

## Some New Books in Review

*Horns of Thunder: The Life and Times of James M. Goodhue, Including Selections from His Writings* (Minnesota Centennial Publications, no. 3). By MARY WHEELHOUSE BERTHEL. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1948. xii, 276 p. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

The role played by the pioneer editor in the planting of civilization on the American frontier has not received the attention it deserves. Most state and regional histories contain chapters or parts of chapters on the early press, but many early newspapers and their editors merit the more extended treatment of a full volume. In this book Mrs. Berthel and the Minnesota Historical Society not only have made a worthy contribution to "grass roots history," but also have blazed a trail. When that trail has been followed by enough other regional historians and historical societies, a synthesis of the role of the pioneer editor in the westward movement will be possible.

Not all communities, to be sure, were fortunate enough to attract as "first editor" of the "first newspaper" a man as able as James M. Goodhue. A graduate of Amherst College, Goodhue was no doubt a *rara avis* in frontier editing. Though his college probably did not teach him the lively and often colloquial style that distinguishes his writing, it may well have given him sufficient self-confidence to induce him to discard the ponderous prose of the learned as unsuited to a frontier newspaper.

Goodhue and his printing press arrived in St. Paul in April, 1849; the first issue of the *Pioneer* came out in that same month; Goodhue died in August, 1852. In the short span of his editorship he did much to publicize Minnesota Territory. He was an avowed "booster" of his city and region, as is evidenced in the following extract from the first issue of the *Pioneer*: "The most important purpose of the newspaper press, especially on the frontier, is to mirror back to the world, the events, the peculiarities, and the whole features of the new world by which it is surrounded. It necessarily has, or should have, a provincial character. . . . The great news centres, the mammoth presses of the Atlantic cities . . . are the grand reflectors of intelligence. The frontier

press, is more influential indirectly than directly; by being copied and multiplied in the enormous city papers, which penetrate every corner of the world. Can we make Minnesota known abroad, by filling our sheet with nothing but reprints from other papers, so that, for anything contained in it, the paper might as well be printed in London or New York? . . . We would rather, now, present a daguerreotype of Saint Paul . . . as we see it springing up fresh and vigorous . . . where but yesterday stood a forest . . . or describe the tumultuous joy with which the multitudes of our people, old and young, flocked down to the levee, to greet the landing . . . of the first boat of the season . . . than to write a political homily as long as the Mississippi river, and twice as turbid."

Goodhue was not, however, uncritical in his admiration for the place where he had cast his lot. Though he had nothing but praise for Minnesota's "invigorating" climate and its agricultural opportunities, he was ready with invective for land speculators, idlers, and even upright industrious citizens who failed to support all his programs for the city. He inveighed frankly and frequently against the lack of schools, excoriating a town that had built several churches but allowed its youngsters to run wild on the docks, where they were being schooled in wickedness and would get their diplomas from the devil.

Mrs. Berthel has divided her material in two parts: "The Man" and "The Editor." The six chapters of the first part are a chronological treatment. In the second and longer part, Goodhue's views on regional problems and his descriptions of the contemporary scene are grouped under appropriate chapter titles, and extensive excerpts from the *Pioneer* range through the years of his editorship.

Any Minnesotan — or ex-Minnesotan — will enjoy the descriptions of the new land that appear in such chapters as "The St. Croix-Mississippi Delta," "Progress at the River's Bend," and "Steamboats in the Wilderness," and will admire Mrs. Berthel's industry in tracking down references to persons and places, and even buildings, mentioned in Goodhue's text. Chapter 14, "Local and Transitory" (a title taken from one of Goodhue's column headings), makes lively reading for anyone anywhere, and proves not only Goodhue but his present interpreter to have a keen sense of humor.

*Horns of Thunder* is a most readable book. The excerpts from Goodhue's writing are unfailingly lively, and the intervening prose by Mrs. Berthel is appropriate and interesting. The illustrations, most of them

reproductions of contemporary pen-and-ink sketches, hitherto unpublished, by a St. Paul druggist, are valuable historically, if not artistically; and the format of the book is most attractive. All in all, this book is evidence of the fact that historical society publications nowadays are not *ipso facto* lacking in appeal to the "general reader."

SOLON J. AND ELIZABETH H. BUCK

*The Chosen Valley: The Story of a Pioneer Town.* By MARGARET SNYDER.  
(New York, W. W. Norton, Inc., 1948. 376 p. \$4.00.)

Now, here is an original idea. In *The Chosen Valley* Margaret Snyder has made the best of two worlds—that of the ponderous, pedestrian local history and that of the rhapsodic, overblown historical novel. Blending the interest of factual report with that of dramatic interpretation, she has made her biography of the town of Chatfield offer a fluent record of all that is significant about the social development of Minnesota between the middle of the nineteenth century and the first decade or two of the twentieth.

Her method is to look over the shoulders of the busy men and women who ventured into the wilderness and to discover, from the records they left of their activities in letters, journals, newspaper stories, business account books, and other verbal remainders of human effort, what they made of their experience as creators of a new way of life. What might have been merely a scrapbook of village gossip has been edited shrewdly into something much more meaningful by the author's awareness that the daily life of these people reflected, in miniature, the great movements that were shaping the policy of the new democracy.

The essence of the drama is this: Chatfield was the clean sheet upon which were set down, in startling juxtaposition, a table of values old and new. In contrast to the already stereotyped attitudes of the "old stock" settlers who came first, frankly in search of new opportunities for exploitation, were the humbler yearnings for freedom of the immigrants. In opposition to the impulse to make the most of get-rich-quick schemes of real-estate speculation and soil depletion was the sense of community effort that gave birth to the Granger movement. And on that frontier, far away from the center of conflict, was fought out in little all the complexity of the issue of racial equality involved in the Civil War.

Using the names of pioneer leaders and exploring only those aspects

of the struggle for democracy which revealed themselves on the Main Street of Chatfield, Miss Snyder dramatizes the growth of a culture — political, social, and moral — through some seventy years of effort. It is as though the germ of the idea of community enterprise had been isolated and examined under circumstances that have kept it peculiarly free from confusing, distorting influence.

With effective steadfastness of purpose Miss Snyder has translated her abstract idea into terms of drama. We see Thomas Twiford creating Chatfield out of a wilderness with no other purpose than to "make his pile," and we see him fail. We see the fabulous J. C. Easton squeezing a fortune out of frontier opportunity, and left in the end with no souvenir of his passing but a legendary reputation for cunning. In contrast we see Judge C. G. Ripley, thoughtful cousin of Emerson, writing into the law sober and discerning judgments concerning essential human values. We see men and women of the simplest background creating out of their immediate need the framework of the shelter required to protect the way of life they have chosen.

Miss Snyder does not ignore the fact that there are holes in the edifice nor is she unaware of the fact that it is marred by vulgar defacement. But she has had genuine success in dramatizing the creation of a typical unit of American society.

JAMES GRAY

*Album of American History*, volume 4: *End of an Era*. Edited by JAMES TRUSLOW ADAMS, R. V. COLEMAN, and JOSEPH G. E. HOPKINS. ATKINSON DYMCK, art director. (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1948. xiii, 385 p. Illustrations. \$7.50.)

*End of an Era*, the fourth volume of the *Album of American History* produced under the general editorship of James Truslow Adams, completes the pictorial history of the United States from 1492 to 1917. The project was difficult and ambitious. Thousands of pictures from various archives and personal collections had to be selected, judged, and authenticated. Acute problems of arrangement and juxtaposition arose. Enough text had to be supplied to explain the pictures. Continuity was one problem, suitable reproduction another. Above all, the editor and his assistants had to be certain that no important aspect of political, social, or cultural history was neglected and that proportion was maintained without the sacrifice of emphasis. It would have been easy, for example,

to stuff the pages with portraits of various dignitaries or with conventional views of spectacles and state affairs. Both tendencies were fortunately resisted. As a consequence, the *Album of American History* is a gratifying pictorial chronicle of American life, handsomely manufactured and valuable as a record of social evolution.

The fourth volume retains the qualities familiar to users of the earlier books. The subject matter is widely diversified, although political and even military events are used to preserve a sense of developing chronology. *End of an Era* covers the period from Cleveland to Wilson. Sectional titles such as "The Nineties Were Not So Gay," "The Full Dinner Pail," and "A Change of Horses" suggest the opulence and variety of the contents. Well over a thousand photographs are used, averaging about three to a page. Aesthetically the volume is an improvement over its predecessors, since the pictures reproduced are superior and the arrangement is considerably less crowded. Here there is no need to sandwich sketches of crude implements in between landscapes and portraits.

A specialist might find his own interest slighted in this volume, but there is small reason to quarrel with the editors on the score of lack of variety. Pictures of McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson recall their political campaigns. Industrial development is recorded, and attention is given to mining, oil wells, lumbering, and manufacturing. Railroads and automobiles rightly receive ample treatment, as does the immature motion picture industry. There are reflections of military life in two wars in which the United States participated, scenes from two world's fairs, and pictorial records of three national catastrophes—the Baltimore fire, the San Francisco earthquake and the Galveston flood. Architecture, both public and domestic, is represented, and some attention is paid to the theater and public entertainment in general. Sports such as baseball, golf, and the bicycling so dear to the 1890's are illustrated effectively, and adequate treatment is given sports costumes and fashions as a whole. Occasional headlines and advertisements reveal the direct appeal to the public. If a carping critic could take exception to this pictorial God's plenty, he might point out that the fine arts (especially sculpture, painting, and literature) are somewhat neglected. If the Armory Show is mentioned and painters like Sargent and Sloan are represented, there is no allusion to Theodore Dreiser or Hamlin Garland, and no illustration of the work of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Lorado Taft, or Daniel Chester French.

In this volume the Middle West fares well, special prominence being accorded not only its industry and manufacturing, but also its ornate late Victorian mansions and its small-town life. The files of the Minnesota Historical Society contributed a dozen pictures, the Great Northern Railway archives, as many more, and the 1895 volume by William F. Leggett and Frederick J. Chipman on *The City of Duluth and Environs*, a few others. On the basis of this book Minnesota is a milling, mining, and lumbering state, but in the period concerned there is no reason to dissent from this interpretation. The agricultural life of the state can be satisfactorily indicated by pictures taken in Iowa and the Dakotas.

JOHN T. FLANAGAN

*American Studies.* By TREMAINE MCDOWELL. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1948. vii, 96 p. \$1.50.)

It is sobering to realize the implications of being the most powerful nation on earth. Because isolation is impossible and aggression unthinkable, our strength must be applied to wise and intelligent world leadership. Are we educating citizens to face this increasingly complex responsibility? A most reassuring answer to this question is the new concept of "American Studies."

As a curricular development, American Studies is part of the general education movement, with its disregard of departmental barriers and its constant effort to round out personality. At the freshman-sophomore level, general education attacks the evils of overspecialization and restores the broadening, maturing process that "old grads" recall in their nostalgia for the ivy. American Studies extends the principle to the junior and senior years and even into graduate work; the student majors not in a single subject but in a cross section of courses related by their American stress. The result is a firm grasp of our cultural heritage, the dynamics of our civilization, and the tools at our disposal for improving the lot of mankind. Of all the possible fields for advanced general education, our own civilization offers the fullest resources in books published, scholars trained, and courses taught—a very heartening fact in view of our responsibilities.

