

## Reviews of Books

*The Midwest Pioneer: His Ills, Cures, & Doctors.* By MADGE E. PICKARD and R. CARLYLE BULEY. (Crawfordsville, Indiana, R. E. Banta, 1945. 319 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Anyone who still views American pioneer life through a rainbow haze of romance would do well to read this account of health and medicine on the frontier a hundred years and more ago. It begins with a recital of the ills the land was heir to. So many, frequent, and severe were they that a man who could say he was feeling "tolerable, just tolerable" was considered to be in good health. "Things seldom got better than that." Among the plagues, endemic and epidemic, that made life uncommonly hard the familiar ague was the most widespread; the yellowish pallor it produced became a distinguishing mark of the Westerner. But sharing it with all one's neighbors made it no more pleasant. Those who had settled where it was prevalent longed to flee and warned others to stay away:

Don't go to Michigan, that land of ills;  
The word means ague, fever and chills.

To combat the hazards of sickness the frontier settlers had their traditional folk remedies, compounded of about equal parts of herbal lore and superstition; their choice of half a hundred "patent" medicines, so called to take advantage of the plain man's faith in the patent as a sign of government approval; and as a last resort the doctor, any doctor. It didn't much matter which of the eighteen or so varieties he belonged to. It was said "the patients of the homeopaths died of the disease, and the patients of the allopaths died of the cure." Those were the days when theoretical systems instead of science dictated medical practice, and the heroic bleeding, blistering, and purging to which "regular" doctors subscribed justify the dedication of this book "to the Pioneer who bravely faced the Doctor."

Here, too, is the story in brief of the first Midwestern medical schools, proprietary all, and of the acrimonious rivalry among them; of outstanding personalities and classics, such as Dr. Daniel Drake and his famous treatise, *Diseases of the Interior Valley of North America*; of the early hospitals, to which the patient went to die, not to get well; of the medical

sects that divided and subdivided with the speed of the animalculae they argued about, scrapping each with each and all with the regulars; of the beginnings of organization and regulation that slowly made order from the chaos. The authors' Midwest extends only to the western borders of Wisconsin, but Minnesota's history could supply many an illustration of their topics.

The general outline of this story is familiar enough, but it is not elsewhere so conveniently and readably synthesized, and its details, culled from a variety of contemporary sources, will be new to most laymen and to many doctors. Why then, one wonders, do the authors seem somewhat apologetic, calling their book "a by-product . . . of some importance"? By their own statement, no problem the pioneer faced in the conquest of the wilderness was of more importance than that of health.

One may apply here a recent statement by Dr. Richard Shryock: "The value of studies in the history of American science is not to be found primarily in contributions to the history of science as such, but rather to the history of the United States." The ills of the pioneer and the methods of combating them may be of little moment in the sweep of the history of medicine, but they are far from unimportant in the history of the United States. If there is any need to apologize for writing about our medical past, it is for continuing to describe it in isolation; it is time to discuss it in the general context of our social history — not as a collection of amusing trivia but as a force affecting and affected by other aspects of social change. One continues to wish, for instance, that someone would take direct account of the evidence that the search for health and a place of healthful living was much more than an incidental factor in the westward movement of the frontier.

HELEN CLAPESATTLE

*Malaria in the Upper Mississippi Valley, 1760-1900 (Supplements to the Bulletin of the History of Medicine, no. 4).* By ERWIN H. ACKER-KNECHT. (Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins Press, 1945. viii, 142 p. Maps, charts. Paper, \$2.00.)

Only within the past quarter of a century have historians paid serious attention to the impact of disease on the settlement of the American frontier. Researchers delved deep into pioneer politics, examined the records of the public domain, interpreted the literature of the valley of democracy, and narrated the economics of the hunter, the trapper, and the husbandman. They wrote the biographies of politicians, statesmen,

soldiers, and reformers. But, in general, they ignored the frontier doctor and shunned the diseases that conditioned the westward movement. The history of medicine and of public health was pushed aside as if of little consequence. Specific investigations of *materia medica*, of great epidemics, of pathology, of surgery, of obstetrics, and of definite ills that racked the frame of the "stalwart" frontiersman were too frequently ignored.

The First World War, emphasizing disease and medical treatment in the armed forces, stimulated a small group of historians to turn back to a voluminous literature that described symptoms and treatment. The library of the surgeon general of the United States proved to be a treasure house, as did the great many-volume compilation of the medical and surgical history of the Civil War. For the first time the investigator thumbed the faded leaves of the nation's state and regional medical journals.

Two periodicals, the *Annals of Medical History* and the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, began publication. It is unfortunate, indeed, that the former was forced to suspend publication several years ago. The latter, however, still exists and, from time to time, issues *Supplements* dealing in great detail with a specific problem. *Malaria in the Upper Mississippi Valley, 1760-1900* is the fourth in the series.

Recognizing two or more centuries of confusion concerning that frontier plague malaria, Dr. Erwin H. Ackerknecht set himself the task of organizing malaria literature, tracing the geographic limits of the disease, interpreting its influence upon the march of the emigrants, and outlining methods of treatment that eventually led to its decline in the upper Mississippi Valley. He has achieved a far more creditable result than John S. Chambers did in his *The Conquest of Cholera*.

Malaria, of course, was not hard to recognize among the settlers. Hundreds of commentators described it in diaries, newspapers, books of travel, and medical journals. It was the disease that made the pioneer "pale, gaunt, haggard, attenuated, narrow chested, spindle-shanked, sharp featured, lantern jawed, lank-haired, anxious eyed, with care-furrowed brow, of pasty, sallow, bilious or dyspeptic complexion, of serious, concentrated, careworn expression and languid or irritable mien." Innumerable cartoons and poems continued the unlovely description.

And today the swallows flitting  
Round my cabin see me sitting  
Moodily within the sunshine  
Just within my silent door;

Waiting for the "ager," seeming  
 Like a man forever dreaming  
 And the sunlight on me streaming  
     Throws no shadow on the floor;  
 For I am too thin and fallow  
 To make shadows on the floor—  
     Nary shadows any more!

The bulk of Mr. Ackerknecht's volume discusses the rise and fall of malaria in the upper Mississippi Valley, with detailed emphasis upon history, etiology, and treatment in Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. The author also examines, in a most careful manner, the possible factors accounting for the disappearance of the disease. Among the agents responsible for the decline of malaria are proper clearing, cultivation, and drainage; housing, screening, and food; and education. The mosquito receives proper emphasis, and great attention is given to the evolution of the quinine treatment. The author's discussion of quinine is one of the most adequate in contemporary literature. Of particular interest is a section dealing with the economic aspects of quinine, in which the writer cites quinine prices from 1823 to 1897 and also gives the total pounds of quinine bark and sulfate imported from 1870 to 1897. "Without quinine," says the author, "the economic development of the whole region and therewith the decline of malaria would most probably have been at least considerably retarded."

Marked by careful research and bearing on every page the impress of sound judgment, this study sets an unusually high standard for monographs dealing with medical history. It could well serve as an example for future investigations. Many such specific studies are urgently needed before the definitive history of medicine in the United States can be written.

Defects are few and unworthy of mention. Perhaps the major fault of the *Supplement* is an awkward and, in many instances, an obtuse and difficult literary style. Many sentences could have been sharpened to bring greater readability. Had the volume carried an index, it would have been a much more useful reference tool.

PHILIP D. JORDAN

*Austrian Aid to American Catholics, 1830-1860.* By BENJAMIN J. BLIED, Ph.D. (Milwaukee, privately printed, 1944. 205 p. \$2.50.)

Father Blied gives here a fine bit of perspective to the well-known work of missionaries, such as Bishop Baraga and Father Pierz, to the

Indians of the Old Northwest. For that, if for no other reason, the study has value to the student of Minnesota history. However, the background sketched for missionary activity of men who like Baraga and Pierz hailed from central Europe is much broader and the vista of activity much more inclusive.

A historical prelude gives us something of an appreciation of the influences that helped mould American attitudes toward the Austrians and which might account for the Austrian anxieties about the American ideal. The story of the founding of the Leopoldine Society for the support of missionary activity in the United States is excellently told. Counterpart of the *Société pour la propagation de la foi* in France, and strongly supported by the royal house of Austria, this organization contributed most generously to the establishment of missions for the Indians, seminaries for the training of priests, and orphanages to provide care for the young cast on the responsible care of the church through sudden bereavements caused by the cholera or the rude experiences of the frontier. The story of the needs and anxieties of churchmen is interestingly told, although the style is often heavy and of a character that might be called Germanic.

We are given many good biographical sketches of the clergy who worked in various dioceses along the Atlantic seaboard, as well as in the Middle West. The various efforts at foundations made by groups of religious of Austrian origin, Redemptorists, Jesuits, Franciscans, Capuchins, and Praemonstratensians are recounted. The author has crowded into a brief space the fruit of much research. He provides the reader with a very workable bibliography and an adequate index. From the reading of the book much can be derived for the better understanding of the national and language problems that German immigration brought to the American shore.

JAMES L. CONNOLLY

*How to Dispose of Records: A Manual for Federal Officials.* (Washington, The National Archives, 1945. iv, 50 p.)

At a time when a quarter of the working population of the nation is in the employ of the federal government, the problem of the disposal of the records of their services and productions becomes a serious one. This *Manual* is prepared for the guidance and instruction of national government officials who are facing this situation. It furnishes an outline for surveying records and criteria for determining their value. The materials

are thereby classified in three groups: those whose official value has come to an end, and which should be destroyed; those still having a temporary value, and that should be maintained inexpensively in the custody of some suitable agency; and those of enduring value, which are to be transferred to the National Archives.

It is not only federal officials who are threatened with burial under an accumulation of records. State departments, county governments, and municipalities, as well as semipublic organizations, business establishments, and even individuals, are perplexed as to what should be preserved and what can safely be destroyed. Many libraries and historical societies, which for years collected manuscript and printed records more or less indiscriminately, are now giving more thought to the prospective value of materials before accepting them for permanent preservation. While this *Manual* makes no pretense of solving the disposal problems of all these agencies, they can all profit by a study of the working principles it lays down.

