

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*The Planting of Civilization in Western Pennsylvania.* By SOLON J. BUCK and ELIZABETH HAWTHORN BUCK. (Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1939. xiv, 555 p. Illustrations, maps. \$5.00.)

Recently several notable contributions to state and municipal history have done much to rescue this form of historical research from the disrepute in which it has long been held. Once the product chiefly of devotees of genealogy and of the untrained, urban and state histories are beginning to receive some of the consideration which for years has been accorded national and, in a lesser degree, regional or sectional studies. The present-day interest is, in part, the outgrowth of an impetus given by the appearance about twenty years ago of scholarly works such as the *Centennial History of Illinois*, to which one of the authors of the book under review contributed.

In the *Planting of Civilization in Western Pennsylvania* Dr. and Mrs. Buck have demonstrated how "local" history should be written. Although they have covered ground traversed by other historians, they have treated their subject with great and interesting detail. They have made use of the materials assembled by other reputable scholars, but they have also brought to light hitherto untapped sources. The result of their examination has been an enriched understanding of the subject surveyed.

The book is, in part, a product of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey of which Dr. Buck was director from 1931 to 1935, and is intended primarily for the general reader. After considering both historical and physiographic aspects of the state, the authors through their narrative give significance to the term "western Pennsylvania" beyond the confines of the western part of that commonwealth. There, at an early day, one found Europeans and their American descendants, their culture that of western Europe and the near East of the Atlantic seaboard. The economy was agricultural, and, in due order, the foundations were laid for the gradual beginnings of industrialism and finally the growth of a complicated urbanism.

The stages of settlement through which western Pennsylvania

passed and the periods of development seem to follow in general the pattern of other parts of the country at a similar time and under similar conditions. From 1790 to 1815 came the transit of the original self-sufficient agricultural economy to an industrial economy based largely on the manufacture of commodities for the outside world. Just as in many new communities, the early commerce of western Pennsylvania was financed mainly by outside capital, and this capital frequently took the form of credit to importers. By 1812 the expansion of agriculture and the domestic industries supplied a surplus for export. Markets were opened, transportation facilities were developed, and the capital which had been accumulated by merchants and others was available for investment in industry. Banks and other evidences of a growing industrialized life were found; skilled laborers were imported or trained; workingmen attempted to strengthen their bargaining power by organization; lawyers, judges, and physicians trained abroad as well as at Princeton, Dickinson College, and other American educational institutions gave promise of the sophistication of older places; and the fifty years from about 1765 to 1815 witnessed the implanting of the refinements of life in general.

These remarks should not be concluded without mentioning the physical attractiveness of this well-written volume, the excellent bibliographical essay, and the carefully selected illustrations and maps. It is to be hoped that there will be studies of other communities built on like lines, and that at some future time Dr. and Mrs. Buck will continue the story of western Pennsylvania.

BESSIE LOUISE PIERCE

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

*Dictionary of American History*, vols. 1-4. JAMES TRUSLOW ADAMS, editor in chief; R. V. COLEMAN, managing editor. (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1940. xi, 444, 430, 432, 512 p.)

After only four years of labor, four of the projected five volumes of the *Dictionary of American History* have appeared and the final volume is scheduled for publication this year. This is a remarkable achievement for American scholarship, involving, as it did, the collaboration of more than a thousand historians in the writing of five to six

thousand articles. The work was accomplished under the editorial direction of James Truslow Adams and R. V. Coleman with the help of an advisory council of seventeen.

Only within the last generation has a work such as the *Dictionary of American History* been possible. Had it been attempted a few decades earlier, the result probably would have been merely a collection of dates and of accounts of battles, treaties, and political events. As it is, the wide scope of the subjects treated attest to the extension of historical scholarship over every aspect of our culture.

Though the *Dictionary* will be found to be very useful when specific information about forts, treaties, and battles is desired, its distinction lies in the inclusion of subjects in the fields of social, cultural, intellectual, and economic history. The variety of subjects discussed cannot well be indicated in a brief review; nevertheless a sampling from volume 1 may indicate the scope of the articles. Administrative justice, the agrarian movement, the department of agriculture, the siege and fall of the Alamo, almanacs, the American Fur Company, anaesthesia, the Anti-horse Thief Association, apple culture, and American architecture are topics garnered by turning through the first hundred pages of the volume at intervals of about ten pages. The articles range chronologically from "Cabot Voyages" to "Economic Royalists." One will search in vain, however, for any subject not related to the history of the United States. There is, for example, no article on Columbus.

The editor in chief takes pains to point out that the work is a dictionary and not an encyclopedia. The reader who is interested in tracing the succession of events will not find the *Dictionary* serviceable. The subjects treated are definite, limited aspects of our history. Yet "covering articles" of broader scope have been provided wherever a general treatment of a subject was thought necessary. These discussions are intended as guides to articles on individual phases of the subjects. There is a general article on amusements with cross references to yachting, prize fighting, baseball, football, bicycling, automobiles, motion pictures, radios, national parks, theaters, horse racing, cockfighting, husking bees, minstrel shows, circuses, and sports. Card playing, dancing, bowling, fishing, billiards, hockey, and golf were not considered important or significant enough to warrant separate articles.

The specialist in one field of American history will find the *Dic-*

*tionary* useful for terms outside his own specialty. Local or regional terms abound. In the field of Minnesota history, articles on the Mayo Foundation, by President Guy Stanton Ford of the University of Minnesota, on Fort Beauharnois, the Leech Lake Indian council, and Grand Portage, by Grace Lee Nute, on the Faribault claim, the Dustin murders, and the battles of Birch Cooley, Crow Wing, Kaposia, and Mille Lacs, by Willoughby M. Babcock, and on the Hazelwood Republic, by Ruth Thompson, indicate the extent to which the *Dictionary* has included regional topics and made use of regional specialists.

Minnesota scholars made large contributions to the *Dictionary*. Professors Harold S. Quigley, Ernest S. Osgood, Charles B. Kuhlmann, Edgar B. Wesley, and George M. Stephenson supplied numerous articles, and Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, acted as one of the seventeen members of the advisory board, in addition to contributing several articles, including that on Minnesota. These historians may well take pride in their contribution to such a distinguished product of joint scholarship as is the *Dictionary of American History*.

LEWIS BEESON

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ST. PAUL

*The British Régime in Michigan and the Old Northwest, 1760-1796.* By NELSON VANCE RUSSELL, Ph.D., professor of American history in Carleton College. (Northfield, Minnesota, Carleton College, 1939. xi, 302 p. \$2.00.)

In his preface Dr. Russell himself divides his book into two parts by saying, "In Chapters I and II, both of which are in a sense introductory, and in Chapters VIII and IX no serious effort has been made at original investigation." In chapters 4 to 7, which bear respectively the titles, "The Problems of Provincial Administration," "Economic and Social Beginnings," "The French and British at Play," and "Transportation and Naval Defense," Dr. Russell has made a series of detailed source studies of events and conditions in the neighborhood of the post of Detroit, such as the titles would indicate. This work is generally sound and well done, although at times the presentation is a little confused. The student will find it interesting and useful. In a lesser sense this is true of chapter 10, "The End of the Régime."

The remaining chapters which supply the justification for the larger reaches of Dr. Russell's title retell an established story along conventional lines. With a justified admiration of Clarence W. Alvord's great *Mississippi Valley in British Politics*, however, which he uses to give depth to his picture of pioneer Detroit, Dr. Russell is apparently not aware of the modifications which the work of Namier and others have made necessary in Alvord's theories of government by faction and Canada versus Guadaloupe. There are quite a few minor inaccuracies in Dr. Russell's work. His bibliography is good if not complete.

THEODORE C. PEASE

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URBANA

*Iron Brew: A Century of American Ore and Steel.* By STEWART H. HOLBROOK. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1939. viii, 352 p. \$2.50.)

This author will have his brew potent or know the reason why. No modest draught of commonplace history for him, but a concoction that makes the ears pound and the eyes see multiple! It is compounded of the usual basic stock of facts about the discovery, development, production, and producers of iron and steel, mixed with a heady yeast of frothy incident from the lives and careers of kidnapers, prostitutes, Great Lakes sailors, thugs, gangsters, red-shirted lumbermen, tellers of tall tales, inventors, money kings, magnates of big business, and a few normal human beings.

For Minnesotans the interest centers about chapters 7 to 15, which include: "Old Stuntz Cruises the Hills," "Saga of the Merritt Boys," "The Great Mesabi Pox," "Boom-Town Life," "Trouble on the Range," and "Red-Bellies Down the Lakes." Of only less interest are the first chapters, dealing with the epic discovery of ore in Michigan and Wisconsin.

As usual in his writing, Mr. Holbrook makes his style dramatic by choosing only such historic facts and persons as he can fill with zestful life; by employing unusual terms, "robust" language, and comments full of understatement and innuendo, such as, "Nobody but God was to blame [for the mine disaster] at Milford, and if anyone got the blame at Ishpeming, two years later, it was God, too"; and by such journalistic tricks as assuming a friendly familiarity with his char-

acters, calling them by their first names, and telling of great and tragic events through the medium of simple and, often, helpless persons.

Such books as this have a definite place on the history shelf, especially if the owner of the shelf is young and needs a little *apéritif* to enhance his taste for the subject.

GRACE LEE NUTE

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ST. PAUL

*Hamline University.* Edited by CHARLES NELSON PACE, president, Hamline University. (St. Paul, Hamline University Alumni Association, 1939. 142 p. Illustrations.)

This volume is published in connection with the eighty-fifth anniversary last year of the founding of Hamline University in 1854. It is the story of the oldest school of higher learning in Minnesota, and while it does not pretend to be a complete history, the papers included in the book give a satisfactory yet modest account of the early beginnings in Red Wing, the second founding in St. Paul, the development of the institution under Presidents Bridgman and Kerfoot, and one or two especially significant aspects of Hamline's program.

The early period at Red Wing lasted from March 3, 1854, to March 4, 1869. Mrs. Arthur W. Johnson, a graduate of Hamline and a resident of Red Wing, has written a compact synopsis of how Hamline began under a charter granted by the Minnesota territorial legislature, how it struggled through the Civil War period under the leadership of Dr. Jabez Brooks, and how it was suddenly closed after the graduation of the tenth class because of financial embarrassment, loss of students during the Civil War, and lack of interest.

Hamline University reopened in 1880 in St. Paul, with President D. C. John at the helm. After three years the main building of the college burned to the ground, the president resigned, and the outlook was discouraging. At this point, the trustees elected Dr. George Henry Bridgman, aged forty-two, to the presidency, and from that time Hamline began to rise above its difficulties and to respond to the magnificent leadership of one who would never admit defeat. The history of this great period, from 1883 to 1912, is presented in a charming manner by Dr. Bridgman's daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Bridgman Atkinson.

