

## Some New Books in Review

*The Earth Brought Forth: A History of Minnesota Agriculture to 1885* (Minnesota Centennial Publications, no. 4). By MERRILL E. JARCHOW. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1949. xvi, 314 p. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

As Dean Blegen writes in his preface, the great virtue of Dr. Jarchow's book is that the farmers are treated as people. The tremendous human effort involved in the occupation of a new land is effectively pictured; the author goes to no end of trouble in order to give us the details of life, work, and struggle which were the lot of the Minnesota pioneers. From the problems of acquiring land to the organization of the fair associations to display the products of agriculture, the conditions of farming are vividly described.

I cannot agree, however, that the complete farmer emerges from this study, for all its thoroughness of investigation and competence of presentation. There is one further step to be taken if we are to understand thoroughly what happened on Minnesota farms, and that is to explain how the farmer thought about his management problems. The economic dynamics of agriculture lie in that point—all changes in land utilization, in capital investment on the farm, and in employment of the rural labor force are settled by the decisions that farmers make regarding what is best for them to do. Without wishing to suggest that only economics is significant in rural life, I think it necessary to insist that some of the problems which Dr. Jarchow discusses cannot be satisfactorily explained without an understanding of the basis of the farmer's economic decisions. More is needed than the invention of a mythical personality to account for essential changes. We have all met our old friend General Trend before, but never with much profit.

In the discussion of the shift from wheat farming to a more diversified type, Dr. Jarchow pursues the course of the movement with clarity and pertinacity up to the point of establishing its cause. This he declares to be the rising price of land. But is this conclusive? Why should a farmer making a satisfactory living shift his crop practices simply because his land is growing more valuable? Why should he not merely

relax, happy in the knowledge that the appreciation will guarantee him a carefree retirement? And yet I am sure that many Minnesota farmers changed their ways despite the fact that they knew their land had increased in value. Indeed the author demolishes his own argument when he acknowledges that the rise was a result as well as a cause of a more diversified farming.

The answer to the riddle must be found in the thinking of the leaders among Minnesota's farmers. They will very likely be found to be asking whether they might not be doing better. The problem of wheat is not whether it produces a profit, but whether other practices might make a greater profit.

I hope we may have more of this history of Minnesota agriculture, and in the first chapter I would like to read about the great farmers of the state. The present volume is full of tantalizing glimpses of the creative figures among them — John H. Stevens, William S. King, Oren C. Gregg, Peter Gideon, and others. No one of them is analyzed in detail as to his theories of farming. An elucidation of them might very well furnish the key to certain questions which this book leaves in the mind of the reader—and it would be only an extension of the sound and human approach of the author, who searches for the springs of history in the acts of individuals.

The emphasis given to the adoption of farm machinery is also open to question. There are three chapters on this subject, packed with exact and interesting information. One may question, however, the author's implication that the adoption of modern machinery is the touchstone of an advanced agriculture, as in the final sentence on page 130. Certainly the adoption of modern attitudes on soil fertility and plant and animal husbandry are of equal significance.

In general the work that has been done in the preparation of this book is of a kind to excite admiration. Only one error must be noted, and that may be regarded as a bit of Wisconsin pedantry. Professor Babcock developed a milk-fat test, not a "cream tester" (p. 217). The volume teems with intimate data which will bring heart-warming recollections to all who know Minnesota, and it makes a splendid addition to the literature of a Centennial year of that state. The book is physically most attractive. The design is excellent and the profuse illustrations are instructive and engaging.

W. H. GLOVER

*With Various Voices: Recordings of North Star Life, 1654-1900.* Edited by THEODORE C. BLEGEN and PHILIP D. JORDAN. (St. Paul, The Itasca Press, 1949. xxiv, 380 p. \$5.00.)

The making of an anthology is a perilous job. There are problems of space and scope and copyright. Since the amount of available material is invariably many times that which can be included, proper selection becomes of paramount importance. The most suitable arrangement is also troublesome, since both chronological and topical plans have their merits, and proximity is as often unfortunate as it is obvious. Such difficulties become especially apparent when the anthology is to be the record of the emergence of a great modern state from the wilderness, the story of Minnesota as unsurveyed hinterland, fur empire, territory, and state from the middle of the seventeenth century to 1900. It is only fair to add that Dean Blegen and Professor Jordan have been conspicuously successful in overcoming such obstacles and in making *With Various Voices* what they hoped it would be—an accurate and colorful pageant.

The book has eleven sections of unequal length and emphasis. Radisson and Hennepin, Carver and Schoolcraft help to tell the story of the first penetration of what is now Minnesota. James M. Goodhue, belligerent editor of the *Minnesota Pioneer*, and Bishop Henry B. Whipple, the apostle to the Sioux, reveal in different fashion the debacle of the Indians. Political leaders like Henry Sibley, Ignatius Donnelly, Cushman K. Davis, and John Lind report the early attempts to establish a territory and later the various difficulties—economic, social, political—which confronted the young commonwealth. Governor Lind's 1899 message to the state legislature, the last item in the book, is especially perceptive and not irrelevant even today.

Such Minnesota disasters as the 1873 blizzard, the subsequent grasshopper plagues, and the Hinckley fire are narrated by survivors. There are interesting accounts of old Fort Snelling in three different decades, of the emergence of cities, and of the Red River fur brigades. Nor is the emphasis always on public events, since various selections are devoted to pioneer schoolteaching, early social life, the development of a hardy brand of alfalfa and a durable apple, wheat growing, the improvement of milling practices, and lumbering. Despite personal tragedies and occasional sour notes, the prevalent tone of the collection is optimistic. Minnesota has suffered and endured and plodded along, but

always it has flourished. James J. Hill's paean to his own Great Northern Railway establishes the general feeling of triumph.

The anthology reveals the editors' diligent search for material in a variety of places. Printed journals, speeches, documents, books, and periodicals contribute the bulk of the selections, but a surprising amount has come from hitherto unpublished accounts. Certainly some of the most interesting personal narratives have been selected from manuscripts in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society, tales of a frontier courtship, of emigration from Norway or England, of the old Territorial Road connecting St. Paul and Minneapolis. Many a reader will prefer these simple, honest tales to some of the political documents presented.

It should be pointed out, however, that if the editors have included a fascinating wealth of material, they are also guilty of omissions. Their decision to concentrate on expository prose and factual narrative has led them to ignore poetry and fiction completely. Yet the tales of William Joseph Snelling are quite as revelatory of the Indian as anything which the editors print and are frequently more vivid, while Edward Eggleston's Minnesota novel *The Mystery of Metropolisville* gives a memorable picture of land speculation in the 1850's. The absence of Mark Twain's name suggests the complete overlooking of the Mississippi River. Travelers like Fredrika Bremer, Captain Frederick Marryat, George Catlin, and even Knut Hamsun might have been levied upon. Excerpts from their narratives would have increased the variety of the book and their names would have added distinction to the list of contributors.

Nevertheless, to reiterate an earlier remark, the making of an anthology is a difficult task and one which necessarily reflects editorial taste and preference. No two readers would ever agree on what to include or omit. But there is no doubt that *With Various Voices* is originally arranged and that it contains nearly four hundred pages of readable, vivid, and valuable material, implicit in which is the history of Minnesota down to 1900. One can warmly second the wish of the editors that a subsequent volume will carry the story down to the present.

JOHN T. FLANAGAN

*They Came Here First: The Epic of the American Indian.* By D'ARCY McNICKLE. (Philadelphia and New York, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1949. 325 p. Illustrations. \$3.75.)

This book, dedicated to John Collier, the New Deal commissioner of Indian affairs, attempts to cover a great deal of territory. The author's purpose, as given by the publisher, declares, "The amount of ignorance about Indians is so great, that any effort to lessen it must be helpful. My greatest concern is that the American people shall understand what their Government has attempted to do, and why, and with what success; and what in my opinion it should attempt to accomplish hereafter."

Mr. McNickle divides his book into three parts. The first begins with the ice age, and then presents the evidence for early immigration, discusses the physical type or "race" of the American Indian, sketches the linguistic picture, and gives some account of successive cultures, from that of the men who made the earliest Folsom points down to the coming of Europeans. Part 2 brings the European upon the stage and shows how the conquest was conceived and implemented. The third and last section of the book discusses public and social relationships of United States citizens with the Indian.

The author is in full sympathy with New Deal policies in Indian affairs. He believes the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 offers, with all its imperfections, the best solution to the Indian's problems in our day.

Mr. McNickle has consulted many of the standard sources on his subject, including the Meriam report. His apparatus includes a considerable body of source notes which amount to a bibliography. His book, however, appears to be the product of research in libraries, rather than of firsthand and intimate contact with American Indians.

He calls the Indians "potential citizens." Actually, of course, nearly all of them are already citizens of the United States. Moreover, the Indian steadfastly refuses to be considered a member of a minority group. He either, as in Oklahoma where no one discriminates against him, thinks of himself as a United States citizen, or, as in certain less favored regions, thinks of himself as a Hopi, Papago, or Cree.

The book is illustrated with a number of good photographs of Indian life and ceremonies.

STANLEY VESTAL

*Copy-book of Letters Outward &c; Begins 29th May, 1680, Ends 5 July, 1687* (Hudson's Bay Record Society, *Publications*, no. 11.) Edited by E. E. RICH, assisted by A. M. JOHNSON. With an introduction by E. G. R. TAYLOR. (Published by the Champlain Society for the Hudson's Bay Record Society, 1948. xli, 415 p.)

