

Some New Books in Review

The Wisconsin Story: The Building of a Vanguard State. By H. RUSSELL AUSTIN. (Milwaukee, The Journal Company, 1948. viii, 382 p. Illustrations. \$2.00.)

The casual reader who picks up this attractive-looking book will find himself carried through page after page as tales of stirring incidents, great historic figures, and contemporary events unfold before him. He will be instructed as well as entertained. The *Wisconsin Story* has an all-embracing scope. Beginning with the primeval era it traces the forces that gave the Wisconsin landscape its striking natural features, moves easily into the coming of prehistoric peoples, and in Chapter 3 prepares the scene for the arrival of the earliest known explorers. With less drama and some halting the French and British in Wisconsin are dealt with and exactly one-sixth of the way through the volume appear "The Stars and Stripes at Last." From that time on the author is well into his stride. Reversing the too prevalent tendency of historical writers to telescope recent events, he gives us generous and well-balanced chapters on economic developments, modern political figures, and the impact of two world wars on the state. He even ventures to don the prophet's robe and forecast what Wisconsin will be like in the years to come.

This book is produced as the contribution of Wisconsin's most widely circulated newspaper to the state's centennial. Speaking from the vantage point of a hundred years of growth, its citizens may perhaps be excused for adopting an attitude of pride in its achievements. The subtitle states the author's thesis: Wisconsin, a "vanguard state." In many instances he defends it ably and with enthusiasm, but at times the effort appears labored and not too well sustained. Similarly in the introduction the attempt to represent Wisconsin as the microcosm of the United States pulls a bit at the seams. If Wisconsin was a part of the Spanish empire from 1512 to 1634, no one was aware of the fact, nor can France be said to have laid official claim to the region until 1671, at the time of the St. Lusson ceremony. The date for the closing of the British regime in the Northwest surely must be set either at 1783 or with the relinquishment of the posts in 1796. While we are

criticizing, we voice a regret at the inclusion here of some exaggerations about persons in high places — stories such as every state seems to cherish and which no amount of scholarly effort can quite down. Zachary Taylor's biographer has never been able to find that Mrs. Taylor accompanied her husband to Fort Howard. Young Knoxie Taylor did not "run away" to Kentucky and marry Jefferson Davis. Davis was never stationed at Fort Howard. Wisconsin's executive mansion, built in 1854, was purchased fourteen years later by the Thorps of Eau Claire, not built by them. The enterprising Mrs. Thorp did indeed persuade Longfellow to pen the oft-quoted apostrophe to the Four Lakes, but the poet did not write it in the house — he never was in Madison.

Emphasis in the story is largely on the region south of the Fox-Wisconsin waterway. In a sense this is as it should be. Residents of the northwestern part of the state and their neighbor Minnesotans will be disappointed, however, at the cursory treatment of the era when the explorer, the fur trader, and the lumberman centered their attention on the mighty water routes and rich forest lands of the upper country. The state's leap to her much vaunted "first" in dairying and the less spectacular advance in diversified agriculture are traced from small beginnings. With the concentration of population in urban areas and the rapid growth of industrial cities in the southeast, interest logically shifts to those areas. For a clear and vivid story of that development, political, cultural, and economic, one will find nowhere a better general account than is set forth in the pages of this volume.

ALICE E. SMITH

The Journals and Indian Paintings of George Winter, 1837-1839. (Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Society, 1948. xix, 208 p. Illustrations. \$12.50.)

This quarto volume is not only a very real contribution to American pictorial and regional history but it is a very beautiful example of the bookmaker's art. In order of importance, this handsome book includes thirty-one reproductions (twenty-five in color) of the work of the artist, George Winter; written accounts, or journals, by Winter telling of his first visit to Indian communities of Indiana in 1837 and describing the Kee-wau-nay council with the Potawatomi, and of a visit to the Miami in 1839; a biographical sketch of Winter by Gayle Thornbrough, who also edited the journals; an appraisal of Winter as an artist by Wilbur D.

Peat; and an introduction, which includes a brief review of early American painters of the Indian, by Howard H. Peckham.

Mr. Peckham does not distinguish clearly between artists who made original drawings and paintings and published works containing Indian illustrations. As a result, such artists as C. B. King and Peter Rindisbacher, who included Indians of the Central West among their subjects, have been overlooked. Probably the most important omission, however, is that of the elusive Samuel Seymour, who actually sketched the Potawatomi in northern Indiana in May, 1823, fourteen years before Winter's day.

It is true, of course, that the paintings of Rindisbacher and of Seymour are not readily available, nor were they as carefully documented by the artists as was the work of Winter. In fact, no early artist of the Indian, with the exception of Catlin, took so much care—as is now apparent in the volume under review—as did Winter to insure that his work would be made available for future use. Not only has his artistic work been carefully preserved, but Winter provided extensive written description and documentation for his pictorial records of the Potawatomi and Miami of northern Indiana.

It is obvious, even to the nonprofessional, that Winter was none too good a draftsman, but he was far from being a primitive. The reproductions of his work, especially those in color, have loveliness and charm in addition to great documentary value—a value which is increased by Winter's realistic attitude toward his subjects. This attitude is particularly noticeable in the bleak view of Deaf Man's village, with its many tree stumps and corroded river banks; in his depiction of Swa-go, the drunken Potawatomi; and in the portrait of the lined and wrinkled face of Frances Slocum, the celebrated "Lost Sister of Wyoming." It is satisfying, too, to see the illustrations in this truly magnificent volume so well reproduced. The reviewer had begun to wonder if American printers had lost their ability to reproduce color plates in exact register.

Of almost equal rank in historical value with the illustrations are Winter's journals. Winter recorded successfully and fluently, although at times with ornamental rhetoric, his encounters with the Indians. As might be expected in an artist, much interesting and important detail of an American life, now long since past, was noted in his journals. Effective and compelling interest to his narratives are contributed by descriptive bits which include, among others, an account of the amazement of Indian children when Winter lighted a cigar by means of a "lucifer" match; by a minia-

ture essay, beautifully and simply written, on the burial of an Indian girl; and by Winter's report of his amused embarrassment as he undressed for the night in the presence of Indian women while a guest in a Miami cabin.

Here is most attractively presented valuable source material for the ethnographer, the social historian, the artist, and the general reader with antiquarian interests. This volume, too, should provide inspiration and direction to future short story writers and novelists of the past American scene.

ROBERT TAFT

Kaskaskia Under the French Regime (*Illinois Studies in the Social Sciences*, vol. 29, no. 3.). By NATALIA MAREE BELTING. (Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1948. 140 p. Illustrations. Cloth, \$2.50; paper, \$1.50.)

More than two hundred years ago groups of brave French people from Canada made their homes in the rich bottomlands of the Mississippi River, the first of many pioneers in the great valley. Never large, and somehow unresisting, their settlements were finally engulfed by other emigrants and were partly obliterated by the very river itself. Yet their historical importance has never long been lost sight of, and has attracted able historians. Such volumes as Clarence W. Alvord's *Illinois Country*, a classic regional history, have been supplemented by the printing of many original documents relating to these people. Yet much remains unpublished. Portions of the French records have been utilized by Natalia Belting in the present volume, where she relates particularly the social history of the six villages of which Kaskaskia was chief.

From austere church parish books, from musty legal records, from dry inventories, contracts, and similar unpromising sources, the author has reconstructed a picture of life in the Illinois country in the eighteenth century. Utilizing such forbidding source material, she tells the story of the establishment of Kaskaskia, with a poetic description of its natural setting, and of formal government in the region, describing the duties of the officials and the actual occupants of official positions in the distant colony. She gives also an informative account of building construction in the Illinois country, and describes the furnishings of the dwellings, the costumes of their inhabitants, their occupations, and their customs. A final portion of the volume contains a mass of genealogical material,

with a fourteen-page index of names that will be useful to those hardy enough to tread the thorny paths of family history in the Illinois of the eighteenth century.

Illustrating the volume are pictures of the reconstructed parts of Fort de Chartres, reproductions of plates from an old French work showing tools and implements that might have been found in these French villages, and a map of Kaskaskia made near the end of the French regime. Those who have discovered the absorbing interest of the history of the French in the Mississippi Valley will want to read the new study.

G. HUBERT SMITH

Pioneer Life in Kentucky, 1785-1800. By DANIEL DRAKE, M.D. Edited, from the original manuscript, with introductory comments and a biographical sketch by EMMET FIELD HORINE, M. D. (New York, Henry Schuman, 1948. xxix, 257 p. Illustrations. \$4.00.)

An astute observer, skilled commentator, accomplished professor of medicine, and outstanding medical researcher and physician, Daniel Drake has become a legend wherever men gather to discuss practice in the Middle West. They tell of Drake's brilliant clinical descriptions at the University of Transylvania, of his hot quarrels with faculty members, of his sharp criticism of pioneer health conditions, of his monumental *Principal Diseases of the Valley of North America*. No scholar is better informed about the contributions of Drake than Dr. Emmet F. Horine of Louisville and no one is better fitted to edit and bring out a new edition of Drake's *Pioneer Life in Kentucky*.

First published in 1870 and marred by many a blemish, this collection of letters by Drake to his children now is a finished, trustworthy document which will continue to be relied upon by scholars interested in recreating frontier life and experiences. Dr. Horine prefaces the volume with an admirable biographical sketch. His characterizations are both happy and pertinent. The ten letters, ranging in topic from farm animals to "sugaring off" and from advice to a neurotic adopted daughter to a description of a frontier school, contain material that was omitted from the first edition. Drake, like many another nineteenth-century writer, was a free and easy speller and given to the use of peculiar words and phrases. The 1870 edition corrected these, but Horine has seen fit to retain them and thus has preserved much of Drake's vigor and color. Beautifully printed and adorned with reproductions of Drake's

manuscripts, this book will be seized upon by many who have been unable to afford the first, expensive edition. They will consult it as one of the classics of frontier literature. Both editor and publisher deserve praise for making this distinguished collection again available.

PHILIP D. JORDAN

Part of Dispatch from George Simpson Esq'. Governor of Ruperts Land, to the Governor & Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company London, March 1, 1829. Continued and Completed, March 24 and June 5, 1829 (Hudson's Bay Record Society, *Publications*, vol. 10). Edited by E. E. RICH, with an introduction by W. STEWART WALLACE. (London, published by the Champlain Society for the Hudson's Bay Record Society, 1947. lii, 277 p.)

The title of this volume is misleading in two respects: first, the entire dispatch, and not a part as the title would infer, is printed; second, the title on the backbone of the book is a misprinting, if the title page is correct, for the latter spells the name of the river correctly, whereas the abbreviated title reads, "Simpson's 1828 Journey to the Colombia."