ALICE E. SMITH

*Guide to the Manuscripts of the Wisconsin Historical Society.* Edited by ALICE E. SMITH. (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1944. xi, 290 p. Illustrations. \$2.50.)

Nearly forty years ago the State Historical Society of Wisconsin published a *Descriptive List of Manuscript Collections* edited by Reuben G. Thwaites. It included the invaluable Draper manuscripts, upon whose resources so many historians have drawn. This reference to the Draper Collection is not meant to belittle the acquisitions of the Wisconsin Historical Society papers, which are described in the present *Guide to the Manuscripts of the Wisconsin Historical Society*, edited by Alice E. Smith as a supplement to the earlier check list.

The design of this work is based upon alphabetical arrangement, with 802 groups of papers, either under the author's name or the main subject, and an index which seems adequate enough to furnish a further key to particular documents. A scanning of the entries shows a considerable amount of nineteenth- and twentieth-century historical material, with an occasional inclusion of some eighteenth-century local documents.

This check list is worth reading as a whole for the descriptive notes of the various groups, which are sufficiently elaborate and informative to reward any historian whose interests are not confined to his own im-

mediate project. Lastly, the volume is well printed and attractive in format.

RUTH LAPHAM BUTLER

*North Star Editor: A Brief Sketch of Joseph A. Wheelock and His Policies as Editor of The St. Paul Pioneer-Press.* By RICHARD B. EIDE. (New York, King's Crown Press, 1944. vii, 76 p. Portrait. \$1.00.)

This sketch of the man who for "fifty years . . . gave editorial leadership to the St. Paul Pioneer-Press and newspapers that made up its family tree" is an abstract from a larger work published in a small edition in 1939 by the same author, *The Influence of Editorship and Other Forces on the Growth of the St. Paul Pioneer-Press, 1849-1909*. It makes available much valuable information about one of the great personal journalists of his day, and about the newspaper whose influence for many years dominated the Northwest.

In the five chapters that make up the pamphlet, the author considers Wheelock as a pioneer journalist, as editor of the *St. Paul Press*, his policies on the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, and the news of Wheelock's day, and briefly evaluates the editor. The author's discourse is interspersed by numerous and varied excerpts from Wheelock's editorial writings. The reader is confused at times, however, by the lack of transition from the words of the author to those of Wheelock.

M.W.B.

## Minnesota Historical Society Notes

A NEW SERIES of publications, issued under the title *Pictorial Minnesota*, has been inaugurated by the society. It consists of sets of from eight to twelve pictures provided with descriptive captions and assembled in specially printed envelopes. Sets relating to "The Indians" and to "Pioneer Buildings and Equipment" have been issued, and others are planned for future publication. The pictures, which are intended to serve as visual aids to teachers and students of Minnesota and Northwest history, may be obtained from the society for twenty-five cents a set. The project and its possible uses are discussed in another section of this magazine.

The index to volume 25 of *Minnesota History* has been published, and is now available on request to all members and others who receive the society's quarterly. Arrangements have been made for the binding of the four issues for 1944 and the index in a single volume to match earlier volumes. The difficulty of obtaining binding cloth, however, has delayed the issuing of the volume somewhat. When the work of binding is completed, members and subscribers who turn in the four unbound issues for 1944 may obtain the bound volume for seventy-five cents.

Six articles published in volumes 23 and 24 of *Minnesota History* are evaluated in volume 2 of *The United States, 1865-1900: A Survey of Current Literature*, which is edited by Curtis W. Garrison for the Hayes Foundation (Fremont, Ohio, 1944). They are Earl V. Chapin's "Early History of the Roseau Valley," Muriel B. Christison's "LeRoy S. Bufington and the Minneapolis Boom of the 1880's," Merrill E. Jarchow's "Farm Machinery of the 1860's in Minnesota," Hildegard Binder Johnson's "The Carver County German Reading Society," Margaret Snyder's "Chatfield: An Essay in Economic History," and Bertha L. Heilbron's "Walter Reed in Minnesota."

The society's committee for the preservation of historic buildings, of which Professor Laurence Schmeckebier of the department of fine arts in the University of Minnesota is chairman, met in the superintendent's office on March 24. In addition to the chairman, the following members of the committee were present: Dr. Beeson, Mr. Henry N. Benson of St.

Peter, Dean Blegen, Judge Brill, Dr. J. O. Christianson, Miss Laura Furness, Miss Heilbron, Professor Roy Jones, Professor A. C. Krey, Mr. E. L. Roney of Stillwater, and Miss Ruth Thompson of the Minneapolis Public Library. Plans were made to draw up lists of historic buildings throughout Minnesota, and to collect and preserve records of such buildings in the form of photographs, descriptions, and architects' drawings. It was decided that whenever feasible, the committee will encourage the preservation of buildings that have historic significance or artistic merit. When structures have deteriorated to such a degree that restoration has become impractical, pictorial and other records will be made. To promote the work of listing historic structures, as well as of saving them for posterity, the committee plans to enlist the co-operation of county historical societies, schools, and libraries throughout the state. The chairman was instructed to prepare a form indicating information needed about each significant building. It probably will be distributed through the local historical societies.

The sum of two hundred dollars has been presented by the Minnesota Society of the Daughters of American Colonists in memory of its former state regent, Mrs. Amy E. McDonald Robertson of Minneapolis, who died in 1942. The donors designated that the fund should be used for the purchase of books on genealogy and local history that the society cannot afford to purchase through regular channels.

That the statement "First Published 1853" on the recent reprint of the Prince Society's edition of the *Voyages of Peter Esprit Radisson* is a typographical error is revealed in a recent letter from the publisher, Mr. Peter Smith, to the acting superintendent of the society. He declares that the date should read 1885, as suggested by Miss Nute in her review of the reprinted work in the December issue of this magazine (*ante*, 25: 371).

Two life members, Elmer F. Blu of Duluth and Sigurd Ueland of Minneapolis, and a sustaining member, Judge Clarence R. Magney of St. Paul, are included among the thirty-three active members who joined the society during the first quarter of 1945. The names of the thirty new annual members follow: Mrs. Margaret C. Banning of Duluth, Harold N. Bishop of Park Rapids, Mrs. Edward Brooks of St. Paul, Warren E. Burger of St. Paul, H. A. Frederickson of Windom, Mrs. Jule M. Hannaford, Jr., of White Bear Lake, Vernon Hanson of Hinsdale, Illinois, Oscar B. Jessness of St. Paul, Mollie Korgen of Duluth, Herbert Krause of Sioux Falls,

South Dakota, Einar E. Lauley of Virginia, Mrs. William S. Lindsley of Minneapolis, Albee W. Ludwig of Minneapolis, Sterling Lund of Stanchfield, Adolph Lundquist of New York Mills, Mrs. Henrik L. Matson of Avoca, Elwin More of Blue Earth, Orvis M. Nelson of San Lorenzo, California, Harlan K. Nygaard of Minneapolis, Gustaf F. Olson of Minneapolis, John P. Raattama of Nashwauk, Mrs. Richard C. Reinecke of St. Paul, Frank Robertson of Side Lake, Carl T. Schuneman of White Bear Lake, Spencer Smith of Wayzata, Charles L. Tunell of Minneapolis, Rev. John Wargelin of Minneapolis, Mrs. Frederick K. Weyerhaeuser of St. Paul, Graydon G. Wheeler of Minneapolis, and Henry W. Withee of Preston.

The society lost the following active members by death during the six months from October 1, 1944, to March 31, 1945: Dr. James M. Murdoch of Pittsburgh on October 8, Peter Schaefer of Ely on October 24, Clyde A. Duniway of Stanford University, California, on December 24, Roger L. Windom of Coronado Beach, Florida, on December 24, Fred W. Besette of Duluth on January 1, Floyd E. Allen of Minneapolis on January 7, Dr. Louis E. Daugherty of St. Paul on January 10, Edgar L. Mattson of Minneapolis on January 11, Samuel M. Shepard of St. Paul on January 11, Andrew D. Stephens of Minneapolis on January 14, Elbert L. Carpenter of Minneapolis on January 29, Samuel E. Turner of St. Paul on February 2, Cavour S. Langdon of Minneapolis on February 15, and Dr. Arnold Schwyzer of St. Paul on February 19.

Mr. Beeson described "Examples of Literature Designed to Create Race Tension" in a talk presented before the College Women's Club of Minneapolis on January 28. Miss Nute spoke on Lake Superior before the South Shore Club of St. Paul on February 27 and the Minneapolis Geological Society on March 19, and she addressed the Altrusa Club of St. Paul on March 13 and the Soroptomist Club of Minneapolis on March 22 on the subject of the "History and Wild Life of Northeastern Minnesota."

In order to observe the use made of Minnesota iron in the furnaces and steel mills of Cleveland, Miss Nute visited that city from January 25 to February 5, spending much of her time in the plant of the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company. While there she attended a luncheon meeting of the Great Lakes Historical Society.

"'Botanizing' Minnesota in 1838-39" is the title of an article which Miss Nute contributes to the January-February issue of the *Conservation*

*Volunteer*. It deals with the travels in Minnesota and the Northwest, as a member of the Nicollet expedition, of a German botanist, Charles A. Geyer. The narrative is based in large measure on unpublished letters that Geyer wrote to an English friend from 1845 to 1847.

Mr. Hodnefield presents some suggestions about the "Classification and Arrangement of War Records" in a letter published in the *War Records Collector* for March.

### CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. Stith Thompson, who discusses the relationship of "Folklore and Minnesota History" in the present issue, is professor of English and folklore in the University of Indiana. As United States delegate, he attended meetings in 1937 of international folklore organizations at Paris and Edinburgh; he is actively affiliated with other folklore societies in America and abroad; and he is a prolific writer in the field. His interest in Minnesota folklore was stimulated by participation in the Folk Arts Conference held at the University of Minnesota in the autumn of 1944.

Miss Elizabeth Bachmann's article on "Minnesota Log Marks" is an expanded version of an earlier article on the same subject which appeared in the *Conservation Volunteer* for November-December, 1943. Under the title "The King's Broad Arrow," she contributed a general account of log marks and their use in the United States to the October, 1944, issue of *Frontiers*, a publication of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Miss Bachmann is secretary to the director of the forestry division of the Minnesota department of conservation.