Again the Hudson's Bay Company is to be congratulated on the appearance of another volume of its records, ably and meticulously edited. It may have taken the "Honourable Company" long to decide upon opening its archives to scholars, but once the decision was made, the dogged perseverance and the regularity with which its volumes have appeared have been little short of wonderful.

In some respects this volume contains more of Minnesota interest than any that has yet appeared—that is, if "Minnesota interest" is interpreted broadly. For a scholarly geographer has written an introduction, by which it is possible to see how closely Minnesota history is related to the geography of the northern part of the continent. In addition, Professor Taylor has given by all odds the best evaluation of the cartography of the latter part of the seventeenth century, as far as it relates to the region between Hudson Bay and the Great Lakes. And to add to the scholar's delight, the book includes five fine plates of rare maps, two of which (as far as I can judge) have not appeared in print before.

The letters printed are full of references to several of the men who, first of known white visitors, explored the Minnesota country—Radisson, Des Groseilliers, Duluth, and Péré, with mention of others of Minnesota connections, such as St. Luson, Joliet, Frontenac, and La Salle. In these documents one finds material on the better part of what is known of Radisson's later career.

Americans, especially Minnesotans, sometimes wonder just why the forty-ninth parallel was chosen for a good stretch of the northern boundary of the United States. It may be stated here that it was in the attempt of England and France to settle their respective territorial claims in 1686 and 1687 that the parallel seems first to have been suggested as a dividing line, primarily because it coincided roughly with the height of land between the drainage of the St. Lawrence and that of Hudson Bay. Heretofore it has been difficult to judge of the merits of the French as against the British claims (that is, those of the Hudson's Bay

Company)), but this volume contains most of the pertinent data, all duly preserved in the archives of the company.

It is a pleasure for the historian to add this volume of solid worth to his bookshelf with other truly scholarly achievements.

GRACE LEE NUTE

*The Lost Pathfinder: Zebulon Montgomery Pike.* By W. EUGENE HOLLON. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1949. xv, 240 p. Illustrations. \$3.75.)

This biography of Zebulon Pike will draw a large reader audience in Minnesota, where the narrative of his journey through the upper Mississippi country is part of every history of the state. Students of the 1805-06 expedition will find the bold outlines of the story presented, substantially unchanged, in two chapters, "A Last Adieu" and "Never . . . More Fatigue," which integrate most of what is known about this journey.

But explorations of Minnesota are a small part of this book, which carries the story of Pike from his birth in 1779 to his death at the battle of York in 1813. Much attention is given to Pike's association with General James Wilkinson, although Mr. Hollon does not find evidence either to prove or disprove the notion that Pike served as a spy for Wilkinson and Aaron Burr. The author submits that Pike's role in the treasonous plot may have been limited to carrying out orders given by his superior, but offers no documentary basis for this supposition.

To piece together the story of Zebulon Pike, the author covered groups of papers, both public and private, scattered across the country. Thus, the bibliography is of importance, since it lists and evaluates for the first time the known collections of Pike manuscripts. In doing this, Mr. Hollon has performed a valuable service.

To those counting grains of sand on the Minnesota beach, Mr. Hollon's misuse of such geographic names as "Lake Lecch" and "Lake Cass" is somewhat surprising, since this area is well mapped. Others may also debate Mr. Hollon's statement that "Pike would be little remembered today solely on the record of his Mississippi voyage."

This, however, is a welcome book. Like most first biographies, it will be criticized. Mr. Hollon found Pike's character dramatic, the situations complex and far-reaching, and the evidence on crucial points slight. Although his literary skill falls short of his awareness of his

subject and his skill in research, he has organized the book imaginatively and has told his story straightforwardly. The way is now open for others who will be challenged by the potentialities exposed by *The Lost Pathfinder*.

LUCILE M. KANE

*Lars Wilhelm Boe: A Biography.* By ERIK HETLE. (Minneapolis, Augsburg Publishing House, 1949. 203 p. Portrait. \$2.50.)

Erik Hetle's biography of Lars Wilhelm Boe was written upon the request of the board of publications of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. It is, therefore, an appreciation of the work of Boe as a clergyman, as a force among Lutherans of Norwegian origins, and above all as a much-loved president of St. Olaf College. The reviewer for a historical journal should try to ascertain whether or not a book under review is good history. Obviously the circumstances under which Hetle's biography of Boe were written could hardly have stimulated cold objectivity. Mr. Hetle's book lacks footnotes and a bibliography. It is colored by the author's own friendship for Boe. It is written in an uneven and choppy style. But the people who knew Boe will unquestionably recognize him, and will feel, and feel strongly, about the book because they liked Boe.

"L. W.," as he was affectionately known, emerges through the pages of the Hetle biography as a man who was proud of his origin, of the sturdiness of his ancestors, and of his parents in particular. The narrowness of his puritan background he might have resented, but he accepted it as he did corporal punishment in childhood, never challenging the authority of his parents. Upon his ordination in 1901 he served for a short time as a pastor, and then became president of Waldorf College at Forest City, Iowa, in 1904. He tried his hand at politics and failed, and became president of his alma mater in 1918. St. Olaf College, Boe believed, was with most church-related colleges in a rut. The name of Boe became intimately associated with the program of expansion at St. Olaf. He was eager to have favorable publicity for the college and wanted the faculty to contribute "a second mile" beyond their teaching duties. He wanted them to participate in public life, make speeches, do radio work, write books, and attend educational conferences.

Though Mr. Hetle continues his narrative with an account of Boe's efforts in behalf of Lutheran unity and his varied interests and reactions



to criticisms directed against Rølvaag's works, the writer perhaps stresses too strongly Boe's sociability and desire for companionship. The author also points out some of Boe's weaknesses, such as the fact that his language was not always dignified, not even in his sermons, and that he lacked tact. Mr. Hetle does not intend to be too critical of Boe, but his failure to point to any broader intellectual pursuits and interests beyond those of Boe's environment, his church, the college, and his Norwegian heritage, indicates that the man had no great intellectual interests. His educational background left much to be desired for a college president. But maybe all college presidents are chiefly interested in the physical plant and in the endowment! If so, it is a good thing that we have a few college presidents and not too many of them. Whatever the limitations of Boe might have been, they are more than dimmed by his one great love for St. Olaf College.

O. FRITIOF ANDER

*Railroads of America.* Compiled by FRANK P. DONOVAN, JR. (Milwaukee, Kalmbach Publishing Company, 1949. 244 p. Maps. \$3.00.)

A baker's dozen of authors have written about their favorite railroads, and the resulting essays make fireside reading on fourteen first-class carriers, short lines, and interurbans. The essays vary considerably in length, style, and content. One compiler contributes a historical account of the Pennsylvania Railroad, while another produces a nearly contemporary description of the Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range. Some of the essayists seldom rise above the pedestrian, but others approach Douglas Welch, who contributes a racy sketch of the Pacific Great Eastern. That railroad's "debt is well over \$95 million, a fair chunk of jack," according to Mr. Welch. "The line makes its operation expenses and a little extra each year for the cooky jar on the kitchen shelf." For the historian the book offers a quick review of the story of a particular carrier. The railroad fan can dip into a Pandora's box of wonders, with each succeeding article in sharp contrast to its predecessor. The soothsayers should have a field day, leaning over the shoulders of those writers who try to peer into the future.

Although a considerable amount of railroad history is recited and mentioned, the documentation seeker will be disappointed—no footnotes, no bibliography, no index. The editor, however, has forestalled the chronic complaint of those who read railroad history by including

a map with each essay. The map of the Northern Pacific appears to have been clipped from an old timetable, but the maps of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway are an intriguing example of historical cartography. The main map shows the rail line and gives the dates on which its various sections were completed, abandoned, or formerly operated. Eight smaller maps give the status of the railroad for each decade beginning with 1870. Readable, and sometimes vivid, descriptions of locomotive types, mechanical developments, and traffic routing help to illuminate other phases of railroad management. After the reader has raced—or sometimes plodded—over the Southern Pacific, the Pere Marquette, or the Pacific Electric, the pounding of driving wheels will mean more to him than a seemingly endless freight train blocking a highway crossing, for a reading of these essays should result in a better grasp of one segment of an economic system that is daily becoming more intricate, more complex, and perhaps more misunderstood.

WILLIAM G. RECTOR

*Granger Country: A Pictorial Social History of the Burlington Railroad.*

Edited by LLOYD LEWIS and STANLEY PARGELLIS. (Boston, Little, Brown and Company, 1949. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

To ride through history on the Burlington Route is an experience now within reach of every traveler. Lloyd Lewis and Stanley Pargellis have made the grand tour possible with a volume of photographs that begins in the nineteenth century when the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy's west was raw frontier and ends today when that same region is lush agricultural country and an area of prosperous rural hamlets and thriving manufacturing urban centers.

The Burlington, for those not acquainted with its almost century-old route, runs from the windy city of Chicago almost straight west, through the Mississippi River town that proudly gives the railroad its name, to Denver. That is the main line. But the Burlington also pushes up to Billings from Denver and sends another branch, in co-operation with other railroads, south through big country to Dallas and Galveston. And from Chicago, the CB&Q dispatches its daily fleet of dome-car "Zephyrs" to St. Paul and Minneapolis, a route that parallels the historic Mississippi most of the way.