From 1912 to 1927, Hamline's leader was Samuel Fletcher Kerfoot, and during these years nine hundred young people received the Hamline degree. This part of the history is sympathetically reviewed by Dr. Miron Morrill, a close friend of Dr. Kerfoot and formerly dean of men at Hamline.

Dr. James S. King, professor of German, contributes an interesting paper on the faculty, educational policies, and student life since 1901. Dr. Thomas Beyer, professor of English, writes of the creative life at Hamline that has been unusually prominent in the record of the college and is in large measure due to his own stimulating teaching. The more personal elements of the Hamline history are related by Dr. Frank A. Cone, a member of the class of 1886 and a trustee since 1902, who for more than fifty years has been closely associated with the university.

Dr. Charles Nelson Pace, now president of Hamline, has acted as editor of the volume and has drawn together carefully prepared and interestingly written papers. As one of the writers suggests, no modern institution is the shadow of one man only. After reading this challenging history one feels the enduring power of a college like Hamline University, into the building of which has gone "the brawn, the mind, the anguish of spirit of hosts of men and women."

CHARLES J. TURCK

MACALESTER COLLEGE  
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*Sketches by Paul Kane in the Indian Country, 1845-1848* (Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, vol. 99, no. 1). By DAVID I. BUSHNELL, JR. (Washington, The Smithsonian Institution, 1940. 25 p. Illustrations.)

*Paul Kane.* By ALBERT H. ROBSON. (Toronto, The Ryerson Press, 1938. 32 p. Illustrations.)

Among the pioneer artists who followed in the footsteps of George Catlin by visiting the native red men in their primitive surroundings and leaving records of their observations in word and picture was the Canadian, Paul Kane. His work is the subject of the present booklets, which contain records of the itineraries followed by Kane on two journeys from Toronto to the Indian country. The first, made in 1845, took the artist as far as Lake Winnebago and the Fox River

country of Wisconsin; the second, occupying the period from May, 1846, to October, 1848, covered much of the Canadian West. Fort Garry, Fort Vancouver on the Pacific coast, Fort Edmonton, and Fort William on Lake Superior were among the points visited on the later trip.

On Kane's return to Toronto, the writers reveal, he painted twelve pictures of Indian interest for Sir George Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company, twelve for the British government, and a hundred for George W. Allan. The latter collection was eventually acquired by Dr. E. B. Osler, who presented it to the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology in Toronto. Four of these paintings are reproduced in Mr. Robson's little volume, which includes eight color plates from Kane's canvases. Of unusual interest for Minnesotans are his views of the Red River settlement and of a portage on the Winnipeg River.

To one picture in the collection of the Royal Ontario Museum, that of a "Sioux Scalp Dance," Mr. Bushnell gives special mention (p. 23), for in the background appears Fort Snelling, which Kane had never seen. The author reveals that the "picture of the fort was based on a sketch made by the artist Henry Lewis in 1846 or 1848, a small copy of which he sent to Kane." This interesting drawing, made on a page of a letter from Lewis to Kane, is reproduced with Mr. Bushnell's narrative. Other illustrations show some of Kane's field sketches of western scenes and natives. All are made from originals in Mr. Bushnell's possession.

BERTHA L. HEILBRON

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

DR. GRACE LEE NUTE ("A British Legal Case and Old Grand Portage") is curator of manuscripts on the society's staff. She is the author of a volume on *The Voyageur* and of numerous articles, and she has recently completed a biography of the French explorers Radisson and Groseilliers. Dr. Theodore C. Blegen ("Two Missionaries in the Sioux Country") continues in this issue the "Narrative of Samuel W. Pond," the first installment of which appeared in the March number. Miss Bertha L. Heilbron ("A Pioneer Artist on Lake Superior") is the assistant editor of this magazine. Among those who contribute to the discussion of "The Paul Bunyan Tales," initiated by Mr. Carleton C. Ames in the March issue, are Mr. W. B. Laughead of Westwood, California, whose early compilation of these stories has passed through ten editions, Mr. Raymond A. Jackson of Minneapolis, and Dr. M. M. Quaife of the Burton Historical Collection and Wayne University, Detroit. The reviewers include Dr. Bessie Louise Pierce, associate professor of American history in the University of Chicago; Dr. Lewis Beeson, acting head of the society's newspaper department; Dr. Theodore C. Pease, professor of history in the University of Illinois and editor of the *Collections* of the Illinois State Library; and Dr. Charles J. Turck, president of Macalester College, St. Paul.

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, superintendent of the society from 1931 to 1939 and assistant superintendent from 1922 to 1931, was named dean of the graduate school of the University of Minnesota by the board of regents on May 10. Since last July, when he resigned as superintendent, he has been engaged in research and writing in the field of American immigration history, under a fellowship awarded by the Norwegian-American Historical Association. He has served on the history faculties of both Hamline University and the University of Minnesota. Dr. Blegen will assume his new duties as dean on August 15.

Tentative plans for the eighteenth annual summer tour and convention under the auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society call

for a trip to the iron range country of northeastern Minnesota on August 9, 10, and 11, 1940. The fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of the iron deposits of the Mesabi Range is being marked this year, and it will be the occasion for special celebrations at Mountain Iron and Biwabik on August 10 and 11. Plans are being made for the society's participation in programs at these places and for probable sessions at Grand Rapids, Hibbing, and Tower.

The new cover design, used for the first time on the March issue of *Minnesota History*, has drawn some gratifying comments from readers of the society's magazine. "For a good many years I have been laboring under the impression that our historical periodicals, like our historical lectures, are all too often needlessly stodgy and uninviting," writes Dr. Milo M. Quaife, secretary and editor of the Burton Historical Collection in the Detroit Public Library. "While your own magazine has always been put out in attractive fashion," he continues, "I think the new cover constitutes a further step in the right direction." Professor Horace Morse, assistant to the dean of the graduate school of the University of Minnesota, comments as follows: "You have retained the magazine's dignity and improved its appearance." Dr. Charles M. Gates of the department of history in the University of Washington finds the cover "very modern and attractive," and suggests that the society's quarterly "should find a place on many library tables throughout the state." Speaking "as one who has wrestled with the problems of cover design," Mr. J. G. Cohen of Minneapolis, executive editor of *Modern Medicine* and publisher of other medical and dental journals, asserts that the new design gives the "reader the feeling of a readable publication that is modern and interesting, yet scholarly in content." While *Minnesota History* is now "inviting to pick up and read," in the opinion of this correspondent, "nothing is taken away from the design to reflect on the dignity of the content of the magazine as devoted to the past, and not to the present or future." In concluding, Mr. Cohen writes: "It is so easy to justify a staid old cover, particularly with a Historical Society, that I feel you are to be complimented on making this change."

Dr. Blegen's essay on the "'Fashionable Tour' on the Upper Mississippi," which appeared in the issue of this magazine for December, 1939, is the subject of more than a half column of comment on the

editorial page of the *New York Sun* for April 1. What amounts to an abstract of the article is presented. The writer asserts that the "Fashionable Tour" proposed by Catlin in 1835 marked the beginning of "touring for pleasure in this country."

Dr. Charles M. Gates, a former member of the society's staff, is the author of the leading article in the March issue of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*—a study of "The West in American Diplomacy, 1812–1815." Dr. Gates, who is now assistant professor of history in the University of Washington, served as acting curator of manuscripts during Dr. Nute's absence in Europe in 1935–36.

Professor John T. Flanagan's article on "Knut Hamsun's Early Years in the Northwest," which appeared in the issue of this magazine for December, 1939 (*ante*, 20:397–412), drew a letter of comment from the Norwegian author whose activities it recounts. Under date of February 28, 1940, he wrote to Dr. Flanagan, acknowledging a copy of the article. Hamsun's note, in translation, reads as follows: "I thank you for the magazine which you sent me. In your article about me you have gathered with unexampled care a mass of data which were wholly new to me or completely forgotten by myself. But so much scientific work on my humble account!"

The additions to the active membership of the society made in the first quarter of 1940 include one life member, Mr. Frederick S. Bailey of Ontario, Oregon; one sustaining member, Mrs. William R. Bagley of Duluth; and twenty-seven annual members. The names of the latter follow: Mrs. W. H. Barber of Miami Beach, Florida, Lewis Beeson of Minneapolis, S. D. Catherwood of Austin, George Hage of Madelia, Ivan O. Hansen of Luverne, Hiram A. Haskell of Windsor, California, Mrs. D. N. Kingery of St. Paul, Ruth F. Lambert of St. Paul, R. H. Landon of St. Paul, Leona B. Larsen of Dorset, Sister Laurent of Minneapolis, Martin Leaf of Willmar, Josephine Lutz of Minneapolis, Arthur McGinnis of St. Paul, Mrs. Eugene W. Martin of Minneapolis, Lester E. Nelson of Minneapolis, Henry B. Peterson of Minneapolis, Robert D. Rasmussen of Minneapolis, Nelson Vance Russell of Northfield, Mrs. Benjamin Sandy of Minneapolis, Charles N. Sayles of Faribault, Lawrence Schmeckebier of Minneapolis, O. D. Sell of Mayer, Mrs. C. F. Stickney of Traverse

City, Michigan, Colonel Frederick G. Stutz of St. Paul, Mrs. Lyman E. Wakefield of Minneapolis, and Otto E. Wieland of Duluth.

The Becker County Historical Society of Detroit Lakes and the Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society of Lake City have been enrolled as institutional members of the society.

In the first three months of 1940, the society lost the following active members by death: Dr. Henry L. Osborn of St. Paul, January 2; Dr. Arvid Gordh of St. Paul, January 4; Clifford P. Fitch of St. Paul, January 11; Alice E. Whitmore of Minneapolis, January 11; Mrs. Edward B. Young of St. Paul, January 14; Judge Richard A. Walsh of St. Paul, January 18; Frederick E. Murphy of Minneapolis, February 14; George W. Gauthier of St. Paul, February 26; Percy E. Barber of St. Paul, March 8; and A. C. Ochs of Springfield, March 8.

The first number of the *Minnesota Local History Bulletin*, which is intended to supplement the notes published in the section of this magazine devoted to "Local Historical Societies," was issued by the society in February. This is a mimeographed sheet "devoted to the interests and problems of the local historical societies of the state." It will appear in February, May, August, and November.

The society's valentine collection is the subject of an illustrated article in the *Minneapolis Times-Tribune* for February 13. A special exhibit of valentines was arranged in the society's museum in February. In the same month Washington and Lincoln exhibits were displayed. The latter, which included materials owned both by the society and by Mr. Ernest R. Reiff of North St. Paul, is described in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for February 12.