Lieutenant Merrill E. Jarchow's article on "Livestock in Early Minnesota," like his discussions of the early use of farm machinery in the state and of the development of "Minnesota Agricultural Societies and Fairs" (*ante*, 22:249-269, 23:316-327, 24:287-306), is based upon an unpublished thesis dealing with the "Economic History of Minnesota Agriculture." It was prepared in the University of Minnesota, where the author received his doctoral degree in 1941. Since 1943, Lieutenant Jarchow has served as an instructor in the naval pre-flight school at Iowa City.

Dr. Edgar B. Wesley, professor of education in the University of Minnesota, contributes to the section dealing with "Minnesota History and the Schools" an evaluation of the society's recently inaugurated publication, *Pictorial Minnesota*. He served as director of a national committee which in 1944 issued a report on *American History in Schools and Colleges* (see *ante*, 25:168-170). Miss Bertha L. Heilbron, whose description of "Mayer's

Album of Minnesota Drawings" appears in the "Notes and Documents" section, is assistant editor of this magazine.

Book reviews have been contributed to this number of *Minnesota History* by Miss Helen Clapesattle, chief editor of the University of Minnesota Press and the author of *The Doctors Mayo*; Dr. Philip D. Jordan of the history faculty of Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, whose writings in the field of Northwest history include numerous articles on frontier medicine; the Right Reverend James L. Connolly, a member of the society's executive council who was recently named bishop of Fall River, Massachusetts; Miss Alice Smith, curator of manuscripts for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; Dr. Ruth Lapham Butler, custodian of the Ayer Collection in the Newberry Library, Chicago; and Mrs. Mary W. Berthel, editorial assistant on the society's staff.

### ACCESSIONS

An indenture dating from 1819 by which a youth was apprenticed for seven years to Jacob Spear of Braintree, Vermont, is the gift of Mrs. C. T. Spear of St. Paul. She has also presented a document of 1792 which indicates that Nathaniel Gladding of Providence sold the bounty from the Rhode Island legislature to which he was entitled for service in the Revolutionary War. To the costume collection Mrs. Spear has contributed a gray silk dress worn about 1890.

Photostatic copies of thirteen letters written by Karl Andreas Geyer, a renowned German scientist of the 1830's and 1840's who was better known in America as Charles A. Geyer, have been made for the society from the originals in the possession of the Missouri Botanical Gardens at St. Louis. The letters, most of which are addressed to Dr. George Engelmann, are written in a delicate German script. In them Geyer reports on botanical trips in Illinois in 1842 and on his journey as a member of the expedition of Sir William Drummond Stewart up the Missouri and down the Columbia from 1843 to 1845. Although they relate largely to botanical matters, Geyer's letters contain references to John C. Frémont, Joseph N. Nicollet, the Hudson's Bay Company with its many posts and factors, and the country through which the writer passed on his travels.

A deed to eight hundred acres of the original Jonathan Carver grant of 1767, made in 1839 by William B. Peabody and by Carver's granddaughter, Betsey Harrington, has been added to the society's collection of Carver deeds by Mrs. Minnie Mott and Mrs. Grace Parker of Winona.

A scrapbook of newspaper clippings kept by Roswell P. Russell, a Minnesota pioneer of 1839, and a few letters, deeds, and receipts from the papers of his family are the gifts of his granddaughter, Miss Sarah Colbrath of Duluth. Many of the items in the scrapbook relate to the pioneer settlers of Minneapolis and St. Anthony, where Russell settled in 1847.

A letter written from St. Louis in 1847 by Nathaniel Whiston is the gift of Mr. C. C. Whiston of St. Paul. The writer describes a boat trip from New Orleans to St. Louis, mentions his search for employment in the latter city, and tells something of economic conditions in the South.

Many of the pioneer settlers of Watab are mentioned in a brief historical sketch of its vicinity during the years from 1851 to 1857, prepared by P. Lamb, a Minnesota pioneer of 1851, and presented by his son, Dr. Harold L. Lamb of Little Falls.

A filing box of papers of Charles C. Lund, covering the years from 1858 to 1876, has been presented by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. F. B. Lund of Newton Centre, Massachusetts, through the courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Lund, who was a lawyer, settled in St. Paul in the late 1850's, and there he was associated with Theodore French, Joseph Wheelock, and John B. Sanborn. The papers relate not only to Lund's St. Paul experiences, but to his later career in New England, where he turned to engineering and built a railroad up Mount Washington in New Hampshire, a notable feat for his day. The Minnesota papers in the Lund collection supplement in striking fashion the Joseph Wheelock Papers, another recent acquisition of the society (see *ante*, p. 67).

A manuscript volume of 736 pages, in which are listed the names and occupations of the leading American Republicans of the 1870's, has been added to the Ramsey Papers by Miss Laura Furness of St. Paul. The list was used regularly by the donor's grandfather, Governor Alexander Ramsey.

A list of subscribers for tickets for concerts given in St. Paul on May 1 and 2, 1895, by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Theodore Thomas is contained in a little manuscript volume presented by Mrs. Charles E. Scanlan of St. Paul. The names of many prominent St. Paulites who participated in the city's musical life in the 1890's appear on the list.

The late Edward C. Gale's interest in Minneapolis cultural and charitable organizations is reflected in some papers, filling a filing box and

relating to the period since about 1900, received from his estate. The papers pertain to his activities on behalf of the Art Commission of the City of Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and the anti-tuberculosis committee of the Associated Charities of Minneapolis.

Travels in St. Louis County in the neighborhood of Ely in the summer of 1907 and the spring of 1908 are described in a reminiscent article of seventeen pages received from the author, Mr. I. G. Haycraft of Kensington, Maryland. Mr. Haycraft was one of a party of twenty men who were interested in locating timber claims in northern Minnesota.

J. O. Baillif's certificate of membership in the Minnesota Territorial Pioneers Association, dating from 1920, his appointment as a peace officer in the First World War, and a certificate of appreciation for his services in that conflict are among five items recently added to the Baillif Papers by Miss Matilda V. Baillif of Minneapolis (see *ante*, 14:104). She has given also an abstract of title to land in Minnesota in 1881, and a deed to land in Kentucky signed by President Andrew Johnson on October 1, 1867. Included in Miss Baillif's gift is a photograph of Matilda Pepin Baillif of Bloomington.

Seven volumes of a diary in which William and Abbie Morris recorded their daily activities at St. Cloud from 1920 to 1925 have been presented by Mr. U. G. Herrick of Minneapolis. The diarists' social and religious activities, the weather, their business interests, and their concern for the Woman's Christian Temperance Union are among the subjects stressed in their entries.

A box of papers accumulated by Representative John O. Melby of Oklee as a member of the Minnesota legislature from 1933 to 1944 is the gift of his son, Mr. Arthur J. Melby of Oklee. The manuscripts deal particularly with an effort to promote a state-wide system for the continued care of patients who have been discharged from county and state sanatoria.

Memorial sketches of fifteen members of the Hennepin County Bar Association who died recently have been added to the society's collection of such sketches (see *ante*, 25:185) through the courtesy of the association's secretary, Mr. Herbert H. Drews of Minneapolis.

Examples of the letterhead stationery of various contemporary Minnesota law firms, three legal papers of the Ramsey County Bar Association,

and other items of legal interest are the gifts of Judge Kenneth G. Brill of St. Paul. He has also presented recent issues of two English newspapers — the *Manchester Guardian* for December 30, 1944, and January 19, 1945, and the *London Times* for November 25, 1944, — as well as a photograph of a group of Four Minute Men taken in St. Paul during the First World War.

Issues for September 10 and 17, 1898, of the *American Soldier* published at Manila during the Spanish-American War have been presented by Mr. Fred W. Pederson of St. Paul.

An important addition to the society's Hennepin collection is a copy of the first edition of the Belgian friar's *Nouvelle decouverte d'un tres grand pays situe dans l'Amerique*, published at Utrecht in 1697. Of the fifteen editions of this work published before 1900, the society owns six — three in French, one in Dutch, and two in English. German and Spanish editions also appeared. The society also owns first editions of Father Hennepin's other narratives of exploration in the Mississippi Valley — his *Description de la Louisiane*, published at Paris in 1683, and his *Nouveau voyage d'un pais plus grand que l'Europe*, issued at Utrecht in 1698. In addition to the first editions in French, the society has Italian, Dutch, and English versions of the *Description de la Louisiane* and a German edition of the *Nouveau voyage*.

Mr. Charles Heffelfinger of Minneapolis has presented a group of Civil War army manuals which belonged to his father, Major Christopher B. Heffelfinger of the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, who served through much of the Civil War as captain of Company D, First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. They are the *Revised United States Army Regulations of 1861* (Washington, 1863. 594 p.), *Instructions for Making Quarterly Returns of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores* (Washington, 1863. 140 p.), George Patten's *Army Manual: Containing Instruction for Officers in the Preparation of Rolls, Returns and Accounts* (New York, 1861. 268 p.) and D. H. Mahan's *Treatise on Field Fortification Containing Instructions on the Methods of Laying Out, Constructing, Defending and Attacking Intrenchments* (New York, 1864. 168 p.).

A five-cent note issued by O. B. Dorman, a St. Anthony banker, in 1862 is among twenty-two pieces of fractional paper currency presented by Mrs. E. J. McDonald of Minneapolis. The note is typical of the paper money issued in small denominations during the Civil War by private

bankers and others. Included in the gift are some items of "postage currency" issued by the federal treasury.

Two beautifully embroidered children's dresses dating from about 1896 are the gifts of Mrs. George Sommers of St. Paul. One is of white wool flannel and is embroidered in colors. Mrs. S. J. Joy of North St. Paul has presented a pair of old-fashioned pantalettes and a chemise.

A beaded bag of modern Chippewa workmanship has been received from Mrs. M. C. McMillan of Stillwater. Mr. Robert Monjeau of St. Paul has presented a small beaded mesh bag that belonged to his grandmother.

