

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

The Doctors Mayo. By HELEN CLAPESATTLE. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1941. xiv, 822 p. Illustrations, maps. \$3.75.)

Miss Clapesattle opens her biography of the Doctors Mayo by calling attention to the "paradox of Rochester." This paradox, she believes, lies in the fact that a "little town on the edge of nowhere" is "one of the world's greatest medical centers."

The challenge that faced the author was to explain the paradox. It was a big challenge and meant more than writing the saga of three extraordinary men. It meant placing those men, whose lives spanned more than a century, in a setting of extraordinary sweep. For neither the paradox nor the men could be explained in any single frame of reference. Obviously, she had to understand and to make clear to her readers the changing character of medical science and practice from the 1840's, when young William Worrall Mayo migrated to America, to 1939, when William James and Charles Horace Mayo died. She had to explore the customs and assumptions of at least three generations of Americans, study the transition of the Middle West from pioneer to modern times, appraise a changing civilization as manifested in an American local community, view the emergence and growth of a great institution projected from the lives of individual men, and see clearly not only her major characters but also the many figures associated with them. All this meant a prodigious amount of research, combing old newspapers, reading medical journals, interviewing many men and women, studying manuscripts and case histories, following clues wherever they led, assembling material from a bewildering variety of sources, and organizing it into a narrative, not bewildering, but clear and compact.

The project, as Guy Stanton Ford explains in the foreword, was initiated by the University of Minnesota. As early as 1927 Mr. Ford asked Dr. William J. Mayo to write his autobiography; seven years later he and President Coffman offered "to have prepared and published by the University Press an objective biography" of the Mayos. This offer was accepted, and the university wisely chose

Miss Clapesattle of the editorial staff of its press, a scholar trained in the history department of the University of Minnesota, to write the book.

Miss Clapesattle has met with competence and integrity the challenge of her task. She has not indulged in short cuts; her research is honest and thorough; and she has worked out an admirable organization of her complex material, dividing the story into three main parts, the first dealing with "The Old Doctor," the second with "The Mayo Brothers," and the third with the "Clinic and Foundation." The general strategy of her book may be suggested by a glance at the chapter topics. In the first section, on the elder Dr. Mayo, she tells of the way westward, life on the Minnesota frontier, Civil War days, pioneer Rochester, the experiences of a horse-and-buggy doctor, and pioneering in surgery. The scene then shifts to the Mayo brothers. The author portrays them growing up and at medical school, analyzes the relations of father and sons, tells of the Rochester tornado of 1883 and the Sisters of St. Francis, describes the young doctors, shows how they applied the "New Surgery," discusses the expansion and organization of their work, tells how they won wide recognition, reviews the story of the formation of the Surgeons' Club, pictures the Mayos as both "Target and Magnet," and depicts the Mayo Clinic as it takes shape. The final section, on the clinic and the foundation, tells of the university affiliation, the clinic during the first World War, planning for the future, medical frontiers, and training young doctors, closing with chapters on "My Brother and I" and "A Living Memorial."

It is not the formal organization of the book, however, that makes the reading of it an exciting and memorable experience. Its special distinction lies in the narrative itself. The writing is spirited, clear, unpretentious. The portraiture is lifelike, not only of the Mayos but also of the hosts of associates and friends who walk through these pages, from Fenger, Murphy, Plummer, and Judd down to Jay Neville, "caretaker extraordinary," and the Fillmore County farmer who had a "swelling of the throat." The author's warm appreciation of the human element and her abundant use of revealing anecdote make her characters live. Her patient research and the rich detail of her story stamp it with an unmistakable authenticity. She has an almost deceptive skill in binding the personal story of the

Mayos to major forces at work in Minnesota, America, and the world, and in similar fashion she interprets progress in medicine and surgery in the understandable terms of the Old Doctor and Drs. Will and Charlie. Finally, the story that she tells is one of the great dramatic stories of America. Among its basic elements are struggle, discovery, rare achievement, service to mankind, and the dignity and greatness of human character.

The specific contributions of the book are many, and only a few of them can be suggested here. Outstanding, in my opinion, is the broad view given of the development of medicine in a period of fast-moving and significant transition. This view is kept in clear and dramatic focus by means of the doctors at the center of the action, and the reader is constantly made aware of the significance of the medical advance in relation to the social history of state and nation. I shall be much mistaken if *The Doctors Mayo* does not give a new impulse to the cultivation by historians of a field which, as Mr. Ford says, they "have long neglected" — that of science and medicine.

A second contribution that seems noteworthy to me is the dynamic treatment given to the social history of frontier Minnesota. The horse-and-buggy doctor becomes a real figure, a man of flesh and blood, because Miss Clapesattle understands and portrays not only the man but the horse-and-buggy age in which he lived. She has given us one of the best pictures of the frontier Middle West that we have in print; and the picture is the more memorable because the Old Doctor, a "man of hope and forward-looking mind," dominates it. Not long ago I read James Flexner's description of the "doctors of genius" in pioneer settlements, "explorers who, without laboratories or instruments of precision or even any formal training, made great discoveries that helped usher in the age of modern medical science." I have no doubt that there were such doctors, but the story of the elder Dr. Mayo suggests that not a few of these frontier geniuses made laboratories of their own, devised instruments, and kept in touch with the advance of their science in Europe and America. Apparently there was no sudden transition from the nonlaboratory era to that of modern medical science. The process was gradual, and it was the old doctors who bridged the gap between two ages.

A third notable contribution of the book is the full-length picture that it gives of the Mayo Clinic as an experiment in "cooperative

individualism." Miss Clapesattle goes so far as to say that the "length and strength of the chain the Mayos started by building a clinic upon their surgical partnership will determine the niche finally accorded them in medical history." And Mr. Ford suggests that the Mayo brothers and their father and the "development of their contribution to group effort in a highly individualistic profession would be necessarily the central theme" of the book. Other books and the future will fill out the story of the long significance of the group idea. "No man is big enough to be independent of others," the Old Doctor said. By their works his sons turned this dictum into a great and living institution whose influence has been world-wide. To me, however, the closely allied emphasis upon education and research, the idea of unending challenges to frontiers and never-ceasing responsibility to the future, seems the fundamental contribution of the Mayos. I do not mean to suggest that this is not taken into full account by Miss Clapesattle. The spirit of this emphasis pervades her book and it is not by chance that, before her final closing appraisal of the Mayo brothers, she includes a series of three chapters entitled "Toward the Future," "On the Frontiers of Medicine," and "Training Young Doctors."

Finally, as one of the notable contributions of this volume, I point to the full-bodied characterization of the Mayos. This is not a matter of adjectives or of summary claims, but of comprehensive biographical treatment. The men of Rochester are recreated in these pages. They are pictured working out their problems, year after year, growing in stature, revealing themselves in the full compass of their living. Miss Clapesattle enables the reader to watch the Mayo brothers in the sickroom and at the operating table, in their homes and on their river boat, in the company of the great and with the humble, in academic robes and in hunting jackets. The reader sees the two surgeons in the swirl of great events, but sometimes the author penetrates to their inner qualities by means of homely episode and anecdote.

Late in the book the author pauses to speculate upon the fact that Drs. Will, Charlie, Graham, Judd, and Plummer, and Sister Joseph were "all born and reared within a few miles of Rochester." She concludes that it probably was not the air of southern Minnesota that produced such "unusual medical skill." Her explanation is rather that the "presence of a flourishing medical practice attracted an un-

usual number of those with talent into medicine," persons who, save for that practice, might have been drawn by other forces into other fields. In 1910 Dr. William J. Mayo found himself in line at Columbia University, waiting to receive an honorary degree. He turned to the stranger next to him and asked, "Who are you?" The stranger replied, "To tell you the truth, I am just a country editor from a little town in Kansas called Emporia and my name's White." Dr. Will grinned and said, "Well, all right, I am just a country doctor from a little town in Minnesota called Rochester and my name's Mayo." So the paradox of Rochester had crossed Dr. Will's mind, too.

Miss Clapesattle makes the paradox seem no paradox at all, for she shows how the thing came about, step by step, from the beginning; and in doing so, she makes a permanent contribution to American history in a book that sparkles with interest, is a delight to read, and at the same time is solidly built upon scholarly research and careful documentation. She leaves a question for the reader to ponder. Does her story illustrate the theory of the mousetrap and the beaten path? Or was Dr. Will correct when he said, "We were born at the right time and to the right parents. Perhaps no one will ever again have the opportunity to accomplish as much. That day is gone, unless for some genius. We were not geniuses. We were only hard workers. We were reared in medicine as a farmer boy is reared in farming. We learned from our father."

THEODORE C. BLEGEN

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

Lincoln and the Radicals. By T. HARRY WILLIAMS. (Madison, The University of Wisconsin Press, 1941. 413 p. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

Of the thousands of Lincoln books which have appeared in the last seventy-five years *Lincoln and the Radicals* by T. Harry Williams stands out from the multitude as history with character. The high-spirited narrative traces the blunderbuss bigotry of the Congressional radicals from the election of the war president until they deployed from his funeral to open fire on "Andy" Johnson. The book would be more properly entitled "The Radicals—and Lincoln," for the

doughty haters of Southern culture who later composed the "Committee on the Conduct of the War" occupy the center of the stage in the opening chapters, and Lincoln, lurking in the wings, never ventures closer than backstage from act one until the curtain drops in the epilogue.

With quickstep time and apt metaphor, the author sketches the uncompromising character of bluff Ben Wade, deformed Thaddeus Stevens, repulsively virtuous Charles Sumner, and others, all of whom, according to the author's interpretation, became crazed with delusions of righteousness, and with terrible earnestness turned the constantly recurring military reverses to their own account, finally gloating over the assassination of the president as a steppingstone to their ambitions. The author pictures wartime Washington as a mad-house ruled by paranoiacs obsessed with no desire beyond their own fanaticism. The book's artistic composition would have been enhanced if the sordid monotone had been relieved with some allegro of heroism, a humorous quip, an occasional homely vignette in the cantata of intrigues, partisan investigations, and court-martial verdicts directed by political cabal—the sorry picture of an undisciplined democracy at war.

In this holocaust of horrors Abraham Lincoln appears in the shadows, weak and vacillating—when "threatened with ravishment, he averted his fate by instant compliance." This is not the usual interpretation of Lincoln's political subtlety, although it is not altogether new. Many quotations are presented to show what the radicals thought about Lincoln. What Lincoln, sly, humorous philosopher that he was, said about the radicals may be found in a source the author did not include: "If to be head of Hell is as hard as what I have to undergo here I could find it in my heart to pity Satan himself."

