

## Reviews of Books

*Lake Superior.* By GRACE LEE NUTE. (Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1944. 376 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

*Lake Michigan.* By MILO M. QUAIFFE. (Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1944. 384 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

A physical feature has a geological story, but of itself it has no history; only men and events can give it character and invest it with memory. But the Great Lakes, especially the lakes above Erie, have, as New World tradition goes, a long background of history, beginning with French exploration, trade, and evangelism before the first Massachusetts settlements were planted and continuing through French, British, and American regimes which have brought to once-wilderness shores a complex and dynamic civilization.

In their varied and eventful past is the story of a trade in furs and fish, in lumber and limestone, in grain and iron and coal. In it also is a story of the rise of cities on the site of Indian camps, of the influx of people from New England, from the British Isles, and from a dozen countries of Europe. The lakes are waterways, and in its purest form the history of a waterway is the record of its commerce. But ships voyage between ports and they link the activities of men in separate places. So the history of the lakes is also the history of the land that lies about them. The iron ranges of Minnesota are an inevitable part of Great Lakes history, and the wheat fields of the Red River Valley; so are the timber tracts of Upper Michigan and the blast furnaces of Gary. And so are the many strains of people who have settled the lake shores.

Probably it is this complex, intricate, ramified nature of the subject that must explain why the Great Lakes have had so little written about them. Unique in the geography of the earth, of enormous significance in the economic development of the United States and Canada, they have been largely unnoticed in literary treatment and skimmed by writers of history. As a subject they meant either too little or too much for a writer to attempt. Actually a history of the lakes must be a flexible, inclusive, many-sided regional history; it must draw upon many streams of fact: geological, archaeological, economic, social, political; it must deal with commerce, with immigration, with industry, and agriculture; and at its

center must run some current, like flowing water, that gives momentum to all the scattered facts.

The Great Lakes have had no thorough historical record since J. B. Mansfield's two-volume work of 1899. That encyclopedic work was focused on shipping activities, and its author seldom got ashore. There have, of course, been other books on the lakes, by writers interested in one aspect or another of their transportation, their marine traditions, or their appeal to the historical memory and imagination. But until now there have been no genuine historical studies of the fresh-water seas which make up a kind of Mediterranean of the New World.

Now that lack is well remedied. One of the great and characteristic scenes of America is being portrayed by ranking historians, and the *American Lakes Series* is filling a large gap in American regional history.

Dr. Quaife is eminently suited to write about Lake Michigan. His previous studies of the Old Northwest have made him fully familiar with the development of a complex society in a region whose earliest memories are of Indian council fires and fur posts in the forest. He traces two broad themes through its three hundred years of growth: the evolution of shipping from bark canoe to bulk freighter and the settlement of the Lake Michigan area; and he concludes with a detailed journey "all around the coast" of the long, southward-looping lake. As the chronicle unfolds it is considerably stranger than fiction. It begins with a French explorer wearing a Mandarin robe over his hunting shirt, seeking the coast of China. It ends, appropriately, with a vigorous sketch of Chicago. Between these two lie all the events of American history. And between the extremities of the lake, between the lambent skies of Mackinac and the lurid skies of South Chicago, lie the many shores, dune and cliff, orchard and pinery, fishing inlet and industrial harbor, that make Michigan the most varied of the lakes. All are included in Dr. Quaife's encompassing and lively volume.

Since the Great Lakes are not separate bodies but one waterway, it is not easy to confine the account of any one lake to its own shores. Inevitably the story of Lake Michigan strays into the other lakes. It also, perhaps inevitably, leaves the lake entirely out of some chapters. Still the subject has to end somewhere, and one might question the considerable space given to such matters as the rise of the House of David and the Ohio-Michigan controversy over the "Toledo Strip." Inevitably there are duplications of material in the books of this series. But there should

be no inconsistencies of fact, as in the discrepant figures, on page 164 of *Lake Michigan* and page 125 of *Lake Superior*, for the number of sailing vessels on the lakes at the peak of their period. Still, the long, looped lake, with Green Bay "like a knapsack on its back," is here in all its crowded past. And so central is it in the development of America that we cannot conceive our map or our history without it.

Dr. Nute is a "natural" to write on Lake Superior. She knows the entire region intimately and thoroughly, both through historical record and by repeated acquaintance with its towns, its shores, and its islands. And she writes of it with an ardor undiminished by learning.

The record of Lake Superior begins, like that of Lake Michigan, with Frenchmen boldly pushing their bark canoes into wide and unknown waters. Change came slowly to that remote northern region, parts of which remain today the wilderness known to black-robed priests and red-capped voyageurs three centuries ago. But when change came, it came dramatically—with the discovery of metals, the fever of mining, the building of port cities and the cutting of a canal where the Chippewa had speared whitefish in the St. Marys rapids and boiled maple sugar on the shores.

The freshest and most feeling sections in *Lake Superior* deal not with shipping, the inevitable central theme, but with themes on the periphery—the geology of the lake, the fabled voyageur, the almost vanished lumber camp, the Finnish fishermen and the Cornish miners, the migrant birds of the northern spring, and the Indian legends that still belong to the woods and the water. The book is uneven; some of its pages on shipping and mining are colorless and pedestrian, but there are many more pages of ardent interest and absorbing information.

These two volumes represent prodigious learning and an exhaustive use of source materials. They will make a part of the American scene meaningful and dramatic to many readers, for many seasons to come. The literature of American history is richer for them.

WALTER HAVIGHURST

*Voyages of Peter Esprit Radisson, Being an Account of His Travels and Experiences among the North American Indians, from 1652 to 1684.* With historical illustrations and an introduction by GIDEON D. SCULL. (Reprinted from the Prince Society's edition of 1885, New York, Peter Smith, 1943. vi, 385 p. \$7.50.)

With no fanfare or even advertising, as far as I can learn, this reprint of a very valuable book has been issued. Who is responsible does not appear, unless the publisher is also the modern editor.

With a few slight exceptions, the new form is a page-for-page and line-for-line reproduction, even to type face, of the Prince Society's edition. Two exceptions are: the publisher's name and the place and date of publication, which are to be found at the bottom of the title page; and the two lines "First Published 1853" and "Reprinted 1943" below the copyright notice of 1885.

I for one am curious about the statement "First Published 1853." It is news to students of Radisson's period that his narrative appeared prior to the Prince Society's edition of 1885. Is the statement a misprint, or how can it be accounted for?

For years there has been a need for republishing the Prince Society volume. All students of the Colonial period will surely be happy to be able at last to own a copy of Radisson's *Voyages*. Heretofore it has been almost impossible to secure one. Even large libraries have had to resign themselves to doing without it. Though I have written a biography of Radisson and his brother-in-law, I have had to depend on library copies of his *Voyages* until this time. It is with some pleasure, therefore, that I now behold the book on my own library shelves. Let us hope that other rare books, — say Miss Louise Kellogg's *French Regime* for one, — will also be reprinted.

GRACE LEE NUTE

*The Great Carrying Place.* By LOUISE LEIGHTON. (New York, Harbinger House, 1944. 66 p. \$1.50.)

This little book of verse sings of the geology, the history, the Indians, and the ore of the Lake Superior country, especially of the North Shore between Duluth and Grand Portage. It takes its title from Grand Portage and actually devotes most of its lines to that place. It is full of appreciation for the scenic beauty of the region, and catches the spirit of voyageurs and Indians to a most satisfying degree.

About two-thirds of the poems relate to the history of explorers and voyageurs; most of the remainder express, through the members of one Grand Portage family, the tragedy of the modern Indian. With all due recognition of the conscientious study of old narratives and diaries that has produced the poems on Radisson, Du Lhut, the average fur trader, and Michael Cadotte, I feel that the greatest contribution of the book lies in its sympathetic presentation of the life and problems of modern Indians as typified by the Grand Portage family.

It is not the province of a review in a magazine devoted to local history to attempt to gauge the success of a book as poetry of a high quality. I found "Radisson-1710" one of the finest poems when judged on such a basis, but another reader might be more impressed by some of the narrative tales or by some of the rapturous descriptions of natural scenes. The geologic and natural history references appear a little less than authentic to me in some instances. There is little if any granite on the North Shore, despite constant reference to granite headlands; and hemlocks, among which the mocassin flower (I suppose the reference must be to the stemless ladyslipper, certainly it cannot be the state flower) is mentioned as growing, do not appear anywhere on the North Shore, or indeed anywhere in Minnesota, except as planted. One may also mention a few questionable statements of fact, such as the Chippewa name for Grand Portage, that Longfellow ever saw Lake Superior, and that the floating island of copper from which manitous frightened the natives was Isle Royale. Michipicoten Island is usually associated with that Indian legend.

The importance of the book, it seems to me, lies not in its poetic worth or its historical accuracy, but in its recognition of the Grand Portage locale as a fit province for the Muses.

G.L.N.

*The School Controversy (1891-1893)*. By DANIEL F. REILLY. (Washington, The Catholic University of America Press, 1943. x, 302 p. \$3.00.)

This is a doctoral dissertation of unusual interest and merit. It deals with differences of opinion among high ecclesiastics of the Catholic church on the subject of the maintenance and support of parochial schools.

Archbishop John Ireland of St. Paul was an ardent patriot. He deprecated any situation that might expose his church to the charge of being foreign in tradition or sympathy. He regretted the existence of a dual

system of education, the public-school system and the denominational or religious school. Like Orestes Brownson at an earlier date, he would seek to co-operate with the existing public-school system while doing what he could to remove from it what was repugnant to the Catholic conscience. Like many of his predecessors, among them Bishop John Hughes of New York in 1840 and Bishop Joseph Cretin of St. Paul in 1852, he tried to secure for the parochial school recognition as an official district school and for its teachers some share of support from the public funds.

He voiced his opinions before a meeting of the National Educational Association at St. Paul in July, 1890. Professing to be an advocate of the state school, he regretted the circumstances that made the parochial school a necessity for Catholics. "It is in favor of the State school that I appeal to all my American compatriots to help this necessity to disappear," he said. He urged a system whereby teachers in parochial schools would be engaged and supported by local school boards and their work made subject to supervision by civil authorities. "There is simply the provision that as long as the teachers, Catholic in faith, pass their examinations and do their work efficiently and loyally they shall not be replaced by teachers of another faith."

This plan was accepted at Faribault and at Stillwater in 1891. It was not unique in the country. Similar arrangements had been made in other states on the Eastern seaboard. But Ireland's utterances and deeds brought upon him severe criticism from conservative prelates who were much concerned about preserving the autonomy of the parochial school and who felt that Ireland was working toward its destruction. Not only were appeals made to Rome against him, but in the daily press and in religious periodicals his views were condemned. Dr. Thomas Bouquillon, eminent theologian, who wrote a brochure entitled *Education: To Whom Does It Belong*, came under censure when he defended the right of the state to found schools that contributed to its welfare. In 1892, Archbishop Ireland went to Rome to act in his own defense. The decision — *Tolerari potest* — which he secured for his Faribault plan, was, like so many other phases of the controversy, made the subject of much tendentious writing. But finally, in 1893, Pope Leo XIII by a letter addressed to the bishops of the United States, brought an end to the discussion concerning the right instruction of Catholic youth and urged the hierarchy to "prove the earnestness of your love for your country."