The superintendent spoke on "Local History and the Writers' Project" before workers of the Minnesota Writers' Project in Minneapolis on January 17, on the Good Roads movement in Minnesota before the Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society at Lake City on February 13 and the Blue Earth County Historical Society at Mankato on March 11, on "Community Records" before the Wright County Old Settlers and Washington Birthday Association at Delano on February 22, on "A Pioneer Minnesota Feminist," Jane Grey Swisshelm, before the Junior Librarians of the Twin Cities meeting

in St. Paul on February 24 and the Bald Eagle Women's Club on March 19, and on "A Laboratory for the Social Studies" before the third annual Social Studies Conference at the University of Minnesota on March 9. He was interviewed on the work of the society over radio station WTCN in St. Paul on March 12. A few days earlier, on March 8, Dr. Nute was interviewed over the same station on early maps and pioneer women. She gave addresses on "The Voyageur" before the Dakota County Historical and Archeological Society at South St. Paul on January 9 and before the Mother's Club of Alpha Gamma Delta in Minneapolis on March 14, on "Minnesota Women Make the News" before the Faculty Women's Club of the University of Minnesota on March 16, and on "Wilderness Marthas" before the Business Girls Club of the St. Paul YWCA on March 26. The curator of the museum spoke on "Community Memory" before the Nicollet County Historical Society at St. Peter on January 11 and before the Olmsted County Historical Society at Rochester on February 10, and on "Exploring Community Backgrounds" before an assembly of Gustavus Adolphus College at St. Peter on January 12. The latter talk was broadcast over station KYSM.

#### ACCESSIONS

A passport issued to Charles Augustus Collier on February 22, 1837, permitting him to travel in France, has been presented by Mrs. C. W. Seng of St. Paul, through the courtesy of Mr. Frederic A. Conger. Instead of a picture of Collier, the document presents a detailed description, and it requests all concerned to pass him safely and freely and "in case of need to give him all lawful Aid and Protection."

Articles on General James Shields, St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Minnesota, western exploration, Catholic colonization companies in Minnesota, and other subjects relating to the history of the Catholic church in the state are to be found in a file of the *Boston Pilot* for the years from 1854 to 1865 which has been recently photographed for the society. Included are numerous letters from Anoka, Hastings, Blue Earth, St. Paul, and other Catholic parishes. From St. Paul, for example, comes a letter published in the issue of November 8, 1856, which tells of the building of the cathedral and the city hall

and anticipates the completion of a city gas plant in the following words: "We look forward to enjoy the pleasure and luxury of gas lights next spring." In 1856 also Father Francis de Vivaldi, a missionary among the Winnebago, wrote from Blue Earth of his plans for a Minnesota colony for Catholics who were being persecuted by members of the Know-Nothing party. He promised a free town lot to each of the first two hundred and fifty Catholic families who settled in the colony, which was to be located on the territorial road between Reads Landing and Mankato.

A short but important diary, kept from 1856 to 1861 by Richard J. Mendenhall and his wife, has been presented by Mrs. Gertrude Murtfeldt of Minneapolis, through the courtesy of Mr. Edward C. Gale of the same city. Mendenhall, a Quaker from North Carolina, settled in Minneapolis in 1856 and established a reputation there as a banker, a surveyor, and the city's pioneer florist. In his diary he tells of his arrival in Minneapolis, of land speculation and surveying in the Sauk and Red River valleys and in southern Minnesota, of investing in Minnesota lands for southern and eastern patrons, of losses in the panic of 1857, and of various aspects of pioneer life. Mrs. Mendenhall's entries relate to domestic and social life and to Quaker meetings and activities. With the diary are a number of papers that are unique in the society's collection—the manumission papers of a Negro woman and affidavits showing her son Jerry to be a "free boy." After a visit to North Carolina, Mendenhall took the boy to Minnesota as a servant, and he was obliged to present "bond and security" on the railroad proving that Jerry was legally in his company.

The original manuscript of Benjamin Densmore's journal of an expedition from St. Paul to the Otter Tail region in 1857, which was published in this magazine for November, 1919 (see *ante*, 3:167-209), has been presented by the Misses Frances and Margaret Densmore of Red Wing. Their gift includes also a copy of Densmore's Civil War discharge papers and a letter written to him by Thompson Ritchie on November 25, 1859, from Superior. On the letterhead is an interesting picture of the Wisconsin settlement bearing the descriptive caption, "Terminus of Ocean Navigation, and the Northern Pacific, St. Croix and Lake Superior, Milwaukee and Horicon, and other Railroads." These are important additions to the already extensive collection of Densmore Papers in the society's possession.

Three letters written by George W. Smith shortly after settling in Minnesota in 1857 have been received from Mr. Michael J. Peters of Dover, New Hampshire. In them the writer tells members of his family in the East of land speculation in Minnesota and other matters of local interest. He describes, for example, a March day in 1858 when cabbage plants were "half an inch high" and men talked of "going to ploughing next week."

Photographic copies of three letters written by George H. Button, a native of Vermont, in 1859, after visiting St. Paul, Minneapolis, and St. Anthony, have been made for the society from originals owned by the La Crosse County Historical Society. "I like the town much better than any other place I have seen of its size in the west," writes Button of St. Paul. "There are several first class hotels & a theatre. . . . the streets are lighted with gas and taking evry thing into consideration the town is a pretty fast one." After attending the theater in St. Paul, the writer commented: "I suppose it could not be called a first class institution in New York but will answer very well for a western town."

Twenty pages of statistical records of Norwegian settlement in Minnesota have been photographed from originals lent by Professor Carlton C. Qualey of Bard College. He compiled the figures for the number of Norwegians in every township in Minnesota that has Norwegian settlers from the manuscript schedules of the United States census for 1860 and 1870, in the possession of the society.

Programs of more than sixty concerts given by the St. Paul Musical Society from 1863 to 1879 are included in a scrapbook presented by Mrs. Charles W. Gordon of St. Paul. It was formerly the property of George Seibert, director of the society's orchestra after 1869. In the record are programs of concerts presented at Ingersoll's Hall, at the opening of the opera houses of St. Paul and Minneapolis in 1867, and of a special performance given for the benefit of the Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair in 1864. With the gift are a few of the business papers of Richards Gordon, a member of the St. Paul Musical Society's orchestra, and a record of his service in the St. Paul fire department in 1875. Mrs. Gordon also has presented several documents indicative of Charles W. Gordon's interest in civic and national

Theodore Roosevelt. To the society's already extensive numismatic collection, she has added some thirty Roman and Greek coins.

The papers of Judge Willard R. Cray of Minneapolis, covering the period from 1877 to 1904 and consisting of legal papers and correspondence that fill two boxes and two volumes, have been presented by his daughter, Miss Jessie Cray of Minneapolis. They include material on litigations that involved the Washburn Crosby Company and the Minnesota Sandstone Company in the 1890's, and numerous letters from Frank B. Kellogg, Charles M. Loring, John Washburn, and others. The constitution and bylaws of the Bachelors Club of Minneapolis, organized in 1877, of which Cray was a member, also are included in the gift.

To a collection in memory of Mrs. Marshall Coolidge, established in 1934 by the Monument chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Minneapolis (see *ante*, 15:343), Mrs. Lester McCoy of Minneapolis has added a ledger kept by Dr. Otis M. Humphrey from 1871 to 1882. This record of a Minneapolis physician's visits to patients reveals that he usually charged two dollars for a day call, four dollars for a night visit, a dollar for a prescription, fifteen dollars for setting a broken leg, and fifteen dollars for obstetrical attendance. It is interesting to note that accounts of forty-two dollars in 1879 and of fifteen dollars in 1880 were balanced, in lieu of cash, by "7 cords of maple wood" and "10 loads of slab wood."

Copies of sixteen speeches and articles, dating from 1895 to 1916, by Alpheus B. Stickney, lawyer, railroad builder, and member of the St. Paul Park Commission, have been presented by his daughter, Mrs. Paul Weed of St. Paul. Among the subjects dealt with are railroad rates under the Interstate Commerce Act, banking legislation, and the development in St. Paul of a system of parks and scenic boulevards.

The papers of the Minnesota School of Missions for the years from 1907 to 1934, comprising four volumes and one box of manuscripts, have been presented by Mrs. Karl Moulton of Minneapolis. They include a constitution, bylaws, minutes of meetings, financial reports, news items, and the like, and they relate for the most part to the organization's sponsorship of an interdenominational summer school



of missionary education held at Lake Minnetonka and in various Twin City churches.

The Linden Hills Congregational Church of Minneapolis has presented a volume of its records for the years from 1909 to 1932, through the courtesy of Mr. Paul J. Thompson of Minneapolis. It contains data on the organization of the church, membership, baptisms, marriages, and congregational meetings.

A copy of a "Brief History of the Lewis Settlement in Duluth," prepared by Alexander Macrae for publication in the *Stornoway Gazette* in Scotland, has been presented by the author. He tells of William L. MacLennan, the earliest settler from the Isle of Lewis to make his home in Duluth, and lists later settlers from the same locality. The organization in 1911 of the Lewis Society of Duluth, of which Mr. Macrae is secretary, also is described.

The records of the first case involving disability compensation handled under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1913 have been added to the archives of the Minnesota Industrial Commission in the custody of the society (see *ante*, 20:434). They show that an employee who was receiving \$11.50 a week in wages was awarded \$36.00 as a result of an absence from work from October 9 to December 4, 1913.

The Minnesota Academy of Medicine, through its secretary, Dr. A. G. Schulze, has presented a volume of minutes for the years 1932-37.

Four filing boxes of genealogical material relating to the Ramsey, Kincaid, Newby, McKee, Morrison, Poage, and forty-four other families, assembled by the late Edward G. Chapman of Minneapolis, have been presented by his daughter, Mrs. Walter C. Robb of Minneapolis. The collection consists chiefly of an extensive correspondence with members of these families in all parts of the United States, and Chapman's notes on items located in newspapers and books.

A copy of a master's thesis on "The Rise of Organized Labor in Minnesota, 1850-1890," prepared by George B. Engberg at the University of Minnesota in 1939, has been presented by the author.

The Hennepin County Bar Association has presented biographical sketches of the following deceased members: Harry G. Amick, Elijah

Barton, Austin I. Bergman, Frank W. Booth, Willard R. Cray, John F. Dahl, Knute T. Dahlen, Alvord C. Egelston, Maurice V. Evans, Henry J. Fletcher, Charles H. Hubbell, Charles T. Kenfield, Carol H. McHugh, Thomas Mouer, Thomas Peebles, Wilfred A. Quinlivan, John M. Rees, Herbert F. Schoening, Richard L. Tighe, and William H. Vanderburgh.

Mr. H. P. Schoen of Hastings has presented a druggist's counter scale and weights from an early drugstore at Hastings.

An oil portrait of the late Everett H. Bailey, treasurer of the Minnesota Historical Society from 1909 to 1938, is the gift of his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick S. Bailey of Ontario, Oregon. They have also presented an engraved portrait of Greenleaf Clark, a pioneer St. Paul lawyer and jurist. Other recent additions to the portrait collection include an engraving of William S. Chown, a member of the first Minnesota state legislature, from the Minnesota Education Association; photographs of Hugo V. Koch and Dr. H. Longstreet Taylor, from Miss Theresa Ericksen of Minneapolis; a copy of a picture of Little Crow, the Sioux chief, from S. D. Catherwood of Austin; and photographs of individuals connected with the Poehler grain interests of Minneapolis, from Miss Vera Cole of that city.