A photographic copy of a painting showing the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry encamped at Camp Stone, Maryland, in the winter of 1861-62 has been presented by Miss Mary Heffelfinger of Wayzata. The launching in 1944 of the steamship "Alexander R. Nininger, Jr.," which commemorates a hero of the Second World War who was a namesake of Governor Alexander Ramsey of Minnesota, is pictured in a photograph received from Mr. A. R. Nininger of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. A crayon portrait of Charles A. Towne of Duluth, a Congressman of the 1890's who later became a United States Senator, is the gift of Mrs. James R. Bennett of St. Cloud.

Genealogists will find rich and varied materials in volumes dealing with local history received since the first of the year. Elijah E. Brownell's *Rutland County, Vermont: Genealogical Gleanings* (Philadelphia, 1942. 317 p.) contains the 1810 census of the county, lists of pensioners of different wars, and lists of civil officers. The names of men of Suffolk County, England, who were fit to bear arms are given in *Able Men of Suffolk, 1638* by Charles E. Banks (Boston, 1931. 536 p.). Some Pennsylvania gravestone inscriptions and lists of church members are included in *The Church of Saint Peter in the Great Valley, 1700-1940* by Harold D. Eberlein and Cortlandt V. Hubbard (Richmond, Virginia, 1944. 167 p.). A *Calendar of Kent County, Delaware, Probate Records, 1680-1800* (Dover, Delaware, 1944. 558 p.), *Vital Records of West Springfield, Massachusetts* (Boston, 1944. 237 p.), and *The Burlington Court Book, A Record of Quaker Jurisprudence in West New Jersey, 1680-1709* edited by E. Clay Reed and George J. Miller (Washington, D. C., 1944. 372 p.) are other valuable additions to the growing collection of source materials now made available in printed form.

Other local histories recently acquired include *Farmington Town*

*Clerks and Their Times, 1645-1940* by Mabel S. Hurlburt (Hartford, Connecticut, 1943. 404 p.); *The "Mary and John," a Story of the Founding of Dorchester, Massachusetts, 1630* by Maude P. Kuhns (Rutland, Vermont, 1943. 254 p.); *Waban, Early Days, 1681-1918* by Jane B. MacIntire (Newton Centre, Massachusetts, 1944. 294 p.); *A History of Wakefield, Massachusetts* by William E. Eaton (Wakefield, 1944. 263 p.); a *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Chautauqua County, N. Y. for 1873-4* by Hamilton Child (Syracuse, 1873. 414 p.); a *People's History of Kingston, Rondout and Vicinity* by William C. DeWitt (New Haven, Connecticut, 1943. 445 p.); two illustrated volumes on *Old Orange Houses* by Mildred P. Seese (Middletown, New York, 1941-43); *Early Catonsville and the Caton Family* by George C. Keidel (Baltimore, 1944. 132 p.); and *The Historic Past of Washington, Mason County, Kentucky* by Edna H. Best (Cynthiana, Kentucky, 1944. 118 p.).

A complete name index to the first twenty-five volumes of the *Lineage Books* of the National Society of Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America (Somerville, Massachusetts, 1943. 1213 p.) was received during the winter quarter. Volume 13 of the *American Genealogical Index* (Middletown, Connecticut, 1944), in which surnames from Forrister to Geies are indexed, is also now available in the society's library.

Experiences of a family that went from New Jersey to Minnesota in 1856 are recounted in "*Grandfather Said . . .*", *A Biography of Richard Ross Smith, a Pioneer* by Stelle S. Smith (Minneapolis, 1944. 43 p.). Some Minnesota descendants of a Nova Scotia family are included in *Butlers and Kinsfolk* by Elmer E. Butler (Milford, New Hampshire, 1944. 326 p.) and a few Minnesotans appear in a *History of the Tone Family* by Frank J. Tone (Niagara Falls, New York, 1944. 185 p.).

Other genealogies recently received include *A Chronicle of the Family of Edward F. Beale of Philadelphia* by Maria S. B. Chance (Haverford, Pennsylvania, 1943. 235 p.); *Carrington: a Brief Historical Sketch of the Name and Family* by Mary E. Tilley (Rougemont, North Carolina, 1943. 88 p.); *A Genealogy of the Given Family* by Alfred N. Morris (Huntington, West Virginia, 1942. 72 p.); *The Granberry Family and Allied Families* by Donald L. Jacobus (Hartford, Connecticut, 1945. 383 p.); *Hobart Family in America* by Percy H. Titus (Boston, 1943. 78 p.); *Newell Ancestry* by William M. Emery (Boston, 1944. 226 p.); *Genealogy Record of Purdy, Coffin, Noble and Spencer Families* by Ross C. Purdy (Columbus, Ohio, 1944. 46 p.); *Genealogy, the James Francis Richards Branch of a Richards Family of New England* by Arthur W. Richards (Sarasota,

Florida, 1942. 100 p.); *Todds of the St. Croix Valley* by William Todd (Mount Carmel, Connecticut, 1943. 24 p.); *Tales of the Tuckers* by Beverley R. Tucker (Richmond, Virginia, 1942. 170 p.); *The Family of Garret Conrad Van Wagnen and His Wife, Mary Welton* by Frank L. Van Wagnen (Buffalo, New York, 1942. 89 p.); *A Review of Kinship* by Howard W. Warner (Ottawa, Canada, 1943. 20 p.); *The Washingtons and Their Homes* by John W. Wayland (Staunton, Virginia, 1944. 385 p.); and *A Century of Activities of the Weis Family, 1841-1941* by William D. Weis (Hanover Center, Indiana, 1944. 11 p.).

L. F.

## News and Comment

IN A STIMULATING ESSAY ON "History as a Liberal Art," appearing in the *Journal of the History of Ideas* for January, Jacques Barzun calls to the attention of professional historians the fallacy of leaving "popularization to inexpert hands," of exercising "little or no control over the flood of handbooks," and of devoting a minimum of "time or print to summing up, organizing, and as it were codifying for common use, the results of our most advanced explorations. In a world groping for wisdom by the light of rocket-guns, this task is not fanciful," the writer continues. "It would bear fruit. Exhortations to global thinking, scorn for traditional isolation, attacks on parochial nationalisms are vain, like all abstractions, when compared with the substantial knowledge that makes these prejudices untenable. History studied as a liberal art aims precisely at furnishing the mind with such knowledge." Professor Barzun believes that to teach the subject as a liberal art is "to act not merely as a guide on travelled roads, but to help blaze a path through the darkness ahead."

"Projects in American History and Culture" formulated by a committee of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association are described in a detailed report published in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for March. The committee, which was appointed as the result of a resolution adopted on April 22, 1943, held meetings in April, June, and November, 1944. Its members were Louis Pelzer, chairman, Merle Curti, E. E. Dale, Everett Dick, Paul W. Gates, Frank L. Mott, and Stanley Pargellis. In their report they stress "as subjects in particular need of investigation, those which have pertinence for our times." They believe that "it is a primary function of the historian to stand in his own time as the guardian and advocate of a candid, sensible, and balanced body of organized fact and opinion about the past," for "if the sound historian fails to supply his contemporaries with readable history that is to the point, they will go elsewhere for it, to unsound historians." Among the "Projects of High Significance and Priority" that members of the committee believe are in need of investigation are "candid surveys and appraisals of the Federal administration of the public domain," a long list of topics pertaining to "agriculture and soils erosion," conservation, intellectual history, "ethnic and minority groups," and religious history.

A second list of possible topics are grouped under the heading "Areas Untilled or Further Tillable." Mentioned are such topics as the mining industries, transportation, lumbering, cultural and social history, and "wit, humor, and folklore"—all fertile fields for study in Minnesota and the Northwest.

Many of the general problems that have long been discussed in Minnesota and, in many instances, met by the Minnesota Historical Society, the University of Minnesota, and other of the state's cultural institutions are considered in the published *Proceedings* of a conference of graduate deans and librarians held at Nashville, Tennessee, in July, 1944. The findings of the conference have been edited by Philip G. Davison and A. F. Kuhlman and published in a booklet under the title *The Development of Library Resources and Graduate Work in the Cooperative University Centers of the South* (81 p.). Among the topics discussed are the collection of state archives, manuscripts, and newspapers; the relationship of genealogical collections and reference work; the advantages of microphotography; and the question, "Should the collection and use of manuscripts be regulated?" In relation to the last point, "the sentiment expressed in the discussion was definitely against codes or agreements seeking to limit the manuscript collecting activities of libraries interested and able to carry on such work."

To familiarize custodians of institutional and business archives with the "basic theories and processes of archival work," the American University of Washington, D. C., is offering a short training course on the preservation and administration of archives. It will consist of seventeen lectures to be given from June 11 to 30. Some of the laboratory work of students who take the course will be done in the National Archives.

Among the papers presented before the annual meeting of the Economic Historical Association at Princeton, New Jersey, in September, 1944, and printed in *The Tasks of Economic History* in December, is a discussion by Stanley Pargellis of "The Corporation and the Historian." Participating in the discussion that followed was Ralph Budd, president of the Burlington Lines and a member of the executive council of the Minnesota Historical Society. His remarks appear in the same publication. Mr. Budd agrees with Mr. Pargellis that "in so far as imperfect knowledge of American history is due to lack of access to records, the cause should be removed."

The handbook of *Historical Societies in the United States and Canada*, published last year by the American Association for State and Local History (see *ante*, 25:403), inspires some comments on "Historical Societies' Interest in Business History" in the February *Bulletin* of the Business Historical Society. The writer "suspects that there is little business material in the collections of the Fillmore County Historical Society in Minnesota, which has 'historical materials, records, relics, and household equipment.'" What is more, he finds "no definite indication that any considerable percentage of the societies or libraries, especially the smaller ones, are interested in the history of business." This, however, does not give a true picture of small historical collections, at least in Minnesota, where many of the local societies have preserved the accounts and other records of business establishments in their own vicinities. The writer for the *Bulletin* bemoans the fact that when small organizations do collect business records they place emphasis "on the pioneer, the petty-capitalist type of business man." It seems pertinent to recall that on the whole "larger mercantile, industrial and financial capitalists" have not flourished in the small communities served by local historical societies, and that the records of such business magnates would be lacking in significance for the local historian. Some of the reasons why business papers are rare even in the large historical institutions of metropolitan centers are suggested by Henrietta M. Larson in an article on "Business Men as Collectors," published in the December issue of the *Bulletin*. She finds that "among the business men who have been great collectors hardly one can be said to have been notable as a collector of business objects or records." Unfortunately, they "have apparently assumed that business records have not been worth preserving."