The solution thus handed down gave Archbishop Ireland the happiness of feeling exhonored. But, in the meantime, the Faribault agreement was suspended and the controversy came to a conclusion, having more a theoretic than a practical character. It was unfortunate that personalities and national prejudices clouded the issues.

Dr. Reilly has written an accurate, well-documented history. It has the liveliness of a dramatic presentation. There are few things to be criticized. It was Bishop Cretin who sent Ireland abroad and he did not return for higher studies (p. 59). The same Bishop Cretin attempted to obtain from the Minnesota territorial legislature in 1852 an arrangement similar to the one Ireland gained in 1891 from a local school board. Mention of this might have given proper background to Ireland's efforts.

JAMES L. CONNOLLY

*This Is My Country.* Compiled, edited, and produced by Rand McNally & Company; bound by Brown & Bigelow, St. Paul. (New York, 269 p. Maps, illustrations.)

An astonishing number of atlases has been published this year. They include breath-taking "global maps" from unusual points of view; "action maps" of war theaters in which arrows showing actual or expected strategic movements figure prominently, and ominously; and "air age maps," in the preparation of which ancient projections have been adapted to new purposes. And there are atlases of conventional maps, such as the one before us, extraordinary only in its hand-tooled leather binding and interleaved pictorial matter.

Most readers are familiar with the prosaically composed Rand McNally utility or "popular" maps of the states. With their buff ground color and dull orange boundaries they are easy to read, except for the multiplicity of place names in heavily populated districts (for example, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, southeast Texas, and New York's Hudson-Mohawk Valley). Available space has been employed for a few insets showing densely inhabited areas on enlarged scales, but in general the artistic planning of the atlas has not been matched by map planning. Each map occupies a double page, measuring approximately twelve by nine inches. A larger page size would have been helpful to the reader in deciphering the names of many sections; on the other hand, the atlas size is suitable, considering its purposes, for the majority of states, and it is

of handy proportions for the library shelf. The map information is accurate, in so far as the scale permits, and the material is up to date, for these are not mere reproductions from old plates. Variety is introduced toward the end in a series of sectional highway maps, historical maps, and economic maps. The latter do not identify the year of the census data according to which the cartograms are drawn.

The striking pictorial map of the United States contained in the pocket will probably appear on the walls of many offices and studies, where it will serve decorative and instructive purposes. The pictograms, which are not always self-revealing, may be the source of animated discussions in the solution of which the key on pages 268 and 269 will be distinctly helpful. This elegantly bound atlas should find much day-by-day service in homes favored with it as a gift copy.

RALPH H. BROWN

*Winter Wheat in the Golden Belt of Kansas: A Study in Adaption to Subhumid Geographical Environment.* By JAMES C. MALIN. (Lawrence, University of Kansas Press, 1944. 290 p. Illustrations, map. \$3.00.)

Professor Malin has set as his task in this monograph a study of the process of agricultural adaptation to geographical environment prior to 1902 in the four counties of Riley, Geary, Dickinson, and Saline. This area, with its subhumid climate, presented a real problem to the settlers of Kansas, most of whom had learned to farm in regions of greater rainfall. The trend as time progressed was in favor of winter wheat, which matured early and was, therefore, less subject to damage by drouth, summer wind, chinch bugs, and grasshoppers than were many other crops. The adjustment, however, was slow. Corn, hay, and livestock dominated the scene in the early years, and more spring wheat was grown at first than winter wheat. In fact, part 2 of the book is entitled "The Soft Winter Wheat Boom, 1872-1882." The emergence of the hard winter wheat regime came in the years from 1883 to 1902.

The book will interest students of Minnesota history because there are many similarities between the stories of Minnesota and Kansas agriculture. In Minnesota farmers turned to hard spring wheat and later to dairying, yet the experiences of farmers in making adjustments there were much like those of Kansas farmers who made the transition from spring to winter wheat. Even the types of machinery used were similar,



with the exceptions of the header and the lister, implements peculiar to the prairie-plains region. Agriculture today is continuing the search for the best adjustment to environmental conditions. Perhaps some lessons of value can be learned from pioneer experiences like those portrayed in Professor Malin's study.

MERRILL E. JARCHOW

*A Rebel in Thought.* By SARAH TARLETON COLVIN. (New York, Island Press, 1944. 245 p. \$3.00.)

Mrs. Colvin's autobiography is a peculiarly provocative one. It offers a kind of grandstand view of the swift growth and turmoil of America from the end of the Civil War, when she was born, through the struggles, political, economic, and social, to the great war through which we are now living. The book ends on a sad and almost hopeless note written New Year's Day, 1944.

It is a curiously contradictory book, reflecting the contradictions of Mrs. Colvin's time, especially in its relation to women. She promises the opening of personal vistas and then firmly shuts the door. Few things, she says, of interest have happened in her cloistered life as a St. Paul doctor's wife; then she shows how in one way or another she has been part of all the struggles and conflicts of our time, and not, as in the suffrage and educational campaigns, in thought only. She claims frankness, yet is strangely shy. She states that there were no tragic events in her life, and her book truthfully and sincerely depicts the tragedy of her time and her position as person and as woman.

It is with the latter "tragedy" that Mrs. Colvin's book primarily deals—the waste of woman's powers that has only been slightly improved by the vote, and for which women, along with other groups, must struggle after this war. Perhaps the most tragic element in her entire book is expressed in the ending. After all the "goodwill," all the best "intentions," all the honest and sincere struggle, she reaches a kind of defeat. She sees many of her reforms destroyed, the position of women only slightly elevated, the labor movement not developing along the lines she envisaged. She enlarges the shadow of defeat—it is almost anticipated in a kind of "will to pessimism," a tragic sense of life.

Despite her surprising championship in the end of the book of elements which notoriously have been allied with destruction and lately with opposition to the war and to our ally, the Soviet Union, Mrs. Col-

vin's record of the suppression of half of the population, of women, is a contribution to history. That struggle, like all records of heroism, will be forgotten by those who benefit from it, our young sisters who will run planes, manage factories, captain ships. Mrs. Colvin's book will be a reminder. It is a record of slavery and fetters to put with other records, and also of the dignity of human life asserting itself against them.

MERIDEL LE SUEUR

*A History of Family Service of Saint Paul, Formerly the Associated Charities of Saint Paul and the United Charities of Saint Paul.*  
(St. Paul, Family Service of Saint Paul, 1944. 52 p.)

The accomplishments of fifty years of organized private charities in the city of St. Paul are well summarized in a pamphlet prepared for the anniversary of the founding of Associated Charities in 1892. The organization's name was changed to United Charities in 1914 and Family Service in 1935, on each occasion because community needs gave rise to new developments in its program.

Many of the projects originated by this organization at various times in its history proved their worth and were reorganized as independent units. The health program, particularly, was one of the fields where the Family Service pioneered. Visiting nurses, visiting housekeepers, day nurseries, free medical dispensaries, and many other services now commonplace in welfare activities of large cities were once sponsored by this organization. For the social worker there is value in the emphasis on the continuity of activity and aims in welfare work in the growth of a modern American city. "There is hidden away in our files a great deal of information as to social conditions in our community that should be made available for use," according to the narrative.

Much of the material will still be hidden away in spite of this publication because of a serious omission annoying to students and librarians. The title page omits both the author's name and the date of publication. Actually the author of the foreword, Miss Alice Brill, prepared the whole pamphlet. She includes interesting biographical data on outstanding characters in social welfare who achieved early prominence in St. Paul. Although most of the report is based on a study of the organization's records, there is no precise statement on their present location.

EVADENE BURRIS SWANSON

# Minnesota Historical Society Notes

AT THE AUTUMN MEETING of the society's executive council, which was held in the Historical Building on October 16, Judge Julius E. Haycraft of Fairmont was elected president of the society to succeed Professor Lester B. Shippee, who died in February. Judge Haycraft has been a vice-president of the society since 1939.

Following the meeting of the executive council on October 16, a joint meeting of the society and of the Minnesota Finnish-American Society was held in the auditorium of the Historical Building at 8:00 P. M. More than two hundred people attended the meeting, at which Judge Haycraft presided. The program opened with the presentation to the society by the Finnish organization of an oil painting by Juho Rissanen representing a typical "Finnish Farm Homestead." The artist, a native of Finland who is widely known as an exponent of modern national art, is now residing in the United States. The picture was presented by the Honorable O. J. Larson of Duluth, a member of the board of the Finnish society; it was accepted on behalf of the state and the society by Lieutenant Governor Archie Miller. The principal speaker of the evening, Professor John I. Kolehmainen of Heidelberg College, delivered the address on "Finnish Pioneers of Minnesota" which is published elsewhere in the present issue of this magazine. He was followed on the program by the Reverend John Wargelin of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Minneapolis, who recalled some "Early Experiences in Minnesota." Appropriate musical selections by the choir of the Finnish-American Club, directed by Mrs. Arne Halonen of Minneapolis, completed the program. Examples of Finnish handicraft and of objects illustrative of Finnish life in America were placed on display in the society's museum in connection with the meeting.

Plans for the society's annual meeting, which will be held on January 15, are nearing completion. Much of the program will be devoted to papers and addresses dealing with the history of transportation, with special reference to Minnesota. At the luncheon session, which will open the program, Mr. Earle Brown will present to the society, on behalf of the Babcock Memorial Association, an oil portrait of the late Charles M.

Babcock, who inaugurated Minnesota's modern highway system. The portrait will be accepted by Governor Thye. The history and development of the Minnesota highway department will be reviewed by Mr. M. J. Hoffman, commissioner of highways, and some early practices connected with automobilism will be described by Miss Dorothy V. Walters of Kenosha, Wisconsin. The presentation of reports, including that of the superintendent, and other business matters will occupy the afternoon session in the Historical Building. At the evening session, the annual address will be presented by a speaker still to be selected.

A new edition of Miss Nute's *The Voyageur's Highway*, the third issued by the society since the work was first published in 1941, is now in preparation. It will be ready for distribution early in December. Copies can be obtained from the society in ample time for use as Christmas gifts at one dollar each.

*How to Organize a Local Historical Society* is the title of a booklet by Miss Heilbron which has been published by the American Association for State and Local History as number 9 of its *Bulletins* (November, 1944). The society has a limited number of copies of the pamphlet available to those who plan to promote local historical organization in Minnesota.

Miss Nute contributes to the *Conservation Volunteer* for September-October an article about "A Diary-keeping Hunter," Ernest L. Brown of Wyoming. Her account is based upon diaries kept from 1889 to 1900 during hunting expeditions in northern Minnesota, from Warren on the west to Rainy Lake on the east. Mr. Brown recently presented the diaries to the society.

Mrs. Warming co-operated with the superintendent in writing an article about Minnesota for an encyclopedia now in preparation by the Grolier Society.

