

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Building the Canadian West: The Land and Colonization Policies of the Canadian Pacific Railway. By JAMES B. HEDGES, professor of American history, Brown University. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1939. vii, 422 p. Maps. \$4.00.)

Professor James B. Hedges has made frequent excursions into the land and colonization activities of railroads in Minnesota and the American Northwest. These have matchlessly prepared him to describe similar work of the Canadian Pacific Railway in *Building the Canadian West*. His familiarity with American railroad settlement serves him doubly in this volume, for he assumes the larger task of sketching Canadian Pacific projects against the background of American frontier experience. In Professor Hedges' view, railroad colonization programs north and south of the border were halves of a single great population movement. To both parts of this movement, Minnesota, by reason of geographic location, made essential contributions.

From the Dominion government in 1881 the Canadian Pacific received a far-flung demesne traversing the "Canadian West" — Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. There, through policies that were experimental, opportunistic, or visionary, the railroad founded and sustained a frontier civilization. Through its varying fortunes, Professor Hedges, attentive to both detail and sweep, recounts the Canadian Pacific's contributions to the quickening of Canadian life.

To his larger assignment of integrating the American and Canadian immigration movements, the author applies himself assiduously. In almost every chapter he depicts similarities in the practices of American railroads and the Canadian Pacific. But the projects of the latter were no slavish aping of American precedent; Dr. Hedges is insistent upon this point. The Dominion government created a system of land subsidy that was elastic, hence immensely superior to that of the United States. Moreover, the Canadian Pacific was obliged to accept only lands "fairly fit for settlement." Through its elaborate schemes of assisted settlement, in preference to simple land selling, it developed a program of colonization unequaled south of the forty-ninth parallel.

To the Minnesota reader the volume furnishes paramount opportunity to make comparisons with techniques developed by land-grant railroads in Minnesota. To him advertising methods, colonizing schemes, and paternalistic concepts will seem familiar. He will be concerned with the vigorous attempts to lure Minnesota residents. He will be engaged to learn that among the prime movers in the Canadian Pacific syndicate were James J. Hill and other men who had reorganized the bankrupt St. Paul and Pacific, progenitor of the Great Northern. But, in locating these arresting items, the Minnesota reader will find the index almost useless, for, although the book contains more than three dozen references to Minnesota, only one appears in the index.

The author has been able to rely almost exclusively upon manuscript materials relating to the railroad. These he has supplemented with archives and publications of the Dominion government, an extensive file of the *Manitoba Free Press*, and the few published works available. Four useful maps and eight tables are included.

As in the case of Minnesota, the index gives little indication of the frequent allusions to the United States, although the volume abounds with references to American experience. The writing is, in spots, pedestrian, owing mainly to the author's unwillingness to omit any detail.

HAROLD F. PETERSON

STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

The Log Book of a Young Immigrant. By LAURENCE M. LARSON.
(Northfield, Minnesota, Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1939. vii, 318 p. Portrait. \$3.00.)

From a log cabin to the White House is a stirring theme of American history, and we may well take pride in it, even if in politics and business it has often been made to drown a multitude of sins. In the world of the intellect and spirit, fortunately, the trick cannot be worked so easily — a painting, a poem, a novel, a piece of research are there for all men to see. Flimflam is discovered before very long, and the second- and third-rate soon fall into their appointed place. Laurence Larson began life in a log hut in northern Iowa; and he came to occupy long before his death a high place among American historians.

This book is his own story of that rise, or, rather, of his rise to opportunity, for it ends with his appointment, in 1907, as an associate in history in the University of Illinois, where the work of his life was done.

Professor Larson's autobiography is therefore in a peculiarly exact sense the story of the making of an American. He came to this country in his infancy—he was in his second year—in 1870; he got some precarious elements of a formal education in the district school, spent five years in a small western American denominational college, took his doctor's degree—almost the first one granted in history—at the University of Wisconsin; and after some years of secondary schoolteaching, first in a Norwegian-American academy and then in large public high schools in Milwaukee, he went, at the age of thirty-nine, into the pure American milieu of a great state university. No one who knew Larson can doubt that the process of Americanization was complete, however much of the Norwegian remained, in a slight intonation of speech and, as he himself tells us, in much of his mental furniture—the Bible, for example, which he knew thoroughly, was for him always a Norwegian book.

But the interest lies in the story of this intellectual transformation—in the elements which went into its making, their interaction one upon the other, and the keen, learned scholar who was their fruit. It was Larson's great good fortune that he came of admirable stock. On his father's side his forebears were solid yeoman farmers, poor, perhaps, compared with the great corn magnates he was later to know—many of them his own kindred—in Iowa and Illinois, but men who for generations had held their lands in fee simple and who had counted in the life of parish, county, province, and nation. One of them sat for fifteen years in the Storting. And into this family there had come, in the person of his grandmother, another strain, the blood of the Daaes, a family which, by origin at least, belonged to the urbanized bourgeoisie that for three centuries or more gave to Norway its ruling class. In Norway today the glory of that class is obscured, the language it gave the country undermined, and the simple perfection of its cosmopolitan culture disparaged. But I wonder if any country in any age has produced a class more thoroughly civilized. There is only a streak of it in Larson's genealogy, but it was enough for his grandparents to wish to send their son to a school for non-commissioned officers—not subalterns, as Larson says—and he

served the crown for six years. He left the service in 1867 with an honorable discharge and an excellent education. Larson's mother, too, came of a line of yeomen; but her parents had long lived in Bergen, and there she had got in the household of a lady of the upper bourgeoisie an effortless good breeding which marked her ways even when she was transplanted to a dugout in the West.

These people had innate self-respect, an interest in things of the mind, and a cosmopolitan outlook which their Yankee neighbors never suspected; of which, indeed, most of them never realized the existence. These Norwegians read books, discussed them, had opinions; and even if a pietistic religion at times cramped a free play of ideas, few of them were bigots. Nothing in this book is more delightful than the author's portraits of his parents and grandparents, and nothing is more illuminating. Laurence Larson had no reason to suffer from an inferiority complex. He never did. For one thing, he discovered when he went to college, a raw young man from the farm, that he had read more books and better books, in two languages, than undergraduates at Drake had ever heard of.

For all that, this little college served an ambitious student well. He encountered there undergraduates as keen as himself and teachers who, if they were not scholars, were what I have come to think even more important, cultivated men and women. Provincial, in a sense, most of them may have been, and blissfully ignorant of seminar technique, but they spoke and wrote good English and they brought to bear on a sensitive spirit the impress of old-fashioned American culture. The importance of all this to Larson is inestimable. He took from home a genuine culture of his own, but it was Norwegian, not American; and it had lost something and had become confused and uncertain in the rough and tumble of the frontier. At Drake he learned that not all Americans were crooked promoters and shyster politicians, that the New World, too, had something of the civilization of western Europe. And what was not less important, Drake sent him out into the world of his future studies with the kind of equipment he most needed, a good knowledge of languages—Greek, Latin, German, and French, in addition to Norwegian—and that training in English expression which the old commencement orations, the funny prize essays, and the lively exchanges of the literary societies did after all give. As a university teacher of thirty years standing I am bound to say that in this year of grace a young man coming

up to the graduate school with Larson's equipment would seem nothing short of phenomenal.

He was graduated in 1894 with honors. Then followed five years of teaching at a small Norwegian Lutheran academy in Wisconsin, the story of which reveals most clearly all the difficulties, material and spiritual, of such enterprises; then the three great years of graduate work at Madison. A distinguished American scholar once remarked that in any department one really great man was enough to make a graduate school. The rest didn't matter. Wisconsin in those days had two in history—Frederick Jackson Turner and Charles Homer Haskins. Unfortunately these chapters are much the least enlightening in the whole book. One gains certainly no adequate impression of either Haskins or Turner. The lesser men come out far better—Coffin, Slaughter, Hubbard, and Olson, who was responsible for turning Larson to history. But one does gain the impression that the work at Wisconsin was first-rate, better, probably, than anywhere else in this country; and the pleasant little episode of the final examination shows a real university at work.

I cannot dwell on the story, written evidently *con amore*, of five years in Milwaukee high schools. I say *con amore*, for though Larson was bitterly disappointed in not getting a college position on taking his degree, and never ceased in his efforts to get out of secondary school-teaching, he quite evidently liked it, did his work well, and came to like the beautiful, orderly city where an old *Deutschtum* was fighting a losing battle, though it hardly realized it, against all the forces of the new America. He managed to carry on his own studies, too, in hours stolen from routine and in pleasant summers at the university. Oddly enough, the only visible fruit of these labors was a monograph on the financial history of the city of Milwaukee—a queer subject, as Professor Larson remarks, for a medievalist, but not without its uses to the historian. It taught him at firsthand how government works, for there was probably no eccentricity or swindle in the municipal finances of his city for which parallels cannot be found in the fiscal vagaries of medieval kings. The work, at any rate, kept his name from being submerged utterly. At last, in 1907, thanks again to Professor Olson, he was offered a modest position in history and Scandinavian at Wisconsin. It was not much, and the combination of departments seemed dubious. But it offered a way out, and he would have accepted it but for the opportunity that came at the same

moment at Illinois. He remained there for thirty years, in his later years as professor of history and head of the department. In 1937 he was elected president of the American Historical Association. Before the year ended, he died.

It is a great story, told with simple dignity and restraint. We are grateful to Mrs. Larson for putting the manuscript at the disposal of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, and to the association for publishing it in so attractive a form. Professor Blegen's preface is, as usual, sensitive and comprehending — a better review of the book, indeed, than all that is written here.

MARTIN B. RUUD

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

The Life of George Sperry Loftus, Militant Farm Leader of the Northwest. By USHER L. BURDICK. (Baltimore, Wirth Brothers, 1939. 92 p. Illustrations. \$1.25.)

George Loftus was one of the major figures of the middle phase of the Northwest reform movement, and his death in 1916 was almost coincidental with the end of that phase. In the succeeding twenty-three years none but the most feeble gleams have served to light up the career of this remarkable farm and political leader. Loftus, in fact, has suffered more neglect than Charles A. Lindbergh, Sr., or Jonathan P. Dolliver; more, even, than leading recent figures, Milo Reno, Arthur Charles Townley, Floyd B. Olson. Among the key men of that middle phase between the Populists' campaigns and the World War, only Robert M. LaFollette, Sr., the late James Manahan, who published his own charming and witty record, and Senator George W. Norris, who has been the subject of two recent biographies, have been dealt with under any pretense at adequacy.

Congressman Burdick's modest little volume has the virtue of bringing together some of the facts of Loftus' career, previously buried in out-of-print memoirs and pamphlets and in the records of Congressional and other official hearings. Mr. Burdick himself regrets that no full-length treatment of his late friend has been forthcoming, and offers his book as a series of the "outstanding incidents" in a life devoted — and sacrificed — to the people's good.

Mr. Burdick chose to write of Loftus, the "white knight" of the

Northwest's railroad reformers of 1905-12, and of Loftus, champion of the North Dakota wheat growers. Loftus' wide-flung and energetic political activities are not described—his leadership of the Minnesota Progressive Republicans, his long and fruitful friendship with La Follette, his fifteen-year feud with Frank B. Kellogg which ended only with Loftus' death, his organizing and training of farmer-legislators in North Dakota and Minnesota to further his projected railroad, grain combine, and express trust reforms.

Neither does the author effectively reveal the personality of George Loftus, at least in any way to rival Manahan's warm words, some of which he quotes with approval: "His radiant personality threw a glamour of great import over the most trivial dispute. . . . He brought to every cause in which he appeared as a litigant, a flashing eye in retort, a seductive smile in persuasion." Mr. Burdick recalls his visit with Loftus as the leader lay dying from cancer in April, 1916, when Loftus dismissed him with "God keep you right with the people and go in there and hit hard." The younger man "was too upset to make any answer" and quietly left with this challenge ringing in his ears.

This study deals briefly but revealingly with the fights to end railroad rate rebates, for the two-cent passenger fare, for the doctrine of reciprocal demurrage, and for reductions of freight, Pullman berth, express, and switching charge rates—all struggles in which Loftus boldly rode at the head of the charge. With only a very few others to aid him, he had notable success, as Mr. Burdick relates in some detail.

The author erroneously suggests that Loftus was the first sales manager of the Equity Co-operative Exchange, in 1912. Actually, he was the first full-time manager at Minneapolis, replacing inept sales representatives of earlier years.

Among the appendixes in the volume are a testimonial prepared by the St. Paul Commercial Club after Loftus' death, resolutions adopted by the North Dakota Farmers' Elevator Association in July, 1913, and several items indicating that the author was interested in his immediate effect on North Dakota politics. The book is paper bound and is illustrated with well-chosen photographs of Loftus and his family.

RICHARD LEEKLEY

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

A Goodly Fellowship. By MARY ELLEN CHASE. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1939. xiii, 305 p. \$2.50.)