JAY MONAGHAN

ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY
SPRINGFIELD

Indian-fighting Army. By FAIRFAX DOWNEY. (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1941. xii, 329 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

This is a popular account of one phase of the history of the United States army from 1865 to 1890. The episodes selected, based en-

tirely on published sources and treated rather romantically, are vividly related and will give the uninitiated an interesting résumé of the Indian wars of that period. There is an especially good chapter, the sixth, on the frontier life of officers' wives, and reproductions of many of Frederic Remington's paintings and sketches add much to the attractive volume.

Although for the most part errors are not serious, two major criticisms must be made. First, the author contends that this period in the history of the army was unique. Actually, in spite of the arguments put forth in the second chapter in support of this view, the differences between the post-Mexican War and the post-Civil War periods were not as great as the similarities. That the Civil War caused changes is obvious—so had the Mexican War and so later did other wars—but the problems faced and the manner of solving them were not greatly affected. Looked upon as a whole rather than piecemeal, the army has developed in the same evolutionary manner as other institutions; no one period is completely separable from those before and after it.

One also gets the impression, from reading this and other books about the army of the nineteenth century, that all it did in the West was to fight Indians. What of the surveys it made, the roads it built, the markets it created, the towns it started, the mail it carried, the physicians it furnished, the social life it fostered, the politics it played? If these were only by-products of guarding the frontier, they were nonetheless real and will be proved to be just as important as the fighting when the army's contributions to the development of the West are adequately studied.

JESSE S. DOUGLAS

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Iowa: The Rivers of Her Valleys. By WILLIAM J. PETERSEN.
(Iowa City, The State Historical Society of Iowa, 1941.
381 p. \$3.00.)

This volume of the *Iowa Centennial History* series commemorative of the establishment of the Hawkeye State in 1846 is written on a somewhat novel plan. Iowa is, of course, bounded by the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, but some two dozen other good-sized

streams in the state drain into the two systems. Dr. Petersen examines each river or creek and its valley in detail—its geologic background, geographical statistics, the origin of its name, the Indian tribes which roamed it, what the early explorers said of it, how it was settled, its steamboating history (with especial fondness), any floods which may have swept it, and the general history and present condition of its people.

As the authors of the *Rivers of America* series have already learned, writing the history of a stream is not an easy task; the principles of geographical position and chronological development, when used together, do not always make for smooth organization, and sometimes the history seems slighted for geography, or vice versa. As a whole, however, Dr. Petersen has handled his materials skillfully and, what is just as important perhaps, pleasantly. There are bits of colorful phrasing and streaks of humor throughout the book.

Other states should be interested in the author's theme, for such a treatment throws a state's history and contemporary scene into a new perspective. The book has certain similarities to the state guides issued by the federal writers' program, though the guides use modern highways as a framework instead of waterways, and they measure "history by the mile" in somewhat mechanical fashion. Minnesota, South Dakota, Missouri, and to a lesser extent Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Illinois have special interest in the volume, since they share some of the streams examined.

The notes and index of the work are helpful, and the fourteen maps attractive and excellent. A word should be said for the way the book is made. The Garamond type on cream Strathmore Alexandra paper is handsome, though perhaps the cover design is a little ornate.

EDWARD P. ALEXANDER

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON

The Early History and Background of the School of Agriculture at University Farm, St. Paul. By ANDREW BOSS, with the assistance of CARL A. FRANZMANN and others. (University of Minnesota, 1941. 94 p.)

This brief but useful history of the school of agriculture of the University of Minnesota at the University Farm in St. Paul is distinctly a product of and a contribution to American democracy. It is based on data compiled under the auspices of the institution whose history it delineates, through aid supplied by the WPA, and it is written by a man of the people who, by virtue of his unusual talents, was destined to supply agricultural leadership to his native commonwealth. Furthermore, the school of agriculture is a distinctly American institution which has contributed materially toward making democracy more than an abstract concept with a vague relation to reality.

In gathering data for this history, extensive use has been made of the early agricultural periodicals and the official records of the university. The legislative enactments have been searched for information on the steps incident to the establishment of the school and the support which it has since received. Incident to the project, a considerable quantity of data, especially on the instructors and the curriculum, have been assembled but not utilized, and a note in the foreword states that copies of these materials are to be filed in the archives of the University of Minnesota library, in the library at the University Farm, and with the Minnesota Historical Society.

Occasionally the statement is made that the school of agriculture is the counterpart of the Danish folk schools, and there is the implication that it was modeled on them. This history makes it amply clear that the school is unique in its objectives and that it is an indigenous creation. In addition, attention is given to the influence of the "Minnesota plan" in other states.

The booklet begins with a three-page chronological listing of the main events in the history of the school. The text proper considers the general background, the attempt to provide agricultural education by establishing an experimental farm and college at Glencoe, the university's later acceptance of the responsibility for agricultural education, the trials and errors which culminated in the opening of the "School of Practical Agriculture" in 1886, the ultimate accept-

ance of the school by the public, the expansion of the curriculum and its emphasis on dairying, the acceptance of coeducation and the resulting organization of home economics courses, the development of branch schools at Crookston, Morris, and Grand Rapids, and the changes in administration and emphasis. The appendix includes a "Note on Vocational Placement" and a partial list of bulletins and textbooks that were developed at the school by members of its faculty.

The specialist will feel that many matters of importance have been treated too briefly, but the scope is probably ample for general readers. Concrete measurements of the actual contributions of the school to the commonwealth and the achievements of its graduates are admittedly difficult to make, but many users of this booklet will wish that these phases of the subject could have been more distinctly high lighted. Nonetheless, the booklet is an example of the sort of study that should be made of other American institutions which have contributed in a unique way to the preservation and enlargement of America's destiny—namely, political, social, and economic democracy.

EVERETT E. EDWARDS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Alexander Ramsey: A Study of a Frontier Politician and the Transition of Minnesota from a Territory to a State. By WILLIAM JAMES RYLAND. (Philadelphia, Harris & Partridge Company, 1941. 214 p.)

To Minnesotans who have long awaited a biography of Alexander Ramsey, one of the outstanding figures in the history of the territory and the state, this book will be disappointing. The author does not claim that it is a biography; rather, it is his stated purpose "to trace the career of a mid-nineteenth century American politician and to illustrate through his activities some of the public problems of that age. The frontier politics of Minnesota is the central theme of the study." But surely it would not have detracted too much from his purpose to have given us a little more information about Ramsey the man. Ramsey emerges from the pages of the book as a politician only, and not as the personality that he was.

After two chapters dealing with Ramsey's family background and

early life and his political career in Pennsylvania, the author traces Ramsey's career as governor of Minnesota Territory, commissioner to treat with the Indians, mayor of St. Paul, governor of the state, United States Senator, and secretary of war in Hayes's cabinet, giving us at the same time a plausible picture of the intricate factional politics of early Minnesota. It is apparent throughout the book that the author has made industrious use of the important sources for his subject, in particular Ramsey's diary, the personal papers of Ramsey, Sibley, and others, and contemporary newspapers. But the way in which he has handled these materials for the purposes of his book in many cases leaves much to be desired. The instances of historical inaccuracy, vague and careless writing, poor English, and misspelled proper names are numerous enough to do no little damage to the authenticity of the volume as a whole.

The following examples of inaccuracy and carelessness are taken from the book at random: On page 54, in discussing the contest over the territorial printing in 1851, the author writes: "Ramsey must have been the controlling figure as Sibley wrote, 'it is one of the greatest victories that your friends have yet achieved.'" The letter was written by Ramsey to Sibley, not by Sibley to Ramsey; moreover, it is misquoted, for Ramsey wrote: "This is one of the greatest triumphs that your friends have yet achieved." On page 95 it is stated that, following the treaty of Traverse des Sioux, a council was held with the Sioux of the plains at Mendota. It was the Lower Sioux that gathered at Mendota; the Sioux of the plains met the treaty commissioners at Traverse des Sioux. On page 156 the author mentions James M. Goodhue as a member of a group of men who in 1862 were working to defeat Ramsey for the senatorship. Goodhue at that time had been dead for a decade. Lake Traverse is placed in the southeastern part of Minnesota (p. 73), and Mackinac and Green Bay are included among the trading posts in Minnesota in 1849 (p. 36). On page 52 the author states that the *Pioneer* endorsed David Olmsted (whose name he misspells) as a candidate for territorial delegate in 1850. It was Sibley whom the *Pioneer* endorsed. On page 89 and again on page 90 are instances of verbs used in the wrong tense. Mille Lacs (p. 85), Lake Winnipeg (p. 85), Acton (p. 150), and Fort Ridgely (p. 150) are misspelled, as

are also the names of John S. Marsh (p. 151), Alexis Bailly (p. 37), Ramsay Crooks (index), and Bradley B. Meeker (p. 69).

MARY WHEELHOUSE BERTHEL

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL

The Last Frontier. By BERGIT I. ANDERSON. (St. Paul, Bruce Publishing Company, 1941. 160 p. Illustrations.)

Geographically, the frontier of this narrative is the Big Fork Valley of Itasca and Koochiching counties with its northward flowing waters; chronologically, most of the events recorded take place within the present century. In her preface, the author remarks that "the Bigfork Valley was singled out to be the exit, the closing door of the American tradition of homesteading." Since she is a daughter of a pioneer of 1905, a member of one of the "families who are 'the first of these last'" American pioneers, her memories of her frontier surroundings in northern Minnesota have a freshness born of comparatively recent experience.

Only the first of the six parts into which this little book is divided deals with the actual process of settlement. There are described the beginnings of such communities as Bigfork, Evergreen, Craig, Liberty, Spruce Park, Effie, and Bustitown. The movement of population is downstream, from south to north, and the period covered extends from 1893 to 1916. For her material, Miss Anderson has drawn upon interviews with pioneers as well as upon her own memory. Unfortunately, in the early chapters, she puts conversations into the mouths of her characters, giving her narrative a semifictional atmosphere. In later chapters, however, she drops this device, presenting a straightforward description of frontier events and conditions.

Miss Anderson is at her best in sections dealing with social life, transportation, and lumbering. Under the first heading she presents entertaining and informative accounts of the parties and plays, sleigh rides and picnics, hunting and fishing exploits, and blueberry picking expeditions enjoyed by the settlers. She also describes dances attended by lumberjacks in "clean, brightly-colored checked shirts," and women wearing dresses that had been modernized by the addition of "some new lace, a little ribbon, a bow or two." In the section on transportation the author tells of the Minneapolis and

Rainy River Railroad, which served citizens living in the vicinity of Bigfork from 1906 to 1923; of trips to town over the crude and muddy roads that were improved only with the coming of the automobile; and of the role of the streams in moving both lumber and supplies. An unusual feature of the section on lumbering is the reproduction of some of the stamp-hammer marks used by the companies operating in the Big Fork Valley. Each company had its own mark, according to Miss Anderson, and it would often use "different markings for certain regions" in a single year. The spring drive, during which the lives of the woodsmen centered about the wanagan, is the subject of one chapter.