In 1828 the new regime under Dr. John McLoughlin was well under way in Oregon. The boundary dispute, however, had not been settled. Though the so-called "Treaty of Joint Occupancy" of 1818 had ended in 1827, only an agreement of the commissioners kept the peace in the Oregon country by extending the provisions of the 1818 treaty indefinitely. So the race was to the fleet and the occupation was to the first-comers. In 1828 no one could foresee that missionaries and farmers, not fur traders, would do most of the occupying. The Hudson's Bay Company men, including George Simpson, governor of the overseas territories, and Dr. McLoughlin, chief factor of the Columbia department, believed that traders would settle the issue, and that therefore a scorched-earth policy on the part of the company's men would prevent further enterprises like John Jacob Astor's fort at the mouth of the Columbia River, and more expeditions like Jedediah Smith's recent one. So the country was being denuded of its furs in a ruthless, thorough fashion, and this forms the topic of much of Simpson's self-satisfied report.

Something of the unloveliness of this ruthless little man's personality can be judged from his remarks in the report concerning David Thompson, the modest, earnest, careful, upright scientist, whose lovable quali-

ties were famous throughout the vast fur lands that he had explored so meticulously since 1783. Simpson had this to say: "Thompsons River, so named in honor of Mr. David Thompson the Astronomer, who modestly claims the merit of its discovery altho' he was never within 300 Miles of its Waters, now for the first time bore whites [*i. e. Simpson and his party!*] on its surface." A footnote of the editor does justice to Thompson: "David Thompson is not known to have stated that he discovered or even visited Thompson River. Simon Fraser and his party named the river in Thompson's honour in 1808."

Since "Bostonmen" had taken over the Northwest coast trade pretty largely, at least up to the Russian territory in Alaska, Simpson determined to outdo Jonathan there, as he thought he was doing in the occupation of Oregon. So there is much discussion in his report of plans for coastal trade, for selling cheap to the Russians, and of South American, Hawaiian, and California trades. His frightening navigation of the Thompson and Fraser rivers had finally convinced him that these streams were not suitable for fur-trade canoes or boats; so the Columbia must be held at all cost as the only avenue to the Pacific from interior North America. Though his report contains nothing about the China trade, he was almost surely sent to the Oregon country with that in mind, as the editor very properly points out. The Americans had had a field day in the China trade ever since the first Massachusetts cockleshells had rounded the Horn about 1790 and gone to Nootka Sound and other Northwest coast ports, to Hawaii, and finally to China. The Columbia must be at least jointly navigable, if Simpson's China plans were to work out. He knew, moreover, that he had an antagonist of at least his own diplomatic stature in John Quincy Adams, who had already made crystal clear that he expected (and proposed) that the occupation of Oregon should be by Americans. The tussle between these two "little giants" bade fair to be a memorable one. Even the British government was not to be trusted to back up the Hudson's Bay Company in its Oregon aspirations, so Simpson and the company felt; and for that reason Simpson's trip of 1828 was planned and executed.

Simpson spent the winter at Fort Vancouver, and returned to eastern Canada the next year. His terse, incisive remarks about the journey, the several forts, and the districts that he visited are full of meat, though stripped of all excrescences and with no literary quality or appreciation of natural beauty. For flavor one must go to the records of other men.

About half of the volume is made up of an appendix containing documents on the China trade and on the boundary dispute, and reports of recent years from several of the company's northwestern districts. All in all there is much detail for the scholar and local historian, but little for the general reader in this volume.

GRACE LEE NUTE

The Agrarian Revolt in Western Canada: A Survey Showing American Parallels. By PAUL F. SHARP. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1948. ix, 204 p. \$3.00.)

The sweeping victory of the British in the world-wide conflict that ended in 1763 predestined that the future development of the major portion of North America was to rest in the hands of English-speaking peoples. Because of the American Revolution and despite common geography, culture, and economics, there developed within the predestined sphere two nations rather than one. The extension of the forty-ninth parallel to the Pacific Ocean as an international boundary, plus the nationalistic myopia so long congenital to historians, resulted in the peoples of these two nations remaining not only virtually ignorant of their neighbor's history but particularly so of the similar developments within the two countries which their common geography, culture, and economics dictated. Because the common man and his ideas found the international boundary a far less formidable barrier than have historians, there has been considerable history essentially common to both countries. This fact is cogently emphasized in the portions of this study devoted to analyses of the close relationships between the farmers' movements in the Prairie Provinces of Canada and in the western Middle West of the United States.

The main chapters of this study are devoted to the delineation of the farmers' political movements in the Canadian West from the first decade of the twentieth century to the rise of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation and Social Credit parties of today. As background the initial chapter presents the rapid settlement of the Prairie Provinces during the first two decades of the century. This region was then the "last best West"—the region to which Americans, eastern Canadians, and European emigrants swarmed after the so-called end of the frontier in the United States. In this new land the pioneers turned especially to wheat as a main crop and in consequence encountered the same marketing problems incident to that crop as had their wheat-growing neighbors

south of the border. This situation is summarized in the second chapter. With economic grievances come urges to organize, and initial efforts in this direction constitute the subject of the third chapter. Closely related in subject matter is the fourth chapter on the general democratic ferment on the Canadian prairies in the decade preceding the outbreak of World War I. There follow three chapters on the spread of the Non-partisan League to Canada, its role in politics there, and the general over-all political situation in the Canadian West during the war years. Two chapters on the agrarian political movements of the 1920's and a chapter evaluating the Progressive heritage complete the study.

Within the limits of this relatively small book the author makes two notable major contributions. One is his clearly delineated survey of agrarian politics in the Canadian West during the twentieth century. The other is his analysis of the relationships of the farmers' movements on the Canadian prairies with those in the American Middle West. The last, it should be emphasized, is not only one of subject matter but also a concrete reorientation of historical viewpoint. It is true that some historians have visualized the frontier process in the Canadian West as a continuation of that of the United States, but this study provides the substantiation of their assumption.

Studies of this sort should be evaluated with reference to the extent to which the author fulfilled the objectives he set for himself. On this basis I have only unqualified praise for this book. It is firmly grounded on intelligent research; it is well written; its documentation is excellent. The book has an index that works.

EVERETT E. EDWARDS

Lincoln and the War Governors. By WILLIAM B. HESSELTINE. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1948. x, 405, xxii p. \$4.50.)

In this impressive little volume, Professor Hesselstine presents an intriguing study of forces struggling for domination in a nation torn by civil war. Lincoln was not even the nominal head of his party in 1860; nor did he gain the leadership until the pressure of national events and his own consummate generalship forced an acceptance of a national party, and more important, a national government. The victories Lincoln won for a national government were so decisive, Professor Hesselstine demonstrates, that the superior rights of the national government in affairs bearing upon the national welfare have not since been successfully challenged.

Lincoln's triumph was not a product of unchallenged successes. He suffered defeats and humiliation to gain his ends. But through such devices as the distribution of patronage through Congressmen rather than governors, and through a rather majestic assumption of responsibility on such matters as Fort Sumter and the problems of the border states, he built up his own stature among men while lowering the prestige of the governors. He took the initiative from them when they, as state military commanders, were unable to raise the quotas of troops assigned them, and raised a national army. He used national troops to uphold shaky state and local governments, and he maintained his calmness in the face of vociferous and bloodthirsty radical Republicans. He was forced into the Emancipation Proclamation, but he handled it in such a way as to convert a setback in national prestige into a triumph for a springing nationalism. National unity was as much threatened by the northern governors as by the civil warfare, and the conquest of the governors was as much a part of the fight for a truly national government as the armed conflict.

Minnesota and Northwest readers will be intrigued by Professor Hesselstine's pungent characterizations of locally prominent figures and by his treatment of local events. The Indian war of 1862, for example, is here treated in its relationship to the national problems of a supreme national authority. Lincoln allowed Minnesota soldiers and Minnesota authorities to fight the war over the protests of Governor Ramsey, who maintained that "this is not our war; it is a national war." But when the conflict was over, Lincoln refused to permit Minnesota to punish the "wards of the nation" (p. 275). In all, he sanctioned the execution of 39 of the 303 Sioux whom the aroused Minnesota authorities had sentenced to death for crimes against the white settlers. Bitterly as Minnesotans protested against such leniency, Lincoln held fast, and used the incident as another link in the chain of national power.

This study is probably the first of many inquiries which ultimately will be made into a full account of the repercussions of the American Civil War upon the North. It is a fertile field which Professor Hesselstine opens to the student of the period. When the field has been fully exploited the picture of Lincoln which must evolve will be more distinct, and we will also have a much clearer understanding of the national government as we know it today.

ARTHUR J. LARSEN

Gettysburg. Edited by EARL SCHENCK MIERS and RICHARD A. BROWN. Maps by HAROLD C. DETJE. (New Brunswick, Rutgers University Press, 1948. xviii, 308 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

Now and then someone has the imagination to bring forth in a book a new method of presenting an old subject. *Gettysburg* is a remarkable example. Instead of writing a conventional history of this famous battle, the editors show how it looked and felt to over forty eyewitnesses. The accounts written by these witnesses make fascinating reading. Many of them have never before been published. They consist of letters, diaries, and reminiscences, which the editors have assembled into a smooth and unbiased description that goes far toward an accurate composite of the many separate issues that took place in the conflict. The book opens with the bustling atmosphere of the little college town as it was before anyone guessed that it would become the scene of the three-day encounter; then follows the invasion of the Rebels; eight chapters are devoted to the battle itself; and with the horrible duties connected with the wounded and the dead the book is concluded.

The temptation is to quote at length from many of these eyewitness stories. There was Housewife Sallie Broadhead bursting with pride in "our town." She kept a diary "with no other thought than to aid in whiling away time filled up with anxiety, apprehension, and danger." After the battle opened on July 1, she nervously recorded the details of her daily chores along with the latest word from the vicinity of Cemetery Ridge. On that day she was up early to get her "baking done before any battle would begin"; but soon she wrote, "I had just put my bread in the pans when the cannons began to fire." There was also Billy Bayly, age thirteen, who thrilled at the prospect of seeing a battle; he squatted on a fence to see the Army of Northern Virginia march by. Three days later he stood on a hill and saw the first signs of the Confederate retreat: "long wagon trains moving westward in the valley below." John Gibbon describes Meade's council of war in the "little front room of the Liester House." John Dooley, the Virginia foot soldier, tells how he loved his Uncle Robert: "great, noble, kindhearted General Lee has cheered us much." But the keenest observer and the ablest writer of them all was Frank A. Haskell who wrote of the fighting near Peach Orchard: "O, the din and the roar, and these thirty thousand Rebel wolf cries! What a hell is there down that valley!" That was the valley where the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, under

Colonel William Colvill, performed what General Winfield S. Hancock described as "no more gallant deed recorded in history," but which is completely unmentioned in this book. After Sickles' retreat, Colvill's regiment was ordered to "charge those lines!" The entire regiment of 262 men obeyed the order, and 215 of them were shot down within a few minutes. But they saved the position for the Union.