Those of us who are relative newcomers in Minnesota know Mary Ellen Chase only as a legendary figure compounded, we are given to understand, of warm enthusiasm and humor, healthy pugnacity and irony. *A Goodly Fellowship* puzzles us, for in it we find much of the anticipated amiability but, from chapter to chapter, less and less pungence. We are not disappointed in her sharp delineation of two Chicago schools, one for Christian Workers and the other for Young Ladies, and we share her enthusiasm for an experimental school in Wisconsin which wisely refused to consider itself experimental. But midway in the book, in Montana to be exact, we begin to suspect that Miss Chase's memory is becoming selective and that she now attempts to recall only, in the words of her favorite apostle, "whatsoever things are lovely, and whatsoever things are of good report."

Oscar Firkins, Frederick Klæber, Edgar Elmer Stoll, Kemp Malone, Cecil Moore, Joseph Warren Beach, Carleton Brown, Joseph Thomas, Colbert Searles—these were the brilliant teachers and scholars under whom Miss Chase studied at the University of Minnesota and whom she sketches in a brilliant series of vignettes. Concerning minor details we may occasionally be incredulous, but we recognize, nevertheless, that each portrait is done from the life. To these gentlemen she pays superlative tribute: "I know now as I knew then, that no graduate school in the country has ever gathered together, at least in the field of English, a more splendid staff." And graciously she exempts Minnesota from her caustic charge that students in "all American graduate schools, even alas! . . . the most honorable of them," should take as their motto the words of St. Paul: "*I am debtor both to the wise, and to the unwise.*"

Of her experiences at the College of St. Catherine, we conclude that Miss Chase recalls and sets down everything. Truly satisfying were her official contacts with that institution and its remarkable head, Sister Antonia, and idyllic were her private excursions in the college gardens and kitchens. Certain of us, however, would have been glad if Miss Chase had added, by way of humorous relief, a few scenes from the Olympian comedy of life in Mrs. Scripture's famous boardinghouse—scenes such as Miss Chase can present with inimitable skill.

A Goodly Fellowship has a modest place on the same shelf with that monument to Yale affability, William Lyon Phelps's *Autobiography with Letters*, and that classic of Harvard urbanity, Bliss Perry's *And Gladly Teach*.

TREMAINE McDOWELL

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

Home Missions on the American Frontier, With Particular Reference to the American Home Missionary Society. By COLIN BRUMMITT GOODYKOONTZ, professor of history, University of Colorado. (Caldwell, Idaho, The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1939. 460 p. \$3.50.)

Home missions was an important method of control which the East used to regulate the advance of the American frontier. The most significant Protestant organization engaged in this work was the American Home Missionary Society. It was organized in 1826 as a voluntary society and was supported by both the Congregationalists and the New School Presbyterians in the period before the Civil War; after 1861 it became exclusively Congregational. The role of the frontier activities of this organization is the chief interest of the author of the present volume, but much material is given also on Baptist, Methodist, and Episcopalian missionary endeavors.

The primary forces which produced and directed the movement to mold western society after orthodox Protestant standards were: "Christian idealism, denominational rivalries, humanitarianism, nationalism and enlightened self-interest" (p. 39). In the terminology of the participants, the puritan attitude toward the western mind was a primary motive which impelled the Easterners to engage in a crusade to save the West from sin and Satan. Professor Goodykoontz evaluates the significance of the efforts of these five denominations not only by the tangible measurements of the number and type of missionaries, congregations, communicants, and schools, but also by suggestive statements on the intangible but more important question of what home missions meant to the life of the people. The movement was conservative in tendencies and results; it was the chief instrument used to spread the New England theology and attitudes toward education and Christian conduct across the continent. The author rightly concludes that "it is not by chance that the South and Middle West have

been the strongholds of fundamentalism and the chief centers of such traces of Puritanism as remain in this country" (p. 426).

As might be expected in a book with so large a scope, there are only a very few pages on Protestant and Congregational activities in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Although this treatise is hardly a definitive study of the activities and role of the American Home Missionary Society, yet it does give the reader an understanding of one important aspect of frontier history, which is now only beginning to be studied in relation to contemporary political and economic conditions. The frequent quotations from the voluminous manuscript letters written by the missionaries in the field suggest the wealth of material on religious and social conditions which as yet has barely been touched from a secular viewpoint.

CHARLES J. KENNEDY

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON

The Congregationalists: A Collection of Source Materials (Religion on the American Frontier, 1783-1850, vol. 3). By WILLIAM WARREN SWEET. (Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, 1939. xi, 435 p. Map. \$3.00.)

Sometime in the future a historian of vision and ability will write the story of religion in the United States. He will write it in such telling fashion that there will no longer be any excuse for believing it a stuffy, unimportant chapter in American history. It is quite impossible to comprehend the spirit of the United States without knowing that vital part of its development. Moreover, those who have read the letters and diaries of home and Indian missionaries and the reports and minutes of churches, conferences, presbyteries, boards, and other ecclesiastical bodies will be the last to admit that the chapter lacks anything of color, romance, personality, and éclat.

These cannot be sensed adequately by reading even such an admirable volume as Mr. Sweet's, for there is no opportunity therein to follow the details of any one missionary's life or the minutiae of any church's development. One must get the desired effect either from a single, short work depicting with rare power the all-but-concealed yet mighty surge of the religious undertow in American history; or from a series of volumes affording so many details that the reader is forced by overwhelming evidence to sense for himself the throb of that movement.

The volumes in Mr. Sweet's series — of which the previous ones tell the story of Baptists and Presbyterians — can obtain neither of these effects because of the very nature of the series. Nevertheless, a genuine service is rendered by every volume. A brief introduction — particularly effective in the present volume — and a series of chapters made up of original documents, prefaced by a short resume of their significance, are the form adopted for every book. For Minnesotans this book has special interest because Congregationalists were more numerous and more active in the early religious history of Minnesota than the representatives of any other sect. Thus the chapter devoted to Indian missions, comprising six documents for the entire frontier, includes three of Minnesota interest: a letter from the Reverend Sherman Hall of the La Pointe mission, of August 2, 1831; a report of Dr. Thomas S. Williamson's traveling expenses on a tour among the Sioux in 1834; and a letter from the Reverend Jedediah D. Stevens written from the Lake Harriet mission in September, 1838.

Since the volume closes with the year 1850, when white settlement was hardly under way in Minnesota, practically no opportunity is given to include among the letters and reports of home missionaries any of the thousands of these documents for Minnesota that tell so much of its story in a slightly later period.

At first glance the opening chapter, "The Missionary Society of Connecticut," would appear to have little connection with Minnesota. As a matter of fact, that society was responsible to some degree for the work of Alvan Coe and Jedediah Stevens, the first Protestant missionaries in the Minnesota country, though this fact is nowhere mentioned in the chapter.

GRACE LEE NUTE

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL

Catholic Immigrant Colonization Projects in the United States, 1815–1860 (United States Catholic Historical Society, *Monograph Series* XVII). By SISTER MARY GILBERT KELLY, O. P., Ph. D. (New York, The United States Catholic Historical Society, 1939. ix, 290 p. Maps.)

The consideration of the activities of directed immigrant groups is of real interest to the student of American social history of the nineteenth century. This volume by Sister Mary Gilbert Kelly throws

light on one element in history by tracing the origins and developments of directed immigration under Catholic auspices in the United States during the period from 1815 to 1860, a time when the influx of German and Irish Catholic immigration was very great.

While the so-called "directed" Catholic settlements—that is, groups of various nationalities who immigrated to the frontier sections under the guidance of a member of the Catholic clergy or laity—are considered in this treatise (Alsations, Belgians, Dutch, French-Canadians, Italians, and Poles all receive their share of attention), by far the larger portion of the work is concerned with the German and Irish groups. And thus, although the colonial projects under discussion extend from *Benedicta* in Maine to *St. John's* in Nebraska Territory, the geographical area above the Ohio and east of the Mississippi predominates.

The first seven chapters follow the history of the various directed enterprises either to a successful settlement or to the abandonment of the project. As the stories of the beginnings of these colonies unfold, we catch glimpses, here and there, of the wealth of human interest material that lies beneath the surface facts of time and place as recorded by the historians. We are made cognizant too of the heroism, the patience, and the zeal and foresight of these early founders, many of whom devoted their energies and fortunes to the building of new communities. The initiators of these colonial enterprises were generally inspired in their work by the desirability of concentrating the agricultural Catholic population in sizable groups in order to secure religious services, or were motivated by the hope of ameliorating, through the land opportunity in the West, the pitiful conditions of the overcrowded foreign population in large eastern cities. Although the Catholic church in Europe did not directly give guidance to the immigration movement in this country, the early settlements were liberally aided in the erection of churches and schools by such organizations as the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Leopoldine Society, and the Ludwig Missionsverein. Once the colonies were established, religious life was fostered by organized groups of Benedictines, Eudists, Franciscans, Jesuits, Redemptorists, Vincentians, Sisters of Providence, and others.

As the author develops the history of settlement after settlement and the ambitions of their projectors, one finds interspersed interesting survivals of problems of trusteeism, Jansenism, and anticlericalism.

One notices, moreover, that these ventures resemble in several important respects the general pattern of the settlement of the frontier by other westward-moving groups. As in other frontier communities, these colonial groups, at first exclusive, are broken into or even invite outsiders in to insure the success of their undertaking; and the original purpose of the colony becomes lost in its general development. The German and Irish ventures here studied reiterate in particular the characteristic experiences of other groups of their countrymen since their advent to America. The German, land-loving, with some financial resources, settles easily into the agricultural picture. The Irishman, more social, without any material assets except his willingness to work at the job nearest at hand, is forced to dwell in the cities until he can make enough money to take him to the frontier. Often, after a few years of city life, he loses the desire to migrate beyond the great cities where, despite hardships and suffering, he can find some of the political, social, and religious advantages he had come to America to seek.

By far the most interesting sections of the book are Chapters 8 and 9. In Chapter 8 the author gives a vivid account of the Irish Immigrant Aid convention in Dudley Hall, at Buffalo, New York, on February 12, 1856, under the leadership of Thomas D'Arcy McGee, fiery advocate of Irish rural colonization and avowed enemy of nativism. Chapter 9 treats in detail the undertaking of Father Treacy's Nebraska colony, an aftermath in some respects of the Buffalo convention. The work of these two men, in spite of its apparent failure, gave publicity to conditions in congested slum areas and called attention to the attractions of an independent existence in the interior of the continent. Their efforts spurred on many who might have fled the country after the panic of 1857 to become pioneers and developers of civilization in frontier regions.

It seems to this reviewer that some of the conclusions drawn by the author, especially those concerning the importance of nativism as a motivating factor in the Catholic colonization movement, are scarcely justifiable in the light of the data presented. While the antagonism of the nativists to Catholics and the resulting troubles may have been an additional reason for moving westward in a handful of cases, it seems hardly credible that these sporadic outbursts of ill feeling could have been in themselves the sole or even the primary cause for launching many colonization projects. The work would, moreover, have

benefited in clarity by more attention to the mechanics of organization. Obviously the writer is hampered by the quantity of material to be considered; a further limitation of the scope of the book with concentration on two or three of the more important communities would perhaps have permitted the inclusion and development of many interesting topics which could merely be hinted at in this work. The very fact, however, that the author incorporated much information into a small space will make the book valuable reference material on nineteenth-century immigration. The volume contains a splendid bibliography, an adequate index, and helpful maps of the area of colonization. Its contents furnish important and illuminating data on the development of the frontier and the beginnings of the Catholic church in the Northwest.

SISTER EUCHARISTA GALVIN

COLLEGE OF ST. CATHERINE
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

History of the Norwegian Baptists in America. By P. Stiansen, Ph. D. (Wheaton, Illinois, The Norwegian Baptist Conference of America and the American Baptist Publication Society, 1939. 344 p. Illustrations. \$2.50.)

Although the author of this volume, the president of the Norwegian Baptist Conference of America, states in his preface his purpose to "contribute to an understanding of the cultural and religious contribution of the Norwegian Baptists in this country," the book is primarily a descriptive historical handbook for Norwegian Baptists. It consists largely of congregational histories and clerical biographies arranged chronologically and by states. There are brief summaries at the end of each of three chronological sections, and there are chapters on the Norwegian Baptist Conference, church publications, foreign missions, and women's work. For Minnesota readers there are sections devoted to congregations and pastoral labors in this state.

The future historian of the religious aspects of Norwegian-American history will find this volume a useful compilation of information regarding the Norwegian Baptists in America, but he will need to go much farther in relating this denomination to the general religious and social history of Norwegian migration to America. He will not find there a critical analysis of the origin and persistence in Norway and America of Norwegian Baptist churches and doctrines and of their relationship to the prevailing Lutheranism of the majority

of Norwegians on both sides of the Atlantic. In using this volume, he will find himself handicapped by the lack of documentation. There is, however, mention of the location of church archives where may be consulted the references given in the bibliography. The latter, incidentally, does not list Professor Theodore C. Blegen's *Norwegian Migration to America, 1825-1860* (1931). The book has no index, although the table of contents is so titled. The illustrations consist largely of photographs of church buildings and ministers.

