

Reviews of Books

The Letters of John McLoughlin from Fort Vancouver to the Governor and Committee, second series, 1839-44 (Hudson's Bay Record Society, *Publications*, vol. 6). Edited by E. E. RICH, M.A. With an introduction by W. KAYE LAMB, Ph.D. (Published by the Champlain Society for the Hudson's Bay Record Society, 1943. xlix, 427 p. Illustrations.)

It is seldom that a book of many documents reduces itself so simply as this one to the discussion of a few topics. As the introduction reveals in clear-cut fashion, these letters show that two decisions of Sir George Simpson in 1841 and 1842 brought about a rupture in the friendship so long sustained between him and Dr. John McLoughlin. The first decision was the result of Simpson's visit to the Northwest coast on his famous earth-girdling trip, and consisted of two parts: to reduce the number of trading posts, for the establishment and prestige of which McLoughlin had been pridefully responsible; and, in consequence of this decrease in land establishments, to make the company's steamer of paramount importance on that coast, despite McLoughlin's known opposition to that course. McLoughlin felt that he had been humiliated by this decision of his superior officer, which reversed his own conclusions and seemed to indicate poor judgment on his part.

The second decision was Simpson's hasty, opportunistic, and cold-blooded verdict as to the cause of the murder of McLoughlin's mixed-blood son, John McLoughlin, who was in charge of the Stikine post in his father's jurisdiction at the time of the tragedy. An account of young McLoughlin's career has occupied some space in this quarterly, for he was one of "General" James Dickson's filibustering party, which crossed the Minnesota country from Lake Superior in 1836. This was his native heath, for he was born, apparently, at his father's North West Company post in the Rainy Lake area in 1812. After a remarkably fine education in Canada and France in preparation for a medical career, he upset his father's plans by getting into a scrape in France and being sent home to eastern Canada. Simpson jumped to conclusions on learning of the murder and, partly to be rid of a burdensome cause for delay,

accepted evidence which Dr. McLoughlin later proved false and defamatory.

The two decisions of an efficient but ungenerous and ignoble character were unfortunate for the company. McLoughlin became unbalanced in his mania for proving Simpson wrong, and this obsession spoiled his efficiency as an administrator of an important region, and his relations with other company men. Though the volume does not cover the entire episode of the murder and its consequences, the editor anticipates the next volume in this series by showing that the sequel of these two decisions was the severance of McLoughlin's services to the company.

Despite the preponderance of data on these two topics, the letters afford much information on the missionaries, both Protestant and Catholic, in Oregon; the American invasion of that area; the visits of explorers, scientists, and others; the history of the fur trade on the California, Oregon, and Northwest coasts, and even back into the interior; and Russian activities in Alaska and on the Northwest coast. In Appendix B there are detailed biographies of most of the characters of importance mentioned in the main portion of the volume. There is also an index of nearly twenty pages.

All in all, this is a worthy successor to the other volumes issued from the archives of this ancient company, whose history is so closely linked with that of over half of the entire North American continent. Fortunately, despite wartime restrictions, the quality of paper and other stock used in publishing the books has not deteriorated as volume after volume has appeared. Two fine illustrations, both from drawings by Henry J. Warre, embellish this latest book. One is of Fort George, formerly Astoria; the other is of the dalles of the Columbia River.

GRACE LEE NUTE

The Swedes and the Swedish Settlements in North America (Kungl. Humanistiska Vetenskapssamfundet i Lund, *Publications*, vol. 37). In two volumes. By HELGE NELSON, professor of geography in the University of Lund. (Lund, Sweden, C.W.K. Gleerup; New York, Albert Bonnier, 1943. 441, 73 p. Illustrations, maps. \$35.00.)

The author of this pretentious work prepared himself for the task by undertaking four journeys to Swedish settlements in the United States and Canada and by consulting publications pertaining to the history of Swedish immigration and of the United States. He is the author of a

two-volume work, published in 1926, and of numerous monographs and articles dealing with aspects of the subject. He was also an active member of the research staff which brought forth a monumental survey of the causes of emigration and the effects of the exodus on Sweden at the time its government and people were on the alert for a campaign to counteract the "America fever." The text and the excellent maps, photographs, tables, and graphs of the present work never permit the reviewer to lose sight of the fact that the author is a competent geographer and that his primary interest is to demonstrate the play of geographic influences on the million and a half Swedes who plunged into the American melting pot. The maps represent enormous research and skill in the presentation of data that cannot be adequately explained in words. To add to his labors, the author compiled tables comparing the Swedes with certain other immigrant stocks—statistics of intermarriage and the like. The emphasis of the book is centered on the decade from 1920 to 1930; and the distribution of the Swedish stock is based on the United States census for 1930 and that of Canada for 1931. The bibliography is good but not comprehensive; and the index has the anemic appearance common to similar listless appendages found in books published in Sweden. The format of the volumes proves that the author had ample financial support for his project.

The first seven chapters place the immigration movement in the geographic setting; state the objectives of the study; examine the geographic factors in Sweden and in North America; trace the westward movement of the American population; probe the forces operating to distribute the immigrants, such as land policies, topography, climate, religion, and gregarious instincts; and look at the occupations of the immigrants. The Finland Swedes and the Delaware Swedes rate separate chapters, the latter of which is out of proportion. Thirteen chapters, some of them extended, take up settlements in the various areas and in individual states and in Canada. In the concluding chapters the author invades the fields of language transition and Americanization—his pet subject—and the social value of the immigrants and their descendants, and finally probes into the future by speculating about their importance in the years to come.

Unlike most historians who make a polite bow to physiography in a preliminary chapter—and forget all about it in subsequent chapters—Professor Nelson has correlated American history with geographic conditions. It was perhaps inevitable that his production leaves something to be desired from the standpoint of unity. That the Swedish settlements are distributed from coast to coast is no fault of his; but "island-hopping"

becomes monotonous and meticulous. A compact, concise, and, at the same time, inclusive synthesis of the whole story is missing. Moreover, the economy of space is faulty. Thumbnail sketches of settlements demand the distillation of the best available sources of information and the condensation or elimination of conversations with settlers or old-timers.

Historians and their subjects—assuming they are still among the living—might argue that Professor Nelson has overemphasized climate and terrain as factors determining the establishment of Swedish settlements. It would be hard to prove or disprove; certainly there are elusive factors. It may or may not be significant that the writers of America letters waxed enthusiastic about the freedom and opportunities America bestowed upon them and in a minor key sang about climate and scenery. There is a note of regret that Uncle Sam made it too hot for them in summer and too cold for them in winter. Natural resources meant fertile soil and good jobs; but the Arctic cold of Minnesota and the bleak prairies of Iowa and Illinois were hardly inducements. The historian might also quarrel with the geographer over the proportions of the entire book and over the selection and appraisal of individuals who are singled out for special mention; but individuals should be and are incidental to the author's thesis.

It is the prerogative of the geographer to venture into the field of history; and when he moves in, he assumes the same obligation as does the historian to present his material with clarity, accuracy, proportion, and literary skill. A scholar owes it to his profession to submit his manuscript to a translator who avoids blunders that would justly meet criticism in his own country if the tables were turned. Professor Nelson's volumes will attract many readers within academic circles in Sweden; and they will also find their way to the shelves of libraries in the United States and in Europe where they will be consulted by neophytes as well as by trained scholars. The work has so many substantial qualities that it is all the more lamentable that it falls far short of American standards of scholarship and usage. Irregularities abound in footnote citations, capitalization, punctuation, proper and place names, tenses, sentence construction, abbreviations, and use of words. The awkward style and sentence structure are sometimes as amusing as the butchering of the King's English in letters written by immigrants. Some errors in the text are corrected in the index; but even this treatment leaves all too many in an unhealthy state. And, by the way, American states and climate are not "healthy." The Swedish verb "*mend*" is not always the equivalent of "means," and certainly not the

equivalent of "thinks" and "believes." State and federal governments made cessions of land, not "sessions." "Little numerous" is positively out, and so is "clever" for "competent" and "efficient." In captions for photographs "Augustana" appears as "Augusta," and "Denkman Memory Library" for "Denkmann Memorial Library." Even the world-renowned Anton J. Carlson of the University of Chicago gets an "A" instead of "J as in Julius." These are only a few of the irregularities that a competent editorial staff would have caught.

GEORGE M. STEPHENSON

Music Master of the Middle West: The Story of F. Melius Christiansen and the St. Olaf Choir. By LEOLA NELSON BERGMANN. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1944. v, 230 p. Illustrations. \$2.50.)

In the autumn of 1888, when the "gay nineties, Diamond Lil, and 'After the Ball is Over' were just around the corner," a good-looking Norwegian lad with fiddle in hand passed New York immigration authorities to board a train for California. Ahead lay the lure of a land of wealth and ease and promises; behind him stretched Norway with its poor, unhappy and ill-at-ease. Like many another immigrant, F. Melius Christiansen through the years that followed found promised ease and wealth and comfort achieved only after disappointments and by hard work. Then and then only did the sparkle of fine words refine themselves into the gold of security. But to Dr. Christiansen, like to some others, success did come, and America was all, perhaps even more, than he ever had dreamed.

Young Christiansen was not one to shun the hard way even if it meant ignoring his music to polish soles in a shoe factory, to set type in the office of a San Francisco Danish newspaper, and to toy with the idea of playing in a circus band. He studied English in a Wisconsin high school and he sought to capture the elusive manners of American life. Always he looked to the time when he might devote himself exclusively to music. His first job as a musician was that of director of the Scandinavian Band at Marinette, Wisconsin. This he gave up in order to continue his schooling at Augsburg College in Minneapolis and then he returned to Norway for a visit and went on to Leipzig to spend two happy years under Germany's musical masters. When he returned to the United States, he established himself as a music teacher in Minneapolis, taking part in the cultural life of the city. In 1903 he became director of the band and chorus and teacher

of violin and the theory of music at St. Olaf College. From that time until he retired in 1944, Dr. Christiansen's musical genius centered in Northfield, whence it radiated to influence choral work not only in the United States, but also abroad. He made the St. Olaf Choir synonymous with almost perfect group singing.