This extensive geographic area served by the Burlington, of course,

offers an astonishingly rich field for pictures. And *Granger Country* essentially is a photographic album. It took both historical sense and imagination to select scenes that taken together would result in a pageant of continuity. The editors have achieved unity, and, therefore, in a very real sense, their volume serves as a documentary text not only illustrating the development of a major railroad, but also exposing the economic and social awakening of important regions.

Although, generally speaking, the editors accomplish their purpose "to suggest in pictorial form the outstanding importance of railroads, especially those of the Mississippi Valley and Great Plains sections, in promoting the development and growth of the country," their volume is marred by irritating faults. Some reproductions lack captions, although they are identified in the text. The sources from which pictures are taken are not always indicated, and incomplete captions sometimes leave the reader wondering what and where the scene really is. The volume lacks pagination and contains no index. Unfortunately, the running text that fills in the eight sections and provides the background for the illustrations is both thin and uninspired.

Despite these faults, *Granger Country* does make a contribution and does offer a most adequate view of both the growth of an American railroad and of the nation itself. Riding the Burlington through history is a pleasant experience, even if historical cinders now and again must be blinked away.

PHILIP D. JORDAN

*The University of Wisconsin: A History, 1848-1925.* By MERLE CURTI and VERNON CARSTENSEN. (Madison, University of Wisconsin Press, 1949. In two volumes: xviii, 739, x, 668 p. Illustrations. \$10.00.)

The significant contribution made by the University of Wisconsin to the history of education in America is, of course, its clarification and implementation of the concept of social responsibility that came to be associated with its name. The "Wisconsin Idea," which won popular attention during the apostleship of Robert M. La Follette, conceived it the duty of a state university to serve as a clearinghouse for suggestions about how the well-being of all the people might best be advanced, and as a laboratory for testing the value of legislation "designed to strengthen political democracy."

What Professors Curti and Carstensen are able to show is that a long record of sober contemplation and conscientious nurture had gone into the development of this impulse. It was fully formed in the mind of John Bascom, of whom a later president, Edward A. Birge, once declared: "I question whether the history of any great commonwealth can show so intimate a relationship between the forces that have governed its social development and the principle expounded from a teacher's desk as that which exists between Wisconsin and the classroom of John Bascom."

This broad interpretation of the state university's function passed in turn to each of a series of vigorously creative presidents. Thomas C. Chamberlain, a pioneer in the task of transplanting from England the idea of university extension, "outlined a policy for the future which contained a specific expression of much that was a few years later to be included in the Wisconsin Idea." He urged "that the University offer all aid . . . to local associations and organizations engaged in endeavoring to educate the people . . . and that only the necessary expenses involved in such aid be charged."

This "blend of idealism with materialism," based on "an appeal to ethical duty joined to the promise of a better life," was the characteristic, recurring feature of the thinking of the university's significant leaders. The authors of this study appear to believe that it may have been temporarily obscured during the administration of Charles Kendall Adams, who prided himself chiefly upon his success in proving the institution's "material resources." But it reappeared brilliantly in the time of Charles R. Van Hise, the proper and worthy successor to Chamberlain. Van Hise believed that the work of the university was not exclusively "for the students on the Madison campus but [also] for the two and a half million people in the state." Birge, student and disciple of Bascom, who rounded out a long career of service to the university by becoming its president in old age, continued to have the same outlook during an administration that lasted until 1925. Professors Curti and Carstensen conclude their consideration of the university's development with the year 1928, sparing themselves the necessity of commenting on any departure from the basic tradition of Wisconsin that a later administration may have shown.

It is this philosophic concern with a powerful idea consistently dominating the development of a great institution through fifty years

that lends unity to a story which might otherwise have resisted any discipline of its overwhelming variety and amplitude. Professors Curti and Carstensen have firmly resisted, however, any inclination to glorify their university. They have considered with perfect candor the limitations and occasional fumbings even of great presidents, the sometimes destructive whims of regents, the mistakes of faculty members. In two admirable chapters of the first volume — "The Student Body" and "The Student Mind" — they build up a striking composite portrait of the undergraduate whose independence of spirit, as he dared in that free fellowship openly to challenge a professor's ideas, had its bad as well as its good aspects. In all these judgments they show a fine objectivity and balance.

The proportions of any book that attempts to master so vast an amount of material as does this study are certain to seem out of drawing to a man who views the subject from the angle of his own particular interest. A scholar might feel constrained to point out that it is impossible, even in fifteen hundred pages, to compress the full history of so big an institution as Wisconsin. The lover of a story may complain that in all these pages there is too little of drama, too sketchy a treatment of the drama's brilliant figures. But as a fully informed philosophic discussion of a fine experiment in "promoting efficient democratic citizenship" the work is genuinely impressive.

JAMES GRAY

*Indiana Politics during the Civil War (Indiana Historical Collections, vol. 31).* By KENNETH M. STAMPP. (Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Bureau, 1949. xiii, 300 p. \$3.00.)

This study of politics in a key state of the Old Northwest during the critical years from 1860 to 1865 makes a useful contribution to an understanding of the period. Politics is broadly conceived, and the author's analysis of the influence of sectional economic interests within the state upon partisan alignments is particularly valuable.

Governor Oliver P. Morton is by no means Dr. Stampp's hero, but he is necessarily the central figure in the piece. An able administrator, energetic, ambitious, ruthless, and opportunistic, Morton dominated Indiana politics through and beyond the war years. He was assiduous in his stand, from November, 1860, on, for the preservation of the Union, by force if need be; in his efforts, when war came, to raise and equip Indiana's fair quota and more of Union troops; and in his efforts

to win the Indiana volunteers to the cause of the Union party and O. P. Morton. Through the last three years of the war, he and his supporters made a great to-do about the presumably treasonable designs of his political opponents, endeavored to identify the Democratic party with disloyalty to the Union, and claimed repeatedly that by thwarting the nefarious intent of its members he had saved the state for the Union cause. For such claims Dr. Stampp finds no basis in fact.

A bitter rival of George W. Julian, Morton was no radical on the slavery issue, though he defended the Emancipation Proclamation, once it was published. In April, 1865, he urged President Johnson to adopt a conservative reconstruction program; not until 1866 did he identify himself with the radical position.

There may have been a swing of Indiana's German-born voters to Republicanism in 1860, but the evidence herein adduced is by no means conclusive. The reviewer, who found the book absorbingly interesting, would have been grateful for a map locating the several Congressional districts, if not the counties and cities mentioned.

FRANK H. HECK

*100 Years in the St. Paul Pioneer Press, 1849-1949.* (St. Paul, 1949. 101 p. \$1.00.)

This hundred-page booklet, which reproduces representative headlines, news stories, and advertisements from the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* during its century of existence, is, as its foreword points out, a panorama. In chronological progression, each page of the volume presents selections from one year of the *Pioneer Press* files. Some of the stories that mirror the political, economic, and social life of the state recount the arrival of Governor Ramsey in 1849; the New Ulm Massacre in 1862; the Northfield bank robbery in 1876; the destruction of the state Capitol by fire in 1881; the Hinckley fire in 1894; the death of James J. Hill in 1916; boxer Mike O'Dowd's victory over Al McCoy in 1917, which made O'Dowd middleweight champion of the world; Lindbergh's New York to Paris flight in 1927; the truck strike of 1934; and the Armistice Day blizzard of 1940.

As the cyclorama of state and national history unfolds, the reader cannot resist wishing that it had been presented in more detail. It is no reflection on the excellent job of selection and compression done by the compilers to say that one page scarcely does justice to a year of

Minnesota history. The booklet is more of a reminder, perhaps, than a record. The original material, faithfully reproduced from plates, only whets the reader's appetite. Headlines when not accompanied by text are not always clear. Dates attached to each headline, story, and advertisement would have given considerably more value to the volume as a record.

But the book is very much worth reading and preserving. In it is the sweep of history, the realization that Minnesota has gone far and done much in its first hundred years.

EDWIN H. FORD

*Seeing Minneapolis.* By E. DUDLEY PARSONS. (Minneapolis, privately printed, 1948. 44 p.)

The idea of this book is worthwhile. It is to make the neighborhoods and the environs of Minneapolis more meaningful to those who walk its streets, ride in cars along its avenues, and live in its neighborhoods. The author has varied the traditional treatment of the geography and history of Minneapolis by using the device of a conducted tour in which a grandfather rich in the knowledge of the traditions of the city takes his granddaughter with him to places of interest. There is a constant reference in the dialogues between the characters of the book to the past and present. This is done to show relationships and to make the background of the history of Minneapolis more meaningful.

The author makes no attempt to be conclusive in his treatment of topics, such as stage routes, the Hennepin trail, the environs of Marquette, Nicollet, and Washington Avenues, or "out Morningside way." There is enough material, however, to satisfy the historical curiosity of the casual reader. As the story of many interesting facts about Minneapolis, this book will also attract the careful student of Minnesota history because he will find in it many facts he had not known before. There are, for example, more than two hundred references to persons and places.

The reviewer read many parts of this book to children of middle grade age. One youngster, when asked for his reaction, said he found the material "interesting, very interesting in fact." Some youngsters were negative in their reactions, mainly because there were not enough pictures. The book is not a picture book. But the illustrations are of a historical nature and they well supplement points made in the text.