CARLTON C. QUALEY

BARD COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK

The History of St. Marks and the Midway District. By JOSEPH A. CORRIGAN. (St. Paul, 1939. 112 p. Illustrations.)

Parish histories can, and commonly do make dull reading. So many of them deal with figures and bare facts at the expense of human interests and personalities. So many of them deal with parish life as though it were something detached from its environment. Such, however, is not the case with this parish history. Father Corrigan has been identified for twenty-eight years with the district whose history he records. His *History of St. Marks*, written to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of that parish, is crowded with details that are the fruit of painstaking research and is written in an enthusiastic manner that holds the attention of the reader. If there is any fault to be found with his work, it is that he has made it too brief. One puts down the book with the feeling that the author has by no means exhausted his knowledge, and with the wish that he had told more.

The book is divided fairly evenly into two parts. Before introducing the subject of his parish, Father Corrigan goes back to the pioneering period to sketch in his background. He tells the story of the first settlers in the Midway District and follows their fortunes with especial interest because their presence called for Christian ministration in 1839 and brought about the establishment of the first Catholic church in Minnesota. A second chapter deals with the rapid development that took place after 1854, when squatters became permanent settlers by paying the government a dollar and a quarter an acre for their land. This chapter is excellent for its topographical data and for the clear light it sheds on life and customs in territorial Minnesota. A third chapter tells of Merriam Park and the dream

of making the Midway a link that would bind St. Paul and Minneapolis into one. How that district almost became the site of Capitol building, Cathedral, and Union Depot is told with much interesting anecdote. Some of the "marvelous changes" that took place in the period of a hundred years are recalled. In this, as in the first two chapters, Father Corrigan has crowded information that cannot be found in any other one book.

The second part of this volume is devoted to the story of the founding and development of St. Mark's parish. The early beginnings in a chapel on the first floor of the Catholic Industrial School, where now stands St. Thomas College, soon proved inadequate, and a wooden structure was built and opened for worship on December 15, 1889, on the spot graced by the present beautiful St. Mark's Church. For his predecessors, the present pastor has many words of admiration and appreciation. His biographical vignettes are well done. They bring out faithfully the character of the work that preceded his own. The better part of the text deals, however, with the material and spiritual growth over which he himself presided. To quote from Archbishop Murray's introductory letter: "It is not merely a chronicle of events but a comprehensive presentation of the Christian philosophy of the perfect parish." What with cost of building the church, parish house, school, and convent, what with its many charities, the parish of St. Mark's in St. Paul has expended well over a million and a half dollars in the past twenty-five years, and has made itself materially and spiritually "an ideal unit."

As we have said that the first half of this book provides information patiently gleaned from many sources and indispensable for the history of the Midway, so we say that the second half gives a splendid portrayal of parochial management and should be equally indispensable for priests engaged in parish development and people interested in Catholic religious and educational objectives.

JAMES L. CONNOLLY

ST. PAUL SEMINARY
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

Memoirs of a Boyhood at Fort Snelling. By HENRY HUNT SNELLING. Edited by LEWIS BEESON. (Minneapolis, privately printed, 1939. xiii, 36 p. Illustrations.)

This attractive little book is that part, as the editor informs us, of the "memoirs" of Henry Hunt Snelling's life from 1820, when he

came to Minnesota as a lad of four, to 1827, when he left for the East to begin his formal education. The account is derived from a journal which Snelling kept from the age of twelve, from his own memory, and from his recollections of the tales told by older participants. The memoir was written sometime after 1867 and is "as accurate as such accounts can be." The story is written in a simple and straightforward style which shows some literary skill. It is convincing and human with the "breath of life" throughout.

The author tells of his trip to Minnesota in 1820, of fishing on lakes and rivers within the present city limits of Minneapolis, of the cutting of his knee with a hatchet while on a fishing trip, of carelessness of a maid in setting the bed clothes afire while he was "sound asleep," of the attack by "humble bees," of Indian mores and dress, of wars between the Sioux and the Chippewa, of the robbing and scalping of white settlers, of the new fort named for his father, of the expedition of Giacomo Beltrami in an effort to find the source of the Mississippi, of the gratitude shown by a young Indian chief to Mrs. Josiah Snelling and her family, of Indian methods of punishment, and of the strategy of Wanata, a Sioux chief, for capturing Fort Snelling. Snelling's story of the latter reminds one of Francis Parkman's classic account of Pontiac and Major Henry Gladwin. All are pictured in their setting of ideas and time and place. The *raison d'être* for this "unvarnished tale" was in the words of the author, "not from any motive of notoriety, but that God may be glorified for 'His wonderful works to the children of men.'"

This book is published through the liberality and noble public spirit of Mrs. Frederick G. Atkinson of Minneapolis and is very beautifully designed by Fred Totten Phelps. The editing is exemplary, for the editor does not destroy any beauty or strength the story may possess by voluminous footnotes or corrections in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. There are four excellent illustrations by Dorothy Kurtzman Phelps—a map of "Fort Snelling and Vicinity," a portrait of "Wanata, the Dakota Chief," a "Ground Plan of Fort Snelling," and a picture based upon an early sketch of Fort Snelling. The book makes an excellent companion volume to Mary Thayer Hale's *Early Minneapolis* (1937).

NELSON VANCE RUSSELL

CARLETON COLLEGE
NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

MR. JAMES GRAY ("A Literary Critic Looks at History") is literary and dramatic critic for the *St. Paul Dispatch* and the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. He is the author of several novels, including *Shoulder the Sky* (1935) and *Wings of Great Desire* (1938), and is a frequent contributor to the *Saturday Review of Literature* and other periodicals. Dr. Theodore C. Blegen ("Two Missionaries in the Sioux Country") is widely known for his writings in the fields of Minnesota history and Norwegian immigration. Dr. Arthur J. Larsen ("The Minnesota Historical Society in 1939") was recently named superintendent of the society, the position from which Dr. Blegen resigned in August. Miss Bertha L. Heilbron ("The 1940 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society") is assistant editor of this magazine. Mr. Carleton C. Ames ("Paul Bunyan—Myth or Hoax?") is an instructor in history in the State Teachers College at River Falls, Wisconsin. Mrs. Benjamin Lippincott ("A Minnesota Saga") is a director of the Modern Dance Group of Minneapolis. Book reviews have been contributed to the present issue by Mr. Harold F. Peterson of the history department in the State Teachers College at Buffalo, New York; Professors Martin B. Ruud and Tremaine McDowell, members of the English department in the University of Minnesota; Mr. Richard Leekley of St. Paul, who is engaged in writing a history of the Farmer-Labor party in Minnesota; Professor Charles J. Kennedy of the department of history in the University of Wisconsin; Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts on the staff of the society; Sister Eucharista Galvin, president of the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul; Dr. Carlton C. Qualey, a member of the history faculty of Bard College at Annandale-on-Hudson, New York; Father James L. Connolly, professor of church history in St. Paul Seminary and a member of the society's executive council; and Dr. Nelson Vance Russell, professor of history at Carleton College, Northfield.

Since the superintendent's report, published elsewhere in the present issue, surveys the activities of the society during 1939, including the

last quarter of the year, only a few supplementary items are mentioned in the present section.

The position of head of the newspaper department, which was left vacant when Dr. Larsen was named acting superintendent of the society last August, has been filled by the appointment of Dr. Lewis Beeson as acting head. The degree of doctor of philosophy was conferred upon Dr. Beeson by the University of Minnesota in December, 1939. His undergraduate work was done in the University of Oregon school of journalism, from which he was graduated in 1927, and later he was employed in the editorial and advertising departments of several Oregon newspapers. After enrolling in the University of Minnesota as a graduate student in history, he assisted Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, superintendent of the society from 1931 to 1939, in the compilation of a study outline entitled *Minnesota: Its History and Its People* (1937). This work is reviewed *ante*, 18:83-86. Recently Dr. Beeson edited for publication Henry H. Snelling's *Memoirs of a Boyhood at Fort Snelling*, which is reviewed in the present issue of *Minnesota History*.

Thirty additions to the active membership of the society, including one life member—Frances M. Rogers of St. Paul—and two sustaining members—Charles O. Gilfillan of Redwood Falls and Richard G. Strickland of St. Paul—were made during the last quarter of 1939. The new annual members are A. A. Anderson of Luverne, Mrs. Elmer H. Argetsinger of Minneapolis, Samuel M. Buck of Chicago, Charles F. Codere of St. Paul, Ona A. Crume of St. Paul, John A. Fesenbeck of Cloquet, Mrs. Alice P. Goodrich of Boston, Rodney B. Harvey of Stillwater, Mrs. Martha P. Holman of St. Paul, A. B. Jackson of Stillwater, Alice D. Lightner of St. Paul, James R. Methven of Minneapolis, Dr. Edward A. Meyerding of St. Paul, William K. Montague of Duluth, Cole Oehler of St. Paul, Harry W. Oehler of St. Paul, Judge Julius J. Olson of St. Paul, R. C. Overton of Chicago, Guybert M. Phillips of St. Paul, Henry H. Putnam of St. Paul, Clarence J. Reiter of Hudson, Wisconsin, Fred W. Rieger of Benson, Herman E. Samuelson of St. Paul, Eugenia Towle of Stillwater, Allan L. Truax of Crosby, North Dakota, Paul E. Villaume of St. Paul, and Dr. Harry B. Zimmermann of St. Paul.

The Dakota County Historical and Archeological Society of South St. Paul has recently enrolled as an institutional member. The public school of Hazel Run and the public libraries of Morris and Spring Valley have been added to the list of schools and libraries that subscribe to the society's publications.

In the three months from October 1 to December 31, the society lost the following active members by death: Ingebrikt F. Grose of Northfield on October 10, Peris A. Brett of St. Paul on October 13, Fred L. Bardwell of Northfield on October 24, William Y. Chute of Wayzata on November 4, John B. Johnston of Minneapolis on November 19, James D. Armstrong of St. Paul on November 15, Thomas J. McDermott of St. Paul on November 17, Alexander Campbell of Minneapolis on November 24, Charles W. Gordon of St. Paul on November 27, Orrin F. Smith of Winona on November 30, Frederic C. Miller of St. Paul on December 8, and Alvah Eastman of St. Cloud on December 24.

"Suggestions for a Code for Cataloging Historical Manuscript Collections" are offered by Miss Nute in a paper read before the San Francisco meeting of the American Library Association last June and now made available in a volume on *Archives and Libraries* published by the association (Chicago, 1939. 108 p.). Dr. Theodore C. Blegen's discussion of the "Problem of Local History" and of the handbook for local historical workers which is being planned under the auspices of the Social Science Research Council appears in the same volume.

A talk on "Life at Old Nininger" presented by Mr. Babcock at a meeting of the Donnelly Memorial Association at Nininger on June 25, 1939, appears in full in the *Hastings Gazette* for October 27.

Mr. Larsen and Miss Nute attended the annual meeting of the American Historical Association at Washington from December 28 to 30, and Mr. Babcock went to Chicago for a joint meeting of the Society for American Archaeology and the American Anthropological Association from December 26 to 30.

Dr. Larsen presented talks and addresses on "Joseph R. Brown and the Village of Dakotah" before the Washington County Historical Society at Stillwater on October 9, on "This Minnesota of

Ours" at Macalester College on October 29, on "The Pioneer Tradition" before the Dakota County Historical and Archeological Society at South St. Paul on November 14, on "The Legacy of the Voyageur" before an organization of the First Methodist Church of St. Paul on November 16, and on "Jane Grey Swisshelm—a Minnesota Crusader" before the Lake City Women's Club on November 22. He was interviewed on the work of the society by P. J. Hoffstrom over radio station WMIN on November 29. With Miss Gratia Countryman and Mr. Robert Beveridge, Dr. Nute participated in a discussion of microphotography before the New Century Club of St. Paul on December 6. Mr. Babcock spoke before the Dakota County Historical and Archeological Society on October 10, taking as his subject "Introducing Minnesota."

ACCESSIONS

Photostatic copies of twenty-five early maps, showing Indian reservations, territorial and government roads, trading and military posts, water routes, and the like in the Minnesota country from 1818 to 1857, have been made for the society from originals in the possession of the National Archives and the United States war department. Several of those in the National Archives came originally from the Indian office of the department of the interior. Among them is a map of 1831 showing the Sioux-Chippewa boundary line, a map drawn by Dr. Douglas Houghton while traveling with Henry R. Schoolcraft in 1831, and a map by Major Lawrence Taliaferro, Indian agent at Fort Snelling in the 1820's and 1830's. On the latter Taliaferro wrote: "Indian map marked with *charcoal* on the floor of the agency office and hastily tho imperfectly taken from it." It gives the locations of forts, trading posts, Indian hunting grounds, and the like in the valleys of the upper Mississippi, the Des Moines, and the Iowa rivers. Trading posts and portages in various parts of Minnesota are indicated on an undated map by Benjamin Baker. The location occupied by the Fifth United States Infantry under Colonel Leavenworth on the St. Peter's or Minnesota River is shown on a map of 1820.