To tell the story and catch the spirit of a Mid-west music master is no easy task. Leola Nelson Bergmann has succeeded admirably. She was fortunate enough to sing with Dr. Christiansen's choir for four years and thus she had an opportunity to watch, with eyes that seem to have missed little, the development of a group of voices into a matchless singing ensemble of "celestial purity." It would be difficult, indeed, to select any one section of her little book as outstanding, for each chapter is marked by smooth interpretation and literary grace that lift the story far above the mere mechanical marshaling of facts common to too much current biographical writing. Perhaps her chapter, "How Does He Do It?" is as fascinating as any, for there she describes — if Christiansen's method can be dissected — the "secrets" of his year-after-year successes. Mrs. Bergmann is equally competent in deftly handling straight biography set against historic backgrounds and the spirit of the times.

The volume might have been enhanced — although this is a moot point — if the author had permitted Dr. Christiansen himself to appear more than he does. His reminiscences, anecdotes, and personal experiences, if quoted in the first person, might have added even greater flavor to a charming volume. It is to be hoped that the author will thrust forward in a field in which she has won such initial success. It would be disappointing, indeed, if she did not.

PHILIP D. JORDAN

Local History: How to Gather It, Write It, and Publish It. By DONALD DEAN PARKER. Revised and edited by BERTHA E. JOSEPHSON for the committee on guide for study of local history of the Social Science Research Council. (New York, The Social Science Research Council, 1944. xiv, 186 p. \$1.00.)

This guide for local historians is divided into three parts, on gathering the materials, writing the account, and publishing the results. Part 1 identifies and describes the sources, such as local histories, military records, directories, maps, travel narratives, letters, diaries, accounts, and museum objects. It devotes a chapter to public records, such as deeds, school at-

tendance, bureaus, and offices, and briefer attention to business and church records and cemetery inscriptions.

Part 2 describes various schemes for taking notes and gives detailed directions as to bibliographical form. Numerous pitfalls are marked with warning signs. One chapter, entitled "A Model Outline for a Local History," gives specific advice on how to organize materials under seventeen headings. Another chapter is devoted to style. Problems of transition, quotations, footnotes, omissions, and other difficulties are treated clearly and specifically by the use of concrete instances. Classification and form in bibliographies are exemplified, and concrete directions for making an index are given.

Part 3 describes various types of printing and other ways of multiplying the original copy. A dozen kinds of co-operative sponsorship for local histories are described in detail. A good bibliography of eight pages closes the volume.

This volume was written to promote the writing of local history. The author, who assumes that his readers are relatively untrained in the art and therefore need specific guidance and concrete instances, is enthusiastic and sometimes a little banal, but he is so uniformly reasonable and correct that an experienced workman should not quarrel over details. The recipes are time tested and, if followed, they will produce acceptable local histories.

Possibly one of the most promising ways to promote local history would be to enlist the help of well-trained historians. If more of them could be induced to turn their attention to local areas, they might write specimen histories which would serve as challenges to amateur authors. There is little in the present volume to excite the interest or stir the ambition of the professional historian. But the author has faithfully performed the task undertaken and has produced a guide which takes nothing for granted and leaves little to the imagination. The job will not need to be done again for many years.

In connection with this guide those interested in local history might well read Bertha L. Heilbron's pamphlet on *How to Organize a Local Historical Society*, reviewed elsewhere in this section. The person who wishes to promote local interest and enlist the help of others in preserving historical materials will find this bulletin a specific and helpful guide. The values of securing good leaders, of formulating detailed plans, and of organizing wisely are pointed out and explained.

EDGAR B. WESLEY

How to Organize a Local Historical Society (American Association for State and Local History, *Bulletins*, vol. 1, no. 9). By BERTHA L. HEILBRON. (Washington, The American Association for State and Local History, 1944. p. 227-256. \$.35.)

How can a local historical society, that democratic cultural institution "which even the smallest and poorest community can afford," be best organized so as "to find, to preserve, to make available the sources for the study of local history, and to spread the gospel of that study"?

The first problem is that of finding an enthusiastic leader. Then the leader appeals to the old pioneer families, to the community's business leaders, to school officials, teachers, and even students, and to the local newspaper editor. From these groups a small steering committee is formed which draws up a constitution (two samples, from Minnesota and North Carolina, are printed in full) and perhaps articles of incorporation (those of a Minnesota county society are included), and decides upon what committees shall be established. Finally, a well-publicized organization meeting (if possible, with an outside speaker) of all those interested adopts a constitution and elects officers, who collect dues, enroll charter members, and start the committees to functioning.

Miss Heilbron's rich experience as assistant editor of *Minnesota History* enables her to make many sensible suggestions giving body to this outline. Anyone planning to organize a local historical society will find the little bulletin indispensable.

EDWARD P. ALEXANDER

Minnesota Historical Society Notes

SINCE MOST of the activities usually described in this section are covered in the acting superintendent's annual report, published elsewhere in the present issue, only a few additional items are presented herewith.

The American Historical Association has announced that it will publish in 1945 a calendar of the American Fur Company Papers prepared under Miss Nute's direction almost twenty years ago. The work, which will appear in two volumes, will be printed by the offset process. Ten scholarly institutions, including the Minnesota Historical Society, co-operated in financing the preparation of the calendar, which was completed in 1926. The collection of papers for which it serves as a guide is owned by the New-York Historical Society in New York City. Miss Nute plans to prepare an introduction for the published work.

Mr. Beeson is serving as chairman of the program committee of the American Association for State and Local History during 1945. He was elected to the presidency of the Twin City Library Association at its fall meeting, which was held in St. Paul in October. Miss Jerabek is a member of the public documents committee of the Minnesota Library Association and of the executive board of the University of Minnesota Division of Library Instruction Alumni Association.

Miss Nute has written a brief sketch of Minnesota history for publication in a guide to Minnesota resorts and the state's tourist attractions under preparation by the Minnesota Tourist Bureau.

Among the sixteen active members who joined the society in the last three months of 1944 are a life member, James A. Cathcart of Chicago, and a sustaining member, Dr. William R. Bagley of Duluth. New annual members are Elmer L. Anderson of St. Paul, Dr. Laurence H. Cady of Minneapolis, J. O. Christianson of St. Paul, E. D. Cross of St. Cloud, Rev. Joseph P. Donnelly of St. Louis, Lynwood G. Downs of Minneapolis, Feike Feikema of Minneapolis, Dr. Paul Hagen of Crookston, William P. Kennedy of Washington, D. C., Willis H. Miller of Hudson, Wisconsin, W. F. Powers of Chokio, Hermann E. Rothfuss of Kalamazoo, Michigan, Franklin J. Ryder of Minneapolis, and Ruth Thompson of Minneapolis.

The libraries of the Technical High School at St. Cloud and of St. Mary's College at Winona have subscribed to the society's publications.

A display of Indian costumes and artifacts has been arranged in the Round Tower Museum at Fort Snelling by Miss Nute, with the assistance of the Reverend Leland Cooper and Mr. Ernest Reiff.

The acting superintendent spoke on "Ancestry and History" before a class in American history at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul on November 24; he described "The Work of a Local Historical Society" before the annual meeting of the Polk County Historical Society at Crookston on December 4; and he discussed "The Minnesota Historical Society and Its Work" before a meeting of the Lions Club of St. Paul on December 11. On October 6 the curator of manuscripts gave an address on "The Significance of the Great Lakes," before a group that is interested in erecting a local historical building at Detroit, Michigan, and she spoke on the same day at Winsor, Ontario, on "Adventures in Locating Historical Manuscripts." During the last three months of 1944 Miss Nute gave other talks and addresses as follows: on "Birds of Northern Minnesota" mentioned in the diary of E. L. Brown, before the Minneapolis Bird Club on October 17; on "Lake Superior in Song and Story," before the Duluth Rotary Club on October 19; on "The Lake That Is Superior," before the Olmsted County Historical Society at Rochester on October 24; on "Women in Early Minnesota," before the Shriners' auxiliary in St. Paul on October 27; on "Adventures in Research on Early Minnesota," before a parent-teacher association in Minneapolis on November 14; and on "Choosing Creative Material" before a St. Paul poets' organization on December 6. The curator of the museum gave an illustrated talk on Abraham Lincoln for a visiting class from Mechanic Arts High School on November 30.

CONTRIBUTORS

Major Arthur J. Larsen, who presents herein the story of "The Air Transport Command" of the United States Army Air Forces, is assistant historical officer of the command. On August 1, 1939, he succeeded Dr. Theodore C. Blegen as superintendent of the society, and he served in that capacity until September, 1942, when he was granted a leave of absence to accept a commission in the Army Air Forces. He is now stationed in Washington, D.C. A monograph on the history of the Minnesota road system is among Major Larsen's earlier writings. For the society's *Narra-*

tives and Documents series, he edited a volume, published in 1934, of the letters of Jane Grey Swisshelm. The paper published herewith was presented as the annual address before the 1945 annual meeting of the society.

A second paper read before the annual meeting to appear in the present issue is Miss Dorothy V. Walters' "Pioneering with the Automobile in Minnesota." This entertaining collection of anecdotes about the early years of the automobile era is drawn from a volume on the history of American automobiling before 1908 now in preparation by Miss Walters. A graduate of Lawrence College at Appleton, Wisconsin, she has continued her studies, particularly in the field of history, at Northwestern University, from which she received a master's degree in 1939, and at the universities of Wisconsin and Colorado. Miss Walters resides at Kenosha, Wisconsin, where she teaches social studies in the Lincoln Junior High School.

The report on the society's activities and accomplishments in 1944 was prepared by the acting superintendent, Dr. Lewis Beeson, who presented it before the business session of the ninety-sixth annual meeting. The various sessions of the meeting are described by Miss Bertha L. Heilbron, the assistant editor of this magazine.

The series on "Minnesota History in the Schools" is continued in the current number with an account of "An Elementary School Project at Mankato" by Miss Anna M. Nixon, supervisor of fourth-grade work in the Mankato State Teachers College. Professor Philip D. Jordan of the history faculty in Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, contributes a description of the society's collection of "Minnesota Sheet Music" to the section devoted to "Sources for Northwest History." Readers of this magazine will recall Dr. Jordan's article on "The Hutchinson Family in the Story of American Music," published *ante*, 22:113-132, and they will be interested to know that he is now completing a volume on that picturesque family of itinerant musicians. A recent book in the field of musical history is reviewed by Dr. Jordan in the present issue.

Widely known for his writings on the history of American immigration is Dr. George M. Stephenson, professor of history in the University of Minnesota, who reviews for this number an important new work on Swedish settlement. Other book reviews are contributed by Dr. Edward P. Alexander, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts on the Minnesota Historical Society's staff; and Professor Edgar B. Wesley of the college of education in the University of Minnesota, who directed the recent study of American history in the schools and colleges.

