

Reviews of Books

Documents Relating to Northwest Missions, 1815-1827 (The Clarence Walworth Alvord Memorial Commission of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, *Publications*, 1). Edited with notes and an introduction by GRACE LEE NUTE. (St. Paul, published for the Clarence Walworth Alvord Memorial Commission by the Minnesota Historical Society, 1942. xix, 469 p. \$5.00.)

In the extreme northeastern section of North Dakota, just across the Red River from Minnesota, is the little city of Pembina. Since the 1790's it had been a fur-trading post, and in the early years it was thought to lie within what is now the province of Manitoba. The beginnings of the permanent settlement of this whole region, the Red River Valley, is associated with the name of the Earl of Selkirk, a Scotch nobleman who was a large shareholder in the Hudson's Bay Company. He had a passion for the founding of colonies in order to improve the lot of evicted Irish and Scotch tenants and had already made two attempts on Prince Edward Island and in Ontario. He acquired a large grant of land centering about the present city of Winnipeg, with Pembina at the southern limit. To this region between 1812 and 1816 were sent several contingents of colonists, mostly Scotch Highlanders and Irish, and Selkirk was interested in securing priests for the Irish Catholics and ministers for the Scotch Presbyterians. Selkirk was himself a Protestant, but was not a narrow sectarian and had large humanitarian interests. Besides the many hardships attendant upon pioneering in a rigorous climate, the colonists became involved in a bitter civil war between the rival North West and Hudson's Bay companies. The Red River Valley had been pre-empted by the North West Company and Lord Selkirk was accused of founding his colony in that region to advance his own business interests.

Lord Selkirk's colonists, however, were not the first white inhabitants of the Red River Valley. Besides the employees of fur-trading companies, there were numerous French-Canadians and half-breeds, the result of the mixing of Canadian fathers with Indian women. One writer estimates that there were at least seven hundred of these people living in the region of the Selkirk settlements, all of them nominally Catholics. To save

his colonists from impending destruction at the hands of the powerful North West Company, Selkirk sought the aid of the "powerful arm of religion," and accordingly set about the securing of the appointment of missionaries. The letters in this volume passed between the several persons chiefly concerned in sending missionaries to this far-away region, chief among whom were the Earl of Selkirk, Lady Selkirk, Bishop Joseph Plessis, the missionaries Joseph Provencher and Sévère Dumoulin, both native Canadians and sincere and devoted men, and Pierre Antoine Tabeau. The latter, a native Canadian priest who was commissioned by Bishop Plessis to make a tour of investigation, proved to be prejudiced against Selkirk's colony and a partisan of the North West Company.

The instructions given to the missionaries by Bishop Plessis reveal the conditions which they had to meet (p. 60). Their first object was "to reclaim from barbarism" the Indian nations scattered over the country. Their second concern was to reclaim delinquent Christians who had adopted the customs of the natives and were living licentious lives. They were to acquire, as soon as possible, a knowledge of the Indian languages and reduce them to writing. They were to prepare for baptism the infidel women, the concubines of "Christian" men, in order that legitimate marriage might take place, and they were to give particular attention to the Christian education of children. At spots where voyageurs frequently passed they were to erect "high crosses, as an indication that these several places had been taken possession of in the name of the Catholic religion." They were to enjoin upon the people constantly that religion "strictly prescribes peace, good behavior, and obedience to the laws both of state and church." They were to instruct the people as to the advantages of "living under the government of His Britannic Majesty"; to maintain absolute impartiality toward the two fur companies; to be equally zealous for the salvation of clerks, *engagés*, and voyageurs of both; and, finally, to make frequent and regular reports regarding all their activities.

No missionaries ever tried more faithfully to fulfill all their duties and obligations than did the two whose letters and reports make up a large proportion of this volume. The original reports and letters are, of course, in French, with a few in Latin. These have been reproduced, followed in each case by an idiomatic English translation, the work in large measure of the editor. This she has done most admirably, and the editing is almost without a flaw.

It may not be according to the recognized canon for editing such ma-

terials, but this reviewer has long had the notion that it would be a great help in the reading of such documents if they could be broken up into convenient sections or chapters. For instance, these documents fall logically into at least four divisions—the negotiations and preparation for the mission, the journey of the missionaries from Montreal to the Red River, the laying of the foundations of the mission, and, finally, from the appointment of Provencher as bishop of Juliopolis to the decline of the Pembina mission.

The growing interest in cultural history renders a more thorough understanding of the religious development of America a necessity. Any attempt to understand American culture apart from religion is a contradiction in itself, for culture has to do with the moral and religious as well as with the intellectual life of society. These documents, therefore, deal with the very roots of culture, and until the great mass of materials of this sort, now lying scattered and largely neglected, are made available, the full story of American cultural beginnings cannot be written. One of the great needs in American history is a comprehensive history of Indian missions, both Protestant and Catholic, based upon original documents like those presented in this volume.

This is the first publication of the Clarence W. Alvord Memorial Commission, of which Miss Nute, the editor of this volume, is the chairman. May others of the same nature, equally well done, speedily follow.

WILLIAM W. SWEET

The Letters of John McLoughlin from Fort Vancouver to the Governor and Committee, first series, 1825–38 (Hudson's Bay Record Society, *Publications*, vol. 4). Edited by E. E. Rich, M.A. With an introduction by W. Kaye Lamb, Ph.D. (Published by the Champlain Society for the Hudson's Bay Record Society, 1941. cxxviii, 373 p. Portrait, map.)

John McLoughlin has become a sort of American hero, whose origin, activities, opinions, and correspondence are full of interest to a national clientele. Hence the publication of his business letters for the period of his Oregon career will be read by a larger public than the purely business correspondence of most other persons not in public office. This book includes his letters for the earlier part of his career as an employe of the Hudson's Bay Company. Another volume will complete the story.

Though he was acting as the agent of a business corporation, his every

deed and decision determined the fate of nations. Thus he ranks with the empire builders of the American continents. His correspondence deals with such topics as the best methods for keeping the Oregon country British; the steady encroachments of American trappers, explorers, and missionaries; the value of vessels as compared with trading posts as a means for preserving the Northwest coast for Great Britain, rather than Russia or the United States; the question whether settlements of farmers were a danger or a service to his company; and the relative merits of Protestant and Catholic missionaries as a means for keeping the peace and preserving the friendship of Indians and voyageurs. Incidental to such topics are included scores of interesting facts about the countryside, its aboriginal inhabitants, the men of the company's service, travelers and settlers, the adjoining areas, especially the Snake River and the upper California regions, and anecdotes and human interest stories by the dozen.

The correspondence proper has small Minnesota interest, but an excellent introduction outlines not only McLoughlin's early Oregon years, but tells the little that is known of his still earlier career. It points out — and rightly — that probably the reason for his sudden choice as chief trader for the Oregon country was his success in guarding another frontier fur region for the company. That was the Rainy Lake area lying between Lake Superior and the Red River. There he had spent many years — just how many the editor is not quite sure. Indeed, though he is very much at home in Canadian, Oregon, and English history, he shows uncertainty whenever details of general American history are required. Thus he lacks familiarity with the Vermilion Lake country in which McLoughlin spent many years as a trader for the North West Company. Yet the present reviewer has pointed out McLoughlin's connection with northern Minnesota history in articles in this quarterly and elsewhere. The editor's reference to a well-known Indian captive and author as "one John Tanner" also seems a trifle strange to Minnesotans. To refer to a missionary, the Reverend Samuel Parker, as having been sent to the Oregon country by "a Board of Foreign Missions representing the Presbyterian, Congregational, and Dutch Reformed churches" convinces an American reader that the editor knows little about one long and fascinating chapter in American history — the labors and personnel of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. It might interest him to know that the huge body of records preserved by that board and covering nearly a

hundred and fifty years of its existence contains a great deal of information on Dr. McLoughlin and the Hudson's Bay Company in Oregon and elsewhere.

Besides the introduction, Dr. McLoughlin's letters, and allied documents, there is a section of the volume devoted to biographical sketches of persons mentioned in the text. In the account of William Glen Rae is material on the attempt of the Hudson's Bay Company to have sheep driven by Rae from Kentucky to the Red River settlements in 1832. This is a well-established event in Minnesota history and the additional information here given is most welcome.

The book conforms to the high standard of excellence in format set by earlier volumes published by the record society, though one could wish for a more complete index. A part of Arrowsmith's map of North America in 1857 is reproduced.

GRACE LEE NUTE

The Unguarded Frontier: A History of American-Canadian Relations.

By EDGAR W. MCINNIS. (Garden City, Doubleday Doran & Co., Inc. 384 p. \$3.00.)

Edgar McInnis, in addition to his important work as a member of the department of history in the University of Toronto, has found time to prepare and publish an excellent survey of the progress of the present war, which is coming out in parts. Now he has given us something equally important and timely — a survey of Canadian-American relations past and present.

The ever-increasing importance of these relations is emphasized by the ambitious project of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in publishing, under the general direction of James T. Shotwell, a series of volumes, each by a competent authority, on the many-sided subject of Canadian-American relations. I do not think anything like so comprehensive a survey of the relations of two neighboring countries has ever before been attempted. While many of these books are too specialized to appeal to the ordinary American or Canadian reader, they are proving a mine of information to the student, and they will at least facilitate the production of more general studies of the subject, such as *The Unguarded Frontier*, which can be read with profit and pleasure by anyone.

It is no easy matter to select from the fairly long and involved histories of the United States and Canada the parts that will best serve to illus-

trate the growth of their relations, and to do it both objectively and in such a way as to hold the interest of the reader. Mr. McNinnis has succeeded in doing this. His treatment of his subject is skillful, authoritative, and pleasing, as well as objective. I wonder sometimes, though, if this quality of objectivity cannot be carried too far, if the effort to remove all bias does not sometimes take with the bias some of the life of the book, much as modern methods of making maple sugar remove much of the color and the flavor and the atmosphere of the woods that made the maple sugar of long ago so attractive. Or is that nothing but my imagination? In any case I am not suggesting that Mr. McNinnis' objectivity is of this extreme character.

Mr. McNinnis' treatment of the French-Canadians, and their attitude on one side to their fellow Canadians and on the other to their American neighbors, is sane and convincing. "The French leaders," he says, "have consistently recognized that their racial and cultural position would be much more precarious if they were reduced to a small minority through the annexation of Canada to the United States. If Canada had offered scope for an indefinite expansion of population, the French position might have been undermined even there. But the existing boundary strictly limited such prospects. Expansion soon approached its practicable limits, and the influx of immigration ebbed as opportunities dwindled. With the achievement of a relative population stability the French were enabled by their superior birth rate to hold and even to improve their ground. They have, it is true, shared the economic disadvantages resulting from these geographical limitations—disadvantages which have been illustrated by the drift of French as well as English-speaking Canadians to the United States. But in the eyes of the French leaders this is a phenomenon to be combated, not to be accepted as foreshadowing an inevitable destiny. The preservation of their peculiar institutions is more important than the lure of wider economic opportunity; and since the choice has to be made, the choice has been in favor of a narrower political community in which French separatism has proved its ability to survive."

In his handling of the War of 1812, or that large part of it which took place on the Canadian frontier, and which, therefore, seems more important to Canadians than to Americans, Mr. McNinnis has managed to put a great deal of detail onto a relatively small canvas, and has included such little-known bits of international melodrama or farce as

this: "The fleet and army assailed the muddy little village of York . . . the troops embarked on private pillage of their own. In this they were aided with some enthusiasm by certain of the local inhabitants, for the local authorities were powerless and the American commanders were indifferent, and the opportunity was too good to miss. Not the least enterprising was a British half-pay officer who was under arrest at the time of invasion. He escaped from confinement, acquired an American uniform, placed himself in command of two American soldiers, and took up marauding in a really systematic way. It may even be that it was local enterprise which led to the burning of the Parliament buildings, for which the invaders later paid with the burning of Washington."

Mr. McNnis' discussion of the various treaties and conventions between the United States and Britain affecting Canada is admirably clear and convincing. In reading his chapter "The Uneasy Border," I was struck with two rather curious parallels—the insistence of Americans upon their absolute right to use the inshore fisheries of Canada and Newfoundland, and their insistence that Canadians should be denied the right they had exercised for years of trading with the Indians south of the Great Lakes; and the demand of the United States for access to its territory by way of the St. Lawrence, and the refusal to give Canadians access to their territory by way of the Mississippi. In both cases, obviously, the point of view may be reversed.

There are very few points of possible criticism in the book. Mr. McNnis might, perhaps, in mentioning the British grounds for claiming a boundary from the mountains down the Columbia to the Pacific, have included the surveys of David Thompson (p. 173). The language used on page 183 might suggest that the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company were contemporaries on the Pacific coast, whereas the latter were there years before the former and had the field to themselves almost up to the union of 1821. Is it not, also, a little misleading, without further explanation, to say (p. 215) that the Hudson's Bay Company was bought out in 1863, and surrendered its charter in 1869? One might suggest that among the reasons for the sympathy of a good many British North Americans for the South (p. 221) was the quite natural feeling for the underdog fighting gallantly against a much more powerful antagonist; and, by the same token, to speak of the North "fighting for its very existence" (p. 223) sounds unconvincing. On page 98, the statement that "the controversy over impressment of sailors from Ameri-

can merchant vessels" might be clearer if "British" were inserted before "sailors."