It is fitting that the first book about this new discipline should be written by Professor Tremaine McDowell, an indefatigable pioneer in American Studies. Some readers may regret the book's brevity; but he does not pretend, in 96 pages, to produce a new *Discourse on Method*.

He does assemble the essential data about programs in American Studies that he watched in operation on various campuses. These differ in detail, but the same philosophy governs everywhere and the same questions emerge — selection of students, proper administrative patterns, effective means of synthesis.

The inclusion in Mr. McDowell's program at the University of Minnesota of courses dealing with state and regional history and literature should mean, presently, a stimulus to the study of local history. Scholars trained under the program will be qualified to carry out historical projects, while others, who cannot take direct part, will augment the ranks of intelligent supporters of all historical work in the state.

WILLIAM P. RANDEL

*Life and Voyages of Louis Jolliet (1645-1700)*. By JEAN DELANGLEZ.  
(Chicago, Institute of Jesuit History, 1948. vii, 289 p. \$5.00.)

Only when a historian has so long steeped himself in primary sources that he becomes intimately familiar with his pertinent time segment and its actors, area, and events, does it become possible for him to present as deceptively simple and orderly a historical reconstruction as Father Delanglez has done outstandingly in *The Life and Voyages of Louis Jolliet*. Such a needed and extensively documented volume would be genuinely appreciated by scholars of early western hemispheric history even if, as is usually the case, complexities of parenthetical interpolations modified by bracketed comments, all identified by footnote references and annotations, made the book hard to read. But it is not hard to read, and is indeed good reading.

Beginning with Jolliet's birth at Beauport near Quebec in 1645, Father Delanglez follows through Jolliet's private life and his public participation in the tasks of developing the colony of New France and the expanding of its frontiers until his death in 1700. This is done with the fullest documentation and discussion of the earlier major studies concerning Jolliet.

Jolliet's private life encompassed in its early years a period of attendance at the Jesuit College of Quebec, from which he received minor orders in August, 1662. A time came, however, when he felt the priesthood was not his true calling and his interests turned to trade in the western country. This was a natural interest for Jolliet, especially in view of the fact that his elder brother, Adrien Jolliet, was an experienced

voyageur. Father Delanglez presents good evidence that it was almost without doubt Adrien, not Louis, who met Dollier and Galinée at the western end of Lake Ontario in September, 1669, in the village of Tina-watawa. In October, 1675, at the age of thirty, Louis Jolliet married and became engrossed in family fishing and trading enterprises on the lower St. Lawrence River. In his civic role he was involved in several important exploratory or reconnaissance expeditions: to the Mississippi River with Father Marquette in 1673, and later to Hudson Bay and Labrador. His participation in the cartography of the New World was an important one. His observations on Indian life are lucid, concise, and useful to the anthropologist. He was probably considered the ranking navigator and pilot of the lower St. Lawrence River and its gulf. His coast and mainland surveys served as a basis for his own and other cartographers' maps.

This study will be of interest to a number of disciplines: history, anthropology, geography, cartography, and sociology, to mention those which come to mind immediately. Father Delanglez has a unique knowledge of the early maps of the New World and he possesses an exceptional or heightened talent for reading the cartographic expression of information. As a result he has been able to reach sharpened locational conclusions most useful to the historian and the archaeologist.

SARA JONES TUCKER

*The Territorial Papers of the United States.* Compiled and edited by CLARENCE EDWIN CARTER. Volume 13: *The Territory of Louisiana-Missouri, 1803-1806.* (Washington, United States Government Printing Office, 1948. xi, 641 p. \$3.50.)

This volume continues Clarence E. Carter's notable series of volumes presenting documents relating to the establishment and administration of the territories. This one, the first of three to be devoted to Missouri Territory, concerns the territory of Louisiana-Missouri from its establishment to 1806. The material is divided into three parts: the first, of less than fifty pages, contains the papers relating to the founding of the territory; the second, of approximately a hundred pages, relates to the District of Louisiana in the years 1804 and 1805; the third, of over four hundred pages, contains the documents relating to the administration of Governor James Wilkinson in 1805 and 1806. The editor explains that the documents were selected, as were those for earlier volumes, on a



basis of their relevancy to the administration of the territory. He assures students that the present volume contains virtually all the pertinent documents for the years covered from the archives of the State and Post Office departments and the Congressional files in Washington. The documents pertaining to lands, Indian affairs, defense, and relations with adjacent territories are less fully represented because of the criteria for selection. Almost all are printed for the first time.

These documents present a more or less consecutive account of establishing American control over the vast region lying north of the Territory of Orleans and stretching indefinitely west from the Mississippi—a region sparsely peopled by Indians, Frenchmen, Spaniards, and “Renegade” Americans, to use Wilkinson’s unflattering term. In 1805 this area, which for the first couple of years had been under the control of the governor of Indiana, became a separate territory, and General Wilkinson was named governor. The documents relating to the administration of this ambitious, autocratic, and scheming man constitute the bulk of the book, and have, of course, the greatest interest. Wilkinson’s administration was far from peaceful, although, by his own testimony, he did his best. On one occasion he wrote to General Dearborn: “I do assure you my general deportment, my dress & address are almost as plain as any *Clod-Hopper*, and my Doors are open at all Hours, but those of rest, to all kinds & descriptions of People without exception. . . . I do declare to you on my Honor that one third of my time is devoted to the aid & advise of the Poor, to save them from the fangs of a Gang of needy, greedy, unfeeling Pettifoggers who compose the Majority of my few Enemies.” Wilkinson quarreled with the territorial judges and with his civil and military subordinates; he fulminated against the land speculators and the fur traders, particularly the traders from Canada who entered his territory by way of the Wisconsin River. In respect to the Canadian traders, he righteously declared: “the privations we Suffer from this diversion of our rightful commerce, is a trifling ill, when compared to the transcendent influence, which is thus acquired and perpetuated by a foreign power, over the aborigines within our national limits.” Wilkinson’s “few Enemies” of course reciprocated with petitions and complaints to officials in Washington.

This volume will be as welcome to students of American history as were the earlier volumes of the series. And like the earlier ones, it makes generally available documents which indicate the complex and difficult

administrative problems involved in founding and governing a new territory. But this volume should be particularly welcome to students interested in the upper Mississippi Valley because it contains material relating to the lead mines, the fur trade, plans for military establishments, and early settlements in the area.

VERNON CARSTENSEN

*The Mystery of "A Public Man": A Historical Detective Story.* By FRANK MALOY ANDERSON. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1948. 256 p. \$3.75.)

The author of "The Diary of a Public Man," published anonymously in the *North American Review* in 1879, was Sam Ward. The diary, however, is largely a work of fiction, though having as its core a genuine but meager record kept by the author during the first weeks of 1861.

These are the conclusions to which Frank Maloy Anderson has come after thirty-five years of incredibly patient investigation. That he has discovered inconsistencies and anachronisms which invalidate the diary as a factual source is beyond question. His identification of Ward—the now-forgotten brother of Julia Ward Howe, *bon vivant*, adventurer, lobbyist, and author—as its creator will stand unless chance turns up strong evidence bestowing that doubtful honor on someone else, and that contingency is highly improbable. To this reviewer, however, Mr. Anderson's contention that Ward based his production upon a genuine diary is unconvincing. If the man was capable of embellishing a sparse record so successfully as to fool skeptical scholars for seventy years, he was capable of complete fabrication. Why not give the devil his due?

The point, however, is not of much importance. Whether the diary be all fiction or only part fiction, Mr. Anderson's final sentence will hold up as the verdict: "it ought not to be regarded as history."

Aside from its immediate significance, *The Mystery of "A Public Man"* is an unsurpassed example of historical method, and the teacher of that subject who fails to make it required reading should have his competence questioned. The inclusion of the full text of the diary enhances the book's usefulness as a case study.

PAUL M. ANGLE

*James J. and Mary T. Hill: An Unfinished Chronicle.* By CLARA HILL LINDLEY. (New York, The North River Press, 1948. 135 p.)

One regrets that Mrs. Lindley did not live to complete this account of her father and mother. The fragment presented here gives the genealogical backgrounds of the Hill and Mehegan families, traces the set of circumstances which brought the two families from the Old World to the New, and presents an affectionate glimpse of James and Mary Hill up to 1878. The story was obviously written for family consumption, but it deserves a wider audience because it draws upon diaries kept by Jim Hill and tells of his early experiences. One hopes that the Hill diaries will some day be published.

It is curious to note the influence of the Napoleonic legend upon the "Empire Builder." According to his daughter, Jim Hill was a dreamer whose imagination had been fired by a boyhood reading of a biography of Napoleon. Like Napoleon, Jim Hill dreamed of going to India, where great things could be done. In pursuit of his dream he left his Canadian home and went to New York, seeking a passage to India. Luckily, he failed in this attempt and went to St. Paul instead. In the Northwest he found a field for his talents, energy, and vision and built an empire such as might not have been possible in India. In the eyes of his daughter the elements in his success were a vision of what the Northwest might become, a passion for gathering all the facts about a situation, long hours and hard work, and a willingness to take risks and to endure physical hardships.

RODNEY C. LOEHR

*Peter Norbeck: Prairie Statesman* (*The University of Missouri Studies*, vol. 22, no. 2.). By GILBERT COURTLAND FITE. (Columbia, University of Missouri, 1948. 217 p. Portrait.)

Norbeck of South Dakota was hardly of the stature of a Norris of Nebraska, a La Follette of Wisconsin, or even of the conservative Gapper of Kansas, yet he was one of those who did reflect the sentiments of a lesser-known but hardly to be ignored part of the Great Plains. His political career spanned the years between the Progressivism of Theodore Roosevelt and the New Dealism of the more illustrious Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Less than half of the volume deals with Norbeck's years before his election to the United States Senate. There are accounts of his early life,

his schooling, his success in the well-drilling business, and his rise from the lower to the higher brackets in South Dakota politics. Better than half of the study deals with his activities while a member of the Senate, when the farm question was prominent in national politics, and ends with his conversion to the New Deal. A helpful bibliography, extensive footnotes, and an apparently good use of the Norbeck Papers add to the merit of the volume.

Aside from some minor errors of fact, and some views which the author is just as much entitled to adhere to as is the reviewer to question, one wonders whether Norbeck deserves a full-dress biography. Local history and biographical studies of lesser-known men are needed, and we are thankful to the University of Missouri for making one of these available; but it seems as though this study would have been a bit more effective had it been reduced to a size more commensurate with the stature of the man.