ACCESSIONS

A copy of the reminiscences of William G. LeDuc, some four hundred typewritten pages in length, and a small portrait of the pioneer Minnesotan have been received from Mr. William P. Kennedy of Washington, D. C. The narrative deals largely with the writer's ancestors, his early life, and his experiences in the Civil War. A section of some eight pages telling of his first visit, in 1850, to St. Paul, where he established a pioneer bookstore, is graphic and full of details on the city's infancy. Other topics of special Minnesota interest discussed by LeDuc are the treaty of Traverse des Sioux in 1851, which he witnessed; the displays which, as territorial commissioner, he arranged for Minnesota at the Crystal Palace Exhibition of 1853 in New York; and his unsuccessful attempt to build the Hastings and Dakota Railroad from Hastings to Puget Sound. The space devoted to LeDuc's service, from 1877 to 1881, as United States commissioner of agriculture is slight, but it includes interesting reports on his efforts to grow tea in the United States, to encourage the growing of sorghum, and to establish a bureau of animal industry and a division of forestry. He relates that he made an effort to have the Coteau de Prairie "reserved from entry and reforested as it was at one time densely covered with timber which retained the rain fall."

An interesting America letter written in German from Easton, Pennsylvania, by Karl Bachmann in 1854, shortly after his arrival from Germany, is the gift of his daughter, Mrs. S. H. Tuchelt of St. Paul. The writer later settled in Minnesota (see *ante*, 25:184). The letter, in which he describes his work as a carpenter for a firm of shipbuilders, is addressed to his former employer in Germany, G. Peip. He boasts that he is receiving a dollar a day, and will soon be earning even more. In America, Bachmann reports, "every man can conduct his business as he likes, he need not pay taxes and assessments . . . nor help to support idlers and princes." A second letter written to Peip by Ida Mackenroth, who later became Bachmann's wife, is included in the gift.

A letter written from Red Rock on January 27 and February 27, 1856, by Lucy W. Irish is the gift of Dr. Alfred E. Jenks of Mound. It is written on an interesting letterhead showing St. Paul in the middle 1850's. The writer relates that "we have turned off two thousand dollars worth of Stuff off of our farm this season" and she reports that twenty-five hundred people arrived in "this territory in one week last spring."

An interesting, though incomplete, account of a trip to St. Paul in 1857 and several letters telling of conditions in the frontier city are included in a folder of family papers presented by Mrs. Webster Wheelock of St. Paul. There are a number of newspaper articles written by Joseph A. Wheelock—some describing early St. Paul, and others telling of a European trip that he made in 1883 and 1884 as “traveling editor” of the *St. Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer Press*. In one letter Theodore French describes a trip made with John B. Sanborn in 1854 from New England to St. Paul, where the two men established a law firm in 1857. Nine photographs of scenes in St. Paul about 1860 are included in the gift.

The Indian uprising under Inkpadutah in 1857 is among the subjects touched upon in a letter written by T. G. Carter at Lake Washington, Minnesota Territory, on September 20, 1857, recently received from the Symmachus Trading Company of Boston. Also mentioned are the writer's appointment as deputy county surveyor, his affiliation with the new Republican party, and the erection of “houses, stores, churches &c” at St. Peter.

The certificate of election as governor of Minnesota received by Alexander Ramsey in 1859 has been added to his papers in the possession of the society by his granddaughter, Miss Laura Furness of St. Paul. Included in her gift is an interesting pamphlet describing the *Grand Celebration in the City of St. Paul . . . Commemorative of the Successful Laying and Working of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable* (St. Paul, 1858. 22 p.). Texts of the speeches made by Ramsey, Gorman, and Samuel Ludvigh—the latter both in German and in an English translation—and a description of the various units of a parade that marked the occasion are included in the booklet, which was printed in the office of the *Daily Minnesotian*.

James Ghormley's Civil War diary, covering the period from October 18, 1864, to June 12, 1865, and including a report of Sherman's march to the sea and into Virginia, has been copied for the society from the original in the possession of Mrs. John C. Cochrane of St. Cloud. The copy fills fifteen typewritten pages.

The Civil War records of Addison V. Teeple, who served with the Eighth Illinois Cavalry, are among ten manuscript items relating to the Teeple family, recently presented by Mrs. Mary Teeple Gervais of Burlingame, California. Teeple became a resident of St. Paul in 1870 and

died there in 1892. With Mrs. Gervais' gift are several emblems of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Loyal Legion.

A receipt written on the stationery of the Minnesota Valley Railroad Company and signed at St. Paul by J. R. Cleveland on May 3, 1869, is the gift of Mr. John F. Slattery of St. Paul. The name of J. L. Merriam is among the officers of the company appearing on the letterhead.

Dean Anne D. Blitz of the University of Minnesota has presented a calling card of Dr. Duncan Eve, her father's partner at Nashville, Tennessee, in the 1870's. The card, which bears a small oval portrait of Dr. Eve in the upper left-hand corner, as well as the usual name and title, is "typical of Victorian elegance of that period," according to Dean Blitz.

Mr. Edward M. Conant of Minneapolis has presented copies of two addresses, reminiscent of his boyhood in the Minneapolis of the 1870's, which he delivered before recent meetings of the Hennepin County Historical Society. They are entitled "A Small Boy in a Small Town" and "Loring Park."

A few newspaper clippings relating to the Reverend Peter Clare and his wife have been received from their daughter, Mrs. R. O. Eberhart of Mankato. Clare was a Methodist pastor who served in the 1880's and succeeding decades in a number of Minnesota communities, including Winnebago City, Minneapolis, and Mankato. With the gift is some biographical information about the donor's grandfather, Ezra B. Eddy of Fargo.

A volume of addresses of E. A. Sherman, a resident of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and a collection of comments made by others about his life and work have been presented by his daughter, Miss Jessica Sherman of Sioux Falls. Sherman was known as a public-spirited citizen who was much interested in improving and enlarging the park system of Sioux Falls.

Some business papers of the firm of Andrews and Comstock at Hudson, Wisconsin, have been added to papers presented earlier by Mr. Willis H. Miller of Hudson (see *ante*, 24: 165). With them are items relating to the family of Amasa Andrews and his wife, Mary Comstock Andrews. Their daughter, Sarah E. Andrews, was the recipient of some of the twenty-five letters, included in the gift, written by Frederick M. Gibson during trips to the East and to Europe in 1891 and 1892.

A folder of correspondence which passed between James K. Hosmer of Minneapolis and Professor Albert Bushnell Hart of Harvard University during the years from 1902 to 1906, when Hosmer was writing his two-volume history of the Civil War, has been received from Mr. Robert W. Lull of Newburyport, Massachusetts. With the letters are three folders of Hosmer's notes and plans for the volumes, which were published in the *American Nation Series* under Hart's editorship. When the correspondence began, Hosmer was librarian of the Minneapolis Public Library. The papers reveal that in the preparation of his work on the Civil War Hosmer made considerable use of the Ell Torrance Papers, now, like his own manuscripts, in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society (see *ante*, 10:447, 13:318-320).

The specifications for a house built in St. Paul for R. N. Katz in 1911 are included among some manuscripts recently added to his papers by Mrs. Arthur Katz of St. Paul (see *ante*, 16:471).

Two volumes of records of the ladies' aid society of Trinity Lutheran Church of St. Paul have been received through the courtesy of Mrs. J. E. Christensen of St. Paul. They contain minutes of meetings, lists of members, and financial accounts for the years from 1923 to 1939.

Some papers relating to the activities of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin in 1942 and 1943 have been presented by Mr. L. H. Ashley of Madison, through the courtesy of Mr. Ira C. Oehler of St. Paul. Cranberry raising and the use of blinds for hunting waterfowl are among the subjects of cases handled by the commission.

A Minnesota newspaper of the 1850's that was not heretofore represented in the society's collections is the weekly *Minneapolis Journal*, an issue of which, bearing the date December 30, 1858, has been presented by Mr. C. F. Stickney of Traverse City, Michigan. The paper, which was published for only a short time, was edited by John G. Williams.

Mr. Ole Wick of Castle Danger has presented a pair of woven garters made in Norway, a mold used in making limburger cheese, a homemade knife blade, and other items.

A number of hand-carved ivory spoons, a horn spoon, some table forks with two tines, and a cup of Chelsea ware are among the items recently presented by Mrs. H. O. Powell of Prospect Park, Pennsylvania, through the courtesy of Mr. Louis H. Powell of St. Paul. Of agricultural interest

are a corn husker patented in 1882 and three gauge rods used in measuring sorghum molasses. Included in the gift also are three old-fashioned thimbles and several holders for quill pens.

Several ruffled and tucked shirts of a type worn by men in the middle decades of the last century and a large number of women's and children's dresses, coats, hats, and undergarments used during the period from 1860 to 1900 have been presented by Dr. and Mrs. R. W. Berthel of St. Paul. They have also given a number of dolls and other toys. Other additions to the costume collection include a house dress of 1860, from Mr. M. M. Saunderson of Minneapolis, and several pairs of old-fashioned shoes, from Mrs. Treat Spear of St. Paul.

A cape worn by a Red Cross nurse who served in the First World War and the collar ornaments used on her uniform are among the items of military interest received from the estate of the late Virginia Rice, through the courtesy of Mrs. Mary Rossum of St. Paul. The flag of a post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Long Prairie has been presented by the local Women's Relief Corps Auxiliary. Miss Frances Densmore of Red Wing has given a small American flag with thirty-nine stars.

Lists of civil and military officers who served in the American Revolution are included in *Some of the Earliest Oaths of Allegiance to the United States of America* by Nellie P. Waldenmaier (Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1944. 93 p.). Information about the early Quaker families of Kennett Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, is given in a recently acquired volume entitled *Bi-Centennial of Old Kennett Meeting House, 1710-1910* (Philadelphia, n.d. 105 p.). *Forts and Firesides of the Mohawk Country, New York* by John J. Vrooman (Philadelphia, 1943. 266 p.) contains descriptions and illustrations of pre-Revolutionary houses of the Mohawk Valley and brief accounts of the owners and their families. Among other recent additions to the local history collection are *The Town That Saved a State: Westerly* by Mary A. Best (Westerly, Rhode Island, 1943. 283 p.), and *The History of Houston County, Texas* by Armistead A. Aldrich (San Antonio, Texas, 1943. 225 p.).