An oil painting of Fort Snelling executed by Seth Eastman about 1840 has been photographed for the society by the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York, through the courtesy of the executor of the estate of the late Gouverneur Kemble. Mr. Otto E. Wieland of Duluth has presented a photograph of a painting of Beaver Bay in 1870. Several photographs of old Fort Garry, near the present site of Winnipeg, have been received from Dr. James C. Ferguson of St. Paul.

A large number of volumes in the field of American family history were added to the society's genealogical collection in the first three months of 1940. They include Katherine A. Bryan, *Genealogy of the Baltzly-Balsley-Polsley Family* (Columbus, Ohio, 1939. 380 p.); Irvin M. Beaver, *History and Genealogy of the Bieber, Beaver, Biever, Beeber Family* (Reading, Pennsylvania, 1939. 984 p.); Vinnetta W. Ranke, *Blackburn Genealogy; With Notes on the Washington Family through Inter-marriage* (Washington, 1939. 158 p.);

Charles C. Boyer, *American Boyers* (Allentown, Pennsylvania, 1940. 663 p.); Russell H. Pope, *Burdick-Tucker-Pope, 1630-1932; Ancestral Lines* (Oakville, Connecticut, 1932. 27 p.); William D. Mangam, *The Clarks of Montana* (Washington, 1939. 221 p.); Lucy L. Erwin, *Ancestry of William Clopton of York County, Virginia* (Rutland, 1939. 333 p.); E. Glenn Denison, *Denison Genealogy; A Record of the Ancestors and Descendants of James Post Denison* (Attleboro, Massachusetts, 1939. 118 p.); Mansfield J. French, *Ancestors and Descendants of Samuel French, the Joiner of Stratford, Connecticut* (Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1940. 354 p.); Ned B. Smith, *Heiser Genealogy, 1783 to 1937* (Youngstown, Ohio, 1937. 22 p.); Max E. Hoffman, *Hoffmans of North Carolina* (Asheville, North Carolina, 1938. 192 p.); Melvin E. Jones, *Ancestral Lines* (1938. 107 p.); John M. Kline, *Descendants of Hans (Johannus) Klein* (Washington, 1939. 22 p.); Le Roy Kramer, *Johann Baltasar Kramer . . . Pioneer American Glass Blower* (Chicago, 1939. 62 p.); Hallock P. Long, *A Long Genealogy. A Partial Genealogy of the Longs of Charlestown and Nantucket, Massachusetts* (Washington, 1937. 28 p.); Albert Rathbone, *Archibald McClure and Elizabeth Craigmiles, His Wife* (New York, 1938. 38 p.); William H. McCoy, *Notes on the McCoy Family* (Rutland, Vermont, 1939. 23 p.); Charles E. Dean, *Genealogy of a Tribe of Noble Patriots, Morris-Beck-Dean-Chiple* (New Orleans, 1935. 74 p.); Glea B. Richer, *History of the Nafzger Family in America* (South Whitley, Indiana, 1939. 176 p.); Albert Rathbone, *Josiah Olcott and Deborah Worth, His Wife* (New York, 1937. 85 p.); Howard P. Moore, *The Patten Families; Genealogies of the Pattens from the North of Ireland* (Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1939. 194 p.); Albert Rathbone, *Captain Daniel Pepoon and Levina Phelps, His First Wife; Elizabeth James, His Second Wife* (1940. 124 p.); Albert Rathbone, *Samuel Rathbone and Lydia Sparhawk, His Wife* (1937. 74 p.); Albert Rathbone, *Colonel William Rice and Wealthy Cottrell, His Wife* (1938. 118 p.); John B. Riggs, *The Riggs Family of Maryland* (Baltimore, 1939. 534 p.); Casper Schenk, *Joseph and Mary Schenk, Their Ancestors and Descendants* (1938. 80 p.); Nora E. Snow, *The Snow-Estes Ancestry* (Hillburn, New York, 1939. 2 vols.); William C. Stillson, *Notes on the Genealogy of the Stilson Family* (Ann Arbor, 1939. 126 p.); Elmer L. Denniston, *Genealogy of the Stukey, Ream, Grove, Clem, and Denniston Fami-*

lies (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1939. 591 p.); Albert Rathbone, *General George Talcott and Angelica Bogart, His Wife* (New York, 1937. 60 p.); Dirk P. De Young, *Ancestry of the Van Schaicks of Manhattan and Elsewhere* (Avenel, New Jersey, 1938. 57 p.); Charles F. Robinson, *Weld Collections* (Ann Arbor, 1938. 267 p.); Guy H. Wells, *The Wells and Allied Families* (Milledgeville, Georgia, 1938. 89 p.); and Ruth W. Dayton, *Samuel Woods and His Family* (Charleston, West Virginia, 1939. 170 p.).

Among local histories recently received are: Sara L. Campbell, *Brooke Township [Ontario] History, 1833-1933* (1936. 171 p.); Federal Writers' Project, *History of Milford, Connecticut, 1639-1939* (1939. 204 p.); Harvey J. Kable, *Mount Morris: Past and Present* (1938. 464 p.); Barbara B. Hubbs, *Pioneer Folks and Places; An Historic Gazetteer of Williamson County, Illinois* (1939. 246 p.); Arthur A. Halbach, *Dyersville, Its History and Its People* (Milwaukee, 1939. 495 p.); Beulah G. Jackman, *Cemetery Inscriptions, North Cutler, Maine* (8 p.); Beulah G. Jackman, *Earliest Records of Machias, Maine (1767-1827)* (Concord, New Hampshire. 50 p.); Oliver J. Stonesifer, *History of Union Bridge* (Union Bridge, Maryland, 1937. 34 p.); Herbert B. Nichols, *Historic New Rochelle* (New Rochelle, 1938. 212 p.); Mary F. Torrance, *The Story of Old Rensselaerville* (New York, 1939. 72 p.); William C. Allen, *Annals of Haywood County, North Carolina* (1935. 628 p.); Preston A. Laury, *Index to the Scotch-Irish of Northampton County* (Easton, Pennsylvania, 1939. 81 p.); Harvey E. Reem, *Historical Sketch of Christ Reformed Church, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania* (Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, 1933. 49 p.); Victor B. Stanley, *Marion [South Carolina] Churches and Churchmen, 1735-1935* (1938. 109 p.); Anne W. Reddy, *Virginia Marriage Bonds, Richmond City* (Staunton, Virginia, 1939. Vol. 1, 158 p.); and Marshall Wingfield, *Marriage Bonds of Franklin County, Virginia, 1786-1858* (Memphis, Tennessee, 1939. 256 p.). Earlier publications that may be added to this list include a *History of Livingston County, Illinois* (Chicago, 1878. 896 p.); I. L. Stuart, *History of Franklin County, Iowa* (Chicago, 1914. 2 vols.); Charles S. Van Tassel, *Story of the Maumee Valley, Toledo and the Sandusky Region* (Chicago, 1929. 4 vols.); and John G. Gregory, *Southeastern Wisconsin: A History of Old Milwaukee County* (Chicago, 1932. 4 vols.).

## NEWS AND COMMENT

THE "HEIGHTENED PUBLIC DEMAND for biographies, for period histories in popular style, for historical novels and plays" — in general the "thirst for history in various forms" that has marked the past two decades — is discussed by Matthew Josephson in an article on "Historians and Mythmakers" in the winter number of the *Virginia Quarterly Review*. The writer believes that "behind the reawakened desire for biography and for historical fiction there may have been the need for renewed contact with the very raw materials of history, those documents from life, knowledge of which may permit one to become his own historian and to enter his own historical judgments." For the writer of history, Mr. Josephson stresses the importance of a "philosophy of history," which he describes as a "compass by which one may navigate the oceans of documents and facts." It is "upon the preliminary assumptions, the concept of history, the scheme of reference which controls the arrangement and the selection of facts and the judgment of their importance" that the writing of history turns. In the work of the most impartial scholars, men who claim "to have constructed their accounts without the shadow either of prejudice of any system of judgment, but solely with an eye to rigorous, 'objective' truth," there is evidence that "by the mere process of selection or condensation which even a generous space may demand, as the omission of a few sentences from a letter, or a paragraph from a public paper, the whole shape of events seems to be altered as if by a powerful unconscious fixation or prejudice." Mr. Josephson reminds his readers that "the whole secular, unmystical, and rational tradition of modern democracy demands respect for truth," and he concludes that "what we need is less myth and more history."

"The American Imprints Inventory, a project to find, describe, and note the location of a copy of every discoverable book and pamphlet printed from the beginning of the press in America through the centennial year of 1876" is the subject of an article by John C. Bond, which appears in the magazine section of the *Christian Science Monitor* for March 23. Under the title "Book Detectives Rewrite American History," he tells how Mr. Douglas C. McMurtrie's interest in

typography and the history of printing prompted the Historical Records Survey to undertake this inventory. Incidentally, the writer notes that Minnesota is one of nine states for which lists of early imprints have been completed.

Two "Little Known Fragments of Turner's Writings" are reprinted with an introduction by Fulmer Mood in the "Documents" section of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for March. They consist of an article on Wisconsin which Turner prepared for the ninth edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, issued in 1888, and a section on the frontier published in *Johnson's Universal Cyclopædia* of 1894. It will be recalled that Mr. Mood furnished the introduction for Professor Turner's essay on "The Rise and Fall of New France," which was reprinted in *Minnesota History* in December, 1937 (*ante*, 18:381-398).

A chapter entitled "Clio Joins the Colors: Scholars and the Schools" is included in James R. Mock and Cedric Larson's *Words That Won the War: The Story of the Committee on Public Information, 1917-1919* (Princeton, 1939. 372 p.). It deals with the work of the committee's division of civic and educational co-operation, of which Dr. Guy Stanton Ford, then dean of the graduate school and now president of the University of Minnesota, was the director. Dean Ford's war work is described as "one of the most stupendous jobs in 'popular scholarship' that this country has ever seen," for his division "put out more than 75,000,000 pieces of literature, ranging in character from the simplest four-page leaflet to an elaborate war cyclopedia and numerous heavily annotated works of research." It is noteworthy that many of the publications issued by Dean Ford's division were from the pens of his colleagues in the University of Minnesota.

*Conservation in the United States* is the title of a textbook prepared by A. F. Gustafson, H. Ries, C. H. Guise, and W. J. Hamilton, Jr., all members of the faculty of Cornell University (Ithaca, 1939). Some attention is given to Minnesota's natural resources in chapters relating to soil, forests, fisheries, and game and fur resources. The only mention of iron mining in the state, however, appears to be in the caption of a picture on page 368, which shows an open pit mine at Hibbing.