A person not too familiar with the way in which books are written for young people might say that this one is too explanatory and does not contain enough interpretive material; and that Carol, the child in the book, seems precocious and artificial. On the other hand, those familiar in daily life with the places in Minneapolis that Mr. Parsons writes about would certainly find his descriptions enriching.

GEORGE McCUNE

*Duluth-Superior Harbor, Past and Present.* By PAULINE DAY. (Duluth, the author, 1949. 126 p. Mimeographed. Illustrations. \$1.65.)

For teachers of Minnesota history, this classroom unit should be most welcome. It aims to explain to the boys and girls of the intermediate grades in the Duluth-Superior area, in terms of the history of their mutual harbor, how their cities are different from other Minnesota and Wisconsin cities.

The textbook is organized in nine chapters. At the end of each are lists of activities that will help pupils check their reading and thinking. The book is adequately and pointedly illustrated with photographs and pen sketches by Robert Butler and Bernice Coffin, whose contributions lend clarity and interest to the textual material. The book could be effectively used with other supplementary literature in classes planned around individual and group problems in Minnesota history in the intermediate grades and in the junior high school. It also suggests to teachers possibilities for using their local community backgrounds in making their teaching more meaningful.

The text begins with what might have been an early morning harbor scene in 1630 and contrasts it with a harbor scene in 1948. The reader learns how the harbor increased in importance from the exciting days of the fur trader, whose labors were accompanied by the songs of the voyageur, through those of a lonely fishing village and a booming lumber city, to the present iron-shipping center, with its modern methods for loading and unloading not only ore, but also grains, coal, and oil. The resulting narrative is both carefully prepared and colorful, showing as it does, how man's ingenuity was stimulated to utilize natural resources, as well as how the government recognized the importance of the harbor and aided in its development.

The lack of an adequate bibliography is regrettable.

SADIE M. ROSENAU



## The Historical Scene

NEW IN FORMAT and greatly expanded in content is the September number of *American Heritage*, the quarterly of the American Association for State and Local History. Under the editorship of Earle Newton, the professional magazine for teachers founded and edited by Mary E. Cunningham has been transformed into a "magazine of the American heritage as seen at its 'grass roots.'" This handsomely printed and elaborately illustrated periodical, which includes fourteen pages in full color, should appeal to professional historians and laymen alike. Minnesotans especially will look forward to the December issue, which will feature their state and its Centennial. Those who wish to receive it should send their subscriptions to Mr. Newton at the State House, Montpelier, Vermont. The price is three dollars a year.

The belief that "too much history has been written from above, from the important great documents" is expressed by Henry Clyde Hubbart in an evaluation of "The Contribution of Local History to the Community," published in the *Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* for July. History, writes Mr. Hubbart, "needs to come up from the grass roots, up from where the people live. Especially do cultural and social history need to be treated on the local levels."

The value of the four pictorial volumes of the *Album of American History* issued under the general editorship of the late James Truslow Adams has been greatly enhanced by the publication of a fifth volume, which provides an index for the entire series (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1949. 222 p.). By placing before the user "approximately 15,000 citations so arranged that, with a minimum of effort, one can go to any picture or any group of pictures on any subject or subjects," the newly published volume "truly unlocks the richness of the *Album*." That Minnesota did not receive a large share of attention in the work as a whole is obvious to anyone consulting this index, for it contains only two references to the state itself, a half dozen each to Minneapolis and Duluth, and three to St. Paul. The need for a pictorial history of the North Star State remains; its rich possibilities are suggested in the national *Album*.

A new view of the Chippewa difficulties that coincided with the Sioux Outbreak of 1862 on the Minnesota frontier is given by Helen Nicolay in her recent biography of her father, *Lincoln's Secretary* (New York, 1949). She quotes from letters that John G. Nicolay wrote in the summer and early fall of 1862 while investigating the Minnesota Indian situation on behalf of the president. From Fort Ripley, where he went with Commissioner William P. Dole in an effort to mollify Hole-in-the-Day, Nicolay wrote as follows to his friend and colleague, John Hay: "In the paper we get here tonight (only one comes to the Fort) I see that the rebels are almost in Washington. How does your head feel? It looks very much as if it were about as safe as my scalp here." A detailed picture of a conference with the Chippewa chief is quoted from a letter addressed to Mrs. Nicolay on September 12 while Nicolay was en route to St. Paul.

The relations of the United States with Canada, particularly as they involve the Minnesota country, receive some attention in Richard W. Van Alstyne's study of "The Significance of the Mississippi Valley in American Diplomatic History, 1686-1890," published in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for September. The author is aware of the importance of the settlement thrust "northward by way of the Red River in the direction of the Canadian prairies" and the accompanying "mid-century movement in Minnesota to force the annexation of the colony on the Red River and thus drive a wedge into the heart of the British Northwest." He points out, too, the need for a "study of the British-American frontier from the Lake of the Woods to the Pacific, in terms of the rival forces seeking control."

The beginnings of the Anglican diocese of Rupert's Land and the career of its first bishop, the Right Reverend David Anderson, are recalled by Harry Shave in an article entitled "Centenary of a Diocese," appearing in the September *Beaver*. These events, of utmost importance in the settlements on the Red River north of the international boundary, took place in the very year that marked Minnesota's organization as a territory. In the same number of the *Beaver* appears James Taylor Dunn's narrative of a "Nipigon Fisherwoman" of 1888. His venturesome heroine is the daughter of James Wickes Taylor, "well loved American consul at Winnipeg." From letters that Elizabeth Taylor wrote to her father and to friends in St. Paul, Mr. Dunn has reconstructed the story of her wilderness fishing trip.

Among the "Bibliographical Notes" published in the September *Papers* of the Bibliographical Society of America, is one based upon a "Contemporary Advertisement" of Henry Lewis' *Das illustrierte Mississipithal*. The note is contributed by Bertha L. Heilbron, who found the advertisement in the *New York Daily Tribune* for 1854. It indicates that the first of the twenty parts in which this now rare work originally appeared was on sale in a New York bookstore for seventy-five cents in the spring of 1854.

More than a third of a long and detailed article on "The Early Theatre in the Upper Mississippi Valley" by Harold and Ernestine Briggs, published in *Mid-America* for July, deals with early dramatic activity in Minnesota, at old Fort Snelling and in St. Paul and Minneapolis. The writers begin their story at Galena and carry it northward by way of the river towns of Iowa and Wisconsin to the Minnesota post of the 1820's. Retold here is the well-known story of Joe Brown's thespian efforts at the fort, and the dramatic performances staged by soldiers of the 1830's are described. From Mazourka Hall of 1850 to the St. Paul Opera House of 1857, the record of the St. Paul stage, with its visiting artists and local stock companies is traced. In conclusion, some information about the early Minneapolis theater is presented.

An important and useful *List of Documents Concerning the Negotiation of Ratified Indian Treaties, 1801-1869*, compiled by John Martin, has been published by the National Archives as *Special List* no. 6 (1949. 175 p.). Anyone interested in Minnesota Indian treaties will look at once for entries on the treaty of Traverse des Sioux, and will find a list of documents about the negotiations of 1851 that gives convincing evidence of the significance of this compilation. Among the nine documents mentioned are copies of the treaty in English and Dakota, the journal of the treaty commission for the period from June 28 to August 5, 1851, and the commissioners' report on the proceedings dated August 6, 1851. An appendix contains a list of "Officials Concerned with the Negotiation of the Indian Treaties" arranged chronologically according to the dates of treaties.

"The efforts of the Federal Government in the nineteenth century to enforce laws that ran counter to the interests of a powerful industry on the frontier of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota" are reviewed by Lucile Kane, curator of manuscripts for the Minnesota Historical So-

ciety, in the April number of *Agricultural History*. Under the title "Federal Protection of Public Timber in the Upper Great Lakes States," the writer tells of the problems encountered by local officers who tried to enforce laws relating to pre-emption, timber cutting, and the like. She relates, for example, that in 1894 a timber agent wrote from Duluth, complaining that a land law "which was good for Cook Co., Illinois is not a good one for Cook Co., Minnesota." The narrative is based in large part upon land office and other records in the National Archives.

The schools of forestry in Yale University and the University of Minnesota, both established in 1900, "are today our oldest schools in continuous existence," according to Samuel T. Dana, who contributes a survey of "Education in Forestry" to *Trees: The Yearbook of Agriculture* for 1949 (944 p.). This voluminous and informing publication of the United States Department of Agriculture includes a section, by H. Basil Wales, of "Evolution of Management on Chippewa," which reviews the history of the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota. State forests in Minnesota also receive some attention in Stanley G. Fontanna's brief account of these areas.

With the publication of a *Preliminary Inventory of the Land-Entry Papers of the General Land Office*, compiled by Harry P. Yoshpe and Philip P. Brower, the National Archives continues its program, inaugurated in 1941, of compiling finding aids (1949. 77 p.). The records described in this mimeographed work consist of land entry papers, as well as other types of materials, that through the years have been filed for convenience in the land entry papers. The dual system used in the arrangement of the records is followed in the inventory, with descriptions listed first in a numerical series and then grouped by states subdivided into land offices. Dr. Herman Kahn, former chief of the natural resources division, has prefaced the inventory with an exposition of the nature of the general land office records. In the appendixes are lists of the laws under which the entries were made and of the land districts grouped alphabetically by states.

