R. BEARD. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1939. 977 p. \$3.50.)

This highly-prized book was obviously written for the complacent elements in the American population—if there are any left. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that the book is pointed to the American who believes that the depression will vanish the morning after a Republican president and Congress are elected. However, nine hundred and forty-nine pages of marching sentences will probably not shake his faith, which is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. He will not understand that the normalcy he voted for in 1920 and 1924 and 1928 did not exist and that in the paradise presided over by Harding and Coolidge the serpent of high finance, corruption, bribery, ineptitude, dishonest newspapers, and international and industrial anarchy had spoken.

In three opening paragraphs the authors summarize the point of view of those who voted for Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover—the trinity of prosperity—in language that gives warning that they propose to demolish the fairyland of the “Lords of Creation”—a designation for the apostles who cried out against “selling America short.” Their estimate of Hoover is quite different from that of Harding and of Coolidge, even though the “broad frame of political philosophy within which President Hoover confined his operations of thought and action in official affairs did not differ essentially from that of his predecessors.” In other words, “he broke from precedents and made precedents in the discharge of his duties as Chief Executive.”

Thus far the reviewer may have given the impression that the book is an indictment of the Republican party. On the contrary, it is a sober marshaling of events that crowd through ten years—events that in themselves constitute a formidable indictment of blind leaders of the blind.

After an effective survey of politics and legislation from 1928 through the Hoover administration, the stock market crashes in the second chapter. By quoting from statements made to investigating commit-

tees, the authors pile up evidence that proves clearly that the wizards of high finance were as ignorant as schoolboys of conditions and events abroad, where millions of dollars were poured. Evasive answers and sweeping generalizations were easily punctured by a direct question or two. The "Lords of Creation" are convicted out of their own mouths. University professors were paid to go on the air to boost stocks; and "good friends" were permitted to buy dubious stocks below the market price to enable them to unload them on the gullible public. Newspapers betrayed their readers by publishing false information; and "canceled checks issued to writers for their labors in behalf of balloon ascensions showed that reporters on the papers representing the Cream of Respectability had so stooped to serve private interests."

After the election of 1932, the authors set the stage for Franklin D. Roosevelt, the scenery being the ruthless exposure of the House of Morgan, Father Coughlin, Huey Long, Dr. Townsend, Japanese aggression, and the rise of Hitler. The excoriators of the New Deal will probably agree with one sentence in the book: "Never before had Congress in the course of two years enacted legislation running so widely and deeply into American economy." Behind each statute of the New Deal the authors see a long series of agitations, numerous changes in the thought and economy of American society, and pertinent enactments.

A judicious chapter on the decisions of the Supreme Court prepares the reader for the drama of the proposed reform of the court and the appointment of Hugo Black. "Everyone acquainted with backstairs politics in Washington knew that, if affiliations with the Klan were to be thoroughly aired, a number of Senators might actually blush," is the brutal comment of the authors. Equally brutal—and equally true—is the comment on Black's announcement that he preferred to make his statement to the public over the radio, instead of incurring the perils of editorial emphasis or distortion—a wise decision that did not increase the justice's popularity with the newspapers.

The characterization of John L. Lewis does not exactly square with that of the newspapers: "Certainly, with any Lord of Creation, Lewis could hold his own, when holding his own was an affair of knowledge, skill in argument, and tenacity of will."

The presentation of the moving pictures and the radio as propaganda agencies—the bondage to social, religious, and commercial in-

terests — may well cause responsible citizens to ponder. The same pessimism rises up after one reads the paragraphs relating to the press. It is safe to say that before writing this sentence in a concluding paragraph the authors consulted sources other than the newspapers, the radio, and the literature sponsored by the Liberty League: "It was well within the circle of factual description to say that in his numerous discourses Franklin D. Roosevelt discussed the basic human and economic problems of American society with a courage and range displayed by no predecessor in his office. . . . And in doing this he carried on the tradition of humanistic democracy which from colonial times had been a powerful dynamic in the whole movement of American civilization and culture — economic, political, literary, scientific, and artistic."

It is well for the country that there are historians like the Beards who can see through the fog of contemporary events and have the ability and the courage to record what they see. The verdict of history is worth playing for — so long as there are historians like Charles and Mary Beard.

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*Canadian-American Relations, 1849-1874.* By LESTER BURRELL SHIPPEE, University of Minnesota. (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1939. xi, 514 p. Maps. \$3.00.)

To the series of Canadian and American studies issued under the auspices of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and numbering already a dozen scholarly volumes, Professor Shippee has made a notable contribution. This volume is the first in the historical section of the series and it sets a high standard. The general aim is to provide a much needed reorientation for both writers and readers of American and Canadian history, a treatment less narrowly national and more broadly continental. A more specific aim is to clarify one of the greatest decisions of the last century affecting North America — the decision that Canada and the United States should not merge but pursue separate although friendly ways.

In Anglo-Canadian-American history, the quarter century from 1849 to 1874 liquidated several thorny differences. At the outset the prospects of the British North American provinces were depressing.

Responsible government had not yet demonstrated its fine possibilities. England's repeal of the Corn Laws had swept away colonial preferences and with them the provinces' prosperity. A disgruntled and influential minority in Montreal called loudly for annexation to the United States.

Under the spell of "Manifest destiny," Americans considered the annexation of British North America to be inevitable. Rather blatantly and belligerently they pressed the issue. Indeed Englishmen in high places asserted they would interpose no barrier. Reciprocity between the United States and the provinces from 1854 to 1866 was regarded by many Americans as a prelude to annexation, and its abrupt abrogation was intended to leave no alternative. But there was an alternative, the need for which the international asperities of the Civil War had clearly shown. In 1867 the Dominion of Canada was formed by the confederation of four provinces; Canada took over the Hudson's Bay territories; and by 1873 the young dominion, then comprising seven provinces, stretched from sea to sea. Annexation thereby suffered a critical but not yet fatal wound. "The United States," concludes Dr. Shippee, "had been the most potent factor in creating a nation which had no desire to link its political future with theirs."

Difficult diplomatic questions awaited Grant's administration. Some of these affected Great Britain and some Canada—Alabama claims, Northeast fisheries, use of the St. Lawrence, San Juan boundary, and possibly Fenian claims. Secretary Fish, like Seward before him, hoped to have all these disputes settled by inducing Great Britain to withdraw from the continent. But withdraw John Bull would not while his Canadian sons remained loyal. Fish decided to change his front. The diplomatic tempo immediately quickened. In short the Treaty of Washington in 1871 provided amicable means of settlement, and a new era in Anglo-Canadian-American relations opened.

The opinions of the American West are occasionally mentioned. The West valued use of the St. Lawrence water route as an alternative to the more expensive rail haul on American roads. It favored annexation to secure American control of that route and opposed in general the abrogation of reciprocity lest Canada close the waterway to American vessels. Senators Henry M. Rice and Alexander Ramsey of Minnesota in turn defended reciprocity. The acquisition of the Red River country, then in partial economic dependence on Min-

nesota, was much desired. James W. Taylor of St. Paul drew a bill for the admission to the Union of the British provinces, and an eastern congressman abortively introduced it. In 1868 Senator Ramsey moved resolutions calling for a return to reciprocity and the purchase of Rupert's Land. But Canadian confederation deflated expansionist hopes.

In his objective and lucid treatment of a difficult period the author has placed readers, both American and Canadian, in his debt. The book presents a wealth of contemporary comment and it should be required reading for those who may still doubt the wisdom of a "Good Neighbor" policy. An appendix gives pertinent articles from the Treaty of Washington. A political map of British North America and the northern United States, 1846-1890, is one of the most satisfactory this reviewer has observed.

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## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

MISS HELEN CLAPESATTLE ("Health and Medicine in Rochester, 1855-70") is assistant editor on the staff of the University of Minnesota Press. For the past year she has been engaged in research on the history of the Mayo Clinic at Rochester. Dr. Grace Lee Nute ("The Lindbergh Colony"), curator of manuscripts for the Minnesota Historical Society, obtained the material relating to this Minnesota Swedish colony of the 1860's while she was in Sweden in the summer of 1938. She is the author of a book on *The Voyageur* and of numerous articles and special studies. Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock ("Louis Provençalle, Fur Trader") is curator of the society's museum. He has published many articles, dealing particularly with the Indians of the Northwest, in this and other magazines. Mr. Winfred A. Harbison ("President Lincoln and the Faribault Fire-eater") is assistant professor of American history in Wayne University at Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Arthur J. Larsen and Miss Bertha L. Heilbron ("Theodore C. Blegen and the Minnesota Historical Society") are, respectively, acting superintendent of the society and assistant editor of this magazine. Miss Frances Densmore ("A Minnesota Missionary Journey of 1893") is a well-known authority on the music of the American Indians. For many years she has conducted special researches on this subject for the United States Bureau of American Ethnology and the Smithsonian Institution. Among her books is a general study of the *American Indians and Their Music* (1936). Miss Gertrude W. Ackermann ("Family Papers and the Westward Movement") is assistant curator of manuscripts on the staff of the society. Book reviews have been contributed to this issue by Dr. George M. Stephenson, professor of history in the University of Minnesota; and Professor Clarence W. Rife, head of the history department in Hamline University.

Dr. Arthur J. Larsen of St. Paul, head of the society's newspaper department for the past ten years, was named acting superintendent upon Dr. Blegen's resignation on August 1. The degree of doctor of

philosophy was conferred upon Dr. Larsen by the University of Minnesota in 1938. He is the author of a monograph on the history of the Minnesota road system and of numerous historical articles, and he edited the volume of letters of Jane Grey Swisshelm which the society published in 1934 as volume 2 of its *Narratives and Documents* series. As the head of the newspaper department, he has directed the compilation of a comprehensive bibliography and inventory of files of Minnesota newspapers.

The ninetieth anniversary of the incorporation of the Minnesota Historical Society by the first territorial legislature on October 20, 1849, will be marked by a special program to be presented in the Historical Building following a meeting of the executive council on October 20.

The third volume of the *Narratives and Documents* series will be distributed to members of the society early in the fall. It contains the *Minnesota Farmers' Diaries* kept by William R. Brown near Newport in 1845 and 1846 and by Mitchell Y. Jackson at Lakeland near Lake St. Croix from 1852 to 1863. The diaries have been edited for publication by Dr. Rodney C. Loehr of the department of history in the University of Minnesota, who has supplied an introduction for the volume.

Professor Tremaine McDowell's essay on "Regionalism in American Literature," which appeared in the June issue of this magazine, is discussed by James Gray in his column of the *St. Paul Dispatch* for June 22. "The accent of Minnesota is different from the accent of Maine and both accents are different from that of New Mexico," writes Mr. Gray. "There must be regionalism in the fiction of America if there is to be truth."

The Minnesota Historical Society is the subject of a special article in the *Christian Science Monitor* for May 1, which devotes three pages to St. Paul, its institutions, and its industries. Of historical interest are a review of the career of Nathaniel P. Langford, an account of the Sibley House at Mendota, and an article on the origin and growth of the Schubert Club.

The account of the museum of the Brown County Historical Society that appeared in the issue of this magazine for March (see *ante*,

p. 92-95) is reprinted in the *New Ulm Daily Journal* for April 5. It is described as a "glowing tribute" to Mr. Fred W. Johnson, president of the society and curator of the museum.

