

## Some New Books in Review

*Lost Men of American History.* By STEWART H. HOLBROOK. With an introduction by ALLAN NEVINS. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1946. xiv, 370 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

To Stewart Holbrook the United States is the greatest story on earth, a story touched with knavery, chauvinism, industry, and idealism in varying amounts, but still one which fascinates and sometimes elevates the spectator. His patriotic fervor is such that he needs no spread-eagle oratory to convince him of America's exalted position among the nations. Conversely, he is not blind to the corruption, trickery, and stupidity which combined to make the Grant and Harding administrations political cesspools, and he is not unaware that too often the wrong heroes are honored and the patient, persevering thinkers and toilers are allowed to sink into oblivion even while their work shows increasing vitality. It is to commemorate or rather restore some of these last that he has written his *Lost Men of American History*.

Mr. Holbrook's "lost men" are by no means unknown to fame and they are not all men. His first hero is Samuel Adams, the spark plug of the Revolution, who is correctly presented as a master schemer, publicist, and propagandist. After Adams come reformers, idealists, eccentrics, mavericks, cranks, and feminists. The reader will meet Joseph Palmer, persecuted for wearing a beard in a hairless day; Abner Kneeland, jailed for advocating birth control; Frederic Tudor, the merchant who shipped Massachusetts pond ice to Cuba and India; Ezra Lee, the first American to travel in a submarine; Ephraim Bull, originator of the Concord grape; Samuel Colt, whose "patent pacifier" helped to civilize Texas; Horatio Alger, who personified his own success stories; Hinton Helper, who wrote facts about the South while Mrs. Stowe produced fiction; and Charles Harvey, who envisaged and built the Sault Ste. Marie canal. Nor should the female champions of temperance, woman suffrage, and public health be forgotten: Lucy Stone, Margaret Fuller, Mary Livermore, Dorothea Dix.

Of particular Minnesota interest are the discussions of Thorstein Veblen, Oliver H. Kelley, and Ignatius Donnelly. There is no exposition of

Veblen's ideas, but his position as a belligerent critic of the economic status quo is underscored. Kelley's work in organizing the National Grange is praised. And there is a long chapter on Donnelly as the apostle of protest and as the intellectual in politics. One can understand without subscribing to Mr. Holbrook's enthusiasm when he describes Donnelly as "probably the most colorful political and literary character in our history" (p. 268) and as "perhaps the most erudite man ever to sit in Congress" (p. 271).

All these figures, insists the author, had their influence on the national destiny, even though in many cases decades were to pass before that influence became apparent. Donnelly's social reforms were later incorporated in the New Deal; H. L. Mencken's tirades against Prohibition were highly important in the repeal of that amendment in the first Roosevelt administration.

Mr. Holbrook's book is fresh and vigorous. It is not always coherent. The plan is roughly chronological, but the chapters tend to become a farrago of characters with little relevance to each other. Nor is the volume well proportioned. Many a figure disposed of in a paragraph should either be analyzed more fully or omitted completely. The author's superlatives are also rather annoying. One can appreciate the importance of the log cabin in early America without asserting, as Mr. Holbrook does on the opening page, that the introduction of this type of dwelling by the first immigrant Swedes was the most important event in America between the arrival of Columbus and the American Revolution. Likewise one can accept the effect of Christian Science without declaring that Mary Baker Eddy was the "most dynamic American of her sex down to the present" (p. 254).

But if Mr. Holbrook is not the conventional historian, he is a challenging and lively one. His book has somewhat the effect of a cold plunge in early dawn. It shocks one into disturbed attention.

JOHN T. FLANAGAN

*Land of Promise: The Story of the Northwest Territory.* By WALTER HAVIGHURST. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1946. viii, 384 p. \$3.00.)

"The topography of North America is unlike that of any other continent, having broader and simpler lines and being dominated by a great central basin between coastal mountain systems," said Walter Havighurst

in 1945 in a special regional issue of the *Saturday Review of Literature*. "That makes a heartland in the country." Of this cultural middle ground — today called the Middle West and known earlier as the Old Northwest — Mr. Havighurst knows much. He says it is the part of America that he understands best and is most attached to. Most of his earlier writings have touched, in one way or another, this heartland.

Now, after years of living in, studying about, and writing of the region west of the Alleghanies, south of the Great Lakes, east of the Father of Waters, and north of the Ohio, he has unfolded a fine, imaginative volume that mirrors in almost poetic prose his conception of that back-of-beyond from which were carved the Buckeye State, the Hoosier State, the Sucker State, the Badger State, and a portion of the Gopher State. This is a large territory — a region first of big woods and tough prairie and later of rich farms and loud factories. It was a land won by men of strength and domesticated by a people who believed that anything was possible in the Valley of Democracy. It was a place of political passions and of ugly, fierce competition. It was Indian country, white man country, and the country of the Irish, Germans, and a score of other nationalities. The *Hoosier Schoolmaster* came from it, as did the "Raggedy Man," and the writings of Daniel Drake and of William Dean Howells. From it Artemus Ward and Petroleum Vesuvius Nasby chucked the world under the chin and made it laugh.

Yet, strong as is Mr. Havighurst's attachment, his *Land of Promise* is not really the story of the Northwest Territory. Perhaps this readable account is only a collection of tales that the author believed worthy of preserving — a sketch of the land beyond the mountains, a chapter telling of Tecumseh and of William Henry Harrison, a pleasant survey of Blennerhasset and of a rascal named Burr, a discussion of steamboating on western waters, a story of railroads laying tracks toward the setting sun, and an affable retelling of traffic on the Great Lakes. Perhaps all these capture the spirit of the region.

No one can tell everything, but Mr. Havighurst has omitted much that is vital. His great attention is centered upon the edges of his heartland. For the most part he sticks close to rivers and lakes and does not emphasize the interior. He is at his best when he spins again the hoary yarn of Johnny Appleseed, lingers lovingly on the well-known details of the Rappites, leads one along Marietta's shaded streets, or describes a family of movers. He likes to paint pictures, and does it well. He is a Grandma Moses in prose. "Brass bells jangled from the harness

hames, and the wagon's red wheels, blue sideboards and white canopy made it a kind of moving bunting on the road."

He writes convincingly all the time, even when penning untruths. Indeed, his greatest fault seems to be his inability to distinguish fact from fiction. And that is bad in a volume purporting to be the story of one of the nation's most significant regions. His history is not on a par with his literary style. The result is a perfectly charming volume, but one that unfortunately can not be relied upon for integrity of research. Too frequently casual and superficial, *Land of Promise* is not the book it might have been. But it blazes a trail and points the way for someone to write the significant, thrilling story of the Northwest Territory.

PHILIP D. JORDAN

*The Westward Crossings: Balboa, Mackenzie, Lewis and Clark.* By JEANNETTE MIRSKY. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1946. xv, 365, xiii p. Maps, illustrations. \$4.00.)

Very appropriately, in an era of effort toward Western Hemisphere solidarity, Miss Mirsky has presented the outstanding Spanish, American, and British explorations which reached across the continent. Under the subhead "Gold for the Crown," the author has told the story of Balboa, who was the first European to reach the Pacific overland. "Furs for the Company" is the narrative of Alexander Mackenzie's exploration from the lower Peace River, up that stream to its source, and thence to the coast. "Commerce for the Nation" is the old familiar story of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Readers will be grateful for this parallel narration of great exploring achievement and for the consciousness which it brings of the interrelation of Spanish, American, and British achievement in the Western Hemisphere.

Balboa's story reveals the welter of Spanish intrigue, the unbelievable riches of Central America, and the lust for gold which provoked the most unscrupulous conduct. Balboa's program consisted of a mixture of perfidy, conquest, and the making of friendly alliances with the Indian tribes. First he conquered an Indian tribe, married the chief's daughter, and formed a happy alliance with the tribe. This gave him a key to the interior. Again he set his fighting dogs on the principal men of a tribe held prisoners, and tore them to pieces. Having spread terror throughout the isthmus by this means, he was able to make alliances

with the other tribes. Finally upon learning that the ocean could be seen from a ridge, he left his men behind while he alone had the honor of the first view.

Alexander Mackenzie with his voyageurs of the North West Company pursued a course of friendship. His party killed no Indian and not a man was lost. Surmounting the most extraordinary difficulties in navigating rapids and cascades, carrying the canoe over mountains, negotiating with Indians to secure guides, the little party finally left the river and marched overland to the Pacific. Mackenzie's phenomenal success in traversing an area much more difficult than that penetrated by Lewis and Clark was due largely to his magnetic personality, his leadership, which kept his men following him, and his indomitable will to press on in spite of every difficulty.

Best known to the American reader is the Lewis and Clark expedition, which the author treats under the head of "Commerce for the Nation." This expedition, which lasted more than a year, although a military expedition, had peaceful intentions and succeeded in that aim. Like the others, it was pursued with great difficulty. Sacajawea, the Indian woman who accompanied her husband guide, was the heroine of the expedition. In point of distance covered and the magnitude of the undertaking, this expedition eclipsed either of the others. After traveling up the Missouri thousands of miles, the explorers met their most serious difficulty—the crossing of the Rockies. Finally, after passing over unknown terrain and among totally strange peoples, they eventually reached the ocean; the homeward trip was less difficult.

The author quotes generously from the original accounts of the explorations and weaves the quotations skillfully into the very interesting narrative. Her lively style and sound scholarship combine to produce a real contribution in the field of exploration and travel.

EVERETT DICK

*America, 1355-1364: A New Chapter in Pre-Columbian History.* By HJALMAR R. HOLAND. (New York, Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1946. xiv, 256 p. Illustrations. \$4.00.)

In his books *The Kensington Stone* (1932) and *Westward from Vinland* (1940), Hjalmar R. Holand was concerned mainly with the task of proving the authenticity of the Kensington rune stone. His new book offers, predominantly, a discussion of the origin of a stone tower at

Newport, Rhode Island, and links the results with the Kensington hypothesis.

The Newport Tower has claimed the attention of historians for more than a century. A Danish professor, C. C. Rafn, a man of great achievements, published in 1839 his opinion that the tower was a Norse building, and in the following decades the Scandinavian origin of the structure was often asserted. The most important investigation of the tower was made by Philip A. Means, who published a book on the subject in 1942. After a careful consideration of the documentary background, Mr. Holand reaches the conclusion that the Newport Tower is to be considered a Norse building from the fourteenth century, and is to be connected with the Scandinavian expedition toward the West in the reign of King Magnus Erikson. On this conclusion, Mr. Holand builds his interesting theory that the tower was the headquarters of an expedition to Vinland-America and that some of the participants made a journey to Hudson Bay and Minnesota, leaving in the latter place the Kensington stone and other relics.