THEODORE SALOUTOS

## The Historical Scene

THE BELIEF THAT "Each generation should produce at least one literary history of the United States, for each generation must define the past in its own terms" was doubtless the motivating force that brought about the planning of the definitive three-volume *Literary History of the United States* recently published by the Macmillan Company (New York, 1948. 1422, 817 p.). Resulting from the joint efforts of an impressive list of editors and contributors, the work is rich in materials on eras, sections, types of literature, and individual writers. Midwest readers will find especially stimulating chapters on the "Literary Culture on the Frontier," on "The Indian Heritage," and on "The West as Seen from the East." Among Minnesota authors receiving more than passing notice are Edward Eggleston, Ignatius Donnelly, Thorstein Veblen, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Sinclair Lewis. Volume 3, which is designed chiefly for the scholar, is devoted in large part to a series of specialized bibliographies. Included also is a "Guide to Resources," in which a list of "Bibliographical Centers" is featured.

A St. Louis publisher has issued, in an edition limited to three hundred copies, a facsimile reprint of J. C. Wild's excessively rare *Valley of the Mississippi Illustrated* (1948. 145 p.). In collaboration with Lewis F. Thomas, who was responsible for the "Literary Department," Wild published his work in monthly parts from July, 1841, to March, 1842. The publisher planned to include in each issue "four views, with an average of four pages of letter press to each view." The numbers sold for a dollar each. An "extra," devoted to the St. Louis Fire Company, appeared in September, 1841. The present edition is reproduced from a copy owned by the State Historical Society of Missouri. The Minnesota Historical Society has added this faithful reprint to its extensive collection of illustrated works about the Mississippi Valley.

In the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for October, William J. Petersen gives his readers a glimpse of "The Mississippi River Through Many Eyes." He draws upon the narratives of explorers and travelers for his material, confining himself almost entirely to those picturing the Father of Waters below Minnesota's southern boundary. Even the steamboat pilots, writes Dr. Petersen, "generally knew only a segment

of the mighty stream," and they knew nothing whatever "about the Great River above the Falls of St. Anthony." A few explorers who did penetrate the Minnesota country, like Pike and Carver, are, however, mentioned in this survey.

Priceless documents and books relating to the history of the Hudson's Bay Company in "The James F. Bell Collection" are described and evaluated by Professor Donald F. Warner of Macalester College in the December *Beaver*. Mr. Bell "has built his collection upon the theme of exploration," writes Mr. Warner, and "for later periods, he has specialized in the story of the penetration of North America through what is to-day Canada." The manuscripts described range from a copy of the original charter of the company to "an abstract of the conditions expressed in the conveyance of land from the Company to the Earl of Selkirk for his colony and of the subsequent regulations issued for the observance of the settlers there." Many significant books, maps, and pamphlets also are mentioned. Professor Warner considers this a "striking example of the importance of the better private collections and of the need for the greater exploitation of their resources."

An account of the *Suppression of the Rebellion in the North West Territories of Canada, 1885*, prepared by the leader of the Canadian forces involved, General Sir Fred Middleton, has been published by the University of Toronto as volume 12 of its *History and Economics Series* (1948. 80 p.). The contemporary report has been edited and provided with an introduction by G. H. Needler. It is of interest that Middleton, in his haste to reach Winnipeg after the Riel uprising began in March of 1885, traveled as a civilian from eastern Canada through Chicago and St. Paul.

"Designed to meet the actual needs of the classroom teacher" is a graduate course in the history of New York, the city and the state, now being offered in the school of education of New York City College. The course is the subject of Sidney I. Pomerantz' article on "What Every Teacher Should Know about State and City History," published in *American Heritage* for October. "With the widespread recognition accorded state and local history as a required subject," writes Mr. Pomerantz, "it is most imperative that much thought be given to the aims, content, methods, and values of such courses, especially so where the training of teachers is considered." He presents a strong argument

for the importance of "‘educating the educator’ to teach community history."

*The Hybrid-Corn Makers: Prophets of Plenty* by A. Richard Crabb (New Brunswick, 1948. 331 p.) should be of considerable interest to those concerned with recent changes in Minnesota agriculture, for it relates the story of the "greatest food plant development in 500 years, greatest plant discovery since Columbus found corn itself." In 1930 less than one per cent of American corn was produced from hybrid seed. By 1946 hybrid seed, averaging twenty-one per cent higher yield than the open-pollinated variety, produced at least eighty per cent of the corn crop. No one man developed hybrid corn. It has been a group undertaking, but the research done at the agricultural centers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Wisconsin has been outstanding. Unfortunately, Minnesota lost an opportunity to become the center for the new concept of corn breeding. When H. K. Hayes came to Minnesota in 1915, the opposition of his university colleagues held up his work until 1920, and in the meantime other centers had forged ahead. R.C.L.

Dr. Henrietta M. Larson is the author of a ponderous *Guide to Business History: Materials for the Study of American Business History and Suggestions for Their Use*, which has been published as number 12 of the *Harvard Studies in Business History* (1948. 1181 p.). The editor, Dr. N. S. B. Gras, points out in his introduction that while the volume is "primarily designed to assist those working in the field of business history, it is also meant to be useful to economic historians, political historians, social historians, economists, sociologists, and students of general business." A glance at the very full index indicates that students of many phases of Minnesota life and activity will find a wealth of material suggested in these pages. There are numerous references in this bibliography to the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society and to pertinent studies published in its quarterly.

"There is hardly any aspect of social life which the law does not in some way touch," writes George Lee Haskins in an article on "Court Records and History" which appears in the *William and Mary Quarterly* for October. From such records, the writer points out, one may learn much about landholding, land values, domestic life, standards of living, economic conditions, and similar matters in a given period.

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A volume on "The American Lyceum: Town Meeting of the Mind" is now in preparation by Professor Carl Bode of the department of English in the University of Maryland. The author describes his forthcoming work as a "study of the cultural, historical, and literary aspects of the lecture system in our country from 1830 to 1860." He asks anyone who knows of Minnesota lyceums or lyceum records for the period before 1860 to communicate with him.

The first issue of the *Autograph Collectors' Journal*, a quarterly published under the auspices of the National Society of Autograph Collectors, appeared in October. Of interest to libraries and other institutions as well as to collectors is an article on "The Care and Feeding of a Manuscript Collection" by Colton Storm. The author is curator of manuscripts for the Clements Library at Ann Arbor, Michigan. An active section of the Society of Autograph Collectors exists in the Twin Cities.

"How the America-Legend Was Born in Sweden" is explained by Vilhelm Moberg, a widely known Swedish novelist, in the *American Swedish Monthly* for December. The writer gives special emphasis to the influence of such transplanted Swedes as Hans Mattson and Gustav Unonius, whose publications did much to encourage mass emigration from their homeland.

*The Scandinavians in History* by S. M. Toyne (New York, Longmans Green & Co., 1948. 352 p.) was written especially for the English, and it emphasizes parallel developments in Scandinavian and English history. It deals primarily with political and dynastic aspects of the histories of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, and Finland. Mr. Toyne asserts that his "aim in writing a short history of the Scandinavian countries is to give English-speaking readers some clearer conception of these great peoples than can be formed from the very meagre and disconnected references in our histories." Except on political history, his announced purpose cannot be said to have been achieved. His preoccupation with political and dynastic history and his very limited attention to economic, social, and intellectual aspects of Scandinavian history make for an inadequate conception of "the Scandinavians in history." In view of the wealth of material available for such an integrated study, the shortcomings of the volume are the more striking. The student of American history seeking background material on the Scandinavians will need to go elsewhere—for example, to the recently published *History of Norway* by Karen Larsen. C.C.Q.



The most recent addition to *The Peoples of America Series* is Carey McWilliams' *North from Mexico: The Spanish-speaking People of the United States* (Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1949). The book deals largely with sections of the United States located far from Minnesota, and there seems to be no mention of the Mexican settlements within the state. It does, however, contain brief sections on Mexicans in Midwest industries and in some northern areas.

The Sioux War of 1862 is touched upon briefly by Martin F. Schmitt and Dee Brown in their pictorial history of *Fighting Indians of the West* (1948. 362 p.). An unfamiliar photograph of Little Crow, from the collection of the Bureau of American Ethnology, and John C. Wise's well-known engraving of the hanging of thirty-eight Sioux at Mankato on December 26, 1862, are among the few illustrations dating from the period before the close of the Civil War. The latter picture is captioned "White Man's Justice."

The Upper Midwest History Conference will hold its spring meeting at Hamline University, St. Paul, on April 23. Professor Harold C. Deutsch of the University of Minnesota will be the speaker; he will take as his subject "The Historian and World War II."

The Midwest Museums Conference of the American Association of Museums held its twenty-first annual meeting in Minneapolis and St. Paul from October 14 to 16. The opening session, held in the Minnesota Museum of Natural History, was concerned with "The Fundamentals Involved in Planning a New Museum." At a dinner meeting, held on the university campus on the evening of October 15, Clifford C. Gregg of the Chicago Natural History Museum spoke on "The Museum and Its Relation to the Community," and Daniel Defenbacher of the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, discussed "The Layman and His Relation to the Museum." A tour of St. Paul museums and galleries on the morning of October 16 concluded the meeting.

Third-party movements in Minnesota and the Northwest figure prominently in a recent biography by Davis Douthit entitled *Nobody Owns Us: The Story of Joe Gilbert, Midwestern Rebel* (Chicago, 1948. 240 p.). Gilbert's role in the Nonpartisan League, his leadership in the organization of the Farmer Labor party, and his work on behalf of the co-operative movement are described in detail. The volume is rich in material about such organizations as the Northern States Cooperative

League, the Midland Cooperative Wholesale, and the Farmers Union Central Exchange.

More than three pages are devoted to Minnesota in a definitive *Bibliography of Place Name Literature: United States, Canada, Alaska, and Newfoundland*, compiled by Richard B. Sealock and Pauline A. Seely and published by the American Library Association (1948. 331 p.). Included in the list are many rare and out-of-print works, studies of Indian nomenclature, accounts of name origins published in early Minnesota newspapers, and articles that have appeared from time to time in the publications of the Minnesota Historical Society.

### NEWS FROM THE STATES

To provide its customers and friends with an appropriate Christmas gift, the North Central Publishing Company of St. Paul issued *The Frontier Holiday: Being a Collection of Writings by Minnesota Pioneers Who Recorded Their Divers Ways of Observing Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Year's* (1948. 46 p.). The result is a most attractive little volume, made up of narratives selected by Glenn Hanson, who also wrote the introductory scripts and prepared the charming illustrations. From Lieutenant Pike's strenuous holidays of 1805 to a sod house Christmas celebration of 1872, from a missionary's New Year's on Leech Lake in 1833 to a Thanksgiving observance at Excelsior in 1854, the editor has drawn his materials, written and pictorial, from manuscripts, letters, books, newspapers, and pictures in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society. His debt to that rich storehouse of information is fittingly expressed in a statement of acknowledgements. "The editor's work on this volume gave him a hint of the vast material open to the public in the Minnesota Historical Society and the Society's varied services to the citizens of the state," writes Mr. Hanson. It is his belief that "the territorial centennial year of 1949 will dramatize the importance of the Society among the institutions of the state. Minnesota citizens should be proud of its Historical Society, not only for its leadership in the field, but for the fact that the Society has literally grown up with Minnesota." In the writer's estimation, the society, "as the oldest institution of the state, certainly stands as a tribute to the foresight of the pioneer founders of Minnesota."