But, after all, these are but very small holes, and are hardly worth picking even by a conscientious reviewer. At any rate they throw into relief the generally admirable quality of Mr. McInnis' survey of the relations of Canadians and Americans — relations that were never more intimate and friendly than they are today.

LAWRENCE J. BURPEE

Francis Parkman: Heroic Historian. By MASON WADE. (New York, The Viking Press, 1942. xiii, 466 p. Illustrations. \$4.50.)

The author of an excellent biography of Margaret Fuller and the editor of her writings, Mason Wade has a wide acquaintance with New England culture in the mid-nineteenth century. His recent biography of Francis Parkman places that famous historian in the setting that was his by right of birth and training. A Puritan by inheritance, despite his lack of acceptance of the dogmas of Puritanism, and a Brahmin whose belief in democracy was always a matter of the intellect, never a portion of the inner man, Parkman was part of the flowering of a culture that in his generation produced Theodore Parker, Emerson, Thoreau, and Bronson Alcott. Profound as was his learning and important as were his contributions to historical literature, in his personality and career, as in those of others of the Boston group, it is possible to see why within another generation George Santayana could portray so bitterly the decline of Boston culture in his *Last Puritan*.

Mr. Wade has used Parkman's own method of writing a chronological narrative based upon the use of all available source material. Believing that Parkman's active life and the experiences and enthusiasms of his youth were the determining factors in his career, causing him to carry over into his long invalidism the interests of the brief active years, the author has placed his emphasis upon the period of Parkman's young manhood, devoting nearly three hundred of the book's four hundred and fifty pages to the years before the combination of afflictions he was to call "the Enemy" assailed him when he was twenty-five.

Between Parkman's first year at Harvard in 1840 and the year 1847, when failing sight and other ailments caused the first break in his arduous preparation for a historian's career and cast the first shadow over all

his bright ambitions, most of his traveling was done, his friendships were formed, and all the lines of his interests and future research were indicated. In those years, also, journals were kept which were a mine of information for Mr. Wade, both for the man and for the historian. The biographer has permitted Parkman to speak for himself from the pages of the diaries, and no so-called psychological biography could show so completely the personality, the ability, the genius of the man as do these frank excerpts from the youthful journals written a hundred years ago.

The bravery and the persistence of the boy, who sought to prepare himself to write the history of France in America by retracing the steps of the early explorers, and to describe the hazards that beset the early settlers by submitting himself as far as possible to those hazards, are obvious in the diaries. But that bravery and persistence rose to unparalleled heroism in the long years that followed the first onslaught of "the Enemy." Then grueling research was undertaken when the invalid could work but two hours a day at best, and the many volumes of his epic history were written under conditions that would have daunted any but one whose purpose was well defined and whose spirit was unflinching.

Mr. Wade's narrative treatment, holding close always to the evidence of Parkman's own words, portrays his subject vividly while permitting the proud New Englander the decent reticences with which he would have preferred those tragic years to be covered. The sympathetic treatment which the biographer accords the historian culminates in a brief epilogue—a moving tribute that sums up what many a student of American history must have felt upon completing his reading of Parkman. And yet Mr. Wade's tribute is not indiscriminating and unqualified praise. Parkman's shortcomings were those of his inheritance and his environment; they stemmed from the same Boston heritage as his greatness and were the reverse side of that shield. The biographer has given us not only a study of a man, but a picture of an epoch and a region that form a part of the American heritage. One cannot fail to gain a deeper understanding of New England culture from this biography of one of New England's finest; but for many readers the most interesting part of the book will be the tales of adventure in the White Mountains, in Maine and in Canada, and on the Oregon Trail. It is a great satisfaction, also, to have excellent maps of the routes of Parkman's research travels on the end papers of the book.

Francis Parkman, Heroic Historian is all that good bookmaking

should be. The format is excellent; paper, type, maps, illustrations, bibliography, and index satisfy every requirement of usefulness and good taste. The publication of a life of Parkman is very timely, for there has of late been a growing appreciation of his work and an ever-increasing interest in colonial history. Mr. Wade's work has been very well done, and the resulting book is a contribution in the field of American biographies.

ALICE FELT TYLER

The Republic of the United States: A History, vol. 2, 1865-1942. By JEANNETTE P. NICHOLS and ROY F. NICHOLS. (New York, D. Appleton-Century Company, 1942. xvii, 715 p. Illustrations, maps. \$3.50.)

Various people have observed that increasing specialization in the social sciences sometimes results in greater ignorance as well as in greater knowledge. This charge, however, cannot be aimed at the Nichols, who have given in this work ample evidence of their omniscience. As in volume 1, they have traced the flow of American life in all its varied phases — social, economic, political, and cultural. Is the reader interested in the planning of New York's Central Park, in pioneer Minnesota agriculture, in poetry, in medical progress, in music, in diplomatic history, in sectionalism, or in Mickey Mouse and Dumbo? He will find a treatment of these subjects, and of many others, plus aids to locating more material on his special interest. The authors have captured much of the charm of Mark Sullivan's *Our Times*, and they have organized their material much more skillfully. Politics is by no means neglected, yet American history is not viewed solely through Washington spectacles. Unlike some of the older textbooks, treatment of materials is not limited by presidential administrations, but is largely topical. Success has been achieved, it seems to this reviewer, in presenting the "spirit" of different periods without distorting the importance of any special aspect of life.

Democracy's value, emphasized in volume 1, is stressed continually. For example, in speaking of the Middle West, the authors write: "The mixture of peoples and opinions had fostered a progressive, tolerant spirit, accustomed to that mutual adjustment — that compromise — which is indispensable to the perpetuation of a democratic form of government" (p. 85). Or again in the section on the 1920's they are led to comment: "When people give most of their waking thoughts to pursuit of the 'almighty dollar' they have no time to care greatly about two

principles essential to the success of a democracy; neither obedience to law nor freedom of expression seem important" (p. 430). This devotion to democracy, without sacrifice of historical accuracy, seems particularly significant at the present time.

The book is valuable in at least two other respects. First, 224 out of a total of 604 pages are devoted to the years since 1914. In this section the reader perplexed by the state of the world will find answers to many of his questions, and the seeker after lasting peace will discover what happened to Wilsonian idealism after the First World War. Second, the volume carries the story up to June, 1942, and while much of the history of the last decade cannot yet be known, it presents in an orderly manner leading developments of that decade. It thus presents a guide for the average reader who undoubtedly finds the multitude of recent events confusing and chaotic. The authors represent the "liberal" point of view, high tariffs and unrestrained capitalism receiving their strictures, while the New Deal meets friendly treatment; yet they cannot be accused of partisanship. Anything which in their studied opinion is harmful to the general welfare of the republic is criticized, and not in the spirit of a narrowly nationalistic historian.

The volume is organized into six main divisions on "The New Sectionalism, 1865-1878," "The Impact of Large-scale Organization, 1878-1900," "The Progressive Era, 1900-1917," "The United States and the First World War, 1914-1918," "What Price Prosperity, 1918-1933," and "The New Deal and the Second World War." Sixty-three illustrations, many of them reproductions of cartoons from the *Minneapolis Journal* and other newspapers, and twenty-four maps, graphs, and charts add interest and help tell the story. To aid teachers and students there are cross references in the text, introductory paragraphs to each chapter, and adequate bibliographical material. The book list at the back of the volume contains over a thousand titles, of which slightly more than fifty per cent were published since the beginning of 1930. In the appendix are found the Constitution, the presidential vote for all candidates from 1868 to 1940, the names of cabinet members since 1865, and the political composition of Congress from 1865 to 1941. The index is satisfactory.

Errors are remarkably few. On page 87 the self-binder is mentioned as bringing relief to the farmers of the 1860's; the name of the American ambassador to Great Britain during the First World War is misspelled on page 385; and the circulation of the *Readers' Digest* is given as two

million on page 555, whereas it is given correctly at over four million on page 499. Some will undoubtedly differ on certain conclusions and interpretations of the Nichols, and others will find the failure to list the recent books by Roy M. Robbins on the public domain, Earle D. Ross on the land grant colleges, and Theodore C. Blegen on immigration as grave oversights. All in all, however, this newest addition to volumes on American history is a notable contribution. The promise given by volume 1 is fulfilled; the Nichols' survey of our country's development is one of the best available.

MERRILL E. JARCHOW

State Income Taxes. By ROY G. BLAKEY and VIOLET JOHNSON. (Chicago, Commerce Clearing House, Inc., 1942. ix, 152 p. Tables, charts. \$3.00.)

Professor Blakey is one of the outstanding American authorities in the whole field of taxation. Miss Johnson was long employed as an income tax specialist by the tax commission of the state of Minnesota. Had they so desired these two Minnesota authors could well have produced a thoroughly documented historical and theoretical work on state income taxes, comprehensive in scope and definite in character. By deliberate choice they preferred to put forth this much briefer and more practical work.

Any person who already has a little familiarity with tax literature can read this concise work in a few hours. In it he will find a brief and accurate description of present state income tax laws, the rates charged, and the exemptions and deductions allowed. He will learn also how the laws are administered, and what the taxes yield, all nearly up to the date of publication in July, 1942. The explanations are clear and readable; the tables are apposite and instructive.

Even informed readers may be somewhat surprised to learn that state income taxes as recently as 1940 yielded less than nine per cent of all state tax receipts. Motor vehicle taxes alone brought in more revenue; and sales taxes, including those on gasoline, produced nearly five times as much. One factor that explains this situation is the dominant position of the national government in the taxation of incomes, both personal and corporate. This dominance may increase under the pressure of wartime needs until the income tax becomes practically a monopoly of the national government. In Canada the provinces have completely relinquished the income tax to the dominion government for the duration of the war.

The whole future existence of the American states may well be tied up with their weakness in the control of tax sources. Let us hope that the authors of this work will some day produce another in which these wider implications of their data may be discussed.

WILLIAM ANDERSON

Lower Mississippi. By HODDING CARTER. (New York, Farrar and Rinehart, 1942. x, 467 p. Illustrations. \$2.50.)

This volume, the nineteenth in the *Rivers of America* series, tells the story of Old Man River from the advent of De Soto to the flamboyant days of Huey Long. It is a compact, readable, and interesting tome, written with sympathy and understanding by a Greenville editor who is himself a native of the Delta country. Mr. Carter focusses his spotlight on the region between Memphis and New Orleans, these towns, together with Baton Rouge, Natchez, and Vicksburg, securing most of his attention. The pattern of previous volumes is followed, the treatment being episodic with emphasis upon outstanding events and characters. The steamboat enthusiast will find little space devoted to river transportation; the explosion of the "Sultana," the exploits of George Devol, and the story of the great packet lines and some of their record-breaking cotton cargoes are absent. Nevertheless, Mr. Carter has written what is probably the best volume in the *Rivers of America* series.

Mr. Carter divides his book into five parts containing twenty-nine chapters. The first deals with the international rivalry for the lower Mississippi. There one encounters the swash-buckling De Soto, the empire-building Bienville, and the wine-sipping Father Dagobert. There, too, one reads of Antonio Ulloa, Alexander O'Reilly, and other Spanish dons. The inauguration of the Black Code and the incursions of the English receive special attention. The second part, entitled "American Dawn," begins with Andrew Ellicott's service as surveyor and "trouble-shooter" for George Washington. It includes chapters on the annexation of West Florida, the defense of New Orleans in 1815, the outlaws of the Natchez Trace, and the founding of Memphis. The next five chapters constitute the "Valley Flowering" and deal with the beginnings of the sugar industry, the development of the cotton kingdom, the advent of the steamboat, and ante bellum days in Natchez and New Orleans. Under the general caption "Years of the Locust" the author discusses the Mississippi River as a strategic artery during the Civil War, the reconstruction pe-

riod, the yellow fever epidemic, the Mafia incident, and the New Orleans lottery. Part 5 is a catchall for such topics as floods and levees, tall tales, the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou, and the James B. Eads jetty system.

The book is illustrated by John McCrady. It contains a bibliography and an adequate index.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

The Role of Conjuring in Saulteaux Society (Philadelphia Anthropological Society, *Publications*, vol. 2). By A. IRVING HALLOWELL. (Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1942. xiv, 96 p. Illustrations. \$1.25.)

This monograph is the first to be published about conjuring as performed by means of the "shaking tent," an Indian rite well known to students of the Algonkian-speaking tribes of the eastern woodlands. Dr. Hallowell describes the function of conjuring among the Berens River Saulteaux of Manitoba, as it fosters and reflects their magico-religious beliefs, and compares the Saulteaux ceremony with conjuring as reported among the Chippewa, Cree, and Montagnais-Naskapi. Extensive footnotes refer to the work of travelers and ethnologists familiar with the Chippewa of Minnesota, notably that of Frances Densmore, the only trained observer to have witnessed a shaking tent performance among Minnesota Indians. This was at Grand Portage in 1930.