The chief value of this contribution to Minnesota's local history lies in its firsthand reports of the commonplace things of life on a twentieth-century frontier, the result of the author's nostalgic effort to recall her early environment's "backwoods ways, and keep them from being entirely wiped away."

BERTHA L. HEILBRON

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL

Logging Town: The Story of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Compiled by Workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Minnesota. (Grand Rapids, 1941. 77 p. Illustrations.)

In the early 1870's Grand Rapids became the logging center of a wide area. Located at the head of steamboat navigation on the Mississippi River, it was the point from which supplies brought by steamboats were distributed to the logging camps. In the spring occurred the colorful log drive down the Mississippi. As the logging era drew to a close, the transition to a more diversified economy was taking place and today agriculture, mining, and the tourist industry are important. To tell the story of Grand Rapids with the chief emphasis on the logging period is the purpose of this booklet. The occasion for its appearance was the celebration commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the village.

There are no footnotes, but we are given the assurance that "research in such sources as are available has been diligent and painstaking." Local newspapers, county and village records, and remi-

niscences of old residents were apparently the principal sources utilized. On the whole, the compilers were more successful in finding and collecting materials than in assimilating, organizing, and presenting them. Instead of a coherent and sustained narrative, the result is a loose accumulation of facts, anecdotes, quotations, and lists of business establishments. The several illustrations of early village and logging scenes are of interest. Lists of early residents, a chronology, a glossary of logging terms, and an index are included.

In spite of the limitations of the booklet, the Grand Rapids resident who reads it thoughtfully will become better informed about his community and more interested in it. The booklet is both an expression of and a stimulus to a desirable local patriotism.

HAROLD T. HAGG

STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

DR. THEODORE C. BLEGEN ("Pioneer Bookshelves and Modern Libraries") is dean of the graduate school in the University of Minnesota. Readers of this magazine will recall numerous articles from his pen that appeared in its pages during the years from 1922 to 1939, when he was serving first as assistant superintendent and then as superintendent of the society. Notable among his books in the field of Minnesota history is *Building Minnesota* (1938). George B. Engberg ("The Knights of Labor in Minnesota") has been granted a leave of absence from a position as instructor of history in the Leyden Community High School at Franklin Park, Illinois, to serve as a first lieutenant in the Student Training Units at Fort Benning, Georgia. An earlier article by Lieutenant Engberg, dealing with "The Rise of Organized Labor in Minnesota," appeared in the issue of this magazine for December, 1940. Professor John Ilmari Kolehmainen ("Finnish Temperance Societies in Minnesota") is a member of the history faculty in Heidelberg College at Tiffin, Ohio. He is the author of numerous articles in the field of Finnish-American history. In addition to Dr. Blegen, who herein reviews one of the most important volumes of Minnesota biography to appear in recent years, the reviewers include Dr. Edward P. Alexander, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; Jesse S. Douglas, a member of the staff of the National Archives and editor of *Military Affairs*; Everett E. Edwards, editor of *Agricultural History* and a member of the staff of the bureau of agricultural economics in the United States department of agriculture; Harold T. Hagg of the history faculty in the Bemidji State Teachers College; Jay Monaghan, editor for the Illinois State Historical Library; and two members of the society's staff, Mary W. Berthel and Bertha L. Heilbron.

A dinner in the Coffman Memorial Union on the campus of the University of Minnesota, at which the annual address will be presented by Dean Theodore C. Blegen of the graduate school, will be the feature of the society's ninety-third annual meeting, to be held

on January 12. Morning and afternoon sessions have been arranged at the Historical Building in St. Paul, and the local history conference will be held following a luncheon at the Women's City Club. The morning will be devoted to a local history exhibit, accompanied by talks on the display by Mr. G. Hubert Smith of the Minnesota State-wide Archaeological and Historical Research Survey, and on local historical museums in the state by Miss Bertha L. Heilbron of the society's staff. The luncheon program will illustrate three techniques in the treatment of local history, and for that purpose it will include papers on the history of a Minnesota city or village, on a neighborhood or community, and on a region. The annual reports of the society's superintendent and treasurer will be presented at the afternoon session and the function of the Minnesota Historic Sites and Markers Commission will be explained. The program will be followed by the triennial election of members of the society's executive council. The newly elected council will then meet in the superintendent's office to select the officers of the society for the next three years. Complete programs will be mailed to all members of the society early in January, and they are urged to make reservations for the luncheon and the dinner well in advance of the meeting.

Dr. Solon J. Buck, who served as superintendent of the society from 1914 to 1931, has been named archivist of the United States by President Roosevelt. He succeeds Dr. R. D. W. Connor. Dr. Buck left the society to go to Pittsburgh as director of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. He has been connected with the National Archives since 1935 as its director of publications.

Readers of this magazine will doubtless welcome the suggestion that *The Voyageur's Highway*, published by the society last June, will make an appropriate as well as an inexpensive Christmas gift. It will be recalled that the first edition of this book was speedily exhausted. Copies of the second printing are, however, still available at seventy-five cents each. By spending little more than the price of a Christmas greeting card, members of the society can give their friends copies of this attractive book about Minnesota's border lake country.

Dr. Beeson is the author of an article on "Pioneer Leaders in Minnesota Industry" which appears in the September issue of the

Minnesota Journal of Education. He outlines the field of Minnesota business from the days of the fur trade to those of the development of co-operative dairying, giving attention to such pioneer industrial leaders as Henry H. Sibley, Franklin Steele, Russell Blakeley, Charles H. Oakes, and Theophilus Haecker. Pictures illustrative of the activities of these men will be reproduced in the *Journal* throughout the year. All are from the Minnesota Historical Society's collections. Those in the September issue illustrate the career of Steele.

Dr. Nute's article on "The Lure of Old Frontenac," which appeared in the June issue of the *Conservation Volunteer*, is reprinted in another publication of the department of conservation, *Outdoors in Minnesota*. The booklet, which seems to be issued for use in the schools, is number 5 of a *Conservation Teaching Aid* series.

Readers from as far afield as California and Washington, Louisiana and Texas, New York and Massachusetts came to St. Paul to use the society's resources during the summer months. Other states represented by readers in the library include Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Ohio. Among those who used the manuscript collections were readers from Iowa, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Massachusetts, Illinois, Colorado, and Tennessee.

During the quarter ending on September 30, a total of 470 requests for information based upon manuscript census records in the society's collections were handled in the manuscript division. Birth certificates based upon data in the census records were supplied to 261 individuals.

One life member—Dr. Charles W. Mayo of Rochester—and one sustaining member—Mrs. Louis W. Hill, Sr., of St. Paul—joined the society in the quarter ending on September 30. During the same period, twenty-one annual members, whose names follow, were enrolled: Ada M. Anderberg of St. Paul, Dr. Richard Barndon of Duluth, Dr. R. W. Berthel of St. Paul, Nell Clow of Minneapolis, Folwell W. Coan of Minneapolis, John Cowles of Minneapolis, John de Laittre of Minneapolis, C. H. Erickson of St. Paul, Louis J. Foussard of St. Paul, Harold T. Hagg of Bemidji, Dr. Vernon L. Hart of Minneapolis, Thomas Kernan of St. Cloud,

Mrs. Helen L. Meier of St. Paul, John Mickelson of St. Paul, William H. Miller of St. Paul, Jeannette L. Murray of St. Paul, Dr. E. H. Rynearson of Rochester, Carl Salminen of Duluth, Harold R. Trickey of Nashville, Tennessee, Mrs. Meta Tucker of Minneapolis, and Mrs. Frances E. Ward of St. Paul.

During the third quarter of 1941, the Carnegie Public Library of Austin, Nazareth Hall of St. Paul, and the public schools of New Ulm and Forest Lake were added to the list of schools and libraries that subscribe to the society's publications.

Seventeen active members of the society died during the three months from July 1 to September 30. Their names follow: Henry Blakeley of St. Paul on July 2, Frank Yoerg of St. Paul on July 13, Lucian C. Miller of Minneapolis on July 26, Fred W. Senn of Waseca on July 26, Archibald A. Crane of Minneapolis on July 31, Dr. Joseph R. Kuth of Duluth on August 3, James A. Vaughn of Minneapolis on August 5, Mrs. William G. Northup of Wayzata on August 15, Paul A. Brooks of Minneapolis on August 20, Herbert M. Temple of St. Paul on August 22, John C. Mills of Preston on August 29, Frank M. Prince of Minneapolis on September 10, Annie I. Carpenter of St. Paul on September 14, John P. Devaney of Wayzata on September 21, Mrs. Warren S. Briggs of St. Paul on September 23, Charles L. Spencer of St. Paul on September 24, and Mrs. Olive I. Bliss of St. Paul on September 25.

The position of library stenographer, left vacant when Miss Henrietta Berge was transferred to the museum to act as assistant in that department, was filled by the appointment of Miss Rhoda Christensen. Miss Phyllis Sweeley has been named an assistant in the manuscript division. Miss Beatrice Edgar of the same division now devotes all her time to working on census records and other archival materials.

"The Background of Kaposia" was the subject of a talk presented by Mr. Larsen on July 23 in connection with the dedication of a marker at the site of the Indian village near South St. Paul. Mr. Babcock spoke on "The Lure of Minnesota" before a meeting of the Sibley County Historical Society at Henderson on July 13, on "Community Memory" for the McLeod County Historical Society

meeting at Winsted on July 23, and on "Old Grand Portage" before the Minnesota chapter of the Daughters of American Colonists in Minneapolis on September 18. The significance of Fort Ridgely in the story of the settlement of the Minnesota Valley was discussed by Mr. Beeson at the annual meeting on the fort site of the Fort Ridgely State Park and Historical Association on August 22; the society's genealogical resources were described and evaluated by Miss Fawcett for members of Twin City congregations of the Latter Day Saints who visited the Historical Building on September 10; and the history of the "French on the Upper Mississippi" was reviewed by Miss Nute before a meeting of the Minnesota Academy of Sciences at Winona on September 20.