Of perennial interest is the story of the punishment of the guilty Sioux after the bloody Minnesota massacre of 1862. It is retold by

Harold A. Ronnenberg in the *American Mercury* for October, where he describes the Mankato hangings as "America's Greatest Mass Execution." He pictures the excitement in the Minnesota Valley town on Christmas night of 1862, as settlers—many of whom had lost homes and relatives a few months earlier at the hands of the Sioux—poured into Mankato "to witness a brutal act of frontier justice." Following well-known sources of information, the author traces briefly the causes of the massacre, mentions its principal events, reports the progress of the military trial that followed, tells of Lincoln's review of the evidence and his selection of thirty-nine of the "worst cases for hanging," and describes the excitement that marked the execution. Mr. Ronnenberg's article is reprinted in the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune* for December 26, the eighty-sixth anniversary of the event described.

"Most of the pictures of the lumberjack overdraw his faults, or the weaknesses of the few, and neglect the great attributes of industry, strength and character that the men of the woods possessed." Thus writes L. A. Rossman, whose tribute to *The Lumberjack* has been published as an attractive booklet (1948. 12 p.). "The lumberjack was a man after many patterns," writes Mr. Rossman. "Some were English, others Irish, a large number of French and many were Scandinavians. Some were men who had given their whole lives to work in the woods. . . . Some labored in the woods in the winter and in the wheat fields in the summer and fall. . . . The great majority were earnest, sincere and intelligent citizens." Mr. Rossman tells of a few of the "hale and hearty and rough and ready men" of his own Grand Rapids area. There was, for example, Mike Sullivan, who had the "distinction of being the largest eater ever to appear in This Neck of the Woods." Stories of Sam Hunter, the "strongest, quickest and most skillful man physically who ever came to the big woods on the upper Mississippi," are recounted, as is the tale of Sam Rogers and his bout with a smallpox epidemic.

Before his retirement as professor of forestry in the University of Minnesota, E. G. Cheyney completely revised for the Minnesota department of conservation a bulletin on *Forestry in Minnesota* issued in 1929 and long out of print. The new bulletin (31 p.) contains an excellent brief history of the forest products industry in Minnesota; an account of the hazards, such as fire and insects, to which the forests are subjected; and a discussion of proper forest management. Many will be

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interested to learn that in Minnesota, "popple, jack pine, and black spruce . . . are producing far more wealth than the virgin forests ever did." Some excellent photographs effectively illustrate the bulletin.

R.C.L.

In observance of the Minnesota Territorial Centennial, the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul is devoting its Aquin Lectures for 1948-49 to subjects relating to the history of the state. The series includes lectures on "The Kensington Stone" by Professor Konstantin Reichardt, December 6; on "Early Voyageurs and Fur Traders" by Dr. Grace Lee Nute, January 17; on "The Growth of Catholic Education in Minnesota" by Mother Eucharista, February 13; on "National Groups of Minnesota" by Professor Carlton C. Qualey, March 15; on "The Catholic Church in Minnesota" by Monsignor James M. Reardon, April 5; and on "Northern Star: A Centennial Retrospect" by Dean Theodore C. Blegen, May 23. The college has published, as number 11 of its *Aquin Papers*, a booklet entitled *Archbishop Ireland: Two Appreciations* (28 p.). The authors, the Most Reverend Edwin V. O'Hara and Professor Richard J. Purcell, presented these evaluations of Archbishop Ireland's career as part of the Founder's Day exercises held on September 28, 1948.

"To travel down the lakes and portages of such an area as the Quetico-Superior country, knowing one is actually following the unchanged trail of the voyageurs, seeing the shorelines they saw 200 years ago" brings home to the modern adventurer in Minnesota's border lake wilderness the realization that this is the America the explorers and fur traders knew "when our civilization was but a thin line of struggling villages along the Atlantic seaboard." Thus writes Sig Olson in an appeal for "The Preservation of Wilderness," published in the autumn number of the *Living Wilderness*. "To follow the ancient portages that felt the tread of their moccasined feet," Mr. Olson continues, "to read the old diaries while listening to the sounds of the wild they knew, gives one a feeling for early America that can come in no other way."

The experiences of a modern newspaper reporter while "Jeeping Down 1854 Stagecoach Trail" in southeastern Minnesota are recounted by Roy J. Dunlap in two articles appearing in the magazine sections of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 7 and 14. From St. Paul to the Iowa boundary, Mr. Dunlap retraced as nearly as possible the old Dubuque trail in an effort to "discover what portions have resisted erosion and the plow." To guide his course, which began in St. Paul,

led through Cannon Falls, Zumbrota, Oronoco, Rochester, Carimona, and Harmony, and ended on the site of a ghost town, Elliotta, the traveler used the "first territorial survey maps" in the secretary of state's office. Both the route and its history draw Mr. Dunlap's attention. He tells of M. O. Walker's stage line, which brought settlers and supplies into Minnesota Territory via the rough Dubuque road after 1853; quotes diaries and reminiscences of pioneers who experienced the hardships of travel on the trail in the 1850's; and digs into the historical backgrounds of some of the towns that still mark its course. For information, Mr. Dunlap consulted records of various types in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society and interviewed pioneers who still can recall the Dubuque trail of the past.

"How St. Paul Cash Boomed Red River" steamboating in the late 1850's, after the Hudson's Bay Company had "completed arrangements to carry goods in bond through the United States" from the Canadian Red River settlements via St. Paul, is explained by Earl Chapin in a feature article published in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 21. He gives emphasis to the interest of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce in the promotion of Red River steamboating, and tells what was accomplished by such St. Paul businessmen as Anson Northup, Russell Blakely, and Norman W. Kittson.

A chapter in the history of the Northern Pacific Railroad in northern Minnesota is outlined by Carl Zapffe in the *Brainerd Daily Dispatch* for October 20. By describing incidents in the early history of the road between Carleton and Moorhead, particularly in the Brainerd area, the writer reveals that "Railroading in 1870 Presented Difficulties." The same writer tells how the president of the Northern Pacific provided a name for Brainerd in an article published on October 5 under the title "History of Family for Whom City of Brainerd Was Named." An early Brainerd directory, published in 1888, is the subject of a sketch by Mr. Zapffe appearing in the *Dispatch* for November 4.

A brief survey of "The Development of Public School Libraries in Minnesota 1861-1938," which Margaret Briggs contributes to *Minnesota Libraries* for December, is based upon a master's thesis prepared in the University of Chicago. Among the subjects touched upon are state support for school libraries, the organization of a library division in the

state department of education, and the growing use of library facilities in the schools.

The results of some of the research conducted under the auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society's Forest Products History Foundation are presented by A. R. Reynolds in an article entitled "Rafting Down the Chippewa and the Mississippi: Daniel Shaw Lumber Company, a Type Study," which appears in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for December. As a member of the foundation's staff, Mr. Reynolds is engaged in writing a history of the Shaw company. Figuring prominently in his present narrative is the Minnesota river port of Read's Landing, where rafts from the Chippewa were combined to form the larger rafts that ran down the Mississippi. A feature of his article is a table showing the "Cost of Running Lumber on the Mississippi" from Read's Landing to various down-river towns in the 1880's and 1890's. To the same issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, Willis H. Miller contributes an informing sketch of "John Comstock, Pioneer Hudson Banker." Since Comstock contributed to the economic development of the entire St. Croix Valley from 1856 to 1890, his influence was felt in Minnesota as well as in Wisconsin.

As the logging industry of the Northwest became more and more extensive in the period after the Civil War, "practically every driving stream of importance experienced conflicts for dominance among steamboat companies, other navigation interests, and rival log-driving and rafting groups," writes Robert F. Fries in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for December. Such a conflict is the theme of his study of "The Mississippi River Logging Company and the Struggle for the Free Navigation of Logs, 1865-1900." The scene is the Chippewa Valley of Wisconsin and the upper Mississippi. There, according to Mr. Fries, "the contest attained unusual importance because it involved" what was probably "the largest single aggregation of logging capital in the world." The study includes many references to Minnesota lumbermen, and it illustrates the importance of Minnesota boom operations at Winona, Beef Slough, West Newton, and other points on the west bank of the Mississippi.

A wealth of information about lumbering in Wisconsin is to be found in A. D. Polleys' *Stories of Pioneer Days in the Black River Valley*, a series of articles reprinted as a booklet from the *Banner-Journal*

of Black River Falls (1948. 89 p.). Figuring prominently in the earlier sketches, which relate to the "History of Southern Jackson County," is Hercules L. Dousman, the pioneer trader for the American Fur Company.

The addresses delivered on the occasion of the one-hundredth anniversary of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in November, 1946, have now been assembled in a little book entitled *The State Historical Society of Wisconsin: A Century of Service* (Madison, 1948. 76 p.). Its superintendent, Dr. Clifford L. Lord, contributes an introduction in which he outlines briefly the story of the founding and growth of Wisconsin's "nationally known laboratory of historical research." Its founders, writes Dr. Lord, preoccupied as they were with the problems incident to drafting a state constitution, had the vision "to provide for the preservation of historical data in a region which only seventeen years before had belonged wholly to the Indians, and where the taming of the wilderness and the earning of one's daily bread was still a major concern of all." Following the introduction are the texts of addresses on "The Society and the State" by Governor Walter S. Goodland, "The Society and the Citizen" by Judge Marvin B. Rosenberry, "The Society and the University" by Dean Mark H. Ingraham, "The Society and the Historian" by Professor William B. Hesseltine, "The Society and Industry" by Robert A. Ewens, "The Society and Agriculture" by Milo K. Swanton, "The Society and Public Education" by Dean John Guy Fowlkes, and other related topics. Lists of the men who have served as presidents and curators of the society conclude this attractive Centennial booklet.

A dictionary of *Wisconsin Composers* compiled by the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs as its contribution to the Wisconsin Centennial of 1948 is among the significant cultural by-products of the celebration (86 p.). Although the list was intended originally for "those working with musical programs for Centennial celebrations," it will have permanent value for all who are interested in the musical and cultural history of the upper Northwest. For "composers whose birth or residence in Wisconsin have been documented," the booklet gives pertinent biographical information and lists of compositions. It contains also the names of the winners of a Centennial composition contest sponsored by the Centennial committee on music.

Among the most useful publications resulting from the Wisconsin Centennial is an attractive booklet on *Wisconsin's Historical Sites*, prepared by the Committee on Wisconsin Women (87 p.). The arrangement is regional, and each section is accompanied by an attractive pictorial map. According to the foreword, the committee issued "this guide to the state's historic and noteworthy sites to implement the most important objective in its program of Centennial celebration — the stimulation of interest in seeing and knowing Wisconsin."