Dr. Hallowell, an anthropologist of wide reputation, analyzes every aspect of conjuring. He describes the building of the tent and how it is entered at night by the conjurer to summon the spiritual helpers with whose aid he is able to obtain news of people and events miles away, to foretell the future and expose the past, to recover lost and stolen articles and reveal hidden causes of prolonged maladies. The author, in attempting to dispel the mystery which has ever been associated with this ceremony, concludes that the conjurer is not a deliberate faker, and that it is not necessary to infer the activity of supernormal forces, as suggested by the Spiritualists. According to Dr. Hallowell, the conjurer thoroughly identifies himself with the role as prescribed by the customs of his people and becomes "inspired." Although this psychological explanation throws light upon the behavior of the principal actor, there still remain to be explained numerous "miracles," such as reports of tent shaking in which all the evidence points to something other than the action of the conjurer as the cause.

LEONARD MASON

Gustavus Adolphus College: A History of Eighty Years, 1862-1942. By CONRAD PETERSON, Ph.D. (Rock Island, Illinois, Augustana Book Concern, 1942. 128 p. Illustrations.)

Professor Peterson has produced a contribution to the history of the Swedish Lutherans of Minnesota, an account of an achievement in which they may well take pride. It may be only another formal, institutional history to most readers, but the sons and daughters of Gustavus Adolphus College will highly prize this record of the heritage which they know and love.

The book reflects the tithes, the labor, and the prayers that go into the building of a small denominational college. It mentions the strict rules governing the sexes which made the courtships of the early years a mystery, and refers to students in the school of commerce who could not understand why religious instruction was necessary for a business career. Brief mention is given to the "grand old man," Professor J. P. Uhler, who held the affection of several generations of students. There is a tale about the conservative college group climbing on to the bandwagon of St. Peter's great governor, John A. Johnson. The material of human history is here, although the trivia from the faculty minutes almost crowds it out. "Gustavus Adolphus Becomes a Real College" is the title of chapter 4, but, as usual, the criteria are additions to endowment, buildings, departments, and faculty personnel.

WILLIAM VERHAGE

Minnesota Historical Society Notes

THE SOCIETY'S ninety-fourth annual meeting, which was held in St. Paul on January 18, was confined to two sessions—a luncheon and an afternoon meeting. Since gas rationing and general curtailment of travel make it difficult for representatives of local historical societies in remote parts of the state to reach St. Paul, the local history conference, which has been a feature of similar gatherings for more than two decades, was omitted. For similar reasons it was decided to omit the evening session, which usually draws large audiences from the Twin Cities and near-by communities, and to make the luncheon program the chief feature of the meeting. Thus, wartime conditions affected the arrangements for the annual meeting of 1943, as they are affecting most of the society's activities.

Under these circumstances, it is significant that for the program following the luncheon meeting, which convened at the St. Paul Athletic Club at 12:15 P.M. with about ninety people in attendance, the chief speaker should be an army officer—Lieutenant Colonel Floyd E. Eller, commanding officer of the Reception Center at Fort Snelling. And it was appropriate that he should be introduced by Judge Julius E. Haycraft of Fairmont, for Colonel Eller's address on "A Soldiers Looks at History" was the ninth in a series inaugurated just a decade ago by Judge Haycraft with a talk entitled "A Judge Looks at History." Colonel Eller's appreciation of the value of military and local history has been strikingly illustrated while he has been stationed at Fort Snelling, for it was largely as a result of his interest and encouragement that the Round Tower Museum was developed. His address, which is published in full elsewhere in the present issue, is another example of his interest in local history. It makes available not only a survey of the historical past of the fort, but of its contribution to the present defense program.

In introducing the second speaker, Mr. J. P. Bertrand of Port Arthur, Ontario, Judge Haycraft reminded the audience that the society was welcoming a visitor who, as president of the Thunder Bay Historical Society, had been host to a large number of Minnesotans when they attended a meeting of the North Shore Historical Society at Fort William and Port Arthur in August, 1942. Judge Haycraft himself represented

the Minnesota Historical Society at that meeting and enjoyed Canadian hospitality. Mr. Bertrand took as his subject "A Century of Border Cooperation," stressing the importance of the century-old Webster-Ashburton Treaty in helping to bring about border harmony. But the "spirit of compromise" that has been characteristic of decisions relating to the boundary between the United States and Canada, said Mr. Bertrand, can be traced largely to a common inheritance on the part of the peoples of the two nations. He touched briefly upon negotiations from 1783 to 1904, mentioning border problems in areas as widely separated as Maine and Oregon, Minnesota and Alaska. Upon the conclusion of Mr. Bertrand's talk, the meeting adjourned.

About fifty people attended the afternoon session in the auditorium of the Historical Building at 3:00 P. M. Since the society's president, Dr. Lester B. Shippee, was unable to be present, Judge Haycraft, who is a vice-president of the society, presided. Upon opening the meeting, he announced that Mr. Edgar L. Mattson of Minneapolis had been selected by the nominating committee to succeed on the society's executive council Judge Royal A. Stone of St. Paul, who died in September. Mr. Mattson was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy. Judge Haycraft then called upon Mr. Julian B. Baird, the society's treasurer, and Dr. Lewis Beeson, the acting secretary and superintendent, for their annual reports. Under the title "The Minnesota Historical Society in 1942," Dr. Beeson's report appears in this issue of *Minnesota History*. Following the business session, Dr. Alice Felt Tyler, assistant professor of history in the University of Minnesota, presented a charming picture, based upon contemporary letters, of "Pioneering in Meeker County" in the 1870's. She discovered the letters in the attic of an old house in Amherst, Massachusetts, among the papers of Elizabeth Stearns Smith, her husband's grandmother. Extracts from letters written to and by members of the Smith family who farmed and speculated in Minnesota lands at Darwin were quoted by Mrs. Tyler. Her interesting and informing address, which will be published in full in a future number of this magazine, brought the annual meeting of 1943 to a close.

B. L. H.

Since the activities of the society in 1942, including the last quarter of the year, are surveyed in the acting superintendent's report, published elsewhere in this number of *Minnesota History*, only a few supplementary items are mentioned in the present section.

The society is now receiving currently a total of 747 newspapers, a larger number than at any previous time in the history of the organization. The increase has been caused chiefly by the fact that many papers published in army camps at which Minnesota men are stationed are now being received and preserved by the society.

During the last three months of 1942 the following five annual members joined the society: Josephine V. Brower of St. Cloud, Jess Hartzler of Wellman, Iowa, Mary E. Mahoney of Minneapolis, Albert H. Olson of Kathryn, North Dakota, and Roger L. Windom of Orlando, Florida.

The society lost the following active members during the quarter ending on December 31: Mrs. Frank B. Kellogg of St. Paul on October 1, Ripley B. Brower of St. Cloud on October 3, J. N. Jacobson of Hills on November 18, Julius S. Pomeroy of Minneapolis on November 30, Marion P. Satterlee of Minneapolis on December 6, and Lydia Ickler of St. Paul on December 23.

Lieutenant Arthur J. Larsen, who is on leave of absence as secretary and superintendent of the society, is now stationed at Edmonton, Alberta, where he is serving as a cryptographer with the Army Air Force.

Mr. Babcock attended a meeting of the Mid-west Museums Conference at Springfield, Illinois, on October 15. The problems that museums must meet in time of war were the chief topic of discussion. Before returning to St. Paul, Mr. Babcock visited the museum of the Missouri Historical Society at St. Louis.

Dr. Beeson's suggestions for "Collecting War Records" published in this magazine for March, 1942, are presented in slightly different form in the June issue of the *Chronicles of Oklahoma*.

Miss Nute contributes an interesting and informing sketch of "Robert Kennicott, Minnesota Naturalist" to the October issue of the *Conservation Volunteer*. Her account of the Chicago scientist's Minnesota excursions between 1857 and 1862 is based upon manuscripts still in the possession of his family.

The acting superintendent spoke on the "Collection and Preservation of War Records" before a meeting of the Winona County Historical Society at Winona on October 5. Two local historical societies heard talks

by Miss Nute late in 1942, for she addressed the Rice County group on Radisson and Groseilliers at Faribault on October 19, and the Olmsted County organization on wartime activities of local historical societies at Rochester on October 27. "Pioneer Life in Minnesota" was the subject of a talk given by Mr. Babcock on November 20 before a meeting in the society's auditorium of the Early American Glass Club of Minnesota.

CONTRIBUTORS

The author of the leading article in the present issue, Lieutenant Colonel Floyd E. Eller, United States Infantry, is the commanding officer of the Reception Center at Fort Snelling. In that capacity he has come into contact with thousands of men who are entering the military service, and he has had ample opportunity to understand why they find a knowledge of their historical backgrounds a valuable asset. By promoting the development of the Round Tower Museum at Fort Snelling, Colonel Eller has encouraged an interest in local history on the part of the men stationed there. His estimate of the value of history for the military man, which appears herein under the title "A Soldier Looks at History," is, therefore, based upon concrete experience. He presents also his first-hand observations on the transformation of the Minnesota post into an induction center in the present war.

How Fort Snelling and Minnesota figured in the warfare of an earlier day is the subject of a contemporary account of "Armistice and War on the Minnesota Frontier" in 1839, which has been provided with an introduction and edited by Dean Theodore C. Blegen of the University of Minnesota graduate school. As superintendent of the society and editor of its publications before 1939, he became well-known to its members. One evidence of Dean Blegen's continued interest in the society is to be found in his contributions to its quarterly.

The acting superintendent and secretary of the society, Dr. Lewis Beeson, prepared the report on "The Minnesota Historical Society in 1942" which appears in this issue. He has directed the work of the society since the middle of September, when Lieutenant Arthur J. Larsen was granted a leave of absence for the duration of the war. Dr. Beeson is the author of articles on "Collecting War Records" and on "The Minnesota War History Committee" published in recent issues of this magazine.

The volume of *Documents Relating to Northwest History* recently published by the society for the Clarence Walworth Alvord Memorial

Commission of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association is reviewed in the present number by Dr. William W. Sweet, professor of the history of American Christianity in the University of Chicago. He is the author of numerous works in the field of religious history, including several volumes relating to *Religion on the American Frontier*. The book that he reviews herewith has an introduction and notes by Dr. Grace Lee Nute of the society's staff, who, in turn, contributes to this issue a review of the most recent of the *Publications* of the Hudson's Bay Record Society. In addition to serving the society as curator of manuscripts, Dr. Nute is professor of history in Hamline University. Others who have written book reviews for the present issue are Mr. Lawrence J. Burpee of Ottawa, Canadian secretary of the International Joint Commission; Dr. Alice Felt Tyler, assistant professor of history in the University of Minnesota; Dr. Merrill E. Jarchow, a member of the history faculty of the South Dakota State College at Brookings who recently received a commission as a lieutenant, junior grade, in the United States Navy; Professor William Anderson, chairman of the department of political science in the University of Minnesota; Dr. William J. Petersen, research associate on the staff of the State Historical Society of Iowa and lecturer in history in the University of Iowa; Mr. Leonard Mason, a research assistant and graduate student in anthropology in Yale University; and Dr. William Verhage, associate professor of political science in Macalester College, St. Paul.

ACCESSIONS

A photostatic copy of the journal kept by the Sieur de la Vérendrye in the winter of 1738-39, when he established posts on the Assiniboine and Red rivers and explored the country of the Mandan Indians in what is now North Dakota, is the gift of Mr. Lawrence J. Burpee of Ottawa, Canada. This important narrative of early western travel, the original of which is preserved in the Public Archives of Canada, is included, with an English translation, in Mr. Burpee's edition of the *Journals and Letters* of La Vérendrye and his sons, published by the Champlain Society in 1927.

An announcement that a bill providing for the establishment of Minnesota Territory had been introduced in Congress is to be found in one of four clippings from eastern newspapers received from Mr. Edwin H. Frost of Yonkers, New York. The announcement appeared in the *Jour-*

nal of Commerce of New York for December 18, 1846. The advantages for settlers of Minnesota Territory are set forth in a clipping from the issue of August 16, 1849, of the *Springfield* [Massachusetts] *Daily Post*; and the same paper for June 12, 1850, is the source for a poem on that state reprinted from a St. Paul newspaper.

Three letters written in 1854 and 1857 to William Washburn of West Randolph, Vermont, by two sons who had settled in Minnesota have been received from Mr. Charles E. Tuttle of Rutland, Vermont. In a letter of 1854, Edward A. Washburn writes from Mankato, urging his father to join him on a Minnesota farm and explaining the profits to be gained from such a venture. Three years later he found it necessary to explain that the Spirit Lake massacre of 1857 was confined to an area far removed from Mankato. William Washburn, Jr., who joined his brother at Mankato, in a letter of 1857, remarks favorably upon the climate of Minnesota in comparing it with that of Vermont.