"The Vanishing Bison" was the subject of a radio program broadcast on February 4 as one of a series entitled "The World is Yours." Each program is based upon an exhibit or a scientific investigation of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. In connection with the present broadcast, an essay on "The American Bison and the Indian" by David I. Bushnell, Jr., was published by the Columbia University Press (16 p.).

"On his desk during latter 1862 Lincoln had the record of a military court sentencing 303 men to be hanged for murder, rape, arson." In these words Carl Sandburg, in his *Abraham Lincoln: The War Years*, opens his account of the president's part in the punishment of the Sioux after the Minnesota outbreak of 1862. How "Lincoln studied the record of the trial, and delayed"; how "on December 6 he wrote the names of those to be hanged," putting them down "one by one, in his own handwriting"; how his order was carried out at Mankato on December 26, 1862, — all are told in Mr. Sandburg's resounding prose. He records that "the President had insisted the trial record and reports from General Pope should 'indicate the more guilty and influential of the culprits,'" since he felt that "it was not definitely known who had fomented the Minnesota outbreak." A result of the outbreak noted by Mr. Sandburg is the president's suggestion to Congress for a "remodeling of the system and policy of treating Indians."

An Indian story of the Sioux War, as told to Ernest Thompson Seton and retold by him, is included under the title "The Minnesota Affair" in Julia M. Seton's recent volume, *The Pulse of the Pueblo* (Santa Fe, 1939. 249 p.). The uprising under Little Crow, the Sibley expedition, Bishop Whipple's work on behalf of the red men, President Lincoln's pardon of large numbers of Sioux, and the hanging of others at Mankato are mentioned in this narrative.

"As the head of navigation, the source of the Mississippi, and the location of its most beautiful shore line, Minnesota has a great interest in the observance" in 1941 of the four-hundredth anniversary of De Soto's discovery of the great river, reads an editorial in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for January 30. This is the time, the writer believes, for a "rediscovery" not only of the lower reaches of the Mississippi that

the Spaniards found, but of the upper course that was discovered by the French more than a century later.

"The Unfinished Story of the Mississippi" was the subject of an address presented by Dr. Theodore C. Blegen on March 26 as one of a series of lectures for members of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. To illustrate his subject he showed numerous slides reproducing views of the Mississippi as recorded both by photographers and by pioneer artists who traveled on its waters.

Works by some seventy artists of the Mississippi Valley were displayed at the Davenport Municipal Art Gallery in April. Scenes along the river were depicted in many of the canvases and prints assembled for this unusual exhibit.

The activities in Minnesota of the "American Society of Equity" are given considerable attention by Robert H. Bahmer in an article on this organization's origin, growth, and decline, which appears in the January issue of *Agricultural History*. It was in response to an invitation from the Olmsted County Merchants' Association that J. A. Everitt, the Indianapolis editor who served as president of the Equity, went to Rochester in 1904 to preach the "gospel of price fixing and controlled marketing." How the society's influence increased in Minnesota and in other Northwest states in the years that followed is described by Mr. Bahmer. He touches upon the activities of the Equity president in Minnesota, Magnus Johnson, and he tells how the society "helped produce the Nonpartisan League." As one of the "dozens of Equity-inspired farmers' cooperatives" that are still in existence, the author cites the present Farmers' Union Terminal of St. Paul, the "first successful cooperative invasion of the terminal grain markets."

An illustrated article dealing with the interest in the Kensington rune stone of Professor Rodney B. Harvey of the University of Minnesota college of agriculture appears in the *Minneapolis Times-Tribune* for January 18. According to this account, Professor Harvey has made detailed studies of the lake region near Kensington, the Corman Lake district, and the chisel marks on the stone itself.

New Ulm, Helvetia, and Minneota are among the Minnesota foreign settlements that figure in Carl Wittke's recent volume, *We Who*



*Built America: The Saga of the Immigrant* (New York, 1939. 547 p.). The socialistic German colony of New Ulm is included among the "Immigrant Utopias" described by the author. He takes note, also, of Irish, Swiss, Dutch, Czech, Finnish, and primarily, of Scandinavian settlements in Minnesota. He shows how the state became the "glorious new Scandinavia" that Fredrika Bremer foretold, citing the contributions of Swedes, Norwegians, and Danes to its politics, literature, agriculture, and the like. The author records that there are "400 place names of Scandinavian origin on the map of Minnesota"; that "in 1921, 73 of the 86 counties in Minnesota had one or more Swedish officeholders"; and he mentions the activities of such prominent Minnesotans of Scandinavian birth or descent as Hans Mattson, Charles A. Lindbergh, Sr., Floyd Olson, John Lind, John A. Johnson, and O. E. Rølvaag. It is noteworthy, also, that in his chapter on the Scandinavians, Professor Wittke has leaned heavily upon the writings of two Minnesotans, Professors Theodore C. Blegen and George M. Stephenson of the University of Minnesota.

In an article on "Peter Akers: Methodist Circuit Rider and Educator (1790-1886)," which appears in the *Journal* of the Illinois State Historical Society for December, T. Walter Johnson fails to mention the fact that his subject went to Red Wing in 1857 to serve as a member of the faculty of Hamline University, and that he remained in Minnesota for eight years. The author seems to be unaware that a collection of Akers family papers is preserved by the Minnesota Historical Society. He deals to a large extent with Akers' services as a Methodist preacher in Illinois and as president of a sectarian college in that state.

Students of social life and domestic conditions in the West will be interested in Jacob A. Swisher's article on "The Evolution of Wash Day," which appears in the January number of the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*. The writer gives special attention to washing machines, revealing that by "1867 washing machines had become a reality and many were being used even in the Middle West." A section of the article reviews the story of the washing machine industry in Iowa, and includes a list of such machines that have been manufactured in the state. To the same issue of the *Journal*, William J. Petersen contributes an article on "Wolves in Iowa."

The "Early History of Hesper," a village in Winneshiek County, Iowa, near the Minnesota border, is reviewed by a former resident, Burr Griswold, in the *Mabel Record* for March 29. By interviewing pioneer settlers, consulting newspaper files, and the like, the author has gathered a mass of information on the beginning of settlement in 1851, the platting of the village, early churches and schools, pioneer merchants and their stores, the library, early doctors, a Fourth of July celebration in 1869, a baseball team of 1888, and various other topics.

A diary kept by Henry Naegele while serving with a Kansas regiment in the Civil War is described by Don Schneider in the *Mankato Free Press* for February 13. Naegele settled at Mantorville and engaged in farming after being discharged from the army. The first entry in the diary was made at Nashville on May 1, 1864. A number of important engagements, including the siege of Atlanta, are covered in the entries.

"The Canadian-American border rolls across a thousand miles of prairie from the last of the lakes to the first of the mountains, hardly more guarded than the Hudson River boundary between New York and New Jersey." Thus writes Jack Alexander in an article entitled "Border without Bayonets," which appears in the *Saturday Evening Post* for January 6. The writer found, when traveling along the northern boundaries of Minnesota and North Dakota, that at "average intervals of forty-five miles there are ports of entry with customs and immigration officers, whose check of travelers is casual. Anywhere between these stations, anyone may cross without surveillance as readily as you may cross the 100th Meridian." A number of border communities, such as Roseau, International Falls, and Fort Frances, where Americans and Canadians mingle as easily as the citizens of neighboring states, are pictured by Mr. Alexander.

In an article on "Doctor Cheadle in Western Canada," which appears in the January number of the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, Ross Mitchell draws upon the narratives of two English travelers who crossed Minnesota by stagecoach in the summer of 1862. The present writer passes hastily over the Minnesota experiences of Viscount Milton and Walter B. Cheadle, but he notes that they escaped the Sioux Massacre by only a few weeks. Their trip down the Red River from Georgetown to Winnipeg by canoe and steam-

boat is described. The bulk of the narrative, however, deals with one of the earliest tours from Fort Garry to the Pacific to be made "merely for the sake of adventure."

Various aspects of life in the Canadian Red River settlements from 1818 to 1852 are vividly pictured in a series of letters of "Bishop Provencher, Pioneer," appearing in the weekly magazine section of the *Winnipeg Free Press* from January 6 to February 17. Selections from the letters have been made by Margaret A. MacLeod, who also provides an introductory background for the story they tell. Translations from the original French manuscripts have been made by Henry Caron, and it should be noted that their publication in the *Free Press* marks their first appearance in English. The letters are rich in allusions to individuals and events that were of importance in the American as well as in the Canadian section of the valley. Shortly after his arrival at Red River, for example, Father Joseph N. Provencher "reported that there were 60 children in school at Pembina and 80 attending one held at the buffalo hunt." A few years later he was forced to abandon the Pembina mission because "it was thought to be on American territory and was too near the Sioux." Father Georges A. Belcourt is mentioned frequently, especially in relation to his work on a Chippewa dictionary. "I want to give [Belcourt] as much time as possible to learn the Indian language, a very urgent need," writes Provencher on July 1, 1829, and in December, 1834, he notes that the priest is continuing the work "on his dictionary, which will be useful for the newcomers." This French-Chippewa dictionary, which is now preserved by the archdiocese of St. Boniface, was copied recently on film slides for the Minnesota Historical Society (see *ante*, 20:430). Some of the bishop's most interesting comments relate to the importation of cattle. In a report of March 12, 1836, he notes: "Cows were imported from Missouri in 1825, 400 or 500 in number. . . . They are now well multiplied. Sheep were brought from Kentucky in 1833 through a subscription in the colony. Unfortunately, out of more than 1,200 which had left Kentucky, 260 only arrived at Red River, the rest died on the way." He tells also of hens brought "from Prairie du Chien on the Mississippi," and of turkeys, geese, and pigs imported by way of Hudson Bay. Of special interest also is Provencher's description of the severe flood of 1826 and of the subsequent departure of "about 250 souls in Swiss,

Meurons and others who leave the country frightened by this year's accidents."

Mrs. MacLeod makes another contribution to the recorded history of the Red River settlements in a study of "Cuthbert Grant of Grantown," which appears in the *Canadian Historical Review* for March. The writer comes to the defense of the leader of the métis in the massacre of Seven Oaks, giving emphasis to his services in protecting the Red River colony from the Sioux after 1824, to his activities in promoting settlement, and to his services as a pioneer medical practitioner. Grantown, founded in 1824, was, according to Mrs. MacLeod, the "second settlement in Rupertsland, bearing like the first the imprint of one man as its founder," for, she asserts, "Grant was as great a man to his settlers as Lord Selkirk had been to his." The settlement, now known by its parish name of St. François Xavier, by 1853 had grown to a "busy village of nine hundred people" who were "noted as the best cart makers in all Red River" and were famed as warriors.

#### GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

The reconstruction of the Northwest Company stockade and the great hall at Grand Portage, the outlines of which were located in excavations conducted in 1936 and 1937 (see *ante*, 18:456-458), has now been completed. Tourists who visit the North Shore village during the coming summer will be able to view these reminders of the days when Grand Portage was the most important fur-trading center in the Minnesota country. The stockade, much of which was erected in the summer of 1938, measures 362 by 340 feet. Its irregular outline encloses an area of nearly three acres. It is built of pickets, and the method of erection follows that described in contemporary records of fur-trade days. Over the main entrance on the creek side is a gatehouse designed on the basis of archaeological evidence and similar to one used at Fort Langley on the Pacific coast. The main hall within the stockade has been built on the original stone foundation, measuring 95 by 30 feet, which was uncovered in 1937. Working plans for the structure, which is built of upright timbers and rough planks, were drawn up in 1938; it was erected in the winter of 1939-40. This building will house a museum in which will be displayed examples of the early culture of the Grand Portage

Chippewa and objects illustrative of the fur trade that centered in the stockade, including the large collection of materials unearthed in the course of the excavation of the site. Most of the Indian objects for the museum have been made by some of the older residents of the village while employed by the WPA. The natives have thus been given an opportunity to leave for posterity a record of the crafts of their tribe. The restoration as a whole has been a co-operative project, engaging the resources of the WPA, the United States Indian Service, the Minnesota Historical Society, and the Cook County Historical Society.

W. M. B.

Chippewa-Lac qui Parle State Park on the upper Minnesota River near Montevideo is the scene of an archaeological project that is being conducted by the Minnesota division of state parks with the co-operation of the Chippewa County Historical Society. The site of the home of Dr. Thomas S. Williamson, who established a mission at Lac qui Parle in 1835, will be excavated and marked, and the missionary services of Stephen R. Riggs and Alexander Huggins will be commemorated in a similar manner. The site of the home of Joseph Renville, the chief trader at Lac qui Parle, and his and his wife's graves also will be marked. Although the stockade that Renville built around his trading post lies outside the park area, it will be excavated and definitely located. Plans are also under way for restoring the chapel used by the missionaries at Lac qui Parle. Mr. Richard R. Sackett of the Minnesota Historical Records Survey has charge of the work of excavating the Lac qui Parle site.

The most recent volume in the Minnesota Historical Records Survey's *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota* makes available a list of the records of Nobles County preserved in the courthouse at Worthington (no. 53—273 p.). Twelve pages are devoted to a sketch of the county's history, and forty-five to an account of its "Governmental Organization and Records System." To the *Inventory of Federal Archives in the States*, the Historical Records Survey has added a volume on the department of war in Minnesota (127 p.). It lists a wealth of material preserved at the military post at Fort Snelling, of numerous engineer offices in the state, of army recruiting stations at Duluth and Minneapolis, of reserve officers' training corps in various schools and colleges, and the like. There is also a list of

military records preserved by the Minnesota Historical Society (p. 112-114). The Historical Records Survey has now completed and published inventories of the archives of sixteen counties and of eight federal departments in Minnesota.

Governor Harold E. Stassen is the author of an article on "Democracy in Land o' Lakes," which appears in the magazine section of the *Christian Science Monitor* for March 23. In it, he defines the aims of his administration and describes some of its outstanding accomplishments, such as the labor relations and civil service laws. A pictorial map of Minnesota in full color appears on the cover page of the section above the heading of Governor Stassen's article.

"There has been some confusion as to the date which should be recognized as the true founding date of the University but this indefiniteness was eliminated last October when the Board of Regents adopted a resolution to the effect" that the action of the territorial legislature on February 25, 1851, providing for an institution at or near the Falls of St. Anthony should be regarded as the official beginning of the school. Thus the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* of February 17 is able to announce that the "University Has a Birthday" on February 25. Some interesting information about early activities, the reorganization of 1868, and the opening of classes in 1869 is presented.

Many phases of campus life at the University of Minnesota during the four decades since the *Minnesota Daily* was founded are described in the paper's fortieth anniversary edition, issued on March 1. A file of the *Daily*, which began publication on the campus on May 1, 1900, was used in preparing a review of its history.

A volume of *Annals of the Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, 1872-1939*, prepared by Dr. Thomas S. Roberts, director, not only reviews the history of an important campus institution, but marks its removal to a permanent home of its own (1939. 183 p.). In his introduction, Dr. Roberts outlines the story of the museum from 1872, when it was created by an act of the legislature, to 1939. Included in the volume also are a sketch of Mr. James Ford Bell of Minneapolis, whose "generous and continued support has made possible the present museum," a chronology or "Log" of

the museum, and the texts of the "Annual Reports to the President" of the university presented by Dr. Roberts as the director of the museum during two decades. Among the illustrations are portraits of the three men who have served as directors of the museum—Newton H. Winchell, Henry F. Nachtrieb, and Dr. Roberts—and of Mr. Bell, a view of the new museum building, and pictures of some of the groups included among its displays.

"It would seem desirable for the library of a state university to emphasize as part of its collections the literature of the state that supports it," writes John T. Flanagan in an article on "Early American Fiction in the University Library," which appears in the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly* for February 10. "A collection of the literature which uses Minnesota as a locale would prove both interesting and profitable to students," according to Dr. Flanagan, for such works have not only literary, but "historical and sociological interest."

"Minnesota Art" was the subject of a lecture presented by Professor Laurence Schmeckebier of the department of fine arts in the University of Minnesota at the St. Paul Gallery and School of Art on February 29. To illustrate his address, Mr. Schmeckebier showed slides of pictures by such pioneers of art in Minnesota as Peter Rindisbacher, Seth Eastman, and Henry Lewis.

The February number of the *Journal-Lancet* is a "70th Anniversary Issue," in which the history of "Minnesota's Oldest Medical Journal" is reviewed by James Eckman. This periodical, "surviving today in the form of *The Journal-Lancet*," was first issued, according to Mr. Eckman, as the *Northwestern Medical and Surgical Journal* in June, 1870. Its editor, Dr. Alexander J. Stone, announced plans for the journal at the second annual meeting of the Minnesota State Medical Society, in St. Paul on February 1, 1870. Both the contents and format of the pioneer journal are described in some detail. The founding in 1881 by Dr. Jay Owens of the *Northwestern Lancet* also is described, for this publication later was edited by Dr. Stone and in 1911 it became known as the *Journal-Lancet*. Mr. Eckman lists a number of other Minnesota medical journals that have appeared and disappeared since 1870. His article includes brief biographical sketches of Dr. Stone and of Dr. William A. Jones, a later editor of

the *Lancet*. Title pages of some early medical publications are reproduced with the article.

The concluding installments of Dr. A. S. Hamilton's "History of Medicine in Hennepin County" appear in the January, February, and March issues of *Minnesota Medicine*, where they form part of an extensive "History of Medicine in Minnesota" (see *ante*, p. 101). Biographical sketches of pioneer doctors, notes on the activities of the Hennepin County Medical Society, information about the Hahne-mann Medical Society of Hennepin County, and brief historical accounts of Minneapolis hospitals are presented. The author includes, in the March installment, lists of officers of the Hennepin County Medical Society from 1855 to 1936, of Minneapolis health officers from the organization of the board of health in 1867 to 1936, and of coroners of Hennepin County from 1869 to the present.

Visits in 1882 to the Minnesota Catholic colonies of Adrian and Avoca by a priest from Kentucky, the Reverend Thomas J. Jenkins, are recorded in the "Collectanea" section of *Central-Blatt and Social Justice* for January. The note is based on Father Jenkins' book, *Six Seasons on Our Prairies*, published in 1884. It may be noted that the Minnesota Historical Society has a copy of this little-known account of travel in the Middle West.

A detailed history of the Church of St. Matthew of St. Paul, which was established in 1886 to serve the large Catholic settlement in the West Side district of the city, appears in the *Wanderer* for February 1. The early history of Redwood Falls, the beginnings of Catholic settlement there in 1870, and the organization of a parish are described in the issue of the same paper for February 22. Historical sketches of "Six Catholic Parishes in Winona," including St. Thomas' Pro-Cathedral, appear in the *Wanderer* for March 21.

A colorful narrative of pioneer life, including vivid accounts of a covered-wagon journey from Wisconsin to Minnesota, of frontier homes and their furnishings, of pioneer harvesting methods, of a prairie fire, of wild life on the prairie, and the like, has been appearing in installments in the *Sleepy Eye Herald-Dispatch* since January 11. The author, LeRoy G. Davis, a pioneer of 1866, draws upon his own recollections for most of his material. Of unusual interest



is his description of the Davis family's trip by covered wagon from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, to the Minnesota Valley, published in the *Herald-Dispatch* for February 1. "There were three covered wagons in the train at the start, two horse teams and one mule team," writes Mr. Davis. The journey of three weeks that followed must have presented difficulties aplenty for the adults, for the trail westward sometimes led over rough corduroy roads and sometimes over mere wagon tracks. One stream was crossed on a covered bridge, but the crossing of the Mississippi at La Crosse was made by ferry. Despite all obstacles, Mr. Davis recalls that for the children in the party the journey was one "long picnic," with meals eaten in the open and nights spent in or under the wagons. Members of the Davis family spent their first Minnesota winter in Mankato, but in the spring and summer of 1867 they settled on a prairie claim near Sleepy Eye. There they made their home in a shack that was "only a one-room affair with a small, low loft, sides and double roof, boarded up, boards upright, and battened, unfinished inside." For protection against the fierce winter winds the walls and roof were covered on the outside with slabs of prairie sod. It will be recalled that two chapters from Mr. Davis' reminiscences, dealing with "Frontier Words and Phrases" and "Frontier Home Remedies and Sanitation" were published in this magazine in 1938 (*ante*, 19:241-246, 369-376).

Two Minnesota pioneer homes, the Faribault House at Mendota and the Octagonal House at Afton, are briefly described in the *North-west Architect* for January-February. Included are photographs of both houses, front and side elevations and plans of door casings and other details for the Faribault House, and the first floor plan of the Octagonal House.

The beginning of the lumber industry in Minnesota is traced back to the building of a government sawmill at the Falls of St. Anthony in 1822 in an outline of the "History of Minnesota's Great Logging Industry," by Fred Bessette, appearing in the *Daily Journal* of International Falls for March 15. Lumbering activities at Marine and other places on the St. Croix in the years that followed 1839 also are touched upon. Mr. Bessette notes that lumbering in the Lake Superior region began about 1855, and that mills were established at

Oneota, Cloquet, Virginia, and other places. The author describes some of the changes in logging methods that the Minnesota forests have witnessed, and presents figures to illustrate the extent of the industry at various periods.

The "Woodland Caribou in Minnesota," its past and its future, is discussed by William T. Cox in *Soil Conservation*, a publication of the United States department of agriculture, for December. The writer relates that this big game animal was originally found in Maine and Minnesota, that it disappeared from Maine over twenty years ago, and that until recently "only three of the native animals remained in Minnesota." The importation into Minnesota of ten caribou from Saskatchewan and the expedition into the Canadian wilds that resulted in their capture are described by Mr. Cox. The same expedition is the subject of an article by its leader, J. Manweiler, which appears in the March issue of the *Beaver*.

