

## Some New Books in Review

*Grass Roots History.* By THEODORE C. BLEGEN. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1947. x, 266 p. \$3.00.)

To write in a single volume, and a small one at that, equally well for the historian and the layman is in itself no mean achievement. And that is what Dean Blegen has done in bringing together seventeen essays originally prepared either as lectures or as contributions to one or another historical journal. Lest some reader, intrigued by the color and charm of the pages, fail to see the unity of the book, Dean Blegen has made this abundantly clear in a brief preface. The thesis of the book is that "the pivot of history is not the uncommon, but the usual, and the true makers of history are 'the people, yes.'" Grass roots history is the history of the small, the everyday, the basic elements in human experience. Its justification, as Dean Blegen sees it, is manifold. It is the only sort of history which enables the historian, once innumerable grass roots accounts of the folk and of regions and communities are at hand, to make an adequate synthesis of events in a given time and geographical frame. It alone enables us to appreciate the color, the richness, the variety in our American culture. In the simple and the near-at-hand, moreover, Dean Blegen finds the key to the universal. If further justification be needed, it can be found in the usefulness of grass roots history as an avenue to that "social awareness" which is so obviously an urgent contemporary need.

The difficulties involved in writing this kind of history cannot easily be overemphasized. To begin with, one must "find" the materials in a degree far greater than is the case if one works in the better-established fields of historical endeavor. These materials include the diaries and letters of humble folk, songs and ballads, language, especially in its shifting adaptations, and folkways themselves. In collecting, in calling attention to the importance of this sort of material, and above all in demonstrating ways to use it, Dean Blegen has been quite as much a pioneer as anyone of the people about whom he writes. In narrating simple things—birth, illness, play, love, work, worship, neighborliness, hunger for education, and the growth of community responsibility—he is the social scientist, emphasizing the common and the usual rather than

the exceptional and the unique and illuminating the transition from a simple to a highly specialized culture. But in writing of these things, Dean Blegen is also the humanist and the artist.

To illustrate and to demonstrate his thesis, the author of *Grass Roots History* deals with two themes—the transformation of immigrants, chiefly Norwegian newcomers, into Americans, and the development of the upper Northwest from a frontier society to the one we know today. Both themes involve change, the distinctive quality of history. Both have to do with common human experiences, with the folk. But the people are individuals—not mere abstractions. We meet unforgettable “immigrant Marthas”; well-known figures making the “fashionable tour” up the Mississippi into the new country; industrious “word-hunters,” like Samuel and Gideon Pond, who fixed in written form the language of the Sioux; pioneer journalists, like James M. Goodhue; progenitors of the public library movement, like Dr. Charles W. W. Borup and Lyman Warren, both traders of the American Fur Company; a worthy company of surveyors and map makers, like David Thompson; and a wonderful group of men and women, religious and secular, who built hospitals in military forts, in cottages, and in the crude, bustling towns.

Dean Blegen would be the first to admit that as we work farther in grass roots history we shall undoubtedly revise judgments, refine techniques, and see new problems. But the work he has done is so significant and exciting that anyone who cultivates this field will always be deeply indebted to his industry, his scholarship, his imagination, and his wisdom.

MERLE CURTI

*Across the Wide Missouri.* By BERNARD DeVOTO. With an Account of the Discovery of the Miller Collection, by MAE REED PORTER. (Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1947. xxvii, 483 p. Illustrated with paintings by Alfred Jacob Miller, Charles Bodmer, and George Catlin. \$10.00.)

To cross the wide Missouri with Bernard DeVoto is to join a great adventure. The mountain country of the 1830's was the center of richly romantic and highly important activities which have long called for adequate synthesis. Its history is not merely one of the struggle between the American Fur Company and the “Opposition” in a vast, sparse country where the Indians were at once useful and dangerous, where

mountain men roamed and trapped and took pleasure in astounding the greenhorn. It is also the history of western Indian affairs, military exploration, missionary travel, westward emigration, the Oregon question, and national expansion to the Pacific. The complex and significant story of this key area (now Wyoming, Montana, Idaho) at the height of the beaver trade and the beginning of the overland movement, the author of *Across the Wide Missouri* has chosen to relate. And he has been particularly fortunate, for he has been able to dress his well-written narrative with the exceptionally fine work of the first artist to record men and scenes in that country.

During this decade the mountain country was crisscrossed by travelers of many sorts. Fontenelle and other partisans of the fur company, the Sublettes and their associates of the "Opposition" wandered to every stream where beaver might be trapped, made contact with every tribe in the mountains. Newcomers like Captain Bonneville (whose business, it is highly probable, was more military than commercial) reached into Oregon and down into California. Nathaniel Wyeth explored the West with a view to an elaborate combination of fur trade in the mountains with salmon fishing on the coast. The missionaries Jason Lee, Henry H. Spalding, Samuel Parker, and the Whitmans went out from New England to convert the Flatheads and Nez Percés. Scientific travelers like Maximilian of Wied and sporting gentlemen like Sir William Drummond Stewart, artists like Bodmer, Catlin, and Alfred Miller—there was no telling whom one might run across in the empty mountain spaces in those lively years.

The particular task Mr. DeVoto set himself was "to describe the mountain fur trade as a business and a way of life," and this he has very well accomplished. He has reported vividly what went on when the supply trains from St. Louis met at the rendezvous the mountain men of the fur brigades who hardly ever went farther east than Fort Laramie. Presents for their Indian girls and whisky they could buy at this "Paul Bunyan's Fair," and they had an uproarious time of good fellowship, tall stories, rough play, and heavy drinking. The taking of beaver, buffalo hunting, the camp life of trappers, the winter encampments, the association with friendly Indians and the battles with the Blackfeet and other hostiles, the terrible smallpox that so effectively weakened many of the tribes of the Northwest—these phases of life in the mountains are alive with detail drawn from the journals of the mountain men and their partisans, and from the narratives of mission-

aries who wrote down their observations with a kind of fascinated horror. The mountain men were neither refined nor polite; and, though the fur companies were officered by gentlemen, the brass-knuckle tactics they encouraged in the mountains were but another example of the behavior of big business in the face of strong competition—for it must not be forgotten that the fur trade was one of the great industries of America in the early decades of the last century.

But Mr. DeVoto's is more than a book of vigorous and telling words: it is also a book of superb pictures. Perhaps the most neglected records of western history have been the pictorial; yet they have saved for us a wealth of detail that could be obtained nowhere else. At least twenty artists painted the Indians in their own setting before the Civil War, but how many of them can the reader name? Bodmer and Catlin have long been known and some measure of honor has been accorded them. But it is only in the last decade, largely through the efforts of Mae Reed Porter, that Alfred J. Miller has been brought to public attention. For Mr. DeVoto, this artist was a real discovery. Here is the first artist to penetrate the mountain country; here is a man of unusual talent taken by that enthusiastic sportsman Stewart to picture very phase of the life he had enjoyed through six years of travel. To Miller then we owe a real record of the mountain man and his life done on the spot in brilliant water colors that are far superior to the labored canvases he later produced to decorate his patron's Scottish castle. The reader is treated to a remarkable selection of eighty-nine plates (three Catlins, ten Bodmers, and seventy-six Millers, the latter almost all hitherto unpublished), and the first nineteen of these plates are in color.

The one weakness of this book lies in the difficulty of unifying the tremendous quantity of material that is poured into it. Mr. DeVoto has used the travels of Sir William Drummond Stewart from 1833 to 1838 to bring together all the narrative threads that he has chosen to follow. But there are too many lines of interest, too many different stories to tell, and Stewart himself takes part in too few of them. The effort to report everything that happened in the mountains and to keep half a dozen fascinating rings going at once results in some confusion; not every adventure or action is followed through in such a way that the reader sees it clearly in relation to the whole. Nevertheless, as an intimate account of life in the mountain fur country, this excellent book, rich in detail and often vivid in presentation, will long be read with interest.

It remains to be added that the book carries a foreword in which Mrs. Porter recounts her discovery of the Miller paintings and, in the appendix, a twenty-five-page essay by Mr. DeVoto on Catlin, Bodmer, and Miller as the "First Illustrators of the West." The major judgments here offered are sound; some minor points may be corrected: the "Buffalo Hunt" used by McKenney and Hall as frontispiece to their second volume is undeniably the work of Rindisbacher; Joshua Shaw's picture of "Indians Hunting Buffalo" probably was painted about 1850, for it was being exhibited in 1851; by 1836 Catlin was already an old hand at exhibiting, for in the fall of 1833 he showed a gallery of a hundred and forty pictures at Cincinnati and it was very likely this beginning of his famous collection that Prince Max and Bodmer saw in St. Louis in the late spring of 1834. Forty pages of notes and a ten-page bibliography complete this important volume.

JOHN FRANCIS McDERMOTT

*The Overland Trail.* By JAY MONAGHAN. (Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1947. 431 p. Illustrations, maps. \$3.75.)

In the past decade the public has been treated to several series of books about America and all of them have been written for a larger audience than historians are accustomed to writing for. The *American Trails Series*, of which this is the second volume to be published, is another approach to our pioneer past in an effort to reach more Americans. The *Overland Trail* is not an "original contribution" and was not intended to be. But it is based on a judicious use of pertinent source materials.

As the author, who is also the editor, uses the term "Overland Trail," it applies to the north central route to the Pacific. He begins with the early explorations by sea of the Oregon country, shows the gradual discovery of the South Pass route, traces the use of it by the emigrants, and closes with the building of the transcontinental railroad. One chapter is devoted to each of these: Captain Gray, Lewis and Clark, Astor, Stuart, Ashley, Wyeth, Whitman, DeSmet, Frémont, the 1843 Oregonians, Donner, Parkman, the Mormons, the Forty-niners, the Pony Express, Mark Twain, and the Union Pacific. This biographical approach (which is not used in several chapters) when arranged chronologically shows the growth of the idea of the trail and its use until the coming of the railroad. An epilogue and bibliographical notes close the volume. How-

ever, one must not conclude that all the author has done is to paraphrase some diaries and call the result a book. Every page shows an appreciation of the westward movement and every chapter reveals careful weaving of the many strands that go to make up the trail's history. The writer knows the smell of sage and the color of mountains.

Scholars will look in vain for a new interpretation of the trail in this volume. Even those looking for a full picture of the trail with all of the cutoffs will be disappointed. But he who wants a book showing the growth of geographic knowledge through the journals of those who made the contribution will find here a readable record. More writers might take a tip from the author as they prepare their weighty tomes, for Mr. Monaghan emerges from the shackles of his discipline and writes for the people.

WALKER D. WYMAN

*Niles Weekly Register, News Magazine of the Nineteenth Century.* By NORVAL NEIL LUXON. (Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1947. viii, 337 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

More than a hundred years before the advent of the modern news magazine, Hezekiah Niles was presenting readers of his *Weekly Register* with accurate, compact summaries of foreign and domestic news. The journalistic importance of this periodical, issued from 1811 to 1849, has been aptly designated by Albert Beveridge in his *Life of John Marshall*, where he writes that Niles "was the prototype of Horace Greeley and the *Register* had much the same hold on its readers that the *Tribune* came to have thirty years later." Though the *Register* was widely acclaimed in its time and has been well known to historians specializing in the first half of the nineteenth century, Dr. Luxon's work, done originally as a Ph.D. thesis at the University of California, is the first detailed study that has been made of it.