At the end of that day Haskell, in one of the most moving passages in the book, describes the desolate battlefield at dusk: "there was no rebellion here now — the men of South Carolina were quiet by the side of those of Massachusetts, some composed, with upturned faces, sleeping the last sleep, some mutilated and frightful, some wretched, fallen bathed in blood, survivors still and unwilling witnesses of the rage of Gettysburg."

HAROLD DEAN CATER

The Army Air Forces in World War II. Volume 1: Plans and Early Operations, January 1939 to August 1942. Prepared under the editorship of WESLEY FRANK CRAVEN and JAMES LEA CATE. (Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, 1948. xxi, 788 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

During the war a high-ranking officer asked me why there was no good American military history available for World War I. He pointed out that the Germans had compiled their history and that their general staff had profited from the lessons to be learned in it. But no useful American military history had been written; it was as though a victor had made no mistakes and had nothing to learn.

Pearl Harbor and the months that followed knocked huge chunks of complacency out of the American mind. Old lessons were painfully relearned as the nation was plunged into a global war that seemed to call for total mobilization. Even the historians girded their loins and followed the trumpets into battle. History became operational, and the ambitious plans of the historians called for the gathering of historical material, smoking hot from all the campfires and battlefields, before the dust had settled and the tumult had died away. This time the story of an American war should not be forgotten and go unrecorded in the belief that the war to end war was not worth telling.

The present volume is the first in a series of seven which will deal with the history of the Army Air Forces in World War II. If the succeeding volumes are of similar excellence, we will have for the first

time a really useful American military history. Although the book is an "official" history in the sense that it was compiled under the auspices of the Army Air Forces, it is evident that the editors have been free from official pressure and have been allowed to tell the truth as they see the truth. A reading of the work ought to allay fears that an official history is necessarily official whitewash. Controversial subjects are not avoided and, so far as this reviewer can determine, there has been no covering up of unpleasant matters. The editors do not attempt to pontificate, but they do, of course, tend to sympathize with the standpoint of the Air Forces. This viewpoint is understandable, considering the subject matter and the available materials. On the other hand, the editors lean backwards to present all sides of a controversial issue. In short, the editors meet the standards of the professional historian.

The bulk of the story deals with the immediate pre-war years and with the events of the war itself down to August, 1942, but the editors have wisely included a survey of the development of American air power from its early days through World War I and the economy decades that followed. This additional material provides an understanding of the emergence of the American air doctrine of strategic bombing and of the expanding role of air power in our defense establishment.

The space and weight given to the problems of organization, supply, and training may repel the armchair soldier who would prefer a breathless account of adventures out in the "wide blue yonder," but actually these portions are the most valuable in the book. From them can be drawn the lessons and parallels to guide our future conduct in an air war. Tactics are only a matter of the moment; organization is the heart of large-scale warfare.

The story of combat operations which the book has to relate is a sad tale of defeats, constant retreats in the face of superior forces, and embarrassing improvisation from a nation with the world's greatest factory system. Only toward the end do the bright rays begin to pierce the gloom and give promise of happier days to come.

Almost as an aside one might add that one of the best accounts of the high strategy of the war for the period covered is to be found in this volume. Maps and illustrations are well-chosen and serve to illuminate the text. This reviewer hopes that in future volumes the editors will not use the twenty-four-hour clock in referring to time, since this practice is apt to be confusing to the civilian reader.

RODNEY C. LOEHR

The Finns in America: A Bibliographical Guide to Their History. By JOHN I. KOLEHMAINEN. (Finnish American Historical Library, Suomi College, 1947. 141 p.)

Intended as the first publication of a Finnish American Historical Library at Suomi College, in Hancock, Michigan, this bibliography, carefully and painstakingly compiled by Dr. John I. Kolehmainen, lists literary and historical materials which deal with Finnish immigrants in the United States and Canada.

Dr. Kolehmainen has organized his titles under twelve chapter headings, within which he has managed to touch upon virtually all phases of Finnish immigration. While he has been alert to background and early historical sources, his references are for the most part to publications written after 1900, many of which have been culled from newspapers or pamphlets and yearbooks issued from newspaper shops. Most of the citations, listed without comment, are to writings in Finnish, for which English translations have been supplied.

It is regrettable that Dr. Kolehmainen has omitted a critical evaluation of his sources, either in a bibliographical essay or in brief annotations for his more important titles. As a result the reader has no guide to their relative merit, and he finds himself stumbling especially in those sections listed as "Periodical Literature," where a mélange of references has been assembled in some of the chapters. Dr. Kolehmainen has, instead, prefaced each section with a brief historical introduction telling something of Finnish immigrant life insofar as it relates to the content of the chapter, which seems quite unnecessary for the purposes of the volume.

But the task of compiling a bibliography is tedious, and it should not be made thankless as well by extended strictures on the editor's judgment in performing his chore. Dr. Kolehmainen is to be commended for his undertaking. It is to be hoped that he now will, on the basis of this bibliography and his other works in the field of Finnish immigration, embark upon a larger historical account of the Finns in America. And encouragement should be extended Suomi College in its effort to establish a historical library dealing with Finnish immigration.

JOHN SIRJAMAKI

The Historical Scene

"HISTORY CAN BE a noble art; but first it must be approached with a freedom and a breadth of imagination which so far has been conspicuously absent among our professional scholars." Thus reads an editorial in the *Saturday Review of Literature* for September 4, which evaluates Samuel Eliot Morison's recent pamphlet on *History as a Literary Art*. Historians, the editor points out, would find it "well to remember that history after all is a part of the present, the slipstream eddying behind the propeller of our collective lives as we make our way painfully into the future; that each age writes its history in its own image, because it has need of it; that this being so, it is the duty of an historian to cultivate objectivity without ever forgetting at any point that the history he is writing has a creative function for the years in which he is living." The stimulating suggestion is made that "History is all about us; history is imprisoned in the meteorite from outer space, in the archeologist's shard, and in the folksong of the Kentucky mountaineer." If approached in the proper spirit and recorded in graceful English, "history can speak to a wider audience than the learned few, and speak eloquently."

Professor Harry H. Clark of the University of Wisconsin spoke on "The Theory of American Historians" on the opening day of an Institute in American Studies held at the University of Minnesota from August 2 to 7. Of interest to historians also were discussions included on the program for August 4 by Professor August C. Krey of the University of Minnesota on the question "Is Local History of Concern Only to Students of American History?", and by Professor Michael Kraus of the College of the City of New York on "When America was Utopia."

Five general sessions comprised a series of Seminars on American Culture conducted from July 11 to 17 by the New York State Historical Association in its museum buildings at Cooperstown. Under the guidance of Albert B. Corey was a section on the "Writing of Local History"; Miss Mary E. Cunningham directed the sessions on the "Teaching of State and Local History"; leading the discussion of "Early Arts and Crafts" was Lewis N. Wiggins; Carl E. Guthe was chairman of a group

interested in "History in Museums"; and Duncan Emrich led the sessions on the "Collecting of Folklore."

In the *Nordisk Tidende* of Brooklyn for August 19, Hjalmar R. Holand reports on the excavations now under way in the vicinity of the old stone tower in Newport, Rhode Island. They are being made, Mr. Holand writes, in order to determine whether the tower was originally a "windmill built by English colonists, or a fortified church (or guild hall) built by some much earlier Norsemen." Mr. Holand presents new evidence relating to the measurements of the structure, and he asserts his belief that the "Newport Tower is a good example of mediaeval thought in building," and is therefore of Norse origin. With the article appear pictures of the tower and of the Kensington rune stone.

The final section of Father Francis Pierz's little book on *Die Indianer in Nord-Amerika*—that in which the pioneer Catholic missionary provided his readers with "A Short Description of the Minnesota Territory" of the 1850's—appears in three installments in the *Social Justice Review* for June, July-August, and September. In an English translation made from the original German edition of 1855 by Father Eugene Hagedorn, the narrative has been appearing serially in the *Review* since April, 1947 (see *ante*, 28:277). Father Pierz wrote to "satisfy the curiosity of the Germans" about Minnesota, and to encourage German immigrants to settle in the new territory. It is to be hoped that Father Hagedorn's English version of Pierz's *Indianer*, with its revealing picture of territorial Minnesota, will now be issued as a separate volume.

Portraits and other pictures of Indians form "an integral part of nineteenth-century painting in America, hardly separable from the whole body of western painting. And that, as collectors and students are more and more coming to realize, is important not merely as a chapter in our art history but as a record of our continental expansion and social development." Thus writes the editor of *Antiques* in the August number of that magazine for collectors. Some of the artists who were attracted by Indian models and the red men they portrayed are the subjects of three articles. The early years of "George Catlin: Portrait Painter," in the decade of the 1820's before the artist became absorbed with Indians and buffaloes, are reviewed by W. Stephen Thomas. Professor John Francis McDermott writes of "Another Coriolanus: Portraits

of Keokuk, Chief of the Sac and Fox" Indians, describing and reproducing portraits of the colorful leader not only by Catlin, but by J. O. Lewis, Peter Rindisbacher, and others. Catlin is represented also in the third article, in which Mary M. Kenway deals with "Portraits of Red Jacket," the Seneca chief.

One of eight sketches by Henry Lewis recently acquired in Munich, Germany, by the Missouri Historical Society is reproduced on the cover of the society's *Bulletin* for July. It pictures the steamboat "Senator" on which Lewis traveled upstream from St. Louis to Fort Snelling on his sketching trip of 1848. A brief note on the artist and his career is included in the issue.

Professor Robert Taft, who contributes to this issue a review of an important book in the field of frontier art history, continues his impressive "Pictorial Record of the Old West" in the *Kansas Historical Quarterly* for August. The present chapter, number 6 in the series, deals with Heinrich Balduin Möllhausen, a German artist who traveled widely in the American West from 1849 to 1858. Much of Möllhausen's work, Professor Taft regretfully reports, was destroyed during the conquest of Berlin in the spring of 1945. Available lists, lithographic reproductions, and a few originals in American collections, however, reflect the significance of this mid-century artist's work.