"*A Lass Wi' a Lang Pedigree*," *My Mother's Forty Generations, Cumyn-Cumming to Scottish Kings* is the title of a set of ancestral charts made by the late Mrs. Caroline K. Bulkley. A photostatic copy of the charts has been acquired by the society.

Among other genealogies that the society received during the past

quarter are *The Achelis Family in America* by Elizabeth Achelis (New York, 1944. 72 p.); *Simon Baxter, His Ancestry and Descendants* by John B. M. Baxter (St. John, New Brunswick, 1943. 46 p.); *Our Pioneer Ancestors, Genealogical and Biographical Histories of the Cox-Stout Families* by Wayne D. Stout (Salt Lake City, 1944. 405 p.); *Crawfords of Adams County, Ohio* by H. Marjorie Crawford (Poughkeepsie, New York, 1943. 97 p.); *Edgerton Genealogy, 1762-1927* by Jesse Edgerton (Wooster, Ohio, 1927. 29 p.); *The Story of a Family through Eleven Centuries: A History of the Family of Gorges* by Raymond Gorges (Boston, 1944. 289 p.); *Chronicles of the Haskell Family* by Ira J. Haskell (Lynn, Massachusetts, 1943. 294 p.); *The Heard (Hurd) Family of Penobscot Bay and Its Descendants in the Collemer Family* by L. O. Crockett (Lincolnvile, Maine, 1944. 8 p.); *The Heinly Family in America* by Harvey F. Heinly (Reading, Pennsylvania, 1944. 35 p.); *Hugh Hughes and His Descendants* (Iowa City, 1943. 139 p.); *Kistler Families Descended from George Kistler, Jr. of Berks County, Pennsylvania* by Floride K. Sprague (Chauncey, Ohio, 1944. 46 p.); *History and Genealogy of the Leibensperger Family* by Elmer I. Leibensperger (Kutztown, Pennsylvania, 1943. 564 p.); *James Nichols (Nickels) of Searsport and His Descendants, 1733-1943* by Charles J. Nichols (Portland, Maine, 1944. 104 p.); *American Descendants of George Scholes of Accrington, Lancashire, England* by George Scholes (Lake Forest, Illinois, 1944. 62 p.); *Selden and Kindred of Virginia* by Edna M. Selden (Richmond, Virginia, 1941. 224 p.); *Genealogical Memoranda: Stouffer, 1579-1943* by Kate S. Snively (Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 1943. 130 p.); and *Daniel Wilcox of Puncatest and the Genealogy of Some of His Descendants* by Herbert A. Wilcox (South Pasadena, California, 1943. 158 p.). Volume 12 of *The American Genealogical Index*, in which surnames beginning with the letter "F" are indexed, also has been added to the society's collection.

L. M. F.

News and Comment

IN AN ARTICLE on "History and the Liberal Arts" appearing in the autumn number of the *Yale Review*, Theodore M. Greene reminds the historian of some of the opportunities that are open to him in the modern world. To counteract the tendency of modern America "to mistake the contemporary for the modern, ignorance of the past for experimental open-mindedness," he writes, "history can demonstrate . . . that the only way to be really modern is to see the present in the light of the past, and the future in the realistic perspective of both the past and the present." He pictures history as "one of the great correctives" for the "inveterate temporal, spacial, and cultural provincialisms" of man; and praises it as a "liberating and humanizing discipline" that possesses the "happily ambiguous character of being both an art and a science."

Under the title "Locating the Printed Source Materials for United States History," the late Douglas C. McMurtrie describes his projected "Bibliography of American Imprints" and reviews the development of this impressive undertaking in the December issue of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*. Only a few months before his death, Mr. McMurtrie obtained financial support for the project from the Rockefeller Foundation, as well as the sponsorship of the Bibliographical Society of America and the co-operation of the Library of Congress and a number of other American libraries. The work which he so ably inaugurated will be continued by his bibliographical assistant, Mr. Albert H. Allen. The narrative account of the project is followed in the *Review* by two lists—one of "Regional Imprints," and the other of "American Imprints Inventory Check Lists." Minnesota is represented on the first by three bibliographies, two of which were issued by the Minnesota Historical Society, and on the second by Mamie R. Martin's *Check List of Minnesota Imprints*, published by the Historical Records Survey in 1938.

Students and professional writers, alike, who undertake the study of business history will find many valuable suggestions in the October number of the *Bulletin* of the Business Historical Society, which is devoted to an article by Professor N. S. B. Gras entitled "Are You Writing a Business History?" After defining business history as "the story of the

policy, management, and control that go into the production of goods and services chiefly for the making of a private profit," Professor Gras goes on to explain the purpose of such a study, and to define the qualifications needed by those who would write about business history. Sources of information, problems of emphasis, methods of procedure, the preparation and editing of the manuscript, and the conclusions that may be reached are among other topics discussed. Kenneth W. Porter is the author of an article in the November *Bulletin* dealing with "The Business Man in American Folklore." He gives some consideration to Paul Bunyan, describing the mythical hero of the lumberjacks as an "outdoor, democratic, American frontier manifestation of the 'master workman' of the guild period"; and he cites a number of legends and traditions that are associated with the name of James J. Hill.

In the form of a pamphlet, Lawrence College at Appleton, Wisconsin, makes available a series of five lectures on *The Culture of the Middle West*, presented by members of its faculty during the winter of 1942-43 (1944. 72 p.). The physical background and the geographical features of the upper Mississippi Valley are discussed by William F. Read under the title "What the Land Had to Offer." The earliest settlers, their traits and characteristics, are described by William F. Raney in an essay on "The Peopling of the Land." "Political Ideas in the Middle West" and the parties of dissent that took root there are the subject of Henry May's contribution. Essays entitled "The Middle West Finds a Voice: Mark Twain," by Dorothy Waples, and "The Middle West Builds a Home: Chicago as a Focus of the Arts," by Wallace S. Baldinger, complete the discussion.

"When a manufacturer seeks to introduce a new product — and unfortunately American history is a new product to many — he tries to find the point of least resistance. In our field, this is the familiar local place or name or article and on it we must plan our campaign to sell history to the people." This comment is made by the progressive director of the Rhode Island Historical Society, William G. Roelker, who describes his program of activities under the title "What Is the Function of a Historical Society?" in the *Vermont Quarterly* for January, 1944. The number, which is devoted to a symposium on "The Value and Uses of History," includes a statement from Professor Edgar B. Wesley of the University of Minnesota on "Why Should Americans Know Their Own History?"

"Getting the Most Out of Local History" was the title of the presidential address presented by Dr. Edward P. Alexander before a meeting of the American Association for State and Local History at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on November 10. Participating in a session on "Corporation Archives and Local History" were Richard C. Overton, who discussed "Railroad Archives and State, Local and Regional History," Herbert Kellar, who spoke on the "McCormick Archives," and William D. Overman, who described the "Firestone Archives." Dr. Overton quoted extensively from an article which he contributed to this magazine in 1942 (see *ante*, 23:52-56). The association met jointly with the Society of American Archivists, of which Margaret C. Norton is president. Her presidential address, delivered on November 8, dealt with "Some Legal Aspects of Archives." The meeting included sessions on "State Archives and Historical Manuscripts," on "Maps and Graphic Materials," on "The Publication of Manuscripts," and on "Local Archives and History."

That Edward Eggleston was an exponent of "the new history" as well as a pioneer in the field of American fiction is brought out by James A. Rawley in an article on "Edward Eggleston: Historian," which appears in the *Indiana Magazine of History* for December. Some mention is made of the influence of Eggleston's Minnesota sojourn upon his career as a novelist. His flair for social history, and his interest in such topics as medicine, education, labor, folklore, and literature, give distinction to his historical writings, in the opinion of Mr. Rawley. He records that Eggleston made a plea for "cultural history" in his presidential address before the American Historical Association in 1900.

In the *Journalism Quarterly* for December, Frank Luther Mott suggests some "Evidences of Reliability in Newspapers and Periodicals in Historical Studies" for which students and other users should look when consulting such sources. Paper, format, editing, and the like are considered along with the actual content of the material.

Exactly where Henry de Tonty was at almost any time during his twenty-six years of travel in North America can now be determined with ease and without recourse to weighty volumes of documentary material, for Father Jean Delanglez has published, in *Mid-America* for October, "as complete and accurate a record of his travels as could be compiled with the evidence available." In an article entitled "The Voyages of Tonti in North America, 1678-1704," Father Delanglez devotes thirty-five

pages to a calendar of the explorer's travels, in many cases giving contemporary documentary evidence for his dates and locations. Most of Tonty's travels, which covered some thirty-five thousand miles, according to the writer's estimate, took him from Quebec by way of Mackinac to the Illinois country and thence down the Mississippi to its mouth. Father Delanglez finds evidence, however, that in the last years of the seventeenth century Tonty crossed Lake Superior and penetrated the Minnesota country. This and earlier voyages are illustrated on an illuminating series of maps. Another useful feature of the article is a bibliography of Tonty's writings. In the same issue of *Mid-America* Father Delanglez presents a document under the title, "The 1674 Account of the Discovery of the Mississippi." It is taken from a copy of a narrative written by Father Dablon after he had interviewed Louis Jolliet at Quebec in the summer of 1674. Father Delanglez has published the account because he considers it to be "one of the five basic sources for our knowledge of the expedition of 1673."

Jefferson's interest in western exploration receives some attention in Charles A. Browne's study of "Thomas Jefferson and the Scientific Trends of His Time," which has been published as volume 8, number 3 of *Chronica Botanica* (1944. p. 363-423). In a section on his role as "promoter of the Lewis and Clark expedition" mention is made of Lieutenant Pike's explorations on the upper Mississippi.

Although William Howells devotes only one short chapter of fourteen pages to the American Indian in his recent volume entitled *Mankind So Far* (New York, 1944. 319 p.), two of those pages are given over to a discussion of the "Minnesota Man." It will be recalled that this term has been used to designate a skeleton uncovered by a road-building crew near Pelican Rapids in 1931, believed by many to have been there for some twenty thousand years.