A section on "Agricultural History and Statistics" is included in a *Soil Survey (Reconnaissance): The Red River Valley Area, Minnesota*, prepared by C. C. Nikiforoff and others and issued by the bureau of chemistry and soils of the United States department of agriculture (Series 1933, number 25, 1939. 98 p.). In this narrative the beginnings of agriculture in the Red River Valley are traced back to the Selkirk colony of the Winnipeg area. The Minnesota counties covered by the survey are Kittson, Marshall, Red Lake, Polk, Norman, Clay, Wilkin, and Traverse. Kanabec County is the subject of a pamphlet by P. R. McMiller and others, issued as number 27 of the same series (1939).

The beginning and the progress of a Minnesota agricultural organization are reviewed in a pamphlet entitled *Twenty Years with the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation* (40 p.). The opening section deals with the organization of the bureau and its affiliation with the American Farm Bureau Federation in the summer of 1920. This is followed by a chronological list of the "accomplishments of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, 1920-1940." Some of the organization's special activities are described in later sections.

A manuscript narrative of experiences in the Sioux War of 1862, now preserved by the Minnesota Historical Society, is quoted exten-

sively in an article by Walton Streightiff appearing in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for March 17. It presents the recollections of Mrs. Sarah Ann Purnell Montgomery, who witnessed many events of the massacre as a girl of fifteen and who shortly before her death recorded her recollections of those events in a manuscript entitled "My Childhood Days among the Indians in Minnesota." The writer's father settled at South Bend shortly before the uprising, but that event caused him to remove to Wisconsin.

### LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Although the museum of the Olmsted County Historical Society at Rochester was formally opened to the public as recently as February 10 of the present year, it bears the aspect of a long-established and flourishing institution. Its collections are attractively displayed in a large room in the basement of the Rochester Public Library building, completed last year. Although this society has only recently found suitable quarters, it has been assembling material for years. Since its organization in 1926, its president, Mr. Burt W. Eaton, has been collecting museum material and storing it in his office. More recently, the Rochester Business and Professional Women's Club assembled more than six hundred objects for the society. Its secretary, Mrs. Bunn T. Willson, has done much of the work of installing the collections in their present location.

It is Mrs. Willson's boast that the museum at Rochester was "literally financed without money." The five large wall cases in which costumes, dress accessories, military objects, and many other items are displayed were constructed by WPA labor from used glass doors and posts from cases presented by Mr. Earl A. Vine. Five or six other less pretentious cases used for exhibit purposes also were received as gifts. Among the larger objects in the collection are a square piano of rosewood from the Tattersall House at High Forest and a handsome mahogany buffet. A rope bed, a chest of drawers, several sewing machines, and a rocking chair upholstered in needle point, all dating from the 1850's, are among the objects illustrative of pioneer domestic life. An interesting miniature group, showing an "Old Ladies' Quilting Party" in a log cabin, was made about 1877 for display at the local Congregational church. Numerous tools and agricultural implements of pioneer design also are included in the collection.

Every article displayed is accompanied by a descriptive label, which dates it and gives the name of the donor.

The society has a notable collection of Rochester newspapers, covering a span of years from 1859 to 1912. Included are the *City News* from 1859 to 1861, the *Post* from 1859 to 1912, and the *Olmsted County Democrat* from 1866 to 1912. The collection was originally built up by Charles C. Willson, a pioneer Rochester lawyer. The fact that the news items in these files have been indexed by workers engaged in a WPA project indicates that the community as well as the society appreciates the value of this collection. As many as four workers were engaged in this work when the indexing was in progress; at present two workers are consolidating the entries. It is believed that the index, when completed, will save much wear and tear on precious files.

Among the pictures displayed in the museum is a copy of Audubon's portrait of Nathaniel Rochester, founder of the city in New York for which the Minnesota Rochester was named. Another portrait is that of George Head, who suggested the name for the Olmsted County city. David Olmsted, for whom the county is named, also is represented by a portrait. Interesting lithographs of Rochester, showing the city in 1868 and 1874, are on display. An unusual photograph shows a train of covered wagons drawn by oxen on a Rochester street in 1858.

A beginning has been made toward a manuscript collection, which is now being arranged and catalogued. A few of the more spectacular items are on display. This collection seems to be particularly rich in business records. It includes, for example, account books kept by E. D. Buck for his store at High Forest in 1873-74, by D. J. Bascomb for his shop at Oronoco from 1871 to 1880, and by W. W. Ireland for a book store in Rochester from 1892 to 1895; personal and agricultural accounts kept by Henry Bear of Eyota from 1848 to 1875; the day book of a grist mill at Oronoco in 1856; and records of early hotels at Chatfield and Pleasant Grove.

The historical society is preserving the records of several local organizations—a literary society of the 1860's, fraternal lodges of Rochester and Pleasant Grove, the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Stewartville, and the Rochester Commercial Club. Among the official records in the collection are the election returns of Kalmar

Township for 1857, the justices' dockets of High Forest for the years from 1873 to 1907, and records of a number of rural school districts for various periods between 1869 and 1933. Mention might be made also of a Civil War diary and a collection of Spanish-American War papers.

During the three months that followed the opening of the Olmsted County museum, about thirteen hundred people who registered viewed its exhibits. For the opening day, February 10, the register shows 377 names. Most of those who saw the museum on that day were local residents; since that time, however, about eighty-five per cent of its visitors have come from outside the county or the state. It is therefore evident that a large number of the transients who seek medical aid in Rochester are finding their way to this historical museum. Five states, Canada, and five Minnesota communities were represented on the register for a day picked at random. Miss Leola Amos is in charge of the museum, which is open every day except Sundays and holidays from 10:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. B. L. H.

"The Settlement of Winnipeg and Its Influence on Minnesota History" was the subject of an address presented by Frank Long on January 2 before a meeting of the Becker County Historical Society at Detroit Lakes. He gave special attention to the trade between the Canadian settlement and St. Paul over the Red River trails.

Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, was the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, which was held at Mankato on March 11. Other recent meetings of this society were held at Mapleton on January 31 and at Lake Crystal on February 27. At the earlier meeting, which was sponsored by the Mapleton Woman's Study Club, Mr. E. Raymond Hughes of Mankato read a paper on "Steamboating on the Minnesota River." It is published in full in the *Blue Earth County Enterprise* of Mapleton for February 1.

"Fred Johnson's Hobby Builds Museum That Becomes Treasure of New Ulm" is the title of an article by Vivian Thorp appearing in the *Minneapolis Times-Tribune* for February 26. As one of a series of articles dealing with "interesting Minnesotans" and their contributions to their state and their communities, it gives a place in this category to the president of the Brown County Historical Society.

Emphasis is placed upon Mr. Johnson's notable collection of portraits and autographs, which forms the nucleus of the society's museum collection, and to the handsome building in which, through his efforts, it is housed.

A tour through the Walker Art Center of Minneapolis and an address on its history by its director, Mr. D. D. Defenbacher, were features of a meeting of the Hennepin County Historical Society held on February 27. About a hundred and fifty people attended a dinner meeting of the society at Hopkins on March 26. On this occasion Mr. Archie Miller spoke on pioneer life in Hopkins and recalled that members of his own family settled there in 1852, and Mr. Robert Mayo presented an address on the "Early Life of the Pond Brothers," pioneer missionaries to the Sioux. Plans for future meetings of this unusually active society, at Robbinsdale, St. Louis Park, and Bloomington, have been announced. The museum collection of this organization continues to grow, and the need for a fireproof building in which to house it is becoming more and more evident. A special display of museum objects, arranged in a store window in connection with the Hopkins meeting, proved to be a popular attraction. An illustrated article on the society's museum appears in the *Minneapolis Times-Tribune* for March 15.

The development of good roads in Minnesota from the days of the bicycle to the modern automobile era was traced by Dr. Arthur J. Larsen before a meeting of the Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society at Lake City on February 13. Mr. Emil Bohmbach read a paper on Colonel Jephtha Garrard's pioneer experiments with flying machines at Frontenac. Plans were discussed for the society's museum, which has been opened in the Lake City library since the meeting. It is open to visitors two evenings each week.

Appeals for additions to the collection of the Hutchinson Historical Society and notes on recent accessions, signed by Sophie P. White, secretary of the society, have been appearing in the *Hutchinson Leader* and the *Hutchinson Banner*. She calls upon residents of McLeod County to go through "those old trunks in the attic, those boxes in the basement, those barrels and bundles in the garage" with a view to locating objects that will illustrate life in the vicinity.

The need for a historical museum in Nicollet County was stressed at the annual banquet of the Nicollet County Historical Society, which was held at St. Peter on January 11. More than a hundred people were present to hear addresses and talks by Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society, Judge Harry Johnson of Mankato, and Dr. E. C. Carlton of St. Peter. Mr. Babcock described the buildings and rooms in which other counties have housed historical museums, and he urged the people of Nicollet County to preserve the records of their past in adequate quarters. Mr. Henry N. Benson, president of the local society, announced that a room in the basement of a bank had been made available for storing museum objects until appropriate exhibit rooms could be found. The complete text of Mr. Babcock's address appears in the *St. Peter Herald* for January 19.

Objects from the collections of the Nobles County Historical Society have been recently placed on display in a showcase in the courthouse at Worthington. An appeal for appropriate museum objects for the society and a description of some recent accessions appear in the *Worthington Daily Globe* for January 9.

More than five hundred people were attracted to the museum of the Olmsted County Historical Society by the open house and impressive programs that marked its opening on February 10. The museum, which is described *ante*, p. 213, was open to the public both in the afternoon and the evening, and both occasions were marked by programs of addresses and music. Among the speakers were Mr. Burt W. Eaton, president of the society, who reviewed its history since its organization in 1926 and described the years of effort that have culminated in the present museum; Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, who spoke on "Community Memory"; Mrs. Bunn T. Willson, whose activities in collecting and cataloguing material for the museum have done much to make it a reality; and Mrs. J. E. Benedict of Stewartville, who presented a reminiscent talk on pioneer life in southern Minnesota, with some account of the experiences of her grandparents in the Sioux War of 1862.

A hand bell used by a local missionary, C. W. Wilcox, who organized and conducted Sunday schools in various parts of Otter Tail

County, is a recent acquisition of the Otter Tail County Historical Society, according to the notes by its secretary, E. T. Barnard, appearing in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for February 6. The society hopes also to acquire a bell used in Fergus Falls since 1881 as a fire and a school bell.

The construction of a historical museum on the grounds of the Pipestone National Indian Shrine is being urged by the Pipestone County Historical Society, under the leadership of its president, Mr. H. A. Petschow. The society also is conducting a membership campaign, and has called upon its township representatives to enroll members in their districts.

The histories of "Two Early Grist Mills in Pope County" are outlined in an article prepared by the Pope County Historical Society and published in the *Glenwood Herald* for February 1. The mills, which were located at Lake Amelia and Marloue, were built about 1875. Early flour milling at Glenwood is the subject of a sketch appearing in the *Herald* for January 25, and the mill established at Terrace in the early 1870's is described in the issue for March 7.

