



THE DEDICATION AUDIENCE
[Minnesota Historical Society Building, May 11, 1920.]

EXERCISES AT THE DEDICATION OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL BUILDING

The arrangements for the dedication of the building erected by the state of Minnesota for the use of the Minnesota Historical Society were initiated at a meeting of the council of the society on December 10, 1917, by the appointment of a special committee on dedication. This committee was composed of Messrs. Charles P. Noyes, chairman, Everett H. Bailey, Solon J. Buck, Frederic A. Fogg, and Frederick G. Ingersoll, who, as members of the executive committee for the triennium 1915-18, had had charge of the society's interests in connection with the erection of the building. Since the Mississippi Valley Historical Association was to hold its annual meeting in St. Paul on May 9, 10, and 11, 1918, the committee decided to arrange for the dedication exercises to be held on Saturday, May 11, in conjunction with that meeting. The date selected was peculiarly appropriate as it was the sixtieth anniversary of the admission of the state of Minnesota to the Union.

The pioneer associations, hereditary patriotic societies, and leading educational institutions of Minnesota and all the prominent historical societies of the country were invited to be represented by delegates at the dedication; and special invitations were sent to a number of citizens and relatives of citizens who had played a prominent part in the history of the state or had rendered special services to the society. The presence of many such delegates and specially invited people together with that of the members of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association resulted in a notable gathering of distinguished men and women.

The sessions of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, most of which were held in the Historical Building, closed with a luncheon on Saturday noon; and the first ses-

sion of the dedicatory exercises began at three o'clock in the reading room, the tables having been removed and a platform erected at the east end. This room was selected because it is the largest in the building, but it was filled to overflowing in a very few minutes after the doors were opened. The session was presided over by Mr. Charles P. Noyes, president of the society from 1915 to 1918 and chairman of the building and dedication committees. He opened the program with the following remarks:

The date for this celebration of the opening of our new building seems to have been happily chosen, as it is the sixtieth anniversary of Minnesota's admission to the Union as a state, and it coincides with the meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, whose members are our guests. It is a pleasure to have them with us today, and also to have many state and local historical societies, the Minnesota Territorial Pioneers, and other societies and institutions represented by delegates.

The Minnesota Historical Society was organized in 1849, under territorial charter, and for many years has looked forward to having a building of its own. A fund was gradually accumulated for the purchase of such a building, in the event of the society having to build for itself. This, however, was not a large sum, and it would have been many years before the society itself could have built a proper home. When the present Capitol was built, rooms were provided for the society in the basement and these served our purpose for some years. In 1913 the legislature, recognizing the need, made a very generous provision, an appropriation of five hundred thousand dollars, for the building, the society agreeing to pay seventy-five thousand dollars for the purchase of a site and for furnishing the building. The site first selected by the board of control, and approved by the society, was purchased from this fund at a cost of thirty-five thousand dollars. The title was acquired by the state, and the state still owns the property. Before plans for the building had been perfected, it was recognized by the board of control and the society that a mistake had been made in the selection of the first site, and the legislature was asked to, and did, amend the bill, so as to provide

for the erection of a building upon a site to be selected by the society. We chose the site upon which this building stands and paid for it out of our fund above referred to. The amount available for furnishing and equipping the building was thereby materially reduced; but in view of the fact that, at the request of Governor Hammond, we relinquished a very substantial part of our building to the state department of education we were relieved from the necessity of furnishing the entire building. If the society is to accomplish in full measure the purpose for which it was organized and is to be permitted to carry out its plans for serving the people of the state, it will soon need the space in this building occupied by the department of education. In the meantime, we expect that the state will sell, or devote to other uses, the old site purchased with thirty-five thousand dollars of our money, and will turn that sum back to us to be used for furnishing and equipping those quarters, when they become available, and for extending the work of the society.

We wish to express our appreciation to many of the members of the legislature for the efficient service they rendered in procuring this appropriation, as without their aid it could not have been accomplished. We are also gratified that the use of Minnesota granite and other Minnesota material was required, as the result has been most satisfactory.

Mr. Clarence Johnston, the state architect, was the natural choice in our selection of an architect, and the choice has proved most fortunate. Mr. Johnston undoubtedly congratulates himself on the fact that he was not hampered in his design of the building by either the board or the committee, so that he had a free hand, limited only by the amount of the appropriation. Credit for the beauty and symmetry of the building is entirely due to him. Your committee congratulate themselves that their architect was in full sympathy with them, and especially with our superintendent, to whom also we owe our grateful acknowledgment for the careful preparation of the plans and provisions required in adapting the building to our uses. As a result we have one of the best public buildings in the state, and probably the best designed for utility.

I have heard it said that if, when your house is finished, you and your architect are on speaking terms, it speaks well for both.

We are happy to say that our relations have never been strained, and perfect harmony has prevailed in our conferences. The same may be said with respect to all our dealings with the board of control, which has shown us every consideration and courtesy. These are matters of real importance, and should be recognized, as they have had such a marked effect upon the success of the work.

At the conclusion of his remarks Mr. Noyes introduced the Honorable Ralph Wheelock, chairman of the state board of control, which had charge of the erection of the building. Mr. Wheelock spoke as follows:

It is particularly significant that the dedication of this splendid building should occur in the midst of the greatest history-making epoch since the world began. The history of a state or a nation is not made up of disconnected incidents, but constitutes a series of related events which, to be read aright and thoroughly understood, must be accurately set down and intelligently discussed; and an organization like the Minnesota Historical Society affords the most effective means for such an undertaking. The history of Minnesota, as brought up to date, develops the ideals and purposes of its citizenship and furnishes inspiration and practical encouragement for its future successful growth. To the extent, therefore, of having been the agency through which this building has been erected, the board of control feels a justifiable pride in its construction and joins today with all the other agencies interested in this, its formal dedication.