Niles, who edited the *Register* during the first twenty-five years of its existence, is presented as a confirmed opponent of the free trade doctrines of Adam Smith and an ardent champion of protection for American industry. An earlier biographer, Richard G. Stone, in his *Hezekiah Niles as an Economist*, calls the *Register* "probably the most important primary source to the student of economic history of the period." Dr. Luxon points out that the aggressive editorial leadership of the *Register* from 1811 to 1833, during which period it was militantly committed to the development of domestic industry, a tariff designed to protect it,

and a program of internal improvements, was abandoned when President Jackson's veto of internal improvements and bank legislation deprived Niles of his chief cause. Thereafter, until its suspension in 1849, the *Register* ceased to be a crusading organ and contented itself with reprinting or abridging articles from other publications. Niles and the three editors who succeeded him are credited with doing an excellent job of selecting and compressing such material. From 1833 on, the *Register* is described as having served chiefly to reflect the editorial opinion of others; as having fought for issues, but not along partisan lines.

As a resident of the Middle States — its founder began the *Register* in Baltimore and later moved it to Washington — Niles had a national rather than a sectional point of view. He disliked New England's dependence on foreign commerce and its pro-English attitude; he disliked the South for its economic dependence on slavery. To Niles the West was the open door to opportunity. The *Register* emphasized the growing power of the West, its liberal complexion, its potential economic resources, and the rise of industry in western communities. Niles favored Henry Clay's plan for the sale of public lands and the distribution of the proceeds among the states. President Jackson's veto of the bill embodying these provisions brought Niles' ardent condemnation.

As a source of reference for students of early nineteenth-century American economic, political, and journalistic history, Dr. Luxon's study is of great value. It is an accurate, concise, page-by-page examination of an important periodical. In so far as they come within the orbit of the *Register*, contemporary men, institutions, and events are discussed. The reader, however, without in any way deprecating what Dr. Luxon has accomplished, finds himself wishing that more had been attempted; that the author had broadened his scope and warmed his style; that he had somehow allowed himself a little more margin for consideration of those intangible and human aspects of the record with which history is not infrequently adorned.

EDWIN H. FORD

*The American Iliad: The Epic Story of the Civil War as Narrated by Eyewitnesses and Contemporaries.* By OTTO EISENSCHIML and RALPH NEWMAN. (Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1947. 720 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Four blind men, says an old Hindu story, set out to examine and describe an elephant. Their composite picture, representing what each

felt, was a flat wall, a tree, a huge snake, and a spear. Two men have compiled a battle history of the most prominent engagements of the Civil War largely from the same sort of evidence. A satisfactory account of no great battle can be created from brief extracts from the official reports, letters, diaries, or reminiscences of the opposing generals, even if supplemented by a scattering of comments from enlisted men and onlookers. The Fort Sumter affair, told in thirty pages by ten persons, two of them unnamed, becomes a mere series of fragments solving none of the problems historians have evolved from the event. The three pages on the battle of Malvern Hill give no picture at all. They comprise nothing but a few comments by George B. McClellan, John B. Gordon, and "a Southern lady" reporting hearsay evidence. Chapter 2, "America Prepares for War," and chapter 4, "War Becomes Big Business," less than twenty-five pages in all, deal with something other than battles. One is a series of excerpts about early recruiting and the other contains a few details about army organization and conditions in the armies. Both chapters could have been omitted entirely, so fragmentary is their content. Two pages on deficiencies of supply in A. S. Johnston's army are from an account written by Jefferson Davis twenty years later. This is one of "the eyewitness stories" advertised by the publisher, "fresh, lively, exciting."

Incomplete and inadequate as each picture is, the book might be useful as classroom source material if the compilers had only given citations to sources (oftentimes even the names of the witnesses are withheld), and had they not felt impelled to edit the documents so as "to make grammar, spelling and punctuation uniform throughout." The compilers, in their brief comments between extracts, are generally accurate, though they were uncertain as to whether Seven Pines and Fair Oaks were one battle or two (p. 96, 97, 101), and they might have noted (p. 12) that "thoughts" is not a singular noun. Also, they strive to be impartial, and the frontispiece illustrations, with Lee and Lee's "Farewell to His Army" preceding Grant, conform to all recent interpretations that, after all, the South won the war. Though the book has nothing new to offer, it contains much interesting reading. I cannot ascertain what group of readers can get more than entertainment out of it, but I can still say that it is a delectable dish of historical hash — for anybody who likes hash.

FRED A. SHANNON



*Pontiac and the Indian Uprising.* By HOWARD H. PECKHAM. (Princeton, New Jersey, Princeton University Press, 1947. xviii, 346 p. \$4.50.)

It has been apparent for some time that an unromantic account of Pontiac, by a competent scholar, was desirable to correct Francis Parkman's romantic and glorifying *History of the Conspiracy of Pontiac*. This was a part of the purpose of Howard H. Peckham in utilizing in the present book the most recently discovered sources, particularly those deposited in the William L. Clements Library of the University of Michigan. One would think that now the task has been done with sufficient finality.

Even after reading these pages of careful scholarship, the feeling remains that the author inclines to exaggerate the stature, the political insight, and the role of Pontiac, as well as the significance of the Indian uprising. For example, Mr. Peckham asserts that "The significance of Pontiac in history is not alone that he was a warrior of heroic proportions who set in motion the most formidable Indian resistance the English-speaking people had yet faced, or ever would face, on this continent. What Pontiac was as a symbol exceeded the actual results he achieved. In Indian history he unknowingly put a period to one epoch and opened another." It must be added that the author refutes vigorously Parkman's thesis that Pontiac was the initiator and the strategist of the widespread uprising, although he does say that Pontiac "improvised a more general uprising after his initial tactics failed."

The author gives excellent descriptions of Indian political organization, customs, and life, of Indian fighting, of the distribution of the western Indians, of Indian-white relations and negotiations, of French and British competition and conflict from 1744, of Fort Ponchartrain in 1760 at the time of its transfer to the British as Fort Detroit, of contrasting French and British Indian policies, of the siege of Detroit, of the uprising in other localities, of the "Delaware Prophet," and of Indian mysticism. He gives a sympathetic treatment of Indian psychology and summarizes very effectively the Indian grievances against the British.

Mr. Peckham's evaluation of Sir Jeffery Amherst and his Indian policy is critically unfavorable and acute. His characterizations of Braddock, Sir William Johnson, George Croghan, Major Robert Rogers, Captain James Dalyell, Captain Donald Campbell, Colonel Henry Boquet, and Major Henry Gladwin, Pontiac's principal antagonist, are particularly

illuminating. The chapter on "The War on the Settlements" in western Pennsylvania, depicting the Indian massacres and the cruel retaliation of the whites, is vivid and has an authentic ring. One can almost see the massacres. There is some partisanship in the chapter but it is, generally, an objective attempt to attribute responsibility to both sides.

The volume is well documented, contains excellent maps and illustrations, and an index. It is particularly commendable for the valuable contribution it makes to an understanding of the Indians of the period. Its choice by the new History Book Club will ensure it a deservedly wide popular audience.

HUNTLEY DUPRE

*Chippewa Village: The Story of Katikitegon* (Cranbrook Institute of Science, *Bulletins*, no. 25). By W. VERNON KINIETZ. (Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Cranbrook Institute of Science, 1947. ix, 259 p. \$3.00.)

*Chippewa Village* is actually a broader study than its title would indicate. While the book reports recent ethnological field work done at Lac Vieux Desert, on the boundary between Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, it also includes much on the Chippewa elsewhere and from earlier times. Mr. Kinietz quotes at length from earlier sources such as Duncan Cameron, Peter Grant, John Tanner, and William Warren, contrasting the past with the present. In the author's words, the book "attempts to present an account of culture change through the centuries of Chippewa occupation of the region south of Lake Superior."

Since Mr. Kinietz exploits many of the earlier sources on Chippewa life, it is strange that nowhere in this volume does he mention the wealth of facts gathered over a long period of time and at widely scattered places by one of the foremost students of that people, Miss Frances Densmore. Few who read this volume will be unacquainted with her many books and papers, and the author's apparent disregard of her contributions to an understanding of Chippewa ways is but one of many evidences that *Chippewa Village* was prepared for the press in some haste.

The physical appearance of the book is attractive. One of its best features is the group of adequately documented, well-chosen halftones, illustrating persons, scenes, and specimens of Chippewa manufacture. That these illustrations appear to have been added as an afterthought detracts in no way from their quality and usefulness.

G. HUBERT SMITH

*Americans from Holland.* By ARNOLD MULDER. (Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1947. 320 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

There can be no question that the history of immigration, in spite of much that has been written about it, remains an all too neglected theme. How vastly more vital would be our understanding of American life and thought if we had adequately prepared studies covering the local, state, and national history of each group! The present volume, embracing the entire subject of immigration from the Netherlands, beginning with Colonial days and extending to the present moment, deserves to be welcomed.

This is the first volume to appear in Louis Adamic's *The Peoples of America Series*. The editor is to be commended for kindling extensive popular sympathy for this subject. That this volume and the others to follow are intended for a wide reading public and not for the historian is evident, for in the preface the editor lays down the general idea governing the series: "Research should not stick out." This means that painstaking research in the files of old Dutch newspapers is regarded as unnecessary, that dates, curious facts, and much important information are omitted. But what is needed at this time is some careful research in the still unexplored aspects of the history of Dutch immigration. Van Hinte's two-volume work, *Nederlanders in Amerika* (Groningen, 1928), indeed was adequate. But it is out of print and inaccessible. Another study, written by someone well acquainted with the American milieu, would add much to our understanding of the part played by the Dutch immigrant. Such a study, it appears, should center about the immigrant himself, what he set out to accomplish and what success blessed his endeavors, rather than what he ultimately became—in other words, how he was "Americanized."

That the reviewer can find in this book points to criticize goes without saying. There are omissions—for example, neglected are such important persons as Gerard Troost, the Tennessee geologist; Theodorus Brouwer, first Catholic priest in western Pennsylvania; Julius Balke, industrialist; and F. H. Kuipers, who changed his name to Cooper, of the merchandising firm Seigel, Cooper and Company of Chicago. Nor are the missionary labors of the Catholic fathers sufficiently noted—for example, the Holy Cross fathers who for years labored in Wisconsin and in Minnesota, especially at Onamia. The Premonstratensian fathers also remain unnamed, and their St. Norbert's College at DePere, Wisconsin,

is not mentioned. Naturally, the many scattered Dutch settlements cannot be named. But it would seem well to make at least some allusion to the first Dutch settlement in the Pacific coast states, at Verboort, Oregon, and also to the extensive activities of Dutch mortgage companies, especially in the state of Washington.

Finally, it seems proper to question the idea of "race" and the way the writer makes use of it. What purpose can be served by naming as Holland Americans those people whose only connection with the Netherlands is a genealogical dating back to the seventeenth century? They know nothing about the Dutch language and are scantily informed about things Dutch. Their affection for the Old Country is sentimental. To list among Holland Americans such estimable people as Walt Whitman, Herman Melville, Van Wyck Brooks, Carl Van Doren, the Roosevelts, Walter P. Chrysler, Cecil DeMille, Gladys Swarthout, and others seems out of place. If we are to continue listing such people as Holland Americans, the Dutch element in this country will ever grow in number, and finally we may find that all Americans are of Dutch descent.

HENRY S. LUCAS

*The Great Forest.* By RICHARD G. LILLARD. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1947. x, 399, xiv p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Professor Lillard has read widely in American history and more particularly in the history of the great forests that once covered much of primeval America. He has set forth his findings in a charming style that makes his book a delight to read. His thesis appears to be that the "Great Forest" was of major significance in the development of an American culture. European laws, traditions, customs, food, clothing, types of shelter, and methods of warfare were modified when they came into contact with the American forest. Colonial life was cast into a wooden mold.