"Individuality and glamour can be found in any community by studying its local history" writes Dr. Edward P. Alexander of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in the *Michigan History Magazine* for January-March. His address on "Getting the Most Out of Local History," presented before a meeting of the State Historical Society of Michigan on September 22, 1944, appears as the leading article in this issue of its quarterly. After looking at historical societies throughout America with their "great variations in size, organization, function, and resources," Dr. Alexander finds it difficult, but nonetheless possible, to formulate a few "useful generalizations about historical society work." Among the observations and suggestions he makes about historical organizations are

the need for opening membership to all, for public tax support, for cooperation with one another, for interesting youth, for publicity, and for constant activity.

Under the title "Clio and the Camera," Clayton S. Ellsworth contributes to the "Teachers' Section" of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for March an account of the silent slidefilm, the "most promising newcomer in the field of visual education." The writer reveals that this "continuous strip of 35mm. film averaging fifty pictures" was first developed by the Society for Visual Education, which has produced more than fifteen hundred films and distributed them at a cost of from fifty cents to two dollars. Some of the available films, as well as ways in which they may be employed by teachers, are suggested by the writer.

Some of the advantages to be derived by using museums in the teaching of history are suggested by Erna Gunther in the "Teachers' Section" of the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* for January. The writer lists museums in the state of Washington and describes the special fields of interest that may be exploited by the teacher. It is noteworthy that the Washington State Museum of Seattle circulates traveling exhibits which can be obtained by any school that is willing to pay the return postage.

The March issue of the *Junior Historical Journal* is devoted to articles about "How the Pioneers Lived." Included are accounts of clothes worn by the pioneers of the Pacific Northwest, "Furniture Making," early "Wagon and Carriage Makers," and some frontier delicacies. Jonathan Carver and Dr. John McLoughlin are among the subjects of sketches published in the "Biographical Number" issued in January.

"New Uses for Globes and Spherical Maps" devised and applied in the Science Museum of the Saint Paul Institute are described by its director, Louis H. Powell, in the *Geographical Review* for January. This illustrated article, like the displays that it describes, demonstrates the "great value of accepting the limitations imposed by the spherical shape of the earth by using spherical maps or globes in displays dealing with world relationships."

A detailed analysis of "Marquette's Autograph Map of the Mississippi River" is contributed by Jean Delanglez to the January number of *Mid-America*. The writer declares that this "single extant autograph document by a member of the expedition" of 1673 "expresses cartographically

what was contained in Marquette's journal, which the missionary had before him when he made the map." A second article by Father Delanglez in the same periodical tells the story of "Louis Jolliet, Early Years: 1645-1675." Attention is called to the fact that the province of Quebec "will celebrate the third centenary of the birth of Jolliet" in September.

The customs and characteristics of the *Fur Traders and Trappers of the Old West* are described by Merrill J. Mattes in a pamphlet recently published by the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association (15 p.). Among the notable illustrations in the booklet are an ideal sketch of "a trading post in the wilderness," and a reproduction of a picture by Alfred J. Miller showing Fort Laramie in 1837.

*The Western Journals of Washington Irving*, presenting a day-by-day record of a journey through the Southwest in the autumn of 1832, have been edited by John Francis McDermott and published by the University of Oklahoma Press (1944. 201 p.). Irving's *Tour of the Prairies* was based upon these journals, which are now published in annotated form for the first time. They afford vivid pictures of the communities that lined the Ohio, the lower Mississippi, and the Arkansas rivers in 1832.

Thomas Say is one of nineteen *Men of Science in America* whose careers are outlined in a recent volume by Bernard Jaffe (New York, 1944. 600 p.). As zoologist and antiquarian, Say accompanied the expedition which penetrated the Minnesota country in 1823 under the leadership of Major Stephen H. Long. One of Say's substantial contributions to science took the form of notes in William Keating's *Narrative of an Expedition to the Source of the St. Peter's River*, published in 1825 as a record of the Long expedition.

Minnesota is represented by Adolf Dehn and Wanda Gág in Carl Zigrosser's volume on *The Artist in America: Twenty-four Close-ups of Contemporary Printmakers* (New York, 1942). Biographical sketches, evaluations of the work of these Minnesotans, and examples of their art are presented in the volume.

A recent addition to the *Rivers of America* series is Stanley Vestal's *The Missouri* (New York, 1945). The opening chapters picture the river as the highway of explorers and traders—men like William Clark, Meriwether Lewis, and Stephen H. Long. The restless Sioux of the plains figure prominently in some of the later chapters.

Regional "American Legends," the heroes about which they revolve, and the places and things associated with them are pictured and described in *Life* for February 5. The "robust tales" of the American frontier retold therein are drawn from B. A. Botkin's recent *Treasury of American Folklore*. They relate to Mike Fink, keelboatman on the Mississippi and the Ohio; Blackbeard, or Edward Teach, North Carolina pirate; Davy Crockett, fabulous hunter; John Henry, railroad section hand; Jonathan Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed; Joe Hill, hero of the labor movement; Judge Roy Bean of Texas; and Paul Bunyan, gigantic lumberjack. Paul and his blue ox, Babe, are pictured in color on a two-page spread that shows the enormous concrete figures erected at Bemidji.

Vernon H. Jensen devotes one chapter of his recent volume on *Lumber and Labor* to "The Great Lakes Region" and the discussion of the lumbering era in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota about the turn of the century (New York, 1945. 314 p.). The volume is one of a series dealing with *Labor in Twentieth Century America*. The conditions under which the Midwest loggers and lumberjacks worked are vividly described by the author of the present volume.

An economic study of *The Northwest in Two Wars* by Paul W. McCracken has been published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (1944. 25 p.). Charts depicting bank deposits, department store sales, the production of farm products, and similar trends from 1915 to 1943 make the booklet a convenient and useful guide for the student of recent economic history.

To guide and advise its national historian, Thomas M. Owen, Jr., in the preparation of a new history of the American Legion, the organization has appointed a commission consisting of Marquis James, Allan Nevins, Kenneth Roberts, James Street, and Colonel Karl Detzer.

A survey of "The Norwegian Lutheran Academies," contributed by B. H. Narveson to volume 14 of the Norwegian-American Historical Association's *Studies and Records* (Northfield, 1944), reveals that more than twenty such institutions were established in Minnesota. A list of academies that follows the article names schools founded from 1869 to 1921 at Minneapolis, Northfield, Red Wing, Willmar, Albert Lea, Moorhead, Fergus Falls, Glenwood, Mankato, Rushford, and other communities in Minnesota. An interesting report on the little academy at Holden in Goodhue County, prepared in 1869 by its founder, the Reverend B. J.

Muus, is published in full. Mr. Narveson's article is a significant contribution to the history of education in Minnesota and the Northwest. Those who know the romantic story of Ole Bull's venture in colonization at Oleana in Potter County, Pennsylvania, will enjoy reading Theodore C. Blegen's "The Ballad of Oleana: A Verse Translation." The original Norwegian version of this emigrant ballad, with a prose translation, was published earlier in the volume of *Norwegian Emigrant Songs and Ballads* prepared by Dr. Blegen in collaboration with Martin B. Ruud.

Announcement that a Swedish museum established under the auspices of the Swedish Historical Society of Rockford, Illinois, was opened in that city on December 1, 1944, is made in the *Bulletin* of the American Institute of Swedish Arts, Literature and Science of Minneapolis for January. Therein the Rockford museum and the activities of the Swedish Historical Society are described by Herman G. Nelson. "The Swedish museum in Rockford is evidence that it does not require a large amount of money to start," writes Mr. Nelson. He records that about two thousand people attended the opening of the Rockford museum, where several thousand items were on display. Under the title "On to the Promised Land," a chapter from the autobiography of the late Adolph O. Eberhart, a former governor of Minnesota, appears in the same issue of the *Bulletin*. It includes also Peter P. Quist's "Recollections from My School Days at St. Ansgar's Academy," in which a Swedish pioneer of 1865 tells of attending the Swedish Lutheran school at East Union. In 1876 it was removed to St. Peter and given the name of Gustavus Adolphus College.

The Bureau for Intercultural Education has published a useful compilation by Joseph S. Roucek entitled *American Slavs: A Bibliography* (1944. 49 p.). Listed therein are books, pamphlets, and articles, including fiction and children's books, relating to the Bulgarians, the Czechoslovaks, the Poles, the Russians, the Ukrainians, and the Yugoslavs in America. Items of Minnesota interest in the Czechoslovak section include several articles by Esther Jerabek, a member of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society. Two of her articles were published in *Minnesota History*.

"The Old Northwest states of Wisconsin and Minnesota led the way in the enactment of appropriate legislation" providing for soldier suffrage during the Civil War, according to Oscar O. Winther, the author of an

article on "The Soldier Vote in the Election of 1864" published in *New York History* for October, 1944. A general survey of the legislation pertaining to this problem passed by various states of the North is provided by Mr. Winther. In the same issue, William M. Burcher records the "History of Soldier Voting in the State of New York," reviewing the subject from the Civil War era to 1944.

The New York State Association of County Historians, composed of all county and city historians and all town and village historians who are recommended for membership by their county historians, was organized at Albany early in October. It begins its activities with a membership of some eighty local historians. The association was founded for the purpose of "encouraging the collection and preservation of records of all kinds; working with the State Historian to complete an index of historical source materials in the state; aiding research and publication relating to local history; cooperating with public officers in the subdivision of the state in carrying out their duties." An article defining the status and functions of "The Local Historian in New York" by Albert B. Corey, the state historian, appears in the January number of *New York History*.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the Historical Society of Berks County, Pennsylvania, is fittingly commemorated in the *Historical Review of Berks County* for January. The issue includes articles on "Presidents and Pioneers of the Historical Society" by George M. Jones, on the society's collections by Mary Dives Impink, and on its library and its publications by George E. Pettengill. Each of the articles is appropriately illustrated; a picture of the society's attractive building at Reading appears as a frontispiece. Among the subjects of public lectures announced by the society for the winter and spring of 1945 are "Maps of Berks County" by Dr. Homer T. Rosenberger, January 12; "The Theatre in Reading" by Paul E. Glase, February 9; and "The Amazing Pennsylvania Dutch Language" by Dr. J. William Frey, April 13.