A brief résumé of the legislative action out of which this edifice became possible, may be of interest. On March 19, 1913, Representative Orr, of St. Paul, introduced the original bill for "An Act to provide for the erection of and the acquiring of a site for a building for the use of the Minnesota historical society and the supreme court and the state library of the state of Minnesota and for purposes connected with the said society, court and library." This bill passed the House by a vote of seventy-nine to twenty and the Senate by a vote of forty to five. It was finally approved and signed by the governor on April 25, 1913.

The sum of five hundred thousand dollars was appropriated for the building, to be raised by the sale of building certificates, the state treasury to be reimbursed by a special tax levied and collected with other state taxes sufficient to provide a sum of fifty thousand dollars a year on account of the principal and the interest on the unpaid building certificates until all certificates were paid up. The bill also provided that the building should be made to harmonize, so far as practicable, with the present Capitol, and that Minnesota building stone should be used exclusively unless it appeared that a combination existed to raise prices of said building material; also that Minnesota labor (including the architect) should be employed. One section provided for the acceptance by the state of the seventy-five thousand dollars offered by the historical society, said donation to be used solely in securing a proper site for the building, in equipping and furnishing that portion of it to be used by the society, and in installing its library, museum, and other departments and exhibits. This section also provided for the acceptance by the state of future donations for the same purpose.

To carry into effect certain desired changes in the law, a bill was introduced at the session of the legislature in 1915 by Senator Duxbury, of Houston County. This bill went through both houses by large majorities, with no unnecessary delay, and on April 19 was finally approved and signed by the governor.

The changes effected in the original law by this act are briefly as follows. Section 1 was amended to provide that the building should be "for and adapted to the use of the Minnesota historical society and for the care, preservation and protection of the State Archives. Provided that any part of said building not in use or actually needed for purposes of said society may be used for other state purposes under the direction of the Governor." To section 3, which empowered the board of control to condemn lands for the building, was added a clause providing that in the event the society should "purchase and convey or cause to be conveyed to the state . . . a site for such building, located near the present capitol building," then the building should be erected upon that site. To section 8, which provided for acceptance by the state of the donation by the society, was added an amendment which recited the fact that the society had already paid

thirty-five thousand dollars into the state treasury for the purchase of the site originally selected, and declared that if the society should provide and present to the state other grounds for the location of the building, the amount actually paid therefor should be credited to the society upon its donation.

Following this legislation the present site was secured, the plans were drawn by the state architect, Mr. Clarence H. Johnston, of St. Paul; and after they had been approved by the executive committee of the society, the contract for construction was let by the board of control on November 30, 1915. Within two years from that date the building was virtually completed and ready for occupancy, making a record in the history of public building construction in the state.

As the building now stands, it is a monument: first, to the intelligent and indefatigable efforts of the officers and members of the society in creating the necessary public spirit to induce legislative action; second, to the patriotism and public spirit of Minnesota's citizenship, as expressed by the prompt and practical action of two successive legislatures, as already noted; and third, to the artistic skill of the state architect, to the effective supervision by the architectural and engineering departments, and to the hearty and harmonious coöperation of the board of control and the executive committee of the historical society through the entire period of the construction of the building.

Today the practical responsibility of the board of control comes to an end, although as a component part of the state administration it will continue to have a live interest in the purposes for which this structure stands. Therefore, on behalf of the state board of control, I have the honor to turn over this building to the Governor of the state, through his representative, Mr. C. G. Schulz, for ten years or more the head of the department of education, itself one of the most vital history-making branches of the state government. I have the honor to introduce Mr. Schulz, who will accept the building on behalf of Governor Burnquist.

Governor Burnquist had expected to be present and participate in the exercises, but almost at the last moment he was called out of the city on important business. He therefore

designated Mr. Schulz as his representative for the occasion, and in this capacity Mr. Schulz accepted the building on behalf of the state and formally intrusted the Minnesota Historical Society with its use. The trust was accepted on behalf of the society by its president, the Honorable Gideon S. Ives, who spoke as follows:

The organization, upbuilding, and maintenance of a society of this character, even in this day and age of the world is beset with many difficulties. We have happily surmounted a great number of these and may well congratulate ourselves that, after many tribulations and the exercise of a great deal of energy and perseverance, we have finally climbed over the top and the road to future success and usefulness is well within our view.

In a time like this it is customary and proper to look back and see what forces have united in bringing about this result. In a retrospect of this character we are inclined to give too much credit for the work done within our immediate knowledge, and not enough for what has been done in the past. The fact is that all the efforts recently made to secure a permanent home for the society would have been absolutely fruitless had it not been for the sagacity, foresight, and perseverance of those men who organized it, who kept it up during its early struggles for existence, and who laid broad and deep the foundations for its future success.

This society was incorporated by an act of the legislature of Minnesota Territory, approved by Alexander Ramsey, the governor, on October 20, 1849. In examining the acts passed by this legislature one is impressed with the facts that no other act of any particular importance either to the territory or to the future state, except laws of a general nature, was passed, and that this was one of the first—in fact the very first—enactment of any importance to be approved by the governor. This is a remarkable proof of the wisdom of the early pioneers, and of their full understanding and appreciation of the importance and necessity of providing means for gathering and recording the history of the new country conterminous with the inauguration of its government. If we follow the proceedings of this society through the early period of its existence we are more and more impressed

with the determination, self-denial, and persistence of these men, not only in keeping it alive and building it up, but also in gathering material for its various departments. For a long period little aid was furnished by the legislature, and in those early days, when money was scarce and times were hard, it was not an easy matter to keep up a society of this character and provide for its efficiency. The work of the society at that time was somewhat limited, but at the same time quite important. The country was new and undeveloped, and an inquiry as to its minerals and its geological conditions was essential. The Indian tribes still remained in many localities, and a study of their history, habits, and traditions, and the gathering and preservation of the evidences of their occupation of the country before these indications were swept away by the advancing tide of immigration was of the utmost importance.