Colonization and the expansion of settlement were largely efforts to conquer forests. The frontier farmer was first of all a woodsman who might spend a lifetime clearing a farm. Trees were a nuisance. Their removal was necessary if agriculture was to flourish. In such a situation conservation measures were unrealistic and unpopular, as the British government learned.

This frontier attitude toward forested land carried over into the national period. Until nearly the end of the nineteenth century the federal government had as little success in its forest policy as the British during the colonial period. The traditional story, which the author follows in the main, is that the lumbermen through the use of the "round forty" and other fraudulent devices logged off or acquired vast portions of the public domain. In this way great fortunes were accumulated by the "timber barons" whose cut-out-and-get-out policies left a trail of wreckage behind them. These depredations have been soundly cursed by defenders of the public weal, whose trumpetings awakened a people to the need for the conservation of natural resources. But not all lumbermen became "timber barons." Under the profit and loss system, many failed. The few who succeeded probably owed much of their success to economic factors, such as favorable location and superior business ability, rather than to alleged monopolistic controls.

The land laws of the country were made to meet the needs of farmers, but the quarter section was too small for the lumberman, the cattleman, and the sheep herder. A sawmill, which was the most efficient means for turning logs into lumber, represented a considerable investment. If it were to operate over a period of time long enough to return the investment, the lumberman had to have more than a quarter section under his control. Since the laws did not meet this situation, it should be no surprise that they were circumvented. Not all timber land, however, was acquired fraudulently. Much of it was purchased from railroads. Other holdings were built up through timber brokers who assembled quarter sections into blocks of a size sufficient to interest the lumberman.

The author devotes several chapters to labor conditions and to the conservation movement. These are thorny subjects, and while his account will please some, it will irritate others. In his chapter on recent developments in the industry he presents a fascinating story of the technological revolution that has changed lumbering into the forest products industry. This revolution, together with the tree farm movement, holds great promise for the future and may stabilize a migratory industry.

The book is excellently printed, and the illustrations are well chosen. Sources for quotations are identified in an appendix. A bibliography lists the important sources which were consulted.

RODNEY C. LOEHR

*Time in the Timber* (Forest Products History Foundation, *Publications*, no. 2). By C. M. OEHLER. (St. Paul, The Forest Products History Foundation of the Minnesota Historical Society, 1948. 56 p. Illustrations. \$1.00.)

The author, upon graduating from high school in 1928, went into the woods of northern Minnesota as a clerk for the Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company. First at a construction camp, later at a logging camp, he kept the time, ordered supplies, and paid off with time checks the "short-stakers" who were leaving almost daily. The company, he soon learned, had devised a system that prevented clerks from becoming crooks and loggers from becoming wealthy. He also learned to make up English-sounding names in place of the unpronounceable names grunted at him by assorted foreigners, and he now wonders, incidentally, if these men are still operating under the style he devised for them.

The author discusses bunkhouse and cookhouse etiquette, food, bed-bugs, work and wages, and mosquitoes. He spent but one summer, and no winter, in the woods, and kept his eyes open at all times. The result is a narrative which, far from inspired and with almost no poetical feeling for the place, nevertheless is a sound and unbiased account of a Minnesota camp in the latter days of long logging, just before the last of the white and Norway pines gave out. I am happy the Forest Products History Foundation has made it available in a handsome booklet, complete with a map of the company's woods operations.

STEWART H. HOLBROOK

*The Grassland of North America: Prolegomena to Its History.* By JAMES C. MALIN. (Lawrence, Kansas, 1947. viii, 398 p. \$3.00.)

In writing of Cyrus Thomas, Professor Malin once characterized him as a man who thought "of the low-rainfall grassland and the desert of the West in terms of their positive characteristics and regional adequacy rather than according to the traditional forest man's idea of deficiency." With equal validity Mr. Malin might have applied the characterization to himself, for the present volume is only one in a long series of books and articles in which he has sought to interpret and explain the grassland of North America to those people whose perspective and understanding have been distorted and obscured by living in a humid or

forested environment. In places readers may feel "he protesteth too much," yet a convincing case is presented.

Many misconceptions concerning the plains are current, Mr. Malin points out, and much harm has been done the area, often by well-meaning groups, such as the governmental agency which distributed the film, "The Plow that Broke the Plains," and by authors like John Steinbeck. Some of the things with which Mr. Malin takes issue are "geographical determinism," the idea that treeless areas are infertile, Turner's approach to American history, Mackinder's idea of closed space, and inadequate approaches to the study of regionalism. As an example of the last he cites the study of Walter P. Webb's book at the Sky Top Conference of 1939, at which no persons competent in ecology, general physiology, soils, microbiology, or climatology were present; and he states quite correctly that only through a synthesis of history and certain sciences can the problem of regionalism and its impact on our culture be thoroughly studied. As part of his contribution to such a study, Mr. Malin has given significant and accurate summaries of the sciences of ecology, climatology, geology, geography, and soils as they relate to regionalism, together with accounts of the work of some of the pioneers in the study of the grassland area. Further, he describes a methodology developed at the University of Kansas for the study of the history of social change, specifically in the realms of population, agriculture, and the community. Interesting conclusions were reached in these studies, many of them contrary to popular, but apparently erroneous, notions which have gained wide acceptance. Of particular value is the extensive bibliography which has been included.

Mr. Malin's discussion is timely and appealing—timely because of the emphasis he places on the need for co-operation between scientists and historians if distortion, incompleteness, rigidity, or worse are to be avoided in interpreting the march of mankind; and appealing not only because of the faith the author places in the dynamic and sound nature of the folk process, but also because of his conception of history and the world as "open systems," and the value he attaches to freedom and the potentialities of the frontiers of the mind. It is to be hoped that the litho-printing by which the work has been produced and the volume's paper cover will not frighten away prospective readers, for the book has much to provoke thought and to arouse interest.

MERRILL E. JARCHOW

*Historic Midwest Houses.* By JOHN DRURY. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1947. x, 246 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

The aim of Mr. Drury in *Historic Midwest Houses* was to minimize the popular belief that "habitations worthy of our veneration" from the standpoint of history or architecture exist only along the eastern seaboard and in the Old South. This popular misconception has been somewhat modified in recent years, but, at any rate, this is the first survey of the historic houses of the twelve states comprising the Midwest.

Each historic house has been described in terms of the personality who made it historic. The author, in his revealing preface, sanctifies this biographical treatment by reference to a tradition of long standing, a technique first employed in 1853, a criterion of questionable validity. Mr. Drury points out that his choice of representative famous houses was arbitrary, and rightly suggests that another might have selected a different group.

The book itself is a handsome volume, well designed, as are all the productions of the University of Minnesota Press, attractive in size, quality, cover, and dust jacket. The maps in the introductory sections for each state are well drawn and instructive. The photographs are, for the most part, excellent. The essays are not uniform in quality, and one could wish for a more consistent interpretation of architectural style in relation to location, and for some explanation of terminology for the general reader to whom the book is directed. The problem of the cultural and historical significance of some of the houses is adequately presented in a number of instances, as in the accounts of the Saucier house at Cahokia, Illinois, the Menard house at Kaskaskia, Illinois, the Valle house at Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, and the Lanier house at Madison, Indiana.

For the Minnesota reader there is a chapter of special interest. Perhaps it is expecting too much to require a short-term visitor to be a walking Chautauqua of information about things we know as a matter of course, but some regrettable errors might have been obviated by a judicious use of the United States mail or the services of an editor steeped in local history. Particularly distressing is Mr. Drury's reference to the "present owner" of the Ramsey house in St. Paul. It is rare that the art historian encounters the resurrection motif in modern publications. It is disappointing to discover that the John S. Pillsbury house of Minneapolis appears only in its face-lifted state. Surely its present condition ("New Orleans style") and the rather full account of its remodel-



ing can have no biographical or historical relevance to the "Father of the University." St. Hubert's Lodge at Frontenac might have been treated in the light of its original owner's background, but the author has left these things to the speculation of the reader. Better photographs of the Hill house in St. Paul are available which give some impression of the character of the structure and the prestige of the Empire Builder, rather than the overgrown-forest example reminiscent of the chateau of the Sleeping Beauty. While, it is true, the Federal Art Project handbook described the Le Duc house in Hastings as a limestone building, there is still room for doubt. To many it appears to be of sawn buff sandstone, with only the lower sills and the doorstep of limestone.

Eighty-seven houses were included in this survey, but the biographical treatment necessitated the inclusion of many examples which may be described as triumphs of mediocrity. It is open to question whether the houses inhabited for a time by men of considerable contemporary fame, such as General Pershing and Henry Wallace, to name only two, have any real historical significance. As for the general architectural level of the houses included, the unsophisticated might be encouraged in the belief that our Midwestern writers and statesmen have become great to escape the drabness of their surroundings. A book published under the ægis of a university press might have considered the broader cultural aspects of biography and architecture of this area, with some interpretation of the pattern.

JEAN ANNE VINCENT

*Life on the Red River of the North, 1857 to 1887.* Being the History of Navigation on the Red River of the North by FRED A. BILL, and Life on the River Towns of Fargo and Moorhead by J. W. RIGGS. Introduction and Preface by USHER L. BURDICK. (Baltimore, Wirth Brothers, 1947. 122 p. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

This is a curiously jumbled-together book. Its value lies in making readily available Captain Bill's accounts of steamboating on the Red River, a lively body of material on a subject that certainly needs further investigation. Other accounts, less complete, are also included, as are excellent illustrations. The presentation of the material, however, is another thing. From the title page one gets the notion that here are accounts by Captain Bill and J. W. Riggs. But tucked in any which way are reminiscences by James W. Hoggess, a story by Fred Irish, and a letter entitled

"From a Veteran of the Hudson Bay Trading Company." Following the letter appears this notice: "Published in THE BURLINGTON POST Iowa, Beginning June 30, 1928, Copyright 1928 by Fred A. Bill, Published in BURLINGTON POST 1928." If this doesn't befuddle one sufficiently, one can turn to the Bill story which starts in this fashion on the next page without an asterisk of interruption or explanation: "Navigation on Red River of the North. Beginning June 30, 1928 — Ending October 6, 1928. By Captain Fred A. Bill, St. Paul, Minn." All of which startles one into thinking that Red River navigation began and ended on those dates, until one remembers the previous notice and realizes that it is the Bill article in the *Post*, not river navigation, which is so bracketed.

One gathers from Mr. Burdick's introduction that the copies of the *Post* containing the Bill story, including those filed with the Library of Congress, are now "completely lost, and have never been located." The Minnesota Historical Society has a file of the *Post* which includes the Bill articles; and a very hasty check reveals files at Knox College and in the Wisconsin and Iowa historical societies. Captain Bill may have had very good reasons for misspelling Anson Northup's name; Mr. Burdick at this late date certainly has none. Captain Bill puts a "Roster of Officers" in chapter 9 of his narrative, which was printed in the *Post* on September 1, 1928. Mr. Burdick puts it in chapter 12, in spite of his assertion that this is the story "just as Fred A. Bill wrote it." And one could point out other discrepancies. Nevertheless, one is grateful to Mr. Burdick for gathering these accounts, few though they are. Further research ought to uncover more stories about the short but colorful period of steamboating on the Red River of the North.

HERBERT KRAUSE

*Know Your Own County: A History of Martin County, Minnesota.* By ARTHUR M. NELSON. (Fairmont, 1947. 65 p.)

In this booklet, published by the Martin County Historical Society as a memorial to Major Arthur M. Nelson, are assembled one hundred articles originally written by Major Nelson for the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel*, where they appeared from May 4 to August 31, 1922. It contains a brief biographical sketch of the author, and a foreword by Judge Julius E. Haycraft, president of the Martin County society.