A total of 342 classes with more than nine thousand teachers and students visited the society's museum during the first six months of 1939. School group attendance for the second quarter of the year, when 250 of these classes went through the Historical Building, broke all previous records for a period of three months.

Miss Nute is the author of an article on the "Use of Microphotography at the Minnesota Historical Society" which appears in the June issue of the *Journal of Documentary Reproduction*. Both the progress made by the society since its first use of filmstrips in 1933 and the possibilities for the future use of microphotography are discussed.

The following sixteen annual members joined the society during the three months from April 1 to June 30: the Reverend L. R. Cooper of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin; Charles A. Dorival of Caledonia; Judge William M. Ericson of Red Wing; James F. Fahey of Graceville; Judge Vernon Gates of Rochester; N. C. Gault of St. Peter; Clements C. Hanson of Barnum; Mrs. Frank B. Kellogg of St. Paul; James M. Lenihan of Lakeville; Ruth Clark Longfellow of Elk River; Paul A. Lundgren of Thief River Falls; H. J. McCall of St. Paul; Alden E. Miller of Minneapolis; Martin O'Brien of Crookston; Karl F. Thurn of Detroit Lakes; and Dr. Alfred L. Vadheim of Tyler.

The public libraries of North St. Paul and St. James and the public schools of Preston have subscribed to the publications of the society.

In the second quarter of 1939 the society lost the following active members by death: George M. Palmer of Mankato, April 18; James H. Bell, Sr., of St. Paul, April 22; Mrs. Goode King Feldhauser of St. Paul, April 30; Orlando Simons of Glencoe, May 4; Harold E. Wade of Fairmont, May 11; James B. Hewitt of St. Paul, May 24; Dr. Charles H. Mayo of Rochester, May 26; George P. Metcalf of Concord, Massachusetts, June 10; and Dr. Eugene S. Strout of Minneapolis, June 25.



The superintendent attended a meeting of the advisory board of the American Council of Learned Societies in Washington on April 15.

Mr. Babcock attended a meeting of the Upper Mississippi Valley Ethno-history Committee at Chicago on June 3, at which some fifteen representatives of historical and anthropological organizations of the Northwest were present. They drew up plans for a co-operative project that would make available in some central depository micro-film copies of materials relating to the American Indians now to be found in various libraries throughout the Northwest. Students from the University of Chicago and the University of Michigan have been engaged in photographing documents. These films, with copies and calendars of many other collections, probably will be placed in the Newberry Library of Chicago.

Tours of the Historical Building were made by members of the Cosmopolitan Club of the University of Minnesota on April 22 and the Ampersand Club on April 27, and by students enrolled in the university library school on May 17. In each case the superintendent presented a short talk on the society and its activities. Special exhibits of interesting manuscripts, pictures, and rare books from the society's collections were placed on display for the meeting of the Ampersand Club.

Papers by Dr. Blegen and Dr. Nute were read before the 1939 meeting of the American Historical Association, which was held in San Francisco from June 19 to 23. The former's paper, on "The Problem of Local History," was read in his absence by Dr. Herbert A. Kellar of Chicago; Miss Nute's "Suggestions for a Code for Cataloguing Historical Manuscript Collections" were presented by Miss Ackermann. Attending the meeting, in addition to Miss Ackermann, were two members of the library staff, Miss Krausnick and Miss Fawcett.

Dr. Blegen presented an address on the "Ballads and Songs of the Immigrant and the Pioneer" before the annual meeting of the Illinois State Historical Society at Springfield on May 12; he discussed the national project for "Preserving the President's Papers" before the Minnesota committee for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library in St.

Paul on May 5 and over radio station WMIN on May 19; he spoke on "Community Treasures" at a meeting of the Rice County Historical Society in Northfield on May 15; and he addressed the summer meeting of the Otter Tail County Historical Society, which was held at Balmoral on June 25, taking as his subject "A Grist Mill and Community Memory." A paper presented at the Frontenac session of the state historical convention of 1939 on June 17 is noted elsewhere in this magazine (see *ante*, p. 308). He was interviewed on the National Archives over radio station WLB on May 10, and he presented a greeting to Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Martha of Norway at the state fairgrounds on the occasion of their visit to the Twin Cities on June 11. Mr. Babcock spoke on "Historic Spots in Minnesota" before the Minneapolis chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on April 15; on "Community Memory" at the organization meeting of the Dakota County Historical and Archaeological Society at South St. Paul on June 13; and on "Life in Old Nininger" before the Donnelly Memorial Association at Nininger on June 25.

#### ACCESSIONS

About seven hundred sheets of letters and documents from the Lord Strathcona Papers in the General Register House at Edinburgh, Scotland, have been copied on film slides for the society. Most of these manuscripts were written by members of the Northwest Company between 1790 and 1815, and all relate to the fur trade of the upper Northwest. William Grant writes to Simon McTavish on October 17, 1792, and on May 2, 1793, about marketing the furs of the upper Mississippi and the Illinois countries by way of New Orleans. There is information on Daniel Robertson in a letter of March 15, 1798. John Gregory's letter of October 24, 1791, relates to a vessel, the "Athabasca," on Lake Superior, to the building of another vessel the ensuing year, to Sir Alexander Mackenzie, to Rainy Lake, and to Grand Portage. On December 6, 1791, John Frobisher writes of his fear that the Americans may get all the Mississippi fur trade; and on January 7, 1792, he tells about the bloody defeat of the Americans by Indians in the Ohio country: "tho' its a Cruel Business, but of *their* own seeking, its a lucky circumstance for this Country & particularly the Detroit & Mississippi Trade." Alexander Henry writes on December 21, 1792, about the Canton trade. In a letter of June

19, 1794, Joseph Frobisher predicts war with the United States. The Fond du Lac trade is discussed by James Hallowell in a letter of June 19, 1794; and sailing vessels and carriage of provisions to Grand Portage are described in one of June 26 of the same year. On July 23, 1794, John Macdonald left Grand Portage and by July 24 was writing from L'Orignal Portage about the countryside and his experiences in it. Angus Shaw dates a letter of July 25, 1794, from Grand Portage; Duncan McGillivray writes the next day, and Simon Fraser on July 29, all from the same place. John Jacob Astor's connections with the Northwest Company are mentioned in a letter of May 22, 1795. The films obtained by the society were copied from a set made from the original manuscripts for Mr. Burt B. Barker of Portland, Oregon.

Some seventy letters and reports of the Reverend Georges A. Belcourt, a Catholic missionary to the Indians at Pembina and other places in the valleys of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, have been copied for the society from originals in the possession of the Catholic Seminary in Quebec. They cover the years from 1832 to 1857, and all are written in French. Among the subjects touched upon are Indians, half-breeds, missions on Rainy Lake and the Winnipeg River, the Hudson's Bay Company, rival missions of the Protestant church, buffalo hunts, Sioux-Chippewa warfare, and trips to St. Paul and St. Louis.

Several letters written from Minnesota by the Reverend Henry M. Nichols, whose experiences in the frontier commonwealth were described in articles published in this magazine for June and September, 1938, have been copied for the society from files in the Forbes Library at Northampton, Massachusetts, of the *Northampton Courier* and its successor, the *Hampshire Gazette*. About eighty items of Minnesota interest have been copied from these files, which cover the period from 1852 to 1860.

Seven volumes and about a thousand documents relating to Fort Ridgely in the period between 1853 and 1867 have been photographed for the society from the files of the United States war department. Included are letter books kept at the fort; copies of official orders, chiefly court-martials and details for particular duty; proceedings of the post council of administration, which examined the accounts of the

treasurer and fixed the prices of goods sold by the sutler; consolidated morning report books; and proceedings of the board of survey, which examined camp and garrison equipage. Among the miscellaneous documents are letters by Major Samuel Woods, reporting his arrival at the fort in August, 1853, and discussing the proposed establishment of a mail line and a post office and the appropriation for the fort buildings; and letters from Governor Willis A. Gorman, Indian Agent R. G. Murphy, and Henry H. Sibley, in which they discuss the liquor traffic among the Indians, the attendance of soldiers at the annuity payments to the Indians, and Indian uprisings.

Diaries kept by Edwin A. C. Hatch in 1856, when he was agent for the Blackfoot at Fort Benton, and in 1863, when he led an independent battalion against the Sioux, have been presented by his grandson, Mr. E. C. Reichert of Robbinsdale. Such well-known frontiersmen as James Bridger and Alexander Culbertson figure in the earlier diary. Mr. Reichert's gift includes some twenty letters that Hatch wrote to his wife. In them may be found accounts of a trip from St. Paul to Stillwater, where the writer expected to stake out a claim in 1854, of the Sioux attack on Fort Ridgely in 1862, and of the capture of Little Six and other Indians.

Transcripts and calendar cards of Minnesota items in eastern newspapers recently received have been derived mainly from the *Springfield* [Massachusetts] *Weekly Republican*, *Moore's Rural New Yorker*, and the *Woman's Journal*, for the fifties, sixties, and early seventies of the last century. Many articles on Sibley's punitive expedition against the Sioux in 1863 give fascinating details about camp life, scenery in the West, scouts like Pierre Bottineau, and the life and tragic death of the young English volunteer, Lieutenant Frederick J. H. Beaver. Edmonia Lewis, the Negro sculptress from Minnesota, is given considerable attention. Other articles relating to women's part in building Minnesota deal with Jane Grey Swisshelm, the feminist movement in Minnesota, and the campaign for woman suffrage in the state. A fine ghost story centers about the Winslow House in St. Anthony in 1868. Norwegians in Minnesota who used "ice skates" call for an article. The Strafford Western Emigration Company of Lowell, Massachusetts, which settled Zumbrota in 1856, is given some space. The Indian mission at Red Lake is well described

in an article of 1873. Logging methods used in Minnesota pineries, immigration and railroad advance in the state, the grasshopper plagues of the fifties, sixties, and seventies, and the growing of apples and other fruits for the Chicago market in 1857 are other topics that receive consideration. Articles giving Minnesota's special culinary achievements are entitled "Minnesota Peach Pie," "Minnesota Bean Fritters," and "Minnesota Bean Soup." The Indian missionary Enmegahbowh's humorous description of hoop skirts just before the Civil War should convince the most ardent critic of women's hats in 1939 that modern woman is only following in the footsteps of her forebears in wearing outlandish clothing.

A volume of records of Chanhassen Township in Hennepin County, containing minutes of meetings of the town board and of annual town meetings and treasurer's records for the period between 1858 and 1872, has been photographed from the original in the possession of the present town clerk, Mr. H. H. Aspden. The township was largely settled by persons who migrated from Northampton, Massachusetts. George M. Powers, one of the early settlers, was town clerk from May, 1858, until April, 1866.