ACCESSIONS

A box and two scrapbooks of papers assembled by the late William B. Dean, a pioneer wholesale hardware merchant at St. Paul, have been presented by members of his family. Among the earlier items in the collection are report cards for 1851 and 1852, when Dean was attending school in Pittsburgh. Many of the clippings and letters in the collection relate to Dean's membership in the state senate from 1891 to 1894, especially to his activities in drafting the bill that provided for the building of the present state Capitol. Included also among the papers are items relating to the Great Northern Railroad strike of 1894, the state income tax law, and Dean's membership in the National Monetary Commission. With the gift were received several accounts of Civil War battles by Dean's brother, George W. Dean, and copies of two rare Civil War newspapers. They are the first issue of the *Mobile Daily News*, a sheet published for Union soldiers on April 13, 1865; and a number of a Confederate paper, the *Chattanooga Daily Rebel*, for April 27, 1865. The latter was printed at Selma, Alabama, on the back of a legal form for the state of Georgia.

Thirty-six letters and reports written by Charles E. Flandrau between 1856 and 1863, when he was serving as Indian agent at Traverse des Sioux, have been copied for the society on microfilm from the originals in the National Archives. These copies make easily accessible to Minnesotans Flandrau's contemporary report on

the Spirit Lake Indian massacre and his firsthand comments on such subjects as Sioux customs, education, and annuity payments.

Mr. Charles H. Steffins of Racine has presented a box of interesting personal letters that he received during the years from 1878 to 1899. In the late 1870's Mr. Steffins was attending the Winona Normal School, and most of his correspondents are fellow students. Many of the later letters record their experiences as teachers.

Four boxes of manuscripts, clippings, and pamphlets, assembled by Lynn Haines while he was editing the *Searchlight on Congress* from 1916 to 1927, have been added to his papers by his widow, Mrs. Dora B. Haines of Washington (see *ante*, 18:313). Included in these files is information on such national figures as Calvin Coolidge, Warren G. Harding, and Charles Dawes; voting records for many members of Congress; records giving the results of investigations on proposed measures of legislation; and other items.

An extensive collection of papers of the Business Women's Holding Company, covering the years 1925 and 1926, has been presented by Miss Vera Cole of Minneapolis. The company was organized by the members of the Business Women's Club of Minneapolis to handle the financial arrangements for building a clubhouse, and its papers consist of contracts, specifications, and receipted bills for the structure. Included in the gift are twenty-two mimeographed circular letters sent by Congressman Oscar F. Youngdahl of Minnesota to his constituents during the period from 1939 to 1941.

During the summer quarter an unusually large number of gaps in the society's files of newspapers were filled or reduced in extent through gifts. Most of them came from Minnesota publishers who, when they learned that the society's files of their papers were incomplete, generously presented what they could of their publications. Mr. John E. Kientz of Kenyon, for example, presented files, in which the years from 1911 to 1940 are represented, of three Kenyon papers, the *Courier*, the *Independent*, and the *Leader*, and of the *Nerstrand Herald*. The first three volumes of the *Milan Standard*, covering the period from April, 1900, to August, 1903, were received from Mr. Andrew Bromstad of Milan. Files of the *Itasca Progressive* of Bigfork for parts of 1940 and 1941 and of the *Buffalo Lake News*

for 1937 and 1938 are the gifts respectively of Mr. H. N. Pederson of Bigfork and Mr. G. W. Hubin of Buffalo Lake. Two St. Paul publishers, Mr. Edwin E. Stevens and Mr. Ervin H. Schultz, gave files of their papers, the *Como Comet* for 1928 and 1929 and the *West End Call* for the period from October, 1937, to April, 1940. The society's holdings of the *Ramsey 4-H News* were completed by the Ramsey County 4-H Clubs, which presented a file for the months from March, 1936, to November, 1937. Two complete files of the *Minnesota Beacon* of Minneapolis for August 7 to September 25, 1941, are the gifts of the publisher, Mr. J. D. Holtzermann. Volumes 1 and 3 of two newspapers issued in Washington, D. C. — *Happy Days* for 1933 and the *C. I. O. News* for 1940 — were completed when the publishers presented partial files for those years.

Mr. H. E. Buck of Minneapolis has presented a copy of the issue for April 24, 1839, of an early American scholastic paper, the *Salmagundi and Students' Literary Gazette* published by the students in Fayetteville Academy at Fayetteville, New York.

Four rare German-American newspapers are represented in a gift of forty issues received from Miss Matilda Neff of St. Paul. Included are thirty-five issues for 1857 and 1859 of the *Welt Bote* of Allentown, Pennsylvania. Other papers in the group are the *Ohio Waisenfreund* of Columbus for July 21, 1886; *Der Christliche Apologete* of Cincinnati for July 15 and 22, 1886, and June 20, 1889; and *Der Familienfreund* of Minneapolis for July, 1889.

A large storage basket for seeds made by an Apache chief and a beaded Indian cane are the gifts of Mrs. Richard Smith of Minneapolis. Other recent additions to the society's Indian collection include a quiver made of beaded buckskin and holding thirty-two arrows and a bow in a case of beaded buckskin made by Sioux Indians from the neighborhood of Fort Totten, North Dakota. These Indian objects and three toy banks were presented by Dr. J. C. Ferguson of St. Paul.

Nine fractional currency notes issued in 1862 by a private bank conducted in Minneapolis by Richard J. Mendenhall have been presented by Miss Gertrude E. Murtfeldt of Minneapolis.

A hunting rifle with an octagonal barrel and a copper powder pouch, both of which were used by Joseph Haskell, a pioneer farmer at Afton, are the gifts of his son, Dr. H. A. Haskell of Windsor, California. Dr. L. C. Bacon of St. Paul has presented a collection of firearms consisting of seven pistols and three revolvers.

Military objects received recently include cartridge and pouch belts, bayonets, machetes, sabers, steel lance heads, and a camp chest of the Spanish-American War period, from Mr. Albert L. Noyes of St. Paul; Spanish-American and World War uniforms that belonged to Gates A. Johnson, and a large collection of badges, buttons, medals, and pins, from Mrs. Johnson of St. Paul; and a coat and cap of a sergeant in the coast artillery, from Mr. E. Campbell of St. Paul.

An oil portrait of LeRoy S. Buffington, a prominent Minneapolis architect, is the gift of his daughter, Miss Ella Buffington of Minneapolis. Miss Emma S. Edgerton and Mrs. Margaret E. Holman of St. Paul have presented a marble plaque with a portrait in bas-relief of their father, Senator Alonzo Jay Edgerton. A photograph of Dr. F. H. Wellcome has been received from Miss Vera Cole of Minneapolis.

Early settlers of Minnesota are mentioned in several genealogies received in recent months. According to *The Abell Family in America* by Horace A. Abell (Rutland, Vermont, 1940. 339 p.), several members of that family went to Winona and Waseca counties in the 1850's. The hanging of thirty-eight Sioux at Mankato in 1862 is recalled by Julius Owen of Mahanomen in a memoir included in *Descendants of John Owen of Windsor, Connecticut* (Philadelphia, 1941. 532 p.). The life of James Wilson Yandes, who became a resident of St. Paul in 1861, is sketched in *Daniel Yandes and His Family*, compiled by Annabelle, Mary, and Josephine Robinson (Crawfordsville, Indiana, 1936. 205 p.). In *Descendants of Philip McIntire*, compiled by Robert H. McIntire (Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1941. 218 p.), Dr. George W. McIntire of St. Peter is described as a typical old-fashioned family doctor who wore a coon-skin coat in winter and managed to reach his patients in the country regardless of weather.

Other genealogies in which Minnesotans are mentioned include: Carl M. Brewster, *A Genealogy of the Eight Brewster Cousins of*

Northern Ohio and Their Descendants (Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1937. 55 p.); Irvin J. Letherman, *All Leatherman Kin History* (Nappanee, Indiana, 1940. 1152 p.); Katharine Lee de Veau, *Benjamin and Ambrose Powell of Culpeper County, Virginia, with Many Descendants of Benjamin* (Minneapolis, 1941. 259 p.); and Charles B. Whittelsey, *Genealogy of the Whittlesey-Whittelsey Family* (New York, 1941. 650 p.).

Of special interest to those whose ancestors were Quakers are: Vernon B. Hampton, *In the Footsteps of Joseph Hampton and the Pennsylvania Quakers* (Doylestown, Pennsylvania, 1940. 116 p.); Harry S. Hargrave, *A Brief History of the Quakers in England and Virginia and the Hargrave Family* (Los Angeles, 1939. 79 p.); Clarence V. Roberts, *Ancestry of Clarence V. Roberts and Frances A. (Walton) Roberts* (Philadelphia, 1940. 326 p.); May S. Ivey, *A Pioneer Schooley Family* (Miami, 1941. 58 p.); and G. W. Brown, *Historical Sketches, Chiefly relating to the Early Settlement of Friends at Falls, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia, 1882. 152 p.).

Other genealogies received during the summer quarter of 1941 include: Robert L. Ashby, *Ashby Ancestry* (Salt Lake City, 1941. 34 p.); William G. Lord, *Story with Genealogy of Some of the Descendants of Nathan Barker of Sandisfield, Massachusetts* (Athol, Massachusetts, 1931. 101 p.); William P. Blankenbeckler, *Blankenbeckler Family of Southwest Virginia and Related Families* (Nickelsville, Virginia, 1941. 154 p.); De Emmett Bradshaw, *My Story: The Autobiography of De Emmett Bradshaw* (Omaha, Nebraska, 1941. 355 p.); Mary W. Durham, *John Durham, His Family and Descendants* (8 p.); Walter L. Sheppard, *The Ancestry and Descendants of Thomas Stickney Evans and Sarah Ann Fifield, His Wife, Both of Fryeburg, Maine* (Ann Arbor, 1940. 214 p.); Ellen M. Cocke, *Some Fox Trails in Old Virginia; John Fox of King William County, Ancestors, Descendants, Near Kin* (Richmond, Virginia, 1939. 165 p.); Ernest S. Craighead, *The Fulton Family of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania* (Pittsburgh, 1940. 216 p.); Charles P. Franchot, "Stanislas Pascal Franchot Arrives," *a Pageant, Including a List of the Descendants of Stanislas Pascal Franchot* (1940. 122 p.); Jennie J. Howes, *Descendants of James Irish, 1710-1940, and Allied Families* (Portland, Maine, 1941. 261 p.); Harold D. Le Mar, *History of the Lamar or Lemar Family*

in America (Omaha, Nebraska, 1941. 337 p.); Albert L. Rohrer, *John Rohrer of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania* (Maplewood, New Jersey, 1941. 15 p.); Edwin E. Smith, *James Smith, Berwick, 1668, Some of His Descendants* (Kennebunk, Maine, 1940. 54 p.); Robert S. Thomason, *A Brief History of the Family Thomason in England and the United States* (New York, 1938-40. 78 p.); T. Dix Sutton, *The Suttons of Caroline County, Virginia* (Richmond, Virginia, 1941. 99 p.); and Arthur R. Weitkamp, *The Genealogy of the Weitkamps* (Cincinnati, 1941. 51 p.).