The subtitle, "A History of Martin County," is somewhat misleading, for the book is rather a record of beginnings, and does not attempt to tell

the story of the county — its political, economic, and social development. Nevertheless, it contains much valuable information about the county and its political subdivisions, as well as its geographic features. It tells when and under what circumstances every township, city, village, election precinct or district, and post office in the county came into being, and gives the origin of its name. How the lakes and streams of the county were named is also told, and each is described — lakes as to area and exact location, and streams as to source, length, and mouth.

It would be a splendid thing if such information could be assembled for all Minnesota counties, as accurately and concisely as Major Nelson has done it for Martin County.

MARY W. BERTHEL

## The Historical Scene

"IT IS EVIDENT that curiosity about Frederick Jackson Turner, interest in his frontier hypothesis, astonishment at its extraordinary vogue, and uneasiness over its social implications, have never been more keen," writes George W. Pierson in a survey of "Recent Studies of Turner and the Frontier Doctrine" published in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for December. Professor Pierson points out that "Time changes interpretation," and that it has become "obvious that the significance of the frontier in American history can no longer be taken for granted." He discusses the findings of some of Turner's critics, and, in closing, he expresses the hope that "we may have explored for us . . . the connections of the frontier theory with the long history of agrarian thought, with democratic philosophy, and with nationalist feeling." In the same issue of the *Review*, Theodore Saloutos traces the story of the "Decline of the Equity Cooperative Exchange"—an organization the rise of which he described in the *Review* for June, 1945. Since the Exchange was organized in Minneapolis in 1908 and established its headquarters in St. Paul in 1914, its operations are of considerable interest to students of Minnesota history. "Once the agricultural depression came in the early twenties," writes Mr. Saloutos, "the faulty managerial policies and the incessant internal rows which had been obscured by wartime prosperity revealed their real effect on the organization" and "sounded the death knell of the Exchange."

An agricultural co-operative of the Southwest is the subject of a study entitled "Populism Up-to-Date: The Story of the Farmers' Union," which Professor William P. Tucker of Macalester College contributes to the October issue of *Agricultural History*. The need for an "organization that would place chief emphasis on the prosperity of farmers as a group and only secondary emphasis on their social life" was met by the Farmers' Union, writes Mr. Tucker. He relates the story of its Texas origin in 1902, traces the spread of its influence in other southern states, and shows how it pushed its way northward as far as the Dakotas and Minnesota. Co-operative marketing, under the leadership of the Farmers' Union, of livestock at South St. Paul and of grain at St. Paul receives some attention, and wholesale exchanges in the Minnesota capital and

other Midwest cities are discussed. A second article of interest to historians of the central Northwest in recent decades, published in the same issue, is Gilbert C. Fite's discussion of "South Dakota's Rural Credit System: A Venture in State Socialism, 1917-1946."

The October issue of *American Heritage* is a "Classroom Teacher Number," in which contributors record past experience for the benefit of others or make constructive suggestions about methods and materials in the teaching of local history. Margaret McCarthy reports on "Promoting Intercultural Understanding through the Teaching of Local History" at New London, Connecticut; Harold M. Long suggests ways of teaching "Local History through Pageantry"; Loretta E. Klee tells of "Developing Social and Study Skills through Local History"; and Louise M. Whitham describes a community experience in "Tulsa Teaches Local History." Sections devoted to the "Heritage Bookshelf" by Ralph Adams Brown and to "Audio-visual Aids for Local History" by William G. Tyrrell complete the issue. Reprinted in the December number is Edgar B. Wesley's "Seven Steps to Knowing a Community," which appeared originally in the February, 1946, *Bulletin* of the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies. The issue contains also a program of "Guidance for the Amateur Historian" by W. Stephen Thomas and Phyllis Allen, and some suggestions for the use of "The Film in the Teaching of Local History" by John T. Bobbitt.

Information about the present private ownership and location of any documents, published or unpublished, composed by Abraham Lincoln is being solicited by the Abraham Lincoln Association, First National Bank Building, Springfield, Illinois. Documents in public institutions are readily accessible, but many of those held by individuals have not been located to date. The preparation of a complete edition of Lincoln's writings from original sources will be greatly facilitated by information leading to procurement of photostatic copies of documents held by private individuals. Full acknowledgment of assistance will be made upon publication.

A fourth edition of Ernest Gagnon's *Louis Jolliet, Découvreur du Mississipi et du pays des Illinois*, first published in 1902, was prepared in 1945 for the three-hundredth anniversary of the renowned explorer's birth and issued a year later (Montreal, 1946). The new volume has benefited from the most recent research on the explorers of Jolliet's day,

and to it have been added a number of maps and photographs that did not appear in earlier editions. The result is a carefully documented series of observations on Jolliet and his times. Unfortunately the readability of the narrative is impaired by textual additions. L. M. K.

In an article on "Burial Traits of the Headwaters Lakes Aspect in Manitoba," Chris Vickers uses as a point of departure Lloyd A. Wilford's paper on "The Headwaters Lakes Aspect" in Minnesota which appeared in this magazine in December, 1945 (*ante*, 26:312-329). "Examination of the early documentation," writes Mr. Vickers, "plus the work of the writer during the past few years, indicates a northwesterly movement of some of the important traits of Wilford's various Minnesota aspects."

In his *Histoire du Canada* (Paris, 1946), Marcel Giraud covers in a scant 134 pages the whole range of Canadian history from the earliest explorations to 1945. The colonies at Quebec, Three Rivers, and Montreal are pictured in chapter 2; "L'expansion Canadienne" is the title of chapter 3. The writer's review of the penetration of the Great Lakes region and his listing of familiar names and dates adds nothing new to what is known on the subject, though it does make good reading. There is a clear and helpful map for those who are not too familiar with Canadian place names. L. M. K.

A display of George Catlin's paintings and prints of American Indians was on view in the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences in December and January. Much of the original material in the exhibit came from the collections of the American Museum of Natural History and the New York Historical Society. To call attention to the display, some passages about Catlin and his significance, from Bernard DeVoto's *Across the Wide Missouri*, are quoted in the museum's monthly bulletin, *Museum Service*, for December.

The work of "Charles Wimar: Indian Frontier Artist" is evaluated and his career is sketched by Perry T. Rathbone in an article published in the *Magazine of Art* for December. In 1843, when he was fifteen years of age, Wimar's family emigrated from Germany and settled in St. Louis, then an important fur trade center where Indians in native dress were commonly seen. It was there that Wimar's talents were developed, and there he became what Mr. Rathbone describes as "the youngest of the first generation of Indian painters." With his teacher, Leon Pomarede, Wimar journeyed to the Falls of St. Anthony in 1849, gathering

material for a panorama of the Mississippi. The writer points out that "the long trip afforded Wimar a leisurely first view of the huge, sparsely settled country, the wide horizons, and the roving bands of Indians that later in the Far West were to be the chief inspiration of his painting." Four of Wimar's remarkable canvases are reproduced with the article.

From a series of imaginative paintings of "Great Explorers" by Frederic Remington, which were published by *Collier's Weekly* in 1906, those depicting Radisson and Groseilliers and Alexander Mackenzie are reproduced in full color in Harold McCracken's biography of *Frederic Remington, Artist of the Old West* (Philadelphia, 1947). Others in the series not reproduced in the present work picture La Vèrendrye and Pike.

That Archbishop John Ireland of St. Paul "had a brief diplomatic career as the servant of Pope Leo XIII in the cause of peace" on the eve of the Spanish-American War is revealed by John T. Farrell, who contributes a detailed study of "Archbishop Ireland and Manifest Destiny" to the *Catholic Historical Review* for October. "Ireland's mission of peace to Washington from his Archdiocese of St. Paul took place toward the end of March," 1898, writes Mr. Farrell, "when it was already apparent in Washington and Madrid that a decisive change would have to be made in Spain's Cuban policy if there was to be no war." It was as a personal friend of President McKinley that the archbishop undertook his mission. Numerous letters to and from Ireland, as well as documents and contemporary newspaper comments are quoted by the writer. It is of interest to note that he had access to and made use of some newly discovered Ireland correspondence in the diocesan archives at Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Farrell points out that "there is no full-length biography of Ireland . . . despite his importance in the history of the Catholic Church in America."

A series of *Documents Illustrating the History of the Lutheran Church in America, with Special Emphasis on the Missouri Synod* has been compiled by H. O. A. Keinath and issued as a multigraphed booklet (87 p.). Indian missions in Michigan in the 1840's and 1850's are the subject of several documents. The series as a whole covers a period of almost two centuries, from 1748 to 1946.

Among the publications issued to commemorate the centennial of Dutch settlement in the Middle West is Albert Hyma's study of *Albertus C. Van Raalte and His Dutch Settlements in the United States* (Grand

Rapids, Michigan, 1947. 280 p.). The volume deals in large measure with a colonization project at Holland, Michigan, which was planned and promoted by Van Raalte. Much of the material for the volume has been drawn from the Dutch pioneer's hitherto unused papers, which shed new light on his colorful career.

That the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation is planning to publish a co-operative volume commemorating the "Centennial of the Forty-eighters" is announced in the *American-German Review* for December, where A. E. Zucker outlines the contents of the contemplated work. The book will celebrate the achievements of the German intellectuals who immigrated to the United States in 1848 because they were "persecuted for their liberal political opinions" in their homeland. It is of interest to note that the "sociological aspects of the Forty-eighters' settlements, chiefly in Wisconsin and other middle western states, will be the subject of a chapter by Dr. Hildegard Binder-Johnson," who has contributed to this magazine several studies of Minnesota's German settlers.

The centennial of the arrival of the first Swedes in the Middle West and the beginning of Swedish settlement in that area was the occasion for a display showing "How They Came Here," which was on view in the American Swedish Historical Museum at Philadelphia from October 12 until the end of December. The exhibit, which is described in the museum's *Bulletin* for October, illustrated the story of nineteenth-century immigration in three sequences, explaining why, where, and how the Swedes came to the United States. The centennial will be marked in the Middle West in the early summer, and special celebrations will be held in Chicago from June 4 to 6 and in the Twin Cities from June 25 to 27. A delegation of visiting dignitaries from Sweden will attend the celebration. In the Midwest, the celebrations will be under the general direction of the Swedish Pioneer Centennial Association, of which Professor Nils W. Olsson of the University of Chicago is executive secretary. Offices of the association are in Chicago. The Swedish-American Line is encouraging the writing of essays on "The Influence of Swedish Settlers on a Community or Region" by offering prizes, including six round trips to Scandinavia, for the best narratives on the subject.

For a study of the social history of a racial group within the province of Manitoba, the Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba is offering a fellowship of two thousand dollars in Canadian funds. In addition two



grants-in-aid of a thousand dollars each are being offered to mature scholars who may wish to embark on studies of racial groups in the province. A committee of the society has been named to select the recipients of the awards, which will be made in May. Requests for information about the fellowship and the grants-in-aid should be addressed to Professor W. L. Morton, department of history, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg.

"Early Red River Schools" in the Selkirk colony, at St. Boniface, and at other points in frontier Manitoba are discussed by W. B. Ready in the December *Beaver*. How both the Protestant and Catholic churches, represented by such men as the Reverend John West and Bishop Provencher, influenced education in the Red River settlements is brought out by the writer.