A recent addition to the list of county historical societies in Minnesota is that organized in Renville County on January 26. A meeting held at Olivia resulted in the naming of J. R. Landy of Olivia as president and S. B. Determan of Morton as secretary-treasurer. Plans were made to assemble museum objects and display them in the courthouse at Olivia. A committee appointed to draw up bylaws and articles of incorporation reported at later meetings held on February 10 and March 23. On the latter occasion, Mr. Victor Lawson of Willmar, who has long been a member of the executive council of the Minnesota Historical Society and has been closely identified with local historical activity in Kandiyohi County, explained the possibilities of a local society to a large and enthusiastic audience.

Bronze plaques that the Waseca County Historical Society plans to place on the sites of the home of Asa G. Sutlief, a pioneer of 1854, and the building in Wilton where the first county records were kept were placed on display at a meeting of the society in Waseca on January 8. Mr. H. A. Panzram, president, and other officers of the society were re-elected at this meeting.



The work and aims of the Watonwan County Historical Society were described by its president, Mr. George S. Hage of Madelia, in a talk given before members of the St. James Rotary Club meeting on March 19. Mr. Hage called attention to a picturesque windmill that was operated as a grist mill in Odin Township from 1877 to 1905, and asked the co-operation of the Rotary Club in removing it to St. James for permanent preservation.

At a meeting of the Wilkin County Historical Society at Breckenridge on January 5, plans were discussed for a community building which would house not only the society's museum, but the public library, county war veterans' organizations, and an auditorium.

#### LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

An early Becker County rural school, erected in Lake Park Township about 1873, is recalled by Miss Nellie Childs, who taught in the crude structure in 1877 and 1878, in an interview reported in the *Detroit Lakes Tribune* for January 25. "Log benches, a homemade pine table and a small blackboard were the building's justification for being called a schoolhouse," according to Miss Childs. Pictures of the log schoolhouse of the seventies, which is still standing, and of the present district school accompany the article.

Under the heading "We Are Learning to Know Our Community," in the *Minnesota Journal of Education* for February, Clarice Haukebo tells of an interesting local history project that she conducted in a Clay County district school. After reading the recollections of a local pioneer, Ola Thortvedt, her pupils interviewed living pioneers and their descendants, visited a pioneer cabin containing furniture and equipment used by early settlers, collected furniture and utensils illustrative of pioneer life, built the scenery for a pioneer cabin, and wrote and produced a play of pioneer life in Clay County. For six weeks all English, art, and social studies for at least three grades centered about this community study. The play was presented as the closing program of the year at the Gunderson School. With Miss Haukebo's account appear pictures of some of the scenes that her pupils studied and of the activities in which they engaged.

"The Oldest Settlement in Cottonwood County" is the somewhat misleading title of a narrative by H. O. Hendrikson of Portland,

Oregon, which has been appearing in installments in the *Cottonwood County Citizen* of Windom since January 31. Actually, this is an account of the early history of the county, with records of Indian tribes that have occupied its area, exploration of the region, early settlement, the organization of the county, the origin of its name, participation in the Sioux War, the census of 1857, and the like. The careers of fur traders, such as Henry H. Sibley and James W. Lynd, are described in the installment appearing on March 6; the activities of the Dakota Land Company of 1856 are reviewed in the issue of March 13; some information on settlement published on March 20 is drawn from records preserved in the general land office in Washington. It is interesting to note that the author, a former resident of Minnesota, draws upon such sources as contemporary newspapers, letters, and reminiscences of pioneers.

In the *Mountain Lake Observer* for February 15, Mrs. B. N. Hiebert calls attention to the passing of a decade since the Mountain Lake Public Library was established as a project of the Tuesday Study Club. She tells of the organization of the club in 1926, of the fifty books ordered in 1930 that formed a nucleus for the public library, and of its later progress and growth.

The minutes of the village and city councils of Brainerd have been drawn upon for a series of articles dealing with the "Birth of Brainerd's City Government," the first of which appears in the *Brainerd Daily Dispatch* for February 17. Among the subjects covered are the organization of the first city council on January 11, 1873; the activities of the first mayor, Eber H. Bly, and the aldermen who served with him; the hook and ladder company which served as a fire department in the seventies; and the transformation from a city to a town government in 1876.

Under the heading "Fillmore Ghost Towns Were Once Vital Pioneer Centers," historical accounts of the interesting communities of Carimona and Forestville appear in the *Spring Valley Tribune* for January 11. Carimona is described as the first county seat and an important stagecoach station; Forestville is distinguished as the site of a general store opened in 1853 by Felix Meighen. The store, which is still standing, is described in some detail, and an account of the activities of members of the Meighen family in the locality is presented.

The arrival in Albert Lea in 1869 of Charles R. Ransom and the growth of the grocery concern that he established there are described in an article on the "Story of the Ransom Families" which appears in the *Evening Tribune* of Albert Lea for March 13. By 1890, according to this account, the Ransom Brothers Company had become exclusively a wholesale grocery business. Photographs of the staff of the latter concern and of the building in which it was operated accompany the article.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Woman's Club of Mound is marked, in the *Minnetonka Pilot* of March 21, by the publication of a chronological review of its activities and accomplishments since its organization in 1915. In the same issue is a brief outline of the history of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs.

An elaborately illustrated edition of the *Chimes*, a publication of the Salem English Lutheran Church of Minneapolis, commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the church (1939). The stories of its organization, of the building of the first church in 1889, and of the beginnings of the Sunday school and the Ladies' Aid Society are reviewed in some detail. Accounts of the services of various pastors are included. Special attention is given to the career of the Reverend George H. Trabert, who served the congregation from 1897 to 1920.

The eighty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the *Hokah Chief* is the occasion for the publication of a review of its history by its editor, H. E. Wheaton, in the issue for March 21. He relates that the paper was established as the *Minnesota Leader* in the spring of 1855, when Charles Reynolds took a printing outfit to Hokah on the invitation of Edward and Clark W. Thompson. Among later publishers whose activities are described are Hiram Ostrander, who gave the paper its present name, Henry L. Hohl, and Wesley S. Moe.

Many phases of the history of the schools of Willmar are touched upon in articles appearing in the *Willmar Daily Tribune* for January 22. Included are accounts of the pioneer period, from 1871 to 1878; of the growth and development of the system from 1878 to the present; of the first teacher, Miss Alma Willey; and of the first graduate, Mattie A. Brown, who received her diploma in 1882. Lists of mem-

bers of the board of education from 1904 to 1939, of superintendents and teachers, and graduates from 1882 to 1905 also appear in the issue. The history of the Willmar post office, which was established in 1869 when the railroad reached the community, is outlined in the *Tribune* for March 20.

Einar Hoidale is the author of a number of interesting articles dealing with pioneer life in Lac qui Parle County, which have been appearing in recent issues of the *Dawson Sentinel*. The first, in the issue of February 9, tells of the emigration from Norway of the Hoidale family, of their arrival in Lac qui Parle County in 1879, of the homestead near Dawson with its crude frontier cabin, and of living conditions in the early eighties. The building of the railroad in 1884 and the resulting mushroom growth of Dawson are described in a second article, published on March 15. In the third article, appearing on March 29, Mr. Hoidale names many of the early residents of Dawson.

The beginnings of settlement in Le Sueur County are reviewed by C. A. Rasmusson in the *Le Sueur News-Herald* for January 24. He describes the founding of the rival villages that eventually combined to form the city of Le Sueur, tells of early hotels and other local enterprises, and lists other communities that have developed in the county.

How the city of Fairmont acquired its parks is explained in the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel* for February 28. The record begins with the year 1894, when Sylvania Park was purchased by the city. Later purchases of land and gifts to the city for park purposes also are listed. A "certificate of exemption" issued to John H. Johnson of Nevada in Martin County in 1864 after he had been drafted for Civil War service is the subject of an article in the *Sentinel* for March 30. The certificate, dated at Rochester and signed by Dr. William W. Mayo, was found among the papers of the late Lovisa Johnson.

Accounts of many incidents of pioneer life in Mower County and Austin are woven into a narrative by Mrs. A. G. Thompson which appears in installments in the *Austin Daily Herald* for January 20, February 3 and 17, and March 12, 16, and 30. It revolves about the story of the "oldest building in Austin," the old Headquarters Building, which was erected eighty-four years ago and was originally

used for town meetings, social gatherings, church services, concerts, and the like. Among the events described by Mrs. Thompson are the fight between Austin and Frankford for the county seat, the county's participation in the Civil and Sioux wars, and the incorporation of Austin.

"Interesting Bits of Local History" that are revealed in old programs, menus, tickets, letter heads, bill heads, and the like are set forth in an article appearing in the *St. Peter Herald* for March 1. It seems to be based upon an interesting collection of early Nicollet County printed items, though unfortunately no mention is made of its location. Some reminiscences of Mrs. Regina Pettijohn, who served as a printer's devil in a St. Peter newspaper office half a century ago, are published in the *Herald* for February 28.

The January issue of the *Redeemer Record* commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer of St. Paul, by which it is published. The number includes a history of the church, accounts of the services of pastors, and pictures of the buildings that it has occupied since 1890.

An account of the early settlement and organization of Red Lake County, written by Charles E. Boughton, Sr., in 1901, appears in the *Red Lake Falls Gazette* for February 29. Since the history of this county has not been the subject of a published volume, the present article, written only five years after the organization of the county, has interest and value for all who seek information about northwestern Minnesota.

The earliest settlement of Sacred Heart Township by a group of Scandinavians from Rushford in southern Minnesota is described by O. O. Enestvedt in the *Sacred Heart News* for January 11. He tells of the journey in covered wagons to the new lands on the Minnesota River in 1866, giving special attention to the family of Thor Helgeson. Mr. Enestvedt records that a daughter of this pioneer, Mrs. Emil Johnson, still lives on the farm where her father settled.

The story of the Masonic Order in Minnesota is sketched as a background for a detailed history of the *Ionic Lodge No. 186, A. F. & A. M. of Duluth*, by Stanley L. Mack, issued to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary (Duluth, 1940. 208 p.). A general account of

Masonic organization in Minnesota is followed by reviews of activities in Duluth for each year from 1889 to 1939. Included in the volume also are biographical sketches of the thirty charter members of the Ionic Lodge, of its past masters and present officers, and a "World War Honor Roll."

Records of the "First and Last Homesteads in Swift County," for which applications were filed on May 23, 1865, and June 11, 1901, are presented in a brief article by C. Stewart Peterson which appears in the *Swift County Monitor* of Benson for February 2. These homestead applications were located by the writer in the general land office of the department of the interior in Washington.

Four charter members of the Arlington Club of Winona participated in a celebration marking its fiftieth anniversary on February 26. The club was organized with fourteen members in 1890. The history of this businessmen's social organization is reviewed in the *Winona Republican-Herald* for February 24.



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