A member of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society's Forest Products History Foundation, George B. Engberg, contributes to the September issue of *Michigan History* an article entitled "Who Were the Lumberjacks?" The paper "is concerned with the source of the labor supply for the lumber industry" of the Lake States. Many of the writer's examples are drawn from the Minnesota area. He notes, for example, the movement of Maineites into Minnesota, and the presence of natives of Wisconsin and Michigan in the Minnesota lumber camps of the 1880's.

The two-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Cahokia, Illinois, will be observed during a two-week period beginning on May 14. More than twenty historical and civic organizations are co-operating in planning the observance, which will include civic and religious ceremonies, a pageant, a music festival, and tours to points of interest in the vicinity. Cahokia, which was one of the earliest settlements in the Mississippi Valley, was long a center of French culture in the Illinois country.

*The State Historical Society of Missouri: A Semicentennial History*, by Floyd C. Shoemaker, is, according to the author's introduction, the fourth commemorative history of book length published by a state historical organization (1948. 193 p.). Because Mr. Shoemaker has been connected with the staff of the Missouri society since 1910, and has served as its secretary since 1915, much of his narrative is based upon personal experience. He has known "personally and intimately the men who founded this institution and guided it from infancy to maturity," and his evaluation of their contributions is colored by his own memories of their contacts through the years. The founding and building of the society, the assembling of its great collections, its publications, and its contacts with other organizations are among the subjects discussed. The



study is of value also for its comments on historical activity in the upper Mississippi Valley.

"Three Artists of the Frontier" and examples of their work recently acquired by the Missouri Historical Society of St. Louis are discussed by Mary M. Powell in the society's *Bulletin* for October. They are Frederick Piercy, an Englishman who made an overland trip to Salt Lake City in 1853, and two Germans—Paulus Roetter and Julius Kummer—who joined the group of artists living and working in St. Louis. Examples of the work of each of these men are reproduced with the article.

### HISTORY IN THE COMMUNITY

Occasioned by the dismantling of a century-old house at Fridley is an illustrated article about the structure's history written by Joe Summers and published in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for November 5. The house, the writer records, was built in 1849 by Henry M. Rice, and was acquired eight years later by Abram M. Fridley. Several pictures of the residence illustrate the article.

The ninety-second anniversary of the founding of the New Ulm Turnverein, which was marked by members of the organization on November 14, was the occasion for the publication, in the *New Ulm Review* for November 11, of an article about the history of this frontier gymnastic society. Prominent in this narrative, as well as in an article about the New Ulm Junior Pioneers appearing in the *Review* for October 14, is the name of William Pfaender.

Based upon Dr. Alice Felt Tyler's paper on "William Pfaender and the Founding of New Ulm," which is published elsewhere in this issue of *Minnesota History*, is a feature article by Elizabeth McLeod Jones appearing in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for December 12. Among the illustrations with the newspaper report are pictures of the first and the present Turner halls in New Ulm, and a portrait of Pfaender.

Harold Rogers is the author of an article on "Minnesota's Flaming Terror"—the forest fire that destroyed Moose Lake in 1918—published in the November number of *Coronet*. Its appearance marks the thirtieth anniversary of the tragedy.

An interesting chapter in the social history of northwestern Minnesota is outlined in a recently published booklet entitled *Sportsmen Unlimited: "25 Years with the Moorhead Rod and Gun Club,"* which has been edited by Bob Burrill and published by the club (1948. 78 p.). The founding of the organization in 1923 by a group of enthusiastic sportsmen is recalled, and their varied activities, including conservation work, are described. Included in the booklet are brief biographical sketches of the club's presidents.

The history of the *Minneapolis Park System, 1883-1944*, is reviewed by Theodore Wirth, for more than thirty years superintendent of the Mill City parks, in a substantial volume completed in 1945 and published by the Minneapolis Board of Park Commissioners in the following year (347 p.). Although the subtitle describes the contents simply as "Retrospective Glimpses into the History of the Board of Park Commissioners of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the City's Park, Parkway, and Playground System," the writer gives a thoroughgoing picture of the organization of the park board in 1883 and its accomplishments in the decades that followed. City planning receives its share of attention; a separate section is devoted to each park; and such topics as horticulture, boating, winter sports, engineering, bathing beaches, and aviation are discussed. The book is elaborately illustrated.

"This is the kind of local historical effort of which not only the city of Minneapolis but the whole state of Minnesota may be proud," writes J. M. Nolte, director of the Minnesota Territorial Centennial, in the introduction to a little book for children describing *Minneapolis Now and Long Ago* (St. Paul, 1948. 66 p.). Four Minneapolis teachers — Agnes O'Connor, Leona Saatoff, Pearl Whitney, and Myrtle Anderson — collaborated in the preparation of the text, and Eleanor Lewis adapted the charming illustrations from original drawings by children in the third grade. The booklet contains stories of pioneer home life and working conditions, recreation, and health, as well as tales of local Indians.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the Edina Grange, which was marked by its members on December 4, is the occasion for an article about the founding and history of the group in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for November 29. Known as the Minne-ha-ha Grange, the organization still has its own hall at Edina. Many of its present members are descendants of men and women who founded the Grange.

Plans for the writing and publication of a new history of Hubbard County are announced in the *Park Rapids Enterprise* for October 15. The authors, Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Scheers, are journalists with long records of experience, particularly in north-central Minnesota.

"That St. Vincent may lay a claim to pre-eminence in Minnesota when early settlements are under discussion" is noted by Earl Chapin in an illustrated feature article about its backgrounds appearing in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for October 3. A center of trade and settlement before 1800, the area about St. Vincent, in the extreme northwestern corner of what is now Minnesota, was familiar to explorers and traders long before Fort Snelling was established, the writer points out.

The "Danish Traditions" that have been kept alive in the Minnesota village of Askov are exploited in a pictorial review of local activities published in the November issue of *Friends Magazine* of Detroit, Michigan. The brief descriptive text that accompanies the illustrations recalls the community's founding as a colony of the Danish People's Society in 1905.

To act as chairman of a Centennial committee that will undertake to reopen Carver's Cave in the summer of 1949, Will Reeves, St. Paul journalist, has been named. Boy Scouts from the Ramsey County Boy's Home at Highwood will assist in the work of clearing the opening and exploring the interior, according to an announcement in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for November 15.

Reprinted from the *Hibbing Sentinel* of September 29, 1894, is "Minnesota's Ode to the Almighty Dollar," which appears with an introductory note by Philip D. Jordan in the *Southern Folklore Quarterly* for September. It is presented as a "perfect specimen of folk humor directed toward a contemporary philosophy."

### LOCAL SOCIETIES AT WORK

Representatives of five county historical societies of southwestern Wisconsin and of the Winona and Houston county societies in southeastern Minnesota assembled at La Crosse on November 20 for a co-operative meeting arranged under the auspices of the La Crosse County Historical Society. A feature of the program was produced by local

high school students, who re-enacted some incidents in the history of the community. Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society was the speaker, taking as his subject "Community Memory." The Minnesota state society was represented also by Mr. Arch Grahn and Mr. G. Hubert Smith. Attending the meeting on behalf of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin was Dr. Wilbur H. Glover.

Under the auspices of the St. Anthony Park Area Historical Association, a program honoring the memory of Horace W. S. Cleveland and dedicating a marker on his grave was arranged in the chapel of Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis, on October 17. Mr. Thomas W. Barnard, president of the association, presided, and Dean Theodore C. Blegen of the graduate school in the University of Minnesota gave the principal address. The speaker designated Cleveland as the "apostle" of Twin City parks, crediting him with accomplishing more than any other single individual to "advance the cause of a common system of parks and boulevards" for St. Paul and Minneapolis. Co-operating with the St. Anthony Park group in the marking of Cleveland's grave were the park boards of the two cities, the Minnesota Historical Society, and the Hennepin County Historical Society. Dr. Harold D. Cater, director of the state society, accepted the marker on behalf of that organization. Inscribed on the stone plaque is the following tribute to Cleveland: "Pioneer American landscape architect whose vision, reaching far beyond his time, lives in the rivers and parkways of the Twin Cities. They are his true monument!"

An address on Finnish racial origins by E. A. Pulli of Virginia was a feature of the program presented before a meeting of the American-Finnish Historical Society at Virginia on November 13. The late Adolph Lundquist of New York Mills, editor of a Finnish newspaper in that community, was honored by the reading of an obituary sketch by Matt Erkkila of Cook. Two members of the state Centennial committee, Mrs. Arne Halonen and Dr. Carl Sodergren of Minneapolis, outlined plans for the 1949 celebration.

The daughter of a Chippewa chief, Mrs. Kate Durant, recalled some incidents in the history of her tribe before a meeting of the Aitkin County Historical Society at Aitkin on October 2. Plans for a local Centennial celebration discussed at the meeting were more definitely defined on October 14, when members of the county Centennial committee met with Mr. Harold Searls, state pageant director for the event. At a meeting of

the society on November 4, Mrs. Serena Goward recalled her experiences as a pioneer teacher and county superintendent of schools.

Some "Old Houses of Minnesota" were described by Mrs. W. A. Nebelung before a meeting of the Becker County Historical Society at Detroit Lakes on November 9. The society's December meeting was marked by the election of officers; Mr. Walter Bird was re-elected president, Mrs. E. J. Bestick was named vice-president, and Mr. Halvor Langslet is secretary.

Although the Carver County Historical Society has funds for a memorial building in which to house its museum, its members, at a meeting held in Waconia on October 16, decided to wait for lower costs before erecting such a structure. The society's collections are now on display in the city hall of Waconia. The purchase of additional cases for the museum was recommended. It was voted to reduce the life membership fee from fifteen to ten dollars. All officers of the society, including Mr. O. D. Sell, president, were re-elected.

Dr. Anna Amrud was re-elected to the presidency of the Chippewa County Historical Society at its annual meeting, held in Montevideo on October 4. Mrs. A. N. Kohr, who was again named trustee of the society's museum, announced that she has located a photograph of Red Iron, a Sioux chief whose village was in the Yellow Medicine area. Her remarks are reported in the *Montevideo American* for October 8.

To illustrate the handcrafts of the North Shore area, the Cook County Historical Society arranged an exhibit of more than two hundred articles made by local Indians and settlers of several nationalities in connection with a meeting held at Grand Marais on November 5. Mrs. Ruth Lawrence, director of the University Gallery of Minneapolis, was the speaker. The program, which included songs of the frontier by performers in appropriate costumes, was arranged by the society's president, Miss Olga Soderberg.

At a meeting held in Windom on October 16, a local old settlers' organization was reorganized as the Cottonwood County Historical Society. Officers elected on that occasion include Mr. O. J. Finstad, president, Mr. Milo Smith, vice-president, and Mrs. Frank Sykora, secretary. Mr. Richard R. Sackett of the state Centennial staff, who was present, suggested ways in which the new organization can mark the anniversary

in 1949. Members of the society assembled at Jeffers on November 19 to make plans for historical markers throughout the county, and to organize membership and program committees.