Among local histories and records of societies recently received are: *The Register of the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of California* (Los Angeles, 1940. 86 p.); *Records of the Court of New Castle on Delaware* (Vol. 2, 1681-99—Meadville, Pennsylvania, 1935. 254 p.); *Biographical Record of Logan County, Illinois* (Chicago, 1901. 654 p.); Florence E. Gardiner, *Cyrus Edwards' Stories of Early Days and Others in What Is Now Barren, Hart and Metcalfe Counties* (Louisville, Kentucky, 1940. 364 p.); *Vital Records of Georgetown, Maine to the Year 1892* (Auburn, Maine, 1941. 200 p.); Grace M. Limeburner, *Bluehill, Brooksville, Brooklin, Sedgwick, and Surry, Maine, Vital Records* (North Brooksville, Maine, 1941); National Society of Colonial Dames of America, New Jersey, *The Church Records of the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and the Bible Records from the Bibles in the Library of the Society* (Somerville, New Jersey, 1941. 80 p.); Historical Records Survey, New York, *Town Minutes of Newtown, 1653-1734* (New York, 1941. 2 vols.); Israel McCreight, *Memory Sketches of Du Bois, Pennsylvania, 1874-1938, a History* (Du Bois, 1938. 79 p.); Richard Webster, *The Old Church in Allen: A Sketch of the Irish Settlement in the Forks of Delaware* (1847. 31 p.); Welcome Society of Pennsylvania, *Records and Activities* (Philadelphia, 1940. 205 p.); Miecislau Haiman, *Polish Pioneers of Pennsylvania* (Chicago, 1941. 72 p.); O. P. Knauss, *Millerstown, Founded in 1776; Since 1875 Borough of Macungie* (1932. 46 p.); Annie W. Burns, *Virginia Genealogies and County Records* (Vol. 2—Washington, 1941. 124 p.); Beverley Fleet, *Charles City County Court Orders, 1658-1661* (Richmond, Virginia, 1941. 115 p.); and Elihu Spencer, *Record of the Pioneers of Outagamie County, Wisconsin* (Appleton, Wisconsin, 1898. 112 p.).

LOIS M. FAWCETT

NEWS AND COMMENT

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the American Historical Association will be held in Chicago from December 29 to 31. Among the thirteen organizations meeting jointly with the association are the Agricultural History Society, the American Association for State and Local History, the American Catholic Historical Association, the Business Historical Society, the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, and the Society of American Archivists. Planned for the various sessions are discussions of such subjects as "a program for micro-copying historical materials," the study of local history, employment opportunities for students of history, improving the quality of historical journals, "agricultural frontiers in the United States," increasing the membership of historical societies, "Frederick Jackson Turner as a historian," and "business enterprise in the American West, 1815-60." Speakers from all parts of the United States will participate in the program. The effects of the present crisis upon the study of history and the place of the United States in world affairs will receive special attention.

The American Association for State and Local History, which was organized in December, 1940, with Dr. C. C. Crittenden of the North Carolina Historical Commission as president, published the first number of the *State and Local History News* in July. Therein the aims of the new organization are defined as follows: "Its program calls for assistance to patriotic and civic organizations, to the National Park Service, to the WPA Historical Records Survey, and to other groups and agencies; for the compilation of lists of local historians and genealogists; for the encouragement of the writing of high-standard state and local histories; for the promotion of adequate courses on state and local history in the schools; and for conferences of persons and institutions at work in this field. The Association will undertake to serve as the clearinghouse for information on how to organize an historical society, how to mark historic spots, how to conduct historical tours, how to stage historical celebrations and pageants, how to preserve historic buildings, how to prepare and broadcast historical radio programs, and other similar topics." The association opened its first annual meeting, which was held at Hartford, Connecticut, on October 8, with a discus-

sion led by Dr. Arthur J. Larsen of the Minnesota Historical Society on the subject, "Raising the Standards of Historical Society Work." An afternoon session was devoted to a discussion of "A Publication Program for Historical Societies." It was led by Miss Dorothy C. Barck, and among those participating was Dr. Solon J. Buck, a former superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society who is now archivist of the United States.

An important contribution to the literature of French exploration in the Northwest is a new translation, by Professor Henry E. Haxo of the department of romance languages in the University of North Dakota, of the "Journal of La Verendrye, 1738-39." It appears with an unsigned introduction and annotations by the translator in the July number of the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly*. "With his special acquaintance of 18th century French," Dr. Haxo "has been able to correct many of the serious mistakes that occur in the previous translations," according to the introduction to the present translation. Dr. Haxo worked from photostats of a French copy in the Public Archives of Canada, which does not seem to have been used since Douglas Brymner published the first translation of the document in 1889. On his journey of 1738-39, La Vérendrye was engaged in a search for a "mysterious Indian tribe which ten years earlier he had heard were living on a westward flowing river." He pushed westward from Lake Superior to Fort St. Charles on the Lake of the Woods, proceeded thence to the Red and Assiniboine rivers, built Fort La Reine in what is now Manitoba, and "prepared to lead an expedition to the southwest into the present state of North Dakota." Most of the journal deals with this expedition into the country of an Indian tribe that the explorer calls the "Mantannes." In the introduction to the journal, the conclusion is reached that the Indians of La Vérendrye's journal "are not the historic Mandans of the lower Missouri river but are, instead, their northern neighbors and allies, the equally well known Hidatsa."

An evaluation of "Niles' Weekly Register — Nineteenth Century News-magazine" is presented by Norval Neil Luxon in the *Journalism Quarterly* for September. Some hint of the *Register's* value as a source on the history of the West is given by the author, who notes in its pages "editorial enthusiasm for the West," and remarks that "during the period in which the American frontier moved from the Ohio country

well into the prairies . . . the *Register* recorded the nation's expansion from year to year."

"A persistent preoccupation with the agrarian aspects of the westward march of American settlement has to some extent obscured the fact that the prospect of future towns and cities as well as the promise of broad and fertile acres lured settlers to the 'sunset regions,'" writes Bayrd Still in a discussion of "Patterns of Mid-nineteenth Century Urbanization in the Middle West" appearing in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for September. The writer undertakes to prove that "on many a frontier the town builder was as conspicuous as the farmer pioneer," depicting various phases of city growth in the history of the frontier West. Professor Still shows that in 1857 Milwaukee made an effort to attract business from the new Minnesota frontier communities, following an example set by the river towns of St. Louis and Galena. A Milwaukee newspaper of that year urged local merchants to "scatter their cards, handbills, circulars, and advertisements up and down the Mississippi" and to "dispatch some of their shrewdest clerks to La Crosse, Winona, Prescott, Hudson, St. Paul."

"Only two Indian schools in the Territory of Iowa were officially reported in 1841," according to J. A. Swisher, whose sketch entitled "With the Indians" appears in the September number of the *Palimpsest*. Since the schools were located at Kaposia and at Lac qui Parle, both were in what is now Minnesota. Mr. Swisher records that "101 pupils were enrolled" at Lac qui Parle. "English and arithmetic were the principal subjects taught. The girls had spun and woven three blankets and eight gowns."

"Jane Grey Swisshelm, White-collar Worker" is the subject of an article by Margaret Farrand Thorp in the July issue of the *Delphian Quarterly*. It is the first of a series by the same author dealing with "Strong-minded Women." In the present article she touches upon various phases of Mrs. Swisshelm's career, describing her as a "pioneer journalist, and lecturer, and abolitionist, and advocate of women's rights, and war nurse, and autobiographer," as well as a "pioneer white-collar worker." Only brief mention is given to her Minnesota experiences, though the author does state that Mrs. Swisshelm "gained a national reputation as an editor and lecturer" while residing in St. Cloud.

Students of social and cultural history will find useful as well as interesting a volume by Harry Dichter and Elliott Shapiro dealing with *Early American Sheet Music, Its Lure and Its Lore* (New York, 1941). Included in the volume are a "Classified Listing of Early American Sheet Music," a "Directory of Early American Music Publishers," and a list of "Lithographers and Artists Working on American Sheet Music Before 1870." Both the Hutchinson and the Andrews families, musicians whose careers were closely identified with the Minnesota frontier, are well represented in the volume. Of western interest also are such "Indian items" as the *Minnehaha* or *Laughing-water Polka* and the *Sioux* march and waltz.

During the past few years, Professor John Ilmari Kolehmainen, whose study of Finnish temperance societies in Minnesota appears elsewhere in this magazine, has published a number of articles on the Finns in America. Among those appearing recently is one that provides a general background for the author's local studies—a survey of "Finland's Agrarian Structure and Overseas Migration" in *Agricultural History* for January. The writer taps the Canadian field in an article dealing with "Harmony Island: A Finnish Utopian Venture in British Columbia," which appears in the April number of the *British Columbia Historical Quarterly*.

Although politically Isle Royale is a part of Michigan, geographically it is closely identified with Minnesota. On clear days the rocky island may even be glimpsed from Grand Portage, where a comparatively narrow stretch of Lake Superior separates it from the North Shore. The many Minnesotans who have taken advantage of the island's summer attractions will be interested in H. E. Fredeen's review of "The Story of Isle Royale," which appears in the autumn number of the *Michigan History Magazine*. He tells of the development of mining, fur trading, and fishing interests on the island, describes its geology and wild life, and presents accounts of its summer resorts. A general survey of "Great Lakes History—1615–1815" is contributed to the same issue of this magazine by Ivan Walton. A charming chapter in Western travel literature is Madeline B. Stern's account of "Margaret Fuller's Summer in the West (1843)." The Boston journalist and critic went as far west as Milwaukee and the Norwegian settlements of Wisconsin.

"The Hudson Fire of 1866," which destroyed the business section of a town that served as the "flourishing trade center of a large section of northwestern Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota, is the subject of an article by Willis H. Miller in the September issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. The fire caused great excitement in the St. Croix Valley, according to Mr. Miller. He records that "from Stillwater alone about 200 people chartered a boat and came down to see the ruins."

A number of topics of interest for the history of Minnesota and the Northwest appear in a list of "Graduate Theses in Canadian History, and Related Subjects," published in the *Canadian Historical Review* for September. Included are doctoral dissertations on "The Red River Valley of Manitoba: A Regional Study" by Trevor Lloyd (Clark), on "The Fur Trade in the Mississippi Valley, 1678-1718" by Edmund R. Murphy (California), and on "The Attitude of New England toward Westward Expansion, 1606-1850" by Joseph M. Nance (Texas). Also worthy of note is a master's thesis on "Fort William in the Days of the Fur Trade" by A. Hugh Dalzell (McMaster).