The American Swedish Historical Foundation of Philadelphia announces in its June *Bulletin* the acquisition of the "official and personal papers, books and other effects of the late Ernest Lundeen, United States Senator from Minnesota." The collection, consisting of "six files, about forty boxes and nearly two hundred mail bags of material, weighing some eleven tons," is described as the largest in the foundation's custody. The "significance of these documents as raw materials of American and, even, of world history" is emphasized in the announcement, which points out that "Collections like this . . . are the chief reasons for the growing value of our Library as a research center."

Dean Carl Wittke of Western Reserve University is the author of a penetrating "Centennial Appraisal" of "The German Forty-Eighters in America," which appears in the *American Historical Review* for July. He points out that the German refugees who reached our shores a century ago "reveal many sociological differences, and the classes represented among them reacted variously to the forces of Americanization." The-

atrical, musical, social, and athletic organizations, already existing among German groups, writes Dr. Wittke, "took on new life as a result of the new immigration and accepted the cultural leadership of the recently arrived refugees." Their influence in such Minnesota centers of German settlement as St. Paul and New Ulm is well known. Dr. Wittke mentions only one "forty-eighter" who identified himself with Minnesota life—Albert Wolff of the *Minnesota Staatszeitung* of St. Paul.

The Minnesota country in the summer of 1812 can be glimpsed in an extract on "The Great Lakes in Niles' National Register," which is reprinted in the summer issue of *Inland Seas*. From the *Register* of October 17, 1812, is quoted a letter from a "very intelligent gentleman in Illinois territory." He had been "informed by a man of veracity who has resided thirty-one years" among the Sioux that "there are on the river St. Peters and its branches 1919 lodges" of those Indians. The writer comments also on the fur trade of what is now northeastern Minnesota. "The Grand Portage is on the north-west of lake Superior," he writes. "There is generally assembled annually, in the months of May and June," he continues, "about 1500 or 1600 British subjects, who are engaged in the Indian trade, and continue there till fall, when they again return to their wintering grounds. At this place are desposited the furs and peltries that are collected in the northwest; while goods from Montreal are deposited at Sault St. Mary's; and the British long since have had one, and I am informed now two vessels on lake Superior, engaged in transporting goods from the one place, and furs and peltries from the other."

"Forgotten side-lights" on the famous Dred Scott case, on the slave and his wife Harriet, and on their masters are recalled by John A. Bryan in an article on "The Blow Family and Their Slave Dred Scott," the first installment of which appears in the Missouri Historical Society's *July Bulletin*. Mr. Bryan's chief concern is for the Blow family of St. Louis, but he mentions also Dr. John Emerson, who took Dred Scott to Fort Snelling, and the latter's marriage there to a slave in the household of Major Lawrence Taliaferro.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

The Minnesota adventures of Giacomo C. Beltrami were re-enacted in a pageant presented on the shores of Lake Julia, near Bemidji, on August 22 as part of a ceremony dedicating Beltrami State Park. The

spectacle was directed by Mr. Harold Searls of the Minnesota Territorial Centennial staff, who also wrote and read the narrative that accompanied it. About a hundred people participated, representing in addition to Indians and soldiers several important explorers and frontiersmen of 1823 — Major Stephen H. Long, William Keating, Joe Snelling, Joseph Renville, and Beltrami himself. Depicted in the various scenes were the more dramatic events of the Long expedition of 1823 and Beltrami's explorations, reaching a climax with the Italian explorer's discovery of Lake Julia. Preceding the pageant, a plaque honoring the memory of Beltrami was dedicated, and Senator Edward J. Thye presented an address. Beltrami was honored also on August 15, when commemorative plaques were dedicated at Fort Snelling and in Beltrami Park, Minneapolis. Participating were members of the Progressive Club of Minneapolis and of other Twin City organizations which sponsored the memorials. An appropriate program issued for the occasion includes a review of the "Story of Beltrami" and pictures of the two monuments.

That Nelson Cole Haley, the harpooner of 1849-53 whose *Whale Hunt* is a current best-seller, abandoned the sea for a year following the voyage he describes and went west to Minnesota "to grow up with the country" is brought out in the "Note of Introduction" to his volume (New York, 1948). While in Minnesota, Haley "managed first a general store, and then a large lumbering camp and sawmill." But he remained only a year. The call of the sea was insistent, and in 1854 he returned to Massachusetts to sign on as mate of a ship bound for Arctic whaling grounds. The meager quotations from Haley's Minnesota record make the reader long to see more.

Students interested in the framework of Minnesota government will find of real value the clear, brief outline presented by Joseph Kise and George B. Sjoselius in *Minnesota: The State and Its Government* (Moorhead, 1948. 87 p.). Designed primarily to teach youths of the state the essentials of government and to instill in them "how democracy works in Minnesota," this booklet is divided into five sections. The first deals with local government and its organization; the second, with the legislative department; the third, with the executive branch; the fourth, with the courts and the judicial system; and the fifth, with the relationship of the citizen to the state. This new, revised edition should prove as beneficial to students as was an earlier, preliminary attempt. Although the authors, both of whom have had long experience with governmental problems,

designed their survey for high school use, the booklet should be of value to the adult who wishes to consult a short, reliable, and simply stated outline of political machinery on both local and state levels. Charts and maps make textual explanations plainer, and an index quickly locates desired information. P.D.J.

Dr. James Eckman of the Mayo Clinic is the author of an informing article on "Osler in Minnesota: His Interest in Medical Education and Licensure," which appears in *Minnesota Medicine* for July. The "distinguished internist of Johns Hopkins" came to Minnesota to "deliver an address, on October 4, 1892, at the dedication of a new medical building" on the university campus. The writer expresses the opinion that "In itself, the visit of Osler to Minnesota is of no particular moment," but he goes on to remark that what the British physician said, "considered in the light of medicine and medical practice in Minnesota at the time of his remarks, may be of considerable interest and some value." The building which Osler helped to dedicate is now occupied by the College of Pharmacy and is known as Wulling Hall. To an analysis of Osler's dedicatory remarks, in which he expressed approval of "schools with university connexions," Dr. Eckman devotes more than four pages. He gives considerably more space, however, to Osler's St. Paul address of October 5, when he spoke before members of the Minnesota Academy of Medicine on "License to Practice." The visitor described Minnesota as "a state which stands foremost in the attempt to regulate the practice of medicine," referring, Dr. Eckman explains, to the pioneering "Minnesota medical licensure act of 1887." Since "The history of medical licensure in Minnesota has not been written," the writer uses this occasion to trace its beginnings and growth. Thus Dr. Eckman's essay serves as a valuable source of information on licensure as well as on Sir William Osler.

With "Notes on the History of Medicine in Cottonwood County" by Dr. L. L. Sogge, *Minnesota Medicine* continues in its August and September issues its lengthy "History of Medicine in Minnesota." In the latter number also appears the first installment of Dr. Andrew Gullixson's "Notes on Medicine in Freeborn County, 1857-1900." The sketch of the "History of Medicine in Scott and Carver Counties" is concluded in the July number.

Catholic education for boys in Minnesota is the subject of several chapters in a newly published centennial volume entitled *Mississippi*

Vista: The Brothers of the Christian Schools in the Mid-west, 1849-1949 (Winona, 1948. 296 p.). Bishop Joseph Cretin and Archbishop John Ireland figure prominently in a section on the "History of the Christian Brothers in St. Paul," in which emphasis is given to the school founded by and named for the pioneer bishop of the diocese of St. Paul. Other chapters record the story of the "Christian Brothers in Minneapolis" and review the histories of two Winona institutions—the Cotter High School and St. Mary's College. Among "Temporary Foundations" mentioned are schools at Minneapolis and Rochester.

The story of *Methodism in Minnesota* is briefly reviewed in a booklet issued to celebrate the "merging of the Minnesota Conference and the Northern Minnesota Conference of the Methodist Church into a state wide Methodism" (1948). Missions and modest churches in the day "That Was Yesterday" are recalled in the opening section, which traces Methodist beginnings in the Minnesota country to Alfred Brunson's arrival in 1837. Receiving attention also is the Red Wing period of Hamline University. Among the numerous illustrations are pictures of the Red Rock mission house and of early churches at Lenora and St. Paul.

"Minnesota's First Swede and Methodist," Jacob Falstrom, is the subject of an article in the *Christian Advocate* of Chicago for July 15. The author, Roy W. Swanson of St. Paul, prepared the narrative for this Methodist publication in order to call attention to the Swedish Pioneer Centennial.

Memories of the Sioux War, the hanging of the Sioux at Mankato, and the grasshopper plague of the 1870's in southern Minnesota are woven into the opening installment of T. F. Roberts' narrative of "Pioneer Life in Western Dakota," published in *North Dakota History* for July. Mr. Roberts recalls that his "father and another man had the only sawmill in Mankato" in 1862, and that they "sawed the lumber and erected the scaffold that the Indians were to be hanged on."

That the "First Lutheran Church in North Dakota" was founded in September, 1871, near Christine on the Red River is brought out by O. E. and Mabel Dolven in an article on its history published in *The Friend* for April. A picture of the crude log cabin in which the congregation held its first services accompanies the article.

The Catholic Story of Wisconsin is reviewed by the Reverend Benjamin J. Blied in a recently published pamphlet (Milwaukee, 1948). In

five chapters, chronologically arranged, the writer tells of Catholic activity in Wisconsin during the era of exploration and early settlement, in the territorial epoch, during the two decades following statehood in 1848, from 1868 to the end of the First World War, and in the "three decades of maturity" that followed. The forts and missions of the opening section, especially those on Lake Pepin, served the Minnesota as well as the Wisconsin area.

Members of the Burnett County Homemakers Clubs have compiled a group of *Pioneer Tales of Burnett County* and published them in an attractive pamphlet (Siren, Wisconsin, 1948. 51 p.). Since this Wisconsin county is in the St. Croix Valley, to the east of the Minnesota boundary, Minnesota events and characters figure in many of the tales. There, for example, in a pioneer mission school on Yellow Lake, Hester Crooks taught until she married the Minnesota missionary, William T. Boutwell. Quoted from George Nelson's reminiscences of "A Winter in the St. Croix Valley, 1802-03," which appeared in this magazine in March, June, and September, 1947, is this frontier fur trader's description of the area about Siren.

THE WISCONSIN CENTENNIAL

The Wisconsin Centennial observance reached a colorful climax in a vast Centennial Exposition held at the state fair grounds in Milwaukee from August 6 to 29. "Cattle shows, farm machinery, and all concessions had been cleared from the main street, which this year was filled with educational exhibits," reports the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for September. Among the special Centennial displays were the "Women's Building with its marvelous period rooms from wigwam to modern living room; the Conservation exhibit with its growing seedlings, trees, live animals, and fish; the Industries Building with many fine historical exhibits; the Youth Building with old implements, rustic effects, and Jorns murals; the History Building with its panorama of Wisconsin's growth and its splendid mural by William A. McCloy." The latter display attracted 652,511 people during the exposition. In the same number of the magazine, Lillian Krueger describes the McCloy mural in an article which is illustrated with reproductions of three of its panels. Therein, also, Clifford L. Lord discusses the "Significance of the Centennial."