The excitement and adventurous spirit of the "Buffalo Hunt" has perhaps never been more vividly pictured than in a letter written by Father George A. Belcourt in 1845 and published two years later at Quebec with a report on the Northwest missions. The communication, with its vivid descriptive passages, has now been translated from the original French by J. A. Burgesse and published in the December issue of the *Beaver*. Father Belcourt wrote from his mission station on the Assiniboine near Fort Garry late in November, shortly after his return from a hunting

expedition with the half-breeds of the Red River settlements. With 213 carts, and almost twice that number of horses and oxen, the party left Pembina, striking out for the Devil's Lake and Sheyenne River country. Many colorful details of the hunt are described by the missionary priest. He was astonished at the speed with which the hunters could discharge their firearms. "It is not at all rare to see three buffalo knocked over by a single hunter within the space of one arpent [*sixty-four yards*]," he writes. "Some of them manage to discharge their pieces as many as five times during the course of a chase. Here is how they load: The first shot, only is wadded down. The other balls are carried in the mouth so that they can prime their guns, pour in a charge of powder, and then spit the shot into the barrel." He also describes in great detail the half-breeds' method of butchering and dressing a buffalo carcass — an "arduous task" that was accomplished with a "will and skill truly astonishing." The fifty-five hunters in the party "killed, and loaded on to the carts, some 1776 cow buffalo" during the course of the hunt. The women who accompanied the party made pemmican and jerked meat of most of the animals killed, thus greatly reducing the weight of the meat that was taken back to the settlements for winter use. Types of habitations used by Canadian Indians are described in an article on "Wigwam and Teepee" by Douglas Leechman in the same issue of the *Beaver*. Excellent illustrations accompany both narratives.

A list of Indian reserves in the province of Ontario is among the useful features of a booklet on the *Indians of Ontario* by J. L. Morris published by the Canadian department of lands and forests (Toronto, 1943. 75 p.). Included also are lists of French posts in the province, and of "paths, portages, trails, routes and carrying places," and trade routes used by red men and fur traders.

A regional study somewhat wider in scope than those in the *American Lakes Series*, each of which deals with only one of America's great inland seas, is Harlan Hatcher's volume telling the story of all *The Great Lakes* (New York, 1944. 384 p.). For the reader who is looking for a concise and entertaining narrative about the varied regions that touch upon the lakes, this volume has certain obvious advantages over the more specialized studies of the series. Incidentally, one of the latter volumes, still in preparation, is Mr. Hatcher's history of Lake Erie. The western portion of the lake country is not, however, neglected in the present work. In such

chapters as "Fur," "Great Lakes Melting Pot," and "River of Gold," Minnesota and Wisconsin figure prominently, and two chapters in the final section of the book review the history of the Minnesota iron range country and the lake ports of Duluth and Two Harbors.

In one chapter of his recent volume on *Railroads at War* (New York, 1944), S. Kip Farrington, Jr., tells the story of "Iron Ore for War" and its movement from the Minnesota ranges to the lake boats and the blast furnaces of Pittsburgh and Gary. He gives his readers an impression of "shot and shell screaming from mighty guns, that yesterday were ore in the Mesabi Range," of "battleships and tanks, born in the upper Great Lakes country, smashing through to Victory." The rôle of the Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range and the Great Northern railroads in hauling the ore that the Minnesota ranges "are pouring into the caldron of war" is Mr. Farrington's chief concern. Another chapter contains a description of the passage of a "Troop Train on the Milwaukee" through southern Minnesota on its journey from Chicago to the Pacific coast.

Old Traverse des Sioux on the Minnesota River is the scene of the opening chapter of George F. Brimlow's recent biography of General William Carey Brown, *Cavalryman Out of the West* (Caldwell, Idaho, The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1944. 442 p.). In the newly established Minnesota settlement the future soldier's parents settled after their marriage in Ohio, there he was born in 1854, and there he attended rural school. Among the Minnesota events forever remembered by General Brown was the Sioux Outbreak of 1862, which caused his family to seek refuge at St. Peter. Several early incidents in the life of his subject are mentioned by Mr. Brimlow, as are such characters as Edward Eggleston and Alexander Huggins. Although Brown left Minnesota in 1873 to enter West Point, he retained an interest in his birthplace throughout a long and varied career. Material evidence of his interest is to be found in the museum of the Nicollet County Historical Society at St. Peter (see *ante*, 25:405).

The Donnelly Papers in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society are among the sources used by Mary Earhart in the preparation of her recent biography entitled *Frances Willard: From Prayers to Politics* (Chicago, 1944. 418 p.). A letter from Miss Willard to Donnelly, written on December 31, 1891, on the stationery of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union is reproduced in the volume (p. 229). The co-

operation that she received from the Minnesota third-party leader in the 1890's, when she attempted to bring about a "coalition of the liberal factions into one big reform party" that would support both prohibition and woman suffrage, is described in a chapter dealing with "Party Politics."

The central figure in Alice Felt Tyler's article on "The Education of a New England Girl in the Eighteen-Twenties," which appears in the December *New England Quarterly*, is Elizabeth Stearns, some of whose later experiences as the wife of William Smith were described by the same writer in *Minnesota History* for June, 1943. Under the title "The Westward Movement as Reflected in Family Papers," Mrs. Tyler there records the story of the Smiths and their children on the Illinois and Minnesota frontiers. The newly published article is based upon Elizabeth's girlhood diary.

How the Historical Society of Berks County, Pennsylvania, "approached the problem of aiding the teaching of history in the schools" is explained by Milton W. Hamilton in an article on "Visual Aids from the Historical Society," which appears in the November issue of *The Social Studies*. Various methods used by this active local historical society to carry its message to the schools and the younger members of the community are described. They include the preparation of school loan kits illustrating early lighting methods, kitchen utensils, cobblers tools, and the like; the building up of collections of slides for classroom projection; the publication of articles to be read by children; the sponsoring of essay contests; and the making available at a nominal price of sets of pictures on topics that can be readily illustrated. As a result of these activities, Mr. Hamilton concludes, "valuable illustrative material has been made available to the schools, and the study of our social history has been aided. Local history, too, has been served," for the materials "illustrate locally movements of national or statewide importance."

A section of documents on "David Dale Owen and the Chippewa Land District Survey," edited by Walter B. Hendrickson for the December number of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, makes available four letters written during the summer of 1847. The fact that two of them were written at Stillwater indicates that they are of as much interest for Minnesota as for Wisconsin. From that pioneer settlement Owen wrote to his wife on September 14, 1847, "If the expedition proves as successful as it has done up to this time I shall before the close of the season have a

complete general knowledge not only of the Chippewa Land District as far North as the St. Croix River, but also, of a large portion of Iowa as far North as St. Peters." Professor Hendrickson obtained a copy of this letter from the Minnesota Historical Society, which owns a transcript. Other letters presented were copied from originals in the possession of Owen's granddaughter, Mrs. Caroline D. Snedeker. An introduction in the form of a sketch of Owen's career is provided by the editor.

A "good example of intentional perpetuation of a dialect" is to be found in the Plattdeutsche Claus Groth Guild of Davenport, Iowa, according to Hildegard Binder Johnson, who reviews the history of the organization in the *American-German Review* for December. The guild was established in 1889 by a group of Germans from Schleswig-Holstein; it continued to operate as a mutual aid society, paying sick and death benefits to members, until 1935. Mrs. Johnson's article, which is based upon the records of the guild, provides an interesting chapter in the history of the Davenport German community.

That Grant Wood spent a profitable summer studying with Ernest Batchelder in the Minneapolis School of Design and Handicraft is revealed by Darrell Garwood in his *Artist in Iowa: A Life of Grant Wood* (New York, 1944. 259 p.). Upon graduating from high school in Cedar Rapids in 1910, Wood left immediately for Minneapolis because Batchelder was teaching there. According to Mr. Garwood, the artist later considered the work of that summer the "most important instruction of his life," for his Minneapolis instructor not only encouraged him to continue the use of "hard lines and sharp contours," but he introduced the Iowa youth to the beauties of Gothic architecture and design.

The importance for students of western history of the "Dakota Territorial Papers in the Department of the Interior Archives" is emphasized by W. Turrentine Jackson in a detailed discussion of these papers published in the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly* for July. In 1873 the interior department took over the function with respect to the territories performed earlier by the state department. Mr. Jackson points out that after 1873 these archives are rich in material relating to Dakota Territory, and that they contain the correspondence and records of appointments made by several territorial governors. To the same issue of the *Quarterly*, J. M. Gillette contributes a lengthy survey of "Mounds and Mound Builders of the United States." He fails to mention the thousands of

mounds that have been recorded in Minnesota, though he does note the discovery of evidence that prehistoric man existed in the area.

The authentic frontier Montana town of the 1880's that Mr. Charles A. Bovey of Great Falls has established on the grounds of the North Montana fair is the subject of an article in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for December 3. The town consists largely of buildings—including a saloon, a saddlery shop, a barber shop, and a post office—discovered in Montana ghost towns and removed board by board to the new location. There they have been reconstructed and furnished and equipped with appropriate articles. Thus Mr. Bovey preserves not only the buildings, but the atmosphere of the Montana frontier. A publication issued at Old Town, as Mr. Bovey designates his village, is described *ante*, 25:385.

What can be done to promote "Local History in Schools" in one Canadian province is suggested by Dr. David Williams in an article which has been reprinted from the *Ontario Public School Argus* for June in the September number of the *Western Ontario Historical Notes*. The writer points out the value of local history for Canada's youth, and he advocates essay contests, trips to historic sites, and visits to local historical museums as means by which interest in the subject can be aroused.

To mark the completion of its first twenty-five years of publication, the *Canadian Historical Review* presents, in its December issue, an article on "Canadian History in Retrospect and Prospect." Although it was prepared by the editors, George W. Brown and D. G. Creighton, they based their review upon letters solicited from a large number of scholars interested in the field of Canadian history. The opinions expressed in these letters are freely quoted by the writers. The resulting article surveys the progress of historical study in Canada during the past quarter century and suggests a "programme for both the editors of the *Review* and Canadian historians in general during the twenty-five years to come."