While we rejoice today over what has been accomplished by this society in the past, we should realize that this is not a time to relinquish our efforts, or to consider merely the preservation of what has already been secured. There is no question but that in the next few years, the success of this organization will largely depend upon the active and energetic support of its members. A large amount of work will be necessary in organizing and properly assembling the accumulations of the various departments, in classifying and preserving the official records of the state to be entrusted to our charge, and in bringing up to the present time the collections of material for the different phases of the state's history.

Much additional work will also be required in the immediate future for obtaining material in reference to the participation of Minnesota troops in the greatest war the world has ever known. Our boys are going across the ocean in great numbers and offering their lives in the cause of human liberty, and no effort should be neglected in gathering and preserving the record of their achievements. In order to accomplish these things an extra effort should be made at once to increase our membership in every county in the state. Now is the time to accomplish this work, and each member of the society will be expected to consider himself a committee of one in his locality to secure new members. This will not only increase our revenue but it will also strengthen our hands in the future exigencies of the society.

An extra effort should be made to acquaint and interest the public with the facilities and objects of the society. Heretofore we have been burrowing in the basement with our departments in such condition that they have afforded very little attraction to the public. From time immemorial, ignorance, superstition, and indifference have been the chief obstacles to the progress of organizations of this character. At the time when the legislature was asked for the appropriation with which this building was erected, considerable opposition was manifest among the members chiefly because of dense ignorance of the objects to be accomplished and the importance of keeping up this society and providing for its future usefulness. Indeed, one of the very active opponents contemptuously referred to the accumulations of this society as "a lot of old junk of no importance to anybody." We are very happy to say, however, that this was not the prevailing idea, or this building would not have been completed. The "old junk" to which he referred consisted of one of the finest and largest historical libraries in the West and a splendid museum of archeological and historical objects. They had been collected over a period of more than sixty-five years, and their loss would have been irreparable.

I sincerely and heartily congratulate the members of this society and the people of the state upon the auspicious opening and dedication of this beautiful and commodious building to the great purposes for which it was designed; and I bespeak for the society, and for every member thereof, renewed efforts in the future to maintain and advance the high standard of service and usefulness that has always existed in the past.

The presiding officer then introduced Dr. Benjamin F. Shambaugh, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, who spoke as follows on behalf of the sister historical societies of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN, OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AND PIONEERS OF MINNESOTA: From the historical societies of the United States of America, I bring you greetings. We appreciate your gracious invitation to participate in this program; and we respond with the feeling that

it is fitting that we should rejoice with you today in the dedication of this magnificent building. For somehow we feel that your home is our home, and that this building and its store of historical treasures will always be open not alone to the members of the Minnesota Historical Society and to Minnesota students of history, but to all students of history who call themselves American. We feel—today more than ever before, perhaps—that our traditions and our inheritances are one, and that in the cultivation of our several fields we should never lose the larger vision of a common country, a common history, and a common destiny.

Today we are all of us profoundly impressed with the magnificence of this structure. But more impressive to my mind than the building itself is the fact that the Minnesota Historical Society was founded more than three score and ten years ago by pioneers—men of the frontier. In these days of scholarly research and monographic publication it is well to remind ourselves of the fact that the foundations of the state historical societies of the West were laid not by trained historians but by the pathfinders of American democracy—men who in their day had a vision of a new life and the courage and capacity to realize it.

Early in life these pioneers enlisted in a great cause—the winning of the West. Armed with axes and plows they pushed forward into this northwest country, bent upon the conquest of forest and prairie. And when they had won the battles of the frontier and had organized a new territory, which they called Minnesota, they began to reflect upon their experiences. The marvelous transformation which they had witnessed stirred their imaginations. They felt that somehow the vision by which they had been inspired and the struggles through which they had passed would some day form the opening chapter in the history of a great democratic commonwealth. And so they resolved, while it was yet time, “to rescue from oblivion the memory of the early pioneers” by establishing a state historical society.

Thus in the middle of the nineteenth century the pioneers of Minnesota sowed the seeds of a state and local history which have grown and matured into ripened grain. To gather the harvest, and withal to sift the grain, is the duty of the present hour.

Moreover, the organization of the Minnesota Historical Society as a state institution was in itself a pioneer movement in history. To be sure there had always been an interest in local tradition in the older communities of the East; but it remained for the pioneers of the western commonwealths to provide for the preservation and promotion of state and local history through the organization of state historical societies.

Indeed, many of the older American historians did not regard state and local history as especially important. While they were ambitious to discover the origin and trace the progress of American democracy, they failed to appreciate the fact that, before the real import of American democracy could be divined, the forest of state and local history must be explored. Interested in the story of the nation, they began at the top and seldom if ever reached the bottom. It remained for the unschooled pioneers of the West to discover the truth that American history should be studied from the bottom up rather than from the top down.

The pioneer origin of the Minnesota Historical Society is one of its most valuable assets: it should remain its most revered tradition, its most cherished inheritance. In stressing the importance of state and local history the pioneers pointed the way. Let us keep the faith.

But why? Has not the frontier disappeared, the West vanished, and the epoch of pioneering passed? Let the student of western, frontier, pioneer history answer.

The West is not any particular area in history, nor the frontier a certain geographical line. The West is preëminently a state of mind; the frontier, a condition; pioneering, an attitude toward life. Behold in America today a new-born West, a new frontier, a new view of pioneering! War! Democracy! Citizenship! Never were the opportunities of the West more alluring. Never was the frontier more inviting. Never was the call for pioneers more urgent than at this very hour.

Then as children of this new West, this new frontier, this new epoch of pioneering, let us cherish the memory of our pioneer fathers and forefathers of the old-time West and the old-time frontiers. Let us in our day face the problems of war, and of democracy, and of citizenship with the courage and in the spirit of pioneers.