The Charles Schreiner Company of Kerrville, Texas, is the subject of *The Story of a Country Store* as related by J. Evetts Haley and published in attractive format by the Texas State Historical Association (Austin, 1944. 73 p.). The slender volume is a contribution both to social and economic history of the Southwest, for it is based upon the records of a business that had its origin in 1869, as well as upon con-

temporary newspapers and interviews with pioneers. "Customers' Accounts" are used to illustrate the tastes and the needs of the Texas frontiersmen, and other sources are drawn upon to produce pictures of the merchants and customers who frequented the store. The book might well serve as a model for a study of a northern firm.

Mr. Howard H. Peckham, formerly curator of manuscripts for the William L. Clements Library of the University of Michigan, has been named to succeed the late Christopher B. Coleman as director of the Indiana Historical Bureau and secretary of the Indiana Historical Society.

*Some Things about the State Historical Museum* is the title of a little guidebook issued by the Michigan Historical Commission as number 18 of its *Bulletins* (Lansing, 1944. 48 p.). The most extensive sections of the booklet are devoted to descriptions and pictorial records of the commission's Indian, archaeological, and lamp collections.

Stories about "Market Hunting in Northern Iowa," as recalled by Richard Harker of Spirit Lake, have been recorded by Jack W. Musgrove and published in the *Annals of Iowa* for January. Many of the tales of commercial hunting after 1881 included in the present narrative are localized in Minnesota. Heron Lake was one of Harker's earliest fields of operation. Thence, he recalls, "we would haul our ducks to Lakefield, Minnesota." His employer "shipped most of his birds to Chicago and New York" from Lakefield. "Sometimes the New York and Chicago people used to come there and buy the game, pack it and ship it themselves." Methods used by commercial hunters in building huge freezers in which to store game are described in some detail. Harker and his brothers built such a "cooler" in Kandiyohi County, where they shot vast quantities of game on Green Lake. How the commercial hunters got into difficulties with the Minnesota game wardens after the state began to require game licenses in the 1890's is among the incidents recalled by Harker.

Characteristic celebrations staged in early Iowa to mark New Year's Day, Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays, and Memorial Day are described in a lengthy narrative by William J. Petersen on "Legal Holidays in Iowa" appearing in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for January. Since this article deals with the first six months of the year only, it may be surmised that a second installment will follow in a later issue.

Descriptions of the customary social calls, church services, special publications, and festivities that marked New Year's Day on the frontier are included in the account. Iowa observances of all the holidays mentioned were typical of practices throughout the Midwest.

A chapter in twentieth-century communication history is provided by J. A. Swisher in the January *Palimpsest*, where he writes of "Air Mail in the Twenties" in Iowa. The writer records that many of the early air-mail routes passed over Iowa, and others stopped within the state. The first plane to carry mail from Chicago to Omaha, for example, stopped at Iowa City in January, 1920. To the same issue of the *Palimpsest*, Philip D. Jordan contributes an account of some of the pioneer daguerreotypists who flourished in Iowa in the 1850's.

*A History of Seventy-five Years of Service by the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society*, written for its seventy-fifth annual meeting by H. J. Rahmlow, consists of many short and disjointed notes about fruit growing in Wisconsin (Madison, 1943). From it, however, can be gleaned many items of interest, particularly about the varieties of apples developed in the Northwest. There are also brief histories of such organizations as the Wisconsin association of beekeepers, cranberry growers, and fruit growers.

Among the booklets published recently by the Wisconsin Folklore Society under the editorship of Charles E. Brown are legends of *Winabozho, Hero-God of the Indians of the Old Northwest* (1944), a collection of *Bear Tales* (1944), and two additions to the recorded lore of Paul Bunyan. *Johnny Inkslinger* (1944) makes available three pages of "deacon seat tales" that are credited to "Bunyan's industrious camp clerk," and *Paul Bunyan Classics* (1945) consists of "authentic original stories told in the old time logging camps of the Wisconsin pineries."

*Forty-seven Wisconsin Stories* of spectacular personalities and events have been recorded by Mary Gates Muggah and Paul H. Raihle and published as a small volume (Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, 1944. 158 p.). Among the unique characters whose exploits are sketched are Dr. William Beaumont, Carl Schurz, Hans Christian Heg, Increase A. Lapham, the Ringling brothers, Houdini, and Frank Lloyd Wright.

Oliver H. Kelley, D. A. Robertson, Ignatius Donnelly, and James Manahan are among the Minnesotans who figure in Usher L. Bur-

dick's *History of the Farmers' Political Action in North Dakota* (Baltimore, 1944. 140 p.). Chapters on "The Rise of the Grange," on the Farmers' Alliance, on "The Rise of the Populists," on the Nonpartisan League, and on the Farmers' Union have almost as much interest for Minnesota readers as for those in North Dakota. Students of the cooperative movement in the Northwest, as well as those who are concerned with the Progressive movement in general, will find this little book of value.

An excellent guide for the tourist who visits Mackinac Island is provided by George N. Fuller in an article on "Michilimackinac" which appears in the March issue of the *Beaver*. The writer not only outlines the history of this significant site in the opening of the Northwest, but he describes the many fascinating structures, both originals and restorations, that are still to be seen on the island. The many associations that draw tourists to the American Fur Company headquarters, the Indian agency building, the Biddle and Early houses, the Catholic and Protestant churches, and the old fort are brought out by the author. Among the excellent illustrations that appear with the article is a dramatic photograph of old Fort Mackinac. Minnesotans will be particularly attracted by a second article in this issue of the *Beaver* which presents Robert Campbell's narrative of a journey through their state in 1832 and 1833. The trip was made for the purpose of obtaining "Sheep for Red River" in Ohio and Missouri. Although the account is extracted from "Campbell's unpublished autobiography," it has appeared earlier in Midwestern historical publications. Early pictures of Fort Snelling and of Pembina are among the illustrations appearing with the narrative.

"The Fur Trade and the Selkirk Settlement" is the title of one chapter in Professor A. L. Burt's recent textbook on *The Romance of Canada* (Toronto, 1944). The activities in the Canadian Northwest of the Hudson's Bay and North West companies figure prominently in the narrative, which includes the story of the settlements on the lower Red River and Lake Winnipeg. An earlier chapter on "The Exploration of the Interior" retells the stories of such explorers as Radisson and Groseilliers and the Vérendryes.

"Pioneer Trips" of the Grey Nuns who went from Montreal to the St. Boniface mission in the Red River settlements in 1844 are described by Sister Mary Murphy in the February number of *Les Cloches de*

*Saint-Boniface*. The trip described in this issue was made by canoe over the voyageurs' route across Lake Superior and by way of the border waters to Lake Winnipeg and the Red River.

### GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

An *Economic Analysis of the State of Minnesota*, consisting of three numbered volumes (83, 303, 23 p.) and a bulky volume of "Exhibits," has been issued in the form of a *Report* to the Minnesota Resources Commission by the J. G. White Engineering Corporation (New York, 1945). The commission, which was instructed by the Governor in May, 1944, to make a "study of the broad, underlying, basic factors having to do with the economic conditions and trends which affect the public welfare of the people of Minnesota," entered into a contract with the corporation to conduct an investigation and submit a report. The first volume of the published *Report* is devoted largely to considerations of the economic development of the iron ore industry, quarrying, forestry, manufacturing, and agriculture in the state, and to "Economic Development in Government." In volume 2 the "factual data . . . considered significant in arriving at the findings and conclusions" offered in volume 1 are presented; and volume 3 contains "recommendations for remedial action." The "Exhibits" illustrate the findings presented in volume 2. A pamphlet in which *An Interpretation of the Report* is made available has been published by the commission (65 p.). Students of economic history in general, as well as those who are concerned with individual industries studied, will find the *Report* of interest and value.

Some useful information about "Wild Rice in Minnesota" is presented by John B. Moyle in the *Journal of Wildlife Management* for July, 1944. The article also has been published as a separate. "Harvesting and Processing" the wild rice crop both by primitive and by modern methods are described in considerable detail. Some figures on the extent and value of the annual crop in Minnesota also are given. An article about the harvesting and conserving of wild rice or "Manomin—Minnesota's Native Cereal" appears in the *Conservation Volunteer* for January-February.

Under the title "Sunday-go-to-Meeting Houses," Laurence E. Schmeckebier surveys, in the issues of *Northwest Life* for January and February, the development of church architecture in Minnesota from the frontier

period to the present. From the humble log chapels in which services were conducted by such Catholic pioneers as Fathers Guignas and Galtier to pretentious modern structures designed by architects of international repute like E. L. Masqueray and Ralph Adams Cram, the writer reviews the story of Minnesota's houses of worship. Among the illuminating pictures that supplement the text are photographs showing the first three structures that served as cathedrals of St. Paul. Professor Schmeckebier, who is head of the department of fine arts in the University of Minnesota, is chairman of the Minnesota Historical Society's committee for the preservation of historic buildings. In the latter capacity he is engaged in conducting a survey of structures of historic and architectural significance throughout the state.

The February issue of the *Journal-Lancet* is a seventy-fifth anniversary issue which takes account of medical progress in various fields since the periodical was founded in 1870. Special recognition is given to the anniversary by Dr. Harold S. Diehl in an article on "Seventy-five Years of Medical Journalism in the Northwest." He recalls the founding of the *Northwestern Medical and Surgical Journal* by Dr. Alexander J. Stone in the spring of 1870, and suggests some of the changes that have taken place in the long period of "uninterrupted medical journalism" that followed.

The career of Dr. William S. Cox, who settled in St. Paul in 1856 and remained there until his death in 1874, is outlined by Dr. John M. Armstrong in the January issue of *Minnesota Medicine*, which includes this biographical sketch in its "History of Medicine in Minnesota." Emphasis is placed upon Cox's early career as a naval officer. The writer notes that whereas Cox studied medicine and practiced in Pennsylvania, he did not follow his profession in Minnesota. The history of Minnesota medicine is continued in the February and March issues of *Minnesota Medicine* with installments of a "History of Medicine in Goodhue County."