The constitution and minutes of meetings in 1860-61 of the Hennepin County Antislavery Society have been photographed from the original record book in the possession of Mrs. Peter S. Burghart of Excelsior. The society appointed a committee to visit the state legislature and urge the passage of a stringent personal liberty bill and the amendment of the state constitution, in order to provide for equal male suffrage. Mrs. Jane Grey Swisshelm addressed the society on one occasion. Following the minutes in the volume are copies of several family letters, including one written by Mortimer Robinson from Minneapolis on September 15, 1859. The author, a young lad, had recently joined a troupe of singers who called themselves the "Minnehaha Warblers" and who were planning to travel up the Mississippi to give concerts. Robinson later enlisted as a drummer boy with the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. A brief diary that he kept in 1864, after re-enlisting with the Sixth Minnesota, was interrupted by his death from typhoid fever. This also has been photographed from the original in the possession of Mrs. Burghart.

Vivid descriptions of the Sioux massacre of 1862 and of the subsequent punitive expeditions against the Indians under Henry H. Sibley and Alfred Sully are contained in some forty letters written between 1862 and 1865 by Major Robert N. McLaren to his wife and recently photographed for the society from the originals in the possession of his granddaughter, Mrs. Will O. Washburn of St. Paul. The letters form an interesting supplement to the McLaren Papers in the possession of the society (see *ante*, 5:63).

Seven letters written from Chaska between 1866 and 1868, extracts from the minutes of the governing board of the Moravian church, and items from a church periodical, *The Moravian*, all in the archives of the Moravian College and Theological Seminary at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, have been copied for the society. All relate to the story of a Moravian academy that was established at Chaska in 1864 and closed in 1869.

A large mass of records of the recently disbanded St. Paul Fire Insurance Patrol, covering the period between 1895 and 1938, has been presented by the organization through the courtesy of Mr. John Townsend of St. Paul. The patrol was supported by various St. Paul insurance companies to report on all fires. Its records give the name of the property owner, cause of the fire, extent of damage, and insurance coverage. Among the papers also are daily records of the station where alarms were received, payrolls, and time books of the firemen. Included in the gift are rubber coats, helmets, tools, presolite and electric lanterns, and other pieces of fire-fighting equipment used by members of the patrol.

A volume of minutes of meetings of the Inglenook Reading Club of St. Paul in the period between 1905 and 1909 has been presented by Mrs. Charles J. Resler of St. Paul. Accompanying the volume are copies of the constitution and bylaws of the organization, and printed yearbooks from 1906 to 1938.

Twenty-four volumes of records of the Oakdale Avenue Community Church of St. Paul for the period mainly between 1914 and 1938 have been presented by the church. Included are financial records, minutes of meetings of the board, and data on the golden anniversary of the church in 1938. The church was originally supported by the Minnesota Baptist Convention.

About fifty letters of appreciation of Charles S. Schurman's work as editor of the *West St. Paul Times* for fifty years are among a small collection of his papers, presented by his widow, a resident of Oakland, California. The letters were written in 1934, when a testimonial dinner was given in his honor by the Riverview Civic Club. The collection also includes newspaper clippings and pictures relating to Schurman's trip to Europe in 1911.

A copy of a mimeographed biography, "The Story of Father's Life (Rev. N. E. Bøe)" by A. Sophie Bøe, has been presented in the latter's memory by her sister, Mrs. Alfred M. Sattre of Moorhead. The narrative was prepared by Miss Bøe in 1929 from material dictated by her father in his seventy-eighth year (167 p.). She presents accounts of Bøe's immigration from Norway, of his Civil War service, of his experiences as a pioneer Norwegian Lutheran minister in Kansas, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, and of the declining years of his life, which were spent in St. Paul.

A wealth of material relating to Catholic colonization in Minnesota is to be found in a rare little book entitled *Six Seasons on Our Prairies and Six Weeks in Our Rockies* by Thomas J. Jenkins (Louisville, Kentucky, 1884), a copy of which has recently been added to the society's collections. The author was a priest residing in Kentucky who went west for "sightseeing and health-seeking, as well as on business intent." He undertook to obtain "personal knowledge of prairie farming, by 'doing' the Northwestern Catholic Colonies—with possible and probable choice of new homes for some families who were wearing out both patience and good Irish and American muscle on Middle-Kentucky farms." Although Father Jenkins went as far west as the Rockies and visited settlements in Iowa, Dakota, and Nebraska, he spent the greater part of two summers in the Catholic colonies of Minnesota, especially in Avoca. A diary that he kept during the summer of 1883 is published in this volume.

Files of the *Backbone* of Minneapolis beginning with the first number issued in January, 1897, and extending to April, 1906, and of its successors, the *Public Weal* and the *Northwest Patriot*, covering the period from 1906 to 1911, are included in a large and important collection of temperance newspapers and periodicals recently presented by Mr. Willis J. Calderwood of Minneapolis. Among the publica-

tions of the 1880's represented in the collection are the *Christian Friend*, published successively at Blue Earth, Lake Crystal, and Minneapolis; and the *Topic* and *To-day* of Minneapolis. The gift includes also the first issue of the *Campaign* of Minneapolis, dated October 18, 1873; and a number of the *Water Wagon* of St. Paul for April, 1912.

A file of the *Mankato Journal* covering the periods from November, 1890, to June, 1892, and from 1901 to 1911 is the gift of Mrs. E. O. Morrison of Minneapolis.

Two beaded Sioux bags of modern design are the gifts of the Misses Frances and Margaret Densmore of Red Wing.

An unusual addition to the numismatic collection — the gift of Mr. Emil Barbeau of St. Paul — is a paper note for a dollar and a half, bearing interest at the rate of twelve per cent per annum, which was issued by the "State of Minnesota" under an act of January 29, 1858. Minnesota was not admitted to the Union until more than three months after the date of this act.

Mr. Paul E. Henninger of St. Paul has presented a sword, canteen, and uniform that he used while serving as a captain in the Twelfth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry in the Spanish-American War. A uniform worn by Mr. George Thane as a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point has been received from his sister, Mrs. Arthur Katz of St. Paul.

A large Minnesota state flag used during the Northwest Territory celebration of 1938 has been received from the Minnesota Northwest Territory commission.

Pictures of nineteen marching clubs that participated in the St. Paul Winter Carnival of 1939 have been presented by the groups and companies that they represented. A set of pictures taken during the carnival of 1938 has been received from the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. The *Minneapolis Star* and the *Minneapolis Tribune* have turned over to the society copies of photographs taken at Anoka after the tornado of June 18, 1939. Mr. H. C. Garvin of Winona has presented two views of Garvin Heights Park at Winona.



## NEWS AND COMMENT

"THE BEST HISTORY is neither mere pedestrian fact-accumulation on the one side, nor mere pleasant writing on the other, but represents a fusion of facts, ideas, and literary grace in a single whole." Thus writes Allan Nevins in an article entitled "What's the Matter with History?" which appears in the *Saturday Review of Literature* for February 4. "The field open to historians in American materials" is, in Professor Nevins' opinion, "remarkably fresh as well as rich. Much of it has been discovered only within the last generation; the history of the Trans-Mississippi West, the history of the South, the history of society, the history of business, all are new, and still offer innumerable opportunities." The writer believes that "nothing would do so much in this country for the right kind of historical writing as a general monthly magazine devoted to it," and he asserts that a "distinct place exists for a popular historical magazine."

It is pleasant to see that the *Burton Historical Collection Leaflet* of Detroit, which had not been issued since November, 1931, has now resumed publication. "One of the striking developments of the current generation in America is the appearance of the many historical periodicals throughout the country," writes the editor in the May issue, the first of the new series. "Publication of the first historical periodical in the United States was begun in the then youthful state of Iowa in 1863," he continues; "today, it seems safe to say, more than one hundred historical magazines are being published in the United States." The writer notes that "Many of the state and other regional magazines are conducted with a high degree of editorial and scholarly ability (e.g. *Minnesota History*, *The Missouri Historical Review*, *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, *The New Mexico Historical Review*)."

In a survey of "Agricultural Records: Their Nature and Value for Research," which appears in the January issue of *Agricultural History*, Everett E. Edwards groups these historical sources as follows: "the records originating with the individual farmer; the records of the organizations in the community to which the farmer belongs; and the records of the forces in the Nation that have reacted to mould

and develop the farm and rural community." He opens by discussing farmers' diaries, letters, and reminiscences, asserting that "as a historical source, farmers' diaries are more satisfying in some respects to the general than to the agricultural historian." Letters, according to the writer, are especially valuable "if available as a fairly continuous series to individuals who were interested in knowing about farming and rural conditions in the community of the writer," as is demonstrated by the America letters.

"Paintings often talk to us when histories are dumb," writes Harry B. Wehle in an introduction to a catalogue of pictures illustrative of *Life in America*, recently published by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York (230 p.). A special loan exhibition of the paintings here listed, illustrated, and described is on view at the museum during the period of the New York World's Fair, April 24 to October 29, 1939. The significance of this "Visual Account of Life in America" during three centuries is well brought out by Mr. Wehle when he questions: "What written account of a man can convey his quality as immediately as a portrait does, and what description of a city can reveal the flavor of its streets as does a painting with its peculiar gift of color and its faculty of presenting simultaneously all the elements of the scene?" A picture of Minnesota interest in the collection is one of Seth Eastman's paintings of Fort Snelling.

"Fishing with Early Minnesota Indians" is the subject of an article by Fred Miller in the *Minnesota Conservationist* for May. The author lists seven methods by which the Indians caught fish: "by fish hooks, by seining, by spearing through the ice with a decoy, by spearing at night with the aid of a light, by traps, by the use of bait and by trolling." He describes the primitive hooks, spears, and nets made by the red men, tells how they used them, and describes methods of drying and freezing fish in order to preserve them. With the article appear pictures of hooks, spears, floaters, and other Indian fishing equipment found in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Special attention is given to the pipestone quarry in southwestern Minnesota in a review of the "Story of Pipestone" by R. H. Landon, appearing in the April issue of the *Minnesota Archaeologist*. Dr. Landon expresses the belief that "the Sioux were very likely the discover-

ers of catlinite and the first to use it in Minnesota." In the same issue of the *Archaeologist* appears an article by Wesley R. Hiller on the "History and Mythology of the Red Pipestone Quarries." From printed sources and from interviews with Indians, this writer has drawn tales of the Minnesota quarry. He concludes that "from an archaeological standpoint, the Pipestone quarry is the most important point in Minnesota."

"In the eighteen thirties the wilderness of the Northwest, including all of what is now Minnesota, part of Iowa, and all land up to the heads of rivers emptying into the Missouri, was being managed by as polished a gentleman as ever strayed out of a drawing room," writes Marjorie B. Greenbie of Henry H. Sibley, in her *American Saga* (New York, 1939). Much of a chapter entitled "Roll Along, Prairie Moon" is devoted to Minnesota, with emphasis upon its early cultural development. "Sibley brought into the fur trade the best professional tradition of the Northwest, and it is almost amusing to see with what easy grace he managed a business which otherwise seems rudely heroic, and reported it in polished English," writes Mrs. Greenbie. She tells how he "entertained himself with reading . . . standard works of history and literature" and playing chess with officers at Fort Snelling, how he acted as a gracious host for all who chanced to visit the upper Mississippi. News of Sibley's frontier eventually reached the East, the author relates—"Large and fresh, cool and clean, free from fret and strife, the vision of Minnesota began to shine over the counters of many a drygoods or grocery store back East."