Dr. Warren Upham, archeologist of the society and its secretary from 1895 to 1914, then read the following paper:

FORMER HOMES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By an act of the first legislature of Minnesota Territory, this society was incorporated October 20, 1849. In the next month, on November 15, it was formally organized in the office of Charles K. Smith, the territorial secretary, to whose efforts, chiefly, the passage of the act and the earliest work of the society in promoting immigration and other interests of the new territory were due. In the first meeting, Governor Alexander Ramsey was elected president; David Olmsted and Martin McLeod, vice presidents; William H. Forbes, treasurer; and C. K. Smith, secretary. Governor Ramsey continued as president fourteen years, until in 1863 he went to Washington as senator, and he was again the president during the last twelve years of his life, from 1891 to 1903.

Meeting today for the dedication of this new building as the home of the Minnesota Historical Society, we may well look back to its first effort to provide such a permanent home. In the annual meeting of January 15, 1856, Colonel D. A. Robertson reported the sale of sixty-two life memberships at twenty-five dollars each, the proceeds of which were applied to payment on two lots at the northwest corner of Tenth and Wabasha streets in St. Paul, purchased from Vital Guerin for fifteen hundred dollars.

The corner stone of the projected building there for the use of this society was laid June 24, 1856, with a grand celebration and Masonic ceremonies. A procession was formed at the Winslow House, on the corner of Fort and Eagle streets, and marched to the grounds, preceded by a band and accompanied by Sherman's Battery from Fort Snelling, which had won distinction in the Mexican War under the name of the "Flying Artillery." An address was delivered by the mayor, the Honorable George L. Becker, followed by an address from Lieutenant M. F. Maury of the United States Coast Survey. The expense for excavation and a part of the foundation wall having absorbed the available

funds of the society, further prosecution of the work was shortly afterward abandoned.

The earliest occupancy of a room in the Capitol was on November 27, 1855, when the record states that the society "met for the first time in the hall set apart in the Capitol for their use, and properly furnished with shelves for the reception of books and other donations." In the summer of 1859 this room was required for use by the state auditor, and it became necessary to remove the society's property into a smaller room suitable only for storage.

Few meetings of this society were held during the troubled period of the Civil War. One is recorded as held on April 11, 1864, when it was voted to rent a small room adjoining the St. Paul Library room in Ingersoll's Block, and to move to the new quarters such portion of the collection as was thought desirable for exhibition. This was accordingly done, and the society continued to occupy this room for about four years.

More commodious rooms in the basement of the Capitol were the next home of this society, with space for the growth of the library and museum, and the first meeting there was held November 9, 1868.

When the Capitol was burned, March 1, 1881, the greater part of the museum was destroyed, but most of the library was saved. On March 3, in a special meeting at the office of the president, General Sibley, it was voted to remove the property saved to a room in the southeast corner of the Market House basement. The society occupied this room for the library and for meetings during two years.

With the completion of the second Capitol, rooms were provided for this society in the basement of its west wing, where the council first met on April 9, 1883. These rooms were the society's home through twenty-two years, until its removal in the summer of 1905 to larger rooms in the east half of the basement of the New Capitol. After more than twelve years there, the library and other collections were again removed, a few months ago, to this beautiful and spacious building.

On this great day of thankfulness and new hopes for the welfare of this historical society, and of renewed consecration for continuance and increase of its usefulness, we remember espe-

cially in love and gratitude its past workers who have received the fulfillment of the promise, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

Following Governor Ramsey, who was the first president from 1849 to 1863, as before noted, the list of presidents, with their successive terms of service, comprises the Honorable Henry M. Rice, 1864 to 1866; General Henry H. Sibley, 1867; Governor William R. Marshall, 1868; George A. Hamilton, 1869; the Reverend John Mattocks, 1870; Captain Russell Blakeley, 1871; Charles E. Mayo, 1872; the Honorable Elias F. Drake, 1873; the Honorable George L. Becker, 1874; Dr. Robert O. Sweeny, 1875; General Sibley, 1876; Archbishop John Ireland, 1877 and 1878; General Sibley again for twelve years, from 1879 until his death in 1891; Governor Ramsey again, 1891 to 1903; General John B. Sanborn, from May, 1903, until his death on May 16, 1904; the Honorable Greenleaf Clark, in the latter part of 1904, until his death on December 7 of that year; Nathaniel P. Langford, from 1905 until his death on October 18, 1911; William H. Lightner, 1912 to 1915; Charles P. Noyes, 1915 to 1918; and the recently elected president, the Honorable Gideon S. Ives.

The first secretary, Charles K. Smith, removed in 1851 to his former home in Iowa; and on November 18, 1851, the Reverend Edward D. Neill was elected secretary. This position he held twelve years, meanwhile publishing in 1858 the first edition of his *History of Minnesota*. After Dr. Neill's long service, this office was held for a short time by William H. Kelley; during the next three years, 1864 to 1867, by Charles E. Mayo; during the following twenty-six years, to September, 1893, by John Fletcher Williams; from October, 1893, to March, 1895, by Governor Marshall; from November, 1895, through nineteen years by Warren Upham; and since November, 1914, by Solon J. Buck, the present secretary and superintendent.

During thirty-three years, from 1876 until his death, May 1, 1909, Henry P. Upham was the treasurer of this society.

James J. Hill gave the longest service as a member of the council, from December 14, 1868, until his death, on May 29, 1916; and in 1872 he held the office of vice president.

Many other names of generous donors and workers for the society deserve grateful remembrance in our dedication of this

building. From my association with five members of the council to whom the museum and library are much indebted for their gifts and service, this brief address may fittingly end with my personal tribute to the Reverend Edward C. Mitchell and the Honorable Jacob V. Brower, from whom the museum received donations of very extensive archeologic collections; Professor Newton H. Winchell, who during his last eight years served the society in its department of archeology, preparing large and valuable publications; Josiah B. Chaney, who for twenty-one years had charge of the newspaper department in the library, being succeeded by John Talman during the last ten years; and David L. Kingsbury who was the assistant librarian through eighteen years. Their hearty devotion to this society in its work for the state, and the similar fidelity and good service of others who preceded them, are an enduring inspiration for us, their successors, to "make our lives sublime," as Longfellow wrote, by being useful to our fellow citizens, to all the people of Minnesota.