The authenticity of the Kensington stone has not been proved, and the writer prefers to keep the stone and the tower apart. In regard to the tower, he is in a curious position. No plausible explanation of its origin in Colonial times has been given. On the other hand, striking similarities can be found between the tower and Swedish-Danish fortified round churches of the second half of the twelfth century, as well as between it and St. Olaf's Church in Tønsberg, Norway, built about 1200. Mr. Holand's discussion of the constructional details, especially his comparative investigation of the windows, doors, and chimney, merit serious attention and have convinced the reviewer that there is a direct connection between the Rhode Island tower and Scandinavian architecture. The only possible conclusion at present seems to be the assumption of a pre-Colonial origin of the tower.

The second part of the book deals mainly with certain "mooring stones" and "new pre-Columbian finds unearthed in Minnesota." Of interest is the report of a hole drilled in a stone at Cormorant Lake. Eighty-seven-year-old E. O. Estenson says he saw the hole in 1870, when he accompanied his father on a trip to the lake. Since there seems to be no reason to doubt Mr. Estenson's statement, and since anthropologists say that Indians cannot be held responsible for the drilling, it must be granted that its existence in a Minnesota rock indicates the presence of

white men in the area before the period of settlement. If it can be proved that no explanation aside from Mr. Holand's theory is possible, his opinion in the matter will have to be accepted. It is surprising that these important issues have not attracted more than incidental attention from experts.

The philologist knows that Mr. Holand's linguistic attempt to prove the genuineness of the Kensington stone is entirely insufficient; he knows also that Professor G. F. Flom's treatment of the problem, published in 1910, cannot be considered satisfactory from the point of view of modern methods and knowledge. An investigation of the circumstances surrounding the discovery of the weapons and other objects used by Mr. Holand for purposes of his hypothesis should be followed by a close examination by Scandinavian experts. The problem of the mooring stones should raise the question whether in other parts of the country similar holes in rocks may be found and may possibly furnish a satisfactory explanation for the Minnesota material.

Mr. Holand's perseverance and courage have presented scholars with questions that cannot be laughed away. The experts in the various fields of research pertaining to the material he has presented should co-operate and start a serious investigation. The Newport Tower is massive and elaborate enough not to be overlooked, and if it cannot be explained within the frame of Colonial architecture since the seventeenth century, there may be good reasons for devoting time and effort and an unclouded vision to problems relating to it of great historical importance.

KONSTANTIN REICHARDT

*Le métis Canadien: Son rôle dans l'histoire des provinces de l'Ouest.*

By MARCEL GIRAUD. (Paris, Institut d'Ethnologie, 1945. lvi, 1,296 p. Illustrations, maps.)

*Histoire du Canada.* By MARCEL GIRAUD. (Paris, Presses Universitaires de France, 1946. 134 p.)

It does not seem likely that anyone will be writing anything further about the half-breed in Canada—and the statement is almost equally true for the half-breed in the northern parts of the United States—for some time to come. In better than thirteen hundred pages, the author has reviewed practically all that has ever been published on the subject and has added a great deal of new material.

For the benefit of his French public, M. Giraud includes the background history of the half-breed: some geology of Canada, much ethnology of Indian tribes, the full story of French and British penetration of the Canadian West, a fair account of the fur trade, an explanation of the fusing of the races, an account of Selkirk's colony and its struggle with the Nor'Westers, the history of Protestant and Catholic missions among the half-breeds, and a list and a history of half-breed settlements, especially those at Pembina and in the rest of the Red River Valley. In addition he gives accounts of the struggle against the Hudson's Bay Company, the first Riel Rebellion, the subsequent exodus of half-breeds to the West, the extermination of the buffalo and its effect on the métis, the second Riel Rebellion, and the status of the Canadian mixed-blood from that day to this.

The scholarship of the book is such that no one will write of French and Hudson's Bay Company explorations and relationships in Canada hereafter without taking this book into consideration. I doubt that the author himself realizes the extent to which he has added new documentary material to the scholar's list, for he is as much at home in the Hudson's Bay Company's immense body of archives in London from 1667 to date as in the tremendous collections of his own Paris. In addition, he has combed the resources of archives in Ottawa, Quebec, Winnipeg, and the western provinces of Canada, of the Minnesota Historical Society, and of many smaller institutions, such as that of the Grey Nuns. Add to this impressive list of original sources all the printed books and articles that touch his subject and one is almost overwhelmed with the immensity of the task which he has achieved.

For Minnesota history the whole volume is pertinent, but there are portions which surprise and please more than others. For example, the new documents telling the story of French penetration of the West, especially in the years from 1689 to 1720, of which so little has been known heretofore; of Hudson's Bay Company factors, posts, customs, and general routine (every page for much of the book has literally a dozen or so references to the records of the company, sometimes printed *in extenso*); and of Pembina, which gets exhaustive treatment, as does the rest of the Red River Valley.

There are many references to documents in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. Proofreading has not always been performed thoroughly (there are almost three full pages of errata at the back of the volume) and curious spellings of well-known names are



not uncommon, as in the case of Major Lawrence Taliaferro. Moreover, in a number of instances of rather long quotations from documents, especially from Hudson's Bay Company archives, the writer strongly suspects inaccuracy of transcription. There are several good folding maps, many text maps and charts, and several full pages of pictures, probably photographs made by the author himself. There are an index and a detailed table of contents.

After reading M. Giraud's definitive treatment of a single subject in such a huge tome, the reviewer wondered whether he also had the ability to write succinctly of a large topic. The answer comes in a tiny book published just a year after the work on the half-breed. In his *Histoire du Canada*, published in the series *Que sais-je?*, he gives an admirable summary of Canadian history for the average French reader, and, *mirabile dictu*, does so in 134 small pages! It is highly interesting to read such an account of our great neighbor as seen through the eyes of a most dispassionate and erudite scholar whose background gives him a detachment that is not met in Canadian scholars, whether they be of French, American, or British origin.

GRACE LEE NUTE

*By Cross and Anchor: The Story of Frederic Baraga on Lake Superior.*

By JAMES K. JAMISON. (Paterson, New Jersey, St. Anthony Guild Press, 1946. xi, 225 p. Illustrations. \$2.50.)

We have here a conscientious story of a great Indian missionary. It is told in a lively, sympathetic style, such as is seldom associated with historic narratives. The author gives an excellent appreciation of the ideals and accomplishments of Bishop Baraga, who spent thirty-five years of his priestly life in ministrations to the Chippewa in Michigan and along the shores of Lake Superior. The record of events is drawn from reliable sources, albeit Mr. Jamison presents it in anecdotal style.

One value of the book is that it edifies as well as instructs. Another characteristic is that it gives more than the mere length and breadth of historic narrative, with dates and situations properly described. It manages to convey to the reader some of the depth of problems and some of the exaltation in the aims of Frederic Baraga. The Indians' attitude toward property, and their understanding that in signing treaties they were not surrendering but granting a usufruct only, is very well brought out. The story is set against a background of the decline in the fur-

trading industry and the development of the mines in northern Michigan. The publishers are to be complimented for their fine presentation in this work.

JAMES L. CONNOLLY

*The Diary of a Public Man and a Page of Political Correspondence, Stanton to Buchanan.* With a foreword by CARL SANDBURG and prefatory notes by F. LAURISTON BULLARD. (New Brunswick, Rutgers University Press, 1946. ix, 137 p. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

*Abraham Lincoln & the Widow Bixby.* By F. LAURISTON BULLARD. (New Brunswick, Rutgers University Press, 1946. xiii, 154 p. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

F. Lauriston Bullard, Pulitzer prize winner in 1926, is sure to tell what he has to say with clearness and mature judgment. These two recent books of his are both detective stories. *The Diary of a Public Man*, privately printed in 1945 with prefatory notes by Dr. Bullard, is now reprinted and offered commercially. The mysterious account appeared first in the *North American Review* in 1879. Its authorship has been and still is a moot question. Was the public man who wrote this diary a real person or was he the product of the mind of Allen Thorndike Rice, editor of the *Review*? If he was real, why was his name withheld? If he was fictitious, how did Rice come to know the personal details about life in Washington during the Civil War when he was a boy studying in Europe at the time? Strangely enough, the public man tells about little intimate occurrences at conferences which participants confirmed later in their own memoirs. Could it be that these people read in the diary about the things they were supposed to have done, and then years later came to believe that they had done them?

These questions all remain to be answered. Dr. Bullard sums up the evidence and admits that the diary may be priceless as ancient ivory or artificial as pure plastic, "a genuine historical document" or "an almost — perfect crime."

In the other of these two detective stories, *Abraham Lincoln & the Widow Bixby*, Dr. Bullard reaches a very definite conclusion. The point at issue is the authorship of the letter Lincoln is alleged to have written to Mrs. Lydia Bixby, a widow reported to have lost five sons in the Civil War. The Bixby letter contains as fine language as has ever been written in English. The facts that Mrs. Bixby did not lose five sons in

the war, that two different facsimiles of forgeries of the letter are known, and that the original cannot be found, all combine to give skeptics a chance to question Lincoln's authorship. A persistent story maintains that the letter was written by Lincoln's private secretary, John Hay. A quarter of a century ago a well-known Lincoln scholar, William E. Barton, wrote an exhaustive study of the Bixby letter entitled *A Beautiful Blunder*. Dr. Bullard's study reaffirms the conclusion of this earlier scholar and adds with a brilliant bit of detection the origin and what should be the end of the Hay legend. Unless new and startling evidence is produced, Lincoln's authorship would seem to be unquestionable.

JAY MONAGHAN

*Third Crossing: A History of the First Quarter Century of the Town and District of Gladstone in the Province of Manitoba.* By MARGARET MORTON FAHRNI and W. L. MORTON. (Winnipeg, Advocate Printers Limited, 1946. ix, 118 p. Illustrations. \$2.50.)

This is the story of the first agricultural settlement in the Canadian West established outside the valley of the Red River. Prior to 1871, what little settlement had taken place in Manitoba was all to be found along the Red, the highway of the time, whose broad valley was more hospitable than the windswept plain. As good land became scarce in this area, the more venturesome began to push outward from the river, up lesser watercourses, and along the old trails of the fur trader, seeking land on the first great prairie level. It was just such a group that founded the settlement the first name of which provides the title to this work.

Third Crossing was so called, with the almost poetic directness of the pioneer, because it marked the third place where the Saskatchewan Trail crossed the erratic course of the White Mud River. As settlement increased and the influences of civilization penetrated more and more into the area, the original name was abandoned in favor of the Scriptural, if less poetic, Palestine, and then again to its present title, Gladstone, for the great Victorian liberal statesman.