Abstracts of three articles published in this magazine between September, 1941, and August, 1942, appear in volume 1 of *The United States, 1865-1900: A Survey of Current Literature with Abstracts of Unpublished Dissertations*, which has been edited by Curtis W. Garrison for the Rutherford B. Hayes-Lucy Webb Hayes Foundation (Fremont, Ohio, 1943). The articles selected for inclusion are Merrill E. Jarchow's "Early Minnesota Agricultural Societies and Fairs," George

B. Engberg's "The Knights of Labor in Minnesota," and Harold T. Hagg's "Bemidji: A Pioneer Community of the 1890's."

Mr. Beeson was named a member of the board of directors of the Minnesota Folk Arts Foundation at its organization meeting, which was held on the campus of the University of Minnesota on September 30. At the first meeting of the board, on October 30, he was elected vice-president of the newly established foundation.

A leave of absence of four months was completed by Miss Nute during the past summer, when she spent two months in the vicinity of Two Harbors. During most of the time she was engaged in writing a book on the history of Minnesota iron mining—a project for which she received a regional writing fellowship from the University of Minnesota under a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation (see *ante*, 24:370). In the summer of 1943 and earlier in 1944 she spent much time in northern Minnesota and about Lake Superior gathering material for the book.

The total membership of the society amounted to 1,638 in September—a figure that has not been equaled since 1933.

One sustaining member—Mrs. Slade Peet of St. Paul—and twenty-three annual members joined the society during the quarter ending on September 30. The names of the annual members follow: Mrs. Irvin C. Bierman of Seattle, Kathleen Brown of Hammond, Wisconsin, Thomas L. Daniels of Minneapolis, Frank E. Dougherty of Fairmont, Leal Headley of Northfield, Dr. G. A. Hedberg of Nopeming, George L. Jackson of St. Paul, Mrs. Barbara B. Lindstrom of Mason City, Iowa, Judge Gustavus Loevinger of St. Paul, George A. Mairs, Jr., of St. Paul, Rabbi Harry S. Margolis of St. Paul, Dr. J. E. Newton of Hudson, Wisconsin, Meyer Paper of St. Paul, Katherine Rhoades of Minneapolis, Bernard H. Ridder of St. Paul, Percival M. Shaw, Jr., of Duluth, Roger B. Shepard of St. Paul, William W. Skinner of St. Paul, Bessie M. Stanchfield of Los Angeles, Mrs. Olive W. Stone of St. Paul, Robert M. Tegeder of Minneapolis, Harold E. Weeks of Brooklyn, New York, and Louis Yager of St. Paul.

The Crookston High School, the Red Rock School of Jeffers, and the Rochester Senior High School subscribed for the society's publications during the third quarter of 1944.

Three active members of the society died during the quarter ending on September 30—Mrs. C. M. Griggs of St. Paul on August 7, Mrs. Frank P. Shepard of St. Paul on September 10, and Mrs. Louis C. Bulkley of Shreveport, Louisiana, on September 14.

The school service program outlined for the society by Miss Alma Jensen is reviewed in some detail in the *Minnesota Journal of Education* for September. Because of lack of funds, it has been impossible for the society to continue Miss Jensen's connection with its staff. As a result, it has been necessary to curtail the extensive program of historical activity with schools under development by Miss Jensen.

The auditorium on the third floor of the Historical Building has been redecorated, and it will be used in the future for special exhibits of pictures, posters, and similar materials. The portraits of the governors of Minnesota, formerly displayed in the auditorium, have been removed to the Capitol, where they have been hung in the corridors of the first floor.

As a result of the plea for the preservation of historic buildings in Minnesota made by Professor Laurence Schmeckebier before the society's annual meeting in January, 1944, the executive council, at its April meeting, adopted a motion to appoint a committee which can give advice in cases where the destruction of a building seems likely. When advisable, the committee will make an effort to have structures preserved permanently; in other cases it will arrange to have them photographed or to have architectural drawings or other records preserved. The committee, which consists of eighteen members with Professor Schmeckebier as chairman, has now been named.

Addresses on the North Shore of Lake Superior and its significance were presented by Miss Nute before the North Shore Historical Assembly meeting in Two Harbors on August 5 and the Quota Club of St. Paul on September 27. The latter talk was illustrated with motion pictures of the North Shore country. Miss Nute also presented an illustrated talk on "Northern Minnesota and Isle Royale" before the nature study group of the Minneapolis Women's Club on August 8, and she spoke on Finnish handicraft groups in Minnesota on September 29 before a Folk Arts Conference held at the University of Minnesota. Participating in the conference also was Miss Heilbron, who described folk arts materials to be found in Minnesota's local historical museums

at a session held on September 30. "Pioneering in Minnesota" was the subject of a talk presented by Mr. Babcock before the Franconia Old Settlers Association on July 16.

### CONTRIBUTORS

The study of Finnish immigration to America has been a center of interest since 1936 for Dr. John I. Kolehmainen, who discusses "The Finnish Pioneers of Minnesota" in an address published in the present issue. Although he lives at Tiffin, Ohio, where he is professor of European history and government in Heidelberg College, Dr. Kolehmainen spends his summers in northern Minnesota. There he has acquired a first-hand knowledge of the state's numerous Finnish communities and settlers. Among his articles dealing with Finnish-American history are the "Origin of the Finns in the Western Reserve," published in *Baltic and Scandinavian Countries* in 1938; "Finland's Agrarian Structure and Overseas Migration," which appeared in *Agricultural History* in 1941; and a study of "The Finns of Wisconsin," printed recently in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. Readers of this magazine will recall his article on "Finnish Temperance Societies in Minnesota" in the issue for December, 1941.

Dr. Lloyd A. Wilford, archaeologist in the department of anthropology in the University of Minnesota, presents herein some results of his investigation of "The Mille Lacs Aspect" of Minnesota's prehistoric cultures. In the June issue (*ante*, p. 153-157) he outlined a system of classification for the cultures of "The Prehistoric Indians of Minnesota"; in future articles he plans to discuss other phases of the subject.

The final installment of Isaac Lyman Taylor's Civil War diary, which closes dramatically with the diarist's death at Gettysburg, appears in this issue. Under the editorship of Miss Hazel C. Wolf of Peoria, Illinois, sections of this day-by-day narrative of events in the war between the states have appeared in this magazine throughout 1944.

Miss Esther Benson, who contributes a description of "A Community Study at Anoka" to the series of articles on "Minnesota History and the Schools," is a teacher of social science and director of audio-visual education in the Anoka High School. She is the author of an unpublished study of the "Organization of Public Welfare Activities in Minnesota," prepared as a master's thesis in the University of Minnesota in 1941.

Two recent volumes in the *American Lakes Series* are reviewed herein

by Professor Walter Havighurst of the department of English in Miami University at Oxford, Ohio. Among his works is a study of Great Lakes shipping, *The Long Ships Passing*, which was published in 1942. Other reviewers contributing to the present issue are Dr. Ralph H. Brown, associate professor of geography in the University of Minnesota; the Reverend James L. Connolly, a member of the faculty of the St. Paul Seminary and of the society's executive council; Lieutenant Merrill E. Jarchow, an instructor in the naval pre-flight school at Iowa City; Meridel Le Sueur, a well-known Minnesota writer of fiction; Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts on the society's staff, whose newly published history of Lake Superior is among the books reviewed in this issue; and Dr. Evadene Burris Swanson of Chicago, who is known to readers of *Minnesota History* both for her articles and her book reviews.

### ACCESSIONS

Alexis Bailly's own account of the circumstances under which he left the service of the American Fur Company in 1831, became associated with a New York concern, and returned to the company in 1832 is contained in a letter of 1835, a typewritten copy of which has been presented by Mr. Edward C. Bailly of New York. The letter, which also contains some genealogical data about the Bailly family, was addressed to the writer's brother, Joseph P. Bailly.

The contract for the building of the residence of William B. Gere at Chatfield in July, 1857, is one of three items added to the Gere Papers by Mrs. Gwendolyn Leudke of Chatfield (see *ante*, 9:177). Received also are a telegram sent to Gere by Henry M. Rice on January 31, 1861, and a note written by a Southern woman in 1865 in which some of the problems of reconstruction are suggested.

A photostatic copy of a letter written from Fort Ridgely on September 9, 1862, by Henry M. Huntington is the gift of his grandnephew, Mr. Kenneth W. Ellis of Chicago. The letter, which is addressed to Huntington's father, describes a battle of the Sioux War in which members of the Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry participated. Mr. Ellis also has presented a letter written in 1857 from Houston County by Edmund Mackintire in which he describes the opportunities open to settlers in Minnesota Territory and urges Joel Eaton of Dedham, Massachusetts, to join him in the West.



Two diaries kept by Captain William Arkins in 1862 and 1863 while he was serving with Company A, Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, have been added to his papers by his nephew, Mr. W. M. Arkins of Los Angeles. They record the movements of troops and contain numerous items of economic interest, such as the prices of food and of uniforms.

Dr. John M. Armstrong of St. Paul has presented the architect's plans for a house erected in 1869 on the site of the present Cathedral of St. Paul. It was built for and long occupied by members of the Armstrong family. Students of social history as well as those interested in the history of art and architecture will find these detailed plans of special value. Dr. Armstrong's gift includes a roster of the Third United States Cavalry in the Spanish-American War.

The varied career of Colonel Charles H. Graves, a Duluth pioneer of 1870, is reflected in a group of appointments and commissions recently presented by Mrs. Graves, who resides at Santa Barbara, California. Included are several army commissions covering the period from 1861, when he enlisted for Civil War service as a private in the Fortieth New York Volunteer Infantry, to 1867, when he attained the rank of lieutenant colonel. Among them is one bearing the signature of President Lincoln. An example of Graves's continued interest in the Civil War period is to be found in the impressive collection of patriotic covers which he assembled and which Mrs. Graves presented earlier in his memory (see *ante*, p. 186). Other commissions with her more recent gift record Graves's appointments as a member of the state commission that handled problems of relief after the Hinckley fire of 1894, to the board of Capitol commissioners in 1898, and as United States minister to Sweden in 1905. He remained in the latter post until 1914. An oil portrait of Graves, painted while he was in Sweden, accompanies Mrs. Graves's gift. She reports that the famous Swedish artist, Anders Zorn, "painted the face," and that "one of his students did the figure that had been outlined" by Zorn. The date 1909 appears on the painting, which is now on display in the society's museum. Another item presented by Mrs. Graves is a sword that her husband carried during his period of army service.

Two boxes of papers of Asa D. Polk, a Brainerd lawyer from 1900 to 1940, have been presented by his daughter, Miss Grace E. Polk of

Brainerd. Included in the collection are numerous patents, dating from 1857 to 1888, for lands at St. Cloud and in Kentucky, granted to the Day Lumber Company of Minneapolis, a firm with which Polk was associated. With the gift are numerous Civil War letters written by Samuel L. Seavey to members of his family while serving with the Army of the Potomac. Newspaper clippings and articles make up the remainder of the collection.