In Lewis E. Atherton's study of the *Pioneer Merchant in Mid-America*, issued as volume 14, number 2, of the *University of Missouri Studies* (April, 1939. 135 p.), major attention is focused upon such states of the Middle West as Missouri, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Occasional Minnesota references may be noted, however. For a produce merchant at Davenport, Iowa, "Fort Snelling, Prairie du Chien, and Snake Hollow proved to be his best markets" (p. 97); "Hezekiah Simmons of St. Louis obtained the contracts to supply \$17,000 worth of provisions at Prairie du Chien and St. Peters in 1829" (p. 106). Of general interest and value for the student of Middle Western history, are sections on "The Day of the Peddler," "The Physical Plant of the Frontier Store," "The Store in Operation," "Western Wholesale Markets," and the produce trade.

The sale of the Fort Snelling Reservation in 1857 to a syndicate that included Dr. Alexander Graham of Lexington, Virginia, and Franklin Steele of Minnesota is noted by Paul W. Gates in an article on "Southern Investments in Northern Lands before the Civil War," which appears in the *Journal of Southern History* for May. Reference is made also to the investments made by William W. Corcoran, John C. Breckinridge, and other Southerners at Superior, Wisconsin. "This city was subsequently displaced by Duluth as the chief port on the lake," writes Mr. Gates, "not so much because of the better natural advantages of the latter as because Jay Cooke had supplanted Corcoran after 1860 as the favorite banker of the national administration, and Cooke was a promoter of Duluth."

In discussing "The Northwest and the Reciprocity Agreement of 1911," in the June number of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, L. Ethan Ellis asserts that "arrayed in its defense were most of the newspapers, prospectively helped by free newsprint, James J. Hill, whose railroad lines were ready to tap the reservoirs of new business promised by freer trade, and Twin Cities millers, anxious for Canadian hard wheat to blend with softer American varieties." The opposition, according to Mr. Ellis, stressed the "danger to farm prices, farm values, and farm safety which lurked in reciprocity," leading to the belief that "protection was the savior of the northwestern wheat farmer." The writer calls attention to the fact that the "Minnesota opposition was led by the *Northwestern Agriculturist* and its editor, P. V. Collins."

A meeting of the American branch of the Newcomen Society of England, held in New York on January 5, honored the Great Northern Railway Company, with Mr. Duncan J. Kerr as the principal speaker. His address has been published in a pamphlet bearing the title, *The Story of the Great Northern Railway Company—and James J. Hill* (1939. 44 p.). Emphasis is given to Hill's activities as a pioneer transportation promoter in St. Paul and the Northwest. The growth of the Great Northern after its organization in 1889 and some of the engineering feats that accompanied its progress to the Pacific are described.

Two St. Paulites, James J. Hill and Frederick Weyerhaeuser, figure prominently in the final chapter of George R. Leighton's *Five Cities: The Story of Their Youth and Old Age* (New York, 1939).

The chapter deals with "Seattle, Washington, The Edge of the Last Frontier," where the railroad magnate and the lumber baron of the Middle West found new worlds to exploit.

As the first of a series of articles on "Medical History Collections in the United States and Canada," a description of the "Dr. William Beaumont Collection of the University of Chicago" by Arno B. Luckhardt appears in the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* for May. The collection, which was presented to the university in 1936 by Mr. and Mrs. Ethan Allen Beaumont of De Pere, Wisconsin, included, according to Dr. Luckhardt, important "documents which throw new light on this remarkable pioneer physician and on the times in which he lived." Among these is a draft of a letter to Hercules L. Dousman, dated October 25, 1850, which is reproduced with the article, and three letters of Alexis St. Martin. Numerous family letters, legal documents, portraits and photographs, and personal effects of Beaumont also are included in the collection. The writer expresses the hope that "various libraries, societies, clubs, and individuals will list . . . their Beaumont memorabilia so that a complete list of the known Beaumontiana can be published soon."

The June issue of *Nord-Norge* contains an interesting historical account of the part played by Norwegians in the early exploration and settlement of North America, published under the title "Lidt om tidlig norsk Indsats i Utforskningen av Nord Amerika." Included are brief accounts of the Jens Munk expedition of the early seventeenth century through northern Canada in search of the Northwest passage, of Norwegians in the fur trade, and of Norwegians in the Selkirk settlement. One section of the article tells the story of the later Norwegian migration into the Red River Valley under the leadership of Paul Hjelm-Hansen and other great Norwegian leaders.

A special historical addition of the *Fargo Normanden*, published on June 8 to commemorate the visit of Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Martha of Norway, reviews in some detail the story of Norwegian settlement in the Red River Valley from 1869. Sections are devoted to sketches of Concordia College at Moorhead, Knut Hamsun's experiences as a farm laborer in North Dakota in the 1880's, various reminiscent accounts of settlers, and stories of early Norwegian settlements, such as that in the Cheyenne River Valley.

Professor Fred C. Hamil of Wayne University is the author of a detailed biographical sketch of "Sally Ainse, Fur Trader," which has been issued by the Algonquin Club as number 3 of its *Historical Bulletins* (Detroit, 1939. 27 p.). It deals with the remarkable career of an Indian woman who "was a well known figure about Detroit and the settlement on the lower Thames River" during the last decades of the eighteenth century.

To mark the "one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Iowa City" in 1839, the State Historical Society of Iowa has published a volume by Benj. F. Shambaugh entitled *The Old Stone Capitol Remembers* (Iowa City, 1939. 435 p.). Accounts of the founding of the city, the building of the capitol, the establishment of the territorial government, transportation, industries, newspapers, territorial politics, schools and colleges, and the beginnings of the state government are included in the volume.

Simply and directly, John Ely Briggs records the story of *Iowa Old and New* in a recently published textbook (1939. 469 p.). The earlier chapters deal with geology, exploration, "Traders and Soldiers," the Indians, and settlement. A chapter is devoted to pioneer life, with sections on homes, housekeeping, and "Pioneer Fun." The government of the territory and the state, "Iowa in War," transportation from the steamboat to the airplane, agriculture, industries, schools and churches are the subjects of later chapters. The author presents a series of stories, rather than a consecutive narrative of Iowa history.

Interest centers about Whittier College at Salem, Iowa, in Charles A. Hawley's article on "John Greenleaf Whittier and His Middle Western Correspondents," which appears in the spring number of the *Bulletin* of the Friends' Historical Association. The fortunes of the Quaker college founded in 1867 and named in honor of the poet occasioned a great number of letters from his pen, many of which are quoted in the present article. Whittier frequently sent money and books to the Iowa college, and his interest in its welfare continued until his death.

The Abbe Pelamourges, who went from France to Iowa with Bishop Loras in 1839 and who served a Catholic congregation at Davenport for nearly thirty years, is the subject of a sketch by M. M.

Hoffmann in the *Palimpsest* for April. When Loras visited Fort Snelling and St. Peter's in June and July, 1839, he took the young French abbe with him. A century ago Pelamourges thus helped to minister to a large number of Minnesota Catholics who had long been without the services of a priest.

"The Prairie of Alim, the Dog" is the title of a chapter dealing with the history of Prairie du Chien and Fort Crawford, which is included in Susan Burdick Davis' *Old Forts and Real Folks* (Madison, Wisconsin, 1939). The stories in this volume, many of which are quoted from well-known sources on the early history of Wisconsin, are intended for use by children. At the end of the chapter on Fort Crawford, the writer tells her readers that "today a thrilling thing is being done in Prairie du Chien." She describes the excavations that are now being made of the "foundation structure of the old log Fort Crawford," and reveals that "there have been taken from the ruins several thousand relics of the discipline, the food, the clothing, the recreations, the personal habits, the hobbies of those who dwelt within the fort." Another aspect of life at old Prairie du Chien is illustrated in the "Frontier Home" of Hercules L. Dousman, which is the subject of an article by Jeannette Hegeman in the *National Historical Magazine* for May. The restoration of this mansion, which was built and occupied by a Northwest fur trader, is noted.

Frontier celebrations of Christmas, New Year's, the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, and other holidays, theatrical and musical entertainments, circuses, and lectures sponsored by a young men's association at Milwaukee are among the subjects discussed by Lilliam Krueger in the final installment of her study of "Social Life in Wisconsin," which appears in the June issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. The entertainments noted by the writer include a showing at Milwaukee in November, 1849, of Henry Lewis' panorama of the upper Mississippi Valley. In the same issue of the *Magazine* appears the first installment of a diary kept at River Falls from 1859 to 1861 by Abner Morse, a "frontier farmer, teamster, lawyer, and school-master" who "was able and took the time to express in a remarkably literate way his views on life and the community about him."

The fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation as a city of Superior, Wisconsin, is the occasion for the publication of a review of its history,

by Einar Karlstrand, in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for April 2. The first development of the townsite in 1853, the boom that ended with the panic of 1857, and the revival that resulted in the chartering of the village in 1887 and of the city in 1889 are described. In this issue of the *News-Tribune* appear also a number of interesting early views of Superior, showing stages leaving for St. Paul in 1871, the shipyards with whaleback boats in the process of construction, a typical lumber camp, a stockade built for protection against the Sioux in 1862-63, and the log cabin that housed the city's first newspaper.

Two bateaux have been presented to the museum of the Douglas County, Wisconsin, Historical Society by Mr. John A. Bardon, a pioneer resident of Superior, according to an announcement in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for May 14. A description of a bateau with an account of its use on northern streams by fur traders and lumbermen is included in the article, which is accompanied by a picture of one of the boats acquired by the Douglas County museum.

The La Crosse County Historical Society has issued the fourth in its series of *La Crosse County Historical Sketches*, consisting of articles on the history of one section of western Wisconsin (1938. 101 p.). Of special interest is Dr. William Snow Miller's account of the "La Crosse Medical School," a frontier institution that in 1864 issued a diploma to Lafayette H. Bunnell. After an adventurous career in the Far West, Bunnell settled near Winona, and his diploma is now among his papers in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. H. J. Hirshheimer contributes a survey of "Manufacturing in La Crosse, 1853-1880," and an account of the "Beginnings of the La Crosse Plow Company." Three articles, by John Burns, W. F. Goodrich, and Frank Winter, deal with the first installation and later use of telephones in La Crosse. "Early Kindergartens in La Crosse" are discussed by Mrs. J. S. Otten. The "Reminiscences of a Lumber Camp Teamster," M. Desmond, are recorded by the editor.

"The Autobiography of a Pioneer Editor," Martin E. Tew, has been appearing in installments since March 9 in the *Clarkfield Advocate*, which was founded by the writer. Life in western Minnesota and Dakota in the 1880's as experienced by a farm boy struggling for an education is pictured in the earlier installments of this interesting narrative. The writer tells of the many odd jobs at which he worked.



On one occasion he had an opportunity to work with a new threshing machine purchased by his brother-in-law, which made a "record of over 2300 bushels of wheat in a day." Operating this machine "was something to make a 17-year old hold his head up in the clouds," writes Mr. Tew. "No royalty ever felt the thrill and exaltation that comes with standing on the deck of a shimmying red threshing machine," he continues, "and watching the common people work." A number of installments are devoted to the writer's experience in teaching country schools in Dakota, and others relate to his early connection with the People's party.