The afternoon session was then concluded with the reading of the following paper by Dr. Solon J. Buck, superintendent of the society:

THE FUNCTIONS AND IDEALS OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In every one of the states of the American Union there is a society or similar institution devoted to the preservation of the record of the state's past; and the majority of these institutions are state supported, at least in part. Why is it that the American people have seen fit thus to put history on a different plane from other branches of human knowledge, to regard it as a matter of public interest and worthy of public support? The answer is simple. History is of community, rather than merely individual importance because history is to the community what memory is to the individual. It is the foundation upon which everything of the present rests and upon which everything of the future must be built. A nation, without knowledge of its history, like a man without memory, would be helpless.

But why, it may be asked, do we concern ourselves so much with state and local history ; is it not sufficient to know thoroughly the history of the nation as a whole? Again the answer is fairly obvious. A thorough knowledge of the history of the nation as a whole is impossible without an adequate conception of the history of the parts which go to make up that whole. The past of Minnesota is just as much a part of American history, as the record of a presidential administration or the story of the Pilgrim fathers.

There are other reasons why local history has special importance in this country. One of these is that, essentially, the American nation is a democracy, and therefore its history must be the history of the people. The most important thing to know in connection with any problem in this country, either past or present, is not the action of the government with reference to it but the attitude of the people toward it, and not merely the attitude of a majority of the people as a whole but that of the people of each section of the country and of each class of the population. This knowledge can be obtained only by a study of local history and conditions.

Even if we accept Freeman's definition of history as "past politics," it is apparent, therefore, that we cannot confine it to developments at the seat of government. But few historical workers today restrict their field to past politics, and those who do interpret politics broadly and recognize that, in modern times at least, politics is greatly influenced by social and economic forces. The student of social and economic history must study the past of the people in their local communities, their homes, farms, and factories, if he would achieve an adequate understanding of the subject, if he would know how things came to be as they are and whither they are tending.

Largely as a result of the work of Professor Turner, who is to speak to us this evening, it is now generally recognized that one of the most significant and influential phases of American history is the westward movement, the advance of settlement across the country, the occupation of a continent by civilized people. Every community in the United States has its place in that movement, has passed or is passing through the various stages from a wilderness inhabited by savages to a highly organ-

ized society; and it is only by an intensive and comparative study of the settlement and development of the separate communities, with their special circumstances and conditions, that this westward movement and its influence upon national development as a whole can be understood.

The importance of history naturally receives, as a rule, greater recognition in those countries or states whose development extends over a long period of time. Thus it happens that the nations of Europe preserve their archives much more carefully and subsidize historical work much more liberally than do either the United States or most of the individual states of the Union. Thus it happens, also, that the oldest historical society in the country is that of Massachusetts, established in 1791. This date, however, is 171 years after the first settlement at Plymouth. Had Minnesota waited a similar length of time, the establishment of this society would still be several generations in the future. Fortunately the men who laid the foundations of this commonwealth had not only vision for the future but appreciation of the past. Perhaps they realized also, that the best time to collect the materials for the history of a period is during that period itself. However that may be, only thirty years after the beginning of American occupation, in the year in which Minnesota became a political entity, the Minnesota Historical Society was chartered by the first territorial legislature. I know of no other state in which an historical society was organized so early in its career. The distinguished State Historical Society of Wisconsin, which has outdistanced us in so many respects, in part because of the more adequate support to be expected from an older community, was organized in the same year as our own, but this was thirteen years after the establishment of Wisconsin Territory and one year after the state was admitted to the Union. In the still older, richer, and more populous state of Illinois, state historical activity did not begin until 1889.

Other speakers this afternoon have told you something about the work of this society in the past and have given credit to the men who have made it what it is. As the superintendent of the society, charged with the administration of its affairs under the direction of the executive committee and council, it is fitting that I should say something of its functions and ideals.

The Minnesota Historical Society is distinctly a state institution, an association of people banded together for the purpose of assisting the state to perform its recognized duties in the field of history. Its library and other possessions are public property available to all for consultation and examination under such restrictions as are necessary to ensure their preservation. It is also a popular institution, in the sense that membership is open to all who are sufficiently interested in the work of helping the state preserve the record of its past to pay the nominal dues. It is dependent upon the people, not only indirectly for legislative appropriations, but directly for invaluable assistance in preserving material of the greatest importance which cannot be obtained by purchase in the regular way. The people are therefore entitled to know what the society is doing and what are its plans for the future.

It is impossible in the limited time available this afternoon to present anything more than an outline of the functions of the society. The first of these is the accumulation of material. Since there are five other large and growing libraries in the Twin Cities, two of which are also state supported, it would be unwise for us to duplicate their work by attempting to build up a comprehensive general or miscellaneous library. We should rather cultivate intensively a special field, and that field should be American history. Even here it is necessary to make a selection of the more important things; but in the restricted field of Minnesota material, we should procure everything available. This means not merely strictly historical material but everything bearing in any way upon the state or any of its subdivisions, institutions, or inhabitants. An attempt is made to procure not only all official publications, however insignificant, but also the publications of semipublic or private institutions, including churches, societies, and business houses. The ephemeral printed matter of the present day is enormous, but it is possible to make a representative collection of such things as handbills, posters, programs and advertising literature, which will be valuable to the social historian in the future. The newspaper, though in some respects notoriously unreliable, is nevertheless the best mirror of community life, and the society now receives every issue of over half the papers published in the state. The files are contributed by the

publishers but the society bears the not inconsiderable expense of binding them.