Microfilm copies of numerous letters from the papers of Robert Kennicott have been added, through the courtesy of Mr. Hiram L. Kennicott of Chicago, to the material on the career of this Chicago naturalist already in the possession of the society (see *ante*, 23: 370). Most of the newly acquired papers consist of personal letters written during the years from 1855 to 1859 and in 1862 and 1863. They relate in large measure to Kennicott's activities as a collector of zoological and botanical specimens in Illinois and other Midwestern states; and they show how his work was forwarded by his connections with the Illinois State Agricultural Society, the *Prairie Farmer*, the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, and other organizations.

Some papers of Charles H. Berry, the first attorney general of the state of Minnesota, have been presented by his granddaughter, Mrs. J. H. McConnon of Winona. Included in the collection are items relating to the railroad bond issue of 1858, which Berry seems to have considered legal; and letters from some of his close associates, including Henry H. Sibley, Abram M. Fridley, the Reverend James Lloyd Breck, Moses Clapp, and Knute Nelson.

Seventy-one account books of the firm of T. B. Sheldon and Company, grain commission dealers and coal merchants at Red Wing from 1868 to 1914, have been presented by Mr. C. A. Rasmussen of Red Wing.

They reflect the company's extensive business operations on the lower Mississippi, particularly in the 1870's, 1880's, and 1890's.

A diary kept by Olin D. Wheeler in 1876 and 1877, while he was engaged in a survey of the Rocky Mountain region under Major J. W. Powell, is included in a group of Wheeler's papers recently received from Miss Louise Stegner of Omaha, Nebraska. Among other items in the collection, which covers the period from 1871 to 1923, is a scrapbook made up largely of pamphlets and clippings from newspapers and magazines. One significant item in the volume is Powell's account of his exploring trip to the Grand Canyon in 1870.

A box of papers for the period from 1870 to 1936, relating to the history of the aerial bridge at Duluth, has been received from the Minnesota Historical Records Survey. Included are typewritten copies of letters about the building of the canal through Minnesota Point, the litigation that followed, and the construction of the bridge; of records concerning the bridge in the archives of the United States engineer office, the Duluth city council, the city attorney, and various local offices; and a summary of improvements in the Duluth-Superior Harbor.

Information about the activities of the St. Paul charter commission from 1901 to 1920 is to be found among eighty-two items from the papers of Judge Hascal R. Brill of St. Paul, recently presented by his daughter, Miss Edith Brill. As chairman of the commission, Judge Brill received notices of the appointment of new members and the resignation of old. Letters from members who were resigning, preserved among Judge Brill's papers, indicate that there was considerable dissatisfaction with the city's policies.

Some additions to the records of the St. Paul Fire Insurance Patrol, an organization that reported on fires for insurance companies in St. Paul, have been presented by Mr. Glenn A. Morton of St. Paul (see *ante*, 20: 330). The new material includes indexes of the names of individuals whose property was damaged by fire and of the streets on which fires occurred from 1910 to 1919.

An important tool for the research worker in the field of Minnesota history is a file of some ninety thousand items quoted or abstracted from newspapers and a few other sources, received from the Writers' Project

of the Minnesota WPA. The file, which is known as the "Minnesota Annals," was compiled by workers of the Writers' Project, and it undoubtedly represents one of the project's most valuable contributions. For the years from 1849 to 1888, it amounts, for most practical purposes, to a calendar of Minnesota newspapers. The list of newspapers covered includes files published as late as 1922, but after 1888 the coverage is incomplete. A "Key Book" in which are indicated the methods used in classifying and filing material accompanies the "Annals." The quotations and abstracts are arranged under such headings as agriculture, business, education and culture, folkways, nationality groups, politics, public welfare, taxation, transportation and communication, utilities, climate, and geography. Many details can be traced through subheadings. Under agriculture, for example, there are sections devoted to such topics as fairs, machinery, markets, horticulture, livestock raising, and dairying; art, drama, music, libraries, the press, churches, schools, social life, and sports are among the subjects grouped under education and culture. Additional copies of the same items that have been arranged under topical headings have been filed in chronological order and geographically, according to counties. Since the "Annals" are most useful when used in connection with newspapers, the file has been placed in the society's newspaper division.

Twenty-four early Philadelphia directories, dating from 1796 to 1831, are included in a group of forty-two books, chiefly early Philadelphia imprints, recently presented by Mrs. F. G. Atkinson of Minneapolis. Several of the volumes contain maps of Philadelphia. That for 1796 lists George Washington, "President of the United States, 190, High Street."

Two pieces of incidental music composed to accompany the showing of John Banvard's panorama of the Mississippi River are the gifts of the artist's daughter, Miss Edith M. Banvard of St. Paul. The first consists of a group of "Mississippi Waltzes" by Thomas Bricher, published at Boston in 1847. Included are an "Iowa Waltz" and an "Indian Dance." According to the cover of this early item of sheet music, the waltzes were "played during the moving of Banvard's three mile picture of the Mississippi River," which drew huge audiences in Boston and other eastern cities in 1847 and 1848. In the latter year Banvard took his panorama to London, where the second musical composition was published. This is a song entitled "The White Fawn of the Mississippi River," with

music composed by Madame Harriet Schwieso and words by Banvard. On the cover is a highly colored lithograph picturing an Indian dance. Miss Banvard also has presented two pamphlets by her father, a poem entitled *The Tradition of the Temple* (Boston, 1880), and a description of his *Historical Landscape of the Sea of Galilee* (New York, 1863).

A complete file of *Our Leader*, the catalogue issued by G. Sommers and Company, a prominent St. Paul wholesale concern, from November, 1882, to December, 1940, was presented to the society by former heads of the firm after it went out of business. For the student of social and economic history, these catalogues are invaluable, for they not only list but also illustrate the great variety of articles offered to retail dealers throughout the Northwest by this company. Changing tastes and needs over a period of nearly six decades are vividly reflected in this file. In the later decades, for example, the firm handled automobile bodies. As time went on the catalogues increased greatly in size. The issues for the first ten years are bound in a single volume that is somewhat smaller than a single issue for the 1920's.

Four Colt muskets dating from 1863 and a Remington breech-loading rifle of 1872 are the gifts of Lieutenant Colonel Floyd E. Eller of Fort Snelling. Service and dress uniforms that were worn by Brigadier General Fred B. Wood, adjutant general of Minnesota from 1905 to 1917, have been presented by Mr. Hugo V. Koch of St. Paul. Judge Kenneth J. Brill of St. Paul has presented a cap and belt that he wore as a member of the boys' brigade of the First Methodist Church of St. Paul about 1900.

Mr. John Bowe of Canby, a member of the French Foreign Legion in the First World War, has presented eleven medals and decorations that he received for distinguished service in the conflict of 1914-18 and in the Spanish-American War. Among them are campaign medals from both wars, the French *Medaille militaire*, the *Croix de guerre*, the special double *Fouragere* worn by members of the Foreign Legion, and the medal of the latter organization.

A reminder of the days when the blacksmith was an important figure in the frontier community is a collection of some twenty tools presented by Mr. Joseph Brown of LeSueur. They were used by his father, Edward H. Brown, who was a pioneer blacksmith at LeSueur.

Several dolls and other toys, items of children's clothing, and shawls are included in a large collection of museum objects received from Mrs. M. C. McMillan of Stillwater, in the name of her mother, Mrs. L. E. Breckenridge. With the gift are two portraits of special interest—a tintype of Mrs. Frederick Ayer, wife of an early missionary to the Chippewa of Minnesota and Wisconsin, and a crayon of Mrs. Emily McKusick Stone, a member of a pioneer Stillwater family.

A walnut dresser and a number of shawls and fans, from the estate of Miss Annie I. Carpenter of St. Paul, are among recent additions to the costume and domestic life collections. Items of wearing apparel for women and children have been received from Miss Alice S. LeDuc, Miss Mabel Gardner, and Miss Pauline Curran of Minneapolis, and from Mrs. Gates A. Johnson and Mrs. James D. Denegre of St. Paul. The latter also has presented a number of pieces of fine china.

Three interesting early views of St. Paul are among recent additions to the picture collection. A lithograph of the city in 1853 is the gift of Mrs. Sophia Halm of St. Paul; a view from Dayton's Bluff is shown on a daguerreotype made about 1855, presented by Mr. A. L. Gardner of Minneapolis; and an enlargement of a crayon sketch made in 1869 by Charles F. Johnson has been received from his daughter, Mrs. E. L. Hilton of Duluth. Newly acquired portraits include a colored photograph of Mrs. Charlotte Ouisconsin Van Cleve, from Mr. A. D. Bell of St. Paul; crayons of Mr. and Mrs. Francis X. Aiple of Stillwater, from Mr. Frank J. R. Aiple of that city; and a plaster bust in high relief of Mrs. Margarette B. Dickson of Staples, from the Minnesota chapter of Chaparral Poets.

A recent addition to the society's collection of aids for the beginner in genealogical research is Maurice S. White's pamphlet on *Genealogy: How to Trace Ancestry and Construct a Family Chart* (Washington D. C., 1942. 31 p.). Volumes 3 and 4 of the *American Genealogical Index* (Middletown, Connecticut, 1942), in which surnames from Barr to Brown are indexed, are now available in the society's library. Data on many New England families are to be found in the newly acquired *Register of Pedigrees and Services of Ancestors* of the Society of Colonial Wars in the state of Connecticut (Hartford, 1941. 1,394 p.).

Descriptions of early prairie houses and stories of pioneer days in Watonwan and Cottonwood counties enliven a genealogy, by Bertha M.

Peterson, published under the title *The Three Branches* (Butterfield, Minnesota, 1941. 47 p.). It is a record of a Minnesota family made up of the descendants of Ole Oleson Hunstad. A photograph and sketch of a pioneer Minnesota physician, Dr. William Franklin Holden, is included in a volume on the *Family of Captain John Mills* by William C. Hill (Milford, New Hampshire, 1942. 136 p.). Minnesotans also are mentioned in Elizabeth S. Richards, *Genealogy of the Buck Family* (Reading, Pennsylvania, 1913. 173 p.); Morgan H. Stafford, *A Genealogy of the Kidder Family* (Rutland, Vermont, 1941. 749 p.); A. V. Phillips, *The Lott Family in America* (Trenton, New Jersey, 1942. 179 p.); Armand J. Lottinville, *The Lottinville Family* (Washington, D. C., 1942. 105 p.); Redmond S. Cole, *The Selecman Family* (Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1942. 151 p.); Mabel J. Hadler, *Selover-Slover Family, 1682-1941* (Egeland, North Dakota, 1941. 269 p.); and Abigail M. Strickler, *Stricklers of Pennsylvania* (Scottsdale, Pennsylvania, 1942. 420 p.).

Among other genealogies received during the past quarter are: Frank W. Balcomb, *A First Book of the Balcombe Family* (Peabody, Massachusetts, 1942. 92 p.); Fanny C. Bowen, *The Descendants of John Bowen* (Fall River, Massachusetts, 1941. 182 p.); Ernest W. Cody, *The Cody Family Handbook-Directory* (London, Ontario, 1941. 224 p.); Melanchthon Coover, *A Limited Genealogy of the Kober-Cover-Coover Family* (Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 1942. 345 p.); Norman S. Dike, *Narrative of Anthony Dike, Albyn Valentine Dike Branch, 1623-1942* (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1942. 44 p.); Jacob A. Freed, *Partial History of the Freed Family* (Souderton, Pennsylvania, 1923. 113 p.); Charles H. Werner, *History of the Hain Family* (Reading, Pennsylvania, 1941. 88 p.); John R. Black, *Hamel, a Genealogy* (Jefferson, Iowa, 1941. 19 p.); Valeria E. C. Hill, *A Genealogy of the Hiester Family* (Reading Pennsylvania, 1941. 77 p.); Silas C. Ide, *The Pennsylvania Branch of the Ide Family* (Sweet Valley, Pennsylvania, 1940. 180 p.); Norman F. Kendall, *History and Genealogy, Kendalls, Cunninghams, Snodgrasses* (Grafton, West Virginia, 1942. 160 p.); Charles H. Lewis, *Some Ohio Pioneers, Martin-Cresap Descendants* (McComb, Mississippi, 1941. 44 p.); Mary P. B. Price, *The Annals of Our Kin* (Atlanta, Georgia, 1940. 95 p.); Edna R. Vacher, *A Genealogy of the Robertson Family* (Washington, D. C., 1942. 44 p.); Clark R. Wagner, *History and Genealogy of the Wagner-Waggoner-Wagoner Family* (Tiffin, Ohio, 1941. 304 p.); Lucy A. Embrey, *The Origin and Genealogy of the*

Woods Family (Kingsport, Tennessee, 1940. 38 p.); and Charles L. Zorbaugh, *Ancestral Trails, History of the Zorbaugh Family* (Wooster, Ohio, 1941. 267 p.).