Minnesota lumber interests figure in A. R. M. Lower's study of the *North American Assault on the Canadian Forest: A History of the Lumber Trade between Canada and the United States* (Toronto, 1938. 377 p.). The author gives considerable attention to the Rainy River and Lake of the Woods areas. "Lumber cut in the Lake of the Woods mills built the houses of Winnipeg and the prairies until the late 'nineties," he writes. "This edge of the Canadian pine region had to face a condition peculiar to itself, that is competition from American lumber, the only point of importance along the international boundary where that was true." The small mills of the Canadian Northwest, according to Mr. Lower, were "often supported by American capital, chiefly from St. Paul and Minneapolis." He asserts that "It is not without significance that the lumber magnates of these northwest regions are mostly from Minneapolis and St. Paul, the keys of demand on the last western outposts of the eastern forests."

Among the varied component elements that go into the making of "The People of Canada," discussed by Lawrence J. Burpee and Marius Barbeau in the May issue of the *Canadian Geographical Journal*, are the *coureurs de bois* and voyageurs of French Canada. These people, the authors point out, "became indispensable factors in the early penetration of North America. By their endurance, skill and jovial character they enabled the traders, missionaries and explorers of their own or other nationalities to follow the rivers to the Arctic, the West Coast or the Gulf of Mexico." The writers contend that without the voyageurs, "Jolliet, La Salle, Marquette, Duluth, Bienville, could not have travelled far afield and founded remote posts from Detroit to New Orleans; the La Vérendryes — who may be con-

sidered the most distinguished among them — could not have crossed the prairies, almost to the foothills of the Rockies, and laid the foundation of the fur trade among the buffalo hunters; Mackenzie, Thompson, Fraser and Hearne could not have journeyed to the Pacific Coast or to the Arctic; and Charles Frémont could not have crossed prairies and mountains to open up California to settlement." Western Canada and its agricultural settlers receive their share of attention: the Scots who went out to Lord Selkirk's colony of the Red River, and the British, American, Scandinavian, German, Belgian, Russian, and other groups who followed them. In the June number of the *Journal*, S. C. Ells describes methods of transportation on the "Athabaska Trail" before the steamboat replaced the scow on the rivers of northern Canada. The many interesting sketches with which the writer illustrates his article depict vividly the labors of the voyageurs who guided scows over the Athabaska River as late as 1915.

#### GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

One of the few remaining portions of old Fort Snelling, the Round Tower, is being converted into a museum where pictures, manuscripts, and objects relating to the early history of the fort will be displayed. A map of the original fort will be outlined in the floor; murals depicting scenes from the early history of the fort will decorate the walls; and cases for historical exhibits will be installed. The remains of Elizabeth R. Snelling, an infant who died at the frontier post soon after her father, Colonel Josiah Snelling, became commandant in 1820, will be removed from the fort cemetery to a niche in the tower. A fund of twenty-five hundred dollars has been raised chiefly in the Twin Cities to defray the expenses of restoring the Round Tower and installing the museum.

A marker commemorating the Ordinance of 1787 and calling attention to the fact that Minnesota east of the Mississippi was included in the Northwest Territory was dedicated in the state Capitol on June 6. Among the speakers participating in the dedication program was Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society.

The Sibley House Association of the Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution has issued a booklet entitled *The Romance of Mendota*, which serves as a guide to the Sibley and Faribault houses

(20 p.). A brief sketch of the history of Mendota is followed by a review of Sibley's career, an account of the building of his home, an estimate of the importance of this house as a social center in frontier Minnesota, and notes on its later owners and on its restoration by the D. A. R. Included also is a description of the Faribault House, a sketch of its builder, Jean Baptiste Faribault, and an account of its restoration. The Fee House, which has been converted into the Sibley Tea House, also is described.

That five Minnesota counties derive their names from Chippewa words is brought out in a brief article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for June 29. The Chippewa origin of Chisago, Kanabec, Koochiching, Mahnomen, and Wadena counties, and of many communities, lakes, and streams in northern Minnesota is noted. Among the names that are explained are Bemidji, Pokegama, Winnibigoshish, Menahga, Sebeka, and Keewatin.

The second annual picnic arranged by a committee which has for its object the restoration of the Donnelly home at Nininger was held on the site of this boom town of the 1850's on June 25. The program included papers and talks on "Ignatius Donnelly, the Orator" by Millett V. O'Connell, on "Ignatius Donnelly, the Statesman and Author" by Thomas Gallagher, on the "Need of a State Park at Nininger" by Harold Lathrop, and on "Life at Nininger in the Early Days" by Willoughby M. Babcock.

Recommendations of the Minnesota division of state parks and the department of conservation are incorporated in the *Minnesota State Park and Recreational Area Plan* (1939. 158 p.). Included is a chapter on "Minnesota's History," with lengthy quotations from Dr. Theodore C. Blegen's study outline, *Minnesota: Its History and Its People*. Maps locating "Archaeological Sites in Minnesota" and "Historical Trails and Sites" in the state accompany this chapter. Brief sketches of present state parks and recommendations for their improvement and classification are presented and suggestions are made for the preservation as parks of additional areas. Included among the latter are the site of Fort St. Charles on the Lake of the Woods, the home of Ignatius Donnelly at Nininger, the site of the French fort and mission at Frontenac, and Nerstrand Woods in the former Big Woods area.

An address on "Fifty Years of State Parks in Minnesota" was presented by Harold W. Lathrop at the nineteenth annual meeting of the National Conference on State Parks, which was held at Itasca State Park from June 4 to 7. On the final day of the conference, a tablet, placed near the headwaters of the Mississippi in commemoration of the services of Jacob V. Brower, the "Father of Itasca State Park," was dedicated.

A plaque commemorating the founding of Hamline University was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies at Red Wing on June 14. Attached to the front wall of the local Methodist church, it bears the following inscription: "Hamline University, the oldest school of higher learning in Minnesota, was established in Red Wing March 3, 1854, and located in the park which faces this church. This tablet, marking the historic event, was dedicated June 14, 1939."

With accounts of events of interest for medical history occurring from 1865 to 1869, Dr. John M. Armstrong continues his "History of Medicine in Ramsey County" in the April and May issues of *Minnesota Medicine* (see *ante*, p. 206). With the latter year the author concludes his detailed chronological review of his subject, since the sources for the period beginning with 1870 are more accessible than are those for the earlier years. A general statement about "Medicine in Saint Paul since 1870" appears in the May number; the installment for June is devoted to a valuable history of the Ramsey County Medical Society. Dr. Armstrong tells of the organization of the society in 1870, and of the founding of its laboratory, its journal, and its library, and he presents a list of its presidents.

Supplementing the interview with Miss Pauline Colby which Miss Frances Densmore contributes to this issue of MINNESOTA HISTORY is an account of "Indian Lace Making and Its Sponsors in Minnesota," by Catherine M. Sheire, which appears in the *Fairfax Standard* for March 16. This writer gives special attention to lace making by Sioux women at Birch Cooley, where the Episcopal mission Church of St. Cornelia was established in 1890. Like the lace work of the Chippewa women on the White Earth Reservation, this project was inaugurated by Sibyl Carter, an Episcopal deaconess. Mrs. Sheire includes an account of Miss Carter's career in her article, which is

illustrated with the latter's portrait and a picture of the St. Cornelia mission.

The career of the Reverend B. J. Muus, pioneer Norwegian Lutheran pastor in Minnesota, is recalled by C. A. Rasmussen in an article entitled "When a Czar of the Church Ruled in Southern Minnesota," which appears in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for May 28. Muus went from Norway in 1859 to Wanamingo in Goodhue County, where, writes Mr. Rasmussen, he was to "have charge of all the Norwegian Lutherans in Minnesota at that time affiliated with the state church of Norway. . . . Over a territory of 15,000 square miles he made extensive missionary tours to 28 preaching stations, traveling by whatever means were offered—ox team, horseback or on foot."

Historical sketches of Catholic parishes at Owatonna and Fairfax are the subjects of articles in the *Wanderer* of St. Paul for May 25; parishes at Montgomery and Le Center are discussed in the issue of June 15. A history of St. Agnes School in St. Paul appears in the same paper for June 8.

A Twin City chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society was organized on April 27, and Mr. Alden E. Miller of Minneapolis was named chairman. The society proposes to encourage interest in railroad history, to preserve records and manuscripts relating to the subject, and to establish a railroad museum in the Twin Cities.

The "recorded history of banking in Minnesota" dates from the arrival at Mendota in 1834 of Henry H. Sibley, according to a "History of Banking in Minnesota" which is featured in the *Commercial West* for June 10. The issue commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the Minnesota Bankers Association, which was organized in January, 1889, and which is the subject of a second detailed historical survey appearing in the number. It is interesting to note that the history of banking is based upon information gleaned from files of the *Commercial West*, from interviews with pioneer bankers, from newspaper files, and from manuscripts preserved by and articles appearing in the publications of the Minnesota Historical Society. Valuable contributions to the financial history of the state are reviews of the beginning and growth of the clearinghouses of St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Du-

luth, with lists of their clearings for each year from their founding to 1938. A "Parade of Pioneers" consists of a list, followed by brief historical sketches, of seventy-nine "Minnesota banks which date their continuous existence back 50 years or more." The veteran of this group is the First National Bank of St. Paul, which was established in 1853. Appearing in the issue also are short historical accounts of a number of Minnesota insurance companies, such as the St. Paul Fire and Marine, the "oldest insurance company chartered in Minnesota." Minnesota banking history receives attention also in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for June 14, the date of the opening of the 1939 convention of the Minnesota Bankers Association in St. Paul.

Under the title "Historic Luster Glorifies Dingy House," J. H. Harvey writes, in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for April 9, of the now neglected Nathaniel P. Langford home and the career of its distinguished owner. Langford's contributions as a vigilante in Montana, as a member of the Yellowstone expedition, as a crusader who led the movement to make the Yellowstone region a national park, and as president of the Ramsey County board of control are emphasized. In the latter position, according to Mr. Harvey, Langford "changed the 'breadline' system of relief administration to one where the needy were taken care of by case-workers who kept informed of the needs in their respective districts."

Sketches of members of the Koon and Bovey families of Minneapolis are contributed by Kate Koon Bovey to a recent genealogical work on the *Koon and Coons Families of Eastern New York* compiled by William S. Coons and others (Rutland, Vermont, 1937). Mrs. Bovey records that she began her research work on the line of Jacob Koon "in our fine genealogical library of the Historical Society in St. Paul," and continued it later in eastern libraries.

"Interviews with Pioneers" recorded by the Reverend P. Alfred Peterson have been appearing in the monthly issues of *Marantha*, a church periodical issued at Alvarado in Marshall County. In the issues for January, February, and March, Mr. Iver N. Lodeon of Alvarado recalls his boyhood in Norway, a journey to America which took him to Warren, and life in this frontier Minnesota community of the eighties. An interview with Mrs. Anne Gjølhaug, a Goodhue County pioneer, is reported in the issues for April, May, and June.

A program presented by the Modern Dance Group of Minneapolis on May 24 included a number entitled "Minnesota Saga," consisting of dances of Indian women, French voyageurs, immigrants, and workers. According to the program, the "Saga" undertook to depict "Minnesota and its people — the sturdy men and women whose courage and strength brought them to the broad prairies and deep forests to live and work as hunters and traders, as farmers, lumbermen, millers, and miners."

#### LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

A good example of co-operation between a public school system and a local historical society is to be found at Hutchinson in McLeod County, where a notable museum collection is housed in a handsome new school building. The Hutchinson Historical Society, a community organization, established its museum as long ago as 1930 in the local public library. Many of the objects displayed in store windows in connection with the city's seventy-fifth anniversary celebration in that year were turned over to the society for permanent exhibition, and some of the proceeds from an anniversary pageant were set aside for the maintenance of the museum. For nine years it occupied cramped quarters in the library. With the erection of the new school, however, a basement room measuring fifty-five by sixty-five feet was reserved for the use of the society and equipped with floor cases.

The colorful history of this McLeod County community, which was founded in 1855 by three of the famed "Singing Hutchinsons," is well reflected in its museum collection. The brothers, Asa, Judson, and John, and other members of this picturesque New Hampshire family, who were known throughout the length and breadth of the land for their concerts and their compositions, are represented both by manuscripts and museum objects. A melodeon that they took with them as they sang their way across the country, photographs of various members of the family, and numerous programs and broadsides advertising their concerts are included. There is also a large collection of letters and family papers, many of which relate to the laying out of the townsite and the early settlement of Hutchinson.

In a conspicuous place, near the entrance of the museum, is a log fireplace, of a type that was found in frontier cabins. It is fully equipped with andirons and fire irons of a primitive type, dutch oven

and other cooking utensils, firearms, and other items commonly used by the pioneers. Near by is a reproduction of a log well. A dairy exhibit includes several types of churns, butter and cheese molds, scoops, wooden and earthenware bowls, a cheese hook, and other utensils found in the frontier kitchen. Among the larger items are a loom and a spinning wheel that were brought from Illinois in 1864; a group of objects illustrative of frontier transportation, including a full-size replica of a Red River cart, a log wagon with wheels of solid wood rimmed with iron, and an ox yoke; a Washington hand press of the type used by James M. Goodhue in printing the *Minnesota Pioneer*; an early street lamp; and a bell used in a pioneer Hutchinson academy. There are special exhibits of military uniforms and firearms, of samples of minerals and charts that illustrate the geology of McLeod County, and of birds that are found in the vicinity. The geology exhibit is arranged specially for the use of students in the high school. The birds were mounted by a local taxidermist, Mr. William Hopper, whose active interest in the local historical society and its museum prompted him to contribute both the collection and the case in which it is displayed. The museum includes many objects that reflect the taste of the pioneers of this section of Minnesota, such as china and glassware that would grace any table and a mirror of unusual beauty. Among the portraits are three of members of the family of Samuel Ross, an Englishman who settled in Hutchinson in 1857. The pictures, which were painted in Manchester, England, in the 1840's, are excellent examples of the primitive school of portraiture. Unfortunately they are in wretched condition; funds should be made available for restoring them. A case of tools used by Ross, who was a cabinetmaker, also is in the museum.

Some rich collections of manuscripts are preserved in this little museum. Of outstanding interest and value for the study of community history are the Harrington family papers, including those of Lewis Harrington, who with the Hutchinson brothers was one of the founders of the town. Included are field notes made by Harrington, who was a surveyor, while engaged in surveying a road from Hutchinson to Minneapolis in 1857; his original plats of Hutchinson Township; maps showing early trails leading to Fort Snelling; and numerous letters and other records. Among the papers of Ethan Crandall, a horticulturist who settled in McLeod County in 1859, is a diary of



an overland trip from Illinois to California in 1852, and a meteorological record kept in McLeod County from 1882 to 1922. Business records are represented by a volume of papers of Rehse Brothers, merchants at Plato and Stewart in the 1870's and 1880's. There is also a register kept at the Merchants' Hotel of Hutchinson in the early decades of the present century. Notable also are volumes of records of the townships of Hutchinson, Lynn, and Collins.

The museum is equipped with twelve excellent floor cases of uniform design, two large vertical cases, and about a half dozen cases of miscellaneous design. Objects are entered in an accessions book as they are received. A visitors' book kept when the museum was quartered in the library shows that it received about five hundred visitors a year, but since its removal to the school the number has grown to such an extent that all attempts to keep a record have been abandoned. It has been estimated that on January 31, 1939, the day the new museum opened, no less than two thousand people viewed its exhibits.

Like most local museums, that at Hutchinson can trace its success to the interest and energy of one individual. Mr. S. S. Beach, the president of the Hutchinson Historical Society, has not only built up the museum collection but has aroused and kept alive the active interest of the community. He has worked by appealing to the school children and urging them to take his message into their homes. By infecting the younger generation with his own enthusiasm he believes that he can build up an institution that will be permanent, and that will not fade out with the passing of the pioneers. In carrying out his program he has wisely linked the historical museum and the school. Children are always welcome in the museum, and teachers are encouraged to bring in classes for brief talks and supervised tours of the exhibits. Mr. Beach has thus made the museum a vital factor in the educational program of the community. He believes that the society so successfully launched at Hutchinson will eventually develop into a McLeod County historical society.

B. L. H.

Papers on the old Kelsey farm near Round Lake and on the Kelsey family were read by Miss Lora L. Lowe before a meeting of the Anoka County Historical Society at Anoka on April 10. The account of the family was prepared by Mr. Frank W. Kelsey, now a resident of California. An interview with an Anoka County pioneer, Mr. Hannibal Groat, was reported by Mrs. C. P. McLean.

The history of the Blue Earth County Historical Society and the story of its museum are clearly outlined by its president, Mr. Horace W. Roberts, in the *Mankato Free Press* for June 7. He tells of the incorporation of the society in 1916, and of the purchase with a legacy from Judge Loren Cray of the Hubbard mansion, "in itself an historic landmark in Mankato, having been built about 1870." This home, equipped and furnished as a museum, has been open to the public since August, 1938, according to Mr. Roberts. He reports that the "museum has been visited and its facilities made use of by the schools and various clubs, as well as by many, many individuals, some of whom have worked there for days at a time." The county board has set aside a thousand dollars for the society and its museum, and the city of Mankato has agreed to provide heat and light and to maintain the property.

The papers of John A. Willard, who settled in Mankato in 1856 and served there as United States commissioner, have been presented to the Blue Earth County Historical Society by his son, Mr. W. D. Willard, according to an announcement in the *Mankato Free Press* for June 22. Attention is called to records in the Willard Papers of cases involving the illegal sale of liquor to Indians.

Mr. Fred W. Johnson has placed on display the last of some ten thousand portraits of pioneers owned by the Brown County Historical Society, according to an announcement in the *New Ulm Journal* of June 20. Since the society opened its museum more than two years ago, Mr. Johnson has been exhibiting groups of these pictures, showing them in alphabetical order. Two of these special exhibits are described in the *Journal* for April 22 and May 19. The last exhibit, described on June 20, consists of likenesses of early settlers whose names began with the last four letters of the alphabet, and of group portraits. That these displays have attracted visitors is proved by a statement in the *Journal* for May 19, which notes that each time the photograph exhibit is changed, "a flock of citizens visit the Museum." It goes on to explain that "Sundays are the big days, and many people from neighboring cities and villages, as well as the Twin Cities and other distant points drive to New Ulm for the purpose of visiting the Museum, which is famed throughout the northwest."

More than three hundred people attended the annual dinner meeting of the Brown County Historical Society held at New Ulm on

May 3. Following a banquet at the local Turner Hall, addresses were presented by Victor P. Reim on "Grey Cloud Woman," the wife of Hazen Mooers, the trader; by Mr. Fred W. Johnson on the land companies organized at Chicago and Cincinnati which founded New Ulm; by Henry N. Somsen, Sr., on the settlement of New Ulm and the survey of the townsite; and by H. H. Walter on the various forms of government in New Ulm since its incorporation as a village in 1857. Mr. Reim's paper appears in full in the *New Ulm Daily Journal* of May 9, Mr. Somsen's is to be found in the issue of May 20, and Mr. Walter's is published on June 19.

Members of the Chippewa County Historical Society who participated in a historic tour under its auspices on June 23 visited sites of special Sioux War interest in the Minnesota Valley, including Wood Lake, Redwood Falls, Sleepy Eye, New Ulm, Mankato, and Fort Ridgely. They saw also Birch Cooley State Park at Morton, and they went through the museums of the Brown and Blue Earth county historical societies at New Ulm and Mankato. At a meeting of the Chippewa County society, held at Montevideo on April 14, Mrs. John G. Olson and Mrs. Anna Lofthus, pioneers of 1867 and 1871, presented reminiscent talks, recalling particularly early days in Chippewa City.

A collection of important letters written by members of the Lac qui Parle and Hazelwood missions in the early 1860's has been presented to the Chippewa County Historical Society by Mr. Thomas L. Riggs, a son of the missionary, Stephen R. Riggs, according to an announcement in the *Montevideo News* for June 22. Extracts from a few of the letters appear in this issue. A letter written on July 22, 1862, by Anna Jane Riggs, in which she tells of the Fourth of July celebration that members of the mission enjoyed at Lac qui Parle, is quoted in the *Montevideo American* of June 30.

The Dakota County Historical and Archeological Society, organized at South St. Paul on June 13, is the latest addition to the roll of local historical societies in Minnesota. A constitution was adopted and a committee was named to draw up a slate of officers to be submitted at a future meeting, when an election will be held. Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum of the state historical society, addressed the organization meeting, outlining the purposes and describing the activities of a local historical society.

"We know a little about almost everything under the sun except our own abiding place. And yet that locality probably has a past as interesting as many of the old world places we read about." Thus writes C. A. Rasmussen, president of the Goodhue County Historical Society, in introducing his column of "Historical Potpourri" in the *Red Wing Daily Eagle* for April 7. Brief notes on Goodhue County places and personalities make up the column, which appears from time to time in the *Eagle* and in the *Red Wing Daily Republican*. In the *Goodhue County Tribune* of Goodhue, have been appearing "Historical Notes" furnished by the local historical society and dealing with such subjects as the first railroad through the county, the first meeting of the board of county commissioners, and agricultural implements used in the vicinity in pioneer days.

A historic tour of the region about Lake Minnetonka was conducted under the auspices of the Hennepin County Historical Society on June 24. About thirty people left the Minneapolis Public Library early in the afternoon; more than fifty were at hand for the first stop, at Wayzata, where Mrs. W. L. Dickey reviewed the history of the community. Thence the tourists went to Spring Park, where they saw the grounds and some of the older portions of the Del Otero Hotel under the guidance of its proprietor, Mr. A. F. King. They paused next at Mound to hear Mr. George R. Cole explain the significance of the mounds in this vicinity, and then went to Manitou to see the Peter Gideon marker at that place. The main session of the tour was held in Excelsior, where more than seventy people attended a dinner meeting and heard a program of papers and talks. The early history of Excelsior was the subject of a talk by Mrs. L. H. Moody; the Reverend Fred Croft told the story of Trinity Chapel, in which the meeting was held; and Mr. Thomas Mann, a pioneer Lake Minnetonka steamboat captain and pilot, recalled the days when the lake attracted thousands of summer tourists.