A doctoral dissertation on "The Scandinavian Immigrant and American Public Affairs" submitted in 1942 at Northwestern University by Arlo W. Andersen has been copied on film slides for the society. Masters' theses recently presented by the authors include "The Upper Levee Neighborhood" of St. Paul, prepared by Mrs. Alice Sickels at the University of Minnesota in 1938, and "The Growth of Geographic Knowledge of the Upper Great Lakes Region in the Seventeenth Century," submitted by Virginia Seay at Hamline University in 1944.

Mr. Paul J. Thompson of Minneapolis has presented a reminiscent narrative of twenty-five pages in which he records some of his experiences as a practicing lawyer in the early decades of the present century.

The first number of the *Old Town Promoter*, a publication issued at Great Falls on August 7, 1944, in order to promote the "preservation of Montana historic landmarks," has been presented by Mr. Charles Bovey of Great Falls. The sheet, which takes the form of a four-page newspaper, is being published by Mr. Bovey on behalf of the Historic Landmark Society of Montana. It is made up largely of news and advertising matter reproduced from early Montana newspapers.

An old-fashioned crib that can be extended in length as a child grows is the gift of Mr. Milton Rosen of St. Paul.

A flag that belonged to the General Ord Post of the Grand Army of the Republic of St. Paul has been received from Mr. Lawrence Mallory of Port Orchard, Washington. The last member of the post to die and to have the flag in his custody was an uncle of the donor.

Two large collections of upper Mississippi photographs, each consisting of about three hundred and fifty items, have been added recently to the society's picture collection. The first, presented by Mr. Fred Harms of Minneapolis, whose father was connected with steamboating on the

upper river, consists largely of views of steamboats and rafting activities, particularly near Dubuque. The second, which depicts the activities of the Minnesota Boat Club during the past forty years, is the gift of Mr. N. P. Langford of St. Paul. Other recently acquired pictures include several views of the Wendelin Grimm farm in Carver County, from Mr. Everett E. Edwards of Washington; twenty-eight views showing Duluth and its vicinity in the period from 1875 to 1910, from Mr. Nathan Cohen of Duluth; fifty pictures of the Minnesota iron ranges, the North Shore of Lake Superior, and steamboats on that lake, from Dr. Grace Lee Nute of the society's staff; and a photograph of William Morrison, a Minnesota fur trader of the last century, from Sister Grace McDonald of St. Joseph.

Several Minnesota pioneers figure in genealogies received by the society during the summer. Experiences of members of the Watkins family in Stearns County in the 1860's and later at Winona are recounted in the *Annals of Our Ancestors: One Hundred and Fifty Years of History in the Watkins Family* by Julia W. Frost (Chicago, 1913. 350 p.). The careers of some St. Paul businessmen are described in *Stott, Saunders, Converse and Allied Families* (New York, 1944. 225 p.). A Wabasha County family is traced from 1857 to the present in the *Descendants of David Wall and Hannah Bailey* by Horace H. Wall (San Francisco, 1943. 42 p.). Fort St. Anthony, later Fort Snelling, from 1822 to 1825 was the station of a West Point graduate, St. Clair Denny, whose family is traced in the *Denny Genealogy* by Margaret Dixon and Elizabeth Vann (New York, 1944. 565 p.). An account of an early Minnesota teacher, Sarah A. Wilson, who lived at the home of Gideon Pond near Lake Calhoun in the late 1840's is given in the *Wilson-Baird History* by Frank C. Shepherd (Wewoka, Oklahoma, 1943. 360 p.).

Other genealogies received during the quarter include: the *Family History of William Hardin Ashby and Nancy Maria Badger Ashby* by Robert L. Ashby (American Fork, Utah, 1944. 218 p.); *The Aziere Family History* by Charles B. Aziere (Atchison, Kansas, 1943. 55 p.); *The Bayles Families of Long Island and New Jersey* by Howard G. Bayles (Houston, Texas, 1944. 270 p.); the *Family Record of Daniel J. Borntrager and His Descendants* by Sam R. Borntrager (Haven, Kansas, 1941-42. 48 p.); the *American Ancestors of Barbara Evelyn Bowen* by Harold K. Bowen (Osceola, Missouri, 1944. 11 p.); the *First Four Generations: The First James Campbell of Cherry Valley*,

*New York* by Angelo C. Pickett (Riverside, California, 1942. 45 p.); *A Brief of John Caruthers, a Pioneer, His Descendants and Collateral Kin* by E. M. Wright (Springfield, Missouri, 1944. 63 p.); *A Genealogy of the Darst Family of Virginia* by Henry J. Darst (Detroit, Michigan, 1943. 23 p.); the *History and Genealogy of the Family of John Calvin Davis* by Nell W. Sherman and Ida P. McPheron (Peoria, Illinois, 1944. 117 p.); *The Deer Family* by Thomas M. Garland (Marshall, Indiana, 1942. 52 p.); *The Ancestry and Descendants of Amzi Williford Gaston II of Spartanburg County, South Carolina* by Mary G. Gee (Charlottesville, Virginia, 1944. 48 p.); the *Family Record of Daniel J. Gingerich and His Descendants* by Nettie Beachy (Scottdale, Pennsylvania, 1930. 58 p.); the *Harloe-Kelso Genealogy* by Charles B. Harloe (Winchester, Virginia, 1943. 358 p.); *The Descendants of Robert Isbell in America* by Edna W. Mason (New Haven, Connecticut, 1944. 286 p.); the *Ancestry of Carma Erika Jacobsen* by Anna Jacobsen (Salt Lake City, Utah, 1943. 24 p.); the *Kendall Genealogy* by Irma Rich (Boston, 1920. 38 p.); *The Hiram Wesley Lyons Family* by Austin W. Lyons (Salt Lake City, 1943. 208 p.); the *Family History of Joni Miller and His Descendants* by Emanuel J. Miller (Wilmot, Ohio, 1942. 123 p.); the *Family History of the Descendants of John F. and Magdalena Miller* by Emanuel J. Miller (Wilmot, Ohio, 1943. 105 p.); *The Descendants of Samuel S. Miller, 1812-1892* by Willis H. Miller (Hudson, Wisconsin, 1944. 28 p.); *Blood of an Englishman* by Edward C. Morse (Abilene, Texas, 1943. 301 p.); *A History of the Rush Family* by Matthias Rush (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1899. 63 p.); the *Daniel Schlabach Family History* by Emanuel J. Miller (Wilmot, Ohio, 1942. 32 p.); *William Throope and Adrian Scrope* by Evelyn F. Knudson (East St. Louis, Illinois, 1943. 74 p.); the *History, Genealogies, Biographies of the Shepherd and Related Families* by Frank C. Shepherd (Wewoka, Oklahoma, 1943. 400 p.); *The Tompkins-Tompkins Genealogy* by R. A. and C. F. Tompkins (Los Angeles, 1942. 720 p.); and the *Continuation of Waldo Genealogy, 1900-1943* by Charles S. Waldo (New York, 1943. 295 p.).

Copies of early legislative and court records of genealogical interest, recently received by the society, include: *The Public Records of the State of Connecticut for the Years, 1782-1784* (Hartford, 1942-43. 2 vols.); *Proceedings of the County Court of Charles County [Maryland] 1666-1674* (Baltimore, 1943. 635 p.); *New Hampshire Court Records,*

1640-1602 (1943. 579 p.); and *The Registrar's Book of Governor Keith's Court of Chancery of the Province of Pennsylvania, 1720-1735* (Harrisburg, 1941. 127 p.). *Bowdoin, Maine Vital Records to the Year 1892* (Auburn, Maine, 1944. 238 p.) and *Lower Sandusky Cemetery, Fremont, Ohio, 1907* by Jacob Burgner (Philadelphia, 1943. 15 p.) were added to the society's collection of birth and death records. Other local history material acquired recently includes: *The Tercentenary Celebration of the Town of Rowley* (Rowley, Massachusetts, 1942. 206 p.); *Stories of Guernsey County, Ohio* by William G. Wolfe (Cambridge, Ohio, 1943. 1,093 p.); *Historic Morris County* (Morristown, New Jersey, 1943. 48 p.), and *Some Tennessee Heroes of the Revolution* (Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1944).

L.M.F.

## News and Comment

IN MEASURING the progress of American letters "between two wars" for the twentieth anniversary issue of the *Saturday Review of Literature*, published on August 5, Bernard DeVoto calls attention to the contributions made by the historians. "The Maturity of American Literature" is the title of an essay in which he expresses the conviction that the historians "were on the right track before writers were; they have done much for the literary, and their ideas and results have quietly taken over more of American literature than has been acknowledged in footnotes." For, according to Mr. DeVoto, "whatever else writers have had to get in our time, they have also needed knowledge of our roots. Their . . . attempts to get such knowledge, and the barriers on the way to it, and the forces which broke the barriers, are an essential part of history." As indexes to the progress made, particularly in the last two decades, the historian can use the country's schools and colleges and the Americana sections of its great libraries, but he will also have to take into account the "astonishing proliferation of local historical societies," writes Mr. DeVoto. In conclusion he pays tribute to the "professional historians and antiquarians who plowed earth too humble for their betters and turned up a rich, usable knowledge of our costumes, glassware, cottages, handicrafts, and outworn ideas." Of interest to historians also is John U. Nef's discussion of the relationships of "Historians and Social Scientists" in the *Saturday Review* for September 16. "Faced with the tasks which history now presents, the historian needs to be a philosopher," and he "has to be an artist" as well, writes Professor Nef. It is his belief that "by means of philosophy and art" the historian "can make those methods which the social scientists alone regard as respectable the servants of historical truth."

That "local or regional history has a place — and a very definite place — in the general course in American history" is the conclusion reached by Paul M. Angle in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for September. He contributes a discussion of "Regional and Local History in the Teaching of American History" to the "Teacher's Section" of that issue. If local history is to be included in the curriculum, Dr. Angle believes, "the historical societies which are primarily concerned with it must make the teaching of it as easy as possible; the colleges must undertake to provide

the factual foundation now too often lacking." Among the suggestions he offers are the publication of handbooks for teachers, like that recently issued by the Illinois State Historical Society, and the offering of courses and summer institutes in state history by colleges, especially teachers' colleges.

A short sketch of the organization and early history of the Minnesota Historical Society is presented by Leslie W. Dunlap in his recent volume on *American Historical Societies, 1790-1860* (Madison, Wisconsin, 1944. 238 p.). The book is divided into two sections, the first of which is devoted to general discussions of such topics as "The Need for Historical Societies," their establishment, "Membership and Administration," financial support, the "Preservation and Diffusion" of historical materials, publications, and "Relationships among the Societies." The second part of the volume consists of sketches of individual societies organized before 1860. In his account of the Minnesota society, Mr. Dunlap mentions the fact that a "Dakota lexicon was to be published under its patronage," erroneously crediting the work to E. D. Neill. A *Grammar and Dictionary of the Dakota Language*, edited by S. R. Riggs, was published by the Smithsonian Institution in 1852 "under the Patronage of the Historical Society of Minnesota." Neill's only connection with the project was as a subscriber. To illustrate points brought out in his earlier chapters, Mr. Dunlap mentions the Minnesota Historical Society in several instances. His book is a convenient reference work on the early record of historical societies in the United States.