Books on local history and biography for states other than Minnesota include two about Kentucky—*Early Days in Danville* by Calvin M. Fackler (Louisville, Kentucky, 1941. 283 p.), and *Governors of Kentucky, 1792-1942* by G. Glenn Clift (Cynthiana, Kentucky, 1942. 361 p.). Some early families of Annapolis, Maryland, are mentioned in the *Hammond-Harwood House and Its Owners* by Rosamond R. Beirne (Annapolis, 1941. 68 p.). A Long Island village is portrayed in *Stony Brook Secrets* by Edward A. Lapham (New York, 1942. 146 p.). Among other local histories received are Florence N. Prouty, *History of the Town of Holden, Massachusetts* (Worcester, Massachusetts, 1941. 370 p.); David B. Deem, *History of Butler County, Missouri* (Poplar Bluff, Missouri, 1940. 211 p.); volume 8 of a *Calendar of New Jersey Wills* (Jersey City, 1942. 516 p.); T. J. Campbell, *Records of Rhea, Tennessee* (Dayton, Tennessee, 1940. 205 p.); Beverley Fleet, *Richmond County Records, 1692-1704* (Richmond, Virginia, 1942. 112 p.); and Herndon Smith, *Centralia: The First Fifty Years, 1845-1900* (Centralia, Washington, 1942. 368 p.).

L. M. F.

News and Comment

"WRITERS AND ARTISTS, historians and economists, librarians and curators, if they are not wanted nearer the war zones, need not be ashamed to stick to their jobs. For they are the guardians of a great tradition, the upholders of its standards. The hearth they tend bears the fire which, kept alive, is to light the way and warm the soul of later generations." Thus writes Edwin F. Gay in a statement on "The Need for Continuing Studies in the Humanities in Wartime," in the *Huntington Library Quarterly* for November. He goes on to show that after this war "to uphold the ideals of a humane and free society" has been won, no group will be "more concerned in the restoration and maintenance of the system of freedom than the scholars, to whom both in the arts and sciences, liberty of thought and work and experiment is the very breath of life. Their new advance in ideas and equally their guardianship of standards and critical traditions will be more than ever needed in the society of the future," Mr. Gay continues. "After we have subdued the hostile floods which menace us today, we shall be glad that we have maintained, even if for the time being in attenuated form, the continuity of scholarship."

"History is the 'papers' of man; it is the register of his lineage, the record of his performance, and the guarantee of his qualities," asserts Walter Prescott Webb in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* for October. His attitude is defined more explicitly in his statement that "the function of history, as I see it, is to describe and make understandable the forces which have shaped the destiny of man and brought him to the present time equipped as he now is with his ideas and institutions. Prehistoric man carried little baggage; present day man staggers under his load of ideas, institutions and tools. . . . History is the record of how, when and where man acquired this baggage which we call civilization. History is an invoice of a bill of goods acquired by purchase and inheritance from the past and offered to man in the market of the immediate and distant future." Professor Webb uses this definition to emphasize the seriousness of his charge that in the United States "many students go through high school and college without studying the history

of the country in which they live." He regrets, also, the neglect of local history in his own state, Texas, and asserts that the state university should offer a course in Texas history for undergraduates "as an obligation and an opportunity."

"There is a great opportunity for research in the history of the administration of railroads both as private enterprises and as the objects of government regulation," writes Henrietta M. Larson in a paper on "Some Unexplored Fields in American Railroad History" published in the October *Bulletin* of the Business Historical Society. Three types of studies in a field that "has almost unlimited possibilities" are suggested by Dr. Larson. She discusses also "research materials and the significance of researches in the field." As subjects for study she lists the "investigation of the administration of the individual road"; biographies of "men in administrative or managerial positions," including not only railroad executives and financiers, but station agents, shop foremen, and the like; and special phases of railroad administration, such as railroad construction, railroad accounting, railroad securities, and rate making.

A useful tool for students of American history is the newly published *Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the William L. Clements Library*, which has been compiled by Howard H. Peckham, the library's curator of manuscripts (Ann Arbor, 1942. 403 p.). Each of the 172 collections in this library on the campus of the University of Michigan is described, with information about the period covered, the size of the collection, and the writers or correspondents represented. Among the latter are many of importance in Minnesota history. They are easily located by means of a very detailed and adequate index. Mr. Peckham's belief, expressed in his preface, that the *Guide* "will enable the student to decide whether or not this library warrants his further attention" seems to be more than justified. A word should be said also about the format of the volume, which might well serve as a model for future publications of the same type.

As an illustration of the "application of the technique of microfilming in the reduction in bulk of large bodies of records of recent date," the National Archives, in a news release of November 7, cites microfilms that it has just received of the general correspondence of the Washington office of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation for the years from 1933 to 1936. According to the announcement, "the photographs of the rec-

ords on 482 rolls of microfilm occupy only 8 cubic feet whereas the records themselves, which have been destroyed, formerly filled scores of filing cases."

Four papers read before a meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Richmond, Virginia, on October 26, 1942, and dealing with *The Problem of Federal Field Office Records*, have been published as a *Miscellaneous Processed Document* by the National Archives (1943. 31 p.). In the first, "Planning a Permanent Program for Federal Records in the States," Oliver W. Holmes gives some attention to the role of historical societies in salvaging the records of discontinued Indian agencies, land offices, military posts, and similar federal establishments of the past. Other subjects and authors represented in the booklet are "The Interests of the States in Federal Field Office Records" by William D. McCain, "Army Field Records" by Jesse S. Douglas, and "The Need for Regional Depositories for Federal Records" by Richard B. Morris.

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, was elected president of the American Association for State and Local History at a meeting held at Richmond, Virginia, on October 27 and 28. The newly named vice-president is Dr. Christopher B. Coleman of the Indiana Historical Society. The retiring president, Dr. C. C. Crittenden, opened the meeting with an address on "Our Association and the Future." Among other papers and talks presented were discussions of the effects of the First World War on state and local historical societies by Harlow Lindley, on the protection of archives and manuscripts in time of war by Dan Lacy and William C. McCain, on the activities of historical societies in wartime by Kenneth E. Colton, and on collecting war records by Lester J. Cappon and William J. Schreeven. The association continues its *Bulletins* (see *ante*, 23:376) with number 4 in the series—a discussion of "The Local History Museum and the War Program" by Arthur C. Parker, director of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences. In his opinion "the midwest seems to lead in its enthusiastic response to an opportunity long sought by museums and institutions of history to demonstrate usefulness." Among the examples cited is the fact that many historical groups, including the Hennepin County Historical Society, "are putting on patriotic programs." Mr. Parker gives emphasis to the opportunity open to all historical so-

cieties during the war emergency to collect the "material evidences of our participation in the crisis."

A Bibliographical Check List of North and Middle American Indian Linguistics in the Edward E. Ayer Collection, with a foreword by Ruth Lapham Butler, has been published by the offset process and issued by the Newberry Library of Chicago in two substantial volumes (1941). Included in this collection are "rarities, both printed and manuscript," as well as the "more scientific linguistic literature which ethnologists have produced during the last three decades." Of special Minnesota interest are the sections devoted to the Chippewa, consisting of 158 items, and to the Dakota, in which 164 items are listed.

Miss Frances Densmore of Red Wing is the author of an article on "The Study of Indian Music," appearing in the *Annual Report* of the Smithsonian Institution for 1941 (Washington, 1942). She relates that her interest in Indian music began about 1895 and that some six years later she "wrote down a Sioux song that was sung by Good Bear Woman, a Sioux living in a small Indian village near Red Wing." After visiting the Chippewa reservations at White Earth and Leech Lake, Miss Densmore decided that she "must record Chippewa songs" and preserve the music of these Minnesota Indians. With a small grant from the Bureau of American Ethnology in 1907, she purchased the "best recording equipment available at that time" and began the work that was to make her name familiar to all students of Indian life and culture. In the present article, Miss Densmore describes her recording equipment, the methods used in transcribing records, her field work in quest of native music, and the scope of her activities. The article also has been issued as a separate.

A report on the fur trade of the upper Mississippi and Missouri valleys, prepared by Thomas Forsyth for the secretary of war in 1831, has been published by the Missouri Historical Society in the July-September issue of its *Glimpses of the Past*. Forsyth, who was long engaged as an Indian agent on the upper Mississippi, outlines clearly the conditions of the trade in an area extending as far north as the Falls of St. Anthony. His original report is preserved by the Missouri Historical Society.

In concluding a review of "War on Lake Ontario: 1812-1815," in *Rochester History* for October, Ruth Marsh and Dorothy S. Truesdale

note that after the Treaty of Ghent the lake "became once more an avenue of commerce rather than the scene of battle." The authors remark, however, that "this had not happened because the nations on its shores had no disputes." Quite to the contrary, "Our whole northern boundary, from Maine to Oregon, was the subject of disagreement between Britain and the United States. Neither the laws of Nature nor historical precedent gave any clear verdict as to the proper extent of Maine or Minnesota — but the will to peace of kindred peoples, taught by bitter experience the necessity of compromise, drew those boundary lines."

"Songs sung by those who paddled a canoe, steered a flatboat, poled a keelboat, or 'deckoneered' on a steamboat" on America's inland rivers are designated as a "neglected form of Americana" by Horace Reynolds, writing in the magazine section of the *Christian Science Monitor* for November 14. The author quotes from songs that he "collected from rivermen — pilots, rousters, captains, mates, clerks, carpenters — on the Ohio and Mississippi and their tributaries." Illustrating his article are photographs of steamboats and barges on inland waterways.

The origin and evolution of *The Flag of the United States* are reviewed in great detail by Dr. Milo M. Quaife in a recently published volume (New York, Grosset and Dunlap, 1942. 210 p.). A large number of illustrations, many of which are in color, illustrate the development of the American flag in its present form.

Occasional references to missionary activities and frontier church organization in Minnesota are to be found in volume 4 of *A History of the Expansion of Christianity* by Kenneth S. Latourette (New York, 1941). The volume bears the title *The Great Century, A.D. 1800–A.D. 1914: Europe and the United States of America*. The work of missionaries for the American Board among the Sioux, the activities of Breck and Bishop Whipple, the founding at Northfield of a Presbyterian church by Sheldon Jackson, and the naming of Cretin as the first Roman Catholic bishop of St. Paul are briefly mentioned. The establishment in Minneapolis of a Russian Orthodox seminary also is noted.

A detailed study of "Immigration and the Growth of the Episcopal Church" by Walter H. Stowe appears in the *Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church* for December. The arrangement is by decades, and Minnesota does not come into the picture until the 1880's are

reached. That decade, according to Mr. Stowe, was not only one of heavy immigration, but one in which an aggressive missionary policy produced results for the Episcopal church. With the great increase in the size of Minnesota's three principal cities, he records, the Episcopal church in the state "increased 73 per cent in communicants and had to have a bishop coadjutor."

The *Story of the English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Northwest*, which was organized in 1891, is related in a pamphlet by Paul Hoerlein Roth, who prepared his narrative when the synod had completed a half century of activity (1941. 95 p.). He traces its origins back to 1856, when Dr. William A. Passavant visited Minnesota and the Northwest and discussed the possibility of an English synod with Dr. Eric Norelius. The writer notes, however, that it was not until 1883 that English Lutheran congregations were organized in the Twin Cities, and he tells of others established at Red Wing, Duluth, North St. Paul, Fargo, and Milwaukee before the synod began its activities in the 1890's. The growth of churches and congregations during the past fifty years is traced in detail. There is a chapter also on "Seminary Establishment 1920-1940," in which are presented accounts of the theological schools opened in the Northwest under the supervision of the English Lutheran synod.

One of the "oldest Slovak Lutheran settlements in America" is located in Minneapolis, according to the Reverend John Bajus, who tells of the organization of the "Slovak Lutheran Synod, 1902-1942," in the *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* for October.

For their volume on *Rural America Today: Its Schools and Community Life* (Chicago, 1942. 250 p.), George A. Works and Simon O. Lesser have drawn some of their illustrative material from Minnesota. In a chapter on "The Schools and Rural Recreation," for example, they devote considerable space to activities in St. Louis County, where an "elaborate leisure-time program" centering about the schools has been "carefully organized at both the county and community levels." Specially mentioned is the celebration of Laskianinen Day, the Finnish midwinter festival. "Co-operative agricultural planning" as it is applied in the cut-over region of northern Minnesota also is discussed at some length.

Under the title "Paul Bunyan Talk," Elrick B. Davis presents, in the December issue of *American Speech*, a "tentative glossary" of the "politer terms" in use among loggers. In his introductory note Mr. Davis asserts that "during the three centuries in which the gaudy Bunyan tradition developed and reached its peak . . . from Maine through the Lake states and on into the Pacific Northwest, the *jack*s contrived for themselves a vocabulary so pithy and colorful that its memory stays alive in loggers' sentimental hearts." As modern methods replace the original practices of the logging camps, however, many of the old expressions have fallen into disuse. Mr. Davis' glossary will do much to preserve their memory. A study of "Norwegian-American Surnames in Transition" is contributed by Marjorie M. Kimmerle to the October number of *American Speech*. It is based upon interviews with Norwegian settlers and their descendants at Deerfield, Wisconsin.