The work of the Hennepin County Historical Society was described by Mr. Edward A. Blomfield, director of its museum collections, before meetings of the Parent-Teacher associations of Long Lake and Eden Prairie on May 3 and 23. Other speakers on the latter program were Mr. Robert E. Scott, president of the society, who told the story of its organization; and Mrs. T. D. Brown, who reviewed the early history of Eden Prairie.

The article on "Some Frontier Institutions" by LeRoy G. Davis, which appeared in the March, 1939, issue of this magazine, was read before a meeting of the Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society by Mrs. W. Howatt on April 17. It was followed by a historical quiz, of the "true or false" type, under the leadership of Mr. Emil Bohmbach.

A contribution of two hundred dollars toward a fund for the erection of a museum building at St. Peter for the Nicollet County Historical Society was received recently from Colonel John A. Lundeen of Oceanside, California. He is one of three former residents of the county who have made substantial additions to this fund, according to Mr. Henry N. Benson, president of the society.

The dedication of a highway marker on the site of a grist mill built at Balmoral in the late 1860's was a feature of the summer meeting of the Otter Tail County Historical Society on June 26. Judge Anton Thompson, president of the society, presided, and Senator Elmer E. Adams introduced the principal speaker, Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society. He took as his subject "A Grist Mill and Community Memory," outlining the story of James G. Craigie, the Scotch miller who built the Balmoral mill, stressing the significance of the grist mill as a frontier institution, and making an appeal for the preservation of "records of the past — newspapers, account books, diaries, letters, leaflets, pamphlets, books, pictures," and the like. The attainments of the Otter Tail County society since its organization in 1926 were reviewed by its secretary, Mr. E. T. Barnard, who reported that nearly four thousand pictures and objects illustrative of pioneer life have now been assembled in its museum in the courthouse at Fergus Falls. About two thousand people attended the meeting. Dr. Blegen's address appears in full in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for June 26, and Mr. Barnard's report is published in the same paper for June 27. Both are reprinted in a four-page leaflet issued by the society and containing a full report of the meeting, a picture of the Balmoral mill, and portraits of Craigie. It includes an announcement that the next summer meeting will be held in Tordenskjold Township "to commemorate the fact that this spot was designated as the first county seat in Otter Tail County."

A collection of museum objects assembled with the assistance of three WPA workers for the Pennington County Historical Society was placed on display in connection with a special meeting of the society on June 21. Plans for extending the activities of the organization were discussed at the meeting.

The Pope County Historical Society publishes from time to time in the Glenwood papers items of historical information that it has recorded. Interviews with pioneers appear in several recent issues of the *Glenwood Herald*. The *Pope County Tribune* of June 15, in a column entitled "Do You Know?" calls attention to pictures copied for the society depicting the camp near Glenwood of the "George A. Brackett expedition into the Dakota territory to determine a route for the Northern Pacific R. R." in 1869. In the issue of the same paper for June 29, attention is called to a rare booklet discovered by the Pope County society. This is Henry Rising's *Mystery of Glendale*, a work of fiction with a Pope County background, published in the 1870's.

Progress on the library and museum building that is being erected at Morgan (see *ante*, p. 98) is reported in the *Morgan Messenger* of April 13 and the *Fairfax Standard* of June 1. Both papers give some attention to the career of the late Charles D. Gilfillan, in whose memory the structure is being erected. The *Messenger* notes that since Gilfillan was an organizer of the Minnesota Valley Historical Society in 1885, "he would be keenly interested in this community project and in the possibilities that it offers as a historic center," and it stresses the suggestion, made in the March issue of MINNESOTA HISTORY, that the new building would make an excellent home for a Redwood County historical society. Under the heading "County Historical Society Should Be Organized To Preserve County History," the *Messenger* suggests that such an organization should now "be formed to stimulate interest in local history, to gather objects, volumes, photographs and memoirs connected with pioneer days, people, and events, which could be displayed and properly preserved in the structure."

At a meeting of the Rice County Historical Society held at Northfield on May 15, Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, superintendent of the state historical society, presented an address on "Community Memory";

Mrs. George Babcock of Northfield reviewed the "History of the Drake Family in Rice County"; and Miss Maude Stewart read accounts of East Prairieville, a Rice County "ghost town," prepared by Miss Cynthia Adams and Mr. Wilbur B. Adams. The latter accounts appear in the *Northfield Independent* of May 25 and June 1; Dr. Blegen's address is published in the *Northfield News* of May 18.

A room in the Stearns County courthouse at St. Cloud, set aside in February for use as a museum by the Stearns County Historical Society, was opened to the public on April 29. Speakers who participated in the dedication ceremony included the Reverend Walter Reger of St. John's University, Collegeville, president of the society; Mr. D. S. Brainard of the St. Cloud State Teachers College; and Sister Grace McDonald of St. Benedict's College, St. Joseph. The museum collection now includes more than a thousand items. Some of them are described in the *St. Cloud Daily Times* for April 27.

Plans for a summer meeting to be held in conjunction with the Waseca County Anti-Horse Thief Society were made at a meeting of the Waseca County Historical Society at its quarterly meeting on April 8. The society has induced every organization in Waseca to appoint a historian to keep and preserve records. It is making an effort to have an old log building on a near-by farm moved into the city of Waseca for use as a historical museum.

A meeting of the Washington County Historical Society on May 12 was devoted to a "hobby program." Each member present brought with him some article of special interest and described it for the audience. Among the items shown were a scrapbook of clippings dating from 1856, pictures of early Stillwater baseball teams, an early map of the city, and a poll list of 1864. A report of the program appears in the *Stillwater Post-Messenger* for May 18.

Papers from the state archives relating to the capture of the Younger brothers after the Northfield bank robbery of 1876 have been turned over to the Watonwan County Historical Society, according to an announcement in the *Watonwan County Plaindealer* of St. James for May 18. Warrants issued for the arrest of the outlaws and checks used as rewards for their capture are included among the papers.

## LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

*Blue Earth County* is the subject of the third in a series of *Minnesota County Histories* that is being issued in multigraphed form by the Federal Writers' Project under the sponsorship of the state department of education (61 p.). The story of this county, which is intended for use by children, is presented in a highly fictionized style.

Files of the *Blue Earth County Enterprise* of Mapleton were used by W. C. Dobbs in preparing a review of "Old Settler Picnics of Other Days" for publication in the *Enterprise* of June 22. He reveals that the old settlers of the community gathered for the first time in 1906, when they commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Mapleton.

At New Ulm the "German love of education is evident in the fact that the first school was erected before 1857, less than four years after the first settlers landed at Le Sueur, and was built with funds of the German Land Association!" Thus writes Harold C. Bauer in the *First Annual Report* of the superintendent of schools to the New Ulm board of education, covering the year 1938-39 (73 p.). A section on the history of the Brown County community, which includes information about "New Ulm Schools of the Past," serves as an introduction to the *Report*.

The Schell Brewing Company, which was founded in 1861 and is now "one of New Ulm's oldest industries," is the subject of an article in the *New Ulm Review* for May 4. Another pioneer business venture that has survived to the present—the Dakota Hotel—is described in the same paper for May 17. This hotel, which was established in 1859, just eighty years ago, was used as a hospital during the Sioux War. The history of a military band organized at New Ulm as the Great Western Band in 1899 and now serving as the 205th Infantry Band is outlined by Fred W. Johnson in the *Review* for June 6.

The progress of the Carver County Telephone Company, which began business in 1902 with an exchange that served less than thirty telephones, is described in the *Norwood Times* of April 12. The company originally served Norwood, Young America, Chaska, Carver, Waconia, Cologne, and Hamburg. Some of its early history is re-



called by Mr. H. F. Lueders, a member of the original board of directors who is now president of the company.

Fifty years of activity on the part of the Westbrook Mutual Insurance Company are recorded in an account of its history which appears in the *Jeffers Review* for June 15. The company was organized by farmers living in four Cottonwood County townships in 1889. All its early records, with the exception of the annual reports, are written in Danish. The growth of the company is reflected in the number of its policyholders, which has increased from seventy-seven in its first year to more than twenty-two hundred.

Items used in early Brainerd schools—a hand bell, a set of rules, a relief map, and an old school clock—have been added recently to the museum collection of the Crow Wing County Historical Society, according to an announcement in the *Brainerd Tribune* for May 25.

Mr. George Gilbertson is the author of a historical sketch of the Vernon creamery, appearing in the *Hayfield Herald* for June 9. He notes that the creamery began operations on June 1, 1889, just fifty years ago, and that during the eight months ending January 1, 1890, it manufactured 154,631 pounds of butter and shipped most of it to New York.

Contests for the county seat of Freeborn County in which Albert Lea was successful in 1857 and 1860 are described in detail by L. W. Spicer in the Albert Lea *Evening Tribune* for June 8. In the earlier fight six contestants participated: Bancroft, St. Nicholas, Shellrock City, Fairfield, and Albert Lea; in the second, Albert Lea's only opponent was Itasca City. To illustrate his article, Mr. Spicer reproduces posters issued by the pioneer supporters of Itasca City and Bancroft. These interesting and unusual reminders of the county seat contests in early Minnesota were discovered recently in the archives of the county auditor.

The golden jubilee of the village of Goodhue is the occasion for the publication of a brief account of its history in the *Goodhue County Tribune* of June 15. It reveals that the village was founded in 1889, after a railroad was built between Red Wing and Rochester. Business establishments opened in that year and those active in 1895 are listed.

An account of the "Pioneers of Minneola Twp.," written by S. O. Swenson and translated from the original Norwegian by Mrs. S. T. Swenson, appears in the *Wanamingo Progress* for April 20 and the *Zumbrota News* for April 14. The author, who was born in the township in 1862, is a son of one of a group of Norwegian settlers who took claims in Minneola in 1855.

The history of an early Goodhue County Evangelical Lutheran church is reviewed in a booklet commemorating the *Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Land Congregation* in Minneola Township (1938. 14 p.). Sketches and portraits of many pioneer settlers who were members of this congregation and of many of the pastors who served it are included in the pamphlet.

To a little booklet commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the Herman Methodist Church, Mr. Charles Phinney, president of the Grant County Historical Society, contributes an interesting sketch of the history of the church. He records that the congregation was organized in March, 1879, that the first minister was appointed in the following October, and that a church building was erected in 1882. Sections on the activities at Herman of the Epworth League, the Ladies Aid Society, the Boy Scouts, and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and on the Methodist Sunday school are included in the pamphlet.

The addition of pictures of the Quaker Meetinghouse of Minneapolis to the Quaker collections of Haverford College is noted in the June issue of *Quakeriana Notes*. The photographs, according to this announcement, show a "building almost unique in Quaker circles in having a porch in the Greek revival style." A picture of the Minneapolis Meetinghouse appears in the issue of this magazine for September, 1937 (see *ante*, p. 250).

In brief outline the history of the Minneapolis Public Library is reviewed in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for May 17, in an article calling attention to its eightieth anniversary. The organization of the Young Men's Literary Association of Minneapolis on May 16, 1859, was, according to this account, the first step in the development which eventually gave the city a public library. The role played by Minneapolis clubs in organized baseball from 1902 to the present is described by George A. Barton in the *Tribune* for May 21.