The authors have carried the story of the Gladstone district from its first mention in recorded history—a reference to the White Mud River by Alexander Henry, the younger, in 1799—through the period of fur trade and settlement, down to 1896, when the frontier of western settlement passed from the United States to Canada and the Canadian West

at last began to fill. From necessity the greater part of the book is devoted to the period from 1871 to 1896, during which permanent settlement on an agricultural basis was achieved.

The authors have succeeded where many others have failed. Here we have a competent local history with all the colorful presentation of advance setback and anecdote which make such accounts worth reading; but they have gone farther than this. The struggles of this frontier community are set in the larger picture of Canadian history. Difficulties met with in relation to land regulations, transportation, education, local government, economic depression, and other matters are skillfully related to the general trend of events throughout Canada.

In a sense *Third Crossing* is the story of one man—the energetic leader of multiple talents so often met with in frontier communities. Here it is Corydon P. Brown—a Maritimer of United Empire Loyalist stock—around whom much of the story is written. It is Brown who is in the forefront of settlement, who early establishes a store, who helps organize local government, and becomes the district's representative in the Manitoba legislature and in the provincial cabinet. It is he who brings in a short-lived steamboat service, attempts early drainage efforts, builds bridges, founds a bank, and generally towers above the events of the greater part of the period covered.

Professor Morton and his sister are well qualified to write the story of *Third Crossing*. They are descended from its first settlers and have a life-long association with the district. Their almost too-small volume is a valuable contribution to the slowly growing library of the history of Canadian prairie settlement.

J. A. JACKSON

*Samuel W. Melendy Memorial Lectures: I-IV.* By FREDERICK J. WULLING, dean emeritus, College of Pharmacy, University of Minnesota. (La Crosse, Wisconsin, Emerson G. Wulling, 1946. 89 p.)

Deliberate reflections of long-ago events have a peculiarly delightful flavor when penned by those who have not only pioneered in a profession, but also have lived long enough to possess seasoned judgment. Dean Wulling's *Melendy Memorial Lectures*, written in reminiscent mood, narrate the trials and tribulations—and successes—of the progress of pharmacy in Minnesota. They tell also of the long struggle for regulation, of the establishment of state boards and associations, and,

above all, of the quiet, loyal energies of a small band of men determined to make their profession respectable. Samuel W. Melendy emerges as a friend of the University of Minnesota, but a friend who could be both generous and critical. Dean Wulling's gentle style and forthrightness impart an old-fashioned dignity to the lectures—a dignity often lacking in current literature. His delineations of leading figures of his day—Cyrus Northrop, John S. Pillsbury, William Watts Folwell—add considerably to Minnesota's biographical literature. The fourth lecture, "Second Line Pioneer Minnesota Pharmacists," not only is one of the few histories of an important ally of the medical sciences, but also makes obvious the author's plea that a complete story of pharmacy in Minnesota be written. Certainly in these essays Dean Wulling once again has pioneered, as years before he was a leader in every movement calculated to serve the cause of pharmacy, not only in Minnesota, but also throughout the nation.

P.D.J.

## The Historical Scene

NOW THAT MEMBERS of the Minnesota Historical Society are learning about its current activities through *News for Members*, it seems appropriate to merge the divisions of this magazine formerly devoted to the society and to general news items. The editors will attempt in "The Historical Scene" to cover a wide range of interests, and to appeal to the general reader as well as to professional and amateur historians. Notices about new techniques, about the teaching of history, about the activities of historical associations of national or regional scope, and about such general topics as the frontier, the westward movement, the Indians, and exploration will be printed in the opening section. Minnesota receives first place in "News from the States," with items about other commonwealths following in alphabetical order. The sections devoted to community history and to local historical societies relate in large part to Minnesota only. Those who made a habit of looking for new sources of information under "Accessions" will want to turn to the section designed "For Minnesota Historical Society Users." There they will find announcements about some of the more important additions to the society's collections, as well as about new equipment, and about other matters that concern the visitor to the Historical Building. From time to time letters reach the editors or remarks appear in print occasioned by contributions to this magazine; when such items seem to be of sufficient general interest they will be published herein as "Readers' Comments." Information about contributors will conclude each issue. The editors will be glad to know what readers of *Minnesota History* think of the new arrangement, and they will welcome suggestions about it.

In an article on "Instruments of Culture on the Frontier," published in the December number of the *Yale Review*, Dixon Wecter examines the "cultural institutions and tools which shaped the mind" of the westward moving pioneer. The "instruments" Mr. Wecter enumerates are of the most varied character—seeds, tools, books, missionaries, schools and schoolmasters, lyceums, museums, lectures, libraries, printing presses, newspapers, and periodicals. To begin with, most of these went out from New England and the eastern seaboard, but in time, Mr. Wecter points out, "other whirlpools of culture appeared." As examples he cites

"Scandinavian settlers in Wisconsin and Minnesota in the middle years of the century"—newcomers who carried "new languages, cultures, and nostalgias to the cabins and sod-houses of the prairie."

Numerous items of Minnesota and Northwest significance are listed in a recent *Guide to Manuscripts relating to American History in British Depositories Reproduced for the Division of Manuscripts of the Library of Congress*, compiled by Grace Gardner Griffin and published by the Library of Congress (1946. 313 p.). Among the archives of the Foreign Office, for example, are letters and other documents relating to Mitchell's map, which had much to do with the determination of Minnesota's northern boundary; and an entire volume dealing with the expedition of Henry J. Warre and M. Vavasour along the boundary westward from what is now Minnesota to Oregon Territory in 1846. Documents reproduced from originals owned by the Royal Society include "A short account of a trading Voyage performed by Joseph Kellug an English man of New England in Company with Six French men from Canada to Missasippi in the year 1710 in two Cannoos."

A useful guide to *Your Government's Records in the National Archives* has been issued by that institution as number 46-18 of its *Publications* (1946. 81 p.). The arrangement is by branches, departments, and agencies of the government, and by "record groups." Numbers are given referring to the system of classification used by the National Archives.

In an article on "Microphotography and History," appearing in the *Pacific Historical Review* for December, Lawrence A. Harper calls attention to the "many possibilities for revolutionizing scholarly techniques" which microphotography offers to the historian. He stresses particularly the fact that the new device "permits a limited number of copies to be prepared at a modest cost."

A summer training course in the preservation and administration of archives, designed particularly for custodians of public, institutional, and business archives, will be offered from July 28 through August 23 by the American University in Washington, D. C., with the co-operation of the National Archives and the Maryland Hall of Records. The program will provide lectures on the most important phases of work with archives and manuscripts, demonstrations, group conferences, and practical work in such fields as arrangement and description of archival and manuscript

material, repair and preservation, cataloguing, and photoduplication. Serving as instructors will be members of the staffs of the participating institutions. Detailed information about the course may be obtained by writing to Professor Ernest Posner of the American University.

To the "Christmas Book Section" of the *Chicago Daily News*, published on December 4, Philip D. Jordan of the Minnesota Historical Society's staff contributes a stimulating discussion of "Regional Writing" and its place in American literature. In his opinion, "The most effective regional writing should reflect the national life and spirit of America as conditioned by sectional ways of behavior and patterns of thought." Such writing, he points out, must not only "keep clearly in sight the nation's cultural heritage," but it "must describe and explain local and provincial folkways and attitudes." The section as a whole was planned and arranged by Mr. James Gray, the book review editor of the *News*, who until recently was with a St. Paul newspaper.

"Once the search to establish eligibility for membership in a hereditary patriotic organization is begun, either an amateur historian is born, or one who is genuinely interested in and will pursue historical subjects with the zeal of a new convert is produced." Thus writes Will H. Daniel in an article on "The Value of Hereditary Patriotic Organizations in Stimulating Interest in History," appearing in the January number of *West Virginia History*. Mr. Daniel enumerates many sources of value for the genealogist, among which are the publications prepared by "so-called white collar workers during the old W.P.A. days."

From the "High Noon of a Nation, 1853-1855," to the "End of the Frontier, 1889-1893," volume 3 of the *Album of American History*, issued under the editorship of James Truslow Adams and R. V. Coleman, provides a pictorial record of the United States during four decades of the nineteenth century (New York, 1946. 435 p.). Since the years covered are those of Minnesota's emergence as a state and development as an area of industrial and agricultural importance, the area receives far more attention in the present volume than in the two issued earlier in the series. The exploring expeditions of the midcentury that pushed westward from St. Paul are represented by a group of John Mix Stanley's views of the Pacific Railroad survey of 1853 (p. 34-36); events connected with the Indian uprisings of 1857 and 1862 are included (p. 54, 141); Duluth and Superior are pictured as "Ports of the



North" (p. 262, 393); the importance of wheat raising and flour milling is suggested (p. 289, 318, 319); the building of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroads and their progress westward are illustrated (p. 319, 371, 392, 413); and the discovery of iron on the Mesabi Range and the beginnings of open pit mining are recorded (p. 427). A bridge completed between Rock Island, Illinois, and Davenport, Iowa, in April, 1856, is described as the "first bridge across the Mississippi." Evidently the editors overlooked the suspension bridge that connected St. Anthony and Minneapolis more than a year earlier.

Early prints and paintings depicting "Life on the Mississippi" were assembled for an exhibition at Mr. Harry Shaw Newman's Old Print Shop in New York in October. Many of the pictures displayed are reproduced in the October issue of the shop's *Portfolio*, a monthly publication. It gives some interesting and useful comments about the display, as well as about explorers and travelers, the "influence of the panorama" in calling Mississippi Valley scenery to the attention of artists and print makers, racing on the river, town views, and steamboating. Minnesota views reproduced include a lithograph of Winona in 1874, and a pair of oil paintings of St. Croix River scenes by Henry Lewis. The sketches in oil upon which Lewis based these paintings are owned by the Minnesota Historical Society.

The leading article in the December number of the *Beaver* is Kenneth Kidd's appreciative review of "The Wanderings of Kane," the Toronto artist who set out in the summer of 1845 to produce a pictorial record of the Indians of Canada. Paul Kane returned from his travels with a "large diary and a bulky sheaf of sketches," in addition to many Indian costumes, implements, weapons, and other items used by the red men a hundred years ago. A substantial collection of the paintings that the artist based upon his sketches is now in the Royal Ontario Museum, and Mr. Kidd reports that many of the objects from Kane's Indian collection are now to be seen in the Manitoba Museum. With the article are reproduced a number of Kane's paintings, as well as costumes and objects shown in his pictures.