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

The establishment of "an Archives Commission to make specific rules and regulations for individual records or classes of records," especially in relation to their preservation or destruction, is among the recommendations made by the Interim Committee on State Administration and Employment in its *Report* to the Minnesota legislature of 1945. One of the five members of the commission would be the superintendent of the Min-

nesota Historical Society, whose duty it would be to determine the historical value of the records under examination. The legal, post audit, accounting, and administrative value of records would be appraised by the appropriate state officials. The Interim Committee finds that "there is general dissatisfaction with the present law pertaining to the destruction and preservation of state documents." One difficulty is "that the Historical Society, which is the final administrative authority of Chapter 553, Laws of 1941 pertaining to the disposal of public records, is not equipped to carry out the provisions of the law." Furthermore, the old law does not cover all state records, it specifies that all records must be kept for at least six years before they are eligible for destruction, and it does not make the destruction of useless records compulsory. The Interim Committee believes that "desirable storage space being at a premium, provision should be made to compel destruction of useless records." It recommends that an appropriation should be granted for the proposed archives commission "sufficient to provide personnel to supervise the destruction of records."

"A Glossary of a Minnesota Ojibway Dialect" compiled by Fred K. Blessing, Jr., and published in the issue of the *Minnesota Archaeologist* for January, 1944, will be welcomed by all who are interested in Minnesota Indian lore and history. The study is confined to a single dialect spoken by the Minnesota Chippewa living south of Nett Lake, although even in this limited area certain variations in pronunciation and accent occur. In his introduction Mr. Blessing reveals that the glossary is based upon information obtained from Mrs. Cecelia Blakeley of Walker, a member of the Leech Lake band of Chippewa. The dialect that she knows is spoken also by the Indians of White Earth, Cass Lake, Inger, Ponsford, Ponemah, and Onigum, and similar dialects are heard at Bena, Red Lake, and Mille Lacs. The glossary consists of an alphabetical list of English words and their Ojibway equivalents, filling fifty-six pages, and an additional ten pages devoted to lists of numerals, months, days, plants, and animals. Another valuable feature of the issue is a list of books about the Ojibway language compiled by Dr. Wesley R. Hiller.

Conveniently arranged for school use is the information presented in a volume on *Minnesota: The State and Its Government* by Joseph Kise and George B. Sjoselius (Moorhead, 1944. 136 p.). It contains chapters on the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the state government, on local government, on the protection of life and property, on the

state's social welfare services, and on industry and labor. A brief introductory chapter entitled "The Heritage of Minnesota" includes a few paragraphs on the state's historical backgrounds. In general, however, the subject of Minnesota's history is neglected in the volume. Much of the information presented is to be found also in the *Legislative Manual*.

Minnesota is one of the states studied by Oliver P. Field in a *Judicial Review of Legislation in Ten Selected States*, published by the bureau of government research of Indiana University (Bloomington, 1943. 81 p.). Professor Field undertook the project in order to study "certain phases of unconstitutional legislation."

A Masonic library of more than ten thousand volumes assembled by the late Irving Todd of Hastings has been presented in his memory to the Scottish Rite of St. Paul by members of his family, Mr. and Mrs. Irving Todd, Jr., of Hastings and Mrs. Louise Todd Plum of Minneapolis. In the library of the Scottish Rite Building in St. Paul the books, which are now known as the Todd Masonic Collection, have been arranged and catalogued. A formal opening was arranged on October 18, 1944. That the collection is of special value for the history of the Masonic Order in America is evident, for it includes proceedings of various lodges and other branches of the order for every state in the Union and in Canada, as well as in many foreign countries.

The suggestion that the Oliver H. Kelley farm and house near Elk River should be restored and preserved as an example of the "Middle Western farm home of the 1870s" is made by Everett E. Edwards in a survey of the "Objectives for the Agricultural History Society during Its Second Twenty-five Years," which appears in the October issue of *Agricultural History*. The Minnesota site is one of the "representative farm settings" that Mr. Edwards believes should be preserved along with Jefferson's Monticello estate and the McCormick plantation where the reaper was invented.

A convocation address presented by President Walter C. Coffey in September to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the beginning of college work in the University of Minnesota is published in the *Minnesota Alumnus* for October. Drawing largely upon Minneapolis newspapers of 1869 and an *Almanac* published by the infant university, Dr. Coffey describes the world in which the first university students lived and the campus where they entered upon their course of study.

During the week of October 9, students, faculty, and alumni of the St. Cloud State Teachers College joined in a celebration to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of its opening in September, 1869. Among the special features of the program were a pageant depicting the school of 1869, a radio program, and a convocation before which the history of the school was reviewed. A special number of the *College Chronicle*, published on October 6, contains a review of the growth of the campus and sketches of the ten men who have served as presidents at St. Cloud. The anniversary is given brief recognition in the *Minnesota Journal of Education* for November. A valuable publication occasioned by the event is a *History of the St. Cloud State Teachers College, 1869-1944*, written by Dudley S. Brainard and John C. Cochrane and published as volume 1, number 1, of the college *Bulletins* (1944. 47 p.). The narrative is divided into three chapters entitled "The Founding of the Normal School," "Normal School to Teachers College," and "The College during the Great Depression and the Second Great War." The first and third are the work of Mr. Brainard, who is the president of the college; the second was prepared by Mr. Cochrane of its social studies division. In the opening chapter, Mr. Brainard makes it clear that in its early years the St. Cloud school—the third normal school to be established in Minnesota under an act of 1858—was molded by the westward movement of ideas. He stresses the influence of pioneer teachers trained in a progressive normal school at Oswego, New York, and declares that "St. Cloud is a spiritual descendant of the institution at Oswego." The authors of this booklet have made a substantial contribution to the recorded history of education in Minnesota, and their narrative should be consulted by all who seek information on the subject.

The Reverend Wilhelm F. Hempel is the author of an article, in *Everybody's Health* for November, entitled "How They Carried the Mail—Minnesota Postal Service to 1858." It deals to a large extent with the early post offices at Fort Snelling, St. Paul, and St. Anthony, though mention is made of settlements in the St. Croix and Red River valleys. According to a note accompanying the article, the information presented is drawn "from a thesis on file at the Minnesota Historical Society."

Trips along the North Shore of Lake Superior in 1878 with Robert B. McLean, who delivered mail to isolated settlers between Superior and Grand Portage, are recalled by John A. Bardon of Superior in the *Two Harbors Chronicle and Times* for December 14. He relates that the

North Shore mail accumulated in the post office at Superior, which could be reached by lake steamer or by stage from St. Paul. About once a month McLean would start out by boat during the summer months, sometimes taking a few passengers with him in addition to his load of mail.

An address presented by Mr. L. A. Rossman of Grand Rapids at a dinner held at Coleraine in honor of two veteran employees of the Oliver Iron Mining Company on September 21 appears in *Skillings' Mining Review* for October 21. Under the title "Narrative of the Western Mesabi Iron Range of Minnesota," Mr. Rossman surveys the story of the discovery of iron in the area and of the extensive developments that followed. He notes that within the life spans of those honored "ore has been discovered, railroads have been built, great plants constructed, and some mines exhausted."

A *Biographical Memoir of Ross Aiken Gortner* by Samuel C. Lind has been published by the National Academy of Sciences as volume 23, number 6 of its *Biographical Memoirs* (Washington, 1944). The review of Gortner's career, which included a period of twenty-five years as chief of the division of agricultural biochemistry in the University of Minnesota, is followed by a detailed bibliography of his writings.

"Poets of Wood and Word" whose works will figure in Meridel Le Sueur's forthcoming book, "North Star Country," are the subject of a preliminary chapter appearing in the winter number of *Common Ground*. She quotes at length from the writings of Budd Reeves, a self-styled "missionary" who traveled about Minnesota in the decades before 1900 distributing pamphlets that he had written and printed. Another chapter from Miss Le Sueur's book, entitled "Notes on North County Folkways," appeared in the issue of this magazine for September, 1944.

WAR HISTORY ACTIVITIES

"The only kind of history that can make any considerable appeal in time of war is that which is designed to fill in backgrounds to the present, and this Second World War is producing bumper crops of this kind, written largely, as would be expected, by journalists and publicists." Thus writes Professor Robert L. Schuyler of Columbia University in a paper on "War and Historiography" presented before a symposium on the organization, direction, and support of research in Philadelphia on No-

vember 20, 1943, and published in the *Proceedings* of the American Philosophical Society for 1944. The present-mindedness which "reaches its climax in time of war," Professor Schuyler believes, is all too likely to make one forget that "historical occurrences — what men have done and thought and felt — had a validity of their own." He discusses at some length the "records, public and private, national, state, and local, to which the present war" is giving rise; he tells of the projects, including that inaugurated in Minnesota, for the care and preservation of the vast accumulation of records growing out of the war; and he describes the ambitious and extensive programs for historiography projected for the army, the navy, and various federal departments.

Problems arising out of the "Arrangement and Classification of War Records" are considered by Marvin W. Schlegel in the October number of the *War Records Collector*, and the system of classification devised in Pennsylvania, where the author is assistant state historian, is explained. Copies of the classification outline, which, Mr. Schlegel reports, "has so far withstood the test of experience," may be obtained by those interested from the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, Harrisburg. An editorial discussion of "Some Problems of Contemporary War History" is presented in the *Collector* for December.

An article on "Ohio Catholics in the War" by Edward C. Reilly occupies much of the space in the October issue of *Communiqué*, the publication of the Ohio War History Commission. In the November number George F. Howe describes the origin, growth, and war services of the Cincinnati Terminal. The history of the Naval Recognition School at Ohio State University, from May, 1942, through 1944, is outlined in the December issue.

The establishment of the Virginia World War II History Commission, with Lester J. Cappon as director and W. Edwin Hemphill as assistant director, has been announced. The new organization, which received an appropriation of \$12,500 for the period from 1944 to 1946, has its headquarters in the library of the University of Virginia. Another newly established collecting agency is the Hawaii War Records Depository, which has been organized as a division of the University of Hawaii.

That school children should collect records of war activities, should be encouraged to produce informative records concerning men and

women in service, and should save them for historical purposes is suggested by the *North Carolina War Records Bulletin* in its issue of October 9, 1944.

First-hand accounts of the activities of American military organizations in Australia are to be found in recent issues of newspapers published at Sydney, which have been added to the society's war history collection by Mrs. Arthur Katz of St. Paul. Among the papers represented are the *Yank Down Under*, the *Sydney Evening Herald*, the *Daily Mirror*, and the *Daily Telegraph*.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

A substantial log building modeled on a pioneer log cabin, but greatly enlarged, serves the Kandiyohi County Historical Society both as a museum and as an assembly hall. The low, broad building, with its wide eaves, is situated on a hilltop within the county fairgrounds at Willmar, overlooking Foot Lake. During the progress of the fair in September, pioneers gather there to exchange reminiscences, and residents of scattered communities meet in the cabin to renew old friendships. If there is autumn chill in the air, blazing logs in the huge stone fireplace opposite the door welcome the visitors. In the society's log cabin they have an opportunity to rest and chat, as well as to examine and enjoy the society's collections. A meeting of the organization, with a business session and a formal address, is a feature of the annual county fair. On September 14, 1944, Governor Thye was the speaker.