L. M. K.

*Guadalcanal: The First Offensive* by John Miller, Jr., published by the historical division of the Army in its series on the *United States Army in World War II* (1949. 413 p.), is the official history of the Guadalcanal operations from their inception to the successful conclusion. The story lacks the drama of John Hersey's *Into the Valley*, but it

does present a detailed and convincing account of an American feat of arms that ranks with Gettysburg. Curiously enough, the Japanese could have won at Guadalcanal. At first the Americans were operating on less than a shoestring, with little but military skill and determination to sustain them. Japanese stupidity, lack of daring and imagination in overall planning, and overconfidence in the face of their foe led to their disastrous defeat. Like the Air Force histories, the Army's story of Guadalcanal cuts down the razzledazzle of the popular writers and shows that victories are won by careful planning and hard physical labor, as well as by bravery on the red line of combat.

RODNEY C. LOEHR

The Institute of Early American History and Culture, sponsored by the College of William and Mary and Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., has announced that it is prepared to provide a limited number of grants-in-aid of research to writers or scholars engaged in studies relating to American history prior to 1815. The grants, which ordinarily will not exceed a thousand dollars, are intended to encourage projects already in progress in the fields of social, political, economic, religious, artistic, and intellectual history. Application forms and information may be obtained from the director of the institute, Goodwin Building, Williamsburg, Virginia.

#### NEWS FROM THE STATES

"Minnesota Makes Ideas Pay" is the title of the leading article in the *National Geographic Magazine* for September. Frederick G. Vosburgh, the author, has produced a revealing cross-section of contemporary Minnesota, giving emphasis to the state's industries, people, and to some extent its educational facilities. From Grand Portage, the lonely little village in the extreme northeast that "was once the front door to Minnesota," to Worthington and Austin in the south, the writer pictures Minnesota's cities and villages and points out the unique contributions that many of them are making to American life. Two *National Geographic* photographers have illustrated the article with more than forty pictures of Minnesota scenes and people; thirty-two of them are reproduced in color. The Territorial Centennial receives some mention in this well-illustrated and documented description of Minnesota on the eve of its second century.

Contributions from two members of the society's Forest Products History Foundation have appeared in recent issues of the *Southern Lumberman*. "Saving the Kerf: The Introduction of the Band Sawmill" is the title of the first, published in the issue for June 15. The author is Rodney C. Loehr, director of the foundation. The St. Croix Valley provides the setting for much of the second narrative—"From Woods to Sawmill: Transportation Problems in Logging," by William G. Rector. He defines some of the problems arising out of log drives on streams like the St. Croix and tells of the beginnings of railroad logging in the 1870's. Among the illustrations that appear with the article are some excellent views of the St. Croix boom.

To volume 15 of the *Norwegian-American Studies and Records* (Northfield, 1949), Kenneth Bjork contributes a group of letters relating to "Thorstein Veblen and St. Olaf College." The writer of the letters, three in number, was Thorbjørn N. Mohn, president of St. Olaf College, and they were found in his letter book for 1890-91. All relate to Veblen's application for a teaching position in the Northfield school. Professor Bjork provides a background for the documents, in which he explains Veblen's relations with the Norwegian Lutheran church group. A biographical sketch of Erik L. Petersen, who "came to the United States a Roman Catholic and subsequently went over to the Protestant Episcopal Church," appears in the same volume. The author, Jacob Hodnefield, gives special attention to Bishop Henry B. Whipple's influence on Petersen and to his work as an Episcopal missionary in Minnesota.

The September issue of the *Bulletin* of the American Institute of Swedish Arts, Literature, and Science, is a twentieth anniversary number, commemorating the founding of this Minneapolis gallery in 1929 by the late Swan J. Turnblad. Appropriately, the leading article in the issue is Mable D. Abramson's account of "Turnblad and His Swedish Castle," the mansion that he gave to the institute for use as a museum and a meeting place. To the same number of the *Bulletin*, Adolph B. Benson contributes an informing survey of "Swedes and Swedish Settlements in American Fiction." Therein also appears the opening installment of the autobiography of a Minnesota governor, A. O. Eberhart. The introduction and the first chapter of this narrative, which is entitled "The American Way of Life," carry the story from the writer's native Sweden to the Minnesota town of St. Peter, where he settled in 1882.

Sister Bernard Coleman is the author of a study of *Decorative Designs of the Ojibwa of Northern Minnesota*, which has been published by the Catholic University of America as number 12 of its *Anthropological Series* (Washington, 1947. 125 p.). The writer undertakes to "discover and to describe against their historical background the typical Ojibwa designs . . . before and after the impact of white culture." Among the illustrations are some of Eastman Johnson's sketches of Chippewa of the 1850's in northeastern Minnesota.

That Father Francis Pierz, Catholic missionary to the Minnesota Chippewa of the Grand Portage area and later to the settlers of the Stearns County region, was "perhaps the first, as well as the most distinguished Slovene in Minnesota" is the opinion expressed by Joseph Gregorich in the *Gilbert Herald* for August 11. Appearing in that issue is one of a series of articles by Mr. Gregorich on the "History of Slovenes Activity in Minnesota." The first, in the issue for August 4, relates largely to the work of an earlier missionary of the Lake Superior country, Father Frederic Baraga. Some of the Slovenes who settled in the vicinity of St. Cloud in the 1850's and later are mentioned in the third article, published on August 18. Among them was Bartholomew Pierz, the missionary's nephew, who "decided to try farming in the country his uncle praised so highly." The articles are an interesting contribution to the Yugoslav celebration held in Gilbert on September 10 and 11 in commemoration of the Minnesota Centennial and the role of the Slavs in state history.

In an article in the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel* of July 12 Mrs. Walter G. Smith reviews the Iowa-Minnesota boundary dispute of the 1850's. Captain Andrew Talcott and his party began surveying the boundary, says Mrs. Smith, in 1852. Two years were allowed for completion of the survey, with a bonus for each man if work was completed before the deadline. The party finished the job in less than six months. Mrs. Smith refers to a report written later by David Sears, Jr., the last survivor of the group. "He recalled," she states, "the most trying portion of the work as the Blue Earth prairie, a 30-mile stretch of treeless, waterless country. . . . Drinking slough water and fighting mosquitoes day and night made the men miserable and ill."

A steamboat excursion on the Mississippi River was enjoyed by members of the State Historical Society of Iowa who boarded the ships "Rob

Roy III" and "Alma" at Clinton on July 30 and 31. An all-Iowa menu, consisting of forty-eight varieties of food processed in twenty-three different towns by thirty firms, was served at cost on both days. The cruise, which comprised a round trip of seventy miles on the river, took the tourists through the Fulton Locks to the mouth of the Maquoketa River and back to Clinton.

The westward movement as it is exemplified in the life of his great-grandfather, Moses Dillon Jordan, is the theme of Philip D. Jordan's narrative published in three sections in the July *Palimpsest*. It records the story of a Virginian whose pioneering spirit drew him first into Ohio and then, after a pause at St. Louis, "to Iowa and across the alkali plains to disaster along California's rivers of gold." As members of a party of gold seekers from Burlington, where Moses settled, he and his son went out to the gold fields in 1849. The third section tells of their return to Burlington and their life there. Family papers, accounts, and local newspapers are the sources on which the narrative is based.

Some of the "Pictorial Envelopes of the Civil War" to be found in the collection of the Missouri Historical Society are described and illustrated in its July *Bulletin*. For the benefit of collectors of such envelopes, a list of publishers represented in the Missouri collection is included in the article. It may be noted that hundreds of examples of these Union covers are to be found among the manuscript and archival holdings of the Minnesota Historical Society.

To the September issue of *Nebraska History*, C. Clyde Jones contributes an informing "Survey of the Agricultural Development Program of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad." Dr. Richard C. Overton, who provides a foreword for the narrative, defines the writer's purpose: "to suggest, by random sampling and illustration, the type and scope of agricultural development work undertaken by at least one major system whose records are virtually intact." How the Burlington program operated in Minnesota is suggested from time to time in the present article. The writer also gives some attention to the work of John B. Lamson of the University of Minnesota, who in 1913 "was appointed to organize and supervise an agricultural development department" for the road.

"John Banvard's New York" is the title of an article, in the August issue of the *Magazine Antiques*, by Bertha L. Heilbron, editor of *Min-*



*nesota History*. With the narrative are reproduced six sketches of old New York by the painter of the most famous of the Mississippi panoramas, as well as the Minnesota Historical Society's portrait of Banvard.

The Western Reserve Historical Society of Cleveland has arranged a series of manuscript seminars, beginning on October 11 and continuing on the second Tuesday of each month through May. Special groups of manuscripts are examined, their size and scope is described, their acquisition explained, and questions relating to their content are discussed. The seminars are open to anyone interested in manuscripts.

The July number of *Holiday* is a Wisconsin issue, featuring three articles on the Badger state. In the leading article Mark Schorer presents an interpretation of Wisconsin, where "the past hasn't had time to fade, and the promise of the future is very much alive." The state's history, which "has not yet been entombed in monuments, and thus . . . cannot be resurrected because it has not been buried," is touched upon lightly by Mr. Schorer in showing how explorers, voyageurs, and lumberjacks reflect color upon the modern scene. The Europeans who settled the state, the broad farms, the industries, the university, and many other features of Wisconsin life are considered in this narrative, which is richly illustrated in full color. Mr. Schorer's article is followed by a "Cartograph of Wisconsin" by Libbie Lovett, and a picture in words and photographs of Milwaukee, "a city pleasantly preoccupied with comfort, food and civic virtue," by Eli Waldron.