In *Rural Handicrafts in the United States*, published by the United States department of agriculture in co-operation with the Russell Sage Foundation as *Miscellaneous Publications*, no. 610 (1946. 40 p.), Allen Eaton and Lucinda Crile discuss the place of handicrafts in rural life

and report on a national survey of the subject conducted in 1939. The reader is reminded that the homely arts and crafts have received ever-increasing attention in recent years, and that "the lathe and the last, the spindle and the loom," were as much a part of the historic American way of life as the hand-hewn plow and the village meeting house of the early Colonial community. The bulletin is illustrated with interesting photographs taken at the first national rural arts exhibition, held in Washington in 1937.

G.H.S.

The American Association for State and Local History is sponsoring a new quarterly journal, *American Heritage*, to be "devoted solely to the objectives and techniques necessary in promoting more effective teaching of our American heritage at the state and local level." It will deal with the teaching of local and community history and with the work of historical societies and museums in the United States and Canada. Designed particularly for teachers of history in the local community, it plans to publish reports on the teaching of local history in the various states, on materials available for its study, on the use of audio-visual aids in teaching local history, on museums as mediums of instruction, and on similar topics. The association's plans called for the publication of the first issue of *American Heritage* in January, 1947. The subscription rate is \$1.50 a year; Miss Mary Cunningham of Cooperstown, New York, is the editor.

A paper on "A Leader of the Old North West: Hercules Dousman and His Historic Home" was read by Mrs. Frederick R. Bigelow of St. Paul before a meeting of the American Association for State and Local History in Washington on October 26. In the November issue of the same organization's bimonthly publication, the *State and Local History News*, appears a note on "Three Historic Buildings in Minnesota." It deals with the buildings in the St. Anthony Park area of St. Paul which last May were designated historic monuments by the St. Anthony Park Area Historical Association (see *ante*, 27: 228-232).

The Canadian travels and adventures of Peter Pond are emphasized by Lawrence J. Burpee in a brief sketch of the Yankee trader and explorer appearing in the *Canadian Geographical Journal* for November. The same issue announces the death of Dr. Burpee on October 14. Readers of this magazine in the past have enjoyed his discerning book reviews and illuminating articles. Minnesotans in general will miss Dr.

Burpee's service as Canadian secretary of the International Joint Commission, which has settled innumerable problems relating to the state's northern boundary.

"Isle Royale Our New National Park" is the subject of an article, in the October-December issue of the *Michigan History Magazine*, by Floyd L. Haight, who notes that the area has equal interest for residents of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. He records the steps by which the park was established and reports on the dedication ceremonies of August 27, 1946. In the same issue, Fred Dustin discusses "Isle Royale Place Names" and supplies an alphabetical list explaining their origins.

The agreement of 1891 between Archbishop John Ireland and the state of Minnesota "permitting the school boards of Faribault and Stillwater to take over control of two parochial schools in those localities" receives a good deal of attention in John J. Meng's study of "Cahenslyism: The Second Chapter, 1891-1910," which appears in the *Catholic Historical Review* for October. An article on the "first stage" of Peter Cahensly's movement looking toward a "greater degree of ecclesiastical autonomy by foreign language groups within the American Church" was published in the January, 1946, *Review* (see *ante*, 27:161). Several Minnesotans in addition to Archbishop Ireland became involved in the controversy, according to Mr. Meng's later article. Among them were Father John Gmeiner of St. Paul, who "published a fiery attack on Cahenslyism which seriously offended the German-Americans," Bishop James McGolrick of Duluth, and Senator Cushman K. Davis.

Professor Theodore Saloutos, who contributes an article on the National Producers' Alliance to the present issue of this magazine, is the author of two recently published studies of Northwest economic history—"The Expansion and Decline of the Nonpartisan League in the Western Middle West, 1917-1921," in *Agricultural History* for October, and "The Spring-Wheat Farmer in a Maturing Economy, 1870-1920," in the *Journal of Economic History* for November. The earlier article deals with the Nonpartisan League's activities and its participation in state campaigns in Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Iowa; and it exploits the work of such leaders as Arthur Le Sueur, A. C. Townley, and Charles A. Lindbergh. Cited and quoted frequently are letters of League workers now preserved in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society. As the milling

metropolis of the Northwest, Minneapolis figures prominently in Mr. Saloutos' second article.

Many useful and practical suggestions about "What to Look For," as well as how and where to look, when *Writing Your Community's War History* are given by Marvin W. Schlegel in number 11 of the *Bulletins* of the American Association for State and Local History (October, 1946). The author, who is assistant state historian of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, also gives detailed instructions on "How to Write" a history of a community at war. Anyone who contemplates the preparation of such a history should have at hand a copy of this *Bulletin*. It may be obtained from the secretary of the association, Box 1881, Raleigh, North Carolina. Much of the association's *War Historian* for November is devoted to Thomas D. Murphy's survey of the "War History of the 49th State." The author is a member of the faculty of the University of Hawaii. Reports on war records activities in twenty states appear in the December issue. This monthly publication will be concluded in February.

#### NEWS FROM THE STATES

Based upon "more than 50 years of intimate association with Minnesota politics," the recollections of Charles B. Cheney, published in installments in the *Minneapolis Morning Tribune* from October 22 to December 13, are a notable contribution to the political history of the North Star State. As a reporter for the *Minneapolis Times*, the *Minneapolis Journal*, and, finally, the *Tribune*, Mr. Cheney covered the state's politics during much of five colorful decades, from 1894 to 1945. An indication that the story is never dull is to be found in a statement in his opening installment; "my acquaintance has included nine Republican governors, three Democrats and three Farmer-Laborites," he recalls. He sketches the background for his unique experience in his first chapter, telling how he came to Minnesota from Iowa, was trained under James Gray of the *Times*, served as his secretary when the editor became mayor of Minneapolis, and went back to newspaper work, "doing politics" for the *Journal*, when his chief failed to be re-elected. Minnesota's political leaders emerge as spirited personalities in many of the chapters that follow. Pictured at full length are such men as Knute Nelson, Governor Van Sant, Ignatius Donnelly, John Lind, L. W. Babcock, Joel P. Heatwole, John A. Johnson, J. F. Jacobson, Frank M. Nye,

Magnus Johnson, Moses E. Clapp, Thomas Schall, Floyd B. Olson, Ernest Lundeen, Frank B. Kellogg, and others, like Governor Stassen, whose leadership still is felt. Political issues are not overlooked. There are sections on the railroad tax bill, October 31; the beginnings of primaries, November 2; the rise of the Nonpartisan League, November 22 and 23; and woman suffrage, December 5. Mr. Cheney's story "will give anyone a liberal education in Minnesota's lively politics," according to a contemporary political reporter, Mr. M. W. Halloran of the *Minneapolis Star*.

A survey of Minnesota's representation in Congress, made by Lawrence Boardman for the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of October 13, shows that since 1858, when Henry M. Rice and James Shields were sent to Washington, "no other Democrat has been elected to the Senate from Minnesota." Some records made by Minnesota Senators are described: William Windom went "in and out of the Senate oftener than any other solon"; Knute Nelson had the longest period of service. With the article appears a list of United States Senators from Minnesota, their party designations, and their years of service.

Two articles which Duncan L. Kennedy, assistant revisor of statutes of Minnesota, contributed to the *Minnesota Law Review* for June and December, 1946, have been reprinted in a pamphlet entitled *The Legislative Process, with Particular Reference to Minnesota* (46 p.). In the earlier article, Mr. Kennedy sketches the background for some of Minnesota's legislative problems, particularly those growing out of the special acts of territorial and early statehood days.

How the "Records of the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company" are made and kept, and how this important Minnesota business originated and grew, are explained by Vernie H. Wolfsberg of its home office in the *American Archivist* for October. The writer traces the firm's beginnings to 1853, when the St. Paul Mutual Insurance Company was organized by a group of seventeen forward-looking pioneers—men like Alexander Ramsey, Henry M. Rice, and Alexander Wilkin. Although the St. Paul firm "began with the writing of fire insurance, and though it wrote that in only one state," Miss Wolfsberg notes that shortly after its incorporation with its present name in 1865 it began to expand into wider territory, and to offer additional coverages and greater protection to its policy holders. "In just ninety-two years," she writes in

a condensed statement of the firm's history, it "has grown from the company writing in only one state to one writing all over the world; from one writing only fire insurance to one covering almost every emergency; from one with a capital of \$100,000 to one of \$10,000,000; from one company to one with two subsidiaries."

The third annual meeting of the Folk Arts Foundation of America, Inc., was held in the new building of the International Institute of St. Paul on November 16. Dr. A. C. Krey, a member of the executive council of the Minnesota Historical Society, was elected president, succeeding Dr. J. O. Christianson of the University of Minnesota school of agriculture. Following the reading of reports and a business session in the afternoon, Dr. Harold Allen of the University of Minnesota spoke on "Chasing Proverbs." At 6:00 P.M. a dinner of middle European dishes was served to more than a hundred people in the institute's attractive dining room. The feature of this session was an entertaining paper on "Northern Folk Traditions" read by Dr. Richard M. Dorson of Michigan State College. For distribution among its members, the foundation reprinted two articles published in *Minnesota History* in 1946 — Miss Stanchfield's study of the Minnesota folk song entitled "The Beauty of the West," and Dr. Jordan's "Toward a New Folklore."

Nine radio programs designed to acquaint children in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades with the people of various cultural groups who have contributed to the building of the state were broadcast over the University of Minnesota station, KUOM, from September 3 to 13. The contributions of the Germans, the Scandinavians, the Irish, the Finns, the Russians, the Poles, the Italians, the Czechs, and the Jews were given special emphasis. Copies of the radio scripts, which were given under the general title "Cavalcade of Minnesota," are available in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society.

A volume of *Selected Documents Dealing with the Organization of the First Congregations and the First Conferences of the Augustana Synod and Their Growth until 1860* (Rock Island, Illinois, 1946. 167 p.), which has been edited by I. O. Nothstein and published by the Augustana Historical Society as volume 11 of its *Publications*, includes several items about early Swedish settlers and their religious organizations in Minnesota. Records of three Minnesota congregations are printed in English translations in part 1 of the volume, which is devoted to

"Minutes of Pioneer Congregations." Minutes of the populous Chisago Lake group, covering the years from 1854 to 1860, fill nearly thirty pages; they contain references to such prominent Swedish pioneers as Eric Norelius, Gustaf Unonius, and Erland Carlsson. In this section also appear the minutes for 1858 to 1860 of the Scandian Grove congregation in Nicollet County, and of the East Union Church in Carver County for the same years. Part 2 of the volume deals exclusively with the "Minnesota Conference" of the Augustana Synod; it includes translations of Norelius' report of the organization, and of the conference minutes for two years after its organization at Chisago Lake in October, 1858.