During the rest of the year the log cabin is used occasionally by other groups for meetings. The museum can be seen by groups and individuals by appointment only. Classes of children from schools throughout the county are the most frequent visitors. Those who wish to see the society's museum should make arrangements with Mayor Martin Leaf of Willmar, the president of the Kandiyohi County society.

The society's collections are displayed in two large, specially constructed wall cases and half a dozen smaller cases, all arranged along the walls of the cabin. Some larger pieces, including an early upright piano, stand out on the floor, and others appear on shelves high over the cases. A few appropriate items, such as two large clocks, decorate the mantel.

Some archaeological objects recovered from a gravel pit at Willmar are among the few Indian items in this museum. Implements both of stone and of copper are displayed. There are also some objects of pipestone.

The Kandiyohi County society's collections are rich in material illustrating pioneer life, particularly among the numerous Scandinavians who settled on the fertile farm lands of central Minnesota. Many objects that the early Swedish and Norwegian settlers brought with them from the Old World are preserved at Willmar, thus suggesting the life they left behind in Europe. There are, for example, two knapsacks woven of birchbark strips. Although the Willmar knapsacks date from about 1890, similar receptacles are still made and used by the peasants of northern Sweden. A recent motion picture of peasant life in the Swedish back country shows knapsacks of the same design in use. Some of the treasured possessions taken to Kandiyohi County by Swedish immigrants of the 1890's doubtless were transported in these receptacles. A wooden trunk decorated with elaborate bands of wrought iron and painted peasant motifs probably served a similar purpose.

Numerous other items may well have crossed the Atlantic carefully packed in such containers. Among them are teakettles and flasks of shining copper, a brightly painted wooden beer bowl and a mug made in Norway in 1825, a cheese mold, and a coffee mill. A set of tools used in making wooden shoes doubtless originated in northern Europe. Agricultural and domestic tools and utensils include the usual array of spinning wheels, ox yokes, candle molds, and the like. Old-time rifles, pistols, and powder horns are displayed in a special gun case.

As is to be expected, some interesting examples of farming tools and implements have come to light in this agricultural community. An unusual item in the Willmar museum is a miniature model of an International harvester of 1902. A straw-burning Advance steam tractor that saw use in the locality a half century ago is stored in a barn on the fairgrounds and is displayed only during the annual fair. Several conveyances, among them an original Red River cart, are stored in the same manner. Of interest to students of transportation history is a Minnesota automobile license issued on October 21, 1903, by the Minnesota "Inspectors of Steam Vessels and Steam Boilers."

A fireproof addition to the Kandiyohi County society's log cabin provides a vault for the safe storage of local archives, manuscripts, books, and objects of special value. The vault was constructed after the county board appropriated a thousand dollars for the purpose in the fall of 1941. As a result the society is well equipped to preserve the county's historical treasures. A record of the organization's holdings is available in the form of an accessions list for more than four hundred objects and collections.

Each object is briefly described and the name of the donor is given on the list. Similar information is provided on the typewritten labels that accompany the exhibits in the log cabin. With continuing financial support from the county, this local museum, with its enthusiastic leaders, should become a vital force in the life of the community. B. L. H.

Members of the executive board of the Thunder Bay Historical Society have worked out a program for "Rebuilding of Trading Posts and Marking of Famous Sites for Tourist Purposes" in the Thunder Bay district of Ontario. Their recommendations are outlined by the society's president, J. P. Bertrand, in the *Fort William Daily Times-Journal* for December 23. He reviews the stories of forts and other historic sites in the area which, if exploited, the society's officers believe would attract large numbers of tourists in the postwar era. The society's program includes the erection of markers, the reopening of ancient portage trails, the establishment of parks, and the rebuilding of old trading posts.

The Minnesota Finnish-American Historical Society was incorporated on November 16, 1943, with the following officers: Alex Kyyhkynen of Duluth, president, J. P. Raattama of Nashwauk, vice-president, Einar E. Lauley of New Yorks Mills, treasurer, and Adolph Lundquist of New York Mills, secretary. The society, which has published a *Certificate of Incorporation*, has its headquarters in Duluth.

The contributions to community welfare made by Mr. Fred W. Johnson of New Ulm are given editorial recognition in the *Minneapolis Star Journal* for December 13, where the assertion is made that the "climax of his efforts to make New Ulm a cultural center was his untiring work in assembling the Brown County Historical society collections which are housed on the ground floor of the magnificent public library building." Mr. Johnson was honored by his home community at a public meeting sponsored by the New Ulm Civic and Commerce Association on December 12.

The newly arranged museum of the Carver County Historical Society, which was removed from Mayer to Waconia during the past summer (see *ante*, 25:406), was formally opened to the public in connection with the organization's annual meeting on October 20. The museum is now located in the Waconia school, where it occupies three rooms on the ground floor. Citizens from all parts of the county took advantage of the opportunity to examine the exhibits. The program arranged for the

occasion included talks by Mrs. Howard L. Hall on the relation of the society to the schools, by James F. Faber on the organization and its work, and by A. O. Anderson on the early history of Laketown and Waconia.

Dr. Anna Amrud was re-elected to the presidency of the Chippewa County Historical Society at its annual meeting, which was held at Montevideo on October 2. Other officers named for the coming year include Mrs. Fred Handeen, vice-president, Miss Petra Storaker, secretary, and Mrs. Frank Starbeck, treasurer. Plans for the reopening of the society's museum in Lac qui Parle State Park were discussed, and an appeal was issued for material for display. The museum in the Windom Building at Montevideo was open for public inspection in connection with a meeting of the society held there on November 30.

Mr. E. G. Roth, county agricultural agent at Brainerd, was elected president of the Crow Wing County Historical Society on December 8, when the organization held its annual meeting at Brainerd. Other officers chosen include Hilding Swanson, vice-president, Mrs. Sarah Heald, secretary, and Mrs. J. A. Hayes, treasurer. The principal speaker was Mr. F. T. Gustafson, who spoke on Indian arts and crafts and displayed examples from the museum at Cass Lake, of which he is curator. That the Crow Wing County museum is open on Friday and Saturday afternoons was announced at the meeting.

Mrs. Bunn T. Willson of Rochester, president of the Olmsted County Historical Society, spoke on the activities of that organization before a meeting of the Fillmore County Historical Society at Preston on November 28. From a group of nine trustees elected on that occasion, the following officers later were chosen: Mrs. P. L. Wilson, president, the Reverend N. S. Magelsson, vice-president, Mrs. Oscar Peterson, treasurer, and Mrs. Ida S. Johnson, secretary. The society is making plans for the opening of a museum in the house that became its property under the terms of the will of the late Mrs. John C. Mills (see *ante*, 25:406). Numerous gifts in the form of cases as well as museum objects have been turned over to the society since the house was acquired, for, according to Mrs. Johnson, "when people realized there would be a permanent place for their treasures, they were willing to contribute them."

"Early Days in Loring Park" was the subject of a talk presented by Edward M. Conant before the Hennepin County Historical Society's fall

meeting in Minneapolis on November 1. The speaker described the neighborhood of the society's new museum in Minneapolis, which faces Loring Park, as it appeared in frontier days. The museum, which was opened to the public on October 7 (see *ante*, 25:407), was the scene of a second "open house" on the evening of December 6, when those who could not be present on the earlier date were given an opportunity to see the society's collections in their new setting.

At the annual meeting of the Lake County Historical Society, which was held at Two Harbors on December 8, Father Daniel McEnery was elected president, Hans Ojard, vice-president, and Judge William E. Scott, secretary and treasurer. A committee which has been formulating plans for a local historical museum at Two Harbors reported in favor of the project, pointing out its value as an attraction to tourists.

An old-fashioned threshing bee, in which machinery of the early decades of the present century was utilized, was staged on the farm of George Power near Montgomery on October 8 under the auspices of the Pioneer Historical Association of Montgomery. The machinery used is from a collection of pioneer farm equipment owned by the association's president, Mr. Joseph T. Rynda, Jr. A number of interesting pictures taken while the bee was in progress appear in the rotogravure sections of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and the *Minneapolis Tribune* for October 22. Women dressed in costumes of the 1890's assisted with the threshing, which was witnessed by some five hundred people.

The museum of the Nicollet County Historical Society, which was described in the last issue of this magazine (see *ante*, 25:404), is now open to the public every Tuesday. A report on the museum was submitted by its curator, Mrs. M. E. Stone of St. Peter, to a meeting of the society held on October 31. She revealed that the collections include 511 objects, 340 pictures, 61 books, and 56 manuscripts.

The story of Edward Bassett and his family, Nobles County pioneers of 1874, is recorded by a granddaughter, Garnet Smith, in a sketch appearing in the October *Bulletin* of the Nobles County Historical Society. It is offered as the first of a series of "Pages of Nobles County History," in which the experiences of local pioneers will be recorded. A note about Gretchtown, "A Phantom City" that served as the county seat from 1857 to 1870, is another item of interest in the same issue of this mimeographed quarterly. The editor estimates that more than ninety-three hun-

dred people saw the society's museum displays in the courthouse at Worthington during the past year.

That nearly sixteen thousand visitors found their way to the museum of the Olmsted County Historical Society in Rochester during 1944 was announced by the president, Mrs. B. T. Willson, in a report presented before the society's annual meeting on October 24. The organization now has a membership of 190. Several interesting gifts were received at the meeting, and others recently acquired were described by the chairman of the accessions committee. Three of the society's directors — Mrs. Willson, Mr. Ernest Schlitgus, and Mr. A. J. Lobb — were re-elected, and committees for the coming year were announced. The program included a paper on Lake Superior by Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts for the Minnesota Historical Society.

A map of the village of Pelican Rapids bearing the date 1883 is among the recent additions to the museum of the Otter Tail County Historical Society at Fergus Falls. It is described by E. T. Barnard, the secretary of the organization, in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for October 23. A list of local merchants who advertised on the map is reproduced by Mr. Barnard. The Otter Tail County museum is open every afternoon except Sundays and holidays.