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

Under the title "Grand Portage Rises Again," Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society, reviews, in the September issue of the *Beaver*, the story of the excavations on the site of the Northwest Company post at Grand Portage and of the reconstruction of the stockade. As a background for his account of modern operations on the site, Mr. Babcock tells something of the post's importance in the late decades of the eighteenth century, drawing upon the narratives of such traders as John Macdonell, Alexander Henry, the elder, and Daniel Harmon for descriptions of Grand Portage in the era of its greatest importance. Although almost a century and a half have passed since the Northwest Company abandoned Grand Portage, "the record of its occupancy will be read by future generations in the old stockade now restored and the museum collection there assembled," writes Mr. Babcock. Accompanying his article are some excellent photographs of excavations on the site and of the restored stockade and great hall at Grand Portage. In the same issue of the *Beaver* appears a "Fur Trade Glossary" compiled by H. M. S. Cotter.

Here are listed and defined "characteristic expressions" used in the north country by the "French-Canadian *engages* of the early years of the last century." Of special interest also is an elaborately illustrated article by Marius Barbeau on "The Beaver in Canadian Art."

Pictorial representations of many events in the history of Minnesota and of numerous sites of special historical significance help to make attractive a colorful and informative map of the state recently published by the Mentholatum Company (Wilmington, Delaware, 1941). On it are located by means of symbols historical towns, cities with populations of more than thirty-five hundred, trading posts, missions, Indian agencies, Indian villages, portages, and forts. Early trails, military roads, and the routes followed by a few explorers are indicated; and varying colors show where the Sioux and the Chippewa resided, what territory was claimed by the British, and which sections of the state were acquired by the Louisiana Purchase. An accompanying text outlines very briefly some of the more important events in Minnesota's history, grouping them under such headings as exploration, settlement, Minnesota Territory, and statehood. Considering the vast amount of information here presented in a limited space, both the map and the text are remarkably free from error. It may be noted that Fort Snelling is dated 1820 on the map, although the text correctly dates its founding in 1819; that Peter Pond, the exploring trader, is confused with the missionaries of 1834 in the text; and that it is misleading to find a trail near Minnesota's eastern boundary marked "Schoolcraft 1832."

New details relating to "Thoreau's Journey to Minnesota" in the summer of 1861 are made available by Robert L. Straker in the September issue of the *New England Quarterly*. They consist of extracts from "letters, recently come to light, which passed between Horace Mann, Jr., Thoreau's companion on the Minnesota excursion, and the boy's mother, Mrs. Mary Peabody Mann." Mr. Straker, who is writing a biography of Horace Mann, Sr., discovered the letters among the Mann Papers. Since Thoreau made the trip on the advice of his physician, many of Mann's comments relate to his companion's health. But he tells also of his reaction to the Minnesota country. In a letter of June 1, for example, he reports drives with Dr. Charles L. Anderson of Minneapolis to Lake Calhoun, Minnehaha Falls, and Fort Snelling. At the falls Mann, who, like Thoreau, was a naturalist, "got some

fossils." "The Minnesota voluntary militia are quartered" at Fort Snelling, he records. "We saw a little of the regimental drill at four o'clock; they are all green at it." It will be recalled that articles on Thoreau in Minnesota and on the manuscript journal kept during the journey of 1861 have appeared in earlier issues of *Minnesota History* (*ante*, 16: 35-46, 20: 169-173).

Three recent additions to the *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota* prepared and published by the Minnesota Historical Records Survey are volumes listing the records of Big Stone County at Ortonville (no. 6—146 p.), of Dodge County at Mantorville (no. 20—122 p.), and of Goodhue County at Red Wing (no. 25—198 p.).

Through the courtesy of the United States Military Academy at West Point, eighteen water colors of Minnesota and western interest by Peter Rindisbacher are being sent to the Round Tower Museum at Fort Snelling for display. Six pictures placed on exhibit in August show a "Scene in Indian Tent," a "Fight between Two Indians, One with Lance, the Other with Bow and Arrow," a "Chippewa Canoe," an "Indian War Dance," the "Mode of Chasing the Bison by the Assinboins," and "Indians Hunting the Bison." Two other groups of six pictures each will be displayed at intervals during the winter. The Rindisbacher collection, which dates from the 1820's, is described in detail, *ante*, 20: 54-57. More than three hundred people viewed the Rindisbacher water colors and other exhibits in the Round Tower Museum on a single Sunday in October. The museum is open daily from 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Several lectures on "Early Minnesota Art" were presented in connection with the Stillwater Art Colony by its director, Miss Josephine Lutz. Slides showing paintings executed by artists who visited the Minnesota frontier were used by Miss Lutz to illustrate her talks, which were given in the Stillwater High School on August 4 and 11.

James Eckman's study of "Homeopathic and Eclectic Medicine in Minnesota," the first installment of which appeared in *Minnesota Medicine* for June, is continued in the July, August, and September issues (see *ante*, p. 334). His history of the Minnesota State Homœopathic Institute, which was active until 1915, is concluded in the July number. Mr. Eckman notes that the institute's records were presented

to the Minnesota Historical Society in 1933. Following his account of the state organization, the author presents brief sketches of "Local Homeopathic Medical Societies" and of homeopathic hospitals in the state. He next reviews the story of the Minnesota Homœopathic Medical College, which was opened in Minneapolis in 1886 with Dr. Philo L. Hatch as dean. Various periodicals devoted to homeopathic medicine and published in Minnesota are discussed under the heading "Homeopathic Literature." There is a brief sketch of the Minnesota State Eclectic Medical Society, incorporated in 1867. Finally, Mr. Eckman presents biographical reviews of the careers of "Certain Homeopathic and Eclectic Pioneers" who practiced in Minnesota.

Among the periodicals discussed by Mr. Eckman in this connection is the *Minnesota Homœopath*, which was published at St. Paul by Dr. George Hadfield in the late 1850's. The only known copy of this journal, that for January, 1859, is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society. Mr. Eckman again gives attention to this rare periodical and its publisher in the opening pages of an article on "Alexander J. Stone, M.D., LL.D., Founder of Minnesota's First Medical Journal," appearing in the *Annals of Medical History* for July. The writer explains, however, that Hadfield's journal "could not have enjoyed the support of the so-called regular physicians of the day" and that "Hadfield could not be considered a medical editor in the sense of presenting to his readers legitimate advances or developments in medicine or surgery." To Dr. Stone, who settled in Stillwater in 1869 and a year later founded the *Northwestern Medical and Surgical Journal*, rightfully belongs the title of "First medical editor in Minnesota," according to Mr. Eckman. He presents an excellent biographical sketch of this Minnesota physician who received his medical training in the East, began the practice of his profession in "what might be called a Maine settlement" of the West, established two important medical journals in his adopted state, became "one of the founders of medical education in Minnesota," and built up a large private practice in St. Paul, where he removed upon leaving Stillwater in 1870. Dr. Stone published his journal for only two years, and it ceased to appear in 1874, but Mr. Eckman records that in 1886 he acquired the *Northwestern Lancet*, which he edited until 1900. At the height of his career, according to the author, Dr. Stone was "one of the outstanding figures in Minnesota medicine."

The *Fiftieth Anniversary of the Northwest Grand Lodge, I.O.G.T.* is commemorated in a booklet the feature of which is a general history of the Good Templar order in the Northwest and particularly in Minnesota by Carl J. Carlson (Minneapolis, 1941. 47 p.). His sketch is an interesting contribution to the social history of the Scandinavians in Minnesota. He records that though the grand lodge was not organized until August 28, 1891, a group of Scandinavians at St. Paul had formed a local lodge as early as 1884. Brief accounts of individual lodges of Good Templars make up the remainder of the pamphlet.

Funds were raised at Lac qui Parle during the summer months to aid in the restoration of the site of the Lac qui Parle mission. The Minnesota State-wide Archaeological and Historical Research Survey will have charge of the work of restoring the mission grounds, according to the *Montevideo American* for July 25.

As part of the celebration of the St. Paul centennial, about eighty St. Paul men went to Prairie du Chien on August 13 to visit the grave of Father Lucian Galtier, who built the chapel from which the city took its name (see *ante*, p. 346). Archbishop Murray of St. Paul was the speaker.

An autobiography that opens with an account of a covered wagon journey from Sparta, Wisconsin, to Otter Tail County, Minnesota, in 1875 is Flora Cloman's *I'd Live It Over* (New York, 1941). The writer was one of the five children of an English father—William Calvert Smith—and an American mother who pushed into western Minnesota in search of an "estate." One of Mrs. Cloman's earliest recollections is associated with the arrival in St. Paul, where "some of the buildings were three stories high and most of the best shops had little porches extending out over the dirt sidewalks." Mrs. Cloman recalls both the hardships and the attractions of life on the Minnesota frontier. On the shores of a lake "with trees everywhere," her father "managed to build a very comfortable home consisting of two log houses built side by side. One had an upstairs, a lean-to for a kitchen, and a large living room; the other, bedrooms and bunks. Both were connected by a long veranda running the full length of the two houses. They were roofed by hand-split shakes and covered by at least a foot of dirt to make them warmer in winter and cooler in summer." The Smiths "always planted the roofs with flowers and in poppy season they

were one blaze of color." Another unusual feature of the cabin was its "large library" for which shelves were built "all across one end of the room." Mrs. Cloman devotes three chapters to the story of her life in western Minnesota, which she left in 1886 to join a sister in Montana.

In writing his latest novel, *Vagabond Path* (New York, 1941), James Gray had access to the notebooks and diaries of a pioneer Minnesotan from which he has drawn several anecdotes of early fur-trading and territorial days in Minnesota. Among the latter is a new version of the Joe Rolette and state Capitol bill episode. The novel also contains periodic descriptions of an author's life in St. Paul from 1888 to 1932. S. D.

The issue of the *Mississippi Valley Lumberman*, a weekly trade journal published in Minneapolis, for August 15 is a sixty-fifth anniversary number, commemorating "65 Years of Continuous Service to the Lumber Industry." A brief account of the founding of the journal by Platt B. Walker on August 17, 1876, is contributed by his son, James C. Walker, the present publisher of the *Lumberman*. The original purpose of the periodical, which was established and has continued as a weekly, was to "supply news of the growing lumber industry from St. Louis, Mo., to the pineries of Minnesota and Wisconsin." In an article entitled "Old Time 'Lumbertown' Becomes Leading Building Material Market," the transformation of Minneapolis "from one of the chief production centers of the country to one of the greatest lumber and building material markets of the world" is described. Included in the issue also are accounts of the founding and subsequent history of two organizations of lumbermen, the Northwestern Lumbermen's Association and the Northern Pine Manufacturers Association.