Business historians will be interested in the "Golden Anniversary Edition" of the *Butler Miner*, issued in May, 1944, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the firm of Butler Brothers (44 p.). An account of the firm's "Adventures in Construction," which included the building of the Minnesota Capitol, the St. Paul Public Library, and the North Dakota Capitol, precedes the review of its

mining operations on the Minnesota iron ranges. Much information about mining methods and laboratory research, as well as the records of individual mines, are presented both in words and in pictures. Also included are brief biographical sketches of the six Butler brothers.

Judge William E. Scott of Two Harbors is the author of an article on "Fishing in Lake Superior" which appears in three installments in the *Two Harbors Chronicle and Times* from January 25 to February 8. Much of the material included was gathered in interviews with commercial fishermen of long experience on the North Shore. Judge Scott presents some interesting items of "Northshore Lore" in the *Chronicle and Times* for January 11 and 18. Appearing in the same paper from February 15 to March 1 are some "Recollections of the Duluth & Iron Range Railroad," recorded by the late William A. McGonagle in a narrative preserved among the files of the Lake County Historical Society.

A page of unusual pictures of "Indians of the Early Days" on the North Shore of Lake Superior is included in the *Duluth News-Tribune* for January 21. Among them are a view of a North Shore Indian village of 1870, and several pictures of typical Chippewa dwellings. An "Indian payment at Grand Portage in 1870" is among the scenes pictured. Portraits of some of the traders in the Lake Superior country, including Vincent Roy, are reproduced.

Minnesota Territory is the subject of the installment published in the January issue of the *American Philatelist* of a narrative by Carroll Chase and Richard McP. Cabeen dealing with "The First Hundred Years of United States Territorial Postmarks, 1787-1887." A brief sketch of regional history and of the organization of the territory is followed by a list of territorial post offices, compiled with the assistance of Mr. Jefferson Jones of Hopkins. Maps depicting the territory and locating post offices in its southeastern section accompany the account. Historians and geographers as well as philatelists will find this list of Minnesota place names of interest and value.

### WAR HISTORY ACTIVITIES

The list of "War Records Projects and Activities in the States and Territories" published in the *War Records Collector* for March, 1944, is revised and brought up to date in the January number. Some of the problems that will be encountered in "Writing the History of Ohio in

World War II" are discussed by James H. Radabaugh in the February issue. Suggestions for building up war records collections are offered in the March number by Rose Demorest of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, who discusses "The Large Public Library's Interest in War Records," and by Mrs. Ruth O. Jeffreys of the Braswell Memorial Library of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, who describes "The Small Public Library's Interest in War Records." The March issue also publishes a communication in which some suggestions about the "Classification and Arrangement of War Records" are offered by Jacob Hodnefield of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society. A note on the progress of war records work at Duluth appears in the February *Collector*.

The work accomplished in 1944 by the Ohio War History Commission, which was established in 1942 as a state agency, is the subject of a report in the January issue of its publication, *Communiqué*. War history projects in Ohio colleges and universities are described in the February number.

The program and objectives of the Virginia World War II History Commission are described in some detail by the director, Lester J. Cappon, in the *News Letter* of the University of Virginia for March 15. The statement includes tentative plans for the publication of a volume or a series of volumes about Virginia's role in the Second World War.

The first number of the Liège, Belgium, edition of the *Stars and Stripes*, published on January 20, 1945, has been presented to the Minnesota Historical Society by Mr. Arthur A. Van Dyke of St. Paul. This edition of the American Army publication was "established to serve expressly the men at the northern end of the western front." Other editions of the same paper represented in the society's collection of material relating to the Second World War were published at London, Paris, and Rome. The society also has acquired copies of the *United States Dispatch*, a paper issued at Teheran by and for the Persian Gulf Command.

The ration boards of Duluth, Fairmont, Little Falls, and Rochester are among two hundred boards in the United States designated by the OPA as "record boards," the files of which are to be permanently preserved after the war. Under instructions from the OPA, a "record board is to preserve applications, records of certificates issued, registrations (R301, etc.), minutes of meetings, and other data created or received by it, so that its files will reflect the activity of that board as fully as possible

from the date of its first operations." Arrangements have been made, when the business of the boards has been concluded, to deposit the archives of the Fairmont and Little Falls boards with the Minnesota Historical Society, those of the Duluth board in the Duluth Public Library, and those of the Rochester board with the University of Minnesota.

Twenty-six letters written by soldiers serving in the Second World War have been added to the Minnesota Historical Society's collections by the *Minneapolis Star Journal*, to which the letters are addressed. The *St. Paul Dispatch* and the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* are turning over to the society for permanent preservation official news releases and articles prepared by war correspondents in the field.

Letters, reports, pamphlets, and other materials relating to Minneapolis in the Second World War which have accumulated in the office of the mayor of that city as well as in the office of the Minneapolis War History Committee have been turned over to the Minnesota Historical Society by the chairman of the committee, Mr. Joseph W. Zalusky.

### LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

An act passed by the Minnesota legislature during the 1945 session increases the amounts that county boards may appropriate for historical work from \$1,000 to \$2,000 in counties with fewer than 25,000 inhabitants, from \$2,000 to \$3,000 where the population is from 25,000 to 75,000, and from \$3,000 to \$5,000 in counties having more than 75,000 people. The act, which is chapter 510 of the *Laws* of 1945, amends a law of 1929. Under the earlier law, fourteen local historical societies were receiving support from their county boards in 1944. The amounts appropriated ranged from \$50 in Lake County to \$3,000 in Hennepin County. Counties now have an opportunity to give their historical societies support adequate for the proper maintenance of their museum work and other activities, and it is hoped that a large number of local governmental units will take advantage of the new law.

Meager space in a basement room of the Lake City Library sharply limits the display facilities available to the Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society, which has its headquarters in the Wabasha County community. Visitors will carry away only a vague impression of the functions and activities of the local historical group. For, aside from a few framed pictures, the only objects now displayed by the society are crowded into two

floor cases. Undaunted, however, this regional organization has pursued its collecting activities in preparation for the day when adequate museum space will be at its disposal. In the meantime, most of the collections, including some of real importance, are stored in a closet adjoining the display room, where they may be seen only by special arrangement with the society's officers.

Of necessity, most of the objects on display are small. In character they are extremely varied. A caster set, a fluting iron, a butter mold, a waffle iron, and a sausage machine reflect the domestic activities of the Lake Pepin Valley pioneers. There are some firearms of early types, a foot warmer that burned charcoal, and a few frontier tools, including a broad ax. A framed lithograph of Lake City in 1867 hangs above the cases.

In reserve are not only scores of significant items for future museum displays, but manuscripts, newspaper files, photographs, and similar materials that will be of unmeasured value to the future historian of the Lake Pepin region. There is, for example, a diary kept by George Hill, a pioneer who stepped off a steamboat at Read's Landing in 1857, took up land near Zumbro Falls, farmed there for many years, and eventually retired and removed to Lake City, where he died in 1892. His record, which fills twenty-seven closely written volumes, affords an excellent picture of farm life in southeastern Minnesota in the state's formative period. A manuscript record of a very different kind is the register, for the years from 1863 to 1867, of the Ellsworth House, a Lake City hotel. The importance of the river in the community's early development is indicated by the fact that the register includes not only the names of guests, but records of boats arriving at the Lake City landing.

Unusual, as well as significant, are the birth, baptismal, and marriage certificates of several Pennsylvania Germans, who are among the ancestors of a resident of Lake City, Mr. Charles Romick. Through his interest, the records have been deposited with the local historical society. The earliest document in the group is the baptismal certificate of Jacob Orth, who was born in Derry Township, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, in 1798. Other documents record the births of Peter Orth in 1836 and of various members of the Müller family in the early 1800's. The genealogical value of these records is obvious. They are, however, interesting from several other angles. They reflect, for example, the westward movement, and the transfer of culture and of social customs from Europe to the American East and thence to the Midwest. And they are significant, also, as examples of a folk art that is fast disappearing, for the forms on which the records are

carefully written in German are elaborately colored by hand or lithographed by early Pennsylvania printers. The names of the latter, whose shops were located in such places as Harrisburg, Reading, and Allentown, appear in the imprints on the forms. The student of early American printing, as well as one interested in art and design, will find this collection worth investigating.

Files of several Lake City newspapers — the *Graphic*, the *Graphic Sentinel*, the *Leader*, and the *Republican* — for the years from 1865 to the early 1900's have been accumulated by the Lake Pepin Valley group. It has an extensive picture collection, including many small portraits in photograph albums and some good views of Lake City. A large map of Minnesota, published by Power and Thornton at Minneapolis in 1867, is bordered with advertisements of Wabasha County firms and displays a local business directory. Mention should be made also of some archives of the Lake City council which have been turned over to the society.

The Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society is regional in its scope. It stops neither at county nor at state lines, for it hopes in time to enlist the co-operation of all the communities on both the Minnesota and the Wisconsin shores of Lake Pepin. At the same time it does not look to a county for support, but draws slender funds from the annual dues of some fifty members. The promotion of the society's museum is the special province of Mr. Francis H. Kemp of Lake City, vice-president of the organization.

B. L. H.

About two hundred people attended the annual meeting of the Thunder Bay Historical Society at Fort William on January 10. The chief feature of the program was an address by Professor Fred Landon of the University of Western Ontario, who discussed the Great Lakes and their significance in Canadian and American history. Mr. Erle Smith was elected president of the society, succeeding Mr. J. P. Bertrand, president of the organization during the past four years.

Under the auspices of the Anoka County Historical Society, a showing of the film "Minnesota Document" was arranged at Anoka on January 23. The history of Champlin was the subject of comment by Mrs. Arthur Reed and Mrs. Paul Heard at a meeting of the society held at Anoka on March 12.

Announcement that the county commissioners have appropriated three hundred dollars for the maintenance of the Chippewa County Historical

Society's museum was made at a meeting of the organization at Montevideo on March 20. The museum, which is housed in a log cabin, has been closed for three years. A feature of the program presented at the society's March meeting was a showing of "Minnesota Document."