The Faribault County Historical Society was organized at a well-attended meeting held at Blue Earth on October 9. A constitution was adopted, and officers, including Miss Marian Drake, president, were elected. A Gopher Historian program was inaugurated, with Miss Dorothy Foss as adviser. Before November 1, when the group held its first regular meeting, sixty-six members had been enrolled. At a meeting held in Wells on December 6, historical sketches of five townships were read by students in the local teacher training school.

Plans for the opening of the museum of the Fillmore County Historical Society in new quarters at Preston were announced in the *Preston Republican* for December 30. Mrs. E. A. Vischer, the curator, will be on hand to welcome visitors daily, except Sundays, during 1949, according to the announcement.

"Rediscovering America" was the title chosen by Dr. J. O. Christianson for an address presented before a meeting of the Hennepin County Historical Society in Minneapolis on October 12. How a local historical organization can illustrate the building of America by exploiting community history was stressed by the speaker. On November 29, members of the society heard Professor Harold Quigley speak on "Present-day Japan."

At a meeting held in Cohasset on November 8, members of the Itasca County Historical Society heard a talk by Mr. Peter Popovich of the state Centennial staff. He told of Centennial plans that are being drafted elsewhere, and urged that Itasca County participate in the celebration. The work of an active junior historical society in a local junior college was described by its director, Professor Ezra Friedlund. On December 13 Mrs. Lucy Loebrick of Cohasset outlined the history of an Itasca County school district in a talk presented before a meeting of the local historical society at Coleraine.

At the close of the year 1948, the Jackson County Historical Society had 242 members. The organization has been given space for a museum in the courthouse at Lakefield, and the county commissioners are giving it financial help in furnishing an office and installing museum cases.

The society held its annual meeting on October 4 at Lakefield. Its president, Mr. A. E. Glaser, presided, and its secretary, Mr. Edward Lafot, reported on the year's activities.

With Mr. Harvey D. Jensen as temporary president, the Koochiching County Historical Society was organized at a meeting held in International Falls on November 30. Plans were made for four regular meetings annually, as well as for the county's participation in the Centennial celebration of 1949.

How the schools can use the Centennial theme to promote an appreciation of local history among students was suggested by C. H. Dahlin, superintendent of schools at Dawson, in a talk before the Lac qui Parle County Historical Society, meeting at Madison on December 17. The story of the Lac qui Parle mission was reviewed by C. E. Retrum of Dawson.

The Lake of the Woods County Historical Society was organized at Baudette on October 13, after a talk in which Mr. Arch Grahn of the state Centennial staff suggested the objectives and outlined the activities of a typical local historical organization. Mr. O. Engh was named president of the new society; Mrs. Lyle Wood is its secretary; and Mr. John F. Clark is treasurer. A constitution was adopted, and plans were made for displays that would help arouse interest in the new organization.

Mr. William Holm was named president of the Lincoln County Historical Society when it was organized at Ivanhoe on December 10. Other officers include Mr. Floyd Petersen, vice-president, Mrs. Claude Zehetner, secretary, and Mrs. Ethel Hermanson, treasurer. As its contribution to the Centennial, the society plans to present a pageant and arrange historical exhibits at the county fair.

The Lyon County Historical Society, which has long been inactive, was reorganized at a meeting held in Marshall on December 7. Temporary officers elected on that occasion include Mr. Matt Ryan, president, Mr. A. P. Rose, vice-president, and the Reverend R. A. Neudecker, secretary-treasurer.

The retirement of Judge Julius E. Haycraft as active head of the Martin County Historical Society was announced at its annual meeting,

held in Fairmont on October 4. As a token of appreciation for his long service as president of the organization, he was named honorary president for life. A new active president, Mrs. J. A. Nightingale, was elected at the same meeting.

The addition of a thousand dollars to the building fund of the Mower County Historical Society was announced by its president, Mr. Richard Rahilly, in the *Austin Daily Herald* for December 9. In memory of Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Ellis, Mower County pioneers, this substantial sum was contributed to the society by their heirs. The society, which now has available \$16,500.00, plans to erect an appropriate building on the Mower County fairgrounds. It is expected that the structure will be completed before the 1949 fair opens, and that it will be ready also for "other special events planned as part of the county participation in the Minnesota Territorial Centennial."

At the annual meeting of the Nicollet County Historical Society, which was held in St. Peter on October 25, all officers, including the Honorable Henry N. Benson, president, were re-elected. He was authorized to appoint a committee to make plans for the county's participation in the Centennial celebration.

Two members of the state Centennial staff, Mr. Harold Searls and Mr. Arch Grahn, were present when the Norman County Historical Society was organized at Ada on December 8. One of its objectives is the sponsorship of a local Centennial celebration. A board of directors was named, with Mr. A. C. Pederson as chairman and Mr. Burnett Bergeson as secretary.

Members of the Olmsted County Historical Society who gathered at Rochester on October 26 for its annual meeting heard Mr. Richard R. Sackett, deputy director of the Minnesota Territorial Centennial, outline plans for the 1949 celebration. Mrs. Nora H. Guthrey, the society's vice-president, listed some of the items added to its collections during the past year, and Mrs. B. T. Willson, its superintendent, reviewed its activities in 1948. An important contribution was a series of nineteen weekly radio programs broadcast over station KROC from January 5 to May 10. Mrs. Willson called attention to the increasing number of Olmsted County teachers who "are using the museum resources as visual aids to their work." Dr. A. H. Sanford of Rochester was elected to succeed Mr. Ernest H. Schlitgus as president of the society.



At the annual meeting of the Otter Tail County Historical Society, which was held in Fergus Falls on November 20, Mr. E. T. Barnard was elected president, after announcing his retirement from the post of secretary. He had served in the latter capacity for twenty years. As his successor, Mr. Knute Hanson was named.

Mr. Arch Grahn of St. Paul spoke before a meeting of the Pine County Historical Society in Sandstone on October 4, stressing the opportunities for community service that are open to local historical organizations. The society's president, Mr. J. P. Miller of Askov, announced that plans are under way for writing and publishing a history of Pine County.

Officers of the Red Lake County Historical Society elected at a meeting held in Red Lake Falls on December 13 include Miss Bernice Orr, president, and Mr. Ebert T. Larvick, secretary. Mr. Arch Grahn was present to outline plans for the Territorial Centennial.

The career of George W. Batchelder, pioneer Faribault lawyer, was reviewed by his son's widow, Mrs. Alzina C. Batchelder, speaking before the annual meeting of the Rice County Historical Society, which was held in Faribault on November 16. The Centennial was discussed by Miss Alice Pearson of Northfield, who stressed the significance of the celebration. Mr. Andrew Rowberg of Northfield was named president of the society; he succeeds Dr. Nuba M. Pletcher of Faribault. The text of Mrs. Batchelder's address appears in the *Faribault News* for November 17.

"In Roseau county, the heritage of the past has a meaning more substantial than words. It is displayed in thousands of artifacts in a principal building, in the principal town, in the center of the county." Thus writes Earl Chapin in the feature section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for December 5, where he describes, under the title "Where History Becomes Visible," the museum of the Roseau County Historical Society. The writer pays tribute to the late P. O. Fryklund, "a man imbued with a reverence for the past," through whose efforts the remote community of Roseau obtained one of the best local historical museums in the state. At the society's annual meeting, which was held in Roseau on October 29, the museum's present curator, Mr. I. A. Sunset, reported that nearly four thousand visitors had been welcomed since March 1. The museum is open to the public from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. on weekdays.

Members of the St. Louis County Historical Society gathered at Hibbing on October 14 to attend a dinner meeting and hear a program of talks and addresses arranged by Mrs. Irene Bedard. The principal speaker, Judge Martin Hughes, reviewed the story of the geological surveys conducted in the Arrowhead country by David Dale Owens. Mr. J. H. Hearing recalled some of his experiences in the early years of iron mining in the Eveleth district. The activities of the society were described by two of its officers, Dr. Richard Bardon and Miss Corah Colbrath. At the society's annual meeting, which was held in Duluth on November 23, Dean J. M. Nolte discussed plans for the Minnesota Territorial Centennial, of which he is director. Dr. Bardon was re-elected to the presidency of the society, and Mr. Glen S. Locker, Mr. Hearing, and Mrs. Bedard were named vice-presidents.

The Sibley County Historical Society held its annual meeting at Henderson on October 11, when Mr. R. A. Henderson was elected president. Other officers named on that occasion include Mr. Louis Kill, vice-president, Mr. Fred Stoeffer, treasurer, and Mr. Harold Haas, secretary. A committee, composed of representatives of the community's clubs and other organizations, was named to assist the society in setting up a museum in the Poehler Building. Plans for that project were more definitely formulated at a joint meeting of the society and the Ladies Tourist Club on October 26. Present to speak before the group and offer suggestions were two members of the state Centennial staff, Mr. Richard R. Sackett and Mr. Merle Cragun.

The annual meeting of the Stearns County Historical Society, which was held in St. Cloud on December 9, was an "overflow occasion," according to a report by its president, Mr. Glanville Smith of Cold Spring. He was re-elected to that office; Dr. H. B. Clark was named vice-president; Miss Dora Perry was chosen to serve as secretary; and Mrs. Harry Cater was elected treasurer. Plans for the society's participation in the Centennial were discussed, and Mr. Clifford Sakry reported on a tri-county program for that event. He is chairman of a joint committee composed of Stearns, Benton, and Sherburne County residents. As the principal speaker for the session, Mr. Smith told of a recent trip to Great Britain, describing significant changes in the English mode of life and reporting on visits with two British historians.

Christmas customs of long ago — American, French-Canadian and Swedish — were revived for a meeting of the Washington County His-

torical Society held in Stillwater on December 11. The colorful program, in which local school children participated, was arranged under the direction of Miss Marjorie Edgar of Marine and Mrs. Rodney Engquist of Scandia. All officers of the society were re-elected at a business meeting of the organization held in Stillwater on November 13. They include Mrs. Henry Bailey, president, Mrs. George Goggin, secretary, and Mrs. Albert Mellin, treasurer. From the Stillwater Centennial committee, the society received \$576.76 to be used for historic markers in the vicinity, according to an announcement in the *Stillwater Evening Gazette* for December 16.

### CENTENNIAL NEWS

In a New Year's proclamation issued on January 1, 1949, Governor Youngdahl reminded Minnesotans that "the entire year 1949 has been set aside as a season of jubilee, thanksgiving, inventory and reconsecration" to mark the Centennial of Minnesota's organization as a territory, and he called upon the people of the state to "observe March 3, 1949, Establishment Day, as a state-wide holiday."