That Max Weber, the "dean of American modernists" in the realm of painting, taught art and manual training in the Duluth State Normal School for two years early in the present century is revealed in a letter from the artist, dated September 29, 1946, and printed in the Walker Art Center's edition of the *Magazine of Art* for November. Mr. Weber recalls that one of his paintings of the Lake Superior shore was accepted for display at the Minnesota State Fair in 1904, that he read a paper before a meeting of Minnesota and Wisconsin teachers at Superior in 1903, and that he gave a special course in teaching methods for nuns who taught drawing in the parochial schools of northeastern Minnesota.

Dr. John Walker Powell, a member of the class of 1893, describes "Minnesota Student Life in the Nineties" on the university campus in the *Minnesota Alumnus* for November and December. When he graduated, Dr. Powell recalls, the student body numbered about eighteen hundred. His own "class of 82 members was the largest so far graduated—and the first to wear caps and gowns." He describes buildings like the Coliseum and the library; tells of campus transportation; and recalls faculty members like President Northrop and Dr. Folwell.

Archaeological investigations conducted during the summer of 1946 by Dr. Lloyd A. Wilford of the University of Minnesota and two students are reported by Julius Duscha in an illustrated feature article in the magazine supplement of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 27. Evidences of primitive man that they found in the Minnesota Valley near Granite Falls include human bones, pottery, and arrowheads, according to Mr. Duscha. Dr. Wilford is familiar to readers of this magazine as the author of a series of articles on prehistoric man in Minnesota.

"Perhaps the most discussed find of all the many skeletons found in the New World is that of Minnesota man," writes Frank C. Hibben in a popular account of ancient man in the New World which he calls *The Lost Americans* (New York, 1946. 196 p.). Despite its alleged importance, however, he devotes something less than two pages to this "find." He does point out that the "skeleton is that of a woman" and he reports that the "few baubles found with this ancient girl give us practically no information as to her affiliations."

"A Brief History of the Ojibwas" which William W. Warren, a well-known historian of the Chippewa, contributed to the *Minnesota Democrat* of St. Paul in 1851, is reprinted in the *Minnesota Archaeologist* for July. In the October issue of the same publication, Warren's sketch of the "Sioux and Chippewa Wars," which appeared originally in the *Minnesota Chronicle and Register* of 1850, is reproduced. Both narratives are thus made easily available to members of the Minnesota Archaeological Society. With the earlier publication are an outline of Warren's career and a note on his "Chippewa writings" by Willoughby M. Babcock of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, who also supplies explanatory notes for Warren's narratives.

The problem of the identity of Massacre Island in the Lake of the Woods, where a group of La Vérendrye's followers were killed by hostile Indians in 1736, is discussed by Earl V. Chapin in a feature article published in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 17. He gives several reasons why the island now known by that name may not be a correct choice, and shows why Oak Island might have been the scene of the tragic death of the French explorer's eldest son, Father Aulneau, and their French companions.

The closing of Fort Snelling as a military installation on October 14 was the occasion for the publication, in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of the following day, of a brief survey of its history by Gareth Heibert. The old fort, which with the exception of a few years before the Civil War has housed troops constantly since 1819, was taken over by the Veterans' Administration.

From the viewpoint of the newspaper reporters who had "ringside seats" for the fray, the story of the battle of Leech Lake is retold by W. P. Kirkwood in the magazine supplement of the *St. Paul Pioneer*



*Press* for November 10. When a detachment of troops from Fort Snelling went to Walker to subdue the restless Pillagers in October, 1898, five newspapermen from the Twin Cities traveled northward to cover the affair. From their firsthand reports, Mr. Kirkwood draws much of his material. With his article appear portraits of the Indian and military leaders and of the reporters, and maps and pictures of the battle scene, all from the picture collection of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Under the title "Historic Site Ahead," the Duluth department store of I. Freimuth, Inc., continued throughout 1946 to broadcast radio programs dramatizing events in the history of northeastern Minnesota (see *ante*, 26:276). The new series, "dedicated to the colorful past of our great Arrowhead region," includes episodes about the history of Isle Royale, Grand Portage, Bethel, and Bemidji; about Duluth's name, its early schools, its first bank, a pioneer Christmas, its police department, its first Swedish settlers, its first Easter, and its ship canal; about Proctor Knott's speech on Duluth; about the breaking of ground for the Northern Pacific Railroad; about the Kensington rune stone; and about various other pertinent subjects. The dramatizations, which are written by Gilbert Fawcett, are produced at 4:30 P.M. every Sunday in the studios of station KDAL of Duluth. Electrical transcriptions of the broadcasts are available to clubs and schools through the courtesy of the sponsors.

The Indiana Historical Bureau has published a *Brief History of Indiana* by Donald F. Carmony and Howard H. Peckham (Indianapolis, 1946. 35 p.). The entire sweep of state history, from 1679 to 1945, is outlined under four headings—the "European Colony," "Territorial Days," "Pioneer State," and "Modern Development." Indiana teachers should find the booklet particularly useful.

Under the title "English Emigrants in Iowa," Grant Foreman contributes to the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for October a fascinating series of letters of 1849 and 1850 drawn largely from the *Eastern Counties Herald*, an English provincial newspaper. Its editor, George Sheppard, helped organize the Iowa Emigration Society at Hull in England, and he served as the leader of a group of emigrants who settled in Clinton County, Iowa, in 1850. Reports that Sheppard and members of his party sent back to England for publication in his paper are quoted at length in the present article.

Some three dozen Iowa pictures — cartoons, maps, drawings, paintings, murals, photographs, and prints — are reproduced in the November *Palimpsest* in order to prove that "Pictures Are History." Among the subjects selected to illustrate the development of Iowa and various phases of life there are a prehistoric rock shelter, a Sioux village, a covered wagon, a modern train, a log cabin, a pioneer church, a frontier military post, two early capitol buildings, an upper Mississippi steamboat, some early agricultural implements, and early and modern Iowa farms. In the October *Palimpsest*, William J. Petersen surveys "A Century of River Traffic" from the epoch-making voyage of the "Virginia" to Fort Snelling in 1823, and he reviews briefly the story of "Transportation by Land" in the Iowa area.

Contemporary letters, weather records, and newspapers are the principal sources from which Dr. James C. Malin has drawn the material for his study of *Dust Storms, 1850-1900* (1946. 71 p.). Many passages descriptive of dust storms are quoted by the author, who confines himself largely to a consideration of conditions in Kansas. His narrative appeared originally in three installments in the *Kansas Historical Quarterly* for May, August, and November, 1946.

"Custer's Last Stand" as portrayed on canvas by John Mulvany, Cassilly Adams, and Otto Becker is the subject of Robert Taft's fourth article on "The Pictorial Record of the Old West" to appear in the *Kansas Historical Quarterly*. It is published in the November issue, where are reproduced the paintings discussed, a view of the Custer battlefield, and photographs of two of the artists.

The St. Louis Historical Documents Foundation, launched in the Missouri city on December 31, will inaugurate a series of documentary volumes dealing with "Missouri history as it affected the settlement and Americanization of the West." It is interested particularly in explorers who pushed westward in search of a route to the Pacific before the days of Lewis and Clark. A gift of five thousand dollars from Mr. Joseph Desloge will make possible the publication of the foundation's first volume — a collection of documents assembled by Dr. Abraham P. Nasatir. Officers of the foundation include Charles E. Peterson of the National Park Service, president, and Professor John Francis McDermott of Washington University, secretary.

The diary kept by Dr. Joseph A. Paxson in 1869 and 1870 while serving as physician to the Winnebago at their agency in Nebraska is appearing in installments in *Nebraska History*. The first section, which is printed in the July-September issue, includes an introductory note by the diarist's son, Professor Frederic L. Paxson. The original diary is owned by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

*Rural Hunterdon: An Agricultural History* by Hubert G. Schmidt, a former graduate student at the University of Minnesota, relates the history of an agricultural county in New Jersey from Colonial times to the present. Agricultural matters, such as the physical setting, the people, land tenure, buildings, equipment, methods, crops, and animal husbandry are all covered, but the author has wisely added chapters on transportation, trade, communication, industry, and labor, so that a balanced picture is presented. The farmer and his family appear in a chapter on the "Ways of Life." This study is highly recommended as an excellent example of what county histories should be. R. C. L.

"The Fort Totten-Abercrombie Trail" is the subject of the second of two articles by Dana Wright on "Military Trails in Dakota" to be published in *North Dakota History*. The present account, in the July issue, describes the trail which led from the "Sibley Crossing" of the Sheyenne River to Fort Abercrombie on the Red, opposite McCauleyville in Minnesota. Mention is made of many Minnesotans who used the trail or portions of it on journeys to the West and North. Among them were Joe Rolette, Norman W. Kittson, Governor Ramsey, and Henry H. Sibley. Excellent maps of the trail appear with the article. In the same issue of the North Dakota State Historical Society's quarterly, "Name Origins of North Dakota Cities, Towns and Counties" are explained. The society's monthly publication, the *Museum Review*, devotes its December number to items about "Early Christmas Days in North Dakota" and tells how the festival was observed by explorers and traders.

How Colonel William P. Moffet learned the details of Sitting Bull's death on December 15, 1890, and sent the story to the *Pioneer Press* in St. Paul is described in a feature story by Irving Lipove in the magazine section of that paper for October 2, 1946. According to the account, the "St. Paul newspaper received an exclusive story, beating every other paper here and west of this area with the news," for in 1890 Colonel Moffet was its Dakota correspondent as well as the editor and pub-

lisher of a weekly paper at Bismarck. A facsimile of the *Pioneer Press* headlines of December 16, 1890, appears with the article.

"The State Historical Society of Oklahoma and Its Possessions" are described in some detail in the autumn number of the *Chronicles of Oklahoma*. The authorship is co-operative; Dr. Charles Evans, secretary of the society, traces its history from its founding in 1893, three years after the territory was organized, to the dedication of its handsome building in 1930; and the heads of various departments describe the collections they administer. Pictures of the exterior and interior of the society's building illustrate the article, which gives an excellent over all picture of one of the nation's substantial historical institutions.

"A Letter from Hudson, 1848," written by Mrs. Martha F. Andrews, a pioneer resident of the St. Croix Valley community, has been supplied with an introduction and annotations by Willis H. Miller and published in the "Documents" section of the December *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. Mention is made of a Christmas ball at Stillwater and of several Minnesota personages, including William H. Nobles and the Reverend William T. Boutwell. In an article entitled "Land and Learning," published in the same number, Irvin G. Wyllie reviews the story of the grants made by Congress in 1838 and 1854 for the support of a university in Wisconsin. The grants, consisting of some ninety-three thousand acres, "were transformed into millions in support" for the university, according to Mr. Wyllie.