### HISTORY IN THE COMMUNITY

Beginning with the issue of September 1, the *New Ulm Review* is presenting in weekly installments an English translation of a narrative of the Sioux War by Captain Jacob Nix, whose book, written in German, appeared under the title *Der Ausbruch der Sioux-Indianer in Minnesota, im August 1862* (Milwaukee, 1887). The translation is the work of the author's granddaughter, Miss Gretchen Steinhauser of New Ulm.

A "Condensed History of Cass Lake," read by A. G. Swindlehurst of the Chippewa County Historical Society before a meeting of the Cass Lake Lions Club on July 25, is printed in the *Cass Lake Times* of August 4. The edition published on that date marks the town's golden jubilee, celebrated from August 5 to 7. Among other items of interest in the issue are a list of Cass Lake's early settlers, an account of the first

sawmill in the area, and a report on the Leech Lake Indian uprising of 1898.

A review of the development of farm machinery is included in Alex Christensen's reminiscences, published in the *Granite Falls Tribune* for July 21. "The first grain was cut with a cradle," he writes; "then came the self raker, a contraption with a smaller reel and a larger reel that swept the grain off the platform and left the bundles on the ground to be later tied by using the straw for twine." Mr. Christensen recalls experiences in farming over a period of seventy-five years. He relates that when threshing was done by horse power, "five or six teams were used with a man with a long whip as engineer to give the horses the proper speed."

A church history of more than ordinary extent and value is Edward E. Gillam's volume dealing with the *First Methodist Church of Windom, Minnesota* (1949. 146 p.). It contains chapters on early Methodist organizations in Cottonwood County, on the building of the first church of that denomination in Windom, on church pastors and organizations, on church music, on anniversary celebrations, and the like. To give the story a community setting, the writer includes a brief history of the city of Windom and some news items from local papers relating to the Methodist church. The book is well illustrated and it has an adequate index.

Information about the French Canadian settlers of old St. Anthony is to be found in the Reverend Nicholas A. Weber's *Short History of the French Catholic Congregation of East Minneapolis* (Minneapolis, 1949. 30 p.). The present parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, according to Father Weber, can trace its history back to 1849, "when under the leadership of Father A. Ravoux, a handful of Catholics formed mostly by French Canadian settlers in St. Anthony . . . banded together and built themselves a small church." The land on which this little frame building, completed in 1851, was located was given by Pierre Bottineau, famed as a guide for mid-century overland expeditions. How the church, originally named in honor of St. Anthony of Padua, acquired a new name, a new location, and a new building before 1877 is carefully explained by the author.

How the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company began to manufacture two products for which it now is famed—"Insulite" and news-

print—is explained in brief articles appearing in the *Mandonian* for August. The first, entitled “Insulite Grows Great in Thirty-five Years,” tells of the progress of the International Falls plant that manufactures this structural insulation material. The paper mill across the Canadian border at Fort Frances, which began operations in 1914, is the subject of the second article.

A rural Minnesota childhood of the 1870's is pictured by Tilla Regina Dahl Deen in her readable *Chronicles of a Minnesota Pioneer*, issued as a mimeographed pamphlet (1949. 16 p.). The settings for her narrative are Blue Earth County and, after 1873, Lyon County, where the Dahl family settled after traveling for a week in covered wagons. Many of the details of life in a one-room sod house on the Minnesota prairie are recalled by Mrs. Deen. She tells, for example, of the Christmas celebration, and the tree decorated with pop corn and ornaments that her mother made of “colored tissue paper from the quilting cotton rolls.” Presents were neither numerous nor expensive, she adds, but each of the Dahl children received a stick of candy and an apple. Included in the narrative is a colorful description of the arrival in Minnesota of some two hundred Icelandic settlers who established a colony in the area. Mrs. Deen's narrative has been reprinted serially in the *Cottonwood Current*, beginning with the issue of August 19.

The first of a series of articles on “Early Days of Isle” appears in the *Mille Lacs Messenger* of Isle for September 22. It tells of early steamboats on Mille Lacs Lake. On September 29 Sioux and Chippewa troubles in the area are reviewed; on October 6 the story of J. Magnuson, heroic pioneer, and Chief Wadena is retold; and on October 13 the establishment of the town site of Isle in 1908 is recounted.

The area immediately west of Mille Lacs Lake during the 1890's is described by T. G. Thomsen of McGrath in the *Aitkin Independent Age* of August 18. Mr. Thomsen tells of his search for suitable land, of the people he met in his search, and of the land itself. “Just at sunset,” he writes, “we stepped out of the woods and got the first glimpse of Mille Lacs Lake. We saw the big meadows that stretched along the lake for about five miles. Blue stem five feet high and with heads as large as oats!” He came, as did so many others, in search of a climate favorable for consumptives, and he stayed to homestead on the land he describes.

Changes in the boundaries of Ramsey County since its establishment in 1849 are indicated by means of colored lights on an electrified map now on view in the St. Anthony Park Branch Library of St. Paul. By the flip of a switch, the outlines of the county, which originally extended as far north as Mille Lacs Lake, are revealed for various periods. Under the sponsorship of the Ramsey County Historical Society, the St. Anthony Park Library, and Murray High School, the map was constructed by three alumni of the school.

"Ex-slave Helped Found Historic St. Paul Church" is the title of an article by Nancy Fitzgerald appearing in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for August 28. The writer records the story of Jim Thompson, who was taken to Fort Snelling as the slave of an army officer in 1827, was freed by a Methodist missionary, served as an interpreter at the Kaposia mission, settled in St. Paul, and was an "old settler" when that city became the territorial capital. Emphasis is given to Thompson's connection with the Market Street Methodist Church, of which he was a charter member and which he helped build.

Narratives about the careers of local pioneers fill much of the space in five special sections of the "Eightieth Birthday Edition" published by the *Redwood Gazette* on September 27. An appropriate editorial surveys the history of the paper from 1869 to 1949 and lists the editors who guided its course through eight decades. Among them is the Honorable Julius Schmahl, state treasurer of Minnesota, whose experiences as a journalist are reviewed in the opening section.

Many interesting items of information concerning the history of the "Duluth-Superior Harbor" are recorded by D. A. Morris in *Skillings' Mining Review* for July 2. Particularly useful are Colonel Morris' accounts of dredging operations in the harbor, of the building of the Duluth Ship Canal, and of the unique bridge that spans it.

Some incidents in the "Early History of Eagle Bend," are recalled by Ezra Sarff and recorded by Jonas Palm, for publication in recent issues of the *Eagle Bend News*. The first of the series, which appears in the *News* for July 14, describes religious services held at the home of Manus Sarff, near Eagle Bend, in the 1880's. In order to reach the Sarff house, churchgoers had to pole across Eagle Creek in a sap-pan, a large container used to evaporate maple syrup. On July 21 the first

grocery store is described; the coming of the railroad is recounted on August 4; the organization of schools, churches, and industries is reviewed in the *News* for August 11, 18, 25 and September 1; the Grand Army National Encampment at Eagle Bend in 1892 is covered in the issue of September 8; and late developments in lumbering are reported on September 15 and 22.

With a pageant, the "Forest Lake Panorama of Progress," a parade, a luncheon honoring a hundred pioneers of the area, an address by Governor Youngdahl, a series of special historical displays, and many similar events, the community of Forest Lake commemorated both its own seventy-fifth anniversary and the Minnesota Territorial Centennial on September 21. The event was marked, too, by the publication on September 15 of a "Diamond Jubilee Edition" of the *Forest Lake Times*. It consists of eight sections, each of which is crammed with editorials, stories, and pictures that reflect the record of the community's past. Township and village histories, narratives of Indian warfare, an account of the Forest Lake summer resort business and particularly of the Marsh Hotel, and reports on early railroads in the vicinity are only a few of the useful items that appear in this issue.

"Monticello's Part in Minnesota History" by Ruth Eastlick, a prize-winning essay in a contest sponsored by the Monticello Study Club and the local American Legion Auxiliary, appears in the *Monticello Times* of September 8. Miss Eastlick tells of the founding of Monticello in 1852, the establishment of the first post office, the first newspaper, the first bank, and the public library. Of farming in the area, she says, "Before 1878 wheat was the exclusive product. After 1878 wheat began to decline in price and attention went to dairying."

### LOCAL SOCIETIES AT WORK

The Aitkin County Historical Society sponsored a Centennial celebration at Aitkin on July 4 with Dean Julius M. Nolte, Centennial director, as the principal speaker. The festival also included a parade, a woodchopping contest, an air show, a baseball game, and a street dance.

The Beltrami County Historical Society was organized on September 29 at Bemidji. Over forty persons attended, most of them pioneers of the area. Mrs. A. P. Ritchie was named temporary chairman and Mr. G. L. Dodge acting secretary.

The principal speaker at a Centennial celebration sponsored by the Blue Earth County Historical Society at Mankato on September 18 was Mary Wheelhouse Berthel of the Minnesota Historical Society. As a part of this two-day festival, which began on September 17, more than seven hundred historic displays were arranged in store windows throughout the county.