Much of the most valuable material of history is in the form of manuscripts, and of these the state archives are especially important. A survey made a few years ago under the joint auspices of the society and the public archives commission of the American Historical Association disclosed the fact that these fundamental records of the activities of the state and its various departments are not receiving and cannot under present conditions receive proper care. The law under which this building was erected provided that it should be for the "use of the Minnesota historical society and for the care, preservation and protection of the State Archives." It is to be hoped that a future legislature will empower and, by adequate appropriations, enable the society to take over the custody of the mass of noncurrent records in the Capitol, to provide for their proper care and classification, and to make them accessible to historical investigators. Of private manuscript material the society already possesses a priceless collection, particularly in the papers of men who laid the foundations of the commonwealth. But we should acquire much more material of this sort, especially material illustrating social and economic conditions and development, such as the records of lumbering companies, the files of manufacturing establishments, and the papers of ordinary men in the ordinary pursuits of life.

With reference to illustrative material it is possible to say only a word. Museum articles which help to visualize the life of the past are essential, and additions must be made to the society's already large collection of portraits and photographs. Even motion picture films and phonograph records are not to be scorned.

Great as is the task of assembling the sources of history, the task of arranging and caring for them is still greater. Books and pamphlets fall within the ordinary domain of library science, requiring only an adequate staff of professionally trained assistants to classify and catalogue them and make them available to the public. Manuscripts, however, require special treatment. Usually they must be cleaned, pressed, and arranged in a logical or chronological order, and then inventories and calendars are needed to enable the student to use them with facility. The

administration of the museum and picture collections presents special problems which still await solution.

Another activity, long recognized as one of the important functions of an historical society, is publication; and this should not be confined to reminiscences, addresses, and miscellaneous articles. The time has come when we should make a comprehensive plan for the publication of the significant sources for the history of Minnesota, in order that their preservation may be assured and that they may be available to students all over the world. This means the printing of a long series of volumes of *Collections*, arranged to cover all periods and phases of the history of the state. It will involve the search for pertinent documents in many libraries, archive depositories and private collections throughout the country and even in Europe, as well as the assembling of material from our own files and from the state and local archives of Minnesota. If the work is done thoroughly and critically it will be a slow process, extending over an indefinite period of time, but the results will be permanent and increasingly valuable.

If history is to fulfill its mission in a democracy, it must serve not only the student but also the general public. Not everyone has the time or inclination for historical research but everyone should have some knowledge of and interest in the history of his community. Without such knowledge and interest, good citizenship is impossible. It is a proper function of a state historical society, therefore, to popularize the results of scientific investigation, to present history to the people in a form in which they can and will assimilate it. There are many ways of doing this: books and pamphlets in popular and attractive form may be prepared and given wide distribution; illustrated lectures may be presented not only here in the building but throughout the state; special exhibits may from time to time be arranged in the museum; and the organization and activity of local historical societies may be encouraged and directed. The time will come, we hope, when all these methods will be in use by our society.

The completion and dedication of this building means increased opportunity for the Minnesota Historical Society to serve the state. Increased opportunity involves increased responsibility and this in turn necessitates increased expenditures. The annual appropriation for the maintenance of the society was increased by

the last legislature from twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars. Everyone knows, however, that the purchasing power of twenty-five thousand dollars is less today than that of twenty thousand four years ago and very much less than that of twenty thousand in 1905 when the society's appropriation first reached that point. Only by the most rigid economy, particularly in the matter of salaries, and by drawing upon the income from the permanent funds of the society, has it been possible to meet the increased expenses resulting from the occupation of this building. When the Wisconsin Historical Society dedicated its building in 1901, its annual appropriation from the state was twenty thousand dollars. Today it is over three times that sum. Now that Minnesota has invested half a million dollars in an historical building, it is confidently believed that the legislature will see the wisdom of maintenance appropriations such as will result in the greatest possible return to the people of the state.

Though it is upon state appropriations that the society relies and should rely for the greater part of its support, there is no reason why it should not receive private contributions. As has been pointed out by our president, our predecessors of an earlier generation gave liberally to the society; and we are now living in part on the fruits of their generosity. No donations or bequests of money have been received in recent years, however, partly perhaps, because the opportunity which the society offers for service of this sort has not been sufficiently emphasized. The opportunities are unlimited, however. A form of donation of especial value would be a fund the income from which should be devoted to collection, research, and publication in some field of special interest to the donor, such as the history of a religious organization, an element of the population, a profession, an industry, or even the history of Minnesota's participation in the great World War. What finer or more enduring memorial can be conceived than a unified series of publications, each bearing the name of the fund which made it possible. Some of the neighboring historical societies have received large endowment funds recently, one of them receiving over a quarter of a million dollars from a single donor. Contributions of this sort, whether large or small and whether for general or for special purposes,

will be welcomed by the Minnesota Historical Society and will be scrupulously used in accordance with the wishes of the donor.

In the hope and expectation that the citizens of the state will give to the society the loyal support so necessary if it is to make the fullest use of its new opportunities, we are now dedicating the building which will undoubtedly be its home for many years to come. This day will long be remembered in the annals of our society. It marks, however, not a culmination, but a beginning. We are standing on the threshold of a new epoch in the history of the world, an epoch in which democracy, having demonstrated by force its right to exist, will open the way for renewed progress in all the fields of human activity. The Minnesota Historical Society stands ready to play its part in the new epoch, to preserve the record of the past and of the ever advancing present, for the benefit of the future. This occasion is not merely the dedication of a building, it is also a rededication of the society and the state to the service of history, and through history, to the service of mankind.