## HISTORY IN THE COMMUNITY

The history of the New Ulm Turner society, which marked its ninetyeth anniversary on November 10, is reviewed in the *New Ulm Daily Journal* for November 8. At a Sunday gathering in Adolph Seiter's log store on the original townsite, the Turner society was organized, according to this account. Included in the narrative is a list of the fourteen charter members of the organization. At the ninetyeth anniversary banquet, the story of the New Ulm Turners was outlined by Albert Steinhauer, district president. Reports of pioneer Christmas celebrations drawn from files of early New Ulm newspapers, German and English, appear in the *Journal* for December 23. They indicate that Christmas plays staged by home talent were an important feature of holiday celebrations in the early days of the community.

The Moorhead post office, the buildings it has occupied, and the postmasters who have served the community are the subjects of a historical sketch in the *Moorhead Daily News* for October 25. Established in 1876, the post office marked its seventy-fifth anniversary on November 1.

Some Finnish pioneers of Kalevala Township in Carlton County are recalled by John Niemela, who went there with his father in 1892, in a letter published in the *Star Gazette* of Moose Lake for November 28. With the letter, which has been translated from the original Finnish, is an account of Finnish settlement in the area, particularly at Salo, where a post office was located.

In a feature article on "The Walker Family's Art," published in the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune* for October 20, Evelyn Burke reviews the collecting career of T. B. Walker and tells how the "Moorish palace" in which he housed his collections has been transformed into the present Walker Art Center. The latter has been developed under the auspices of the Walker Art Foundation, organized by second- and third-generation descendants of the lumber magnate, according to the writer. With the article is a "Walker Family Tree."

An elaborately illustrated record of *World War II and the Red Cross St. Paul Chapter* has been published by that organization (1946. 16p.). Photographs give vivid impressions of the varied activities and services of the Red Cross in St. Paul — in military installations, in civilian hospitals, in the St. Paul Union Depot, of its blood donor service, its home service, and the like. There are brief narrative accounts of the "Highlights" of Red Cross activity in St. Paul and of the "Volunteer Special Services." The committee which planned the booklet included in its membership Mrs. Grace Flandrau of the Minnesota Historical Society's executive council and Dr. Grace Lee Nute of its staff.

The eightieth anniversary of the platting of Glenwood is commemorated by the publication of brief articles about its founding and its history in the December 5 issues of two local newspapers, the *Glenwood Herald* and the *Pope County Tribune*. The story of the filing of the original plat on December 13, 1866, is told by Earl Young in the *Herald*, where he also tells something of pioneer residents and early buildings in the new community. Local explorations and settlement that led up to the founding of Glenwood are reviewed in the *Tribune*.

In an article on "Local Rural Carriers" and their routes, published in the *Evening Tribune* of Albert Lea for November 14, George W. Kelley reveals that the "first rural free delivery route" in Minnesota was established fifty years ago out of Farmington on January 1, 1897. Within a short time, he relates, Albert Lea had six rural routes. Much of his narrative is based upon an interview with Mr. Peter O. Olsen, a pioneer driver who began carrying mail in the vicinity of Albert Lea when the annual salary was two hundred dollars. Girlhood memories of Albert Lea in the decade from 1902 to 1912, recorded by Mrs. Dora H. Pittman of Vienna, Virginia, appear in the *Tribune* for December 24.

A chapter has been added to the story of denominational education in Minnesota by Adolf and Virgil A. Olson, whose *History of Bethel Theological Seminary* has been published to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the St. Paul school (Chicago, 1946. 232 p.). In four sections they tell of the founding of the Swedish Baptist seminary in Chicago in 1871; of its removal in the 1880's to St. Paul, to Stromsburg, Nebraska, and back to Illinois; of its development at Morgan Park, Illinois, from 1888 to 1914; and of its final settlement in its own home on Snelling Avenue in St. Paul in the latter year. Included in the book are a section of pictures and a "Biographical Compendium of Teachers and Students" who have been connected with the seminary throughout its seventy-five years.

A pageant written and directed by Callie Merritt opened a three-day program, from December 6 to 8, which marked the ninetieth anniversary of the Central Avenue Methodist Church of Duluth. In six episodes, the history of the church was reviewed from the day of the Indian, the voyager, and the missionary to the present. An anniversary booklet issued to commemorate the event contains the program, an outline of the pageant, and histories of the congregations that merged to form the present church. The earliest, which was located in Oneota, counted among its founders the Reverend James Peet, the Reverend Edmund F. Ely, and members of the Merritt family.

With a note on "Conditions of Medical Practice at the Close of the Nineteenth Century," Nora H. Guthrey of the Mayo Clinic concludes her narrative "History of Medicine in Fillmore County Prior to 1900" in the August issue of *Minnesota Medicine* (see *ante*, 27:269). In the same number appear the first three of the series of biographical sketches

of Fillmore County physicians prepared by the same author. Arranged alphabetically, her life stories of doctors who practiced in this Minnesota county continue to appear in the monthly issues of *Minnesota Medicine* throughout 1946.

In an article entitled "Red Wing, Haven of Beautiful Pottery," appearing in *Golfer and Sportsman* for November, Sarah M. Schouweiler tells the story of Minnesota's best-known potteries. The history of the firms, accounts of potters and designers who have worked at Red Wing, and descriptions of wares produced there, are combined in an informative way, and illustrations showing several pieces add to the interest of the account.

G. H. S.

*The Log Church in Derrynane* is the title of a recently published booklet by John D. O'Connell in which is recorded the story of the beginnings of a Le Sueur County Catholic parish in the late 1850's (78 p.). The narrative deals with the founding of the Church of St. John the Evangelist by Irish and German pioneers of the area, whose religious needs were served by Benedictine fathers from Shakopee. Much of the pamphlet is made up of biographical sketches of the early settlers of Derrynane Township.

The "Case of the Curious County" — Minnesota's Lake of the Woods and its projection into Canada at the Northwest Angle — is re-examined in volume 21, number 3, of *Weston's Record*, a house organ published by a paper mill at Dalton, Massachusetts. Much of the information published is quoted from a letter sent by the Minnesota Historical Society in response to an inquiry asking "How did Lake of the Woods County, Minnesota, get that way?"

The problem of the Goodhue press is reconsidered in the *St. Paul Pioneer-Press* for December 29 by Elliott Tarbell, who believes that an "Old Press in Grantsburg May Be Goodhue's First." The identity of the press used by James M. Goodhue when he founded Minnesota's first newspaper in the spring of 1849 has long puzzled historians. Mr. Tarbell reviews three theories advanced in an effort to solve the puzzle, and he finds most nearly complete the chain of evidence that leads to Grantsburg, Wisconsin. Mention is made of the volume of Goodhue's editorials now in preparation by Mary W. Berthel of the Minnesota Historical Society. Pictured with the article are an early press in the society's museum and the Grantsburg press.

The *Experiences of a Sheriff* in Stearns County during four years early in the present century are recounted by Fred Schilplin in a recent pamphlet (14 p.). He recalls that he went from a job as reporter on the *St. Cloud Times*, of which he eventually became owner and publisher, to the sheriff's office. His nomination to that office in a strongly Democratic county, Mr. Schilplin relates, resulted from the fact that in a daily search for news at the courthouse he became friendly with the county officials, who suggested that he become a candidate.

The arrival of a threshing crew was a "great event" in the life of the pioneer farmer, according to I. G. Haycraft, who recalls, in a reminiscent article published in the *Mankato Free Press* for December 12, how the threshing was done in 1870 on his father's farm near Madelia. In that year a neighbor, Isaac Bundy, purchased a J. I. Case thresher, and with the aid of his sons he threshed grain for all the farmers in the vicinity, Mr. Haycraft records. The charge was "8c per bu. for oats and 12c for wheat." In a second article, appearing in the *Free Press* for December 18, Mr. Haycraft describes a corn husking bee held on the family farm in 1883.

### LOCAL SOCIETIES AT WORK

How to raise money for a new county historical building was the problem discussed at the annual meeting of the Carver County Historical Society in Waconia on October 11. Speakers included the Reverend Robert G. Heyne and Mr. J. M. Aretz. The suggestion was made that the society might share a building with other county offices, and that the structure could serve as a war memorial. Officers of the society were asked to obtain information about a possible building. All officers of the society were re-elected, and three new members were added to the board of directors.

Dr. Anna Amrud was elected president of the Chippewa County Historical Society at its annual meeting, which was held in Montevideo on October 7. She succeeds Mrs. F. L. Starbeck. Other officers of the society include Mrs. Charles Mills, vice-president, Mrs. J. W. Schultz, secretary, and Mrs. Severn Nelson, treasurer. The program arranged for the occasion included a talk on "Museums I Have Visited" by M. W. Agre, a report on an early handwritten newspaper by Mrs. A. N. Kohr, and the reading of the description of the society's museum published in this



magazine, *ante*, 27:263-265. The account is reprinted in the *Montevideo News* for October 10 and the *Montevideo American* for October 18.

Pioneer days in Cottonwood County were recalled by two speakers—G. H. Sandberg of Excelsior and Mrs. Lewis Minion of Bingham Lake—when they addressed a meeting of the Cottonwood County Historical Society at Windom on November 9. All officers of the society were re-elected.

The museum of the Crow Wing County Historical Society, in the basement of the courthouse at Brainerd, has been open to visitors on Saturdays from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. during the winter months. Mrs. Carl Zapffe and Mrs. Nellie Hazen are in charge of this local museum.

An entirely new panel of officers was elected at the annual meeting of the Fillmore County Historical Society, which was held at Preston on November 15. They are Mr. Moppy Anderson of Preston, president, Mr. K. S. Molstad of Spring Valley, vice-president, Mrs. H. R. Spies of Preston, secretary, and Mr. Oscar Simonson of Lanesboro, treasurer.

Taking as his subject "Minnesota Grows Up," Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, gave the principal address before a dinner meeting of the Hennepin County Historical Society on December 4 in Minneapolis. The speaker who addressed a meeting of the society in St. Louis Park on October 29 was Mr. Edward F. Flynn, whose topic was "The World Is Still Young." The society and its museum are described by John K. Sherman in the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune* for November 3, under the title "Days of Old 'Live' Again." As one of a series of special articles on "things to do and see in Minneapolis," the account attracted many visitors to the museum, according to its director, Mr. Edward A. Blomfield.