To defray the expenses involved in maintaining its museum, the Fillmore County Historical Society received an appropriation of five hundred dollars from the county commissioners when they met in February. The home of the late Mrs. John C. Mills became the property of the society under the terms of her will, and a museum has been established in the house (see *ante*, p. 89). The society was incorporated in April, 1944.

"The Minnesota Youth Correction Act" was explained by Michael J. Dillon to members of the Hennepin County Historical Society at the organization's annual meeting, which was held in Minneapolis on January 24. Reports were presented by the officers of the society, including Miss Ruth Thompson, secretary, and Edward A. Blomfield, director of the museum. All officers were re-elected for the coming year. They include, in addition to Miss Thompson, Mr. Robert E. Scott, president, Mr. Dana Frear, vice-president, and Mr. Leland F. Leland, treasurer. At a meeting of the society held on March 14, Mr. K. A. Kirkpatrick spoke on "Hennepin County Agent Work." The society's organization and growth were described by Mr. Blomfield before meetings of the Lynnhurst Study Club on March 27 and the Minneapolis Men's Professional Club on April 12.

Mr. Val E. Kasperek, historian of the Morrison County Historical Society, reviewed some of the events connected with the early history of Little Falls and its vicinity before a town meeting held at Little Falls on February 26. He is the author of a sketch, appearing in the *Little Falls Herald* for March 2, of the Morrison County ghost town of Swan River.

Reporting to the board of directors of the Nicollet County Historical Society at a quarterly meeting on January 29, Mrs. M. E. Stone announced that its museum has assembled a total of 559 articles of local historical interest. More than four hundred visitors have viewed the museum displays in recent months. Mrs. Stone is curator of the society's museum.

The *Bulletin* of the Nobles County Historical Society for January presents a sketch of "Worthington Seventy Five Years Ago" by George Thornton. Notes on recent accessions and activities and a list of the society's life members occupy the remainder of the issue. It announces that

the county has been divided into seven districts, each of which has been placed under the supervision of a director of the society. Each director has been instructed to "appoint a Corresponding Secretary in each township and village in his district, and be responsible for the promotion of the interests of the Society therein." The secretaries will undertake to collect objects for the society's museum, to obtain new members, and to record material for the society's files or for publication in its *Bulletin*.

A movement is under way at Faribault for the purchase by the Better Faribault Association of a house built in 1852 by the city's founder, Alexander Faribault. Under consideration are not only the permanent preservation of the house, but its use by the Rice County Historical Society for museum purposes.

The sum of a thousand dollars for the maintenance of the Roseau County Historical Society's museum was appropriated by the county board early this year. The salary of the curator, Mr. P. O. Fryklund, will be paid from this fund. The society is housed in a modern municipal building at Roseau. An extensive collection of fossils, ornithological specimens, and the like assembled by Mr. Fryklund and long displayed in the museum, has been purchased by the society. Funds for the purchase of the collection are being raised by public subscription. The decision to purchase the collection was made at a special meeting of the society held on January 19.

As the fifth of a series of articles on "Our Cultural Institutions," the *Duluth News-Tribune* presents, in its issue for February 18, an illustrated account of the St. Louis County Historical Society by Corah L. Colbrath, its secretary. She reviews the history of the organization, which was founded in 1922, describes some of its more important collections, and tells how they are utilized by tourists and students. Among the illustrations are a picture of Tweed Hall in Duluth, where the society is housed, and a view of one of the museum rooms.

Reports were presented and officers elected at the annual meeting of the Waseca County Historical Society at Waseca on January 8. The newly elected officers include R. T. Barry, president, D. S. Cummings, vice-president, H. A. Panzram, secretary, and Arthur Brisbane, treasurer.

Three successful meetings of the Washington County Historical Society were held at Stillwater in the first quarter of 1945. The history of Gray Cloud Island was the subject discussed by Miss Frances Parker of

Newport before a meeting held on January 20. On February 24 Miss Flora McGuire reviewed the story of the Twin Lake School in May Township, revealing that the school district was organized in 1873 and that a schoolhouse was built in the following year at a cost of a thousand dollars. Extracts from Miss McGuire's paper appear in the *Stillwater Weekly Gazette* for March 1. Mr. William Benitt spoke on the Dumbarton Oaks proposals before a public meeting of the society held on March 22.

### LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

By the end of March the articles contributed to the *Blue Earth County Enterprise* by the Reverend Charles E. McColley had reached an impressive total, for the issue of March 29 carries the fifty-seventh in his series of narratives of pioneer life in southern Minnesota. It deals with threshing on a frontier farm. Some of the agricultural implements and machinery used during Mr. McColley's youth are described in the issue for March 22.

*The Church of the Holy Trinity of New Ulm, Minn.: A Record of 75 Years of Achievement* is the title of a substantial illustrated volume published to commemorate the diamond jubilee of this Catholic congregation (1944. 250 p.). The story of the establishment of the parish by the Reverend Alexander Berghold, biographical sketches of the pastors who succeeded him, descriptions of the various structures erected by the parish, and accounts of the schools, hospitals, and the like that are connected with the parish are presented in great detail. There is little, however, about the community in which these institutions have developed. Mention should perhaps be made of a brief review of the founding of New Ulm and of two reminiscent narratives of the Sioux Outbreak by survivors.

The fact that "New Ulm Knew Steamboat Days" is brought out in an article in the *New Ulm Review* for March 15, which recalls the activities of the New Ulm Transportation Company, organized in the spring of 1869. Among the boats that plied the waters of the Minnesota, carrying freight and passengers to and from New Ulm, was the "Otter," which was owned by Captain Jacob Hindermann. Some of its trips are described in the present article, as are the operations of pleasure launches used in a later period.

A recent contribution to the study of Minnesota's nationality groups is John Stefan's article on "The Romanians in So. St. Paul, Minn.," which appears in the *New Pioneer* of Cleveland for January. As a background

for the story of the Romanians of this Minnesota community, the writer reviews the development of the community and its chief industry, which centers in the St. Paul Union Stock Yards. He gives prominence to one large packing plant "because the first Romanian immigrants found employment and good treatment" there and it still employs many Romanians. From a nucleus of twelve in 1904, according to Mr. Stefan, the Romanian group has grown into a substantial community, which continues its industrial association with the packing plants. The social customs, organizations, clubs, and churches of the group are singled out for special discussion. One feature of the narrative that will not be overlooked by students of settlement is the lists of names of Romanians who have lived in South St. Paul at one time or another. The "traditional boarding houses" in which most of the Romanian newcomers lived before their families joined them in the New World also are described.

Articles published in the monthly issues of *St. Michaels Bulletin* from September, 1943, to June, 1944, review the history of a Catholic parish located in the Riverview district of St. Paul. The opening installment commemorates the seventy-fifth anniversary of the church, which was founded in West St. Paul in 1868.

Timely "Minnesota Memories" are attractively presented by Miss Ruth Thompson of the Minneapolis Public Library in a column that has appeared on the editorial page of the *Minneapolis Morning Tribune* every Monday since January 1. Appropriately, the series opens with an account of some frontier Minnesota New Year's celebrations. Among the subjects of later contributions are early Minneapolis directories, January 15; Lincoln and Minnesota, February 12; musical organizations and concerts in pioneer Minneapolis, March 5; and early Easter parades, March 26.

"Historical Land-Marks" in the record of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Minneapolis are listed in a booklet issued to commemorate the congregation's diamond jubilee in December, 1944. The chronological list opens with the date December 6, 1869, when the congregation was organized by the Reverend N. T. Ylvisaker.

Various phases of the logging industry are touched upon in recent issues of the *Grand Rapids Herald-Review* in its column entitled "Up in This Neck of the Woods." Changes in the specifications defined for profitable timber are described in the column published on January 10. The "lessened size of the timber accepted in the market" is indicated by

the fact that whereas in the early days of the industry "timber averaged about ten logs to the thousand feet of lumber," in later years the size "dropped until about 30 logs were required to make a thousand feet." The many shingle mills that operated in Itasca County from 1900 to 1925 are described in the column for February 14, which notes that the mills utilized the "abundant supplies of white cedar available in almost every part of the county." A pioneer logger, Mr. George E. Scott of Mud Lake, is the subject of a sketch published on January 31.

The organization of a historical society in the grade school at Stewart in McLeod County is announced in the *Stewart Tribune* for February 22. The pupils plan to survey the community for articles of historic value that can be displayed in a school museum.

The Ladies' Floral Club of Austin, which was organized on March 16, 1869, marked its seventy-fifth anniversary at a meeting held at Austin on October 9, 1944. Accounts of the organization and meeting of the club, which was the earliest women's club established in the state, of its twenty-fifth and fiftieth anniversaries, and of its more recent activities were presented by Mrs. H. W. Hurlbut, who drew much of her information from manuscript records and newspaper reports.

Under the title "Austin School History Traced from Log Structure in 1855," the development of Austin's educational system is reviewed by Josephine Kremer in the *Austin Daily Herald* for February 15. Emphasis is placed upon the buildings used by the city's school, from the log house of 1855 to the modern high school erected in 1921.

Some aspects of pioneer social life are described by Mark E. Robey in a series of sketches of the "Early History of Sandstone and Vicinity" that have been appearing in the *Pine County Courier* of Sandstone since December 7. The text of an "ordinance relative to vagrants" passed by the village council in 1889 is given in the installment for December 21.

A sketch of the Grove Lake School in Pope County, which was organized in 1866 and occupied its first building three years later, appears in the *Pope County Tribune* for January 4. Included are a chronological list of teachers, a list of clerks of the school district, and notes on some of the pupils who have attained a degree of prominence.

Two series of articles exploiting spectacular incidents in St. Paul's past have been appearing in the *St. Paul Shopper*. The first, by Horace N.

Buggy, bears the general title "Down Memory Lane," and includes accounts of the Grand Opera House fire of 1889, in the issue of January 24; of the building of the Aberdeen Hotel, in the number for February 7; and of some early bicycle races between St. Paul and Minneapolis teams, in the issue for February 21. Under the heading "Forgotten Facts about St. Paul," Mark Fitzpatrick tells of the wives of some prominent St. Paul pioneers on February 14, and he recalls some of the city's early streets on March 28.



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