Publications large and small arising out of the Centennial are legion.

One of them, H. Russell Austin's *Wisconsin Story*, is reviewed elsewhere in this magazine by a member of the staff of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It represents the contribution of a great Wisconsin newspaper, the *Milwaukee Journal*. The *Wisconsin Century Book* (176 p.) is an elaborately illustrated survey issued as the official publication of the Centennial Exposition. There are briefly sketched "Historical Wisconsin," as well as industries, activities, and products that distinguish the state. The whole culminates in a "Cavalcade of Counties." Especially attractive, and bursting with useful information, is the *Story of Wisconsin Women* by Ruth De Young Kohler, prepared and published for the Centennial by the Committee on Wisconsin Women (144 p.). It consists of twelve chapters bearing such titles as "First Ladies," "The School Bell Rings," "Pioneer Society," "Typewriter Keys," "Paint Brush, Pen and Piano," and "Crusaders for Temperance." Local organizations, too, contributed to the shelf of Wisconsin books. Among them is the Kenosha County Historical Society, which, in collaboration with the Kenosha County Centennial Council, issued a booklet entitled *History in the Making* (88 p.). It is made up of narratives "by Kenoshans who had a part therein," compiled from the society's files by its secretary, Carrie Cropley.

HISTORY IN THE COMMUNITY

A gift to the Bemidji State Teachers College of nineteen volumes of northern Minnesota newspapers for the years from 1896 to 1902 is announced in the *Bemidji Daily Pioneer* for September 11. The files were presented by Mrs. F. S. Arnold of Bemidji; they were collected by L. H. Bailey, a pioneer lawyer of the community. Included in the group are copies of the rare first issues of the *Beltrami Eagle*, the *Farley Telegram*, the *Tenstrike Tribune*, and the *Blackduck American*. Other communities represented in the collection include Bemidji, Bagley, Turtle River, Mizpah, and Solway. The newspapers provide for students and faculty of the college a "rich source for the study of the pioneer days of Beltrami and adjoining counties," reads the announcement. It points out that here are to be found contemporary accounts of the "boom days of logging, the building of railroads and the settlement of farms and towns."

The career of Colonel John E. Tourtellotte, a Mankato pioneer of 1859 for whom a local park is named, is recalled by Lucy Pope Taylor in the *Mankato Free Press* for July 8. Both before and after the Civil

War, according to this account, Tourtellotte practiced law in Mankato and entered into the social life of the pioneer community. Later, however, he went to Washington to accept a commission in the regular army. By presenting Mankato with the funds for a hospital in 1891, the colonel expressed his continued interest in the community.

Entries from a remarkable agricultural diary kept in the 1870's by R. M. Probstfield, a Clay County pioneer, have been appearing in installments in the *Clay Sunday Press* of Moorhead since July 10. An introductory note states that Probstfield farmed at Georgetown and managed the Hudson's Bay Company post there. Vividly pictured is the grasshopper plague of the middle seventies. "Grasshoppers by millions, eating and damaging everything badly except peas" were recorded by Probstfield on July 18, 1876. On the following day the insects had "commenced leaving," but the havoc they left behind is reflected in the diarist's entry: "Wheat, as it is, will not go over 12 bus. an acre. Cabbage over half completely ruined. Beans, lettuce, radishes . . . and a good many other things completely cleaned out." And then, with a touch of irony, Probstfield added that the hoppers "planted their eggs to brighten our prospect for next season." There is evidence in abundance that this farmer in a remote community of western Minnesota kept in touch with events elsewhere. On January 1, 1875, he mailed letters to "O. H. Kell[e]y, National Grange," and to the "Western Farm Journal, Des Moines." The following autumn, on November 2, he "drove to town to attend state election, to serve as clerk of election," and "Sat up until 12 P.M. to hear telegram in regard to elections in other states." The depression of the seventies struck with full force in the early months of 1876; on February 29 Probstfield complained that "this has been the deadest, dullest winter, as far as business is concerned, that I ever experienced. . . . Farmers cannot sell enough for cash to pay their taxes." The diary is now owned by two of Probstfield's children, Mr. Justis Probstfield and Mrs. Nelly Gesell, both of Oakport. It is to be hoped that they will place this rich record of frontier agricultural life where it can be permanently preserved.

The history of the Montevideo library is reviewed in the *Montevideo News* of July 22 by Elizabeth Budd, who prepared her narrative at the request of the Chippewa County Historical Society. She traces the story of the library back to 1879, when nine residents of the locality organized a reading circle.

How the border city of International Falls obtained its first electric power plant in 1909 is explained in the *Mandonian*, a publication of the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company, for September–October. There is recorded the story of the Rainy River Improvement Company—the steps leading up to its organization and the expansion of its service to the community.

The story of a Slovak settlement in Morrison County is recounted in a booklet issued for the fiftieth anniversary of South Elmdale Congregational Church at Holdingford, which was marked in September, 1947. The founders, according to this account, were members of a group of Slovak families who settled in western Pennsylvania in 1883 and later migrated westward to Minnesota. In establishing their church they were assisted by the leaders of a Czech congregation at Silver Lake.

To commemorate its eightieth anniversary, the Union National Bank of Rochester has issued a souvenir booklet (22 p.). Pictures and stories of frontier Rochester, which was platted just fourteen years before the bank was founded, appear side by side with biographical sketches of the men who built this pioneer financial institution.

The masthead and some of the advertisements from the first issue of the *Fergus Falls Journal* are reproduced in the issue of the paper for July 24, the seventy-fifth anniversary of its founding. There, too, are pictured the buildings that have housed the *Journal* during three-quarters of a century, and some Fergus Falls street scenes of 1873. Reprinted from the first issue are part of a reminiscent letter about the founding of Fergus Falls by George B. Wright, items about local business concerns of 1873, notes on contemporary prices, and reports of phenomenal fishing in the vicinity.

The leading article in the July *Saint Paul Letter*, a house organ published by the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company and affiliated concerns, reviews the career of "The St. Paul's First President—Alexander Wilkin." A pioneer lawyer of 1849, Wilkin helped four years later to incorporate the St. Paul Mutual Insurance Company. While the present narrative gives emphasis to his business career, it does not overlook the military exploits that earned for him the rank of colonel in the Civil War and ended with his death at Tupelo in 1864. Several views of the St. Paul with which Wilkin was familiar illustrate the article.

Harriet E. Bishop is described as the "first Baptist in St. Paul," and her arrival in the frontier community in July, 1847, is identified with the beginning of Baptist church work there, in *A Brief Record of the History of the Payne Avenue Baptist Church of St. Paul* published to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of this Swedish Baptist congregation (1948. 108 p.). From its founding in 1873 as the First Swedish Baptist Church of St. Paul, its story is traced to the present. Included in the volume are accounts of church organizations, brief biographies of prominent members, and lists of officers. Portraits and pictures of church structures illustrate the book.

The *Kerkhoven Banner* of August 27 is a "50th Anniversary Historical Edition" intended to give a cross section of life in the community a half century ago. In brief articles are described the "Thriving Village" of 1898, with its twenty business houses, the community's churches, the local fire department, the public schools, pioneer social life, and other community activities. The issue is elaborately illustrated with portraits, pictures of local groups, and street and rural views. Of agricultural interest is a scene showing a "horse powered thresher" of 1888 in operation.

A report of a Fourth of July celebration at Stillwater a century ago, published in the *Prairie du Chien Patriot* of July 26, 1848, is quoted in the *Stillwater Gazette* of July 22. "Through the efforts of the Minnesota Territorial Centennial committee, micro-film prints of the old paper have been obtained from the Wisconsin Historical society," reads the account. Since no newspapers existed in the area west of the St. Croix River in 1848, a Stillwater citizen sent to a Wisconsin editor at Prairie du Chien an account of a "Northwestern celebration" of Independence Day in the "anticipated territory of Minnesota."

The movement of Norwegian settlers from Wisconsin, Iowa, and southern Minnesota into the Red River Valley is reflected in a congregational history issued to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the South Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rothsay (1948. 43 p.). Included are accounts of the organization of the congregation in May, 1872, of the churches it has occupied, of its pastors, of "Parish Education," and of church societies.

As a reminder of the community's early years, when much of its life and activity revolved about the river front, citizens of Winona celebrated

"Steamboat Days" from July 21 to 25. To mark the event the *Winona Republican-Herald* published its issue of July 19 in the style of the past century, reproducing advertisements and news items from the *Daily Republican* of the 1870's, 1880's, and 1890's.

LOCAL SOCIETIES AT WORK

Reports of newly organized local historical societies in Douglas, Pine, Stevens, and Red Lake counties are to be found in the pages that follow. Mr. Arch Grahn, field agent for the state society, tells us that on October 1 sixty Minnesota counties had active societies and that twenty more were organizing such groups. By the end of 1949 he hopes to see active historical organizations in every one of Minnesota's eighty-seven counties. These local groups will, of course, plan to provide the leadership for the Centennial celebrations of next year. There is evidence, too, that some of them are building for the decades to come by collecting books and manuscripts, opening museums, and even issuing publications. Let us hope that when Minnesota is ready to celebrate its Centennial of statehood in 1958, there will be eighty-seven vital organizations ready to launch celebrations in eighty-seven counties.

Representatives of the Minnesota and Washington County historical societies were among the more than sixty people who attended a local history conference at River Falls, Wisconsin, on July 10. Two Wisconsin counties, Pierce and St. Croix, as well as the state historical society at Madison, sent delegates to the conference, which met to co-ordinate historical activity in the St. Croix Valley. Among the speakers were Mr. Willis Miller of Hudson, who described the John Comstock family papers and told of collecting them, and Mr. E. L. Roney of Stillwater, who took as his subject the historians of the St. Croix Valley.

The ambitious program outlined by the recently organized Aitkin County Historical Society (see *ante*, p. 273) includes a plan to raise money for a building of its own. At a meeting held in Aitkin on September 4, it was announced that four hundred dollars had been pledged toward such a project. Earlier meetings held on July 9 and August 7 were concerned with locating sites of historic interest in the county and making plans for a county fair exhibit.