A *Historical Atlas of the United States*, which "is not designed to be a reference atlas," but rather "is designed to help every student of American history along the road to that clarified, broader, integrated understanding which is the essence of intelligent education," has been published by Clifford L. Lord and Elizabeth H. Lord (New York, 1944. 253 p.). On more than three hundred separate maps, various social, economic, and political trends in American history are graphically illustrated. In an undertaking of such scope, it is not surprising to find some errors. One that has been noted occurs on a map (no. 271) showing American colleges in 1870. Not only was a base map for an earlier decade, showing Minnesota Territory, used in this instance, but there is no indication that the University of Minnesota and several colleges were in existence at the time.

Three papers read at a recent meeting of the Society of American Archivists have been grouped in a pamphlet on *Buildings and Equipment for Archives*, published by the National Archives as number 6 of its *Bulletins* (1944. 32 p.). "Some Observations on Planning Archives Buildings" are provided by Louis A. Simon, a consulting architect in the government service; suggestions for "Collaboration between Archivists and Architects in Planning Archives Buildings" are contributed by Victor Gondos, Jr., a former architect who is now on the staff of the National Archives; and "Equipment Needs to be Considered in Constructing Post-war Archival Depositories" are described by William J. Van Schreeven, archivist in the Virginia State Library at Richmond. The booklet doubtless will serve to answer the many requests reaching the National Archives "for information about buildings and equipment necessary for caring for non-current records of States, counties, and municipalities."

A bibliography of "Writings on Archives and Manuscripts, July, 1942-June, 1943," published in the *American Archivist* for October, 1943, has been reprinted as a separate (16 p.). Copies are available at twenty-five cents each; they may be purchased from the secretary of the Society of American Archivists, Dr. Lester J. Cappon, University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

"From the historians' point of view, business men — and particularly business organizations — are too reticent," writes Eugene C. Barker in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* for July, where he presents "A Plea for More History in Business." He points out that "the blankest page in Texas history today is that which ought to tell of the growth and contribution of business and industry in the building of the state," and that "the same is true of industry in the nation," all because historians rarely can learn enough about business to record its story fully and accurately. Three methods that might remedy the situation are suggested by Mr. Barker, who writes, "Follow the example of the Army and Navy and employ a historical staff for each important unit, or open the records to historians with as few reservations as possible, or deposit the records — or selected blocks of records — in public depositories."

Business records of all varieties — account books, ledgers, daybooks, journals, invoice books, correspondence, catalogues, advertisements, pamphlets, and the like — have been utilized by Thomas D. Clark in the prepa-



ration of a volume entitled *Pills, Petticoats and Plows: The Southern Country Store* (Indianapolis, 1944. 359 p.). The author's list of business records kept by small-town merchants in many parts of the South and consulted by him in the preparation of his narrative occupies more than five pages of his bibliography. The possibility of similar studies of country stores in the North and the Midwest is suggested by the volume.

How "Scholars Get Access to Burlington Records" is explained by R. C. Overton in the *Bulletin* of the Business Historical Society for June. He tells how tons of business records of this western railroad have been deposited in the Baker Library of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration and in the Newberry Library at Chicago, where they are available to qualified scholars. By using these records "for the first time on a large scale," writes Mr. Overton, "students of the West and particularly of its economic and society growth, have had and will have an opportunity to reconstruct and interpret the policies and practices of the past that have determined the development of a major railway system and the territory that it serves." Mr. Overton's statement appeared first in the *Railway Age* for February 26, 1944, from which it is reprinted in the present *Bulletin*.

Perhaps it is because B. A. Botkin limits himself to "folklore in the English idiom in the United States, excluding . . . the Indian and foreign-language minorities," that Minnesota tales are almost entirely lacking in his recent *Treasury of American Folklore* (New York, 1944. 932 p.). Mr. Botkin states that "the term 'American folklore' is employed" in his volume "in the sense that one speaks of American literature, language, humor, etc., as an expression of the land, the people, and their experience." Minnesota does figure in his review of the Paul Bunyan literature, where mention is made of the challenge of the authenticity of the tales published by Carleton C. Ames in this magazine in 1940. Another local item is J. Proctor Knott's humorous speech on Duluth delivered before Congress in 1871, which is reprinted in the present work.

The printed record of the Paul Bunyan tales is traced back to 1910 by W. W. Charters of Stephens College in the *Journal of American Folklore* for July-September. In an illustrated supplement appearing with the *Detroit News Tribune* of June 24, 1910, Professor Charters found an item entitled "The Round River Drive" in which references are made to the mythical lumberjack and his crew. Extracts from the account are re-

printed in the present article. Two other early Paul Bunyan items mentioned by Mr. Charters are a verse published in the *American Lumberman* for April 25, 1914, and an advertising booklet issued by W. B. Laughhead for the Red River Lumber Company in the same year. Mr. Laughhead tells of his connection with the latter publication in a letter published *ante*, 21:177. The items described "are the first three Bunyan items in print that have been unearthed to date," according to Mr. Charters, who expresses a desire to learn of any material that might have been published earlier. He believes that the "Bunyan legends are unique in one respect," for "however old they may be as oral legends they are very late in written form."

Sixty-nine "Upper Mississippi Rafters" are listed in a *Western Rivers Towboat Directory* prepared by Captain Frederick Way, Jr., for the Steamboat Photo Company of Sewickley, Pennsylvania (1943). Those who are interested in the development of river traffic as well as students of logging history should find this multigraphed booklet useful. Such information as the compiler could gather about each of the boats listed is presented. In addition he describes such photographs as are available. A number of the boats listed were built at Stillwater, and most of them were used in towing logs from the Minnesota pineries. It is interesting to note that several of the boats were photographed at Read's Landing.

A collection of unusual Indian legends assembled by Marius Barbeau has been published in a little volume attractively illustrated by Grace Melvin (Caldwell, Idaho, 1943). Most of these legends originated among the Indians of the Rocky Mountain region and the Canadian Northwest, and many of them show the effect of the red man's contact with the white man, and especially with the missionaries.

An English translation in verse of "The Ballad of Oleana" is contributed with a brief introduction by Dean Theodore C. Blegen of the University of Minnesota graduate school to the autumn number of *Common Ground*. This satirical song about Ole Bull's colony in Pennsylvania was written in Norwegian by Ditmar Meidell in 1853, after the project had failed. Students of the history of immigration will be interested also in an article by John I. Kolehmainen, appearing in the same issue, entitled "Why We Came to America: The Finns." An article on the Finns in Minnesota by Mr. Kolehmainen appears elsewhere in this issue of *Minnesota History*.

In the "Introduction" to the July issue of the *Bulletin* of the American Institute of Swedish Arts, Literature and Science, Albin Widen, the editor, declares that he intends to have it serve as an "organ for a cultural exchange and a mutual understanding between America and Sweden." He does not expect, however, to overlook purely local material, for he announces that he will also publish reminiscences of Swedish pioneers that will be of interest to students of local history. Such an account in the July number is Erick P. Erickson's article recalling "Pioneer Life in South Dakota" in 1897. The writer spent his boyhood in Minnesota, and after living near Sisseton for sixteen years, he returned to make his home at New London.

A study of the Jewish population of Minneapolis made in 1936 by Sophia M. Robison is included in a volume of *Jewish Population Studies*, issued under her editorship with the assistance of Joshua Starr and published by the Conference on Jewish Relations (New York, 1943. 189 p.). Other chapters in the volume deal with such cities as Trenton, Buffalo, Chicago, and San Francisco. Age, distribution, and nativity are among the topics considered.

A multigraphed *Bibliography of County Histories of the 3,050 Counties in the 48 States*, compiled by C. Stewart Peterson (Baltimore, 1944. 49 p.), devotes only a brief paragraph to Minnesota. The statement is made that seventy-five county histories have been prepared for the state's eighty-seven counties. Minnesota seems to be one of the states for which the compiler hopes to prepare a bibliography in the near future.

A namesake of Minnesota's first territorial governor, Lieutenant Alexander Ramsey Nininger, Jr., is the subject of a biographical sketch appearing in a little volume, by Franklin M. Reck, entitled *Beyond the Call of Duty* (New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1944). It deals with eighteen men who were awarded the Medal of Honor, the "highest decoration for bravery in battle," during the first twenty months of the Second World War. Of these, the first is Nininger, who died at Bataan on January 12, 1942. He was a descendant of Governor Ramsey's sister and of John Nininger, whose townsite activities in Dakota County are commemorated in the name of a Minnesota township.

The New-York Historical Society has announced the appointment as director of Robert W. G. Vail to succeed the late Alexander J. Wall. The

appointment is of special interest to readers of this magazine, since in 1920 and 1921 Mr. Vail served as librarian of the Minnesota Historical Society. Among the positions that he has held since leaving Minnesota are those of librarian of the American Antiquarian Society and of state librarian of New York. Mr. Vail made an important contribution to American scholarship when, in 1936, he completed Joseph Sabin's *Dictionary of Books Relating to America*.

In the *Journal* of the Illinois State Historical Society for September, Jay Monaghan traces the "Origin of Political Symbols" used by the Republican and Democratic parties. Some of the early cartoons in which the parties were symbolized by the elephant and the donkey are reproduced.

The same William Smith and Elizabeth Stearns who figured in Alice Felt Tyler's article on "The Westward Movement as Reflected in Family Papers," published in the issue of this magazine for June, 1943, are the center of interest in her account of "A New England Family on the Illinois Frontier," which appears in the Illinois State Historical Society's recent volume of *Papers in Illinois History* (Springfield, Illinois, 1944). The Smiths migrated from New England to La Harpe, Illinois, in 1838; a generation later their sons were farming on the Minnesota frontier. Mrs. Tyler draws upon family letters for her descriptions of the Smith family's adventures in settlement in these states of the Middle West.

The process of "Building a Pioneer Home" is described in detail by Louis B. Ewbank in the *Indiana Magazine of History* for June. Of special interest is his enumeration of the steps involved in a "raising," a term "applied to the process of piling up logs as the walls of a house or barn" with its attendant festivities. The building of the roof, the laying of the floor, the cutting of doors and windows, and other steps that followed the raising also are described.