A bibliography of 1,666 items relating to Elling Eielsen, the "first Norwegian to have a book printed in America," has been compiled by Olaf Morgan Norlie and published by the lithoprint process (Northfield, 1942. 118 p.). The volume fittingly commemorates the centennial of the "beginning of Norwegian-American publishing history," since Eielsen's first American publications in English and Norwegian appeared in 1841 and 1842 respectively.

Some impressions of "Norwegian America," especially in the Middle West, are included by Theodor Broch in his record of experiences as mayor of Narvik during the German invasion of Norway (St. Paul, Webb Book Publishing House, 1942). He tells of meeting, after his escape to America, Norwegian farmers and craftsmen who had emigrated and settled in the Middle West "because it was too narrow and there was too little soil between the mountains in the homeland." Mr. Broch found that "it was a fountain of inspiration to meet this Norwegian America, these foreign countrymen," because "they had come to these wild prairies with empty hands, and they had helped to build an Empire."

David Thompson's unpublished journals for the years from 1808 to 1812, when he was operating in what is now Montana, are used by M. Catherine White as the basis for an article on "Saleesh House: The First Trading Post among the Flathead," appearing in the *Pacific North-*

west Quarterly for July. Near the present town of Thompson Falls, Montana, Thompson built the post known as Saleesh House for the North West Company in 1809. His record of its construction and of daily events in and about the post are reported by Miss White, who transcribed sections of Thompson's journals relating to Montana from the originals in the provincial archives at Toronto.

A Preliminary Check List of Michigan Imprints, 1796-1850 has been issued by the Michigan Historical Records Survey as a volume in the *American Imprints Inventory* (1942. 224 p.). Here are carefully listed and described books, pamphlets, and broadsides issued in what is now Michigan during a period of fifty-five years; newspapers, periodicals, maps, and a number of other printed items are excluded. The volume, which includes 943 entries, is the result of an undertaking of vast magnitude, for it presents the results of an examination of the holdings of 366 libraries in the United States and of the catalogs of dealers and libraries abroad. Michigan items located in eight Minnesota libraries, including that of the Minnesota Historical Society, are listed in the inventory. An interesting and valuable feature of the introduction to the volume is a discussion of early presses and printers in Michigan.

The Vermont blacksmith who went to Illinois in 1836 and there met the demand of discouraged farmers for a plow that would scour in the rich prairie loam is the central character in Darragh Aldrich's *Story of John Deere: A Saga of American Industry* (1942. 140 p.). The climax of this dramatic biography is reached when the author relates how Deere tested his first steel plow on the "farm of the settler whose soil was notoriously the worst in that section," at Grand Detour, Illinois. The development of the vast manufacturing plant at Moline under Deere's leadership is only briefly described. Much attention is given throughout the narrative to personal and family history.

Among the interesting and informing articles in the September issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* is one on "Stephen H. Long and the Naming of Wisconsin" in which Alice E. Smith reaches the conclusion that the exploring major should receive "credit for the first use of the name that was finally given to this territory and state." Miss Smith records that Major Long first saw the Wisconsin River in 1817, when he made a voyage up the Mississippi to the Falls of St. Anthony; and

she notes that he "apparently was so impressed that when an opportunity was found, he applied its name to the so-far unnamed Northwest Territory." That opportunity presented itself in 1822, when his map of the Wisconsin country was published in an atlas. Stillwater and Minneapolis figure in J. J. Schlicher's "On the Trail of the Ringlings" in the same issue, where the wanderings of the famous Wisconsin circus family are traced. The number includes also a tribute to Dr. Louise Phelps Kellogg, the distinguished Wisconsin historian who died in July; and an account by Peter Leo Johnson of "The Founding of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin." A detailed discussion by George Wilson Pierson of "American Historians and the Frontier Hypothesis in 1941" appears in two parts in the September and December issues. These numbers, which open volume 26 of the Wisconsin society's magazine, are distinguished by their appearance in a new and completely revised format. Cover design, size, type face, illustrations, and many other details will attract the attention of the reader who was familiar with the old format.

The Rock River Valley of Wisconsin and Illinois is the connecting theme of James M. Phalen's recent book published under the title, *Sinnissippi: A Valley Under a Spell* (Washington, 1942. 238 p.). With charm and affection, the author depicts the valley section by section, from its source in the Horicon marsh near Lake Winnebago to its meeting with the Father of Waters at Saukanuk. He deals with the river's physical aspects, its historical backgrounds, its Indian inhabitants, the racial groups that found homes upon its banks, the communities that have grown up upon its shores and its tributaries, the art and the literature that it has inspired. Margaret Fuller's romantic description of its scenic beauties, inspired by a visit made just a century ago, is quoted, as is a verse that she is said to have written on the heights overlooking its waters. The volume might well have been found a place in the *Rivers of America* series, which has just included August Derleth's characterization of *The Wisconsin: River of a Thousand Isles* (New York, 1942. 366 p.). Mr. Derleth exploits the story of a stream rich in historic backgrounds, for it was part of a much-traveled route from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi, a route followed for centuries by explorers, traders, travelers, and settlers. The old French community at its mouth, Prairie du Chien, is alone a subject for a book. The lumber industry and the tourist trade, the paper mills and the circus towns of the valley, are among phases of a later development that draw the author's attention.

In a sketch of "Frederick George Jacob Lueders, Pioneer Botanist," appearing in the December number of the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Leslie L. Haskin recounts the adventures of a German scientist who traveled both in the Midwest and on the Pacific coast in the 1840's. Eventually Lueders joined a German settlement in Sauk City, Wisconsin, where he was long known as a gardener and botanist.

Narratives of two pioneers of the upper Mississippi Valley have been chosen by Dr. Milo M. Quaife for reprinting in the 1942 volume of the *Lakeside Classics*, the annual Christmas volume issued by R. R. Donnelley and Sons of Chicago (315 p.). The current volume bears the title, *The Early Day of Rock Island and Davenport*, and it makes available John W. Spencer's *Reminiscences of Pioneer Life in the Mississippi Valley* (Davenport, 1872), and John M. D. Burrows' *Fifty Years in Iowa* (Davenport, 1888).

A journey from Fort Berthold in Dakota Territory, through Minnesota, to New York state in 1869 is described in the "Diary of Ferdinand A. Van Ostrand," which has been edited by Russell Reid for publication in the July number of the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly*. On horseback and by stage Van Ostrand traveled as far as St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids, where he "embarked on the cars for St. Paul."

The "Fur Trade Warfare" that was a feature of the history of the North West Company's Rainy Lake post is described in the Christmas edition of the *Fort Frances Times*, issued on December 17. The rivalry of the North West and X Y companies particularly is stressed. Another article of historical interest in the issue outlines the explorations of La Vérendrye in the Rainy Lake country.

The question "Who Were the De Meurons?" is answered by Robie L. Reid in an article appearing in the December issue of the *Beaver*. The writer explains the origin of the group of professional soldiers who were hired to defend the Selkirk settlement in 1817 and who remained in the Red River colony for almost a decade. In the same issue, "Upper Fort Garry Seventy-five Years Ago" is pictured in a "reconstruction from photographs" made by Jules Perret. The two-page illustration of the fort on the Red River is accompanied by a useful note. Of interest also is an elaborately illustrated article on "Indian-Trade Silver" by Marius Barbeau. New information derived from the archives of the Hudson's Bay

Company and from invoice books of the North West Company is presented.

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

A "Survey of a Little-known Hennepin County Site" of an ancient village, from which no fewer than nine hundred artifacts have been obtained, is contributed by John J. Kammerer to the October issue of the *Minnesota Archaeologist*. Presented also is Mr. Kammerer's classification of the artifacts, with drawings to illustrate many of the items listed. In the same issue George Chamberlain tells "The Story of the Camden 'Vase,'" an excellent example of Indian pottery discovered in a mound in Lyon County in 1934.

Two volumes of *Social Studies for Minnesota*, for use in the seventh and eighth years, have been issued by Charles Scribner's Sons in the firm's *New Frontier Social Science Series* (New York, 1941). Both volumes are by George E. Freeland with Minnesota sections supplied by James W. Clark and Maude L. Lindquist. In the seventh-year volume their contribution comprises about half of the text, with emphasis upon the state and its history. About a hundred pages are devoted to a chronological outline of its historical development, and there are sections on government, economic growth, and social welfare. Minnesota material is included only in the first two sections of the volume for the eighth grade; these deal with conservation and with co-operation in buying and selling.

A valuable source for the student of Minnesota's cultural history is a booklet issued by the Orchestral Association of Minneapolis and entitled *The Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra: Complete Record, First through the Thirty-eighth Season* (86 p.). In addition to a complete repertoire of works performed by the orchestra from 1903 to 1941, the pamphlet contains lists of artists in various fields who have appeared with the orchestra, of conductors and guest conductors, and of states and cities visited on "Out-of-Town Engagements." The dates and types of concerts at which given works were performed are indicated, and similar information is presented for artists. There is, however, no indication of the compositions performed by specific artists. But the booklet does reveal the vast extent of the musical repertoire which the orchestra has made available to Minnesota audiences, and it shows that few artists of first rank have failed to appear with the Minneapolis organization in the past four decades.

George L. Peterson's articles on "Life in Minnesota," in which he emphasizes the activities of racial groups in certain localities, continue to appear in the *Minneapolis Morning Tribune* (see *ante*, 23: 386). Commercial fishing on the North Shore of Lake Superior, which is conducted largely by settlers of Norwegian descent, is the subject of the sketch published on October 2; some of the prosperous farms owned by Swedes in Chisago County are described in the issue for October 13. Articles dealing with the Icelanders and Belgians at Ghent, the Irish at Graceville, and the Poles at Wilno appear on October 27 and November 3 and 6. Of somewhat wider regional interest are accounts of the St. Croix Valley in the issue for October 13, and of the Minnesota Valley in the numbers for November 10 and 13.

Paul Hjelm-Hansen's description of frontier life in the Minnesota Valley, originally published in *Nordisk folkeblad* of Minneapolis for November 24, 1869, is reprinted in *Decorah-posten* for September 29 and October 2. Attention is called to the seventy-fifth anniversary of the arrival in the United States of Hjelm-Hansen, who was a prominent Norwegian journalist. He recorded his impressions of Norwegian settlements extending from St. Peter to Montevideo.

A study of the "Distribution, Age, and Mobility of Minnesota Physicians, 1912-1936" is contributed by Lowry Nelson to the *American Sociological Review* for December. The author presents evidence to prove that during the period of twenty-five years covered by his investigation "there has been a marked tendency towards 'urbanization' of the physician in Minnesota," that the "age distribution" of physicians in the state varies with the size of the community, and that "instability of residence is highest in very small and very large centers."

A section on "Pioneer Physicians of Martin County Prior to 1900" by Dr. Roscoe C. Hunt of Fairmont continues the "History of Medicine in Minnesota" which has been appearing in *Minnesota Medicine*. Dr. Hunt's contribution appears in two installments in the October and November issues. The December number carries the first installment of a study of "The Asiatic Cholera in Saint Paul" by Dr. John M. Armstrong, who contributed an article on the same subject to *Minnesota History* in 1933.

A University of Minnesota archives committee, with Mr. Raymond A. Jackson of Minneapolis as chairman, is collecting documents, publica-

tions, pictures, and objects relating to the history of the university. A room in the university library has been set aside for the preservation of such material.

The history of communication between Minnesota and Wisconsin at Winona is the subject of a number of articles in the *Winona Republican-Herald* for November 20, which features the completion of a new interstate bridge across the Mississippi at that point. Several articles are devoted to the story of ferry service and to earlier bridges, including a wooden structure erected in 1887 and the steel span built in 1892. The latter has been superseded by the new bridge. Celebrations that marked the completion of the bridge of 1892 and the removal of toll charges in 1923 also are described.

The backgrounds of the Lac qui Parle mission, the restoration of the chapel, and its dedication on July 12, 1942, are described by Harold W. Lathrop in the *Conservation Volunteer* for December. Accompanying his article are a picture of the chapel made during the dedication ceremonies and a photograph of the descendants of Joseph Renville who were present on that occasion. Two sketches by Ken Morrison of Minnesota "Personalities in Conservation," appearing in the *Volunteer* for October and December, deal with the contributions of Dr. Thomas S. Roberts, "Minnesota's Bird Man," and of Mr. T. A. Erickson, a pioneer leader in 4-H Club work.

Dr. C. Judson Herrick of the University of Chicago is the author of an article on "Scientific Pioneering in the Middle West," in the *Scientific Monthly* for January, 1942, in which he deals chiefly with the influence upon a group of Minneapolis boys of a Young Naturalists' Society that they organized in 1875. Among its members were Dr. Herrick's brother Clarence, Thomas S. Roberts, and Robert S. Williams. "These boys," writes Dr. Herrick, "ranged the forested hills, the swamps, the open prairies and especially the cliffs of the gorges below St. Anthony and Minnehaha Falls, all within a day's walk," where they found "virgin soil for the naturalist."