A hilly farm in Houston County on which H. A. Von Arx, a Swiss immigrant, settled in 1874 is described by I. J. Nygard and L. E. Bullard in an article on the "Effect of Erosion on Long-time Strip Cropping in Bush Valley, Minnesota," which appears in the April number of *Soil Conservation*, a publication of the United States department of agriculture. "Strip cropping, as used in Switzerland, was employed from the beginning" by this Swiss farmer, who followed in his new home the agricultural methods learned in the Old World, and who taught them to his children. Comparison with a farm cultivated since the early 1870's in entire fields without regard to slope showed that "erosion conditions, along with land use, slopes, and soils are much the better on the Von Arx farm."

The emigration of a group of sixty-three colonists from the Swedish village of Venjan and the hardships of their journey to America and Minnesota in 1869 are recalled by a member of the party, Mr. Olof E. Olson, in a reminiscent narrative which appears in the *Braham Journal* from May 18 to June 22. The writer tells how his father settled on a frontier claim in Maple Ridge Township, Isanti County, where he and three of the other Swedish pioneers in his party took land.

The *Grand Rapids Herald-Review* publishes items of local historical interest from time to time in a column entitled "Up in This Neck of the Woods." On May 31 it is devoted to a history of the Bigfork school, which had its beginning in a little log structure thirty-seven years ago. The writer relates that "Alfred Kuno, a fine workman with broadaxe and adze, was chosen to hew the logs and match the corners. . . . When the school was built, there were less than ten other structures in the present village of Bigfork." Some of the pioneer settlers of Wirt, who as late as 1899 were forced to make a trip of eighty-five miles by boat before reaching a railroad that would afford connections with the nearest market town, are the subject of an article published on June 7. The beginnings of county agent work in Itasca County by Mr. D. B. Jewell in 1917 is discussed in the issue for June 14, and the origin of the name of a new Itasca County post office, Talmoon, is explained on June 28.

The history of a flour and feed mill established at New London in 1868 is reviewed in the *Willmar Daily Tribune* for April 18. "The

early pioneers from far and near came to this mill to get their grain ground," according to the author of this account, who records that the "rush was so great that the farmers often had to wait days for their grist." Credit for founding the mill is given to Louis Larson, who began work on a sawmill and dam at the site as early as 1862. The mill was wrecked recently and a federal fish hatchery established on the site.

The sixtieth anniversary of the Ness Lutheran Church in Lac qui Parle County is the occasion for the publication of a review of its history in the *Independent Press* of Madison for May 5 and 12. It notes that the congregation was organized in January, 1879, by six pioneers who gathered in the sod house of Johannes Nelson.

The history of the Lyon County Courthouse is outlined in a column headed "Rosecracks" which appears in the *Marshall Daily Messenger* for June 6. By examining the minutes of the board of county commissioners, the writer found that previous to 1873, when the county seat was at Lynd, "Lyon County had no official home," and the board held its meetings in schoolhouses, stores, churches, and private homes. After the removal of the county seat to Marshall, the first courthouse, a little frame shack measuring eighteen by twenty-four feet, was built in 1875. It was not until 1892, however, that a substantial building was erected. Sections of Mr. LeRoy G. Davis' article on "Some Frontier Institutions," which appears *ante*, 19-28, are being quoted from time to time in the same column of the *Messenger*.

The fiftieth anniversary of what is said to have been the "first co-operative creamery in Minnesota," established at Biscay in the spring of 1889, is noted by W. F. Schilling in an article on its history which appears in the *Minneapolis Journal* for June 7. The McLeod County farmers who signed the articles of incorporation of the creamery are named in this account, which is accompanied by portraits of some of them and a picture of the building in which they first manufactured butter. Another account of the Biscay creamery appears in the *Hutchinson Banner* for June 2.

Some information about the early history of Argyle, which was incorporated as a village in 1883, is presented by S. D. Lincoln in the

*Marshall County Banner* of Argyle for April 6. Notes on some early activities of the village council, accounts of some of the community's older industries, and a record of the local fire department are included.

The history of a mill that was built at Fairmont in 1877 by Percy Wollaston, a member of the famous English colony, is briefly outlined in the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel* for June 6. The mill was destroyed by fire in 1899, was rebuilt, and of late years it has been owned by Henry Rippe. Other mills operated at Fairmont since the early 1860's also are noted in the article.

The passing of fifty years since the Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Congregation was established at Upsala in Morrison County is commemorated in an anniversary booklet issued in 1938. The congregation was organized in November, 1888, by a group of Swedish settlers who met at the home of John H. Peterson.

A report on the recent improvements at Fort Ridgely — the excavations and restorations that have been made on the site — appears under the title "Fort Ridgely as It Is Today" in the *Fairfax Standard* for April 13. Pictures of the restored commissary, now used as a museum and auditorium, and of the excavations of the foundations of the barracks accompany the article.

A reminiscent narrative by Mike Hollaren, which appears in three installments in the *Worthington Globe* for April 30 and May 7 and 14, is followed by a series of articles about the early history of Nobles County by Perry Carter. The village of Ellsworth is the scene of Mr. Hollaren's reminiscences, for he settled on its site in April, 1880, several years before it was founded. Among the subjects touched upon by Mr. Carter are Indian scares in Nobles County, the organization of the county, early settlers in Graham Lakes Township, and the blizzard of 1888. Each installment is illustrated with a sketch prepared by the author.

The experiences as postmasters of two Minnesotans who have served their respective communities in these offices since 1886 are described in the *Rochester Post-Bulletin* for May 22. They are Mr. John A. Stephan of Waltham and Mr. Samuel Nelson of Welch, both of whom were appointed during the Cleveland administration.

The sixtieth anniversary of the *Pipestone County Star* is commemorated in a special edition of the paper issued on June 20. It calls attention to the fact that the *Star* is not only the county's oldest newspaper, but probably its oldest business institution, "for available records fail to reveal any other business concern now in existence in the county that was founded at as early a date as the *Star*." The issue contains a number of articles of historical interest, including a sketch of Isaac L. Hart, who founded the paper in June, 1879; some reminiscences of his son, Mr. Gardner E. Hart; an account of a Fourth of July celebration at Pipestone in 1878; and a description of the miniature issues published by the *Star* during the "Blizzard Winter" of 1881, "when supplies of many kinds, including print paper, were practically exhausted." The news section of the smallest issue, a single page measuring about seven by ten inches, is reproduced with the article, which explains that "as the result of the paper shortage during that winter, the *Star* appeared in various unusual shapes and sizes, and printed on a variety of materials that included wrapping paper, wall paper, etc."

The development of St. Paul was featured in one of a series of programs entitled "Americans All, Immigrants All," presented over a national hookup of the Columbia Broadcasting System on April 30.

A useful list of "city officials from 1850 to 1939," compiled by Mark W. Woodruff from records preserved by the city of St. Paul and the Minnesota Historical Society, is made available in a booklet entitled *Facts about the City of Saint Paul*, recently issued by the department of public works (32 p.). A brief introduction gives information about the incorporation of the town and the city, about the adoption and modification of charters, and about changes in city boundaries. The list of officers is chronologically arranged, and in each case the date of the election is included.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the incorporation of the St. Paul Academy was marked by the publication in June of an *Alumni Report*, including a "short history and alumni roster, covering the period from 1900-1939." The history of the "Old Saint Paul Academy," which came into being in 1900, is reviewed by Charles N. B. Wheeler; the story of the school after its incorporation in 1914 is reviewed by John DeQ. Briggs. Lists of faculty members and of students now

enrolled in the school are followed by a directory of alumni, with brief biographical sketches.

Mr. James Gray devotes his column in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for April 7 to recollections of the days when vaudeville was in its heyday at the old Orpheum Theater in St. Paul. The wrecking of the structure is the occasion for his article.

The issue of the *Morgan Messenger* for April 6 is a fiftieth anniversary edition, in which appear accounts of the growth of the village and of the editors who have guided the destinies of its newspaper during the past half century.

The origin of the Monday Club, a women's literary society of Faribault, is traced back to an organization of the late 1860's in a review of its history appearing in the *Faribault Daily News* for May 23. Pioneer members of the organization were interviewed and minutes of its meetings were consulted by Mrs. Charles Batchelder, who gathered the material for this account. She reveals that the club acquired its present name in 1897 and that it joined the State Federation of Women's Clubs after 1900.

"When Duluth Was Young" is the title of a reminiscent narrative by Richard E. Carey which has been appearing in installments in the *Duluth Free Press* since May 26. The original is in the possession of the St. Louis County Historical Society. Among the more interesting installments are those dealing with the "Opening of the Canal" on Minnesota Point, in the issue for June 2; the visit of Jay Cooke in 1867, June 9; and "Christmas in Duluth in 1866," June 30.

Since August, 1869, when the Duluth Library Association was organized, "Duluth has been served one way or another, through numerous vicissitudes, by either public or semi-public book lending agencies," writes Roy H. Cupperud, in a feature article on the history of the Duluth public library which appears in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for April 16. He points out that the "public library as a tax-supported institution dates back only to 1890," and he relates the story of the Carnegie grant that made possible its present home.

A display of pictures — photographs, lithographs, paintings — of Sauk Centre in its early days, shown at the local Bryant Library late in May, is described in the *Sauk Centre Herald* for May 25. Among

the pictures was a sketch of the early settlement at Kandota made by Edwin Whitefield in 1857, and a view of Sauk Centre in 1868 by another member of the Whitefield family, probably Wilfred J. In the display also was an oil painting of the stockade erected at Sauk Centre for protection against the Sioux in 1862. This painting, executed in 1876 from sketches at the request of Joseph Capser, was presented recently to the Sauk Centre library by his son, Mr. Henry Capser of St. Paul. It is the subject of special articles appearing in the *Herald* for May 4 and the *St. Paul Dispatch* for April 28.

Some of the early history of St. James parish at Jacobs Prairie, which is said to be the oldest Catholic parish in Stearns County, is recalled in the *Cold Spring Record* of May 31. Father Francis Pierz, the missionary, is believed to have visited the settlement soon after its founding in 1855, and in the following year several Benedictine fathers conducted services in a log church.

A hotel register kept at the Benson House of Benson in 1879, recently discovered in a local attic, is the subject of an interesting article in the *Swift County Monitor* of Benson for June 30. A picture of the transient population of early Benson is reconstructed by the writer after studying the pages of this register. He found, for example, that among the regular visitors at the Benson House were the "drivers of the Appleton and Montevideo stages." The writer notes that the register has been turned over to the Swift County Historical Society for permanent preservation.

Boatbuilding on the St. Croix since 1855, when Josiah Q. Batchelder left Maine to follow his trade at Stillwater, is the subject of an illustrated article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for April 17. The shipyards at Bayport that Batchelder established in 1878 receive special attention, since after a lapse of years they are once more the scene of busy activity.

Four articles by William Codman on the early history of St. Charles appear in the *Winona Republican-Herald* for April 14, 21, 28, and May 5. They deal specifically with the union of St. Charles and Chattanooga in 1868, the early schools of St. Charles, early Masonic bodies in the village, and its pioneer families. In the final article the names of several hundred pioneers are listed in alphabetical order.





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