An important contribution to the history of the beautiful valley that is shared by Minnesota and Wisconsin is Alice E. Smith's article on "Caleb Cushing's Investments in the St. Croix Valley" in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for September. Miss Smith, a former member of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society who is now head of the map and manuscript division in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, has unearthed a wealth of new material, largely in the Cushing Papers preserved in the Library of Congress. The western venture here

described had its origin in 1845, when, with Rufus Choate and Robert Rantoul, Jr., Cushing organized the St. Croix and Lake Superior Mining Company. The partners evolved a scheme not only for the development of minerals, but of water power and timber resources as well, both at the Falls of the St. Croix and the Falls of St. Anthony. How they influenced, in forwarding their business interests, the determination of the western boundary of Wisconsin upon its admission as a state is one of the important side issues discussed by Miss Smith. She tells of trips that took Cushing as far west as the Falls of St. Anthony in 1846, 1849, and 1857. The extent of his operations both in Wisconsin and Minnesota is reflected in an estimate, found in Cushing's papers, of the St. Croix company's assets and liabilities in 1861. Recounted in some detail is the story of the American statesman's relations with the Norwegian James D. Reymert, who attempted to colonize the St. Croix lands through the Great European American Emigration Land Company after the Civil War. The narrative as a whole centers about St. Croix Falls, where the son of J. Stannard Baker, one of Cushing's agents, is still engaged in the real-estate business.

A dragoon expedition that crossed southwestern Minnesota a century ago and touched the Minnesota River at its junction with the Yellow Medicine is the subject of an article entitled "With Captain Allen in 1844," which appears in the *Palimpsest* for July. The leader of the party was Captain James Allen, who accompanied Schoolcraft when the latter discovered Lake Itasca in 1832. The region investigated by Allen in 1844 was largely within the present area of Iowa, though a few days were spent in traveling from Lake Shetek to the Minnesota and back.

Under the title "When Pembina Was in Iowa," an extract from a *General View of the World* published about 1840 is reprinted in the July issue of the *Annals of Iowa*. It describes Iowa Territory as extending northward to include Fort Snelling, the Red River Valley, and Pembina.

In an article on "The Peace of Michilimackinac" of 1787, which appears in the *Michigan History Magazine* for July-September, Clayton W. McCall describes one of the early attempts to bring about peace between the Sioux and the Chippewa. He relates that among the chiefs who signed the treaty was Red Wing.

*Church Bells in the Forest: A Story of Lutheran Pioneer Work on the Michigan Frontier, 1840-1850* is the title of a little volume by Theodore

Graebner recently issued by the Concordia Publishing House (St. Louis, 1944. 98 p.). It deals with pioneer Lutheran pastors and congregations in the vicinity of Saginaw, and with missionary activity among the Indians of the region.

That "Country-made Trade Goods" produced in Canada at an early date replaced imported articles used by fur traders is brought out by Marius Barbeau in an interesting article appearing in the *Beaver* for September. Accounts, bills of lading, and other records of the North West and Hudson's Bay companies, according to Mr. Barbeau, show that in the early decades of the nineteenth century supplies used by traders as well as Indian trade goods were being manufactured and purchased in Canada. For purposes of barter with the natives and for the maintenance of their voyageurs and traders, the companies invested in vast quantities of food supplies, items of wearing apparel, utensils, canoes, furniture, and trinkets.

#### GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

Articles of incorporation for the Minnesota Folk Arts Foundation were filed with the secretary of state in September, and its organization was completed on September 30, when it held its first meeting in connection with a Folk Arts Conference at the Center for Continuation Study on the campus of the University of Minnesota. The foundation "will endeavor to educate the present and future generations in pioneer folk arts and crafts," as well as "to co-ordinate and supplement the activities of organizations devoted to special fields of the folk arts." Speakers from many parts of the United States and from Canada participated in the conference, which was held on September 29 and 30. Sessions were devoted to such topics as the definition of folklore and folk arts, regional folk arts activities, co-operative handicraft projects, groups in the Northwest engaged in handicraft work, the housing of artifacts, and folk museum projects. Among the speakers were Dr. Robert E. B. Allen of Carleton College, Dean Theodore C. Blegen of the University of Minnesota, Mr. Allen Eaton of the Russell Sage Foundation of New York, Professor Thelma James of Wayne University, Detroit, Miss Meridel Le Sueur of Minneapolis, Professors John T. Flanagan and Laurence Schmeckebier of the University of Minnesota, Mrs. Alice L. Sickels of the International Institute of Detroit, Mr. H. G. L. Strange of Winnipeg, Professor Stith Thompson of the University of Indiana, and Mr. Albin Widen of the

Swedish Information Bureau of Minneapolis. The Minnesota Historical Society was represented on the program by its curator of manuscripts, Dr. Grace Lee Nute, and by the assistant editor of this magazine, Miss Bertha L. Heilbron. Dr. Lewis Beeson, acting superintendent of the society, was elected to the board of directors of the foundation.

The removal to the National Archives of more than three tons of records accumulated at Fort Snelling since 1850 was announced in July. Financial reports and accounts, records of military operations, and information about units of the regular army, especially the Third United States Infantry, stationed at Fort Snelling in various periods are among the materials transferred to Washington.

A comprehensive annotated bibliography of books relating to Minnesota history up to 1818 is now in preparation at the University of Minnesota, under the general supervision of its library. According to present plans, the bibliography will include all material on the subject published before 1818 and all later publications referring to the period before that year.

Examples of trade goods discovered in the course of excavations at Shakopee, Prairie Island, and other Minnesota sites are described in the July number of the *Minnesota Archaeologist*. Illustrating articles by George Flaskerd, Harvey Soulen, and B. W. Thayer are interesting drawings showing the tools, ornaments, and other articles that the Minnesota Indians received from the white man in exchange for furs. The leading article in the issue is a field report by Lloyd A. Wilford of "Indian Burials Near Black Dog's Village." An article by Dr. Wilford will be found elsewhere in the present issue of *Minnesota History*.

In a series of articles on "forgotten best sellers that influenced America," appearing in the *New York Times Book Review*, Stewart Holbrook includes one, in the issue for July 30, entitled "A Congressman Rediscovered Atlantis." It deals with Ignatius Donnelly and his literary output, with emphasis on his *Atlantis*, published by Harpers in 1882. After telling something of Donnelly's experiences in townsite promotion and in politics, Mr. Holbrook writes: "Nininger City has been ghostly since 1857, and the Populists have long since been forgotten except by historians; but Donnelly would be pleased to know that the House of Harper will bring out another big printing of 'Atlantis' just as soon as

paper restrictions permit." Mr. Holbrook characterizes the Minnesota Congressman as "perhaps the most erudite man ever to sit in the House."

The St. Paul Festival of Nations, particularly that held in the spring of 1942, is discussed by Professor Samuel M. Strong of Macalester College in the March issue of *Social Forces* under the title "Observations on the Possibility of Attitude Modification: A Case of Nationality and Racial Group Interrelationships in Wartime." The writer has found that "there is great consciousness of nationality backgrounds and differences" in Minnesota, and that its "people nurture in varying degrees a lively interest in the distant Old Country." Despite the fact that many of the local groups were split by war issues, they found it possible to co-operate in a common festival in 1942, Professor Strong points out.

"A Half Century of Progress" by the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs is commemorated in the June issue of the *Minnesota Clubwoman*, which devotes several articles to the history of the federation. Its organization in 1894 and its early meetings are reviewed by Mrs. M. A. Crinkley and Mrs. R. E. Van Kirk. A feature of the anniversary meeting, which was held in Minneapolis on June 7, was a pageant depicting early meetings and activities of the federation.

Dr. John M. Armstrong's sketch of "Edward Purcell, The First Physician in Minnesota" is reprinted from the *Annals of Medical History* for 1935 in the September number of *Minnesota Medicine*. The article is presented in the Minnesota journal as a chapter in the "History of Medicine in Minnesota" which it has been issuing in installments for some years. The final sections of Dr. Roscoe C. Hunt's catalogue of "Pioneer Physicians of Faribault County," which forms part of the same series, appear in the July and August issues.

The Pond brothers, Samuel and Gideon, Dr. Thomas S. Williamson, Stephen R. Riggs, and other members of the Dakota mission figure prominently in a *History of Mankato Presbytery, Originally Dakota Presbytery, Synod of Minnesota*, compiled by a historical committee of the presbytery (1944. 125 p.). Its publication marks the centennial of the organization of the Dakota presbytery at the Lac qui Parle mission in September, 1844. More than half of the volume is devoted to a review of the history of the presbytery. The narrative opens with an account of the Dakota mission, its founding in 1834, its role in the Sioux



War of 1862, and its subsequent removal to Dakota Territory. The establishment of the Dakota presbytery in 1844 and its reorganization as the Mankato presbytery in 1867 are then described. A useful feature of the book is provided in a section devoted to the "Churches of Mankato Presbytery Today," forty-six in number, arranged chronologically. Following the location, the official name, and the date of the organization of each church, is a fairly detailed sketch of its history. Listed more briefly are churches that have been transferred to other presbyteries and churches that no longer exist.

Scores of Minnesota localities and Minnesota events are celebrated in verse, largely from the pens of local poets, in *Minnesota Skyline: Anthology of Poems about Minnesota*, which has been edited for the League of Minnesota Poets by its president, Mrs. Carmen Nelson Richards (Minneapolis, 1944. 141 p.). The state's pioneers, leaders like Henry H. Sibley and Knute Nelson, railroads, the iron mines, the Mayo Clinic, the Pipestone Quarry, the state flower, and the city of Duluth are among the varied subjects that have inspired Minnesota poets to write about their environment. Descriptive verse there is also in profusion about the lakes and rivers, the woods and plains, the North Shore, the rapids and waterfalls that add variety to the Minnesota scene. Poems about almost every section and every feature of Minnesota life are to be found in the book.

The "herbal simples" that every Pioneer mother needed to care for her family" are the center of interest in Orcella Rexford's unusual catalogue of *101 Useful Weeds and Wildings* (Denver, 1942. 143 p.). In her introduction, the author gives credit to her grandmother, a Minnesota pioneer, for teaching her the medical uses and food values of wild plants and berries. For the pioneer who understood how to use them, writes Miss Rexford, the Minnesota woods and prairies offered a "continuous procession of good things." Through the seasons, she traces the plants available in Minnesota and explains their uses. By late autumn "each plant had been picked, brought into the log-cabin, dried, packaged, labelled and placed in containers in the attic loft," she relates, while "small amounts were placed in pottery jars in a little herbal cabinet, which hung close to the fireplace." The "instructions about gathering plants, barks, roots, seeds and flowers" given by the pioneer grandmother also are recounted. The bulk of the booklet is devoted to an alphabetical list of plants with discussions of their uses.

The student of Lake Superior history will find some information of value in a *Report and Supplement* published recently by the International Board of Inquiry for the Great Lakes Fisheries (Washington, 1943. 213 p.). "Changes in Production" in the Lake Superior fisheries are described in a section that is supported by detailed statistics, covering the years from 1879 to 1940.

The contributions of Jacob V. Brower are given recognition in a brief sketch which appears with his portrait in the *Akeley Herald-Tribune* for September 1. The occasion for its publication is the centennial of Brower's birth. His detailed exploration of the Itasca basin, which became the center for a state park as a result of his work, is recalled in the present sketch.