Appropriate commemoration is given to the one-hundredth anniversary of the first Webster dictionary to appear under the imprint of G. and C. Merriam Company in a handsomely designed history of the enterprise by Robert K. Leavitt (1947. 106 p.). Under the title *Noah's Ark, New England Yankees, and the Endless Quest*, he presents "A Short History of the Original Webster Dictionaries, with Particular Reference to their First Hundred Years." The author devotes a section to each of the topics in his title, dealing with Noah Webster as a lexicographer, the Yankee Merriams as booksellers and publishers, and their dictionary as "An International Institution."

The American Association for State and Local History has inaugurated volume 2 of its series of *Bulletins* with a report on *War Records Projects in the States 1943-1947* by James H. Rodabaugh (46 p.). After presenting a general survey of state projects, the author tells how they obtained financial support, describes their collecting activities, and reviews the writings and publications relating to the subject. The *Bulletin* concludes with a "Bibliography of War History Projects," in which a number of Minnesota items are listed.

Professor Walter W. Wilcox has used the war records of the United States department of agriculture in preparing his study of *The Farmer in the Second World War* (Ames, Iowa, 1947. 410 p.). His account covers the farm situation at the beginning of the war, reviews the changes wrought by war pressures, and defines the problems left as a

residue of the conflict. Of special interest to Minnesota readers will be Professor Wilcox's analyses of dairying, beef, and oil seed production, farm labor, mechanization, forest resources, rationing, black markets, price policies, rural schools and health facilities, world food patterns, and the attitudes of foreign governments toward agriculture. R. C. L.

In his autobiography, *Rebel at Large*, George Creel recalls how he obtained the services of Dean Guy Stanton Ford of the University of Minnesota in forwarding the work of the Committee on Public Information in the First World War (New York, 1947. 384 p.). The pamphlets prepared by Dean Ford with the assistance of the country's foremost historians, in Mr. Creel's opinion, "were the clearest expositions of American policy ever presented. . . . And it was Dr. Ford's pride that of all the mass of matter issued, dealing with thousands of facts, not one statement was ever challenged as to accuracy."

That the "Dean of American History Teachers" spent his youth in the Minnesota community of Sauk Center is emphasized by Cedric Larson in a biographical sketch of Professor Henry Johnson appearing in the October issue of the *American Swedish Monthly*. Recalled also are Dr. Johnson's undergraduate work at the University of Minnesota, which he entered in 1885, and periods of teaching at Albert Lea, Rushford, and Moorhead.

### NEWS FROM THE STATES

About sixty professional historians from Minnesota and Wisconsin attended a meeting of the Upper Midwest History Conference at the University of Minnesota on October 31. Using the significance of the upper Midwest region as a theme, a program of papers was presented, with Dean Theodore C. Blegen of the University of Minnesota graduate school presiding. Dr. Carlton C. Qualey defined and characterized the region; Professor A. C. Krey emphasized its significance for historians concerned with fields other than American history; Dr. Grace Lee Nute analyzed the motives of competition for the control of the region during the French regime; and Professor Ernest Osgood discussed the significance of the Twin Cities as the metropolitan center of the region. Dr. Krey was named chairman of the conference, and Dr. Qualey was appointed to serve as secretary. Plans were made for a spring meeting, probably to be held in Northfield.

Mr. Franklin J. Meine, Chicago publisher, editor, and author, spoke on "Tall Tales and Ballads of the Upper Mississippi" before a meeting of the Folk Arts Foundation of America in the International Institute of St. Paul on November 29. A Mexican dinner was served to more than a hundred members of the foundation who attended the meeting.

A paper read before the St. Anthony chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at Mankato by Vesta M. C. Armstrong has been published as a little pamphlet under the title *The Romance of Minnesota* (19 p.). In it, the author sketches briefly the story of the state from the day of the French explorers to the present.

In the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 16, Sara Schouweiler draws attention to the rich field for archaeological research that exists in Goodhue County, particularly in the vicinity of Red Wing. She describes some of the mound groups in the area, and reports on excavations made by Dr. W. Montgomery Sweney of Red Wing, Professor Edward W. Schmidt of Northfield, Dr. Lloyd A. Wilford of the University of Minnesota, and others. The extensive collection of Indian objects assembled by Dr. Sweney has been divided between the Minnesota and the Goodhue County historical societies, according to the writer. Of archaeological interest also is an article in the *Pioneer Press* for October 26, describing a prehistoric camp site in Itasca State Park and some of the objects discovered there.

Earl Chapin is the author of an article, in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 26, about "Tough Mr. Beltrami," the Italian explorer who penetrated the wilderness of northwestern Minnesota in 1823 and returned convinced that he had discovered the source of the Mississippi. Although Beltrami was wrong, he did reach and identify the continental divide, and he published one of the earliest reports of the area between the Red River and the upper Mississippi. His was the "achievement of a brave and adventurous man," writes Mr. Chapin. "The continental divide, at the spot where Beltrami found it, will be marked by a large boulder bearing a bronze plaque," according to an announcement appearing with the article.

How Minnesotans, by "Getting the Jump on Statehood," elected their first state governor on October 13, 1857, seven months before Minnesota was admitted to the Union, is explained by Edith B. Kirkwood in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 12. Into her story, the author draws

many colorful incidents of the late territorial period, such as Joe Rolette's disappearance with the capital removal bill and the separate conventions of Republicans and Democrats that were assembled to draft the new state's constitution. Illustrating the article are portraits of Henry H. Sibley, the first state governor, and his rival in the struggle for that office, Alexander Ramsey; likenesses of Minnesota's first United States senators, Henry M. Rice and James Shields; a picture of Rolette; and a view of St. Paul in 1857.

As the first of a series of historical portraits of "American Movers and Shakers," the *New Republic* presents in its issue for December 22 Stewart H. Holbrook's article on "Ignatius Donnelly: Apostle of Protest." In the writer's opinion, the versatile Minnesotan was "a man surely touched by genius" and "one of the major forces of his time." Donnelly is pictured as the planner of a Utopia at Nininger, as a "goodwill editor," as an orator with a tongue of gold, as an author, and as a politician with a notable record of third-party leadership. Of the *Emigrant Aid Journal* which Donnelly published at Nininger, Mr. Holbrook writes: "One can spend hours, with never a dull moment, reading the yellowing files of the *Journal* in the Minnesota Historical Society."

Dr. Charles N. Hewitt's important contributions toward Minnesota's war against disease are stressed by Irving Lipove in an article entitled "Red Wing Doctor's Founding of State Health Board Recalled," which appears in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for November 6. Attention is called to the seventy-fifth anniversary, on November 14, of the state department that Dr. Hewitt founded. Pictures of the building at Red Wing in which his original offices of 1872 were located and of the five-story structure on the campus of the University of Minnesota which now houses the health department accompany the article.

In the October issue of *The Minnesotan*, a periodical published for the University of Minnesota staff members, appears a brief review of "55 Years of Progress" in the college of pharmacy. The college began in 1892 with a two-year course, according to this account.

The story of the exploits of the swindling Lord Gordon Gordon, who in the summer of 1870 announced plans for a Scotch colony in Otter Tail County, is retold in three installments appearing in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for August 18 and 25 and September 2. How such figures of national and local prominence as Jay Gould, Elihu Root, and Mayor

George A. Brackett of Minneapolis became involved in the notorious Englishman's scheme, and how it developed international aspects, are recounted in the present narrative.

A granite monument honoring the memory of Charles M. Babcock, the father of the Minnesota trunk highway system, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies at Elk River, his former home, on October 29. Addresses by the Honorable Thomas H. MacDonald, United States public roads commissioner, and the Honorable Theodore Christianson, a former governor of Minnesota, were included on the program. Representing the Minnesota Historical Society at the ceremony were Professor William Anderson of the department of political science in the University of Minnesota and Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock of the society's newspaper division.

The International Harvester Company has marked the centennial of the opening of its first Chicago factory by Cyrus Hall McCormick by publishing an attractive pamphlet entitled *Roots in Chicago One Hundred Years Deep* (1947. 61 p.). Outlined therein is much of the early history of an industry that influenced significantly the agricultural progress of Minnesota and the Northwest. A large number of illustrations add greatly to the interest and value of the narrative.

The colorful career of "Ben Hershey, Lumber Baron" is reviewed by Jesse J. Fishburn in the October number of the *Palimpsest*. Hershey centered his lumbering operations at Muscatine, Iowa, where a great bend of the Mississippi "made an ideal landing place" for logs and lumber. There, the writer points out, Hershey developed a great market for logs from the Minnesota and Wisconsin pineries.

The fact that the area now known as Bottineau County, North Dakota, was included in Minnesota Territory is brought out by A. G. Burr in an article on "Some Highlights of Bottineau County History" published in the July issue of *North Dakota History*. Much attention is given to the boundaries of both North Dakota and Minnesota, the territories and the states.

A centennial volume that is also a contribution to Midwestern immigration history is a recent publication entitled *Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Welsh Settlement Centennial, 1847-1947* (1947. 218 p.). It consists largely of short papers by various contributors on such topics as the be-

ginning of the settlement, and development of agriculture, "Welsh Soldiers in the Civil War," education, music, literary societies, "Farm Life in the Welsh Settlement," and churches. Much of the material presented is of a reminiscent nature. A section on "The Inhabitants of the Settlement" includes lists and brief biographical sketches of settlers who arrived from 1847 to 1869.

Among the publications of the Wisconsin Centennial Committee is a broadside picturing the *Family Tree of Wisconsin*. It shows a tree with roots "deep in the old nations of the world, from which came the men and women who peopled Wisconsin," and a great trunk "branching out" into "progress in every field of endeavor."

How the Milwaukee County Historical Society has obtained possession of some of Wisconsin's historic houses, restored them, and adapted them to museum purposes is explained by the organization's president, Frederic Heath, in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for December. His article contains some suggestions that should be useful to local historical societies in Minnesota that are interested in the preservation of historic buildings.

"American Indian Music in Wisconsin, Summer 1946" is the title of an article by Charles Hofmann in the *Journal of American Folklore* for July and September. The writer tells of recording songs of the Winnebago, Sioux, Chippewa, and other tribes, whose members gathered at the Dells of the Wisconsin River for a ceremonial celebration in the summer of 1946. The words of several songs are included in his narrative.

## HISTORY IN THE COMMUNITY

The sixtieth anniversary of a local business firm, Blanding's department store of Detroit Lakes, is the occasion for the publication of a history of this pioneer firm in the *Detroit Lakes Record* for November 6. Reproduced with the article is one of the early advertisements of the business, which was originally known as China Hall and which dealt in "staple and fancy crockery, china, glassware, lamps, and house furnishing goods."

The *History of Kviteseid Lutheran Congregation* at Milan is reviewed in a booklet issued on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary, which was marked from July 4 to 6, 1947 (23 p.). The compiler, Gudren

Opjorden, sketches the story of the church against a background of pioneer settlement, especially by Norwegian immigrants, in Chippewa County. Sections are devoted to the pastors and officers of the congregation, the church building, and church organizations.

The branch line of the Northern Pacific Railroad between Wyoming and Taylors Falls, which was opened with a festive excursion in 1880, is the subject of a historical sketch in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 9. The writer, Ernest T. Larsen, states that the line probably will cease to operate in the near future.

Glyndon and the railroad colony about which it grew are the subjects of a historical narrative published in installments in the *Clay Sunday Press* of Moorhead from December 6 to 27. Special emphasis is given to the activities of the Northern Pacific Railroad and the Reverend George Rodgers in attracting settlers from England to the new community in the early 1870's.