A letter written by Governor Alexander Ramsey to a friend in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and printed in the *New York Daily Tribune* of July 29, 1850, has been copied for the society by Miss Harriet

L. Fisher of Boston. In it Ramsey tells in detail of a canoe trip to the headwaters of the Mississippi in 1850 to select a site for a Chipewewa Indian agency. Of the water route from Lake Superior to the Mississippi by way of Sandy Lake, Ramsey writes: "When Congress awakes from its shameful indifference, and by a ship canal around the falls of St. Mary shall open to the keels of the lower lake steamships the wide-spread waters of the great lakes, I have no doubt this Sandy Lake route will continue to be a leading line of trade and travel to the Mississippi. But woe then to the bark canoe and the French *voyageur*. The 'conquering arm of steam' will probably sweep them both from the track."

Scores of sketches, water colors, oil paintings, diagrams, manuscripts, and other items from the collection of Robert Ormsby Sweeny, a well-known St. Paul pioneer, have been presented by his son, Mr. Robert Ormsby Sweeny of South St. Paul. They form an imposing memorial to this versatile pioneer druggist, artist, humorist, and naturalist, who served as president of the Minnesota Historical Society in 1875-76. One of the most valuable items in the collection is a notebook of pen and ink sketches of St. Paul buildings, most of which were drawn shortly after Sweeny arrived in Minnesota from Pennsylvania in 1852. His oil painting of the Chapel of St. Paul, from which Minnesota's capital city received its name, is dated 1852. Other series of sketches picture Indian dances and costumes, archaeological specimens from the district near Mound, Indian artifacts of copper and stone, Minnesota mushrooms, wild flowers of the region, and views of the St. Croix Valley and of the south shore of Lake Superior in the middle 1850's. The artist was particularly fond of Red River half-breeds, their oxen, their carts, and their encampments. Two particularly charming water colors show the interior and the exterior of a "state-of-Maine" logging camp in Minnesota. Sketches of Carver's Cave include its measurements. The collection includes two Indian legends which were recorded and copiously illustrated by Sweeny. Numerous humorous sketches reveal his talent for caricature. Minnesota birds and fish are pictured in two series of photographs. Sweeny was particularly interested in fish, for he founded the state fish hatchery system and he served as Minnesota's first fish commissioner. An unusual item received with the collection is an ornamental powder horn of glass, allegedly made in the East of Minnesota sand sometime in the 1850's.

A certificate of membership in the Minnesota Historical Society issued to William H. Forbes on February 7, 1853, is included in a group of manuscripts recently added to his papers by his granddaughter, Mrs. Elizabeth G. Patterson of Cooperstown, New York. Other items in the gift are deeds to land in St. Paul in the 1850's and certificates of Forbes's elections to the Minnesota territorial legislature in 1849 and as auditor of Ramsey County in 1862.

The student of horticulture in the frontier West will find a wealth of material in the diaries and accounts of Andrew Peterson, a Waconia pioneer, recently presented by his family through the courtesy of Mr. Joseph Ball of St. Paul and Professor William H. Alderman of the University of Minnesota college of agriculture. These records, which fill ten volumes and cover the years from 1854 to 1898, were kept in Swedish. Most of them have been translated, however, by Miss Emma M. Ahlquist while engaged in a WPA project, and a copy of her translation is included in the gift. In the diary for 1855, the earliest to be translated, Peterson tells of traveling from Iowa to Minnesota by steamboat, of settling in Carver County, of constructing a log cabin home, and of planting the apple seedlings that marked the beginning of his horticultural activity in Minnesota. In the years that followed Peterson became known as an authority on fruit culture, and visitors frequently went to his farm to inspect his grape vines, fruit trees, and raspberry, currant, and strawberry patches. Typical of a later diary is an entry for April 19, 1884: "The . . . boys grubbed out apple trees in the north orchard, then they dug holes for and I planted Lombardy poplars and four plum trees . . . then I planted . . . Russian apple seed. Today we finished making this year's maple syrup. We have made 70 gallons of syrup."

Fourteen volumes of diaries and accounts kept in shorthand by the Reverend Eugene K. Smith of Independence from 1862 to 1895 have been presented by Mrs. Sheldon Smith of Minneapolis. Smith served for many years as a minister of the Advent Christian Church in the Hennepin County township, and he was also a teacher of shorthand. A few notes in longhand indicate that records of weather and temperatures are included in the diaries.

Seventy "America letters," found and copied in Norway by Mr. Arne Odd Johnsen of Lysaker, Norway, have been added to the

large collection of such letters already in the possession of the society (see *ante*, 19: 97, 210). Many of them were written during the years from 1865 to 1931 to Erling Baekkestad, a schoolteacher, by former pupils, friends, and relatives who emigrated to Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Dakotas, and who tell of farm life in the West, describe their new surroundings, and compare conditions in Norway and America. Twenty-three of these letters were written between 1899 and 1930 by Laurits S. Swenson of Minneapolis, who served at various times as American minister to Denmark, Switzerland, and Norway.

In a letter to Jay Cooke, dated November 24, 1869, Joseph R. Brown describes his steam wagon and asserts that it is capable of pulling twenty tons in cars over the Minnesota prairies. This letter is among some fifty items from the Cooke Papers that have been copied on film slides for the society from the originals in the possession of the Pennsylvania Historical Society. Brown asks Cooke to advance twelve hundred dollars for the improvement of the steam wagon, which he wishes to use between the "Bois des Sioux river (the terminus of the St. Paul and Pacific railroad) and Fort Garry in the Winnipeg territory." Among the writers of other letters copied are William Windom, Ignatius Donnelly, William R. Marshall, and James W. Taylor; they touch upon such subjects as railroad expansion in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Canada, and the industrial development of Duluth.

Many details of the history of Methodism in Minnesota from 1870 to 1900 are to be found in the quarterly conference record book of the Hamilton circuit, Winona district, of the Methodist Episcopal church, which has been presented by the Minnesota Historical Records Survey. It reveals, for example, that in three months in 1878 one church paid \$147.39 in salaries to its preacher and presiding elder. The volume includes records of meetings at Hamilton, Washington, Spring Valley, Pleasant Hill, and High Forest.

Fifteen volumes recently added to the records of the Minnesota diocese of the Protestant Episcopal church by Dr. Francis L. Palmer of St. Paul include material relating to missionary activities in Minnesota from 1870 to 1920 and expense accounts of the diocese and of the Breck Missionary Society of the Seabury Divinity School. There

is also a record book kept by the diocesan registrar in which he gives statistics on communicants, baptisms, marriages, burials, Sunday schools, and confirmants for all Episcopal churches in Minnesota from 1858 to 1876.

Expenses averaging \$230.00 a month are recorded in a household account book for 1877, kept by Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Gardner at Englewood, New Jersey, and presented by their daughter, Miss Mabel Gardner of Minneapolis. Mrs. Gardner was a daughter of William G. LeDuc, a well-known Minnesota pioneer. The volume lists salaries of servants, "Mary, the Cook," and "Carrie, the Nurse—Dark or Negro," who received twelve and ten dollars a month, respectively; "Sundries," such as " $\frac{1}{2}$ Doz. lamp chimneys," a feather duster, "Lumber for Chicken coop," and "3 china eggs"; and money paid by Mrs. Gardner for other bills and accounts.

The Misses Frances and Margaret Densmore of Red Wing have presented a number of items of military equipment that were used by their father, Captain Benjamin Densmore, while serving as an officer in the Civil War. These include a sabre, the shoulder straps of a captain's uniform, a hat cord, and a dress sash. They have presented also Captain Densmore's rubber poncho, his white gloves, buttons from his uniform, and his sewing kit. To the society's Indian collection the Misses Densmore have added parfleche boxes and packets of Sioux workmanship, various examples of Indian beadwork, including a knife sheath, and other articles.

A khaki uniform, a cartridge belt, batons, and other items used by Arthur W. Riches of Hastings while serving as principal musician with the Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry in the Philippines have been presented by Mrs. Riches. Included in the gift are two photographs of members of the band of the Thirteenth Minnesota. Another interesting addition to the military collection is a Philippine flag from the battle of Malabon, presented by Miss Theresa Ericksen of Minneapolis.

Daguerreotypes of members of the Hutchinson family and dress accessories, jewelry, and silver that once belonged to these famous musicians have been received from Mr. Oliver D. Hutchinson of Rugby, North Dakota, and Mrs. Fred Fournie of Savage.

Recent additions to the costume collection include a ball gown worn about 1850, from Mrs. Charles A. Clark of St. Paul; a plaid dress dating from 1827, from Mrs. Carrie Berge of Hendricks; dresses, hats, and other items, from Miss Alice Le Duc and Miss Mabel Gardner of Minneapolis; and embroidered lingerie from a trousseau of 1885, from Mrs. Sophia H. Glidden of Leonia, New Jersey.

A series of views of the upper Mississippi has been presented by the St. Paul office of United States engineers through the courtesy of Captain J. W. Moreland. A collection of postcards representing early Minnesota scenes is the gift of Miss Edna L. Moffatt of Minneapolis. Mr. Henry C. Capser of St. Paul has presented a photograph of an oil painting of the stockade at Sauk Centre in 1864. The society has recently received portraits of Captain Emil Munch, from Mrs. William Buechner of St. Paul; of J. B. Overton, from Mrs. George B. Overton of St. Paul; and of Bishop Mahlon T. Gilbert, from the Reverend Francis L. Palmer of St. Paul.

In order to keep genealogists informed about new accessions in the field of American family and local history, recently acquired books and pamphlets relating to the subject will be listed in each issue of this magazine. Items received during the last three months of 1939 are included in the following list. Among the local histories are: Mary H. Griswold, *Yester-years of Guilford* (Guilford, Connecticut, 1938. 165 p.); Robert F. Seybolt, *The Town Officials of Colonial Boston, 1634-1775* (Cambridge, 1939. 416 p.); Marjoria N. Beavis, *Inscriptions in Bell Branch and Mount Hazel Cemeteries, Redford Township, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan* (Detroit, 1939. 78 p.); Harry B. Yoshpe, *The Disposition of Loyalist Estates in the Southern District of the State of New York* (New York, 1939. 226 p.); Minnie S. Puett, *History of Gaston County, North Carolina* (Charlotte, North Carolina, 1939. 218 p.); George H. Smathers, *The History of Land Titles in Western North Carolina* (Asheville, 1938. 148 p.); and Janie Revill, *A Compilation of the Original Lists of Protestant Immigrants to South Carolina, 1763-1773* (Columbia, South Carolina, 1939. 163 p.).

Among recently published family histories received during the fall quarter are: Ruth Lindenberger, *Beard Family History and Genealogy* (1939. 121 p.); Sarah E. Temple, *Our Campbell Ancestors*

(Burbank, California, 1939. 225 p.); George N. Comly, *The Comly Family in America, Descendants of Henry and Joan Comly* (Philadelphia, 1939. 1148 p.); Amy M. Bowen, *The Descendants of John Conard of Loudoun County, Virginia* (1939. 91 p.); Kathryn de Monbreun Whitefort, *Genealogy and History of Jacques Timothe Boucher Sieur de Monbreun and His Ancestors and Descendants* (Ann Arbor, 1939. 40 p.); Edward Fitch, *The Descendants of Seymour Fitch and Elizabeth Hoyt of New Canaan, Connecticut* (Clinton, New York, 1939. 105 p.); Eva T. Clark, *Gill: Abstracts from Records in Southern States* (New York, 1939. 196 p.); Josephine C. Frost, *Ancestors of Evelyn Wood Keeler, Wife of Willard Underhill Taylor* (1939. 630 p.); Merville K. Hobbs, *John and Sarah Bradbury Coons and Their Descendants* (1939. 160 p.); Emojene D. Champine, *Jaques LeRoux, the French Huguenot and Some of His Descendants, LeRoux, Laroe, LaRue* (Minneapolis, 1939. 100 p.); Fitzhugh Lee, *The Strickland Family of Georgia* (Covington, Georgia, 1939. 11 p.); Roscoe R. White, *White Family Records, Descendants of Peregrine White, Son of William and Susanna (Fuller) White, 1620-1939* (1939. 262 p.); and John R. Wilbor, *The Wildbores in America*, volume 3 (Baltimore, 1939. 287 p.).

Among genealogies published in 1938 and recently received are: L. Effingham DeForest, *Moore and Allied Families, the Ancestry of William Henry Moore* (New York, 1938. 744 p.); Amelia P. Sutherland, *Pioneer Popes, a History of the Plymouth Popes* (170 p.); Harry W. Newman, *The Lucketts of Portobacco* (Washington, 1938. 108 p.); Chester L. Jones, *Youngest Son* (Madison, Wisconsin, 1938. 111 p.); John E. Breese, *Hover Family, Descendants of Manuel Hover* (Lima, Ohio, 1938. 11 p.); Alta K. Allen, *Abraham Guseman Descendants* (Ann Arbor, 1938. 46 p.); Ruth M. Gray, *Nathaniel Bean Family* (30 p.); and Sarah Sparrow, *Genealogy of the Sparrow Family, 1623-1871* (Boston, 1938. 14 p.). The last item, originally published in 1888 and long out of print, was reprinted by Goodspeed's Book Shop.