### WAR HISTORY ACTIVITIES

The *War Records Collector* of the American Association for State and Local History continues to publish in its monthly issues statements about special projects or policies by experts in specific fields. Professor Francis P. Weisenburger of Ohio State University, who formerly served as executive secretary of the Ohio War History Commission, draws upon his own experience to discuss "Local War History Projects in Relation to the State Project" in the July issue. "War Records Work through the State Defense Council," as illustrated by the Illinois war records project, is described in the August number by Stanley Erikson, historian of the Illinois War Council's division of war records and research. In the September issue, Christopher Crittenden, secretary of the North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, undertakes to answer the question, "What Should the Collector of War Records Do About State and Local Archives?" A valuable feature of the July number is a "Selected Bibliography of State and Local War Records Work" compiled by the editor, Lester J. Cappon. A statement about the work of the Minnesota War History Committee is included in the August number.

A resolution urging government agencies to keep adequate war records was passed by the American Political Science Association at its annual meeting on January 20, according to an article on "Recording of World War II" in the *American Political Science Review* for April.

"Local War History Material in College and University Libraries" is the subject of an article by Edgar W. King in *College and Research*

*Libraries* for September. The contributions of college and university libraries toward the collection of local war history materials are given special consideration. Among the subjects mentioned are the civilian contributions of faculty members and alumni, changes in curriculum, army and navy specialized training programs, wartime organizations and publications, the collecting of letters, diaries, and archives, and the arrangement of material.

A historical review of the work of the Indiana War History Commission, a statement of its purposes, and a summary of its accomplishments are contributed by John D. Barnhart to the *Indiana Magazine of History* for September. Local war history organizations in Indiana are listed and their accomplishments are briefly described in the issues of the *Indiana History Bulletin* for May and September. Dr. Lester J. Cappon of the University of Virginia presented an address before a meeting of the state commission on June 9, according to the June issue.

"War Records Work in Iowa" by the war records division of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives is reviewed in the *Annals of Iowa* for July. Both the assembling of material about men and women in the armed services and the preservation of records of war activities at home are considered.

The August number of *Communiqué*, a publication of the Ohio War History Commission, presents a "Suggested Guide for the Collection of Civilian Defense Records." The commission also has issued a nine-page booklet in which are listed, for the special benefit of local war history workers, the types of records recommended for collection and preservation.

A report on the progress of war records work in Oregon and the collection and preservation of material in that state appears in the *Oregon History Quarterly* for September.

The *Minnesota Defense Council Bulletin* for July 31 advocates the saving of local defense council records and makes suggestions for their preservation. In the issue for September 15 the present organization of the state division of civilian defense, consisting of a citizens' service corps and a war bond department, is described. The encouragement of war history work in Minnesota localities is a function of the citizens' service corps.

The Army Student Training program in Macalester College in 1943 and 1944 is described in a report of eight pages prepared by Hollis L. Johnson, co-ordinator between the Army and the college faculty, and presented by Dr. Charles J. Turck, president of the college. The report was prepared at the termination of the program, under which men who were training for the Army Air Corps were enrolled in college courses.

A copy of volume 1, number 1, of the continental edition of the *Stars and Stripes*, published "somewhere in France" on July 4, 1944, has been added to the collections of the Minnesota War History Committee by Dr. A. A. VanDyke of St. Paul.

Judge Nels M. Engen of Warren, president of the Marshall County Historical Society, has been named chairman of the local war history committee.

### LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Minnesota is credited with no fewer than sixty-six historical societies in the newly published volume on *Historical Societies in the United States and Canada: A Handbook*, which has been edited by Christopher Crittenden and Doris Godard for the American Association for State and Local History (Washington, 1944. 261 p.). Although the figure is not entirely reliable, it does reflect a substantial growth since 1936, when the Conference of Historical Societies issued the last previous edition of the *Handbook*. In the earlier volume, Minnesota was represented by only thirty-five organizations. Of the sixty-six appearing in the present compilation, twenty-four are in a "Supplementary List" of societies for which only incomplete data were available. It is unfortunate that such active organizations as the Washington and Waseca county societies should be relegated to this category. One society, the Pioneer Historical Association of Montgomery, is included both in the regular and in the supplementary list. The Hutchinson Historical Society, which is given on the latter list, no longer exists as a separate organization, but merely as a chapter of the McLeod County society. More serious, however, is the placing on the Minnesota list of the Thunder Bay Historical Society of Fort William, Ontario. This enterprising Canadian organization fails to appear on the list for Ontario. But even when these errors have been taken into account, Minnesota's record in the field of local historical organization remains a favorable one. According to the *Handbook*, it is surpassed by only six

states — Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

The location of the Nicollet County Historical Society's museum in a building formerly used as a store in the business district of St. Peter has certain advantages, for facing the street are two attractive windows that can be used for display purposes. Thus the St. Peter museum is in a position to follow the advice of Mr. Clifford P. Wilson, director of the museum of the Hudson's Bay Company at Winnipeg, who tells modern museums that they must compete with store-window and other commercial displays (see *ante*, p. 83).

Since the museum opened in the Kronsburg Building in February, 1944, the windows have been in constant use for exhibits that are newly arranged each month, according to the curator, Mrs. M. E. Stone. She finds that they are an important factor in attracting visitors.

The Nicollet County society has been collecting material for a museum since 1930, but until the Kronsburg Building was made available in the summer of 1943, its holdings were stored in the basement of a local bank. Most of the society's museum displays are now arranged in a large, well-lighted room facing the street, while a second room at the rear is used chiefly for storage and for board meetings. It does, however, contain a few exhibits, consisting chiefly of small tools and household implements displayed on open shelves.

In the main museum room are most of the displays, arranged in five wall cases and in long open shelves or cases dividing the room at the center. The latter are used largely for linens, bedding, children's dresses, women's lingerie, and the like, all of which have been beautifully laundered and attractively folded in large boxes. They are kept under cover except when the museum is open. Four models are used for the display of women's costumes.

Among the special items grouped for exhibition are children's toys, including a doll and several items of toy furniture; household utensils, such as iron kettles, a waffle iron, an egg beater, candle molds, irons, and iron stands of various designs; a number of early sewing machines; the surgical instruments that belonged to a pioneer physician, Dr. A. W. Daniels; firearms; and pictures. The latter include a panoramic photograph of St. Peter in 1868, an oil painting of the Nicollet County Fair by Adelaide Magner, and a portrait in oil of Martin Williams, a pioneer journalist.

There are a number of articles reminiscent of the career of General William C. Brown, and the society hopes eventually to acquire his papers, which have been in the hands of his biographer, George F. Brimlow. The biography, which was recently published, will be reviewed in an early issue of this magazine. Some years ago General Brown gave the society \$500.00 to be used toward a museum building. With \$2,000.00 appropriated by the county board and several small bequests, this sum is being held until the organization can erect its own building.

In arranging the Nicollet County museum, Mrs. Stone has made excellent use of the facilities at hand. She keeps an accessions list with consecutive numbers, which appear on the descriptive labels of all articles. On the two days a week that she devotes to museum work, the rooms are open to visitors. Special openings are arranged in connection with meetings of the historical society or other local organizations and groups. For such occasions special displays usually are prepared. Some of these have centered about lamps and lighting equipment, handwork and embroidering, costumes and accessories, and the equipment needed for yarn making, spinning, and weaving. The local newspapers have co-operated with the society by giving good publicity to such exhibits.

The Nicollet County society is looking forward to the day when it will be housed in a fireproof structure specially adapted to its purposes. In the meantime the Kronsburg Building will serve both for the display and the storage of its collections.

B.L.H.

Lake and St. Louis counties, the Thunder Bay district of Ontario, and the Minnesota Historical Society were represented by speakers on the program presented at Two Harbors on August 5 before the sixteenth annual North Shore Historical Assembly. Speaking for the Canadian organization, Captain H. A. Oaks reviewed the story of "Pioneering Aviation in Northwestern Ontario"; Dr. Richard Bardon of the St. Louis County Society spoke on the work of "Pioneer Doctors"; and Mr. Paul A. Essen, president of the Lake County society, presided. A message from the Reverend Oswald Johannes, president of the Cook County society, who was unable to be present, was read by Judge William E. Scott of Two Harbors. "The Significance of the North Shore" was the topic discussed by Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts on the staff of the state society.

A reminiscent talk about pioneer life in Anoka was presented by Mrs. Mary Faherty before the Anoka County Historical Society on August 21.

An appropriation of five hundred dollars was granted to the Becker County Historical Society by the county board at a meeting held at Detroit Lakes on July 10. During the week of August 6, the society displayed at the county fair photographs of Becker County men and women in the armed forces. An appeal for pictures for display and for the society's permanent file was published in the *Detroit Lakes Tribune* for August 3.

The removal of the museum of the Carver County Historical Society from Mayer to Waconia was accomplished during the summer months. Three large rooms on the ground floor of the Waconia school, a fire-proof structure, are now occupied by this local historical museum. If present plans materialize, the museum will be open to the public five days a week. Its collections now comprise nearly five thousand items, all assembled since the Carver County society was organized in April, 1940.

The Chippewa Region Historical Society, which maintains a museum at Cass Lake, received an appropriation of a hundred dollars from the county board, according to an announcement in the *Cass Lake Times* of August 24.

"It is encouraging to know that Chippewa county, through its historical society," is "trying to preserve the story of our pioneer settlers," writes J. K. Johnson in the *Milan Standard* for July 21. He looks upon the recent death of a local pioneer of 1866, Mrs. Thomina Golden Olson, as a warning that delay in collecting will mean the permanent loss of much valuable material about the history of the county. "The day will soon be here when 'firsthand' information will be impossible to secure," Mr. Johnson concludes.

About nineteen hundred people gathered at Lac qui Parle State Park on July 23 for the summer meeting and annual picnic arranged by the Chippewa County Historical Society. Speakers included Mrs. A. N. Kohr of Montevideo, who welcomed the visitors and paid a tribute to the pioneers of the vicinity, and Congressman H. Carl Andersen, who discussed post-war problems. Presiding was Dr. Anna Amrud, president of the society.

Under the terms of the will of Mrs. John C. Mills, who died in April, her former home at Preston becomes the property of the Fillmore County Historical Society. Mrs. Mills was the society's curator and historian.

More than two hundred members and friends of the Hennepin County Historical Society attended an "open house" in its new museum at 1516 Harmon Place, Minneapolis, on October 7. The house, which formerly was used by A. E. Merrill as a residence, was presented to the society by the Hennepin County board of county commissioners. A display window facing the street and a spacious annex at the rear add greatly to the structure's usefulness for museum purposes. In order to help maintain the new quarters, where heat, light, and janitor service must be furnished by the society, it has increased its dues somewhat and is calling upon members for small donations. A feature of the society's October bulletin, *Hennepin County History*, is a talk on the "History and Creation of Hennepin County" presented by one of its members, Mr. Guy Alexander, on July 2, when the U. S. S. "Hennepin" was launched at Superior, Wisconsin.

Dr. Charles Turck, president of Macalester College, was the principal speaker at the summer meeting of the Martin County Historical Society, which was held at Fairmont on August 27. About two hundred people heard his address, in which he made a plea for a world alliance. Presiding was the president of the society, Judge Julius E. Haycraft.