About a hundred and fifty people attended a dinner meeting of the Polk County Historical Society at Crookston on December 4. The program included addresses by Dr. Lewis Beeson, acting superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, on "The Work of a Local Historical Society," and by Judge J. E. Montague of Crookston, a member of the state society's executive council, on early Red River Valley history. The society's officers, including the president, Dr. Paul Hagen, were re-elected.

The "Writing of Local War History" was the subject of the principal address presented before the annual meeting of the Rice County Historical Society at Faribault on November 1. Professor Nelson Vance Russell of Carleton College was the speaker. Some remarks about the activities of local historical societies in Minnesota were made by Dr. Lewis Beeson, acting superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, who stressed the value of keeping accurate records. Other speakers included Mr. Frank Kaisersatt, who described the records of the First World War assembled and preserved in Rice County, and Dr. F. W. Davis, who compared the activities of the present selective service board in the county with those

of the board of 1917. More than a hundred people attended the meeting and participated in a discussion of the collection of war records by the Rice County society. Officers elected for the coming year include Frederick E. Jenkins, president, Mrs. Howard Bratton, vice-president, Alice Pearson, recording secretary, Brigid Coughlin, corresponding secretary, and Donald Scott, treasurer.

The annual report presented by Miss Corah L. Colbrath, secretary of the St. Louis County Historical Society, at the organization's annual meeting at Duluth on November 15 reveals that the society not only had an active and profitable year, but that it has become firmly entrenched in the life of the community. Since its headquarters are now situated near the Duluth State Teachers College, students are enabled to make extensive use of its collections. The society employs a student from the college to file material and serve visitors. Since September 21, Miss Kathryn Johnson has held this position. Nearly five hundred visitors who registered saw the society's museum collections during the period from March to November. Lists of the society's 142 active members and of gifts received during the past year are appended to the report. An abstract of Miss Colbrath's report appears in a local newspaper, *Duluth Publicity*, for November 25. At the society's November meeting Dr. Richard Bardon was re-elected to the presidency. Other officers include four vice-presidents, J. D. Mahoney, treasurer, and Miss Colbrath, secretary.

Mr. H. W. Reineke of Iona was re-elected to the presidency of the Todd County Historical Society at its annual meeting, which was held at Long Prairie on October 28. Lambert Irsfeld of Browerville is vice-president; Nick Truog of Long Prairie, secretary; and P. J. Nelson of Clarissa, treasurer.

The president of the Waseca County Historical Society, Mrs. F. T. Day, presided at a meeting of the organization held at Waseca on October 2. She announced the appointment of new chairmen in New Richmond, Byron, and Otisco townships. The society has a chairman in each township who undertakes to collect articles of historical interest in his district.

That more than a hundred members were enrolled by the Washington County Historical Society during the past year, raising the total membership to more than four hundred, was the gratifying announcement made at the organization's annual meeting, which was held at Stillwater

on October 5. The election of officers held on that occasion resulted in the re-election of Mrs. Henry Bailey of St. Paul Park to the presidency. Other officers chosen include Chester Schaffer and Frances Parker, first and second vice-presidents, Mrs. George Goggin, secretary, and Mrs. Albert Mellin, treasurer.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

The individuals who have served Anoka as postmasters since the post office was established in 1852 are listed in the *Anoka Union* for December 27. The information presented is based upon a letter received from the office of the postmaster general. It reveals that the post office was originally established in Benton County and that it was first known as Decorri. The name was changed to Anoka in the spring of 1854.

Living conditions and social events in a Beltrami County village of 1902 are vividly pictured by Mrs. Grace Lee Oberg in a series of "Reminiscences of Early Pioneer Days" published in the *Blackduck American* for November 9 and 16. As soon as living quarters for her and her two children were available in Blackduck, Mrs. Oberg joined her husband, who was publishing the *American* there. She describes the rough town of eight hundred people that she found upon her arrival, with its muddy streets, frame buildings, and tar-paper shacks. Such organizations as the Strollers, the Lincoln Study Club, and a library association, and an annual "Firemen's Ball" provided recreation and cultural stimulation for the residents of this remote community.

Vivid tales of frontier life in southern Minnesota, contributed by the Reverend Charles E. McColley, continue to appear in the *Amboy Herald*, the *Blue Earth County Enterprise* of Mapleton, and the *Winnebago City Enterprise* (see *ante*, 25:409). Some of the domestic problems that the frontier housewife was forced to meet are suggested in the Mapleton paper for October 5, and in the issue for November 2, Mr. McColley tells "How the Peddlers Brought 'Luxury' to the Frontier" in the form of tin ware and other much needed supplies. The sod houses of the treeless plains and the hay burners used to heat them are described in the *Amboy Herald* for October 6. Accounts of frontier Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations are included in each of the series.

A valuable contribution to the cause of local history in general and to Norwegian-American history in particular is a translation, made by Miss

Petra M. Lien of Madelia and members of her family, of the earliest volume in the archives of the Lake Hanska Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brown County. The translation was mimeographed and distributed among members of the congregation as a Christmas greeting (1944. 47 p.). It opens with the constitution adopted on December 1, 1869, when the congregation was organized, and continues with the secretary's records for the two decades that followed, to November 24, 1889. Both social and economic conditions in a frontier community are vividly reflected in the document that Miss Lien has made available for the general reader. Lists of the charter members of the congregation and of those who contributed to its expenses in the 1880's will be of interest to genealogists. Miss Lien has presented a copy of her translation to the Minnesota Historical Society.

Under the title "With Faith and a Market Basket," the story of St. Barnabas Hospital of Minneapolis is outlined in the *M.A.C. Gopher* for December. As the Cottage Hospital, the institution was founded in 1871 largely as a result of the efforts of the Reverend David B. Knickerbacker.

A useful contribution to Minnesota's medical history is a little volume by Bertha E. Merrill entitled *The Trek from Yesterday: A History of Organized Nursing in Minneapolis, 1883-1936* (1944. 96 p.). It deals largely with the history of the Hennepin County Registered Nurses' Association, which adopted its constitution in 1910. Chapters are included dealing with the participation of Minneapolis nurses in the Spanish-American and First World wars, with the gradual reduction in hours of work and the increase in fees, with relations of the local nurses' organization and the American Red Cross, and with the careers of individual members of the profession.

Early mail service in Itasca County by carriers who made use of wagons, sleighs, and even of dog teams in transporting mail is described in the column entitled "Up in This Neck of the Woods" in the *Grand Rapids Herald-Review* for December 6. Routes used in reaching remote post offices, particularly in winter, are located, some pioneer mail carriers are named, and early post offices are enumerated. Plats filed for the original settlement of Grand Rapids and its additions are the subject of the column published on December 27.

A contribution both to community history and to the broader record of Swedish settlement in Minnesota is an *Anniversary Album, 1859-1944*,

Lebanon Lutheran Church, New London, Minnesota (150 p.), published in connection with the celebration of the congregation's eighty-fifth anniversary in August, 1944. The editors, Victor E. Lawson, who wrote much of the narrative, and Eben E. Lawson, who assembled the many pictures that illustrate the text, have succeeded admirably in integrating the story of the church with that of the community. Detailed information about pastors, church buildings, church organizations, and personnel is in most cases sketched against a background of local history. Swedish colonization of the New London neighborhood is not only described but is illustrated on a map showing the four parishes of 1862 and locating the residences of their members. The experiences of these settlers in the Sioux Outbreak are described in a special section. The editor reveals that the records of the Lebanon Church from its founding in 1859 to the present "have been preserved in the archives of the congregation, and are the source of the information which is given" in his narrative. Mention should be made of the frontispiece—a charming "View of Old New London" in color, reproduced from a water color painted in 1910 by Eben E. Lawson.

The Floral Club of Austin is commemorating its seventy-fifth anniversary during the present season with a series of programs describing the contributions of American women in various fields of endeavor. Programs centering about such topics as women in education and women in business are being presented.

By way of observing National Newspaper Week, the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* published, from October 3 to 6, a series of four articles by Charles F. Stutz briefly reviewing its history from 1849 to the present. Emphasis is placed upon the paper's early years, and particularly upon its beginnings under the editorship of James M. Goodhue. Later editors whose influence is stressed include Earle S. Goodrich, Joseph A. Wheelock, and George Thompson. Their portraits and some interesting pictures of the structures that have housed the newspaper illustrate the series.

The history of St. Olaf College at Northfield is reviewed by its president, Clemens M. Granskou, in the autumn number of the *American-Scandinavian Review*. Its founding in 1875 is recalled and the growth of its campus is described, with emphasis upon the handsome buildings erected in recent years.

To commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Duluth, special services were held on August 6 and 8, and an anniversary booklet in which the history of the congregation is reviewed was published (19 p.). It reveals that among those who contributed substantially to the original church, erected in 1869, was Jay Cooke, whose Duluth agent, G. B. Sargent, was commissioned to erect the church. Figuring in the story of its early years are such prominent Episcopal leaders as Bishop Henry B. Whipple and the Reverend Joseph A. Gilfillan. The story of St. Luke's Hospital, which was organized by the church vestry in 1882, also is outlined. Many interesting pictures of persons and places connected with the history of the church illustrate the booklet. Another Duluth congregation to mark a seventy-fifth anniversary recently is the First Methodist Church, which is the subject of a feature article in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for October 22. The Reverend Harvey Webb, its first pastor, conducted its first service on November 7, 1869, after a trip from St. Anthony that required seventeen days, according to this account.

The Blessed Sacrament Church of Hibbing, which marked its fiftieth anniversary on September 17, is the subject of a booklet issued on that occasion. A list of the original parishioners is among the items of historical interest included in the pamphlet. There are also sketches of priests who have served the parish, of church organizations, and of church buildings.

Files of contemporary newspapers and the minutes of the county medical society, as well as county histories, have been used by the anonymous writer of the "History of Medicine in Wabasha County" which appears in *Minnesota Medicine* for October, November, and December. It consists of a general survey, covering the period before 1900 and arranged by decades, in the October number, and two installments devoted to a "biographical dictionary" of doctors who practiced in the county before the turn of the century. Of more than passing interest is a "scale of prices" that the physicians of Wabasha County agreed upon in 1860. As his source for this item, the writer cites the *Wabasha Journal* for April 2, 1860. The doctors decided to charge one dollar for visits within a mile of their offices; for longer trips they increased the charge by fifty cents for each additional mile; and they added a third of the usual amount to bills for "all visits within town or country after usual bed time."



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