Other recent additions to the genealogy collection include: Walter L. Biddle, *Col. Clement Biddle, with a Genealogy of the Biddle Family* (Philadelphia, 1883. 16 p.); Eugene A. Byous, *Record of Ancestors and Descendants of Adam Dittmore, 1799-1874 and Henry Dittmore, 1813-1884* (1937. 52 p.); Charles E. Fowler,

The Fowler Family of Maryland and Ohio (1937. 87 p.); Pope McAdams, *Some Ancestors of Eugene Perrot McAdams and Mary Elizabeth Pope McAdams of Hawesville, Kentucky* (Shively, Kentucky, 1936. 283 p.); Janie Revill, *Abstract of Moore Records of South Carolina, 1694-1865* (Columbia, South Carolina, 1931. 46 p.); LaVerne W. Noyes, *Descendants of Reverend William Noyes, Born, England, 1568* (Chicago, 1900. 115 p.); and William A. Beardsley, *Notes on Some Warwicks of Virginia* (1937. 19 p.).

NEWS AND COMMENT

"THE STATUS OF Historical Bibliography in the United States" is discussed by Solon J. Buck in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* for October. Dr. Buck evaluates such works as Sabin's *Bibliotheca Americana*, and the various indexes, union lists, check lists, and catalogues that are now being assembled and published as co-operative projects. He also makes it clear that not only has the "bibliographical apparatus for making known the existence and the location of the sources and literature of American history" been rapidly expanded, but the "utility of bibliographies has been enlarged by the development of the cheap microfilm process of reproducing printed and manuscript material and the production of satisfactory inexpensive reading machines."

A Guide for Courses in the History of American Agriculture by Everett E. Edwards has been issued by the library of the United States department of agriculture as number 35 of its *Bibliographical Contributions* (1939. vii, 192 p.). Among the scores of topics for which Mr. Edwards provides useful references are "Indigenous and Foreign Contributions" to agriculture, such as those of the Indians, the Germans, and the Scandinavians; "Policies concerning the Public Domain, 1776-1862"; "Transportation and Markets"; "Agrarian Settlement since 1850"; "Farm Implements and Machinery"; "Agriculture by Regions and Commodities," with considerations of the corn, wheat, and dairying regions; "Farmers and Political Activity" in the Granger movement, the Farmers' Alliance, the Non-partisan League, and the like; and "Agencies Promoting Agriculture," such as agricultural societies, fairs, periodicals, and schools. Mr. Edwards has also prepared recently a new and revised edition of his *References on the Significance of the Frontier in American History*, which appears as number 25 of the *Bibliographical Contributions* (1939. v, 99 p.). Since the first edition of this bibliography, which is reviewed *ante*, 17:198, was issued in 1935, some thirty-six pages of references have been added.

Twenty-three articles by James W. Curran, originally published in the *Sault Daily Star* of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, from August 13,

1938, to February 28, 1939 (see *ante*, 20:85), are reprinted in Mr. Curran's book entitled *Here Was Vinland: The Great Lakes Region of America* (1939. 359 p.). The first half of the volume is given over to twenty "documents"—discussions by the author of such problems as "Where Norse Relics Have Been Found," "How Hudson Bay Fits the Sagas," "Were Norsemen the 'Prehistoric Indians'?", "Are Indian Axes Based on Norse?", and "Did the Norsemen Find the Mandans?" The author includes a list (p. 30-34) of "actual and possible Norse relics known," and he names seven points in Minnesota at which such relics were found. Most important among these is, of course, the rune stone found at Kensington in 1898. Mr. Curran suggests that it would be a "good idea for all the owners of Norse relics found in the Great Lakes area to bring them all to a central point in the summer of 1940 . . . and invite the experts from all countries to come and give their views on them."

The Falls of St. Anthony and other sites in the Minnesota country are mentioned in two "Tonti Letters" written by the French explorer on February 28 and March 7, 1700, which are printed in translation in the issue of *Mid-America* for July, 1939. "From the mouth of the Oyo to the Falls of St. Anthony, the river is banked by hillocks, there are stones, woods," writes Tonty in describing the upper Mississippi. He notes that "on the right [of the Mississippi going up] is Omissconsin (Ouisconsin) [Wisconsin], 240 leagues," and that on the left is the river "St. Pierre [Minnesota], which the French have ascended more than 200 leagues." Tonty points an accusing finger at the Recollect friar who twenty years earlier discovered the Falls of St. Anthony. "I do not know how Father Louis Hennepin had the boldness to lie so impudently in his relation," writes Tonty. "He was insupportable to the late M. de La Salle and all of M. de La Salle's men. He sent him to the Sioux as to get rid of him. He was taken [prisoner] on the way by these Indians with Michel Aco [Ac-cault] and Pierre Dugué [Auguelle]. Afterwards the three of them were freed from servitude by M. Dulude [Duluth], who was passing through that country, and brought back by him to Canada. How can a man have the front to write that he went down to the sea?" Tonty adds that "Aco who is married in the Illinois country and who is still alive is able to prove the contrary."

The papers of "George Johnston, Indian Interpreter," are described and evaluated by Alice B. Clapp in an article in the autumn number of the *Michigan Magazine of History*. The account is based on a collection of Johnston's letters and other papers recently acquired by the Carnegie Public Library at Sault Ste. Marie, with which Miss Clapp is connected. That these papers must have interest and value for students of Minnesota history is evident, for Johnston's correspondents included such important frontier figures as Dr. Edward Purcell, Henry R. Schoolcraft, Lewis Cass, Ramsay Crooks, and Major Lawrence Taliaferro. Extracts from a number of the letters are quoted in the article. Some material is drawn also from Johnston's manuscript reminiscences, in which he tells of expeditions into the Minnesota country with Cass and Schoolcraft. He was with the latter, who was his brother-in-law, when Lake Itasca was discovered in 1832.

Les engagés du Grand Portage, by Léo-Paul Desrosiers (Paris, 1938. 209 p.), is an interesting and well-written novel that takes its name from the great fur trade factory at Grand Portage on Lake Superior. The author has so immersed himself in the details of the trade that he writes with nonchalant accuracy of technical matters that must have taken him months, if not years, to master. The novel, as a story, is less satisfactory, though always interesting. It is redolent of intrigue and graft. Even fur traders, however, could hardly have been such callous monsters as a few characters in this book are made to be.
G. L. N.

Extracts from diaries and journals which describe the methods used in "Building the Big Canoes" of the fur trade are quoted by F. W. Howay in the December issue of the *Beaver*. On the building of the *canot de maitre*, commonly used on the Great Lakes, the diary of Nicholas Garry for 1821 is cited; an account of the construction of a "North canoe," usually used west of Lake Superior, is drawn from the manuscript journal of Lieutenant Robert Hood for May, 1820. Excellent pictures of various types of canoes illustrate the article.

"Grangers, Populists, Progressives, Nonpartisan Leaguers, and Farmer-Laborites have all been so vigorously aggressive and so vocal that they can be lightly dismissed no more by the historian than by the practical politician," writes Benton H. Wilcox in an article entitled

"An Historical Definition of Northwestern Radicalism," which appears in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for December. He contends that the "real basis of this radicalism is not to be found in frontier conditions, nor in recurrent drouth, but in the economic revolution which transformed agriculture from a self-sufficing into a commercial, highly specialized, capitalistic form of business enterprise." The writer gives emphasis to the "influence of the crop systems, with their attendant problems and advantages." In Minnesota, during the Populist era, according to Mr. Wilcox, there was a "distinct cleavage between that part of the state where dairying had developed and the western counties which were predominantly given over to wheat production." Later, in the days of the Nonpartisan League, Minnesota still "was divided into a western wheat section and a southeastern dairying region." The league, however, "was never able to secure a real foothold, either as an organization or as a program, outside the hard spring wheat region tributary to the Twin Cities." The examples he cites, Mr. Wilcox believes, "are sufficient to depict the western radicals . . . as ordinary business men, slightly over-individualistic perhaps, seeking to correct injustices in the marketing and credit systems, trying to cut down fixed charges which threatened to devour their margin of profit, and endeavoring to build up the wealth of the community of which they were citizens."

The career of a French artist who made a substantial contribution to the pictorial record of the frontier West—Charles Alexandre Lesueur—is the subject of an interesting article by R. W. G. Vail in the *Proceedings* of the American Antiquarian Society for 1938. Under the title "The American Sketchbooks of a French Naturalist, 1816–1837: A Description of the Charles Alexandre Lesueur Collection, with a Brief Account of the Artist," Mr. Vail reviews the life of this painter-naturalist, and lists and describes more than eight hundred of his American sketches. Lesueur's sojourn in America included a period of residence, from 1826 to 1837, in the New Harmony colony, where he produced most of his western pictures. A number of leisurely journeys down the Mississippi to New Orleans gave the artist "ample opportunity to record the pioneer life of the region." A few years after his return to France, in 1845, Lesueur was named director of a newly established museum of natural history at Havre, and there thousands of his drawings, sketches, and water colors have been pre-

served. Dr. and Mrs. Homer Gage of Worcester had 803 of them photographed and presented a set of prints to the American Antiquarian Society. From these photographs Mr. Vail has compiled the valuable descriptive catalogue that follows his article.

Alex Hesler, Joel E. Whitney, and B. F. Upton are among the pioneer photographers of the Minnesota frontier who are mentioned by Robert Taft in his volume on *Photography and the American Scene: A Social History, 1839-1889* (New York, 1938). Of interest to Minnesotans also is information presented in this volume on Henry H. Snelling, a son of the pioneer commandant of Fort Snelling; on the use of the daguerreotype camera by J. M. Stanley, the artist for the Stevens expedition of 1853; on the photographs of the Fisk expedition of 1866 that were made by "Messrs. Bill and Illingsworth of St. Paul"; and on Frank J. Haynes of St. Paul, the official photographer of Yellowstone National Park. Professor Taft makes the interesting suggestion "that local historians would find a fertile field of research" in locating and preserving early photographs of their communities and "in preparing brief photographic histories of their localities."

A new edition of Dr. Jesse S. Myer's *Life and Letters of Dr. William Beaumont* (St. Louis, 1939) is evidence of the continuing interest in the frontier physician whose *Experiments and Observations on the Gastric Juice*, published in 1833, revolutionized the study of medicine. The part played by Ramsay Crooks and some of his associates in the American Fur Company in making possible the experiments conducted by Beaumont at Mackinac and Prairie du Chien is brought out by this writer. Among the documents of value for Northwest history quoted in the volume is Beaumont's report on an outbreak of malaria at Prairie du Chien in 1830.

From the famous Crockett almanacs, at their peak of popularity in the 1840's but now very rare, Mr. Richard M. Dorson makes available to the present generation of readers more than a hundred items, in a handsome volume entitled *Davy Crockett: American Comic Legend* (New York, 1939). It was recently chosen by the American Institute of Graphic Arts as one of the fifty books of the year. Here are amusing and appalling examples of the violent rant, extravagant humor, and prodigious deeds of the ring-tailed roarers of the Great

Valley. Most earth-shaking, of course, are the feats of Davy himself: his infant outrages; his hide-ripping, eye-gouging, epic encounters with panthers, grizzlies, and alligators, Yankees, Pukes, and Mexicans; his ascent of Niagara Falls and his travels on a streak of lightning; and, in gentler moments, his experiments in bundling, treeing a ghost, and boiling Indians. Mr. Dorson does not discuss the problem which will rise in the mind of many readers: How far is this volume a transcript of the authentic mythology of the American folk themselves and how far a record of the inventive faculties of almanac makers?

TREMAINE McDOWELL

A mid-western literary figure of the post-Civil War era, "Joseph Kirkland, Pioneer Realist," is the subject of an article by John T. Flanagan in the November issue of *American Literature*. Kirkland is described as "one of Chicago's earliest literary men."

The Pacific Railroad survey of 1853 is discussed by its leader in several "Letters of Governor Isaac I. Stevens, 1853-1854," which appear in the "Notes and Documents" section of the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* for July, 1939. The letters, which are published in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of statehood in Washington, are from the large collection of Stevens Papers presented to the library of Washington University in 1934 by Mrs. Kate Stevens Bates, the governor's daughter. Among them is one written on the steamboat "Nominee" on May 26, 1856, when Stevens was on the way from St. Louis to St. Paul, and another from a camp near Sauk Rapids, dated June 10, just a few days after the party had left its camp near Fort Snelling. The latter, in which Stevens gives his famous description of Pierre Bottineau, has been published also in Hazard Stevens' biography of his father. The difficulties of the journey to the coast are recalled by Stevens in a letter written from Olympia on February 11, 1854, in which he speaks of "stormy weather, heavy roads, unbroken animals."