Some "Interesting Facts about Lake Ore Boats" are presented in *Skellings' Mining Review* for September 6. It traces the story of lake shipping back to 1870, when Captain D. Atkins was stationed at Duluth as a steamboat agent. In that year he shipped on the "Arctic" the "first barrel of flour and the first bushel of wheat that went from Duluth." Later boats built exclusively for the ore trade are briefly mentioned.

How the Red and White Stores were established as a "voluntary association of grocers" in Minneapolis by A. M. Slocum in 1919 is

explained by Mabel Crinkley in an article entitled "It Started in Minnesota," which appears in the August issue of *Our Minnesota*. There are hundreds of similar associations "all over the country today, but the Red and White stores were the first" chain of independent grocers, according to the author of the present article.

Some results of a "detailed study of State Fair weather over the past 56 years," made by Professor Ralph H. Brown of the department of geography in the University of Minnesota, are presented in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for July 13. Since the Minnesota State Fair began to hold exhibitions on its present grounds in 1885, Professor Brown finds that it has been open to the public 380 days; of these "250 have been favorable, 107 unfavorable (raining or very misty) and 23 have been rainy during part of the day." He has determined that in recent years "weather has become a decreasingly important factor in State Fair attendance — although it still is a large one."

How the Minnesota Chippewa gather and prepare wild rice "In the Fashion of Their Forefathers" is explained in the September issue of *Indians at Work*. References to wild rice in the diaries and writings of explorers are noted in the article. It is accompanied by a series of remarkable pictures, showing Indians gathering, curing, and threshing this native cereal.

A photograph of the "Peace Monument" in the Ramsey County Courthouse in St. Paul is reproduced as the frontispiece in the September issue of the *American-Scandinavian Review*, which features an article on "Carl Milles in America." In the same number is a sketch, by A. A. Stomberg, of "'Dad' Erickson," Professor Theodore A. Erickson of the Minnesota college of agriculture, who was responsible for the beginning and development of the 4-H Club movement in Minnesota.

On August 2 six Eagle Boy Scouts completed a trip of fifteen days from Duluth to St. Paul by canoe. They had followed the ancient voyageur route up the St. Louis River and over the Savanna Portage to Sandy Lake and the Mississippi. Earlier in the summer a group of sixty-five Boy Scouts worked for ten days to reopen the Savanna Portage trail for the use of canoe parties and hikers.

A detailed day-by-day report of a canoe trip by "modern voyageurs" over the historic water route that forms Minnesota's northern boundary from International Falls to Grand Portage appears in the *Chicago Daily News* from June 24 to July 12. The voyage is reported by Mr. Edwin McK. Johnson, outdoor editor of the *News*; his companions on the trip were a guide, Mr. Roland Ericson of Big Lake, and a photographer, Mr. George Ryan of Minneapolis. They retraced the route long used by traders and voyageurs in a "17-foot birch veneer canoe, passing through the fish and game paradise on the northern rim of Minnesota." Taking the trip eastward, as did the voyageurs when they returned from the interior with rich cargoes of furs, "meant that two thirds of the route would be 'uphill' or against the current, for until you reach Height of Land between North and South lakes, far along our way, the water is flowing to Hudson Bay," Mr. Johnson writes in his second article. "From Height of Land, it is 'downhill,' flowing to Lake Superior, but that's the short end of the voyage." In the articles that follow, the writer pictures the border wilderness with its varying scenery, numerous portages, and attractions for the sportsman. Attention is given also to the historical significance of the ancient route, which is shown on an outline map accompanying the opening article. Photographs taken on the trip appear with many of the later articles.

The summer attractions of Minnesota are brought out in an article which gives emphasis to the fact that "The 'Father of Waters' Rises in Land of the Sky Blue Waters," appearing in the August issue of the *Diamond*, a trade journal issued at Tulsa, Oklahoma, by the Mid-continent Petroleum Corporation. It contains brief mentions of Lake Itasca, the Kensington rune stone, the Northwest Angle, and the Paul Bunyan tales.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Nearly two hundred people attended the annual picnic of the Crow Wing County Historical Society at old Crow Wing on August 17. The program included talks on "The Value of Local History" by T. W. Simons, dean of the Crosby-Ironton Junior College, on "Episcopal Missions" by the Reverend George Smith, and on "Father Pierz" by the Reverend Arthur LaMothe. A collection of Indian

objects owned by Mr. John G. Morrison was displayed, and visits were made to historic sites in the vicinity of Crow Wing.

A program arranged by the Dakota County Historical and Archeological Society accompanied the dedication of a marker on the site of the Sioux village of Kaposia, in what is now South St. Paul, on July 23. Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, discussed the history of the Indian village, and Mr. B. V. Beadle of the local society spoke on the Sioux chief Little Crow.

A brief description of the museum of the Goodhue County Historical Society appears with some pictures of the exhibits in the courthouse at Red Wing in the *Kenyon Leader* for September 5. "The money the county is spending in maintaining this county museum is well spent," reads the account.

The second number of *Hennepin County History: A Quarterly Bulletin*, which is issued by the Hennepin County Historical Society, appeared in July (see *ante*, p. 216). It contains accounts of meetings held in April and June, descriptions and lists of recent accessions to the society's museum collections, lists of new members, notes on museum activities, and the like. The quarterly reveals, for example, that during the three months from April 1 to June 30 about four hundred visitors viewed the museum exhibits. The issue presents also a sketch of Jonas H. Howe, a Hennepin County pioneer of 1854 who "gave up his early profession of painting to become a farmer." Four oil paintings by this frontier artist have been presented to the society by his daughter, Mrs. Caroline H. Delles of Los Angeles.

Among the local chapters of the McLeod County Historical Society that held meetings during the summer were those at Winsted and Glencoe. Speakers on the Winsted program on July 23 included Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, curator of the Minnesota Historical Society's museum. Officers of the Glencoe chapter, elected on August 18, include Mrs. Isabelle Zrust, president, Melvin Keenan, vice-president, and Mrs. Edward W. Reed, secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Sophie P. White, secretary of the McLeod County society, has been contributing thumbnail sketches of pioneer life to the *Hutchinson Leader*.

A program of papers and talks and an exhibit of pioneer implements, furniture, and other objects attracted more than eight hundred people

to a picnic arranged jointly by the Marshall County Historical Society and the local Old Settlers Association and held near Alvarado on July 27. Among the speakers were Dr. J. V. Brietweiser of the University of North Dakota, Mr. Frank Dahlgren, and Mr. J. W. Sands. Mr. Dahlgren, who has resided in Marshall County since 1879, presented an interesting description of pioneer life in the region. His paper appears in the *Warren Sheaf* for July 30. The same paper for August 6 publishes Mr. Sands's account, which deals with the "Development of Alvarado Community," with special reference to the Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

The Martin County Historical Society has published a booklet dealing with *Martin County Postmasters and Postoffices from September 6, 1858, to September 1, 1941* (25 p.). The author, Judge Julius E. Haycraft, president of the Martin County society and a vice-president of the Minnesota Historical Society, prepared this material for presentation before the local society's summer meeting at Ceylon on August 31. It has been published also in installments in the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel* from September 1 to 9. From the federal post office department, the Martin County society obtained a "complete list of all the post offices in Martin county since its organization," with the date of establishment, the names of postmasters, and the dates of their periods of service. Judge Haycraft enlarged upon this material, presenting a useful and informative sketch of each of the fifty post offices that have existed in the county. He records that of these "thirty-seven have been discontinued or merged," two have removed to other counties, and "a third, Lake Puzah, a forerunner of Horicon post office, seems to have just 'winked out.'" The author indicates changes in the names of post offices, thus making a contribution to the county's geographical record. A map of Martin County on which post offices are located serves as a frontispiece for the pamphlet. Other speakers at the Ceylon meeting included Mr. E. R. Flygare, who presented a history of Lake Belt Township, and Miss Ardella Kahler, who read a history of the village prepared by Mrs. Henry Christensen. Mr. Flygare's paper, like that by Judge Haycraft, has been issued by the Martin County society in pamphlet form, and it also appears in installments in the *Sentinel*, beginning in the issue for September 12.

Mr. A. C. Constable of Deward Township was elected president of the Nobles County Historical Society at a meeting held at Worthington

on August 17. Mrs. C. R. Thompson of Worthington was named vice-president, Mr. Stanley E. Nelson of Worthington, secretary, and Mr. A. L. Wells of Brewster, treasurer. A feature of the program was a chalk talk on local pioneers, presented by Perry J. Carter.

"When the Olmsted County Historical Society chose Mrs. Bunn T. Willson as its president, it not only chose wisely but paid credit where credit was due," writes Arnie Rost in the *Rochester Post-Bulletin* for July 19. What the society's "museum is today is due in very large part to the efforts of Mrs. Willson," the writer asserts. He concludes that "both the society and its museum should go far under her direction." Mr. Rost comments on an index to the society's file of early Rochester newspapers prepared under Mrs. Willson's direction, describing it as "one of the museum's most valuable assets." The index, which serves as a guide to some fifty thousand items in ninety-five newspaper volumes, has now been completed, according to an announcement in the *Post-Bulletin* for July 16.

Among the recent acquisitions of the Otter Tail County Historical Society is a group of papers relating to the teaching experiences of Sarah M. Leonard, later Mrs. George Cole of Pelican Rapids. Her daughter, Mrs. C. P. Frazee, presented them to the society, according to the "Historical Society Notes" published in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for September 10. The papers include teachers' certificates issued in Juneau County, Wisconsin, in 1863, and in Otter Tail County in 1882.

A brief history of the Pope County Fair, contributed by the Pope County Historical Society, appears in the *Pope County Tribune* of Glenwood for September 11. The story of the local fair is traced back to 1872, when the Pope County Fair Association was organized.

The thirteenth annual North Shore Historical Assembly, consisting of the historical societies of St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties, was held at Watersmeet at the mouth of the Knife River on August 9. More than two hundred people attended. Included on the program were papers and talks on the "History of Knife River" by Hans Ojard, on "North Shore Townsites in the Boom of the Fifties" by Otto E. Wieland, on "The Three MacGillivrays," early North Shore trappers, by J. P. Bertrand, and on "Early Pioneering

in Cook County" by N. J. Bray. Mr. Ojard's paper appears in full in the *Two Harbors Times* for August 14. Mr. Bertrand, who is president of the Thunder Bay Historical Society, invited the assembly to hold its 1942 meeting in Fort William or Port Arthur.

Ten of the thirty-two Indian portraits and North Shore scenes in the Eastman Johnson collection owned by the St. Louis County Historical Society are reproduced in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for July 20. A brief sketch of the artist's career and some information about his visits to Lake Superior in 1856 and 1857 appear with the pictures.