A booklet about Minnesota has been compiled by workers engaged in the WPA Writers' Program and issued in the *American Recreation Series* (1941. 48 p.). It provides in concise and convenient form information about "Recreational Areas" in the state, with outlines of sug-

gested tours. A few items about frontier sport are included in the introduction.

Some brief notes on the history of the area are included in a booklet on the *Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota*, recently issued by the forest service of the United States department of agriculture (Washington, 1942. 29 p.). Traders and explorers who first penetrated the region are mentioned, and the creation of the forest in 1908 is noted.

"The Old Round Tower at Fort Snelling" is the subject of a brief article by Albert H. P. Houser in the *Sons of the American Revolution Magazine* for October. The fact that the Round Tower "still serves" in the capacity of a museum is brought out by the writer.

WAR HISTORY ACTIVITIES

Some helpful suggestions are offered by Lester J. Cappon in his *Plan for the Collection and Preservation of World War II Records*, which has been published as a pamphlet by the Social Science Research Council (1942. 24 p.). Included are sections on the opportunities for collecting records, on national, state, and local projects, and on the work of universities and special libraries. A convenient classification of the "kinds of material to be collected" should be especially welcome to war history workers. A similar list, with detailed discussions of each type of material to be collected, has been provided by the Committee on the Conservation of Cultural Resources in a multigraphed "Memorandum on a Program for the Preservation of Materials Relating to the Present War" (1942. 14 p.). There also are presented concrete suggestions for the "Administrative Organization of a War Records Collection Program." Those who are engaged in war records work would do well to obtain copies both of Dr. Cappon's *Plan* and of the memorandum.

Twenty-three local war history committees were organized in the last three months of 1942, bringing the total number active in the state to seventy-seven. The committees organized previous to October 1 are listed *ante*, 23: 390-392; a list of those organized since that date follows:

Anoka County War History Committee, Mrs. Pearl Ghostley, Anoka, chairman.

Blue Earth County War History Committee, Dr. M. R. Coulter, Mankato, chairman.

- Clay County War History Committee, Ella Hawkinson, Moorhead, chairman.
- Grant County War History Committee, Mrs. George Hanson, Elbow Lake, chairman.
- Houston County War History Committee, James Grande, Houston, chairman.
- Hubbard County War History Committee, M. M. Nygaard, Park Rapids, chairman.
- Jackson County War History Committee, S. A. Brown, Jackson, chairman.
- Kanabec County War History Committee, Mrs. Edward Schultz, Mora, chairman.
- LeSueur County War History Committee, John R. Selly, LeSueur, chairman.
- Meeker County War History Committee, Reuben C. Erickson, Litchfield, chairman.
- Murray County War History Committee, Ned Smith, Slayton, chairman.
- Otter Tail County War History Committee, E. T. Barnard, Fergus Falls, chairman.
- Pennington County War History Committee, William G. Claffy, Thief River Falls, chairman.
- Red Lake County War History Committee, J. A. Hughes, Red Lake Falls, chairman.
- Redwood County War History Committee, Mrs. Merle Lennartson, Redwood Falls, chairman.
- Roseau County War History Committee, H. C. Engebretson, Roseau, chairman.
- Scott County War History Committee, Mrs. Sam Tussing, Prior Lake, chairman.
- Sherburne County War History Committee, James W. Clark, Elk River, chairman.
- Sibley County War History Committee, E. P. Hoerschgen, Gaylord, chairman.
- Stearns County War History Committee, Mrs. Fred Schilplin, St. Cloud, chairman.
- Traverse County War History Committee, Mrs. Ruth Ranney, Wheaton, chairman.

Waseca County War History Committee, Herman Panzram, Waseca, chairman.

Winona War History Committee, Mrs. J. R. Johns, 761 Wabasha, chairman.

The list of organizations and other donors from whom the War History Committee has received material reached a total of 415 by the close of 1942 (*see ante*, 23:292, 393). Press releases have been contributed by various agencies of the Minnesota Office of Civilian Defense, including the state salvage committee, the welfare defense advisory committee, the victory speakers bureau, and the physical fitness and recreation program. Both the state and national offices of such organizations as the American Legion, the American Red Cross, the National League of Women Voters, and the Y.W.C.A. are contributing currently issued periodicals, pamphlets, posters, and mimeographed material. Among the many national and international organizations that are sending similar items are the American Committee for the Protection of Foreign Born of New York, the American Council on Soviet Relations of New York, the American Council on Public Affairs of Washington, the Household Finance Corporation of Chicago, the British Information Service of New York, the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties of Washington, the Royal Norwegian Information Service of Washington, Wings for Norway, Incorporated, of New York, the National Council for the Prevention of War of Washington, the United China Relief of New York, the United Service Organization of New York, and the War Resisters League of New York.

Interesting information about life in army camps, particularly during the period of training for active military service, is to be found in the thirty-three army newspapers received regularly by the Minnesota War History Committee. The experiences of Minnesotans in the army are reflected in such publications as the *Camp Claiborne News*, the *Jefferson Barracks Hub*, the *Camp Crowder Message*, the *Camp Wolter Long Horn*, the *Armored Force News* of Fort Knox, and the *Fort Sill Army News*. The conditions under which Minnesotans who are serving in the navy were trained are described in the *Great Lakes Bulletin* and the *Norfolk Seabag*; and the official publication of the "Seabees," which is known as *Bee Lines*, provides information about a naval construction organization that has recruited many Minnesota men. Among war newspapers

and periodicals of more general interest received by the War History Committee are the "Daily Newspaper of U. S. Armed Forces in the European Theater of Operations" published at London and known as the *Stars and Stripes*; and the *Army and Navy Journal*, the *Infantry Journal*, and the United States Marine Corps' *Leatherneck*, all published in Washington, D. C.

More than fifty remarkable photographs made during various stages of the construction of the Alcan Highway have been presented to the War History Committee by a number of donors, including the United States Army Signal Corps, the Caterpillar Tractor Company of Peoria, Illinois, and Mr. Earl K. McNeil of Denver. Many Minnesota men and business concerns participated in the varied construction operations pictured. Among the scenes illustrated are the clearing of the right of way, the building of bridges, camps in which construction crews lived, and the magnificent mountain area of the Canadian Northwest which the highway has penetrated.

The activities of a Duluth unit of the Minnesota National Guard are recorded each week in a mimeographed publication entitled the *1st Separate Battalion News*. A file of the *News*, beginning with the issue for December 14, is now among the records of the Minnesota War History Committee. Anyone having earlier issues is urged to turn them over to the committee, which is anxious to complete its file.

Current activities of various agencies of the Minneapolis and Duluth Civilian Defense councils and many other phases of war work are described regularly in two monthly publications—the *News Letter* of the Minneapolis Defense Council and *Duluth's Civilian Defense News*. The October number of the *Duluth News* includes a report on the local war history committee, of which the Reverend Frank A. Court and Miss Jane Morey are co-chairmen.

Chaska men who are in the service are being kept in touch with their home community and with one another through a mimeographed bulletin which is being issued monthly under the auspices of the dramatic club of the Guardian Angel's Church. The December issue conveys to Chaska soldiers, sailors, and marines greetings from local religious leaders of several different denominations. The club has requested servicemen to send in their photographs for display in a local store and for

permanent preservation. A similar bulletin, known as the *Nonalico Salute*, is issued by the Northwestern Life Insurance Company of Minneapolis for members of its home office who are serving with the nation's armed forces. The Minnesota War History Committee is receiving both bulletins.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The North Shore Historical Assembly of 1943 will be held in Duluth, according to the annual report of the St. Louis County Historical Society for 1942. The suggestion has been made that "representatives of the Historical Societies of all the counties bordering on Lake Superior, in Wisconsin and Michigan, as well as Minnesota and Ontario," should be invited to participate in the 1943 meeting.

At the annual meeting of the Becker County Historical Society, held in Detroit Lakes on October 6, Mr. Walter D. Bird was named president for the coming year. The vice-president of the organization is Mrs. Dell B. Hoit, and the treasurer, Mr. Joseph Rundlett. The secretary, Mr. Halvor Langslet, was elected at a meeting held on November 3.

The Reverend R. J. Mueller of Chaska, Judge J. J. Moriarty of Shakopee, and Mrs. T. M. Lee of Watertown were among the speakers who addressed the annual meeting of the Carver County Historical Society at Mayer on October 30. The society's museum in the local school was open for inspection before the meeting convened. Officers elected for the coming year include Mr. O. D. Sell of Mayer, president, Mr. Oscar Trittabaugh of New Germany, vice-president, Mr. Ray Diethelm of Victoria, treasurer, and Mr. James Faber of Chaska, secretary. The report of the secretary, presented at the annual meeting, indicates that the society now has more than two hundred members, and that some four thousand articles were added to its collections in 1941-42.

Mr. J. H. Geroy was re-elected president of the Chippewa County Historical Society at its annual meeting, which was held at Montevideo on October 20. Mr. David Fisher was named vice-president, Miss Edwina Gould and Mrs. Rubie Pierce, secretaries, and Mrs. F. L. Starbeck, treasurer.

A concise statement about the organization and objectives of the Chiago County Historical Society by its secretary, Mrs. Stanley Folsom, ap-

pears in the *Chisago County Press* for November 19. It was prepared for presentation before the Women's Federated Clubs of the county.

Recent activities of the Grant County Historical Society are described by its secretary, Mr. W. H. Goetzinger, in the *Grant County Herald* of Elbow Lake for December 3. He gives special attention to a collection of more than a hundred portraits of Grant County pioneers and recent residents assembled for the society and now on display in the courthouse. Eighteen of the twenty-three villages and townships in the county are represented, according to Mr. Goetzinger. He appeals to the local American Legion posts to build up a collection reflecting the county's participation in the First World War, and he reveals that a beginning has been made in collecting material on the present conflict.

Mr. William J. McNally spoke on "The Last Peace and the Next" at a meeting of the Hennepin County Historical Society held in Minneapolis on December 1. At an earlier meeting of the society, held on October 13, the speaker was Mr. Ward H. Benton, who reported upon the North Shore Historical Assembly at Fort William last August. According to the report of the secretary, Mr. Edward A. Blomfield, the society's membership increased from 300 to 425 in 1941-42. The feature of the October number of *Hennepin County History*, the society's quarterly bulletin, is an article on "Minneapolis Pioneer Entertainment." Notes on the society's activities and on accessions to the museum collection also are included.

Speakers who appeared before the annual meeting of the Lake County Historical Society at Two Harbors on October 7 included Mr. J. P. Bertrand and Mr. Otto Wieland, presidents respectively of the Thunder Bay and St. Louis County historical societies. The following officers were elected: Dr. John A. Jumer, president, Mr. Paul A. Essen, vice-president, and Judge William E. Scott, secretary-treasurer.

The experiences of Jesse Branham at Acton in the Sioux War were recounted by W. B. Hopper in a paper read before the annual meeting of the Hutchinson branch of the McLeod County Historical Society on November 17. All officers of the society were re-elected (see *ante*, 23: 102). A feature of the meeting held on December 15 was Mrs. Charles Heller's description of early Christmas celebrations.

Descendants of Meeker County pioneers who were victims of the Sioux War spoke on incidents of the massacre of 1862 in that area before a meeting of the Meeker County Historical Society at Litchfield on November 28. Among those who participated in the program were Mrs. Gus Lehman, Mrs. Roy Crosby, and Mrs. Erick Fratzke.

About seventy-five people attended the annual dinner of the Olmsted County Historical Society, which was held at Rochester on October 27. The principal speaker, Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts for the Minnesota Historical Society, stressed the importance of collecting and preserving war records. The report of the president, Mrs. B. T. Willson, presented at this meeting, reveals that during the past year about six thousand people visited the society's museum, which was open daily from 10:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M.

The extent to which the files and collections of the Otter Tail County Historical Society are used by churches and other organizations when celebrating anniversaries is brought out by E. T. Barnard in the "Historical Society Notes" contributed to the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for November 2. Under the same heading in other issues of the *Journal*, Mr. Barnard describes articles added to the society's collections.

At a special meeting of the officers and directors of the Pipestone County Historical Society, held at Pipestone on November 28, Mr. Charles Anderson was elected president of the society to succeed the late H. A. Petschow.

Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, was the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Rice County Historical Society at Faribault on October 19. She emphasized the importance of collecting war records and told of some of her own experiences in gathering material for her joint biography of Radisson and Groseillier. Mr. F. E. Jenkins, formerly headmaster of St. James School, was elected president of the society. Other officers include Mrs. Howard Bratton, vice-president, Miss Mabel Peirce and Miss Lana Babcock, secretaries, and Mr. Donald Scott, treasurer.

Names of early settlers of Waseca County and of life members of the Waseca County Historical Society are inscribed on bronze plaques in the society's log cabin museum at Waseca. The plaques were dedicated with

appropriate ceremonies on October 18, with Mr. Horace W. Roberts, president of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, as the principal speaker. He stressed the importance of assembling and preserving letters and other records of the pioneers whose names appear on the plaques.