Under the title "Campus Echoes History of Centuries," Sara Schouweiler retells the story of the founding of the Villa Maria academy at Frontenac in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 5. She explains how the school came to be founded near the site of the eighteenth-century French Fort Beauharnois, recalling the interest of General Israel Garrard in the work of the Ursuline sisters at Lake City. The same author contributes to the *Pioneer Press* of October 12 an account of another pioneer academy—the Red Wing Collegiate Institute, which was opened in 1870 with W. P. Hood as principal. Nine years later, the writer points out, the Red Wing Seminary of the Norwegian Evangelical synod purchased the school and added several buildings. An early view of the campus at Red Wing appears with the article.

To assist those who wish to "Know Hennepin County" and become familiar with its historic sites, the *Minneapolis Tribune* of October 5 inaugurated a series of articles giving detailed directions for tours in the area. The first follows an Indian trail southward from Lakes Calhoun and Harriet to the vicinity of Shakopee; others, published on succeeding Sundays, suggest trips to Minnehaha Falls, Lake Minnetonka, and the Crow River.

The ninetieth anniversary of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Minneapolis was marked by special services on October 12 and 17. The

program issued for the occasion contains a pictorial record of the growth of the church from its organization by ten charter members in 1857 to 1947. The sermon preached at the anniversary service of October 12 by the Reverend Arnold H. Lowe has been published in a separate pamphlet under the title *The Biography of a Church* (12 p.).

Chapters on "The Early Years" from 1872 to 1887, on "Coming of Age," and on "Recent Years" are included in a history of the *Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis: The First 75 Years*, issued to commemorate its diamond anniversary (1947. 39 p.). Associated with the bank's history are the names of many of the Mill City's foremost builders—names like Charles A. Pillsbury, Dorilus Morrison, William H. Dunwoody, Thomas Lowry, and George D. Dayton—and their careers are briefly sketched in the booklet. Adding greatly to its interest are some excellent illustrations showing Minneapolis scenes, the bank buildings, some pages from the minutes of the first stockholders' meeting in April, 1872, and the like.

The issue of the *Perham Enterprise-Bulletin* for October 9 is a "Diamond Jubilee Edition" commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of Perham and the building of the first railroad. Accounts of local stores, industries, schools, churches, summer resorts, and logging operations in the area fill the bulk of the space in this forty-eight-page newspaper.

A feature article entitled "How a City Begins!" appearing in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 2, calls attention to the ninety-eighth anniversary of St. Paul's incorporation as a village. The act of November 1, 1849, was authorized by the "first Territorial assembly and with the approval of Alexander Ramsey, first governor," according to Edward H. Seidl, the author of the present article. He names some of St. Paul's earliest settlers, describes some early industries, and explains the beginnings of its importance as a transportation center.

The *Story of Town and Country Club* of St. Paul, one of Minnesota's pioneer organizations of a type that began to flourish throughout the nation in the 1880's, is recorded in an attractive booklet issued in commemoration of its sixtieth anniversary (32 p.). Both the social needs and athletic interests of its members were served by the club, which was organized in December, 1887, by members of a winter carnival club. Skating and tobogganing seem to have been the original sports enjoyed



by members who frequented the first club house on Lako Como, according to the present account, which is based upon contemporary newspapers and a few original records. The three opening chapters in the booklet tell of the birth of the club, the acquisition of its present home, and the building of its traditions, while chapter 4 is entitled "Golf Comes to the Club." It is perhaps surprising to learn that "there was no attention given to golf until about 1893," and that even then "it took courage to admit an interest in this golf game, newly introduced from Scotland."

Personalities associated with the early history of Lake Como, including Charles Perry, Henry McKenty, and Otto Adler, are recalled by Mark Fitzpatrick in his column of "Forgotten Facts about St. Paul" in the *St. Paul Shopper* for October 8. The writer explains how that lake, as well as Lakes Johanna and Josephine, received their names. In the *Shopper* for October 1, Norman W. Kittson's stock farm, Kittsondale, is the subject of another column, "Down Memory Lane." Sporting organizations, such as the Minnesota Cricket Club and the St. Paul Rod and Gun Club, which had headquarters there, are recalled.

The "Christmas Eve Political Coup" of 1896 which resulted in the organization of Red Lake County is the subject of a feature article by Earl Chapin appearing in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for December 21. In it, the author traces the steps in a struggle extending over almost forty years to obtain the division into smaller units of the vast Polk County of 1858.

"When the Mesabi Iron Range Was Eighteen Years Old" is the title of an article in *Skilling's Mining Review* for November 29, in which David N. Skillings recalls conditions in the area in 1910. Then, he writes, "the life of the range was just swinging into its stride following the first year of shipments of iron ore from the Mountain Iron mine in 1892." Mr. Skillings names many of the firms that were engaged in stripping, shipping, and other mining operations in the first decade of the present century. Illustrating his article are several photographs taken at Hibbing in 1910.

A farm in Denmark Township, Washington County, which has been in the "Whitaker family possession for over 100 years" is the subject of an illustrated article in the *Hastings Gazette* for December 26. The original settler on the site, according to this narrative, was Ephraim Whitaker, who obtained the land by pre-emption before Minnesota became a territory.

A brief historical sketch of the *Delano Eagle* and notes on the men and women who have served as its editors and worked in its plant since 1872 are published in the issue for October 9 to call attention to the paper's seventy-fifth anniversary. Special mention is made of the career of Mr. John A. Tischler, president of the firm, who has been connected with it for half a century. A feature of the article is a list of former *Eagle* employees.

### LOCAL SOCIETIES AT WORK

The role of "County Historical Societies" in the forthcoming Minnesota Territorial Centennial celebration is the subject of an editorial in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for January 13. "Officials guiding centennial observance are contacting interested citizens in the various counties, seeking both to revive such groups where they now exist, and to form new ones where they are lacking," reads the editorial. It then continues to point out that "There can be little question about response to such a move, particularly in view of the importance local history will take on in preparing for and in celebrating the centennial. Each county should have a functioning historical society," the writer insists. The evaluation of local historical activity with which he concludes is worth quoting: "No one is likely to make more money or sell more merchandise through an interest in local history. Except where local anniversary celebrations can be capitalized upon, the utilitarian angle is not a strong one in such endeavors. But through the effort made, life can become more interesting and the present more understandable through a better knowledge of the past."

Papers on Indian legends by Carl Bonnell and on the first schoolhouse in Anoka County by Mrs. Nora Daly were read before a meeting of the Anoka County Historical Society at Anoka on December 15. The society's participation in the Territorial Centennial of 1949 was discussed. An election of officers for the coming year resulted in the naming of Mrs. L. J. Greenwald as president, Mr. Scott DeLong as vice-president, Mrs. Paul Heard as treasurer, and Mr. Theodore A. E. Nelson as secretary.

All officers of the Carver County Historical Society were re-elected at the annual meeting of the society, which was held at Waconia on November 20. A report was made on the progress of plans for a veterans and pioneer memorial building, in which the society hopes to have space for its museum.

More than a hundred people attended a meeting of the Cook County Historical Society at Grand Marais on October 10. The feature of the program was a talk on the Minnesota iron ranges by Dr. Grace Lee Nute, research associate on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society. Following her talk, Miss Nute showed slides of the Gunflint area of Minnesota and of Isle Royale. In connection with the meeting, displays of family heirlooms and treasures were arranged by nineteen Cook County residents, as well as by the St. Louis County Historical Society and by several individuals from Duluth. The exhibits are described in the *Cook County News-Herald* of Grand Marais for October 16.

Mr. Allan Fitch of South St. Paul was the principal speaker at a meeting of the Dakota County Historical and Archaeological Society held at South St. Paul on December 9. His remarks were chiefly reminiscent, since he recalled the pioneer livestock commission business which he and his brother, Charles Fitch, established at South St. Paul in 1887. He mentioned also other firms that began operations in the expanding market in the years that followed. Appearing on the program also was Mr. Richard R. Sackett, deputy director of the Territorial Centennial, who explained the plans for the celebration of 1949.

At a meeting held in Preston on October 16, the Fillmore County Historical Society announced that it has purchased a brick building formerly occupied by a Preston newspaper office and that it intends to convert this into a local historical museum. The president of the society, Mr. Moppy Anderson, expressed the hope that the museum will be ready for opening in connection with the Territorial Centennial in 1949.

The October number of *Hennepin County History* features an editorial note on the Junior Historian movement. The editor makes it clear that the Hennepin County Historical Society will co-operate with the state society in forwarding the movement. In charge of Junior Historian work for the local organization is Mr. Edward Haynes, a teacher in Roosevelt High School of Minneapolis.

Talks on the history of Minnetonka Mills and Minnehaha, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Dana Frear and illustrated with slides made from pictures in the collection of Miss Louise Burwell, were presented before a meeting of the Hennepin County Historical Society in Minneapolis on October 22. "How We Got Our Constitution" was the subject discussed by Mott R. Sawyers when the society met on December 3.

Steps toward the organization of a historical society in Houston County were taken on December 18, when a group of local residents met in Caledonia with Mr. Richard R. Sackett of the state society's Territorial Centennial staff. Temporary officers, including Mr. P. W. Steffen, president, and Miss Georgina Lommen, secretary, were named, and plans for a county-wide meeting were made.

The activities of the Jackson County Historical Society receive favorable comment from Mr. Frank O. Swain of Lake Crystal in a letter to the secretary, Mr. Edward Lafot, dated December 8 and published in the *Lakefield Standard* for December 18. Mr. Swain recalls personalities and conditions at Lakefield in the years about 1900, when he resided there; and he reports on his own contributions to the museum of the Blue Earth County Historical Society at Mankato "in the hope that it may induce some of your Jackson county citizens to 'go and do thou likewise,' by placing materials they may have in the Jackson county museum." At its first annual meeting, held in Lakefield on October 6, the Jackson County society announced that in its initial year of existence it had enrolled nearly two hundred members. Officers elected on that occasion include Mr. Alvin Glaser, president, Mr. Obed Olson, vice-president, Mr. Lafot, secretary, and Mr. Ross Frederickson, treasurer.

Mr. George A. Barden was named secretary of the Martin County Historical Society, to succeed the late Arthur M. Nelson, at a meeting of the organization held in Fairmont on October 6. Judge Julius E. Haycraft is president of the society, and Mrs. J. A. Nightingale is vice-president. A publication of the society, issued as a memorial to Major Nelson, is reviewed elsewhere in this issue.

The realization that "unless steps were taken at once to preserve some of the remaining relics and first hand stories of local interest, they would be lost forever," resulted in the organization of local historical societies in many of Minnesota's counties, including Nobles County. Thus reads an account of "Our Local Historical Society" in the November *Bulletin* of the Nobles County Historical Society, in which its progress since its organization in 1933 is reviewed and its needs for the future are outlined. Listed in the issue are the names of fifteen life members recently enrolled in the society.

The Olmsted County Historical Society held its annual meeting at Rochester on October 28. Dr. George W. Higgins, the principal speaker,

took as his subject "Impressions of Europe." The superintendent of the society, Mrs. Bunn T. Willson, gave a report on its activities during the past year, and Mrs. Nora H. Guthrey described additions to its museum collection. The society's *News Bulletin* for October lists sixty-four members who joined the organization recently, and it names a local committee appointed to plan Olmsted County's participation in the Territorial Centennial celebration.

Styles of yesterday represented in the costume collection of the Otter Tail County Historical Society were displayed on living models as the feature of a program arranged by the society at Pelican Rapids on December 5. About two hundred and fifty people attended the meeting, for which an extensive collection of early photographs was placed on display. Detailed descriptions of the gowns modeled and pictures of some of them appear with a report of the program in the *Fergus Falls Daily Journal* for December 8.

Members of the St. Anthony Park Area Historical Association gathered in St. Paul on October 12 to hear Dr. Carlton C. Qualey of the state historical society outline plans for the Centennial celebration.