At the conclusion of the afternoon exercises the entire building was thrown open for inspection, and hundreds of members and friends of the society, guided by members of the staff, made the tour through the offices, workrooms, book-stacks, reading rooms, museum and galleries. The delegates and invited guests were then entertained at a supper served in the museum. Since the reading room proved too small to accommodate the audience in the afternoon, the evening session was transferred to the House Chamber in the Capitol. Here a large audience heard the inspiring dedicatory address by Dr. Frederick J. Turner, professor of history in Harvard University, which is printed elsewhere in this number of the BULLETIN.

In concluding this account of the dedication exercises it is fitting that acknowledgment be made to the St. Paul Association of Public and Business Affairs and to Mr. Charles P. Noyes for their generosity in sharing with the society the expenses of the occasion. The arrangements for the supper

were handled by a committee of St. Paul women composed of Mrs. George R. Metcalf, chairman, Mesdames Charles E. Furness, Frederick G. Ingersoll, Gideon S. Ives, William H. Lightner, Charles P. Noyes, and Charles W. Williams, and Misses Lydia Ickler and Hester Pollock. The flowers were contributed by Mrs. Furness, whose father, the Honorable Alexander Ramsey, as governor of the territory, signed the bill establishing the society, and later served for many years as its president.

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

DELEGATES AT THE DEDICATION

Thirty-eight societies and institutions are represented in the following list of officially appointed delegates in attendance at the exercises for the dedication of the Minnesota Historical Society building, May 11, 1918. The list has been compiled from the registration cards and probably is not complete, as it is believed that some delegates who were present failed to register.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Dr. St. George L. Sioussat, president

Mrs. Clara Paine, secretary

NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Dr. James Kendall Hosmer

AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr. Emanuel Cohen

AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION

Dr. John E. Granrud

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr. William E. Connelly, secretary

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Dr. Benjamin F. Shambaugh, superintendent

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dr. Frederick J. Turner

Dr. William Stearns Davis

MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Dr. George N. Fuller, secretary

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mrs. Clara Paine, librarian

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA

Dr. Orin G. Libby, secretary

Dr. Melvin R. Gilmore, curator

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dr. St. George L. Sioussat

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Dr. August C. Krey

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr. Frank B. Cole

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

Dr. Milo M. Quaife, superintendent

MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Dr. Frederick J. Wulling, first vice president

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Mr. James T. Gerould, librarian

Dr. Lotus D. Coffman, dean of the college of education

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, MANKATO

Mr. Charles H. Cooper, president

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, ST. CLOUD

Mr. Russell G. Booth, instructor in history

Mr. Darius Steward, instructor in history

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, WINONA

Mr. Wilson P. Shortridge, instructor in history

AUGSBURG SEMINARY, MINNEAPOLIS

Dr. John O. Evjen, professor of church history

CARLETON COLLEGE, NORTHFIELD

Dr. Donald J. Cowling, president

HAMLINE UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL

Dr. Samuel F. Kerfoot, president

SEABURY DIVINITY SCHOOL, FARIBAULT

Rev. Francis L. Palmer

MINNESOTA DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Mrs. James T. Morris, state regent

MINNESOTA SOCIETY, DAUGHTERS OF THE REVOLUTION

Mrs. John A. Schlener, state regent

SOCIETY OF COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA IN THE STATE OF
MINNESOTA

Mrs. Charles J. A. Morris, first vice president

SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Mr. William Gardner White

SONS OF THE REVOLUTION IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Dr. C. Eugene Riggs

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Colonel William H. Harries

LADIES OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, DEPARTMENT OF
MINNESOTA

Mrs. Ida A. Crisp
Mrs. Sarah E. Mathews
Mrs. Elizabeth D. Slater
Mrs. Carrie H. Smith
Mrs. Anna Taylor

MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES,
MINNESOTA COMMANDERY

Captain Jeremiah C. Donahower, commander
PATTERSON POST No. 7, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
Mr. Andrew Hawkins

NATIVE SONS OF MINNESOTA

Dr. Arthur M. Eastman
Dr. William E. Leonard

VERMILLION RANGE OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION

Mr. John Owens

RED RIVER VALLEY OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION

Mr. Edmund M. Walsh

JUNIOR PIONEERS' ASSOCIATION OF ST. ANTHONY FALLS

Dr. Arthur M. Eastman, president

HENNEPIN COUNTY TERRITORIAL PIONEERS' ASSOCIATION

Major Edwin Clark, secretary
Mr. George A. Brackett
Mr. Nathan Butler
Mr. Caleb D. Dorr
Mr. Lysander P. Foster
Hon. John B. Gilfillan
Mr. Moses P. Hayes
Mr. Milton C. Stubbs

PIPESTONE COUNTY OLD SETTLERS' HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hon. Edward W. Davies, president
Mr. Frank Pearson, secretary

FELICITATIONS ON THE NEW HOME

Many of the societies and institutions invited to be represented by delegates at the dedication of the new building of the Minnesota Historical Society were naturally unable to

accept the invitation. Most of them responded, however, with letters of congratulation and expressions of appreciation of the work of the society. The following selections from these letters illustrate the community of interests in the field of historical endeavor and the attitude of other institutions toward the Minnesota Historical Society.

AMERICAN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Your kind invitation for us to be represented at the dedication of your historical building has been referred to me for reply.

We are very grateful for the kindness and regret only that it seems impossible for us to be represented as you request. Please accept our sincere interest in the work and our good wishes in lieu of our presence with you on this delightful occasion.

Respectfully yours,

FRANK G. LEWIS

Librarian

AMERICAN CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On behalf of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia I beg to thank you for your kind invitation to be represented at the dedication of your Building. The program that you enclosed is very interesting and the print of your Building shows that you are to be congratulated on having obtained such appropriate and artistic results. It is with regret that we must decline your invitation due to the long distance that separates us. We know however that our aims are identical in seeking the collation and perpetuation of the records of American history and ideals; liberty, equality, fraternity and religious tolerance.