The writer of an editorial in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for December 7 predicts that 1949 "will be an interesting period, in the 'brushing up' on local history that is bound to come" with the Centennial. His is only one of the editorial comments on the opportunities open to Minnesotans that have appeared recently in the state press. Worthy of special note, according to this writer, are recent remarks in the editorial columns of the *Willmar Tribune* and the *Faribault Daily News*. To inaugurate the "Centennial Year," the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* devotes the major portion of a full column to the subject in its issue of January 1. The writer calls attention to the fact that the problems which faced the pioneer leaders of 1849 and the conditions under which they worked are pictured by Mary W. Berthel in *Horns of Thunder*, recently published by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Minnesotans who visit Washington during the spring months will have an opportunity to see the extensive exhibit arranged by the Library of Congress in commemoration of Minnesota's Territorial Centennial. The formal opening is scheduled for Saturday, March 5, with Senator Hubert H. Humphrey as the speaker. The exhibit consists of a photographic section, picturing contemporary life and conditions in Minnesota; and a historical section, reviewing the state's history as

revealed in "books, maps, portraits, manuscripts, prints, photographs, paintings, newspapers, music and artifacts." Contributing to the display are several Minnesota institutions, including the Minnesota Historical Society, and such federal depositories as the National Archives, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Gallery of Art. The exhibit will be on view until June 15. Thereafter, the photographic section will be circulated in Minnesota.

The November number of the *State and Local History News* features "Minnesota's Territorial Centennial." Plans for its commemoration are outlined by Dean J. M. Nolte, and the Minnesota Historical Building, where the Centennial headquarters are located, is pictured. Reproduced on the cover of the issue is Henry Lewis' oil painting of St. Paul in 1848.

Thirty-four newspaper advertisements dealing with as many significant phases of Minnesota's development from the frontier era to the present are available to the newspaper publishers of the state through the Minnesota Editorial Association. Each presents an attractive layout, with an appropriate illustration and an informing text prepared by L. A. Rossman, publisher of the *Grand Rapids Herald-Review* and a member of the executive council of the Minnesota Historical Society. The advertisements are designed to call attention to the Centennial, and it is suggested that their "effectiveness can be greatly increased by adding interesting accounts" of local historical happenings. Proof sheets of the entire series have been bound as a pamphlet under the title *The First Hundred Years: A Series of Advertisements on the Development of Minnesota*.

The Centennial office now has available for free distribution a leaflet presenting *Centennial Music Suggestions* (4 p.). The compilers, Harold Searls, pageant director of the Minnesota Territorial Centennial, and Paul Oberg, chairman of the Centennial music committee, have listed, with bibliographical references, voyageur, Indian, immigrant, and lumberjack songs, as well as songs especially composed and published for the Centennial. Mr. Searls has prepared also a useful four-page mimeographed bulletin giving "Costume Hints for Centennial Pageantry." The writer gives detailed descriptions of the clothing worn by Minnesota trappers, traders, and pioneer men and women; he provides a list of readily available books that will be helpful; and he adds the names and addresses of costumers in the Twin Cities and Chicago.

The role of the schools in the Centennial celebration is receiving excellent attention in the *Minnesota Journal of Education*. The first of a series of special Centennial articles is contributed by Louise Spaeth to the September issue. Under the title "Your Home Town Is History," she suggests ways in which community history can be exploited in pageants, historical tours, sports festivals, historic treasure hunts, programs of old-time music and dances, and the like during the Centennial year. The activities of a very productive Gopher Historian chapter at South St. Paul, which is giving special attention to the Centennial, are described in an article on "History Down the Street" by Kathryn McAuliff in the December *Journal*. The periodical is featuring a series of pictorial Centennial covers, beginning in January with a reproduction of Alexis Fournier's oil painting of the Chapel of St. Paul.

Suggestions for "Working the Centennial into Social Studies Classes" are offered by Dorothy Foss in the *Bulletin* of the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies for October. The same issue contains a program for "Minnesota History in the Classroom" by Dean Horace T. Morse, chairman of the Minnesota Historical Society's school committee.

The Minnesota Hardware Retailers Association is sponsoring an essay contest for Minnesota school children who write on the subject, "Why a Territorial Centennial?" As awards for the best essays the association is offering prizes consisting of sporting goods valued at five hundred dollars.

### THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Centennial theme appropriately dominated the program arranged for the Minnesota Historical Society's one-hundredth annual meeting, which was held in St. Paul on January 17. For the opening session, which convened in the Historical Building at 10:00 A.M., about a hundred people, representing sixty-nine local historical organizations, assembled for a discussion of "County Historical Societies and the Centennial." Mr. Peter Popovich of the state Centennial staff, who presided, announced that more than three thousand volunteer workers are now actively engaged in promoting local Centennial celebrations in Minnesota's eighty-seven counties. He then introduced in turn five chairmen of county Centennial committees who were present to describe the outstanding programs of activity under way in their localities.

Mr. Melvin Wroolie of Lac qui Parle County, who spoke first, told of the rewarding school program, featuring a historical treasure hunt, inaugurated in his home county. Through the efforts of the local Centennial committee, said Mr. Wroolie, the Lac qui Parle County Historical Society was organized in February, 1948, and in less than a year the group had enrolled two hundred and fifty members. Mr. Odean Enesvedt of Renville County spoke next, taking as his theme the frontier mansion built in the early 1860's near Sacred Heart by Joseph R. Brown. After sketching the story of the destruction of the house in the Sioux War and recalling the excavation of the ruins in 1936, he announced that his committee plans to restore the crumbling walls, erect markers on the site, and landscape the area, which is now a wayside park. The third speaker, Mr. C. T. Burnley, represented Dakota County, where an elaborate pageant is being planned and a writing project is under way. Mrs. I. E. Shisler of Aitkin County told of a tour, planned for June 14, to the site of the North West Company's post on Sandy Lake, and of several special celebrations to be sponsored by the local Centennial committee and by the recently organized Aitkin County Historical Society. Three counties—Stearns, Benton, and Sherburne—were represented by Mr. Clifford Sakry of St. Cloud, chairman of a joint committee for the area they embrace. He described an ambitious program looking toward Centennial church, farm, music, and sports festivals in those counties; and he announced a musical performance, featuring territorial history, which he has written for presentation in St. Cloud in March. A discussion of questions relating to the staging of pageants and the securing of funds for Centennial observances followed. On the motion of the Honorable Henry N. Benson of St. Peter, an appeal was sent to the legislature asking that county boards be authorized to appropriate funds for local Centennial celebrations.

The principal session of the society's Centennial meeting opened with a luncheon, for which some two hundred and fifty people gathered in the Casino Room of the St. Paul Hotel. In the audience were members of Gopher Historian groups from high schools in St. Cloud, St. Paul, South St. Paul, and Minneapolis. Mr. Bergmann Richards, president of the society, opened the program by welcoming and introducing the guests at the head table. Among them were Miss Laura Furness, Mrs. Mathilde Rice Elliott, and Mrs. George C. Rugg, descendants, respectively, of the society's first three presidents, Alexander Ramsey, Henry M. Rice, and Henry H.

Sibley. Portraits of these pioneer leaders of the society were on display during the meeting.

For some general remarks about the society and its program of activity, Mr. Richards called upon its new director, Dr. Harold Dean Cater, whose first annual meeting coincided with the organization's one-hundredth. After briefly reviewing the story of the society's beginnings a century ago, Dr. Cater remarked that the organization now must live up to its mature years. To help it do this, he announced, a women's organization has been founded. He told also of the objectives defined for the society's future, particularly as they relate to increasing its membership and to stimulating popular interest in its work.

It was appropriate that the speaker chosen to deliver the annual address should be Dr. Charles J. Turck, president of Macalester College, for it was his predecessor, the Reverend Edward D. Neill, first president of that St. Paul college, who addressed the society's first annual gathering on New Year's Day, 1850. Taking as his subject "Minnesota One Hundred Years Ago: Implications for Today," Dr. Turck directed attention to "three implications for our time as I see them in the history of 1849." They are, he said, "a frank recognition of the importance of economic motives, an exaltation of the place of education, and a willingness to call on government for aid in the doing of those things which require government direction and participation." Enlarging particularly on his second point, he recalled Neill's work on behalf of the "free common schools" of Minnesota Territory, the embryonic state university, and the academies from which colleges like Macalester emerged. In closing, Dr. Turck called attention to what he considers the "one paramount contribution that the pioneers of Minnesota made to the civilization of our own time" — the "doctrine of equality without caste."

About fifty people remained in the Casino Room for the society's business meeting, which was held after a brief recess. Concise reports by the society's treasurer, Mr. Julian B. Baird, by Dr. Rodney C. Loehr of the society's Forest Products History Foundation, and by Dr. Philip D. Jordan of its public health project were followed by the reading of the director's more extensive and detailed report on the society's activities in 1948. Dr. Cater's survey, which appears in full elsewhere in this issue, brought the one-hundredth annual meeting to a close. To quote an editorial published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of January 7, the sessions provided ample proof that the society "really comes into its own, this centennial year of 1949."

## NEWS OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

To increase interest in the society and to help further its work, a women's organization of the society has been created. Mrs. F. K. Weyerhaeuser of St. Paul is chairman, and serving with her as co-chairmen are Mrs. Gordon R. Kamman of St. Paul and Mrs. Arthur C. White of Minneapolis. Although the group has outlined for the future a broad and far-reaching program, touching many phases of the society's activities, it is inaugurating its activities in the society's museum. There, members of the new organization have already begun to provide, install, arrange, and guard displays; to receive and welcome visiting groups; and to arrange for the formal opening of special exhibitions.

Readers will be interested to know that the cover design of *Minnesota History* was included recently in a display of the work of members of the Society of Artists and Art Directors of the Twin Cities. It was offered as an example of the work of Frank Kofron, a distinguished Minnesota typographer. The display was shown first at Dayton's store in Minneapolis on November 24, and it was on view at the Minneapolis School of Art from January 3 to 15.

To make them available to people engaged in planning Centennial observances, the society has copied on microfilm parts of its files of the five earliest St. Paul and St. Anthony weekly newspapers in its collections. They are the *Minnesota Pioneer* for the period from April 28, 1849, to April 27, 1854; the *Minnesota Chronicle and Register* for August, 1849, to February, 1851; the *Minnesota Democrat* for December, 1850, to October, 1855; the *Minnesotian* for September, 1851, to December, 1854; and the *St. Anthony Express* for May, 1851, to August, 1856. The first four papers listed were published in St. Paul. Positive film prints of these pioneer Minnesota territorial newspapers may be rented for a modest fee or purchased outright from the society. They can be enlarged for reading purposes by the use of a special machine.

The society's Forest Products History Foundation sponsored the program presented before the fall meeting of the Upper Midwest History Conference, which was held at the University of Minnesota on November 5. The director of the foundation, Dr. Rodney C. Loehr, presided, and a former member of his staff, Miss Lucile Kane, who is now curator of manuscripts for the society, read a paper on "Lake States Timber-



lands." Dr. Loehr is the author of an article in the *Southern Lumberman* for December 15, in which he explains how the Foundation is "Preserving the History of the Forest Products Industries." Illustrating the article are some excellent lumbering scenes, as well as a picture of the Minnesota Historical Society's building. An editorial in the same issue calls attention to the fact that the foundation "has been quietly but effectively pursuing its objectives for the past two years . . . under the auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society, and financed through the generosity of the Weyerhaeuser and Denkmann families." The editor calls for "an industry-wide recognition of the importance of the work that this Foundation has done and the even greater work it can do in the future." That "it deserves the cooperation and the support of lumbermen in all parts of the country" is the editor's opinion.