A paper on the boundaries of Rice County by Reginald Kramer was the feature of a program presented before the annual meeting of the Rice County Historical Society at Faribault on November 13. A second speaker, Mr. N. N. Ronning, gave an informal reminiscent talk about experiences in Rice County and Faribault in the 1880's. Dr. Nuba Pletcher of Faribault was re-elected to the presidency of the society. Other officers named at the meeting include Professor Kenneth Bjork of Northfield, vice-president, Mr. Guerdon Allen of Faribault and Miss Alice Pearson of Northfield, secretaries, and Miss Agatha Doyle of Faribault, treasurer. The appointment of Miss Helen Grant as curator of the society's museum was announced; she succeeds the late Mrs. H. C. Theopold.

Mr. William W. Pye's story of the Northfield bank robbery of 1876, which he related before a meeting of the Rice County Historical Society on August 19 (see *ante*, 28:387), is printed in the *Northfield Independent* for November 13 and the *Northfield News* for December 11.

The museum of the Roseau County Historical Society at Roseau received national recognition in the *American Swedish Monthly* for

January, 1947, which carried an illustrated article about its activities by Bennie Bengtson.

Before the annual meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society, held at Duluth on November 25, Mr. Gilbert G. Fawcett spoke on a radio program, "Historic Site Ahead," which he has been conducting for a local department store during the past three years. To illustrate his remarks, he played recordings of two sketches included in the series. The president of the society, Dr. Richard Bardon, was re-elected; Mr. J. D. Mahoney is treasurer, and Miss Corah L. Colbrath is secretary. In her annual report, Miss Colbrath announced that the society added sixty-three new members in 1947. Dr. Bardon, who presided, called attention to the plans for the Centennial celebration of 1949 and outlined the possibilities for local participation in the event.

The American Association for State and Local History has conferred one of its "Annual Awards of Merit" upon the St. Louis County Historical Society of Duluth. The award, which is announced in the monthly *State and Local History News* for November, commends the Minnesota organization "for collecting historical materials, including manuscripts and artifacts, maintaining a biographical file of citizens of St. Louis County, for opening a new headquarters and museum on August 1, 1947, and for sponsoring the erection of bronze markers at Indian mounds." The November issue of the *News*, which inaugurates its fourth volume, is distinguished by a new and greatly expanded format. The number consists of twenty-eight pages, it includes a report of the association's annual meeting at Denver in September, it contains news sections on its own activities and on those of local societies throughout the nation, and it is attractively designed and illustrated.

Local plans for observing the 1949 Territorial Centennial were formulated at a meeting of the Stearns County Historical Society held at St. Cloud on October 23. The state-wide Centennial celebration was explained and described by Mr. Richard R. Sackett of the state historical society. To arrange for local participation in the Centennial, a committee was named consisting of the Reverend Walter Reger of Collegeville, Sister Grace McDonald of St. Joseph, and Miss Gertrude Gove and Mr. D. S. Brainard of St. Cloud.

The Lake Pepin Valley Historical Society reorganized as the Wabasha County Historical Society at a meeting held in Lake City on October 15.

That the Minnesota Territorial Centennial celebration might well be launched at Stillwater on August 26, 1948, was suggested by Dr. Carlton C. Qualey of the state historical society in speaking before a joint meeting of the Washington County Historical Society and the Stillwater Association at Stillwater on November 20. He pointed out that the one-hundredth anniversary of the Stillwater Convention of 1848—an event of prime significance in the story of territorial organization—will fall on that date. The events leading up to the convention were outlined by the speaker, who read extracts from the minutes of the gathering. To act as chairman of the local centennial committee and take charge of the Stillwater celebration, Mr. E. L. Roney of that city has been named.

### CENTENNIAL NEWS

Since the Centennial director reviews the work of his office in an address published elsewhere in this issue, only a few items that supplement his report are included in the present section.

Mr. Harold Searls has been appointed pageant director for the Territorial Centennial. He has prepared the text of a pageant, "Minnesota, Hail to Thee," which is intended for use throughout the state in connection with Centennial celebrations. When it seems desirable, local episodes can be inserted in the text, which deals largely with events and characters of state-wide interest. The pageant has been multigraphed, and copies may be obtained free of charge in the Centennial office. Tentative plans are now under way for the presentation of pageants in the state parks of Minnesota in 1949; these and other spectacles of a state-wide nature will be directed by Mr. Searls. He was formerly secretary and manager of the Keep Minnesota Green committee.

To encourage the teaching of Minnesota and local history and promote the organization of Junior Historian chapters, Miss Louise Spaeth has been named school field representative on the Centennial staff. She spends much of her time in the field, making contacts with county superintendents of schools and teachers in junior and senior high schools.

The Centennial office has issued several mimeographed bulletins for use in connection with the teaching of Minnesota history in elementary and secondary schools. They give suggestions and directions for a "children's treasure hunt" in the elementary schools, for the making of a Minnesota scrapbook, for a "local treasure hunt" by pupils in secondary

schools, and for locating and marking historic sites of local significance. One bulletin provides a list of readings in Minnesota history for teachers, parents, and pupils. Others relate to the activities of the Junior Historians, giving directions for the organization of a chapter, providing rules for a writing contest, and listing forty-four "Activity Suggestions for Junior Historians." Copies of these bulletins may be obtained without charge from the Centennial office in the Historical Building. For members of Junior Historian chapters, the mimeographed *Gopher Historian* continues to appear. Volume 2, number 1 was issued in November.

The work of organizing county committees for the planning of local Centennial observances had been inaugurated in fifteen Minnesota counties before the first of the year. In Aitkin, Anoka, Big Stone, Carlton, Chippewa, Cook, Crow Wing, Freeborn, Kandiyohi, Koochiching, Mower, Nicollet, Renville, Rice, and Waseca counties, individuals who will direct the work of organization have been named.

The St. Paul Association has named Mr. Vernon E. Fairbanks as chairman of a committee to plan and direct St. Paul's program of participation in the Minnesota Territorial Centennial of 1949. According to the association's January *News*, Mr. Fairbanks will be assisted by a "committee of 100" composed of an "equal number of men and women active in community affairs." In addition to Minnesota's Centennial, the association plans to observe the one-hundredth birthday of the city of St. Paul and of its first newspaper.

Mrs. Clyde Robbins, state regent of the Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution, has appointed a Centennial committee to make plans for that organization's participation in the celebration of 1949. Its five members are Mrs. Walter D. Hyde and Mrs. Milo D. Webster of Minneapolis, Mrs. Bunn T. Willson of Rochester, Mrs. C. R. McKenney of North St. Paul, and Mrs. Guy B. Fairchild of Duluth.

As one feature of the Centennial celebration of 1949, the Leif Erikson Monument Association, of which Professor P. M. Glasoe of St. Olaf College, Northfield, is chairman, is planning to erect a statue of the Norse explorer near the Capitol in St. Paul. The sculptor, John K. Daniels, has prepared a working model which is now on display in the Historical Building.



## NEWS OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The society's ninety-ninth annual meeting, which was held in St. Paul on January 12, opened with a luncheon at the St. Paul Hotel. About a hundred and seventy people gathered for the occasion. For the program that followed the luncheon, Judge Kenneth G. Brill, the retiring president of the society, presided. He introduced those seated at the speaker's table, and then called upon Dean Julius M. Nolte for a report on "The Territorial Centennial of 1949," of which he is director. His address appears in full elsewhere in this issue of *Minnesota History*. Some comments followed by Dr. Carlton C. Qualey, superintendent of the society, who stressed the need for a larger and stronger membership. He then asked Professor A. C. Krey to express to Judge Brill the society's appreciation for his work as president during the past three years. His remarks, commending Judge Brill for his "record of unselfish, devoted service" on behalf of the society, have been published in the February issue of *News for Members*.

The business session of the annual meeting, for which about a hundred people assembled in the auditorium of the Historical Building at 3:00 P.M., featured the reading of annual reports by the treasurer, Mr. Julian Baird, and the secretary-superintendent. Dr. Qualey's report is published in this number of the quarterly. The following thirty life members of the society were elected to serve on its executive council for the triennium from 1948 to 1951: Julian B. Baird of St. Paul, Henry N. Benson of St. Peter, Theodore C. Blegen of St. Paul, Elmer F. Blu of Duluth, Kenneth G. Brill of St. Paul, Ralph Budd of Chicago, Homer P. Clark of St. Paul, George C. Crosby of Minneapolis, Mrs. Grace Flandrau of St. Paul, the Very Reverend Vincent J. Flynn of St. Paul, Guy Stanton Ford of Washington, D.C., Miss Laura Furness of St. Paul, Julius E. Haycraft of Fairmont, Louis W. Hill, Jr., of St. Paul, August C. Krey of St. Paul, Victor E. Lawson of Willmar, Albert J. Lobb of Rochester, Clarence R. Magney of Duluth, James E. Montague of Crookston, Andrew J. Newgren of St. Paul, Julius M. Nolte of Wayzata, Ira C. Oehler of St. Paul, Carlton C. Qualey of Northfield, Bergmann Richards of Minneapolis, L. A. Rossman of Grand Rapids, John B. Sanborn of St. Paul, Charles Stees of St. Paul, Sigurd Ueland of Minneapolis, Thomas F. Wallace of Minneapolis, and Dr. Harry B. Zimmermann of St. Paul. After the meeting, many of those who attended took advantage of an opportunity to see the society's new microfilm equipment. Later in the

afternoon, members of the newly elected executive council assembled in the superintendent's office, where they elected the society's officers for the coming three years. They are Mr. Richards, president; Professor Krey and Judge Magney, vice-presidents; Dr. Qualey, secretary; and Mr. Baird, treasurer.

Two programs of "Yesterday's Music in Minnesota and the Northwest," arranged by the society in collaboration with the Schubert Club of St. Paul and presented in the society's auditorium on October 15 and November 12, attracted audiences of a hundred and fifty to two hundred people. The background for the music was sketched in introductory talks by Professor Philip D. Jordan of the department of history and Dean Theodore C. Blegen of the graduate school in the University of Minnesota; the performers were members of the Schubert Club's active section. Music composed especially for Banvard's panorama of the Mississippi River, songs of the Hutchinsons and other family singers, and ballads were featured on the first program; the second consisted largely of folksongs of the immigrant, the voyageur, and the lumberjack. Much of the music performed was drawn from the society's collection and from Dr. Jordan's extensive collection of American sheet music. Some of his music was used also in one of the special displays arranged in the museum to illustrate and give color to the programs; other exhibits consisted of items reminiscent of the careers of the Hutchinsons and of John Banvard. Many of the performers appeared in costumes from the society's collection. The programs received much favorable notice in the newspapers of the Twin Cities, and the *St. Paul Dispatch* for October 24 carried an illustrated article about the display of sheet music.

The Minnesota Historical Society's Forest Products History Foundation, its work and its accomplishments, was the subject of a paper read by its director, Dr. Rodney C. Loehr, before a meeting of the Society of American Foresters in Minneapolis on December 19. Dr. Loehr presided at a joint session of the American Historical Association and the Agricultural History Society, held in connection with their annual meetings in Cleveland on December 27. The subject of discussion by the session was "Phases of European and Asiatic Agricultural History."

Mr. George B. Engberg, a research fellow on the staff of the society's Forest Products History Foundation, has joined the faculty of the Uni-

versity of Cincinnati as assistant professor of history. He is teaching economic history and business and government relations.