The newest addition to the roll of local historical societies in Minnesota is the Jackson County Historical Society, which was organized at Lakefield on October 25. Twenty-one charter members were enrolled and the following officers were elected: Mr. A. E. F. Glaser, president, Mr. Obed S. Olson, vice-president, Mr. Edward Lafot, secretary, and Mr. Ross Frederickson, treasurer. The objectives of a local historical society were explained by Mr. Richard R. Sackett of the state society, who was present to assist the organizers of the new group. Brief editorials in the *Lakefield Standard* for October 31 point out some of the advantages of

membership in the local society and tell of the work and the collections of the state organization.

A revival of interest in the objectives and activities of the Martin County Historical Society was apparent at the annual meeting held at Fairmont on October 7—the first meeting of the organization to be held since 1941. The possibility of a museum building was discussed, and a summer tour to be held next August was planned. Judge Julius E. Haycraft, who has served as president of the society since its organization in 1929, was re-elected to that office; Mrs. J. A. Nightingale was named vice-president; and Mr. Arthur M. Nelson was elected secretary and treasurer. It was decided that in the future life membership in the society at five dollars would be the only type available.

The annual meeting of the Nicollet County Historical Society was held in St. Peter on November 26. The curator of its museum, Mrs. M. E. Stone, reported on October 29 that nearly six hundred visitors had been counted during the previous twelve months.

Participating in the celebration of Worthington's seventy-fifth anniversary on October 2 and 3 was the Nobles County Historical Society, which compiled lists of pioneers, invited those still living to attend the celebration, arranged a special program honoring them, and encouraged the placing of historical displays in local store windows. The "jubilee" is described in the October number of the society's *Bulletin*, which includes a number of "Letters from Nobles County Pioneers." Many of the objects displayed during the celebration "would undoubtedly be given to the Historical Society for this and future generations to view, study, and enjoy, if the Society had a suitable fireproof museum to house them," regretfully writes the editor of the *Bulletin*. "Providing a building for a historical museum remains one of the urgent needs of the Society," he insists.

The Olmsted County Historical Society is the third local organization in the state to inaugurate a quarterly publication. Its *Bulletin*, the first number of which appeared on October 15, follows the pattern established by the Hennepin and Nobles County societies. The new periodical, which, like its predecessors, is mimeographed, contains a note on the museum in Rochester, lists of officers and committee members, and some brief comments on local history. The annual meeting of the society, which was held in Rochester on October 22, was marked by a series of

reports and addresses. Among the speakers were Dr. Arthur J. Larsen and Mr. Richard R. Sackett of the state historical society, Mrs. Nina Wagoner, Mrs. Mary Anderson, and Dr. Arrah B. Evarts. Mrs. Bunn T. Willson, who has served as president of the society for the past five years, resigned from that office, and Mr. E. H. Schlitgus was named to succeed her. To support the work of the society during the coming year, the board of county commissioners appropriated \$2,500, according to the *Rochester Post-Bulletin* of October 11.

The need for larger quarters and plans for a building that might serve both as a war memorial and as a historical museum were discussed by members of the Pope County Historical Society when they assembled for its annual meeting on October 7. Mr. B. K. Savre of Glenwood was named president of the society, succeeding the Reverend John Linnevold. The organization's vice-president, Mr. Edward E. Barsness, and its secretary-treasurer, Mr. R. C. Eide, were re-elected.

The geology of the St. Anthony Park area of St. Paul was the subject of a talk presented by Mrs. Helen Sommers before a meeting of the St. Anthony Park Area Historical Association on October 27. The activities of the organization and its program for the winter season are described by Amy Birdsall in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 20.

A paper on Job Chester and his family in Rice County and the vicinity of Dundas was read by his granddaughter, Mrs. Joseph T. Holmes, before the annual meeting of the Rice County Historical Society at Faribault on November 5. Mr. Guerdon Allen reported on the restoration of the Alexander Faribault House, its progress and its needs. Officers elected for the coming year include Dr. Nuba Pletcher of Faribault, president, Dr. Kenneth Bjork of Northfield, vice-president, and Miss Alice Pearson of Northfield, recording secretary. The Faribault House was the subject of a talk given by Mr. Allen before the Business and Professional Women's Club of Faribault on October 4, when he also told something of its former owner and explained the significance of this historic landmark to the community as a whole.

The acquisition of a permanent home for its museum and its offices was described as the most important event of the year for the St. Louis County Historical Society at its annual meeting held in Duluth on November 19. In her annual report, Miss Corah L. Colbrath, the society's secretary, described in detail the house at 2228 East Superior Street, the

steps by which first the county and then the society acquired it, and the process of renovation by which it has been made suitable for the society's use. Plans for occupying the building early in 1947 and for its dedication in the spring were announced in connection with the meeting. Dr. Richard Bardon was re-elected president of the society; Mr. Glen S. Locker, Mr. John H. Hearing, and Mr. J. P. Vaughan were chosen to serve as vice-presidents; and Mr. J. D. Mahoney was named treasurer.

The Washington County Historical Society has received a gift of \$1,150 from the Washington County Soldiers' Monument Association, according to an announcement in the *Stillwater Gazette* for December 19. The sum is the residue of a fund raised after World War I for the erection of a soldiers' memorial. Mrs. Frank Winesky was the speaker at a meeting of the society held in Lake Elmo on November 23; she reviewed the career of a prominent physician of the community, Dr. F. A. Stevens, who settled there in 1887 and later opened a sanitarium. All officers of the society were re-elected at the annual meeting held on October 7 in Stillwater.

### FOR MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY USERS

Handsome portraits in oil of Major Lawrence Taliaferro and his wife, received as a bequest from their niece, the late Mrs. Fred Pesch of Clayton, Missouri, are among the most important additions to the society's collections made in recent years. Although they are unsigned and undated, the pictures obviously were painted during the two decades following 1819, when Taliaferro was Indian agent at Fort Snelling. The three-quarter length portrait of the major shows him in full uniform against a background in which are dimly sketched the early military post and the tipis of its Indian neighbors. In sharp contrast to this colorful picture is the air of sophisticated refinement that surrounds Mrs. Taliaferro's figure. Since the society received from the major himself most of the volumes of the remarkable journal he kept at Fort Snelling, it is particularly appropriate that the portraits dating from the same period should find a permanent home in the Historical Building. A special display, centering about the portraits, will be on view in the society's museum during the spring months.

To the important collection of material reflecting the history of the telephone to be seen in the society's museum, Mr. Augustus A. Munson

of St. Paul has added a working model of a completely automatic magnetic telephone switchboard that he invented early in the present century. With it is a telephone that has a special automatic dial devised by the inventor for use with his system. Mr. Munson originally demonstrated the switchboard at North St. Paul in 1907.

A rare item recently added to the society's library is a pamphlet entitled the *History of Maria Kittle* by Ann Eliza Bleecker (Hartford, 1797). This story of Indian captivity during the French and Indian War is the gift of Miss Lucia Brown, formerly of St. Paul.

Those interested in railroad history will find it worthwhile to look into a recent addition to the society's collection of Minnesota and Northwest travel narratives — a little book entitled "*Uncle Rufus*" and "*Ma*": *The Story of a Summer Jaunt, with their Friends, in the New Northwest* (1882. 67 p.). It contains a record of a trip in a private train from Chicago to St. Paul and thence "to the end of the Northern Pacific Railroad and back." Host to the party of New Yorkers and Chicagoans who made the trip was Rufus Hatch of New York; a representative of the *Chicago Tribune* wrote for his paper the report of the journey which here appears in book form. The travelers were "independent of time-tables," stopping "whenever the country affords any peculiar characteristics worth especial notice." In Minnesota they saw St. Paul and Minneapolis, paused to fish in Lake Minnetonka, visited Duluth, admired the Dalles of the St. Louis River, and crossed the state at night, awaking in Fargo on the Red River in Dakota Territory.

A file of the *High School Observer* of Minneapolis, consisting of volumes 1 and 2 published in 1892 and 1893, is the gift of Mr. C. E. Keatley of Minneapolis. The paper, which was issued originally by students in the Adams High School, and was continued after January, 1893, by the South Side High School, provides an interesting record of student activities in the Minneapolis high schools more than half a century ago.

Genealogists who turn to the society's library for new publications in the fields of family and local history will find that a number of important additions were made to the genealogical collection in recent months. Outstanding among them is John R. Delafield's two-volume work entitled *Delafield: The Family History* (New York, 1945. 1,063 p.). This valuable set, which includes studies of Irish, English, and American

families, is the gift of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Minnesota. Other family histories recently acquired include a *Partial Genealogy of John and Esther Agard* by Daniel A. Roberts (Chicago, 1946. 39 p.); *The Bewley and Related Families* by Donald D. Parker (Brookings, South Dakota, 1946. 130 p.); *The Bossemeyer Family and Allied Lines* by Myrtle K. Weniger (Corvallis, Oregon, 1944. 31 p.); *Some Ancestors and Their Days* by Martha Harvey (Manhattan, Kansas, 1945. 35 p.); *Evans and Allied Families* (New York, 1946. 115 p.); *The Formans of New York* by Henry C. Forman (Decatur, Georgia, 1945. 59 p.); *The Gaumer Family and Allied Lines* by Myrtle K. Weniger (Corvallis, Oregon, 1946. 24 p.); *The Rev. James Davidson Hall and His Descendants* by Joseph K. Hall (Belmont, North Carolina, 1946. 21 p.); *The Kith and Kin of Captain James Leeper and Susan Drake, His Wife* by Nell Gambill (New York, 1946. 196 p.); *A Genealogy of the Monell Family* by Wesley L. Baker (Rutland, Vermont, 1946. 266 p.), given by the Minnesota society of the Daughters of American Colonists; *Rivinianna: Records and Memoirs of the Rivinus Family* by Emilie M. Rivinus (Philadelphia, 1945. 80 p.); and *The Walker Family* by Legaré Walker (Summerville, South Carolina, 1945. 60 p.). Newly acquired local histories include the *Early History of Caribou, Maine, 1843-1895* by Stella K. White (1945. 147 p.); volume 2 of *Early Rehoboth* by Richard L. Bowen (Rehoboth, Massachusetts, 1946. 177 p.), presented by the Monument chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, of Minneapolis; and volume 10 of a *Calendar of New Jersey Wills*, covering the years from 1801 to 1805 (Trenton, New Jersey, 1946. 651 p.). Volume 20 of the *American Genealogical Index*, in which surnames from Jeffries to Kelsea are indexed, is another recent addition.