In a volume on *Railroads and Rivers: The Story of Inland Transportation* (Boston, 1939), William H. Clark disposes in fifteen pages of the three great systems that connect the Northwest with the Pacific coast—the Great Northern, the Northern Pacific, and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul. The author not only outlines the stories of

these railroads, but he portrays some of the men who made them possible, such as Jay Cooke, Henry Villard, and James J. Hill.

A permanent record of the ceremonies by which the Hoover Medal was awarded to John F. Stevens on January 18, 1939, is contained in a little book entitled *John Frank Stevens, Third Hoover Medalist* (22 p.). Included is an address by Ralph Budd, in which he reviews the career of the distinguished engineer of the Panama Canal. Notice is given also to Mr. Stevens' earlier services as a railroad builder and his discovery of "Marias Pass in the Rocky Mountains, through which James J. Hill built the Great Northern Railway." Hill figures also, with Norman W. Kittson and other Minnesotans, in a brief survey of the *Romance of Railroad Finance*, by John W. Barriger, III (24 p.). It makes available in published form the text of an address presented at Philadelphia on February 7, 1939, under the auspices of the American branch of the Newcomen Society.

Brief biographical sketches and portraits of "Survivors from Minnesota and the Northwest" who were members of the famous *Lost Battalion* in the World War are presented by Carl J. Peterson in a recently published pamphlet (Hayfield, Minnesota, 1939). The writer includes information about more than fifty Middle Westerners who were "surrounded in the 'pocket' in the Argonne woods in France from Oct. 2 to Oct. 8, 1918."

"Ueber die mittelbare karthographische Erfassung der jüngeren deutschen Volksinseln in den Vereinigten Staaten" ("Notes in Connection with Maps Showing the Proportionate Distribution of the More Recent Population Groups in the United States") is the title of an article by Heinz Kloss in the issue of the *Archiv für Landes- u. Volksforschung* of Leipzig, Germany, for July, 1939. Accompanying maps show the percentage of German rural and farm population for the Middle Western states and for Texas and Oklahoma. The author points out that the use of dots on maps to indicate the absolute number of settlers of different nationalities at a given time has a disadvantage, for they do not show whether the settlers constituted a large or small proportion of the total population in a given district. The author uses data from the thirteenth census of the United States, taken in 1910. On the first map he shows that Minnesota in that year had two counties, McLeod and Brown, where the Germans con-

stituted more than 35 per cent of the rural or farm population. In the Middle West, these percentages were either equaled or surpassed by eleven counties in Wisconsin, by Scott County in Iowa, and by Cuming County in Nebraska. Wabasha, Winona, Waseca, Martin, Scott, Sibley, Morrison, Benton, and Stearns counties had German populations ranging from 25 to 34.9 per cent. None of the counties south of the Minnesota River, with the exception of Freeborn and Fillmore, had less than ten per cent of Germans. According to a table on the back of the map, Winona was the Minnesota city with the largest German percentage, 39.8 per cent; St. Cloud, with 25.4 per cent, ranked second; and Mankato, with 24.4 per cent, third. The author discusses the term "native-born of native parentage" and the desirability of intensive studies for smaller areas that resort to the information contained in the manuscript censuses for the township units. The article offers many suggestions for studies in the field of German-American history. Its chief value for students of Minnesota history lies in the map of the Middle West, since no map showing a proportionate distribution of German settlers in American states has hitherto been available. Possible language difficulties will not impair the value of these maps for American readers.

HILDEGARD BINDER JOHNSON

An impressionistic treatment of the "peoples who settled the Americas" is presented by Emil L. Jordan in a volume entitled *Americans* (New York, 1939). In a chapter on "The Scandinavian," such immigrant leaders as Cleng Peerson, Eric Jansen, and Ole Bull are sketched; and the contributions to American life of Governor John A. Johnson of Minnesota, Thorstein Veblen, and Charles A. Lindbergh are mentioned.

The Mississippi Valley Press, recently organized at Oxford, Ohio, "to publish volumes pertaining to cultural and political history," has announced the first two volumes in its *Men of America* series. They are Philip D. Jordan's *William Salter: Western Torchbearer* and Charles H. Thomas' *Thomas Riley Marshall, Hoosier Statesman*.

The first installment of a narrative by Captain J. M. Turner dealing with "Rafting on the Mississippi" from 1853 to 1903 appears in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for December. It opens with an account of the writer's experiences as cabin boy on the "City Belle,"

which "occasionally made a trip to St. Paul." The sinking of this boat in 1856 is vividly described. After this disaster Turner was employed by Baptiste La France, a raft pilot on the Chippewa River.

A series of interesting and informing articles, in recent issues of the *Grand Forks Herald*, commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of North Dakota's admission to the Union (see *ante*, 20:444). The settlement in North Dakota of westward-moving Minnesotans is noted in an account of the early history of Traill County, published on November 13, which calls attention to the fact that many of these pioneers arrived in covered wagons. "The first real party of settlers came to Grand Forks in the spring of 1871 from Henderson, Minn., under the direction of Captain Alexander Griggs," according to an article in the issue for November 15. Boom towns of Walsh County, many of which do not appear on modern maps, and the exploration by such figures as the La Vérendryes and Alexander Henry of the area now embraced in Bottineau County are discussed in articles published on November 17 and 20. Accounts of the frontier stage lines of the 1870's and of the beginnings of aviation at Grand Forks appear in the issues for November 19 and 21. Agriculture at old Fort Totten on Devils Lake, where each of three companies of soldiers had its own garden, and ranching in Pierce County are the subjects of sketches appearing on December 12 and 14. Among the many excellent illustrations that accompany these articles are pictures of a store opened at Grand Forks in 1873 by the Hudson's Bay Company, November 15; of a sod house, November 17; of a stagecoach and other horse-drawn vehicles at Grand Forks, November 19; and of old Fort Totten, December 12.

Robert Dickson, Hazen Mooers, Joseph N. Nicollet, Martin McLeod, Norman W. Kittson, Joseph R. Brown, Joseph Renville, Henry H. Sibley, Stephen R. Riggs, Louis Robert—these are among the characters from Minnesota's frontier history who figure in a recently published volume of *Historical Stories, Legends and Traditions, Roberts County and Northeastern South Dakota* by H. S. Morris (1939. 149 p.). The book has been issued by the *Sisseton Courier* to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the admission to statehood of South Dakota. It contains some ninety miscellaneous sketches of individuals and events of varying significance. Much of the material included relates to the region in the vicinity of Lake Traverse.

Tales of both the Canadian and American border country of the Niagara frontier are included in a little volume by Emma Gibbons entitled *Someone Has Been Here before You* (Buffalo, New York, 1939. 134 p.). La Salle and Hennepin are among the French explorers who figure in the narrative. The book is designed for use by children in the grades.

Native and modern methods of harvesting and preparing wild rice are described in an article by Trevor Lloyd on "Wild Rice in Canada," which appears in the *Canadian Geographical Journal* for November. The activities of the Chippewa at Lac du Bois near Winnipeg receive special attention. Some excellent pictures of the rice harvest accompany the article.

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

The discovery in 1935 in West Union Township, Todd County, of a primitive skeleton known as the Sauk Valley man is the subject of two articles in the *Bulletin* of the Texas Archeological and Paleontological Society for September, 1938. The first, on the "Discovery of Sauk Valley Man of Minnesota, with an Account of the Geology," is contributed by Kirk Bryan, Henry Retzek, and Franklin T. McCann; the second, by Albert E. Jenks and Lloyd A. Wilford, deals with the "Sauk Valley Skeleton." The latter authors, both of whom are members of the department of anthropology in the University of Minnesota, include in their somewhat technical discussion a "Comparison of the Sauk Valley Skeleton with the Minnesota Man and the Browns Valley Skeletons" found in other parts of Minnesota. The authors of the first article make it clear that the Sauk Valley man is only one of the "discoveries of human remains made in Minnesota in the past few years" that promise to "lead to real knowledge of the Late Glacial and Post-glacial inhabitants of North America." Accounts of some of these finds appear in a "Review of Discoveries Indicating Pre-glacial Man in Minnesota" in the *Minnesota Archaeologist* for July, 1939.

During the closing months of 1939, the Minnesota Historical Records Survey issued volumes for three additional counties in its *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota* (see *ante*, 20:445). They contain detailed lists of archives preserved at Pipestone in Pipe-

stone County (no. 59—279 p.), at Elbow Lake in Grant County (no. 26—301 p.), and at Warren in Marshall County (no. 45—308 p.). As in earlier volumes, these inventories are preceded by historical sketches of the counties, accounts of government organization, and descriptions of the "Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records."

In a little book entitled *A Musician's Experiences*, Selma Pehrson describes her services to various Minnesota communities in the vicinity of Lindstrom as an itinerant teacher of piano (St. Paul, 1939. 84 p.). "To me the most interesting part of the book," writes Frances Boardman in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for December 24, "occurs in its first chapter, in which she describes the farm-background of her childhood and the deeply-rooted love of music that her parents brought with them from Sweden." The author includes recollections of carol singing at Christmas, and tells of her own first lessons in music.

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the medical school of the University of Minnesota was the occasion for special programs commemorating the event presented on the university campus on October 12, 13, and 14. Among the speakers on the opening program were Dean Harold S. Diehl of the medical school, Governor Harold E. Stassen, President Guy Stanton Ford, and Dr. Anton J. Carlson of the University of Chicago. Several of the addresses delivered on this and other occasions during the celebration and reflecting much of the history of the medical school appear in a special "Medical School Number" of the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* issued on January 27. The history of the school is reviewed by Dr. Maurice B. Visscher in the *Journal Lancet* for November.

The "History of Medicine in Minnesota," which has been appearing in installments in *Minnesota Medicine* since early in 1938, is continued by Dr. A. S. Hamilton in the November and December numbers. He contributes to this state-wide survey a review of the "History of Medicine in Hennepin County," a narrative that he opens with an account of the arrival at Fort Snelling in 1819 of Dr. Edward Purcell. Among the pioneer physicians whose careers are described are Dr. Ira Kingsley, Dr. John H. Murphy, Dr. A. E. Ames, Dr. Charles L. Anderson, and Dr. A. E. Johnson. In the December installment, Dr. Hamilton discusses the early years of the

Hennepin County Medical Society. Mention should be made also of a study by Dr. John L. Rothrock of "Pregnancy and Childbirth among the North American Indians," appearing in the November issue of *Minnesota Medicine*. The author has drawn to a large extent upon narratives of explorers and students of Indian life in the Northwest.

A detailed "History of the Diocese of Winona" appears in installments in the *Caledonia Journal* from November 2 to December 14. The opening section goes back to the very beginnings of "The Church in the Northwest," with accounts of such exploring priests as Father Hennepin. Mention is made also of the mission of Father Guignas on Lake Pepin, and of the later activities in the Northwest of Father Baraga, Father Pierz, Bishop Loras, Father Galtier, Father Ravoux, and others. The organization of the diocese of St. Paul is sketched before the beginning of Catholic activity at Wabasha is considered. By the end of the 1850's, according to this account, there were resident pastors and small churches at Mankato, Winona, and Wabasha, and churches were under construction at Brownsville and Caledonia. Not only churches and priests, but Catholic colonies, convents, schools, and the like are described for the decades that followed. The narrative covers the territory embraced by the diocese of Winona, which was established in 1889.

A study of Finnish settlement in Minnesota, recently made under WPA auspices, reveals that the first Finns to reach this state settled at Red Wing in 1864, according to an article in the *Red Wing Daily Republican* for December 22. Later settlements in Renville, Wright, and Douglas counties, and in the iron mining area of northeastern Minnesota also are described.

"When the Mesabi was opened up in 1892," writes Jack Alexander in the *Saturday Evening Post* of December 23, "all the ingredients for a great national steel industry were ready. The age of steel was just getting under way. The United States was ready to take the lead, and did." In an article entitled "Iron Floats to Market," Mr. Alexander evaluates the role of the Minnesota ranges in the development of the national steel industry. The Mesabi Range he describes as the "Paul Bunyan of iron ranges. In the forty-seven years since its discovery," he continues, "it has given up more than a billion

tons of ore. Annually, it accounts for two thirds of the ore taken from the Lake Superior region. . . . And Lake Superior ore makes up 85 per cent of all that America produces." Among range towns, special attention is given to Hibbing, and the story of its removal to a new site in 1918 is retold. Excellent views, in color, of open pit mines, ore boats, blast furnaces, and the like illustrate the article.

The beginnings in the little Minnesota railroad village of North Redwood of the mail-order business that developed into the firm of Sears, Roebuck and Company are recalled in an article in the *Mankato Free Press* for November 22. The story of Richard W. Sears, station agent at North Redwood in 1886, and the scheme by which he disposed of a shipment of watches by mail is here retold. He soon found that he had hit upon a "powerful merchandising idea," and he removed to Minneapolis, where he "founded his first mail order house." The later development of the business in Chicago also is reviewed in this article.