Yours truly,

JAMES M. WILLCOX

President

AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It gives us great pleasure to extend the congratulations of the American Jewish Historical Society to The Minnesota Historical Society on this auspicious event in its career. Your society has

rendered history considerable service through its many and excellent publications which reveal the rich share your state and its people have in the common development of our country. In your new building you should be able to extend your activities and thereby increase the measure of the debt all students of American history owe you for your work.

Very truly yours,

On behalf of the American Jewish Historical Society,	
CYRUS ADLER	ALBERT M. FRIEDENBERG
President	Corresponding Secretary

AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION

We wish to congratulate the Society upon this beautiful new home and, more particularly, upon what you are doing to preserve the literature of the Scandinavian settlements in the Northwest.

We trust that this undertaking will inspire and correlate similar efforts in various parts of the country.

Very truly yours,

HENRY GODDARD LEACH
Secretary

BUFFALO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Buffalo Historical Society acknowledges with thanks the receipt of your courteous invitation to be represented at the dedication of your new historical building. I regret that it is not convenient to send a delegate for that occasion, but take pleasure in extending to you, as a sister institution, the hearty congratulations and best wishes of the Buffalo Historical Society.

I have the honor to remain

Very truly yours,

FRANK H. SEVERANCE
Sec'y.

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This Society finds it impracticable to send a representative to be present at the dedication of your Historical Building on May eleventh.

I am, however, directed by vote of the Society to extend to you our hearty felicitations on that occasion, and to wish you increased usefulness and prosperity in your new building.

Very truly yours,

ALBERT C. BATES

Recording Secretary

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Please accept our sincere thanks for the honor implied in your kind invitation to be represented at the dedication of your historical building on May 11th.

While it will be impracticable for us to send a personal representative to this important meeting, allow us to congratulate you upon the event, and to wish for your Society that great degree of usefulness which its high purposes so richly deserve. We send you our greetings and best wishes from the empire State of the South.

Very respectfully,

OTIS ASHMORE

Corresponding Secretary

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Let me congratulate your Society on possessing these spacious new quarters and wish it continued and increasing activity.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM ROSCOE THAYER

Corresponding Secretary

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

I wish to thank you for the invitation to have a representative of the school present at the dedication of the historical building on May 11th.

I assure you that the school will probably be represented on this occasion. We rejoice with the members of your Society upon the completion of this excellent building.

Sincerely yours,

J. C. BROWN

President

MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Missouri Historical Society acknowledges the kind invitation of the Minnesota Historical Society to be represented at the dedication of the new historical building, and expresses its thanks and appreciation of this courtesy. It regrets very much its inability to send a representative, and takes this occasion to congratulate the Minnesota Historical Society on the splendid progress it has made and wishes to extend its best wishes for its continued success.

Missouri Historical Society

STELLA M. DRUMM

Librarian

NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

I wish, on behalf of our Society, to congratulate you on the building, the picture of which shows that it is in every wise worthy of your very important position as a Society. We are well aware that you are doing good work.

Yours very truly,

A. V. D. HONEYMAN

Corresponding Secretary

NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society acknowledges with thanks the courteous invitation of the Minnesota Historical Society to be present at the dedication of their new building on the occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the admission of Minnesota to the Union, May 11th, 1918, and regrets that remoteness from the centre of its activity will prevent representatives of our Society being officially present at the dedication.

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society is actuated by sentiments of legitimate envy in viewing the pictorial presentation of your new home, and is living in the hope that in the near future it may be able to emulate the example of your active and energetic society and to welcome you to its new building in New York City the site for which is already provided and paid for.

Trusting that all success may attend this important dedication ceremony and assuring you, our sister Society, of our sympathy and congratulations, I beg to subscribe myself in the name of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society.

Very truly yours,

JOHN R. TOTTEN

Chairman Executive Committee

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

I very greatly regret that I cannot myself attend the exercises in connection with the dedication of your new building. Happily however the Rhode Island Historical Society will be ably represented by one of its distinguished members, Professor St. George L. Sioussat, President of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association.

Felicitating you upon the completion of your new building and wishing for your Society continued success in the historical work it is carrying on I am

Very truly yours,

WILFRED H. MUNRO

President

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It is with regret that we must decline personal representation on this interesting occasion. However, we are very appreciative of recognition and desire to express our congratulations on the attainment of the much desired new building by your society. You have our continued good wishes for further prosperity and progress.

Very truly yours,

W. A. PROVINE

Corresponding Secretary

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

We congratulate you upon the completion of this excellent building and trust that it will make it possible for your Society to even further enlarge its effective and useful work in behalf of history.

Very truly yours,

CHAS. W. RAMSDELL

Cor. Secretary

VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Please accept the sincere thanks of this Society for your invitation to be represented at the dedication of your new building. There is no organization in the country which can [more] appreciate the need of a new and convenient building in which to do its work and house its collection. Therefore we can, with especial heartiness, congratulate you on your new home. I regret that we cannot, except in spirit, be present on such a pleasant occasion. With best wishes from our Society—

Yours truly,
W. G. STANARD
Cor. Secty.

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On behalf of the Officers and members of the Washington State Historical Society, we congratulate you on this auspicious occasion. The privilege of dedicating an Historical Building is a happy one.

Complying with your courteous request, that our society be represented at the Dedication, we have the honor of naming Mr. Frank B. Cole, of Tacoma, Washington—a life member of our society—as our delegate, and ask that he may have the privilege of presenting to you our felicitations.

Respectfully Yours,
W. P. BONNEY
Secretary

WYOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

I wish to congratulate you upon your splendid success in building this fine new home for your Society. It would have given me great pleasure to have represented the Wyoming Historical Society at your celebration.

Very sincerely,
AGNES R. WRIGHT
Custodian

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Resolution adopted at its meeting in St. Paul, May 9, 10, 11, 1918

RESOLVED: That we express our pleasure and our congratulations to the Minnesota Historical Society upon the occasion of the dedication of its new historical building, the use of which has added to the pleasures and profit of this gathering.



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