"The Value of Gathering Historical Data" was the subject of a talk presented by Paul V. Fling before the Watonwan County Historical Society at Madelia on November 17. Some of the county's contributions to the war effort were described by George S. Hage, president of the society. Posters of the First World War and pictures of men and women from Watonwan County who are serving in the present conflict were on display for the meeting.

The organization and work of the Minnesota War History Committee was discussed by Dr. Lewis Beeson, acting superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, before the Winona County Historical Society meeting at Winona on October 5. Steps toward the organization of a local committee in Winona County were taken. Officers of the historical society elected at the meeting include Mr. Homer Goss, president, Dr. R. B. LeMay, vice-president, Miss Alice Grannis, secretary, and Mr. H. L. Harrington, treasurer.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

The development of Benton County schools in the vicinity of Foley is reviewed in the issue of the local high school monthly, the *Foleyan*, for October 5. The narrative covers the story of local schools from the organization of the first school district in 1867, when sessions were held in a log schoolhouse equipped only with crude benches and a rough table for the teacher.

What is described as the "oldest continually occupied house in Blue Earth county," that built by Matthias Schumacher in Lime Township in 1860, is the subject of an article by Frank Franciscus in the *Mankato Free Press* for October 14. Schumacher, who emigrated from Germany in 1845, settled on a Blue Earth County claim ten years later, and there he erected the house that is still occupied by his descendants. A recent picture of the house accompanies the article.

"Chatfield's First Fire Department" is the subject of a historical sketch by Margaret Snyder appearing in two installments in a section bearing the heading "Chatfield Quiz" in the *Chatfield News* for October 1 and 8. The account is based upon the minutes of the Fire Hose Hook and Ladder Company of Chatfield, which was organized in 1891 and continues its activities to the present. Its constitution and bylaws are analyzed in the first installment, and its later activities, most of which seem to have been of a social nature, are described in the second. Miss Snyder also is the author of a biographical sketch of James M. Cussons, a pioneer Olmsted County miller, which appears in the *News* for October 29 and November 5 and 12. The romantic record of this English youth who tried his hand at various trades in New York, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and other places before producing a prize-winning flour at Elmira is an interesting chapter in Minnesota's milling history.

Installments of William H. Cartwright's "History of Newburg Township and the Village of Mabel," which began publication in the *Mabel Record* on August 7 (see *ante*, 23: 400), continue to appear throughout the final months of 1942. Included are sections or chapters on frontier economic conditions, early churches, pioneer schools, the founding and naming of the village, newspapers, and local politics, with special attention to the Grangers, the Farmers' Alliance, and similar groups.

They Came from Sweden by Clara Ingram Judson is the story of a courageous, industrious family that emigrated from Sweden in the winter of 1856 (Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1942. 214 p.). It is addressed to children, but it holds much interest for any reader. The Larssons sailed the Great Lakes to Milwaukee and then hiked westward to a small farm they bought in the Wisconsin woods. But tales of big open farms in Minnesota soon set them to traveling again and they staked out a quarter section near Vasa, not far from Red Wing. Hardships there were for the Larssons, yet they were as nothing compared to the satisfactions of the new land — the crops, the feeling of equality with their neighbors, the opportunities for education, and the apprenticing of the ambitious son to a prominent Red Wing attorney. Appropriate drawings by Edward C. Caswell enhance the appeal for young readers of this entertaining book.

GEORGE L. PETERSON

In a series of reminiscent articles that have been appearing in the *Minnetonka Record* of Excelsior since November 12 under the title

"Good-bye Newspaper Row," Arthur J. Russell describes some of his experiences as a member of the staff of the *Minneapolis Journal* for more than half a century. As a proofreader, he joined the paper in 1885, and he subsequently served as a reporter and in various editorial capacities. His column, "With the Long Bow," made him familiar to thousands of readers.

In a recently published pamphlet, the Reverend P. Schmitz reviews the history of the Church of the Assumption at Richfield, which is now a suburb of Minneapolis (40 p.). He tells of early French, Irish, and German settlers in the vicinity, relating that the latter took the initiative in organizing a parish at Richfield in 1875. A list of the pioneers who founded the church is included. It is interesting to note that as early as 1856 the German pioneers at Richfield took their children to the Assumption Church in St. Paul for baptism.

The Madison Lutheran Normal School, which was established at Madison in 1892 and was closed in 1932 for lack of students, is the subject of a brief sketch by O. M. Norlie in the *Western Guard* of Madison for November 13. Faculty members during a period of four decades are named and enrollment figures are given.

The story of a Meeker County farmer, John P. Johnson, who invented a twine knoter for use in connection with the harvester, is related by Eben E. Lawson in the *Willmar Tribune* for October 3. Johnson is said to have patented his device in 1877, but he did not succeed in developing it commercially. A picture of his machine is reproduced with the article.

The Reverend Emeroy Johnson is the author of a *History of the Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Little Falls, Minnesota, and Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Darling, Minnesota*, Morrison County congregations that marked their fiftieth anniversaries in the fall of 1942 (48 p.). Some information is presented about early Swedish settlement in the county, which preceded the organization of these congregations. Included also are sketches of pastors and of church clubs and other organizations.

Mr. Ernest V. Sutton of Pasadena, California, whose parents were members of the National Colony at Worthington in the early 1870's, has included in his memoirs several chapters which appear in the Monday

issues of the *Worthington Daily Globe* from October 19 to December 7. Their local appeal may be judged from the fact that they deal with Mr. Sutton's boyhood experiences in southwestern Minnesota. His father, C. Z. Sutton, was "one of the financial backers of the proposed National Temperance colony, more commonly known as the Miller-Humiston colony. The charter granted this organization the right to operate in Nobles county." A site was selected in 1871; buildings were erected; and in April, 1872, the Sutton family left Cincinnati with more than a hundred colonists, most of whom came from Ohio. Mr. Sutton's description of the journey to the West in a "private train, chartered to carry the colonists" is as fascinating and is far more unusual than some of the oft-told tales of trips made in covered wagons. The train consisted of "a wood-burning locomotive, a baggage car and three day coaches," one of which the Suttons shared for four days and nights with six other families. The passengers carried their own food and bedding. A coal stove served both for heating and cooking, and a barrel beside it carried the water supply. Boards placed between facing seats held the "straw ticks or feather beds on which blankets were spread for a place to sleep." Since the writer was nearly ten years old when his family went to Worthington, he can recall many incidents of his life there, such as hunting parties and a trip to the Pipestone Quarry. He also describes vividly the grasshopper plague of the 1870's, which wiped out his father's prosperity overnight and caused another removal westward into Dakota.

"Memories of Fair View Cemetery" at Deer Creek in Otter Tail County are recorded by a former secretary of the local cemetery association for publication in the *Deer Creek Mirror* of October 1. Anecdotes about many pioneer members of the community who are buried in this cemetery are presented.

A *Soil Survey of Pine County, Minnesota*, issued by the bureau of plant industry of the United States department of agriculture (1941. 44 p.), includes some material on the history of the county. Of special interest is a section devoted to "Agricultural History and Statistics."

Mrs. Elmer F. Fields is the author of a brief "History of the Village of Trosky" from the surveying of the townsite in 1884 to the turn of the century, which appears in the *Pipestone Leader* for October 6. The village "came into existence as a direct result of the building of the Burlington,

now Rock Island railroad." The writer records that "fifteen blocks were included in the original plat."

The history of a Norwegian Lutheran congregation in Pope County known as the Barsness Church is reviewed in a booklet issued on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary, which was marked in July, 1942 (33 p.). Included also is material about Norwegian settlement in the region, and about church organizations, such as the ladies aid, the Sunday school, and the choir.

The "History of Town & Country Club" in St. Paul is sketched briefly by Gil Foster, its greenkeeper, in the *Greenkeepers' Reporter*, a golfer's magazine published at St. Charles, Illinois, for September-October. He relates that "golf was played at Town and Country Club as early as 1893," placing the St. Paul club among the earliest in the United States.

A Historical Souvenir, St. Peter Claver's Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, issued on October 18, 1942, to mark the golden anniversary of the church, contains a review of a Negro Catholic parish organized in 1892 (39 p.). Earlier, in 1888, a mission had been established under the supervision of Archbishop Ireland. The services of various priests are described, among them Father Stephen L. Theobald, "one of the first colored priests in the United States," who led the St. Paul congregation from 1910 to 1932.

Life on a frontier farm in Rice County in the 1860's and 1870's is vividly pictured in the reminiscences of Frank E. Hall, extracts from which appear in the *Northfield Independent* for December 24. Mr. Hall's parents emigrated from Vermont in 1858 and settled on a claim near Northfield. Of special interest are Mr. Hall's descriptions of the primitive machinery used in operating the farm. For example, he recalls the family's "first reaper," relating that "there was an arm that went around the outside of the platform, an endless chain, and every time it went around it raked off the grain at the back on the ground, where it had to be bound by hand." Threshing equipment also is described. When a neighbor purchased his "first steam engine for threshing," Mr. Hall recalls, "father bought his old horsepower, which we used on the farm for years, to saw wood, grind feed, and fill our silo." An excellent account of the tapping of sugar maples in the spring and the making of sirup and sugar also is included.

The activities in Mesabi Range mining operations of William, Walter, John, Cooley, and Emmett Butler, brothers of the late Justice Pierce Butler, are the subject of the columns entitled "Up in This Neck of the Woods" in the issues of the *Grand Rapids Herald-Review* for November 18 and 25. "In 1902 John Butler came to Hibbing," according to this account. "In the 40 years since that day," it continues, "the Butlers have scratched many a deep hole in the Mesaba range and taken therefrom many a ton of red ore." A sketch of Elmer E. Knotts, a pioneer homesteader and lumberman on the Bigfork River, is presented in the column published on November 11. In that appearing on December 2, the value for the student of local history of "records dealing with early surveys of the upper Mississippi river and the construction and operation of the reservoir dams" is revealed. They now are preserved at the Pokegama Dam. They tell not only of surveys made as early as 1868 and of the building of dams in the 1880's, but of such matters as the smallpox epidemic of 1883 and of labor and transportation problems. Weather records were kept at all the dams, and these still are available.

Impressions of a northern Minnesota community are presented by Nancy, Winifred, and Ruth King, in verse, prose, and picture, in a booklet bearing the title, *Yes, Really, It's Ely* (Minneapolis, 1942. 92 p.). Among the subjects of sketches are holiday celebrations by foreign groups of the Vermilion Range area, border lakes in the neighborhood of Ely, and mining operations.

Miss Gertrude Gove is the author of a "History of the St. Cloud School District" from 1855 to 1914, which is included in the *Report* of the superintendent of schools of St. Cloud for 1941-42 (84 p.). "It was District No. 3 which really got started with public school instruction," writes Miss Gove. She relates that this district, in what was known as Lower Town, "was settled by civic-minded Yankees who donated money to erect a school building . . . and paid out of their own pockets for the instruction that was given before 1858." A list of members of the St. Cloud board of education from 1858 to 1943, compiled by Miss Gove, also is presented in the *Report*.

Records and reports kept in Norwegian have been used by Mrs. Gena Lee Gilbertson in preparing a history of the Big Grove Norwegian Lutheran Church of Brooten to commemorate its seventy-fifth anniversary

(90 p.). The author reviews the story of the North Fork settlement in Stearns County, where the church originated, showing that the Norwegian pioneers who settled there in 1865 had pushed northwestward from Spring Grove in Houston County. Traveling pastors began to visit the Stearns County group, and in 1867, while the Reverend Abraham Jacobson was there, the Big Grove congregation was organized. The author presents also an account of a parochial school established in 1870.

Brief historical sketches of Austin clubs and organizations—professional, cultural, religious, fraternal, labor, military, and the like—are presented in the *Austin Daily Herald* for December 7. Included are local Masonic organizations, two of which date from the 1860's; a dental society that began its activities in 1910; and a women's club which established the city's first circulating library in 1869.

A brief history of the First Baptist Church of Long Prairie, prepared by O. B. DeLaurier, is included in a pamphlet issued on October 25, when the congregation celebrated its seventieth anniversary (10 p.). Much of the sketch relates to Baptist activity in Todd County before the Long Prairie congregation was organized in 1872; and it includes information about the Reverend John Jones, an early Welsh preacher at Fairy Lake.

Sketched against a background of Red River Valley history is a *History of St. Thomas Church, Kent, Minnesota*, issued as a pamphlet in June, 1941, to commemorate the "diamond jubilee" of this Catholic parish (46 p.). Fort Abercrombie and McCauleyville figure in its early years, for it was "to care for the spiritual needs of the soldiers at the fort" that the first missionaries arrived, and the church itself was first established in McCauleyville. As early as 1865, Father Baptiste Genin began to visit the settlement. Included in the present booklet are accounts of the early years of the church at McCauleyville, of its removal to Kent early in the present century, and of the founding of a parochial school, and a "parish directory."

A valuable feature of a *History of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Omro Township, Yellow Medicine County* (24 p.) is the inclusion of lists of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials. All are chronologically arranged, and birth, marriage, and death dates are given. The congregation, according to the brief historical sketch in this booklet, was organized in December, 1882.



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