That the "first cooperative oil association in the United States was the Cottonwood Cooperative Oil company of Cottonwood, Minnesota," organized in 1921, was brought out by Andrew Jensen in a recent address before the Farmer-Cooperative-Labor Council meeting at Blue Earth. The speaker told also of a similar association organized at Albert Lea in 1925, and he traced the later development of the co-operative idea in Minnesota. His address is published in the *Minneapolis Labor Review* for December 1.

An autobiography that has the settings for its beginning and its end in Le Sueur County is Clinton Parks Lampman's *The Great Western Trail* (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1939. 280 p.). The opening chapter pictures the frontier settlement of Cleveland, where the author's father established a home in the 1850's and where Mr. Lampman was born just before the Sioux Outbreak of 1862. His memories of stories of the Indian war, of the village school, of events connected with the Northfield bank robbery, of Minnesota blizzards, and the like are woven into the narrative. Twelve chapters are devoted to the author's experiences on cattle drives in the West, but eventually he went "Home Again" to Cleveland, where in the early 1880's he re-entered the social and business life of the Minnesota village. Horse races, a trip to the World's Fair at Chicago as a mem-

ber of the Minnesota state militia, government mail contracts in the West, jury service in St. Paul, trips abroad, and the export advertising business are among the subjects touched upon.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The spacious rooms of a mansion of the 1870's form an appropriate setting for the museum collections of the Blue Earth County Historical Society at Mankato. Here is an example of an attractive and substantial residence, in itself a reminder of pioneer days and an object of no slight historical interest, which has been adapted to museum purposes and to the housing of a local historical society.

The structure now occupied by the Blue Earth County society was formerly the home of Rensselaer D. Hubbard, who settled in Mankato about 1870 and engaged in flour milling and the manufacture of linseed oil. He purchased the house at Broad and Warren streets shortly after his arrival in Mankato. It was occupied by members of his family long after his death, but eventually the house and the beautiful lot on which it stands were offered for sale. With a legacy of ten thousand dollars left by the late Judge Lorin Cray, the historical society purchased this property in the summer of 1938. At the same time, the Blue Earth County board set aside the sum of a thousand dollars for the maintenance of a museum, and the city of Mankato agreed to provide heat and light and to care for the grounds. By August, 1938, the Blue Earth County Historical Society had removed its collections from the basement of the city library to the Hubbard mansion, thereby not only obtaining an adequate home, but ensuring the preservation of one of Mankato's historic landmarks.

The house itself, with its tapestried walls, dark and heavy woodwork, elaborate fireplaces, and bizarre light fixtures, has been left much as it was when occupied by the Hubbard family. A few of the rooms have been somewhat scantily furnished with museum pieces, but most of the displays are arranged in wall or floor cases.

Two cases filled with silver, china, pewter, copper, snuff boxes, and various small items are in the parlor, to the right of the entrance hall. Many of these articles are from the antique collection of the late Gilbert Fletcher—a fitting memorial to a talented Mankato artist. Some of his pictures are hung in this room; notable among them are a number of woodcuts showing various types of fences constructed in

pioneer days. In a room to the left of the entrance are a number of cases in which are displayed large collections of firearms and items of military equipment. Indian hammers, arrowheads, pipes, beadwork, paint pots, pottery, and the like are exhibited both in this room and in the former dining room, into which it opens. Various types of Indian baskets are shown in still another room on the main floor, and in a small room at the rear, evidently once used as an office, is the extensive Frank O. Swain collection of arrowheads. This was originally part of a collection of some fourteen hundred Indian objects purchased by the society in 1932; it has been arranged and classified since the organization acquired its present quarters. A large numismatic collection is included among other displays on the main floor. Costumes, toys, an old-fashioned bedstead, and other objects illustrative of living conditions in frontier days are displayed in rooms on the second floor.

During the more than two decades that have passed since the Blue Earth County society was organized in 1916, it has acquired many large museum objects that could not be displayed in a former residence. These are exhibited in a pavilion in Sibley State Park. There are preserved many objects illustrative of transportation history — a primitive canoe, a stagecoach, a hack, a one-horse chaise that once belonged to Bishop Whipple, a buggy, two early types of automobiles, and some high-wheeled bicycles. Fire apparatus that dates from 1866 and a huge hand loom of the 1870's are among other large objects displayed. There, too, are to be seen numerous household and farm implements, an early typewriter, an old phonograph, and dozens of other objects that help to recreate for the visitor a picture of pioneer life. Unfortunately, the hundreds of articles in the pavilion are merely identified on the labels that accompany them; no indications are given of the periods to which they belong nor of the sources from which they were obtained.

Quite the contrary is true in the society's main museum, where each item is carefully identified and specifically labeled. For this fact, as well as for the satisfactory arrangement of the displays, much credit must go to the curator, Miss Margaret Gable. A former librarian, she has instituted a systematic method of keeping accessions records and of making inventories of the society's holdings. With the assistance of Mr. Harold Esser, she has made of the Blue Earth County

museum an orderly and attractive institution. They have given attention not only to museum objects, but to the care and arrangement of newspapers, photographs, and manuscripts. Some extensive newspaper files are arranged in a room on the second floor. Included are bound files of the *Mankato Free Press* from 1886 to 1923, the *Blue Earth County Enterprise* of Mapleton from 1907 to 1931, the *Mankato Weekly Review* from 1882 to 1919, and the *Public Spirit* of Mankato from 1882 to 1884. An effort is now being made to collect current issues of Blue Earth County newspapers. Photographs are arranged according to size, and portraits are filed alphabetically. Both photographs and manuscripts are kept in steel filing cases. Work on the society's manuscript holdings is in its infancy, but such arranging as has been done is of a systematic nature. Among the manuscripts owned by this society are the family papers of Sidney Soule and Benjamin Comstock, and a group of papers of John A. Willard, most of which relate to railroad construction.

The collections of the Blue Earth County museum are being extensively consulted by students of local history, many of whom come from classes in the Mankato State Teachers College. During its first year in its present quarters, the museum received nearly two thousand visitors who registered. Thousands more have viewed the exhibits in the pavilion at Sibley State Park, which is open at all hours during the summer. Many teachers and students, not only from Mankato, but from smaller communities in the county, have visited the main museum in groups. It is open every day except Sundays and holidays from 2:00 P. M. to 5:00 P. M. The building is available to organizations for meetings, and it is often opened in the evening for such groups. For helping to make such services possible, the community should be grateful to the city and county officials and to the officers of the society, especially its president, Mr. Horace W. Roberts.

B. L. H.

The history of Mapleton, which had its origin as a townsite of the 1850's, was traced by U. G. Argetsinger, a resident of the present village, in a paper read before a meeting of the Blue Earth County Historical Society at Mankato on November 7. The paper appears in installments in the *Mankato Free Press* from November 13 to 17, and it is published also, with illustrations, in the *Blue Earth County*

Enterprise of Mapleton for November 23. Recent activities of the society's museum are described in the same paper for November 21. Mr. Horace W. Roberts, the society's president, there announces that groups of pupils and teachers from Blue Earth County schools visited the museum every day in the week of November 13. It was necessary for the teachers to make appointments with the museum curator, in order to avoid crowding.

An X-ray machine used in New Ulm some forty years ago by Dr. J. C. Rothenburg is a recent addition to the medical collection in the museum of the Brown County Historical Society. An oil lamp of a type known as the Hitchcock lamp, recently presented by Mr. L. H. Nelson, is described in the *New Ulm Daily Journal* for December 4.

Mr. Joseph Geroy of Montevideo was elected president of the Chippewa County Historical Society at a meeting held at Montevideo on October 24. Other officers named at the same time include Mr. Frank Starbeck, vice-president; Miss Petra Storaker, recording secretary; Mrs. L. N. Pierce, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. John Simons, treasurer. Some of the guns in the Chippewa County society's museum are described in the *Montevideo American* for October 13. The account, which is occasioned by the hunting season, notes that many of the primitive guns in the society's collection date from the period when "hunting was a necessary activity for the welfare of any family." Joseph Renville's trading post near Lac qui Parle is the subject of an article by Edwina Gould of the Chippewa County historical museum, appearing in the *Watson Voice* for December 7 and 14. The numerous travelers and explorers who visited this early Minnesota trading post are mentioned by the writer, who makes an appeal for the erection of a marker on the site.

At the annual meeting of the Crow Wing County Historical Society, which was held at Brainerd on December 14, Mr. Carl J. Wright was elected president, Mrs. A. Murray, vice-president, Mrs. E. O. Webb, secretary, and Mrs. J. M. Hayes, treasurer.

"Introducing Minnesota" was the subject of an address presented by Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society, before a meeting of the Dakota County Historical and Archeological Society at South St. Paul on October 10.

At another meeting held on November 14, Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, superintendent of the state society, discussed "Pioneer Transportation." Plans for the restoration of the Donnelly house at Nininger were described by several members of the Donnelly Memorial Association, and the suggestion was made that the Dakota County society should obtain museum quarters in the house.

The Hennepin County Historical Society has been given the use of the entire second floor of the village hall at St. Louis Park for museum purposes. Among the many valuable items recently added to its extensive collections are a map of Minneapolis in 1857 by Orlando Talcott, a diary kept by Gideon H. Pond from 1837 to 1850, a copy of Stephen R. Riggs's *Grammar and Dictionary of the Dakota Language*, an account book kept at Excelsior in 1855, and photostatic copies of letters written from St. Anthony in 1856-58 by Francis Wilkinson and published in an English newspaper.

At the annual meeting of the Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society at Lake City on October 16, Mr. R. C. Bartlett was elected president, Mr. F. H. Kemp, vice-president, Mr. Emil Bohmbach, secretary, and Mr. M. L. Erickson, treasurer. Plans for a museum to be housed in the basement of the Lake City library are announced in the *Lake City Graphic* for December 14.

Mr. Frank Hopkins of Fairfax spoke on Indian life in the Minnesota Valley before a meeting of the Hutchinson Historical Society on October 27. Participating in the program also were two Indians, Mr. and Mrs. George Crooks of Morton. Several talks and papers on the beginnings of Hutchinson and the activities of the musicians who founded it were presented at a meeting on November 20. Among the speakers were Mrs. Sophie White, who told of the Hutchinsons' first visit to the townsite, and Mrs. Susan Lee, who read a paper on their musical entertainments. A handbill printed for the Hutchinsons in 1857 and recently acquired by the society was displayed. Officers elected at this meeting were S. S. Beach, president; W. S. Clay, vice-president; and Mrs. White, secretary-treasurer.

Judge Bernard B. Brett was re-elected president of the Marshall County Historical Society at a meeting held at Warren on December 14. Other officers named at the same time include Mr. O. M. Matt-

son, vice-president; Mrs. Synneva Knapp, secretary; and Mrs. Georgia Pagnac, treasurer. Plans were made for the society's annual summer picnic, which will be held at the fair grounds at Warren in 1940.

Books, manuscripts, pictures, and museum objects received by the Otter Tail County Historical Society are described in notes by its secretary, E. T. Barnard, which appear from time to time in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal*. Among the society's recent accessions are twenty-five volumes of manuscript field notes made in the 1870's and 1880's by land examiners and surveyors for the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railway companies in Otter Tail, Grant, Wilkin, and Douglas counties. The volumes are the gift of Mr. C. R. Wright. The educational value of the museum is emphasized by Mr. Barnard in his notes for November 16, when he lists some of the classes from local schools that have visited the museum during the autumn months.

Recent articles furnished by the Pope County Historical Society and published in the *Glenwood Herald* deal with a "juvenile baseball team" that flourished at Glenwood about 1900, October 26; the career of a Glenwood inventor, Mr. Arthur Smithson, November 2; a frontier Christmas celebration of 1869, December 21; and the history of a hospital established at Glenwood in 1910, December 28.

Dean J. Jørgen Thompson of St. Olaf College, Northfield, was the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Rice County Historical Society, which was held at Faribault on November 7. He discussed the archives of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, which are housed at St. Olaf College, and described the publications of the association. The settlement founded by Samuel Walcott near Faribault in the 1840's and milling industries that flourished there were the subject of a talk by Mrs. E. H. Loyhed. Officers of the society elected at the meeting are Mr. Charles N. Sayles, president; Mrs. Joseph Gannon, vice-president; Mr. Theodore Estabrook, secretary; and Mr. Donald Scott, treasurer.

Nearly a hundred and fifty visitors who registered viewed the exhibits in the museum of the Roseau County Historical Society on Armistice Day, November 11, 1939. Mr. P. O. Fryklund, curator of the museum, reports in the *Roseau Times-Region* of November 16 that from twenty to forty visitors often are recorded in a single day.

At a meeting of the Washington County Historical Society at Stillwater on October 9, Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, reviewed the story of Joseph R. Brown's activities in the St. Croix Valley. Mr. Roscoe Macy of the Minnesota Federal Writers' Project told of some of the publications that it has sponsored. The following officers were elected for the coming year: Mr. E. L. Roney, president; Mrs. Mary Bailey and Mr. Roy Strand, vice-presidents; Miss Annie Connors, secretary; and Miss Ann Moir, treasurer. The Washington County society is making plans for a permanent museum, and it hopes to obtain adequate quarters in the near future.