An original letter written by George Washington from Mount Vernon on September 30, 1786, is the gift of Mrs. James J. Denegre of St. Paul. It is addressed to his nephew, George Augustine Washington, to whom the first president was forwarding a letter that had been opened by mistake. A comment that throws light upon Washington's interest in agriculture is added. He instructs his nephew to "ask if a good kind of white potatoe seed can be had in case I should not be able to get enough in this part of the Country to plant an acre of ground next spring. This may properly be introduced into my course of experiments next season."

A diary kept from 1849 to 1868 by the Reverend Charles Seccombe, pioneer pastor of the First Congregational Church of Minneapolis, is the

gift of Mr. H. R. Weesner of Minneapolis. For the history of the church, and particularly of its beginnings, the diary is an important source of information, since it includes a record of its organization, the laws under which it was organized, and lists of members.

An important addition to the society's collection of steamboat records consists of six manuscript volumes kept by Captain Edward E. Heerman from 1850 to 1882 and now presented by his granddaughter, Mrs. Parker Whitehouse of Devils Lake, North Dakota. Captain Heerman owned and operated boats on the Mississippi, Chippewa, St. Croix, and Minnesota rivers. Among his boats were the "Golden Star," the "Ida Campbell," and the "Key City." Lists of passengers and records of freight transported are included in the volumes now available in the society's manuscript division.

The society's collection of farmers' diaries has been enriched by the addition of three little volumes kept from 1858 to 1862 by Levi N. Countryman, who was engaged in farming near Hastings. Miss Marjorie Fryckberg of St. Paul, from whom the Countryman diary was received, made a typewritten copy of the record and an index, both of which accompany her gift. She has given also copies of several articles on agriculture which Countryman wrote for the *Emigrant Aid Journal* of Nininger and other Northwest papers, the text of a constitution he drafted for the Dakota County Agricultural Society, and some family letters and other papers of genealogical interest.

### READERS' COMMENTS

Dr. Jordan's remarks about Paul Bunyan in the December issue of this magazine aroused considerable comment. Among those who wrote with some feeling on the subject was Mr. H. Z. Mitchell of the *Bemidji Daily Pioneer*. Since his remarks, which appeared on the editorial page of the *Pioneer* for January 25, probably were seen by few readers of this magazine, most of them are reprinted herewith. It is hoped that they may inspire individuals who recall hearing Paul Bunyan tales in the woods before their widespread publication to send their recollections to the Minnesota Historical Society. The newly established Forest Products History Foundation of the society is particularly interested in such reports. Here is Mr. Mitchell's editorial:

The other day we settled ourselves for a perusal of the latest *Minnesota History* issued quarterly by the Minnesota Historical Society, always interesting, always well written and always timely.

We started on the lead article "Toward a New Folklore" by Dr. Philip D. Jordan, well-known professor of history at the University of Minnesota. We followed with interest his regret that students of folklore had permitted themselves to be sidetracked by the obvious from research into some of the fundamentals of early life. We nodded with approbation at his assertion that the "nineteenth-century concept of folk culture has continued into the twentieth century without recognition that methods must change." We approved his suggestions as to new fields, though noting that most were confined to larger populated centers and not applicable to the rural sections.

Mr. Mitchell goes on to say that he "even saw eye to eye" with Dr. Jordan at the start of the long paragraph beginning on page 278 with the statement that "Folk study has rutted itself in traditionalism." After quoting the entire passage, the journalist repeats one sentence: "It may not be unfair to hazard a guess—a guess that will have to suffice until all the evidence is in—that the Bunyan tales, now commercialized in vulgar fashion by some Minnesota resort centers, were deliberately fabricated by a lumber company or companies as part of an early twentieth-century advertising scheme." Mr. Mitchell then continues:

We're not going to argue about the antiquity of the Bunyan tales—that's been done by experts. We're not even going to insist that anywhere near all the present tales were told in the lumber shacks of the Northwest. We are perfectly willing to admit, and in fact have often publicized the fact, that the first COMMERCIAL use of the Paul Bunyan motif originated in Bemidji when Bill Laughhead of the Red River Lumber Company drew the mouse mustached head of the mythical Paul, copyrighted it and sent it broadcast throughout the nation as the trademark of the lumber firm. Have any of our popular mythical characters ever assumed national proportions without commercialism? We don't remember where the Santa Claus story started, but without the co-operation of the department stores that popular figure wouldn't be as well known as he is today. Greeting card manufactures skyrocketed the observance of Valentines Day, while with equal enterprise, and with the assistance of the carnation selling florists, they popularized national recognition of Mothers Day. Because of commercialism, are we to condemn or ignore those customs?

But what about that phrase "now commercialized in vulgar fashion by some Minnesota resort centers?"

If "vulgar" means what we think Dr. Jordan meant, we're angry.

We have seldom seen Paul surrounded by bathing beauties. It has



not been necessary for photographers to add "cheesecake" or "oomph" to make a good picture. And there has never been a wolfish glint in the eyes of the pipe-smoking Titan.

If, on the other hand, it means what Webster says it might — "of or pertaining to the common people" — we're all for him, because that's exactly the purpose of the statues, the postcards, the relics and the promotion.

The stained surgical case of an eastern physician that may have gone through the harrowing days of the pioneer, the tools that harvested the golden wheat of the early settlers, the art and architecture of the grass-sod native may provide untold thrills to the professional folklore investigator but the "common herd," the "vulgar" people, would be left cold. They like the dash and abandon of Paul's background, they get a kick out of the tales of his exploits sent out over the loudspeaker, mounted on Bemidji's Information building, in the dulcet tones of that incomparable commentator Cedric Adams, they snap from the counter the mammoth postcards and descriptive literature and hardly a one of the thousands of tourists who visited Bemidji leaves without having photographed one of his group in the shade of the statues.

*Life* magazine may have appealed to the "vulgar" when it published a two-page spread on the statues taken by one of its best photographers after four days of testing shots from every angle. *Look* is issuing a volume in which the picture is to be used, *Coronet* has one in the making, a Chicago author is using the statues as the cover for his book on "Folklore" while even the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, hardly the bible of the "vulgar," is including the picture in its dissertation on mythical characters.

We don't care whether Dr. Jordan calls Paul Bunyan "folklore," or not. We don't flinch a bit if he assures his readers that Paul's fame spread through the inventive genius of a clerk in a lumber office, we won't weep if professional folklore investigators turn a cold shoulder on the constantly recurring tales of Paul's prowess in the woods, but when you use that word "vulgar" as applied to Paul, "smile, brother, smile."

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Professor Chester McArthur Destler of Connecticut College at New London, author of a volume of essays on *American Radicalism, 1865-1901*, which was reviewed by a member of the society's staff in the December issue of this magazine, takes issue with the reviewer in the following letter to the editor:

Allow me to comment on two statements contained in George B. Engberg's review of my *American Radicalism* in your December, 1946, number.

An imputation of bias is achieved there by quoting a reference to the

Standard Oil, "the most unprincipled corporation then in existence" (p. 112)," as representative of my views. This can be removed by examining the entire sentence from which this phrase is taken: "Eventually the control of the Toledo Gas Company by the Standard Oil interests leaked out, and many citizens *came to feel* that they were now at the mercy of the most unprincipled corporation then in existence." The italics are mine.

Mr. Engberg notes my failure, in reproducing the article on *Wealth against Commonwealth* from the *American Historical Review* of October, 1944, to mention that Professor Allan Nevins had replied to it in the April, 1945, number. This omission was deliberate, not from any desire to deprive Mr. Nevins of any advantage derived from his rebuttal and widespread circulation of it in reprint, but rather because reference to this would have necessitated further mention of the fact, which Mr. Engberg overlooked, that a brief statement from my pen was published in the *American Historical Review* of April, 1945, together with Mr. Nevins' rejoinder, and that I had there made available to interested readers a longer commentary (still available) on his remarks.

Rather than rake over the coals of controversy in this fashion, as Mr. Engberg's stricture would suggest, it seemed more appropriate, in view of the wide circulation of Mr. Nevins' rebuttal, to republish without comment my essay on *Wealth against Commonwealth* with whatever modifications the public exchange of views thereon seemed to demand. A comparison of texts of the original article with the version in *American Radicalism* will reveal a few minor changes in the latter.

### WHO'S WHO IN THIS ISSUE

The reminiscences of George Nelson, a fur trader who wintered in the St. Croix Valley in the first decade of the nineteenth century, have been prepared for publication in this magazine by two editors, one of whom is well-known to its readers. Dr. Grace Lee Nute, until recently curator of manuscripts on the society's staff, is now research associate. In that capacity she is devoting herself to writing and research on behalf of the society. The present contribution is the first result of her new work to appear in *Minnesota History*. Her collaborator, Dr. Richard Bardon, is a prominent Duluth physician and a native of the Lake Superior country. Dr. Bardon has given tangible evidence of his interest in his background by promoting the work of the St. Louis County Historical Society, of which he is president. His aggressive program on behalf of that organization has resulted recently in a permanent home for its museum (see *ante*, p. 88). The narrative for which he and Miss Nute have furnished

an introduction and annotations will appear in these pages in three installments.

Mrs. Hildegard Binder Johnson has been studying the Germans in Minnesota for more than six years. During that period she has contributed articles about them to such periodicals as *Rural Sociology* and *Agricultural History*, as well as to this magazine. To promote her study, which has been extended recently to embrace the entire Middle West, she received grants-in-aid from the Social Science Research Council in 1941 and 1946.

Dr. Theodore Saloutos, a member of the history faculty in the University of California at Los Angeles, is the author of numerous articles on the agrarian movement of the past four decades in the Northwest. His contributions have appeared in *Agricultural History*, the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, and other historical periodicals. He is now working on a study of agrarian discontent in the Middle West since 1900. This is his first appearance in *Minnesota History*.

Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, whose report on the activities of the Minnesota Historical Society in 1946 appears in this issue, is its superintendent and the editor of its publications.

The review with which the section on new books opens is contributed by Professor John T. Flanagan of the department of English in the University of Illinois. Until 1945 he was a member of the English faculty in the University of Minnesota. He has published several books about Middle Western literature, the most recent of which, *America Is West*, appeared in 1945. Others whose comments on recent books appear in this issue include Dr. Philip D. Jordan, professor of history in the University of Minnesota, research associate on the society's staff, and the author of *Singin' Yankees*; Dr. Everett Dick, professor of history in Union College, Lincoln, Nebraska; Dr. Konstantin Reichardt, professor of linguistics and comparative philology in the University of Minnesota, who is at present engaged in studying the Kensington rune stone; Bishop James L. Connolly of the diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, a member of the society's executive council; Mr. Jay Monaghan, state historian of Illinois, who is widely known for his publications about Lincoln; and Mr. J. A. Jackson, a member of the staff of the Provincial Library at Winnipeg, Manitoba.



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