The county board of Waseca County has appropriated two hundred dollars to promote the work of the Waseca County Historical Society, according to an announcement in the *Waseca Herald* for July 17.

At a business meeting of the Washington County Historical Society held at Stillwater on July 18, the secretary announced that the organization now has a total membership of 120. Many interesting additions to the society's collections have been made since it occupied its new museum quarters early in the summer. A program presented at the society's summer meeting at Woodbury on August 9 featured the history of that township.

The Watonwan County Historical Society and the St. James Commercial Club co-operated in sponsoring the celebration of the seventy-first anniversary of the founding of St. James on September 14. An extensive exhibit of articles of local historical interest was displayed by the society in connection with the celebration, under the direction of Mr. George Hage of Madelia, its president. In addition, local business concerns arranged appropriate historical displays in their windows. The *Watonwan County Plaindealer*, for example, placed on exhibit a copy of its first issue, which was published on September 3, 1891, and thus served as a reminder of the paper's fiftieth anniversary. Several articles in the issue of the *Plaindealer* for September 11 appropriately commemorate the community's anniversary. Included are accounts of the founding of St. James by G. W. Tanner, of the "History of the St. James Public Library" by Mrs. N. A. Peck, and of the "Pioneer History of Long Lake Township" by Ole Danielson. The story of the Flogstad family of Nelson Town-

ship, whose members left Norway in the 1860's to settle in Wisconsin and later removed to Minnesota, is presented as an illustration of frontier migration and settlement. A number of early Watonwan County post offices that no longer exist are listed, located, and described. Additional comments on these early centers of settlement are presented in the *Plaindealer* for September 18.

"The Minnesota Historical society for many years has built up a state-wide collection in St. Paul. . . . A Winona county museum can do likewise for this county and area." Thus reads an editorial in the *Winona Republican-Herald* for September 29, which commends the work of the Winona County Historical Society in establishing a museum on the campus of the Winona State Teachers College. An appeal for contributions to the museum, issued by Mr. William Codman, a member of the society's board of directors, appears in the same issue of the *Republican-Herald*.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

An old stone building that once served as a railroad station and post office for a point known as Caroline is the subject of an article by Frank Franciscus in the *Mankato Free Press* for July 17. He records that the building, which is still standing, was erected about 1857, and that it served as a "mail distribution center" for pioneer families living north of Mankato. Most of the information presented was obtained from Mr. C. V. McGraw, a pioneer settler in the vicinity.

Substantial contributions have been made toward the Cass Lake museum building, now under construction, by various groups in the community (see *ante*, p. 343). The women of a local Catholic church raised more than a hundred dollars by giving a chicken supper; the money is being used for the interior finishing of the building. Heating equipment has been furnished by the local Episcopal congregation. Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Swindlehurst have presented the lighting fixtures. When completed, this local historical museum should be an excellent example of what can be accomplished by intelligent co-operation.

Several reminiscent articles about the Windom Institute, a seminary or secondary school established at Montevideo in 1885, appear in the

Montevideo American for September 26, which is a thirtieth anniversary edition. The story of its founding as the Western Minnesota Seminary is reviewed by Dr. Anna Amrud, a graduate of 1898, who tells of plans made for the school at a state meeting of Congregational churches in 1884. The school was opened in an old hotel building, but in 1889 it acquired a building of its own. Experiences as members of the institute's faculty are recounted by D. W. Headley of Winnebago, Frances W. Hunt of Worcester, Massachusetts, and Walter M. Swann of Grandville, Michigan. Other articles in the anniversary issue deal with the history of the *American*, with the restoration of the Lac qui Parle mission buildings, and with the work of the Chippewa County Historical Society.

The history of School District 74, in Greenvale Township, Dakota County, is reviewed by Alfred Tourson in the *Dakota County Tribune* of Farmington for September 5. The first schoolhouse in the district was a log structure built in 1857; ten years later the present schoolhouse was erected. A picture of this country school accompanies the article.

A brief history of the packing industry in Albert Lea, by L. W. Spicer, appears in the *Evening Tribune* of Albert Lea for August 19. It calls attention to the twenty-fifth anniversary of the operation of the local plant by Wilson and Company of Chicago, and tells of its earlier organization as the Brundin Packing Company in 1908.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Villa Maria academy at Frontenac was celebrated with appropriate ceremonies on September 8. The school was established in 1891 on a site presented to the Ursuline order by General Israel Garrard, a prominent resident of old Frontenac. The history of the Villa Maria is briefly reviewed in the *Winona Republican-Herald* for August 23.

A three-day celebration from July 18 to 20 at Grand Rapids marked the fiftieth anniversary of the community's incorporation as a village. Featured on the first two days was a historical pageant, "Logging Days," which dramatized the development of Itasca County and Grand Rapids. Special anniversary editions issued by two local newspapers — the *Grand Rapids Herald-Review* and the *Itasca County Independent* — provide a wealth of material on the history of the village and the county. Both issues give emphasis to the story of the lumber industry

in the region, and both contain articles on an important related industry that is represented locally by the Blandin Paper Company. Included also are accounts of the early history of Itasca County and Grand Rapids, notes on place names in the region, reports of interviews with and sketches of pioneers, and articles on local institutions and industries. The *Independent* gives attention to iron mining and summer resorts, and it includes a sketch of the North Central School and Experiment Station. Mr. L. A. Rossman, editor of the *Herald-Review*, is the author of an account of "Logging Days" in the area, with an announcement of the anniversary celebration and a review of its significance, which appears in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for July 13. A booklet dealing with the history of Grand Rapids, published by the jubilee committee under the title *Logging Town*, is reviewed elsewhere in this issue of *Minnesota History*.

Students of agricultural history will be interested in an article in the *Dassel Dispatch* for September 18 dealing with the "History of Seed Corn Growing and Processing in the Dassel Area." It credits J. H. Pendergast of Collinwood Township with being "a pioneer promoter of this industry" in Meeker County, for as early as 1884 he was offering "seed corn of guaranteed quality to the farmers of the Dassel territory." Others followed his example, and soon corn was replacing wheat as the region's most important crop. The work of Andrew Larson, the first Meeker County farmer to find a market for local seed corn in Minneapolis, is given recognition. In the same issue of the *Dispatch* appears the first installment of a reminiscent narrative by O. E. Linquist, a Dassel pioneer of 1874. His recollections of pioneer events and personalities are published under the heading, "Those Were the Days!"

"The gate receipts were large enough to pay all the premiums and purses offered" in connection with the first Mille Lacs County Fair, which was held in September, 1892, according to an article in the *Princeton Union* for August 14. Over two thousand people attended the fair on a single day, and twenty-seven premiums were awarded in the livestock division. It was not until nineteen years after the fair made this auspicious beginning, however, that a permanent agricultural society was organized in Mille Lacs County and fair grounds were acquired. Some information about the history of 4-H Club activities in the county appears in the same issue of the *Union*.

Old Fort Ridgely was the scene of a meeting on August 22 commemorating the seventy-ninth anniversary of the repulse of the Sioux by the defenders of the fort in the outbreak of 1862. Among those who participated in the program were Dr. Lewis Beeson of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, who discussed the significance of Fort Ridgely in the story of the settlement of the Minnesota Valley; Mr. C. Parks Lampman, who reviewed the events that led up to the Sioux War; and Senator Victor Lawson of Willmar, who represented the Kandiyohi County Historical Society, of which he is president. Dr. Beeson's address is published in full in the *Fairfax Standard* for August 28.

One of Rochester's three original mail carriers, Mr. Arthur B. Williams, who began his activities in 1891, recalls the beginnings of postal service for the city in an interview published in the *Rochester Post-Bulletin* for July 1. The early history of the Rochester park system is outlined in three articles appearing in the *Post-Bulletin* for August 4, 5, and 6. They reveal that in 1905, just after the park board was established, only one man was needed to maintain the city's parks.

A special section of the *Walnut Grove Tribune*, published in connection with its issue for August 14, commemorates the paper's fiftieth anniversary. Featured in the section are a brief history of the paper, which was established as the *Rural Center* in 1891, and a sketch of Charles E. Lantz, who served as its editor from 1906 to 1941. There are also numerous sketches of local business concerns, schools, churches, clubs, and the like, most of which are illustrated with early photographs.

The value of the minutes of the Ramsey County board for the study of local history is brought out in an article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for August 3. Among the matters that came before the board in its early years were the granting of licenses to operate ferries, the paying of bounties on wolves, and the fixing of county taxes. The minutes, which are preserved in the office of the county auditor, fill thirty-one volumes and cover the years from 1849 to the present.

"Perseverance City, Neenah, Minnewawa, Hartford, Sauk City and Grand Rapids are names that today survive only in the early records" of Stearns County, according to an article in the *Paynesville Press* for August 21. The author found these and other unfamiliar

place names in a plat book in the office of the county register of deeds at St. Cloud. Most of these towns, which existed only on paper, date from the late 1850's.

The editor of the *Clarissa Independent* reviews the "History of Clarissa's Fire Department from 1902 to 1941" in the issue for September 11. Credit is given to Frank Fimon, who was mayor in 1902, for organizing the first active fire department. Photographs of the local department, its equipment, and its activities, accompany the article.

A volume of *Biographic Sketches of the Original Settlers in Rush Creek Valley, Winona County, Minnesota* has been prepared and published by Dr. Syvert H. Johnson, a son of a Norwegian pioneer who settled in the valley in 1853 (Bellingham, Washington, 1941. 144 p.). As a background for his sketches, Dr. Johnson presents several chapters dealing with the settlement of the Root River country and with the conditions of pioneer life in southeastern Minnesota. He describes the log cabins that the first settlers built on the sheltered hillsides of their claims "among large oak trees and in close proximity to live running springs." Most of the cabins, he records, "were one and a half or two stories high, having one or sometimes two windows with one door." In the single room that formed the lower floor, "a bed was placed in one corner, a cupboard in a second, a table in the third, and a stove in the fourth." Some excellent pictures of such cabins illustrate the text. Another interesting illustration shows a "pioneer post-hole fence," and the building of fences by the early settlers is described. Early schools, political organization, postal service, the founding of churches, and many other subjects are touched upon.

Impressions of Winona in 1854 are recalled by Mrs. Mary E. Bradley, who went there as a child with her parents, in an interview reported by Mrs. Christine Hanson in the *Winona Republican-Herald* in installments appearing from September 11 to 16. The journey from Illinois to Prairie du Chien by wagon and upstream from the latter place by steamboat is described in the opening installment, where Mrs. Bradley tells also of the hotel, known as the Grant House, that her parents built and opened with a grand ball in November, 1855.



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