A marker erected by the Meeker County Historical Society near Manannah, to commemorate the massacre there on August 26, 1862, of four settlers, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on September 10. The marker is one of four that the society plans to erect on or near sites where settlers were killed during the Sioux War of 1862. The speaker for the occasion was Mr. John Brandt of Minneapolis, who is descended from a pioneer Meeker County family. Dr. A. C. Nelson, president of the local historical society, presided. He is the author of a brief sketch of the Manannah massacre, appearing in a booklet issued in connection with the dedication ceremonies. Another feature of the booklet is a sketch of the Meeker County Historical Society, with an account of its activities since its organization in February, 1941, and an outline of its plans for the future.

An appropriation of three hundred dollars for the work of the Nicollet County Historical Society was made by the Nicollet County board at its September meeting. The society's museum in St. Peter is described elsewhere in this issue.

Taking as his subject "Our Obligations to the Pioneers of Yesterday," Governor Edward J. Thye addressed the annual meeting of the Nobles



County Historical Society at Worthington on August 20. Honorary membership in the organization was conferred upon the Governor. At a business session held on the same day Mrs. M. H. Bassett was elected president, Stanley E. Nelson, vice-president, E. D. Swanberg, treasurer, and J. P. Hoffman, secretary. Another program arranged by the Nobles County society was presented before the weekly meeting of the Worthington Kiwanis Club on August 8. The work of the society was described by some of its officers, several objects from its museum were displayed, and copies of its *Bulletin* were distributed among the seventy members of the club who attended. This well-arranged mimeographed quarterly continues to appear at regular intervals. The July number announces the program for the annual meeting, lists the officers who have served the society since its organization in 1933, and carries interesting notes about its museum and recent accessions. An editorial invites co-operation in preserving for the society's museum objects used by the pioneers of Nobles County "in this country, or in the land of their birth."

An appeal for greater financial support for the state's local historical societies and particularly for the Otter Tail County Historical Society is made by Elmer E. Adams in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* of August 1. Emphasis is placed upon the problems of the latter organization. Its collections have been built up, Mr. Adams writes, largely through the efforts of Mr. E. T. Barnard, who also has arranged its museum in the courthouse at Fergus Falls. The museum, however, cannot be kept open because funds with which to pay the salary of a curator are lacking. The society's interesting museum displays and its valuable collections of newspapers and manuscripts should be available to the public if the organization is to fulfill the objectives for which it was founded. County or state funds are needed to maintain the work of the local historical societies, Mr. Adams asserts.

At its September meeting, the county board of Rice County set aside the sum of three hundred dollars to forward the work of the Rice County Historical Society during the coming year. Appearing before the board on behalf of the society was a committee consisting of Mr. Frederick Jenkins, its president, Dr. Nelson Vance Russell of the department of history in Carleton College, Mrs. H. C. Theopold, and Mr. Donald Scott. Elaborate plans were made for the society's annual meeting at Faribault on November 1.

Problems relating to the maintenance of the museum of the Roseau County Historical Society were discussed at its annual meeting, which was held at Roseau on June 29. It was decided that funds are necessary to pay a salary to the curator, Mr. P. O. Fryklund, in order that he might devote his full time to the care of the museum collections and keep its rooms open to the public. Officers of the society elected at the meeting are Mr. Louis Enstrom, president, Mr. M. H. Grefthen, vice-president, Mr. J. Snustad, secretary, and Mr. C. B. Dahlquist, treasurer.

Plans for an exhibit at the county fair were made by the Waseca County Historical Society at a meeting held in Waseca on July 3. Gifts received by the society in recent months announced at the meeting are listed in the *Waseca Journal* for July 5.

About forty members of the Washington County Historical Society traveled to Prairie du Chien on September 30 to visit the former home of the Dousman family, the Villa Louis. While they were in the Wisconsin city, they were entertained by Mrs. Frederic R. Bigelow of St. Paul, a granddaughter of Hercules L. Dousman, who built the mansion. As a representative of the American Fur Company on the upper Mississippi, Dousman played an important role in the fur trade of the Northwest. Other sites of historic interest viewed by the visitors in Prairie du Chien were St. Gabriel's Church with the near-by grave of Father Lucien Galtier, an old French cemetery, and the Astor fur trading house on the river. A detailed account of the pilgrimage appears in the *Stillwater Evening Gazette* for October 2 and 3.

### LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

The significance of such narratives of pioneer life as those which the Reverend Charles E. McColley has been contributing to several southern Minnesota newspapers (see *ante*, p. 210, 314) is given recognition in an editorial published in the *Blue Earth County Enterprise* of Mapleton for August 3. The editor of the *Enterprise* — one of the papers in which Mr. McColley's articles have appeared regularly — expresses gratification over the numerous favorable comments, including that of the Minnesota Historical Society, received from readers. This interest, he points out, "calls attention to a function of weekly newspapers far too often neglected by their editors" and readers alike. "That is the function of recording the current history of the paper's community; the day by day, week by week

events, large and small that make up the community's life; the comings and goings and doings of its people, the births and deaths, social events, burnings and buildings, business changes, improvements, market quotations, school events, prices of commodities set forth in advertisements, and a hundred other items that form historical background. . . . The weekly should exist by concentrating on its local field of news," the editor believes. "That is what its subscribers expect to get when they buy it—a reflection of their community's life. It records their history." It follows, the editor points out, that the permanent preservation of bound files is of prime importance. "An understanding of the paper's historical function" has caused the *Enterprise* not only to bind its files but to publish Mr. McColley's articles. The publication of his narratives in an additional paper, the *Lake Crystal Tribune*, began early in August.

A souvenir booklet issued on June 29 to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul at Blue Earth contains an interesting sketch of Catholic activity in one section of Faribault County. According to this account, the first Catholic service was conducted at Blue Earth in 1863, and three years later a mission was established there and a simple church was built.

An interesting contribution to the record of Minneapolis industry is a *History of the Glenwood-Inglewood Springs*, published to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of their use for commercial purposes (1944. 10 p.). The story of the springs is traced back to 1884, when W. H. Fruen discovered near Bassett's Creek a clear spring with a flow of water that measured more than ten thousand gallons per hour. The commercial development of the spring, which was given the name of Glenwood, and of the near-by Inglewood Spring, and their consolidation into a single company in 1896 are among the subjects touched upon in this attractive booklet.

A brief historical sketch of the John Hus Presbyterian Church of Hopkins has been issued as a multigraphed pamphlet. It reveals that the church was organized in 1887 by a group of Czech Protestants who had settled in the vicinity of Hopkins. Czech settlement in the vicinity is traced back to 1855, when Joseph Bren and his family arrived.

The role of the "Cousin Jack" or Cornish miner in the Minnesota iron range country is the theme of the column entitled "Up in This Neck of the Woods" in the *Grand Rapids Herald-Review* for August 30. Spe-

cial attention is given to the story of Mr. Briton C. Prout of Virginia, a Cornishman who went to northern Minnesota shortly after the discovery of ore on the Vermilion Range. He "saw the first trainload of iron ore go out of Tower" in 1884, according to this account, and he later worked for the Oliver Iron Mining Company on the Mesabi. The Arcturus mine on the western Mesabi, which was owned by J. E. Hayward of St. Cloud, and its development are described in the column published on August 16. In the issue for July 5, the columnist reviews the career of Mr. Frank Gran, a Finnish pioneer whose father settled in Trout Lake Township in 1893.

The Reverend O. J. Wagnild is the author of a little *History of the Norwegian Settlements in Jackson County, Minnesota*, a district in which he served as pastor of several Norwegian Lutheran congregations in the 1890's (1944). Much of the booklet, which consists of about sixty unnumbered pages, is devoted to the history of Lutheran churches in Jackson County. In a brief introductory section, however, the author reviews the story of Norwegian settlement in Jackson County, beginning with the arrival of the first pioneers in 1860, and dwelling upon the misfortunes that followed the settlers in the Sioux War, the grasshopper plagues, and prairies fires. Among the centers of settlement described is Brownsburg, where an early mill and store were located.

The reminiscences of a pioneer Fairmont teacher, Frances M. Hunt of Framingham, Massachusetts, are published in the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel* of August 4 to commemorate the paper's seventieth anniversary. Miss Hunt recalls the country school in which she taught in the summer of 1874 while living with her brother, Dr. Winslow Hunt, as well as the grammar school in Fairmont where she served somewhat later. The many local families that were represented in her classroom are named by the writer.

The early years of a Norwegian settlement in Brighton Township of Nicollet County are recalled by Mrs. S. O. Peterson in the *New Ulm Daily Journal* for July 18 and 19. The writer is the only surviving member of a group of seven Norwegian families that emigrated from Dane County, Wisconsin, to the Brighton settlement in the summer of 1856. She names the members of the colony, relates the story of the trip by covered wagon from Wisconsin, describes frontier living conditions, tells of the relations between the Norwegians and their Yankee neighbors,

recalls the trying experiences of the Sioux War, and describes the early school and church of the community. Her narrative, which was prepared for presentation at a recent celebration of the ninetieth anniversary of the Brighton Methodist Church, gives special attention to its beginnings. The article appears also in the *St. Peter Herald* for July 28.

The fiftieth anniversary of the forest fire which demolished the community on September 1, 1894, was marked at Hinckley with appropriate ceremonies on September 3. Among the speakers were Professor O. B. Jesness of the University of Minnesota and Dr. E. L. Stephan, a survivor of the fire. Feature articles about the catastrophe appear in many Minnesota newspapers, including the *Hinckley News* for August 31, the *Duluth News-Tribune* for August 27, the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for August 27, and the *Minneapolis Tribune* for August 27.

That "Realty Trade Here is Century Old" is brought out by Carl Hennemann in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for July 2, where he describes the first deed for the transfer of property on the site of what is now the city of St. Paul. The story is based upon the first entry in the earliest volume in the office of the Ramsey County register of deeds. It calls for the transfer from Henry Jackson to William Hartshorn of a half interest in three acres of land at the foot of the present Jackson Street. The deed, which is dated July 1, 1844, was recorded at Stillwater, then the county seat of St. Croix County, Wisconsin, which extended westward to the Mississippi.

Some early Duluth railroad history is recalled in an article by Norman Levine in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for July 16, where announcement is made that the trestle built in 1888 and long used by the Great Northern Railroad is to be demolished. An incident in the story of Great Lakes transportation to Duluth is the subject of another article published in the *News-Tribune* for July 23. Mary Cole, the author, there tells how the "America" weathered a disastrous storm on November 28, 1905. Part of her narrative is based upon an interview with Mr. Thor Hagen, a Duluth pioneer who served as wheelsman on the "America."

The house at Stillwater long occupied by Judge and Mrs. William M. McCluer is the subject of an article by Betty Roney which appears with a picture of the structure in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for July 9. Particular attention is given to the house as a center of cultural activity.



Copyright of **Minnesota History** is the property of the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, or email articles, however, for individual use.

To request permission for educational or commercial use, [contact us](#).