The Minnesota Territorial Centennial was the subject of discussion at a meeting of the Anoka County Historical Society on September 7 in

Anoka. Mr. Carl Bonnell reported on Centennial plans, and Mrs. Octavia Smith reviewed the Centennial school program.

That more than a thousand visitors saw the collections of the Becker County Historical Society in the courthouse at Detroit Lakes during the summer months was announced at a meeting of the society on September 7 by its president, Mrs. Jessie Nottage. Plans for a membership campaign were announced at the meeting. One immediate result, according to the *Frazee Times* of September 20, was the enrollment of twenty new members in Frazee.

About a hundred people attended a joint meeting of the Chippewa and Lac qui Parle County Historical societies at Lac qui Parle State Park on September 26. Among the speakers was Mr. Richard R. Sackett of the Territorial Centennial staff. He recalled his experiences while excavating the site of the Lac qui Parle mission and described the reconstruction of the chapel. The park, he announced, will be the scene of a dramatic historical pageant in the summer of 1949. Another feature of the program was a paper read by Mrs. J. E. Jacobson of Madison. It was written by her late husband, who recalled a journey from Iowa by covered wagon in 1869. Members of twenty families participated in this group migration, which had as its objective homesteads in the Lac qui Parle area.

Fourteen historic sites in Cottonwood County were selected for marking in 1949 at a meeting of officers of the local historical society held in Windom on July 28. Pageants, displays of historical objects in store windows, and various other means of observing the Minnesota Centennial in the locality were suggested.

Mrs. L. O. Johnson was elected president of the Crow Wing County Historical Society at a meeting of the organization held at Brainerd on June 30. Other officers include Mr. Hilding Swanson, secretary, and Mrs. L. B. Kinder, treasurer. Mrs. Nellie Hazen was named curator of the society's museum.

At a meeting held in Alexandria on June 23, the Douglas County Historical Society was organized. It plans to promote the celebration of the Centennial in the county and to exploit the history of the area while publicizing the event. Mr. Lewis Baker was elected president of the new organization; other officers include Mr. Nick Hintzen, vice-president, and Mr. C. A. D. Olsen, secretary-treasurer.

In the "Historical Society Notes" which W. H. Goetzinger contributes to the *Grant County Herald* of Elbow Lake for August 5, he gives emphasis to the need for planning the "Anderson Memorial Building of the Grant County Historical Society." A bequest from the late Misses Hannah and Betsey Anderson makes it possible for the society to spend about twenty-five thousand dollars on a home of its own, Judge Goetzinger announces. The building is to be a memorial to the parents of the donors, Mr. and Mrs. Halvor Anderson, Grant County pioneers of 1867. The writer, who is secretary of the Grant County society, suggests some of the problems of location, upkeep, and the like which the building project will involve, and he calls upon other community organizations to assist in solving them. The Grant County society was reorganized at a meeting held in Elbow Lake on September 30. It should now be in a position to erect a building and put it into use as a local museum in 1949.

The Masonic Home at Savage was the scene of the Hennepin County Historical Society's annual summer outing, which was held on June 26. The speaker for the occasion was Mr. Ray Benham, who recalled some entertaining incidents about Dan Patch and his owner, M. W. Savage. In an impressive ceremony in Minneapolis on June 29, the society was presented with a bronze statue of Chris Ewald, pioneer dairyman, and the land on which the monument stands. The donors were Ewald's four sons. The occasion was marked by an address by Governor Luther Youngdahl. Accepting the statue on behalf of the society was its vice-president, Mr. Guy Alexander.

The objectives of the Houston County Historical Society are analyzed at length in the *Houston Signal* for August 19, which announces that the newly organized society will stage a membership drive in September. A membership application blank, addressed to the secretary of the society, is printed with the article.

Members of the Itasca County Historical Society, which was organized at Grand Rapids on June 28 (see *ante*, p. 275), gathered there on August 2 to adopt a constitution. Mr. J. H. Van Dyke was the speaker at a meeting held on September 13, when he reviewed the history of Minnesota Territory. On the same occasion, the society's president, Mr. C. C. Baker, explained its objectives.

Members of the Jackson County Historical Society assembled at Heron Lake on August 1 for their annual picnic meeting. A feature

of the program was a talk on the early history of Heron Lake and its vicinity by Mrs. J. J. Maloney.

Professor O. J. Gjerde of the St. Cloud State Teachers College was the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Kandiyohi County Historical Society, held in Willmar on September 16. Officers elected for the coming year include Mr. H. C. Feig, president; Mr. Otto Trulson and Mr. Joseph Broberg, vice-presidents; and Mr. R. W. Stanford, secretary-treasurer.

Much interest was aroused by a display arranged by the Lac qui Parle County Historical Society at the county fair, which was held in Madison from September 16 to 19. At the society's meeting in Madison on August 18, Mr. Richard R. Sackett spoke on preparations for the Centennial celebration in various parts of the state, and members of the Lac qui Parle County Centennial committee presented reports.

The community of Triumph was the scene of the annual picnic of the Martin County Historical Society, which was held on August 29. Talks and papers on Martin County villages and townships were given by Mr. Edwin Edman, Mr. H. E. Peterson, Mrs. Oscar Larson, and Mr. Walter Carlson. Numerous displays of historical interest were arranged in the windows of stores at Triumph and Monterey. Of more than usual significance were some items from the papers of E. Howard Fitz, a pioneer businessman in the area. At the society's annual meeting, which was held in Fairmont on October 4, Judge Julius E. Haycraft resigned as president, and Mrs. J. A. Nightingale was elected to succeed him.

A list of historic sites in Morrison County has been compiled by Val E. Kasperek of the Morrison County Historical Society for use in the rural schools of the area. The organization also has issued in mimeographed form a sketch of the Indian history of the district and a review of logging and lumbering in Morrison County. All the material has been made available to rural school teachers.

Governor Luther W. Youngdahl gave the principal address at the annual meeting of the Nobles County Historical Society in Worthington on August 29. He stressed the significance of the Minnesota Territorial Centennial and paid tribute to the pioneer settlers of the county. Mr. E. J. Jones, the society's president, reviewed the history of the organiza-

tion. The following officers were elected: Mr. J. P. Hoffman, president, Mr. Craigen Thom, vice-president, Mrs. L. A. Thrall, secretary, and Mr. O. F. Johnson, treasurer. Two substantial additions to the society's financial resources have been announced recently in the *Worthington Daily Globe*. Bequests of five hundred dollars from the estate of the late J. E. Moberg and of two thousand dollars from the estate of Julia and Eugene Hyland are reported in the issues of August 30 and September 20.

"The files of your society are being widely used by increasing numbers of researchers," reads an item in the July *News Bulletin* of the Olmsted County Historical Society. "Instinctively citizens turn to its records for dates and facts, large or small, not only of the past but of current events," the comment continues. It gives evidence of the fact that a vital and useful collection of historical materials has been assembled in Rochester, and it suggests possibilities for other Minnesota communities—communities in which historical activity is in its infancy. The new societies that are springing to life in connection with the Centennial have an opportunity for community service reaching far into the future. Like the Olmsted County society, they can continue to grow, increase their resources, and serve an ever-widening circle of citizens.

Mrs. Nora H. Guthrey is chairman of a committee of the Olmsted County Historical Society which is "charged with the responsibility of determining the feasibility and desirability of publishing a new history of Olmsted County." According to the society's *News Bulletin* for July, the committee presented a report which is "favorable to the project, but stresses the immensity of the task." Among recent additions to the society's collections reported in the *Bulletin* is a typed copy of the reminiscences of Mrs. Levina Eastlick, a survivor of the Sioux Massacre of 1862. Her grandson, Mr. J. T. Eastlick of Yuma, Arizona, is the donor.

Meetings held in Pine City on July 6 and 26 resulted in the organization of the Pine County Historical Society. On the latter occasion, a constitution was adopted and the following temporary officers were elected: Mr. Jens P. Miller, president, Mrs. Manford Nelson, vice-president, and Mrs. M. B. Baron, secretary. A membership committee was named and the date of the annual meeting was set for the first Monday in October.

The St. Anthony Park Area Historical Association is enthusiastically supporting a movement which has for its objective the preservation of the H. R. Gibbs home located at Larpenteur and Cleveland avenues near

the St. Paul city limits. The house would be used as an agricultural museum, if plans outlined in the *St. Paul Dispatch* of August 2 materialize.

The Red Lake County Historical Society was organized at a meeting held in Red Lake Falls on August 3. A constitution was drawn up and adopted, and space for a museum was obtained in the local courthouse. Miss Bernice Orr was named president of the new organization; Mr. E. T. Larvick is secretary, and Mrs. Oscar Lovaas, treasurer.

Work and play in the lives of Rice County pioneers was the theme of the program presented before some seventy-five members of the Rice County Historical Society on August 3, when they assembled for their summer picnic meeting at the J. T. Holmes farm south of Northfield. Some of the tools used by frontier farmers were displayed, and their use was explained by Mr. David Illsley. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes described the various buildings on their farm and displayed some of their family heirlooms. The cultural life and entertainments enjoyed by early residents of Faribault were described by Miss Louise Mott.

Two members of the Minnesota Historical Society's staff, Mr. Richard R. Sackett and Mr. G. Hubert Smith, spent the three days from July 20 to 22 at Faribault, where they excavated the grounds of the Alexander Faribault House. Whether the site "might have been used as a trading ground, or actually was the site of a trading post, prior to the erection of the present house in 1853" was the problem they were attempting to solve. The excavations, however, "revealed nothing to substantiate the idea that Faribault had traded or resided" there earlier. Most of the items uncovered were building materials, domestic objects, and Indian remains. The Rice County Historical Society plans to restore the Faribault House for use as a museum. Commenting editorially on the project in its issue for July 28, the *Faribault Daily News* declares that the society "deserves public recognition for its initiative and enterprise" in "restoring the Faribault House, first frame building erected in this city."

The part that pageants will play in the Centennial celebrations of 1949 was explained by Mr. Harold Searls, director of pageants for the event, in a talk before the Roseau County Historical Society at Roseau on July 8. All officers of the society, including Mr. A. H. Fikkan, president, were re-elected.

The St. Louis County Historical Society launched its autumn membership drive with an open house at its museum in Duluth. About seventy-five visitors were entertained and thirteen new members were enrolled. A special exhibit of bells from the collection of Mrs. Kenneth Anderson was placed on display for the occasion.

Arrangements for the purchase of a building at Henderson to be used as a museum by the Sibley County Historical Society were completed at a meeting of the society's trustees in that city on August 12. As a contribution toward the project, the board of county commissioners appropriated a thousand dollars for "initial planning and operations costs," according to the *Henderson Independent* of August 13.