Plans for two historical markers are announced in the *Waseca Herald* of December 14 by H. A. Panzram, president of the Waseca County Historical Society. They will be placed on a farm in Wilton Township formerly occupied by Asa G. Sutlief, "who is recognized as the first settler" in the county, and on the site of the first courthouse.

All officers of the Watonwan County Historical Society were re-elected at a meeting held at St. James on December 15. Mr. George S. Hage is president of the organization. A number of items recently added to the society's collections were displayed at the meeting, and Mr. Hage made an appeal for a building or other quarters in which they can be permanently exhibited. An invitation from the Martin County Historical Society, suggesting that the two organizations hold a joint meeting in August, 1940, was read and accepted.

Mr. Melvin Ouse was named president of the Wilkin County Historical Society at a meeting held at Breckenridge on October 14. Letters written in the late 1870's were quoted by Mrs. LeRoy Stahl, secretary of the organization, in a paper that she read, and Mr. George Mace recalled his experiences in a blizzard of 1879.

At a meeting held at Cokato on November 28, the Finnish-American Historical Society adopted a constitution and elected the following officers: William A. Anderson, president; Matt Leinonen, vice-president; Vernon G. Barberg, secretary; and A. W. Nelson, treasurer. The society is assembling material on Finnish settlement at Cokato, and it is co-operating with the Federal Writers' Project in gathering information for a publication on the Finns in Minnesota.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

The growth of the New Ulm schools from a one-room log cabin of the 1850's is traced in the *New Ulm Review* of November 9. That the first school, on the site of the present Lincoln School, "was a project of the German Land association," is brought out in extracts from an address presented by Mr. Fred W. Johnson in June, 1937, when the site was marked with a plaque. An academy founded by the Turners in 1874 is described as the "nucleus for the public high school." The New Ulm school system also is the subject of a historical review in the *New Ulm Daily Journal* of November 6, which also includes sketches of superintendents who have directed it.

The story of a German immigrant of 1845 who went to New Ulm when that German colony was established in 1856 is presented in the *Autobiography* of William Hummel, recently translated from the German and issued in multigraphed form. Hummel became a member of the Cincinnati Turner Society in 1850, and he later joined the Chicago Turners. It was the latter organization's connection with the Chicago Land Association that aroused Hummel's interest in the New Ulm colony. The writer tells briefly of his experiences in the Sioux War of 1862 and of business ventures in which he engaged in New Ulm.

The history of the women's auxiliary of the New Ulm Turnverein was reviewed by Fred W. Johnson at a dinner which marked the fiftieth anniversary of the organization on November 12. An outline of his talk appears in the *New Ulm Review* for November 16.

The early history of the Lake Hanska region was richly illustrated in a collection of pioneer objects recently assembled by members of the Riverdale-Lake Hanska Junior Pioneer Club, according to an editorial in the *New Ulm Daily Journal* for October 24. The collection, which includes many "early implements of the field, furnishings of the home and instruments of the arts" that "have been handed down from generation to generation" was displayed at the Edward Shelley farm on October 22. It aroused so much interest that the writer of the editorial believes it should be made the nucleus of a permanent historical museum for the Lake Hanska community.

The completion of a "Cass County School District Plat book, giving an historical record of the formation of the districts since their

beginning" in 1851 is announced in the *Cass County Pioneer* of Walker for December 29. The record, which was prepared as a WPA project, is to be preserved in the office of the county superintendent of schools.

A little cemetery near Rollag in Clay County, which was established on land donated by Dr. Charles Sill about 1875, is the subject of articles in the *Barnesville Record-Review* and the *Hawley Herald* for October 12. Inscriptions on gravestones in this cemetery reveal that a substantial English colony once existed in the vicinity. Some information about this settlement of the 1870's is given in the article, which calls attention to the fact that the burial ground, which had long been neglected, is now being restored. A picture of a typical pioneer log cabin of the Rollag community is reproduced with the article in the *Herald*. Some additional information about the cemetery appears in the issue of this paper for October 19.

The *Golden Anniversary of Our Savior's Lutheran Church* at Barnesville is commemorated in a booklet issued in connection with the anniversary celebration on October 1 (32 p.). It recalls the beginnings of "church work among Lutherans of Scandinavian heritage" in Clay County in the 1880's and describes the organization of the congregation in 1889. Pastors, church buildings, and church organizations are the subjects of separate sections.

Experiences as a Norwegian sailor, as an immigrant in America, as a worker in the lumber camps of the Pacific Northwest, and as a settler at Windom in Minnesota are described in a series of *Autobiographical Sketches* by Andrew E. Anonsen, which have been issued in multigraphed form with a foreword by the writer's son, Stanley H. Anonsen (23 p.). Mr. Anonsen has recorded also, for publication in the *Cottonwood County Citizen* of Windom for December 13, his recollections of his services as caretaker of the Windom school, which he served from 1893 to 1935. Changes in physical equipment of the school buildings and many intimate details illustrative of the policies of superintendents under whom he worked are recalled by the writer.

The little library at Newport, which was founded in 1889 by Mrs. Henry C. James, is the subject of an article in the *Stillwater Daily Gazette* of December 13, which calls attention to the fiftieth anni-

versary of this pioneer cultural institution. A program commemorating the anniversary was arranged at Newport on December 15.

C. H. Phinney is the author of a historical sketch, in the *Herman Review* for October 19, of the Grant County Agricultural Association and the fairs held under its auspices since 1894. He relates that a building measuring sixteen feet square housed the exhibits for the first county fair, which was held at Elbow Lake. The writer describes later fairs held in various localities and tells of the purchase of the present grounds in 1911 and 1912 and of the erection of buildings.

The semicentennial of a great cultural institution is fittingly commemorated in an illustrated booklet entitled *Minneapolis Public Library: Fifty Years of Service, 1889-1939* (60 p.). It was issued on December 16, the fiftieth anniversary of the city's first public library. The occasion was marked too by a dinner at which President Guy Stanton Ford of the University of Minnesota served as toastmaster, Miss Gratia A. Countryman, librarian emeritus, surveyed "Fifty Fruitful Years," and Christopher Morley discussed "Streamlines in Literature." The published history reflects the services of three distinguished librarians—Herbert Putnam, who built and opened the library's building and who later became librarian of the Library of Congress; James K. Hosmer, who laid the foundations for the library's vast collections; and Miss Countryman, who in thirty-two years made of the library a city-wide institution. The vast system of branch libraries and other agencies through which the library reaches the people are vividly illustrated on a map appearing in the booklet. Among the topics covered in this publication are the backgrounds and beginning of the library, the growth of the book collection, the development of the professional staff, the reference service, and the extension service. A chronology gives a bird's-eye view of the institution's growth since 1889.

The Minneapolis centennial (see *ante* 20:460) was the subject of some remarks by Congressman Oscar Youngdahl in the national House of Representatives on October 2. These remarks, with a historical sketch of Minneapolis prepared by the centennial committee, appear in the *Congressional Record* for October 2. The city's "His-

torical Background" is exploited also in a mimeographed *Report* of the Minneapolis Century Celebration, issued by the Minneapolis Civic Council and affiliated agencies (71 p.). This volume contains a detailed record of various aspects of the celebration—parades, programs presented in churches and schools, business displays, exhibits, entertainments, radio programs, visitors, historic sites marked for the occasion, and the like.

The completion of *75 Years of Service* by the First National Bank and Trust Company of Minneapolis is the occasion for the publication of an illustrated booklet dealing with its history (27 p.). According to this sketch a state bank known as the Minneapolis Bank "was the first in Minneapolis to be reorganized as a national institution." At a meeting of ten prominent citizens on December 12, 1864, an application for a charter was drawn up and forwarded to Washington. After the charter was issued, the "First National Bank of Minneapolis opened its doors" on January 24, 1865.

A member of the first class to study in the Minneapolis School of Fine Arts, Mrs. S. L. Sewall, recalls its beginnings in 1886 in the *Minneapolis Star-Journal* for October 2. A group photograph of the class accompanies the article.

That thirty doctors have practiced at Lake City since 1856 is brought out by Dr. W. F. Wilson in a survey of the "Physicians of Lake City" appearing in a recent booklet on the *Lake City Municipal Hospital*. Among the pioneer physicians whose careers are reviewed are Dr. Calvin D. Vilas, who practiced at Lake City from 1856 to 1907, Dr. George R. Patton, Dr. John C. Adams, and many others. Included in the booklet also is a "History of Lake City Hospital." The pamphlet is issued as a supplement to the *Lake City Graphic* of November 16.

"Changes in St. Mary's Nursing School," as revealed in a program presented on October 25, are described in the *Rochester Post-Bulletin* for October 26. The school, according to this account, opened in 1906 with a two-year course directed by Miss Anna Jamme; the course now takes from three to five years. A sketch of the career of Sister Mary Joseph, who served as superintendent of St. Mary's Hospital for forty-seven years, appears in the same issue of the *Post-Bulletin*.

The story of the founding of Stewartville in Olmsted County by Charles Stewart, a pioneer from New York state, was reviewed recently by his granddaughter, Mrs. William C. MacCarty of Rochester when she presented his portrait to the village. Her account of Stewart's career appears in the *Rochester Post-Bulletin* for October 31.

Later installments of Frank R. Jacobs' "Early History of Pelican Rapids" appear in the *Pelican Rapids Press* from October 5 to November 9 (*see ante*, 20:465). A large number of early settlers are listed and some biographical information about them is presented.

Plans for a local historical museum, to be established at McIntosh under the auspices of the high school American history class, are announced in the *Thirteen Towns* of Fosston for October 20.

A five-section edition of the *Faribault Daily News*, issued on November 28 to commemorate its twenty-fifth anniversary, contains a wealth of material not only on the history of its home community, but on Rice County in general. The history of the paper, which was established on December 1, 1914, by Howard Bratton and C. J. Hunt, is the subject of a detailed review, which gives changes in name, describes the expansion of the plant and its buildings, and lists changes in personnel. There are numerous articles dealing with Faribault schools and institutions—Shattuck School, St. James School for boys, St. Mary's Hall for girls, Bethlehem Academy, the Minnesota State School for the Deaf, and the local high school. The Buckham Memorial Library and the city's numerous churches also receive attention. Manufacturing plants, which have grown steadily in number since the 1850's, are described; and the Rice County Fair and the Rice County Farm Bureau are the subjects of articles. Lengthy accounts of the two Northfield colleges—Carleton and St. Olaf—are included in the issue, and a general survey of the Rice County rural schools is presented. Among smaller communities for which historical sketches are provided are Dundas, Nerstrand, Veseli, Morristown, and Lonsdale.

A Masonic lodge at Northfield which celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary on October 30 is the subject of a historical sketch in the *Northfield Independent* for November 2. Masonic meetings, according to this account, were held in Northfield as early as 1861, but the local lodge did not receive its charter until 1864.

The backgrounds of rural communities in St. Louis County have been successfully exploited under a project sponsored by the leisure education department of the county's rural schools. A set of directions for a "Pioneer Reunion" drawn up by this department provides for a "historian's committee," which will collect and organize material on the history of the community, and for committees on "heirlooms, antiques, and curiosities" and on "old pictures, photographs, tintypes, paintings," and the like, which will arrange appropriate exhibits. How to plan the celebration and conduct the program also is explained in detail. The county's newer settlements, whose pioneers still are living, are particularly encouraged to conduct such celebrations. Information assembled by the "historian's committee" is whenever possible given permanent form in a multigraphed booklet. Such pamphlets were issued during the past summer for reunions held at Gheen on August 13 and in Vermilion Lake Township on August 20. It is notable that the text of the latter is given both in English and Finnish.

A chapter in Minnesota's musical history is sketched by Nathan Cohen in the *Duluth Herald* for December 30, to which he contributes an article entitled "City's Musical History Forges Ahead— for 70 Years." "It was in the early summer of 1869," writes Mr. Cohen, "that a group of townsfolk decided to hold the first concert — and in the upstairs of an unfinished store building, with wood planks as seats, the pioneers gathered to hear their first musical program." The program, which included a violin concerto, songs, ballads, and music on a melodeon, met with such great success that a second concert was arranged a month later. The writer notes that even before the first concert, Duluth could boast of "four pianos and a music teacher — Mrs. James Hussey." String groups, small orchestras, bands, and choral groups of the 1880's and 1890's, and artists, opera companies, and symphony orchestras that visited Duluth also are noted. The boom of 1889 which resulted in the commercial development of New Duluth is described by Mr. Cohen in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for December 17. He tells of the manufacturing era initiated by eastern speculators and the crash that followed the panic of 1893. Some recollections of Mrs. Sarah A. Larson of Duluth, whose father, John Smith, settled on the site of New Duluth in 1870, also are presented.



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