A two-volume edition of the Baron de Lahontan's *Nouveaux Voyages* published at The Hague in 1715 has been added to the society's extensive collection of books dealing with French exploration. Of Lahontan's work alone, the society now has eight editions in French, the first of which was published in 1703, four in English, one in Dutch, and one in Italian.

A dozen letters written by members of the Isaac Steere family from 1855 to 1863 while living in the Root River Valley of southern Minnesota have been presented by Mr. Walter H. McKinney, American consul general at Winnipeg. Addressed to relatives in Michigan, many of the letters were written by Mrs. Steere. With simple eloquence, this pioneer woman described the everyday life of the frontier, telling of sickness, storms, "hard times," church, school, clothes, medicine, and the sight of the Minnesota prairie in the setting sun.

Material about the career of Charles H. Berry as attorney general of Minnesota Territory, a federal judge in Idaho Territory, and a leading member of the Democratic party in Minnesota up to the time of his death in 1900 fills four scrapbooks presented by Mr. and Mrs. J. R. McConnon of Winona. Prepared by Miss Kate Louise Berry, the volumes contain letters, pictures, and newspaper clippings. The earliest item is a letter written from Winona in 1857. Of special interest are several letters about Minnesota business and politics from Henry H. Sibley.

A trip from Fort Wayne, Indiana, to St. Paul by way of Chicago, Janesville, Madison, and Prairie du Chien is described and detailed

accounts of visits to Shakopee, Anoka, and St. Anthony are given by John Cochrane in two letters written in 1857 from St. Paul, and recently presented to the society by Mr. John C. Sweet of Minneapolis. The gift includes two letters that Cochrane wrote in Quebec in 1833.

"These Summer Soldiers and sunshine Patriots hate me really," wrote General Willis A. Gorman of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry to Lieutenant S. L. Hammon on December 29, 1861, "because I have won for our gallant little State more glory and renown, than may be useful to certain politicians in the future." Gorman is only one of a group of prominent Minnesotans represented in a notable collection of Hammon's Civil War letters recently copied for the society on microfilm through the courtesy of Mrs. Peter S. Burghart of Excelsior. Other correspondents who wrote to Hammon between November, 1861, and May, 1863, include Stephen Miller, John B. Sanborn, C. B. Heffelfinger, and Governor Alexander Ramsey.

A freighting business conducted at Moorhead from 1882 to 1884 by the firm of Alsop Brothers is the subject of ten letters received from Mr. G. A. Van Noddall of New York. They deal for the most part with the business crises that confronted this Red River Valley firm in the dull years of the early 1880's. An interesting pictorial letterhead, showing the waterfront at Moorhead, appears on most of the letters.

A portrait bust of the late Frank B. Kellogg is the gift of the sculptor, Mr. Joseph A. Capecchi of St. Paul. Accompanying the bust, which was made in 1932, is a small plaster plaque upon which Kellogg wrote his signature.

A reed organ with a walnut case, made at Quincy, Illinois, by the firm of Whitney and Holmes, has been presented by Mr. F. Herbert Holmes of Minneapolis. The instrument belonged originally to the donor's father, James B. Holmes, a St. Paul pioneer of 1855. Since it is typical of organs used in parlors of the 1870's, the instrument is a welcome addition to the society's collection of early furniture.

### READERS' COMMENTS

Few articles published in this magazine have inspired so much favorable comment as Dean Blegen's "Saga of Saga Hill," in the December, 1948, issue. A number of those who read this nostalgic picture of

a Lake Minnetonka summer colony at the turn of the century took time to write to the author or the editor. Mrs. Lester J. (Aimee Huston) Eck of Minneapolis added some entertaining memories of a later decade in a letter addressed to Dean Blegen on December 31. Here it is, in part:

As I opened my December issue of *Minnesota History*, my eye fell upon "The Saga of Saga Hill," bringing a flood of memories.

I did not realize that the history of the Hill went back so far. We were "Johnny Come Latelys" to the spot, moving there in about 1920. My father owned the little summer cottage third from the channel which connects West Arm and Forest Lake. . . .

Many are the apples I have had from the trees your father planted, and the maple tree you used to climb to avoid your mother's call to chores was also my refuge from my aunt, Mrs. Reynolds, then the owner of your father's property.

But for all we came late, we too had our memories of summers on the hill. We commuted to Spring Park via the railroad, then caught the launch operated by the Nelson brothers, Elwood and Paul, which like the Toonerville Trolley, met all of the trains some of the time, and some of the trains all of the time. . . .

Directly across the lake from our cottage was an island. You doubtless know the history of its ownership, but to us it was always a dark and exciting mystery. On the center of the island was an abandoned house, very large, as I remember, and full of cobwebby furniture and bats' nests. We called it the haunted house, and used to row surreptitiously around the island, sometimes daring to stop and climb up to peer in the broken windows. This was strictly off limits as far as our parents were concerned, and so the excursions held added charm. . . .

Many other memories come crowding in as I write this, and if the Book of Minnetonka is ever written perhaps some of them will find their place in its pages.

In a letter of January 4, Mrs. Eck adds "other notes":

The hail storm of 1922 or 1923, very local in character, which covered only the Saga Hill area, and left hail stones measuring thirteen inches in circumference. We used them for ice in the ice box for days, as did everyone else on the Hill.

The cyclone which struck Saga Hill and Forest Lake about those same years, twisting the age-old oaks into grotesque shapes, and uprooting many of the beautiful pines the early settlers had planted. I have pictures of that event.

The nightly movies which were an event of the Hill. My father was in the moving picture business, and used to run full reel features and comedies (silent films, of course) outside our house every evening, free to all Saga Hill residents, with refreshments following. Everyone came.

Wild strawberry time—tiny quarter-size green turtles in the channel, caught and sold for pets—the tipping over of all outhouses on the Hill on Halloween, an annual event—the horse-drawn milk cart, bringing milk directly from cow to you, without benefit of pasteurization—the postman in his old jalopy, who read all the postcards, and I think had X-ray eyes for the sealed letters too. At least he knew all the answers.

Oh, memories of the Hill!

Another Saga Hill resident who wrote to Dean Blegen is Borghild Dahl. From New York, she sent the following comment about his essay:

It is charming and it brought back many beautiful memories of my childhood. Also it gave me considerable information. I always knew that we were situated just on the outside fringe of Saga Hill—although we claimed to belong—but I didn't know the history. I would give a good deal to be able to talk with my parents and yours in preparation for the book I hope to write about the locale.

Perhaps I, too, am too close to give a good perspective. But one has to write about what one knows. And certainly many of my most vivid pictures date back to the period I spent there. . . .

Incidentally that was a nice plug you gave *I Wanted to See* in your article. . . .

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The editor was particularly pleased to hear from Mr. O. J. Wold of Ray, one of the "Monitors" who made the trip "From Minneapolis to the Klondike in 1898" described by Carl L. Lokke in the December number. In a letter of January 12, he recalled stopping at the Gunderson home with a companion "to pick up our share of clothing for the trip," and there meeting Gunderson's daughter and her infant son, Carl, "the same who wrote the story about the 'Monitors' for your magazine."

Of Mr. Lokke's article, Dean Blegen wrote as follows on December 22:

The adventures of Lars Gunderson and the Klondike were new to me, and as fascinating as new—an illustration of the potentialities in the story of Minnesota people and influences moving out to the West.

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Judge M. M. Joyce of the United States District Court in Minneapolis made the following general comment about the quarterly in a letter dated February 11:

For a long time I have had it in mind to drop you a line telling you how much I enjoy "Minnesota History." To anyone who is at all interested in the early history of the state and of the men who helped

make it, this publication is of invaluable aid. I have enjoyed its stories of the trappers, the expedition to the Klondike, and the various sagas which from time to time have appeared in its pages. Likewise, I think the book reviews are excellent; they deal with topics which are worth while and are deserving of high praise. I admire also the format of the publication. It is a concise and handy volume, and I hope that more and more readers will, as I did, discover its excellence.

### WHO'S WHO IN THIS ISSUE

Sister Helen Angela Hurley has based upon letters in the archives of St. Joseph's Provincial House of St. Paul her article on "The Sisters of St. Joseph and the Minnesota Frontier." Since her narrative of Catholic activity in the pre-statehood era includes lengthy extracts from documentary sources, it has been published as one of this quarterly's series of "Territorial Daguerreotypes." The author, who received a doctor's degree in sociology from the Catholic University of America in 1938, has contributed to *Acta et Dicta* and other publications. She is at present engaged in special research for a book on the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the Province of St. Paul.

In "Documentary Panorama," Miss Bertha L. Heilbron, editor of the society's quarterly, tells the story of John Stevens and his gigantic pictorial records of the Sioux War. The writer began to gather information on panoramas when she edited Henry Lewis' journal, which was published under the title *Making a Motion Picture in 1848* (1936). Her interest in Stevens' panoramas stems from the fact that the society owns one of them. Incidentally, she knows of only three other surviving examples of these primitive movies.

Widely known for her writings in the field of social and economic history is Dr. Alice Felt Tyler, associate professor of history in the University of Minnesota. In 1943 she contributed to this quarterly an article on "The Westward Movement as Reflected in Family Papers," and she has been represented frequently in the book review section. Among her books is *Freedom's Ferment*, published in 1944.

Dr. Harold Dean Cater publishes in the present issue his first report as director of the society. Since he took over his new duties on August 1, his survey of the society's progress in 1948 naturally emphasizes the closing months of the year. Dr. Cater, who came to the society from the historical division of the War Department special staff, is the author of *Henry Adams and His Friends* (1947) and of numerous articles.

The current book review section opens with an evaluation, by Dr. and Mrs. Solon J. Buck, of the society's most recent major publication — Mrs. Berthel's *Horns of Thunder*. Dr. Buck, a former superintendent of the society, is now chief of the division of manuscripts in the Library of Congress. Others who contribute book reviews to the present issue include Professor James Gray of the department of English in the University of Minnesota, who was until recently a literary critic for St. Paul and Chicago newspapers; Dr. John T. Flanagan, professor of English in the University of Illinois; Dr. William P. Randel, associate professor of English and director of the program of American Studies in the University of Florida at Tallahassee; Mrs. Sara Jones Tucker of Minneapolis, compiler for the Illinois State Museum of an important volume of maps pertaining to *Indian Villages in the Illinois Country* (1942); Professor Vernon Carstensen of the history faculty in the University of Wisconsin; Dr. Paul M. Angle, director of the Chicago Historical Society; Dr. Rodney C. Loehr, associate professor of history in the University of Minnesota and director of the society's Forest Products History Foundation; and Professor Theodore Saloutos of the department of history in the University of California at Los Angeles.

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*The Minnesota Historical Society is endeavoring to double its membership in this year of its Centennial. You can help the society attain this goal by inviting your friends to join it.*

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Enclosed is my remittance for membership in the class checked below. This includes a year's subscription to *Minnesota History*.

\$ 3.00 for dues as an annual member.

\$10.00 for dues as a sustaining member for one year.

\$50.00 for dues as a life member.

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