The directors of the Stearns County Historical Society met on August 31 at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph with Sister Grace McDonald as hostess. Plans for the annual meeting and for the society's participation in the Territorial Centennial were discussed. A resolution was passed urging the state to adopt a new flag, "simple in design, capable of being manufactured at small cost," and thus useful in civic events.

The Stevens County Historical Society was organized at Morris on September 27, following a talk by Mr. Arch Grahn of the Minnesota Historical Society before a joint meeting of the Kiwanis and Lions clubs and those interested in local historical organization. A constitution was read and adopted, and officers were elected. The president of the new organization is Mrs. F. A. Hancock, Mr. R. B. DeWall is vice-president, Miss Nanna Jelstrup, secretary, and Mr. Fred Christiansen, treasurer.

Mr. Stephen Hansmeyer was named president of the Todd County Historical Society at the society's annual meeting, which was held at Long Prairie on August 19. He succeeds Mr. H. W. Reineke. Mr. Nick Truog, the secretary, and Mr. James G. Donovan, the treasurer, were re-elected.

"We are glad to note that steps are being taken to form a Traverse County Historical Society," writes George G. Allanson in the opening sentence of an article on "Early Days of Wheaton and Traverse County," which appears in the *Wheaton Gazette* for July 9. The author, who is a pioneer resident of the area, reports that he has recently received inquiries from school children and Boy Scouts about local history. He tells of Traverse County ghost towns, such as Maudada, which disappeared after a railroad failed to reach it.

THE STILLWATER CENTENNIAL

With a spectacular four-day celebration at Stillwater from August 23 to 26, the Minnesota Territorial Centennial commemoration was launched. It was appropriate that this initial community event should mark the one-hundredth anniversary of the Stillwater convention of August 26, 1848, for that meeting took the first steps toward territorial organization. The sixty-one delegates who gathered beside the St. Croix on that summer day a century ago made the first appeal for the establishment of a territory to be called Minnesota and sent to Washington a delegate—Henry H. Sibley—to forward their plans.

A pageant consisting of scenes from pioneer life in Stillwater opened the festival. Presented in the senior high school auditorium on the evenings of August 23 and 24, it drew capacity audiences. One of its three episodes depicted a local Christmas celebration of 1841, with Mrs. Lydia Carli as the hostess; another represented the routine of a Stillwater schoolroom of 1848; and the third pictured the frontier wedding of Hester Crooks and the Reverend William T. Boutwell.

A plaque erected to mark the site of the crude hall over a store in which the delegates of 1848 convened was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies on August 25. The speaker for the occasion was the Honorable Gerhard Bundlie of St. Paul. Attached to a building at Main and Myrtle streets, the bronze tablet bears the following inscription: "Birthplace of Minnesota. On this site, in the frontier river settlement of Stillwater, sixty-one delegates from the vast unorganized wilderness west of the St. Croix assembled on August 26, 1848 to hold the Minnesota territorial convention. In this convention the name Minnesota was selected and the spelling agreed upon, a petition was drawn, memorializing Congress to set up a territorial government, and H. H. Sibley was dispatched to Washington as the delegate of the convention bearing the petition." At the close of the unveiling program, the St. Croix River became a center of interest, for there in the early evening hours were staged a waterfront pageant and a parade of boats. A Centennial grand ball, featuring old-time square dances, brought the day's program to a close.

The Stillwater Centennial reached its climax in a great outdoor pageant on the afternoon of August 26. To witness this spectacle, some two hundred members and friends of the Minnesota Historical Society, who were participating in its summer tour, went to Stillwater. There they joined residents of the community and other visitors in watching

members of the Minnesota State Bar Association re-enact the events of the convention of 1848. Wearing costumes of the mid-century, sixty-one lawyers portrayed the members of that significant frontier meeting, while Mr. Reuben G. Thoreen, who served as narrator, reviewed its story. To add atmosphere and color, several "Scenes in Early History" were presented by performers representing groups of Indians, voyageurs, lumberjacks, soldiers, and early settlers. Upon the pageant's conclusion, Governor Luther W. Youngdahl gave a brief address. The final event of the day, as well as of the Stillwater Centennial fete, was an evening parade in which fifty-two marching units participated.

As an "official souvenir" of the event, the Stillwater Centennial committee published an attractive booklet by Estelle Bronson Bancroft. Under the title *A State Is Born* (8 p.), she reviews briefly the background of St. Croix Valley and Stillwater history; explains how Wisconsin became a state in the spring of 1848, leaving the triangle between the Mississippi and the St. Croix without government and providing the occasion for the Stillwater convention; and recounts the proceedings of that gathering. Included in the pamphlet is a useful list of the delegates who traveled from frontier towns and hamlets, farms and trading posts, to take part in the convention.

The celebration received wide publicity in the press of the state. Among notable newspaper contributions to the event was the issue of the *Stillwater Evening Gazette* of August 25. This "Centennial Edition" includes an eight-page section of illustrated articles on various phases of local history.

An auspicious beginning for Minnesota's Territorial Centennial celebration was made at Stillwater. This prelude to the program of 1949 may well serve as a model for countless community celebrations to come. May its success be oft repeated.

CENTENNIAL NEWS

Some valuable "teaching aids" relating to the study of Minnesota history, prepared under the auspices of the Centennial committee, are now available through the Centennial office. It will be recalled that these booklets were listed on the back cover of this magazine's September issue. A future number will carry an evaluation of these publications for schools by one experienced in Junior Historian work. Included in the group are Miss Margaret G. O'Farrell's *Elementary School Guide for*

the Study of Minnesota (50 p.) which is available for thirty cents, and two booklets by Dorothy Foss for high school use—*Minnesota in American and World History: A Correlated Teaching Outline* (92 p.) and *Minnesota History: Suggested Units* (35 p.)—costing ninety and thirty cents respectively. Two useful mimeographed items that may be obtained free are Miss Foss's *Minnesota School Days, Following the School Calendar with Centennial Activities* (40 p.) and Louise Spaeth's list of *Selected Audio Visual Materials* (15 p.). Two bibliographies, a list of Minnesota films, and two pageant scripts complete the list. Copies of the list as well as of the publications may be obtained by writing to the Centennial office.

A display defining and illustrating the organization and activities of the Centennial committee was on view at the Minnesota State Fair in late August and early September and at the National Food Show in Minneapolis from September 11 to 19. Part of it also was taken to Detroit Lakes for a meeting of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. For more than a month before November 1, when the society's museum was closed for alterations, the Centennial exhibit was to be seen in the south gallery.

Mr. Merrill K. Cragun of Minneapolis has been named industrial field director on the Centennial staff. He will co-ordinate the organization of industrial participation and activity in the celebrations of 1949.

As its contribution to the Minnesota Territorial Centennial celebration, the Dayton Company of Minneapolis is sponsoring an art competition, "Centennial Minnesota," for which it is offering \$4,200 in commission awards and \$5,800 in purchase awards—a total of \$10,000. Eligible to compete are all artists working in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North and South Dakota, Montana, and Upper Michigan, and all artists born in Minnesota. Entry blanks may be obtained by writing to the Dayton Company. The paintings submitted must depict some aspect of present-day Minnesota life; they must have been executed during the past two years; and they are due from April 1 to 15, 1949. All pictures receiving awards, as well as others selected by the jury, will be displayed at the Dayton Company in June, 1949.

Now taking definite form is a schedule of Centennial art exhibits to be held in the Twin Cities and other parts of the state. The Minneapolis Institute of Arts will arrange a historical painting show, "Minnesota in

Art," in March and April. It will be followed by a modern painting show at the Walker Art Center of Minneapolis. During the summer months the University of Minnesota Gallery will be the scene of a folk arts exhibit. In the autumn, the St. Paul Gallery and School of Art expects to put on a sculpture display. An exhibit of "Catholic Art in Minnesota" will be arranged at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, probably in March, April, and May. Six special historical art displays will be on view in the Historical Building for periods of two months each. Plans are under way for a photographic show to be displayed in the public libraries of both St. Paul and Minneapolis. The Hill Reference Library of St. Paul will arrange a special exhibit of its collection of Seth Eastman water colors, consisting of sixty pictures. The State Fair art exhibit probably will draw upon material used earlier in other Centennial displays. It is likely also that a traveling exhibit will be sent to Minnesota communities having facilities for display.

The Centennial was well represented on the program of the second annual Fair Management Short Course, held in St. Paul under the auspices of the University of Minnesota department of agriculture on April 5 and 6. A session of the second day was devoted to suggestions for "Working Out Centennial Programs for County Fairs." Participating were two members of the Centennial staff — Richard R. Sackett, who discussed "Agriculture and Minnesota's Centennial," and Harold Searls, who outlined "Plans for 1949 Minnesota Centennial Pageantry."

NEWS OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In reviewing Dean Blegen's *Grass Roots History* for the September *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, Mary E. Cunningham of the New York Historical Association pays glowing tribute not only to the author — a former superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society and a leading member of its executive council — but to one of the society's present staff and to the organization itself. Since we believe that readers of *Minnesota History* will share our pride in Miss Cunningham's remarks, we quote from them here. "In the East we are these days continuously and increasingly aware of the richness of the historical thinking coming out of Minnesota," she writes. "Professor Philip D. Jordan of the University of Minnesota [and, we must add, director of the society's public health project] calls us to a new approach to folklore, a consideration of folk material which shall yield no more of the tried and true,

and alas somewhat dreary, catalogues of weather superstitions, child rhymes and tall tales, but which shall rather illuminate all the areas of human experience of the folk. Professor Tremaine McDowell, of the same University and director of its dynamic program of American Studies, trenchantly sketches for us a vitalized use of local history. . . . The pioneering Minnesota Folk Arts Foundation, the spirited Historical Society of the North Star State, and the University Press's regional writing fellowships are all breaking new ground." Miss Cunningham then turns to the volume at hand, which, she declares, "at the same time draws together these fresh streams of thought and shows us the fountain-head whence they flow. For it is largely to the work of Theodore C. Blegen — as teacher, author, superintendent of the State Historical Society, now dean of the University's Graduate School — that the humanizing of historical scholarship in Minnesota owes its origin. It is he who has transfused into the gelid stream of formal history the lifegiving plasma of folk tradition. . . . Long a servant in the 'House of History' — to use his own phrase — Dr. Blegen here gives testimony of his service." We must remark that we find cause for pride, too, in the fact that of the seventeen papers assembled by Dean Blegen in *Grass Roots History*, seven were printed for the first time in this magazine.