George Nelson's journal of the early nineteenth-century fur trade, which was published with an introduction and notes by Dr. Richard Bardon of Duluth and Dr. Grace Lee Nute of the society's staff in the issues of this magazine for March, June, and September, 1947, has been reprinted as a separate booklet (46 p.). Copies of the reprint, which has an attractive wine-colored cover, may be purchased from the Minnesota Historical Society for fifty cents each.

Mrs. Furness' article on "Governor Ramsey and Frontier Minnesota," published in the December issue of this magazine, appears in a condensed version, under the title "A Governor Comes to Minnesota," in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for December 28. Several appropriate illustrations accompany the newspaper version.

An article on "My Yugoslav Background" by Thomas Dasovich, which appeared in the September issue of this magazine, was reprinted in the December issue of the *Butler Miner*, a monthly periodical published at Cooley for the employees of the firm of Butler Brothers. It is of interest to note that the author of this little autobiographical narrative, which was prepared as a classroom project in the University of Minnesota, was formerly employed by Butler Brothers.

To the society's extensive Hennepin collection, a Dutch translation of the Belgian friar's *Nouveau Voyage*, published at Utrecht in 1698, has been added. It bears the title *Aenmerckelychke historische reys-beschryvinge door verscheyde landen veel grooter als die van geheel Europa onlanghs ontdeckt*. The society also has acquired another edition of Lahontan's *Voyages dans l'Amerique septentrionale* (Amsterdam, 1728. 3 vols.). In all, twelve editions of Lahontan's work are now available in the society's library; of these three are in English, seven are in French, one is in Dutch, and one is in Italian.

The society's rich collection of material relating to the history of the Canadian settlements on the Red River has been enlarged by the addition of a volume entitled *Rough Times, 1870-1920* (271 p.). The author, Joseph F. Tennant, presents the book as a "souvenir of the 50th anniversary of the Red River Expedition and the formation of the Province of Manitoba." Much reminiscent material is included in the volume.

The September, 1883, issue of *The Minnehahan*, a little-known Minnesota periodical, is the gift of Mrs. M. H. Stanford of St. Paul. Although a "Salutatory" suggests that the number is the first to appear under the title of *The Minnehahan*, it is designated as volume 4, number 8, since it "follows, in number and volume, a magazine which has enjoyed a large constituency of readers for nearly five years." W. S. Cochrane and William R. Dobbryn of Minneapolis were the editors and publishers. Among the contributions appearing in the issue are a poetical version of the Winona legend and an article on Lake Minnetonka.

Large, though incomplete, unbound files of two Hudson, Wisconsin, newspapers, presented by Mr. Willis H. Miller of that city, are important additions to the society's collection of St. Croix Valley newspapers. The file of the *True Republican* begins with volume 1, number 1, issued on November 1, 1871, and extends to August 23, 1916; that of the *Star-Times* covers the period from December 24, 1880, to December 11, 1908.

Two autograph letters of Ralph Waldo Emerson have been presented by Mr. F. K. Weyerhaeuser of St. Paul. Both were written in 1822 to a personal friend, John B. Garrison, and both discuss political and literary interests shared by the two men.

Last year a letter written by Zachary Taylor while he was stationed at Fort Snelling, now to be found among his papers in the Library of Congress, was published in this magazine (*ante*, 28:15-19). After reading it, Mr. Allyn K. Ford of Minneapolis called the society's attention to two additional Taylor letters with Fort Snelling date lines in his personal collection of autograph letters and manuscripts. Through his courtesy, photostatic copies of these significant records of old Fort Snelling have been made for the society. Dated July 1 and November 11, 1828, both letters are addressed to the adjutant general of the army. Conditions in and about the fort, as well as the duties of the members of the garrison, are particularly well pictured in the earlier letter. "I cannot for a moment believe that the situation of this post is properly understood by those making the disposition of the troops," writes Taylor. "What with taking care of the mills [*at the Falls of St. Anthony*], & public cattle, & providing forage for them for the winter, & getting fuel which has to be procured at a considerable distance from the Fort," he continues, "one half of the command at least are frequently at the mercy of the Indians were they disposed to commence hostilities."

Significant new material on the removal of the Winnebago to the Long Prairie Reservation in 1848 is to be found in two letter books of Henry M. Rice, recently presented by Christ's Book Shop of St. Paul through the courtesy of Dr. Louis Powell of the St. Paul Institute. One volume contains letter-press copies of letters written by Rice from June 15, 1848, to November 8, 1849; the other was kept in 1854 while Rice was serving as a delegate in Congress from Minnesota Territory. In addition to letters about the removal of the Winnebago, which Rice directed, the earlier volume contains many items relating to the Minnesota fur trade, particularly among the Chippewa and the Winnebago. That Indian affairs continued to interest Rice in Washington is evident from numerous letters in the second volume. On May 27, 1854, he described the poverty of the Chippewa; on another occasion he appealed for assistance for the Reverend G. A. Belcourt in conducting schools among the Chippewa; and he refers to difficulties with the Indians in the vicinity of Fort Ripley in a letter of June 12. An appeal for daily mail service between Galena and St. Paul is made in a letter of May 13, 1854, in which Rice informed the postmaster general that the tri-weekly service then provided was inadequate.

A box of Civil War letters and miscellaneous papers of William B. McGrorty of St. Paul is the gift of Miss Eugenie McGrorty of St. Paul. McGrorty served with the Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, attaining the rank of captain in 1864. Letters to his family from St. Louis, Memphis, Corinth, Vicksburg, and various other places record his experiences in the Civil War.

Students of agricultural history, and particularly those who are concerned with the story of the farmer in politics, will be interested in the papers of Edwin H. Atwood, a farmer at Maine Prairie in Stearns County and later a resident of St. Cloud, recently presented by Mr. Harry E. Atwood of Minneapolis. The records, which date from about 1860 to 1899, consist of four diaries, three account books, and five filing boxes of correspondence. Of particular interest are manuscripts in the collection relating to Atwood's activities on behalf of the state Grange and the Minnesota Farmers' Alliance, with both of which he was prominently identified.

The papers of the late Congressman Andrew J. Volstead, who gained fame nationally as the "father of Prohibition," have been presented by his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lomen of Granite Falls.

They consist of six filing boxes of letters, newspaper clippings, Congressional bills, copies of addresses, and similar materials dating largely from the years from 1918 to 1923. Many of the letters reflect public opinion on the subject of Prohibition during the years following the First World War. There is also a wealth of material relating to the Farmers' Cooperative Marketing Act, of which Volstead was the author. The much disputed Congressional election of 1920, in which the rivalry between Volstead and the Reverend O. J. Kvale drew wide attention, is the subject of a large number of letters in the collection.

The records of the Minnesota Child Labor Committee, consisting of two volumes and a folder of papers, have been received through the courtesy of Miss Hermine R. König of Minneapolis. They contain lists of members, minutes of meetings, a copy of the constitution, and financial reports dating from the formation of the committee in 1908 to 1920.

A detailed record of St. Paul's role in the Second World War is available in the papers of the St. Paul War History Committee, consisting of three volumes and four filing boxes of miscellaneous materials, which have been turned over to the society by Judge Gustavus Loevinger of St. Paul. One volume deals with the activities of the St. Paul Housing Committee; another, well illustrated with photographs, records the ceremonies at the St. Paul Armory which accompanied the induction of groups of men into the service.

About ninety original drawings by Charles L. Bartholomew of Minneapolis, who gained fame as a cartoonist under the pseudonym of "Bart," have been presented by the artist. Most of the cartoons in the collection were published in the *Minneapolis Journal* or in other newspapers, and they date from 1898 to the present decade. Included in the gift are original cartoons by several other caricaturists, including Frank Wing and Rowland C. Bowman, a volume of Wing's cartoons published under the title, *Amiable Libels: More than One Hundred Sketches of Minneapolitans* (Chicago, 1916), and several volumes of "Bart's" collected cartoons.

A collection of motion picture films, filling more than forty boxes, is the gift of Mr. William Lochren of Minneapolis. Since they record in moving pictures a great variety of Minnesota events from 1905 to 1920, the films are an important and unusual addition to the society's collections.

## WHO'S WHO IN THIS ISSUE

Dr. Merrill E. Jarchow is dean of men at Carleton College, Northfield. In the past seven years he has contributed to this magazine articles on many phases of Minnesota's agricultural history, including state and county fairs, farm machinery, livestock, and dairying. To this list he now adds an article on "King Wheat," tracing the changes in the Minnesota farmer's attitude toward this staple crop from pre-territorial days to about 1880.

In this issue, Miss Bertha L. Heilbron, editor of the quarterly, inaugurates a new series of "Territorial Daguerreotypes" — contemporary documents picturing Minnesota conditions and events in the era from 1849 to 1858. "Bridging the Mississippi" for the first time is the event described by a pioneer St. Paul woman in the letter of 1855 published herein.

The plans for the Minnesota Territorial Centennial of 1949 are outlined and the progress made in 1947 in putting them into operation is reviewed by the Centennial director, Dean Julius M. Nolte of the extension division in the University of Minnesota. The report on the activities of the Minnesota Historical Society in 1947 was prepared by its superintendent, Dr. Carlton C. Qualey, who is also professor of history at Carleton College, Northfield.

Fourteen authors, hailing from many sections of the United States, contribute book reviews to the present issue of the quarterly. The writer of the opening review, Dr. Merle Curti, is professor of history in the University of Wisconsin. He is widely known for his books in the field of social history, including *The Growth of American Thought* (1943) and *The Roots of American Loyalty* (1946). Representatives of eight additional universities and colleges have prepared evaluations of recent books in the fields of American, Northwest, and Minnesota history for this number of *Minnesota History*. Dr. Huntley Dupre is professor of history in Macalester College, St. Paul; and Dr. Edwin H. Ford is associate professor of journalism in the University of Minnesota. From Augustana College at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he is head of the department of English, comes Mr. Herbert Krause, whose novels, *Wind without Rain* and *The Thresher*, have been enthusiastically acclaimed. At present he is engaged in writing a novel against a background of Red River Valley history. A member of the history faculty in the University of Washington at Seattle is Professor Henry S. Lucas,

the author of a centennial history of Holland, Michigan, which is reviewed *ante*, 28:367. Washington University at St. Louis is represented by Professor John Francis McDermott of the department of English, an author and editor of wide experience who is now engaged in writing a history of frontier art before the Civil War. Dr. Fred A. Shannon is professor of history in the University of Illinois, the author of *The Organization and Administration of the Union Army* (1928), and the editor of a recent volume of the *Civil War Letters of Sergeant Onley Andrus* (1947). In addition to Dean Jarchow, who contributes a review as well as an article, Carleton College is represented by Miss Jean Anne Vincent, assistant professor of the history of art. She is the holder of a fellowship in art history from the American Council of Learned Societies. From the State Teachers College at River Falls, Wisconsin, comes Dr. Walker D. Wyman, chairman of the department of social sciences. He is the author of a book on *The Wild Horse of the West* (1945).

Mr. Stewart H. Holbrook, who reviews a new publication of the society's Forest Products History Foundation, is a journalist and author whose prolific writings touch upon many aspects of American economic history. Several books, including *Burning an Empire* (1943), give evidence of his interest in logging history; his most recent book is *The Story of American Railroads* (1947). Three members of the society's staff complete the list of reviewers. Mrs. Mary W. Berthel is associate editor of publications and the author of a forthcoming book on James M. Goodhue, Minnesota's pioneer editor. Dr. Rodney C. Loehr is director of the Forest Products History Foundation, a member of the history faculty in the University of Minnesota, and the editor of a volume of *Minnesota Farmers' Diaries* published by the society in 1939. Mr. G. Hubert Smith is curator of the society's museum and the author of several articles in the field of archaeology.





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