The Brown County Historical Society has approved plans for a memorial marker honoring the memory of the victims of the Sioux Massacre of 1862. It will be placed near the courthouse in New Ulm.

Under the title "Carver County Historical Society Guards Many Treasures," the growth and development of this local organization is described in the *Norwood Times* for July 1. Special mention is made of the work of Mr. O. D. Sell in building up an extensive museum collection. The society is endeavoring to raise the sum of twelve thousand dollars, to be used for the erection of a "Pioneer-Veteran Memorial Building" which will adequately house the organization's collections.

Twenty-four student winners of an essay contest conducted by the Chippewa County Historical Society were given a free trip to the state society's museum, the state Capitol, the Sibley House at Mendota, and the Round Tower at Fort Snelling on August 10. The purpose of the contest was to stimulate the pupils' desire to become better acquainted with local history. On September 14 members of the society met in Montevideo and heard a report by Dr. Anna Amrud on her correspondence with descendants of missionaries who once conducted the Lac qui Parle mission.

The Clearwater County Historical Society, which has been inactive for many years, was reorganized at a meeting in Bagley on September 27. Mr. Arch Grahm, field representative of the state society, who was present, stressed the importance of local historical societies in preserving records of historical events. The officers of the society include Mr. Frank Norquist, president, and Mr. Ervind Olson, vice-president.

The Crow Wing County Historical Society, in co-operation with the county fair board, presented a Centennial production entitled "Minnesota's Birthday Party" at the Crow Wing County Fair on August 21. Episodes from the history of the county were dramatized under the direction of Mrs. Stanley Davis. The Crow Wing County society was the

subject of an article, reviewing its history from 1927 to the present, which appeared in a Centennial section published with the *Brainerd Daily Dispatch* of August 12.

To celebrate Minnesota's Territorial Centennial, the Cottonwood County Historical Society placed granite markers on twenty-three historic sites in the area. Some of the markers were erected on June 26, and the remainder were dedicated on July 10. A booklet describing the sites and containing the citation on each marker has been issued by the society.

The role of Dodge County and Mantorville in the history of Minnesota was stressed by Willoughby M. Babcock of the state historical society in an address before the Dodge County Historical Society at Mantorville on September 28. About seventy-five people attended the meeting, which was held in Hilltop Church, an Episcopal chapel of the 1860's. Its history was reviewed for the gathering by Mrs. E. B. Benson. In an interesting ceremony, Major Sam Goodrich of Mantorville turned over to the local historical society a lease which gives the organization the free use of the historic structure for ninety-nine years. The picturesque little church will be used by the society both as a meeting place and a museum. In connection with the September meeting, a special display was arranged, including an early register of the Hubbell House of Mantorville.

In seven episodes a Centennial pageant, presented at the Lincoln County Fair from August 25 to 28 and sponsored by the Lincoln County Historical Society, depicted the history of the region from pre-territorial days to the building of a courthouse in 1880. The pageant, written by the Reverend Enok Mortensen of Tyler, had a cast of more than a hundred persons.

The recently completed museum building of the Mower County Historical Society at Austin was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on August 10. Participating in the program were Governor Youngdahl, Attorney General J. A. A. Burnquist, and Ex-governor Hjalmer Peterson. The one-story brick building, erected at a cost of \$25,000.00, was financed by the sale of memberships in the society and by popular subscription. The Mower County society, which now has more than a thousand life members, is to be congratulated on a program brought to a successful climax in the Centennial year. A picture of the society's new building

appears in the *Austin Daily Herald* for August 8—a Centennial edition presenting accounts and pictures of local events and developments.

Mrs. Nels Benson of Starbuck recently presented the Pope County Historical Society with the school records of Langhei Township for the period from 1891 to 1914. These manuscript reports show that school was in session only in the winter months during the early years of the period covered. Rarely is there a report showing either a fall or a spring session.

The history of New Canada, north of St. Paul, was exploited by members of the Ramsey County Historical Society on September 24, when they made a tour of this interesting French Canadian community. Leading the group was Mr. George S. Belland, a native of the settlement who has made a special study of its backgrounds. Many of the present residents of New Canada are descended from settlers of the 1840's and 1850's, and the local architecture and even the local dialect bear unmistakable marks of French influence. The tour followed a picnic lunch at the Waterworks Picnic Grounds.

Mr. Stephan Hansmeyer of Long Prairie was named president of the Todd County Historical Society at a meeting held in Long Prairie on August 11. Mr. H. W. Reineke is vice-president and historian, Mr. Nick Troug is secretary, and Mr. James G. Donovan, treasurer. The society has a women's committee, with Mrs. Frank Hoffarth of Long Prairie as chairman.

Taking as his subject the question "Antiquarian or Historian?" Mr. Bergmann Richards, president of the Minnesota Historical Society, addressed a meeting of the Washington County Historical Society at Stillwater on September 17. July 12 was the date of a meeting of the same organization at which Mrs. H. Clay Newman read a paper describing the Rutherford settlement northwest of Stillwater as it was fifty years ago.

A monument of polished red granite, erected by the local chapter of the Finnish-American Historical Society in Cokato, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on July 24. The inscription reads in part: "This monument is dedicated in memory of Finnish pioneers who established their homes in the vicinity of Wright and Meeker counties in the region known in the pioneer days as The Big Woods." Following the dedication



ceremony, a picnic dinner and afternoon program were held on the shore of Cokato Lake. The principal speakers were Mr. R. M. Peterson of the Wright County Historical Society, and Mr. Matti Erkillä of the Minnesota Finnish-American Historical Society.

Using the Dakota word for "yellow medicine" as a descriptive title, the Yellow Medicine County Historical Society sponsored a "Pejihutazizi Day" Centennial celebration at Granite Falls on July 4. The featured event of the day was a pageant written and directed by the society's president, Mrs. Mildred B. Lee. In five episodes, it re-enacted the history of the Yellow Medicine area from 1750 to 1858. A collection of objects reminiscent of pioneer life in the county, assembled for the occasion, has become the nucleus of a permanent historical museum at Granite Falls. The following account of its establishment has been contributed to this magazine by a member of the county society.

### THE YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY MUSEUM

A historical display arranged at Granite Falls by the Yellow Medicine County Historical Society for the Centennial celebration of July 4 was so popular that the society was asked to continue it. With some substantial additions of Indian and pioneer objects, the museum now occupies the ground floor of the shelter house in Memorial Park.

When the display was planned by the society, according to its secretary, Mr. Wesley Dodsworth, the intention was to give visitors on July 4 a chance to see the Indian relics in private collections belonging to Dr. Lewis Jordan, Judge William Lee, Mr. Fred Pearsall, and Mr. Jay L. Putnam. In the hope that the display might result in the establishment of a permanent museum, they placed their collections at the disposal of the society. Other Indian materials, as well as pioneer objects, were donated by people living in all parts of Yellow Medicine County. In accepting them for display, the historical society ruled that objects must be at least seventy years old.

Many of the pieces in the display reflect pioneer life in the period following the Sioux Uprising. Clothing, spinning wheels, Bibles, rifles, plowshares, and kitchen utensils—all are included. Of unusual interest is what is believed to be the first American flag made in Yellow Medicine County. It was made for a July 4 celebration in 1874 by a group of women living near the old mission in Sioux Agency Township, using

material brought by ox cart from Le Sueur. Also on display is one of the ox yokes used by traders who transported the material.

Most of the museum space, however, is devoted to objects left behind by the Sioux and perhaps by earlier inhabitants of the region when they moved out of southwestern Minnesota. In the scenic triangle of land between the Yellow Medicine and Minnesota rivers to the south of Granite Falls, old Indian camp sites and burial mounds are found in abundance. There have been discovered many of the objects with which the museum display cases are filled—arrowheads and spearheads, pottery, stone and iron implements, rusted rifle barrels, and similar articles. Included also are feather headdresses, moccasins, clothing, decorated hides, medicine bags, peace pipes, and beadwork preserved by the descendants of the once powerful Sioux.

The Yellow Medicine County Historical Society has provided labels for many of the articles on display, giving as much of their history as possible and the names of the donors. The story of many articles, however, is left to the imagination of the visitor. Because the museum is located in Memorial Park, it can be kept open only from April to November, since the park is closed during the winter months.

JAMES L. PUTNAM

## CENTENNIAL NEWS

Portions of Governor Ramsey's address to the first territorial legislature, delivered on September 4, 1849, were read as part of a "Legislative Day Commemorative Centennial Ceremony" held at the Minnesota State Fair on September 2. Minnesota's first territorial governor was impersonated by Harold W. Searls, Jr. The program, which was arranged for Minnesota state legislators, officers, and their guests, included introductory remarks by Mr. Bergmann Richards, president of the Minnesota Historical Society, and a response by Governor Youngdahl.

The Library of Congress Minnesota Centennial exhibit, consisting of seventy-eight pictures, is now circulating in Minnesota. Arrangements have been made for its display in more than twenty communities between September 1, 1949, and February 1, 1950.