More than two hundred and twenty-five members and friends of the Minnesota Historical Society traveled into the picturesque St. Croix Valley on August 26 to take part in the twenty-second annual summer tour arranged under the society's auspices. In a caravan consisting of a chartered bus and some twenty-five private cars, the tour left the Historical Building in St. Paul at 10:00 A.M. The traveling historians made their first stop at Scandia, a hamlet in northern Washington County, where they enjoyed an excellent lunch prepared and served by the women of the Elim Swedish Lutheran Church.

Presiding for the program of talks and addresses that followed the luncheon was Mr. Bergmann Richards of Minneapolis, president of the society. After reminding the audience that along with Minnesota its historical society will mark a Centennial in 1949, he called upon the Reverend Ernest G. Anderson, pastor of the local church. That Scandia can trace its history back almost a century, to the arrival of the first Swedes in the vicinity in 1850, was brought out by the speaker in a brief, though informing, review of community and church history. Mr. Richards then introduced Dr. Harold Dean Cater, the newly appointed director of the state society, who briefly greeted the audience; Mr. Fred

B. Snyder of Minneapolis, chairman of the University of Minnesota board of regents, who recalled some of his early university experiences; and Dr. Guy Stanton Ford of Washington, D.C., a member of the society's executive council since 1914 and a former president of the organization, who entertained his hearers with memories of earlier summer tours.

The principal speaker of the session, Dean Julius M. Nolte of the University of Minnesota extension division and director of the Minnesota Territorial Centennial of 1949, was then introduced. Taking as his theme "Minnesota Comes of Age," he outlined the program and defined the objectives of the Centennial committee. Every group in the state is expected to participate in the celebration, said Dean Nolte, and through its program every citizen should learn to appreciate the importance of his state's past. The speaker explained that radio programs, moving pictures, special publications, exhibits, pageants, community programs, and various other devices will be used to carry the Centennial message into every nook and corner of Minnesota.

Following Dean Nolte's address, the tourists made their way to Stillwater, where they joined citizens of that community in their local Centennial celebration. A report on that event appears elsewhere in this magazine.

The society's one-hundredth annual meeting will be held on January 17, 1949. Plans for the program are now being made. Probably there will be a luncheon, followed by Centennial addresses and a business session.

All who use the society's library—readers, genealogists, scholars, students, and staff members alike—miss the helpful presence in the reading room of Miss Lois M. Fawcett, who resigned on September 15 after serving for two decades as reference librarian. She left the society with best wishes for success and happiness in her new work as head of the reference department in the St. Paul Public Library. Her position with the society has not been filled.

The story of one of the most colorful and dynamic personalities of Minnesota's territorial era is told by Mary Wheelhouse Berthel in the latest book published by the society—*Horns of Thunder: The Life and Times of James M. Goodhue, Including Selections from His Writings*. Appropriately, this book of 275 pages is one of the society's series of *Centennial Publications*, for, appearing on the eve of the Centennial, it

records the career of Minnesota's pioneer editor—the man who established its first newspaper in the spring of 1849. For those who have not yet ordered copies, a convenient order form is printed on the inside back cover of this issue. Remember that to members the price is \$2.25 for copies purchased from the society; at bookstores and to nonmembers, the price is \$3.00.

Two sample issues of the *Gopher Historian*—the first to appear in print—are being sent to members of the society and others who are interested in promoting the teaching of Minnesota history in the schools of the state. With the magazines goes an invitation to become a “charter subscriber.” These issues, which are the first two numbers of volume 3, are dated November and December, 1948. It will be recalled that earlier numbers of the magazine were mimeographed. Some entertaining articles and attractive illustrations are planned for future issues. Subscriptions from adults as well as children are encouraged. Information about the *Gopher Historian* and subscription rates are given on the back cover of this issue. With the change in format goes a change in the title of the school organizations formerly known as Junior Historian chapters. Henceforth they will bear the name of their magazine, and will be called Gopher Historian chapters.

The Minnesota Historical Society's Forest Products History Foundation has issued as number 3 of its *Publications* a study of *Forest Conservation in Colonial Times* by Lillian M. Willson (St. Paul, 1948. 32 p.). “Although the specific conditions that fostered conservation measures in the colonies may be different from those that produced the movement in the twentieth century, it is with profit that we search our early history for origins of current practices,” reads a statement in the introduction. Copies of the booklet may be purchased from the Forest Products History Foundation in the Historical Building, St. Paul, for fifty cents each.

Since the first edition of *Pictorial Minnesota*, issued by the society in 1945, is completely exhausted, this little publication for schools has been reprinted. It will be recalled that it consists of two sets of from eight to twelve pictures each, with explanatory captions. One set depicts the Indians of Minnesota, and the other shows “Pioneer Buildings and Equipment.” They are for sale by the society for twenty-five cents a set.

A series of period rooms and an art gallery will be the features of the society's renovated museum when it reopens on January 3. The museum

has been closed since November 1 in order to give its staff an opportunity to build the rooms and rearrange the exhibits. Six art exhibits are among the displays planned for 1949.

A letter book kept by Lieutenant Robert Burns of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry while serving with the Union Army from July, 1862, to June, 1865, has been copied on microfilm for the society through the courtesy of Mr. Robert H. Burns of St. Paul, who owns the original. The volume contains copies of the letters that Burns wrote to his family from Civil War camps and battlefields. Through campaigns in Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia, Burns rode with his outfit. He heard the music of shells and bullets, endured the miseries of camp disease, smelled the stench of unburied dead along the main roads, and kept an uneasy watch in the night for "Morgan's raiders." All these experiences are reported in Burns's colorful letters, which indicate, too, that by 1863 he had learned the meaning of the war against the "Secesh." In a letter written on January 11, 1863, he tipped his hat to the enemy in these words: "Our soldiers do not fight as the rebels do. Our Generals are not so much in earnest as theirs are. We are seeking shoulder straps and stars, they independence, and in my opinion, they will get it." But in 1865, when Union victory was sure, Burns's letters show that he and other officers were attending the opera in Louisville, appropriating fine horses, and preparing to march home to Michigan. The closing letters recount the collapse of the Confederacy and reflect the feeling among the troops when they heard the news of Lincoln's assassination.

An important addition to the society's collection of Henry M. Rice Papers is a group of almost a hundred and fifty family letters recently presented by Mrs. Mathilde Rice Elliot of St. Paul. The earlier letters included in the gift were written by Rice to his wife between 1862 and 1869. Many of them relate to this pioneer businessman's operations in the fur trade, townsite promotion and other dealings in land, and railroad planning and building. The darker aspects of frontier affairs are sometimes reflected, as in a letter of September 16, 1862, in which Rice expressed the opinion that in the West the "changes are so frequent and all business matters so uncertain that none but the young can endure the labor of body and mind necessary to success — and not one in a thousand succeeds." The remaining letters in the collection were written by members of Rice's family in the years from 1888 to 1929.

Mr. Frank H. Gillmor of Orr has presented copies of reports that he prepared annually from 1910 to 1929 while serving as superintendent of logging operations in northern Minnesota for the Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company. This invaluable set of records contains detailed accounts of food, railroad construction, logging, and problems arising from the management of timberlands and labor. A report of an interview with Mr. Gillmor, recorded on July 24 and 25, 1948, by the society's curator of manuscripts, Miss Lucile Kane, supplements his contemporary documents in a significant manner.

A copy of the "Recollections" of Mr. John Hearing of Duluth, telling of his experiences in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota from 1865 to 1895, is the gift of the author. In this manuscript of 295 pages, Mr. Hearing recalls personalities and details of iron mining and tells of the conditions under which he lived in Ironwood, Milwaukee, Duluth, Virginia, and a number of small mining towns.

A complete file of the *Askov American* from its establishment in September, 1914, to November, 1925, is the gift of Ex-Governor Hjalmar Petersen. Since the society began to receive the paper regularly in 1925, its file is now complete to date.

Three examples of the amateur periodicals published in the late decades of the past century are among the rare items received recently by the society. They are *The Stranger: An Amateur Monthly* issued in St. Paul in January, 1876; *The Sunbeam*, a St. Paul publication of November, 1875; and *The Times* of Faribault for October, 1876. All contain news items, exchanges, advertisements, and poems and essays written by local contributors.

WHO'S WHO IN THIS ISSUE

Dean Theodore C. Blegen of the University of Minnesota graduate school is the author of the leading article in the present issue. There in nostalgic vein he turns to personal reminiscence in dealing with a subject—Lake Minnetonka—that he could not look upon "with the objective eyes of the impartial historian." Dr. Blegen was a member of the society's staff from 1922 to 1939 and its superintendent after 1931, and he has contributed frequently to the quarterly. His most recent book, *Grass Roots History* (1947), includes a number of essays that appeared first in *Minnesota History*.

When Mr. Carl L. Lokke of Washington, D.C., submitted his account of an expedition that went "From Minneapolis to the Klondike in 1898," he sent with it a word of warning that the hero of his piece, Lars Gunderson, was his grandfather. "As a direct consequence of his Klondike venture my early years were spent in Alaska," writes Mr. Lokke. He tells us that he has based his article on original material assembled for a "volume on the sixteen Klondikers" of his narrative. Mr. Lokke is a member of the staff of the National Archives, where he is connected with the navy branch of the war records division.

The editor of this magazine, Miss Bertha L. Heilbron, has prepared for publication in the series of "Territorial Daguerreotypes" a letter written by a government surveyor who saw and pictured Fort Snelling in 1853. Professor Frank Buckley, who writes of "Chautauqua in the Minnesota State Prison," is a member of the English faculty in the University of Minnesota. He has in preparation a book dealing with the history and significance of the Chautauqua movement.

Among the book reviews published in this issue is the first contribution to appear in *Minnesota History* from the pen of Dr. Harold Dean Cater, the society's newly appointed director. Nine other writers who are represented in the review section are Mr. Everett E. Edwards of Washington, D. C., editor of *Agricultural History*; Dr. Philip D. Jordan, professor of history in the University of Minnesota and the author of several books, including a forthcoming history of public health in Minnesota; Major Arthur J. Larsen of Washington, a former superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society who is now with the historical service of the Air Force; Dr. Rodney C. Loehr of the University of Minnesota history faculty and the society's Forest Products History Foundation; Dr. Grace Lee Nute, research associate on the society's staff and professor of history in Hamline University, who is widely known for her writings in the field of Northwest history; Dr. John Sirjamaki, of New Haven, Connecticut, assistant professor of sociology in Yale University; Miss Alice E. Smith of the staff of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; Mr. G. Hubert Smith of the Minnesota Historical Society's museum staff; and Professor Robert Taft, author of a definitive history of photography and of a series of articles on frontier art, as well as a member of the department of chemistry in the University of Kansas at Lawrence.



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