October 9 was designated as "Centennial Sunday" by Governor Youngdahl in a proclamation urging "churches and synagogues to hold special services on that day as an expression of gratitude for our religious

heritage and to join in rededication to the spiritual ideals needed to meet the many challenges of a new century of Minnesota life." The Governor's proclamation emphasized the fact that "no one can look back on the frontier days without gaining an appreciation of the emphasis which our forefathers placed upon spiritual values."

More than thirty thousand people saw the final performance of the Centennial pageant, "Minnesota Hail to Thee," staged at Lake Bronson State Park near Hallock on August 28. The vast audience included people not only from the counties of northwestern Minnesota, but from North Dakota and from Canada.

With a series of programs arranged in Como Park, St. Paul, on August 21, a Finnish Pioneer Day celebration, which attracted some six thousand people, was marked in connection with the Minnesota Centennial. A permanent reminder of the event is a *Memorial Program*, edited by Tom Hiltunen and published by the Minnesota Finnish-American Historical Society (48 p.). Featured in the booklet is an article on "The Finns of Minnesota" by John I. Kolehmainen, which has been adapted from the same writer's account of "The Finnish Pioneers of Minnesota" in the issue of this magazine for December, 1944. Incidentally, Dr. Kolehmainen participated in the program of August 21, contributing an address on "Minnesota's Finnish Pioneers." Included in the printed program also are articles on "Finnish Institutions in Minnesota," such as the Midsummer Day commemoration, the *sauna* or steam bath, the winter festival of *laskiainen*, and the halls in which Finnish Americans hold meetings and social gatherings; an illustrated account of Juho Rissanen's painting of a Finnish pioneer farm, now owned by the Minnesota Historical Society; and a review by Matthew Lahti of the "Activities of the Minnesota Finnish-American Historical Society." In honor of the Finnish celebration a special exhibit, illustrative of Finnish pioneer home life, was installed in the log cabin in the museum of the Minnesota Historical Society.

That there is a need for a historian who will "delve into the archives and come up with a comprehensive history of the Jews of Minnesota" is the "Centennial Thought" expressed editorially in the *American Jewish World* of Minneapolis for September 23. "There is no better time for a start than now—when we are observing the Minnesota Centennial," to begin such a history, the editorial points out. Some informa-

tion about Julius Austrian, who was engaged in the Minnesota fur trade of pre-territorial days, is included in the editorial.

To call attention to "The Minnesota Centennial—Its Medical History," *Minnesota Medicine* publishes in its August issue an article on the subject by Dr. E. M. Hammes. Among the topics the writer selects for development are the origins of the Minnesota State Medical Association, the role of "women physicians" in Minnesota's medical history, and "Licensing Physicians" in Minnesota. Individual physicians who are selected for special mention include Dr. Perry H. Millard, Dr. Charles N. Hewitt, Dr. Martha G. Ripley, Dr. Arthur J. Gillette, and a number of general practitioners. The building of the first St. Paul hospital by the Sisters of St. Joseph and the utilization of an emigrant home at Brainerd as the "first industrial hospital" in the state are mentioned.

Threshing is described as "one of the first co-operative efforts in the Minnesota scene" by Mrs. Conrad Swanson, whose account of "Threshing Days" of the 1890's is featured in the Centennial issue of the *Midland Co-operator*. Published on August 17, the number includes accounts of many types of co-operative beginnings in the state. Co-operative elevators, livestock associations, creameries, insurance companies, food stores, medical care, and public utilities are among the subjects considered.

A community Centennial celebration held at Alden in Freeborn County on July 3 and 4 was given permanent significance by the publication of a substantial booklet, *The Forty-Niner* (106 p.). It features not only the history of Alden, but the records, the pioneers, and the industries of the neighboring village of Conger and of the townships of Alden, Carlston, Mansfield, and Pickerel Lake.

A contribution of primary importance to the Minnesota Territorial Centennial commemoration is the Centennial edition of the *Minneapolis Tribune*, issued on Sunday, August 28. A glance at the table of contents, featured on the first page of the general news section, reveals that the issue contains a wealth of information about Minnesota's past as well as its present. Of five special Centennial sections, for example, the first is devoted to "The Minnesota Story" as told by "16 representative Minnesota authors who have written about significant parts of Minnesota life." The selections from their writings here reprinted were chosen by Dr. Philip D. Jordan, professor of history in the University

of Minnesota. Among the writers quoted are two members of the Minnesota Historical Society's staff, Mary W. Berthel and Grace Lee Nute; a member of its executive council, Theodore C. Blegen; and the author of its most recent book publication, Merrill E. Jarchow. Among the articles in the second section, "The First 100 Years," is a condensed version of Holman Hamilton's study of "Zachary Taylor and Minnesota," published in the June, 1949, issue of this magazine. "How We Make Our Living" is explained in the third section, which contains reviews of such topics as railroads, river traffic, airlines, iron mining, the fur trade, milling, lumbering, livestock, and farming. Education, the state fair, missionaries, doctors, and nationality groups figure in section four, which is devoted to "The People." Featured on its first page is a monumental map indicating in color the "major nationality backgrounds in each area" of the state. It was prepared under the direction of Professor Douglas Marshall of the University of Minnesota. Supplementing and explaining the map is an article, by Jean James, on "Minnesota: A Blend of New and Old Worlds." The fifth section, which is devoted to "Minneapolis Memories," gives prominence to Ruth Thompson's "History of Minneapolis." Mention should be made of Oz Black's "Minnesota Panorama," a cartoon history of Minnesota, which appears in strips scattered through two sections. The "Feature-News" section of the issue includes special Centennial columns by Cedric Adams, George Grim, Carroll Binder, John K. Sherman, and Arthur Uppgren; the story of "How Music Grew in Minneapolis" by Norman Houk; and a survey entitled "Minnesota Frontier Panorama Recorded by Pioneer Artists" contributed by Bertha L. Heilbron. Football, baseball, and boxing receive historical consideration in the sports section; and the women's section gives generous space to Jane Grey Swisshelm, the Sibley House, women's clubs, and "A Century of Minnesota Fashions." No review of this Centennial issue would be complete without some mention of two handsome "coloroto" sections. In one are reproduced four of Seth Eastman's Minnesota water colors from the collection of the Hill Reference Library in St. Paul, as well as two water colors by Frank B. Mayer. The latter, which are owned by Goucher College, Baltimore, were displayed recently by the Minnesota Historical Society. The society's picture of the treaty of Traverse des Sioux, also by Mayer, is reproduced in black and white in the same section, and it contains some excellent views of Minnesota forts. An informing historical map of Minnesota in full color is

featured in the second pictorial section. Much of the material in this carefully arranged edition has permanent value, and it will long be found useful by students and others in search of information about Minnesota's first century.

The story of Peter Gideon, who "Had Faith in Apples," is featured in the Centennial edition of the *Minnetonka Record*, published on September 15. From earlier issues of the paper are reprinted narratives reminiscent of pioneer days in the Excelsior area by Robert McGrath and in the Wayzata vicinity by Warren Wakefield. Schools and business enterprises at Excelsior are the subjects of other narratives in the edition.

"Minnesota's Last Frontier: A History of the Border Country, 1870-1949" is the title of a supplement, published "in observance of the Minnesota Centennial" by the International Falls *Daily Journal* of August 25. The development of Koochiching County government, the part played by the paper and lumber industries in the growth of International Falls, Alexander Baker, the "first settler at Koochiching," early Fort Frances, transportation problems of the pioneers, and a pictorial "North Country Album" are among the many interesting items included.

"The Development of Lake County" is reviewed by Edward Greve, a former curator of the museum of the St. Louis County Historical Society, in the Centennial edition of the *Two Harbors Chronicle and Times*, published on August 25. Mr. Greve gives a thoroughly annotated account of the development of the county under such headings as "Geology of the Region," "Ore," "Boundaries," "Lumbering," "Immigration," "Gold Craze," and "Railroads." Among other interesting articles in this edition are an entertaining personal account of early lumbering in the region by Edward J. Galarneau of Two Harbors, the "Story of Beaver Bay" by Rosemary Rudstrom, and "The History of Knife River" by William Flygare.

A sixty-four page "Lyon County Historical Magazine" was issued as a section of the *Marshall Messenger* of July 12 "in recognition of the Centennial pageant on July 16 and 17 at Camden State Park." The section is dedicated "to the pioneers of all counties—of all Minnesota—who have given us our rich heritage." The subject matter, however, is limited to Lyon County, and many interesting items concerning the region's early history are recounted.

A four-day celebration, from July 1 to 4, was staged at Fairmont to mark the Minnesota Territorial Centennial in Martin County. A feature of the program was a spectacular pageant, the "Martin County Centorama," consisting of twenty-one episodes and employing a cast of some eight hundred people. A printed program issued for the event reflects the important role played by the Martin County Historical Society in arranging this county Centennial celebration. The pageant was staged under its auspices; its president, Mrs. J. A. Nightingale, contributed a "Brief Review of Martin County History"; and a past president, Judge Julius E. Haycraft, provided a survey of post offices in the county. Centennial celebrations were held in nine Martin County communities in addition to Fairmont, according to the program. Motion pictures made during the course of the Centennial celebration were shown at a meeting of the county historical society at Fairmont on August 28. More than five hundred people were present. One copy of the film will be presented to the Minnesota Historical Society, and a second will be kept in Fairmont for the free use of interested groups.

Incidents in the history of Murray County were re-enacted in a Centennial pageant presented at Fulda on July 22 and 23, and at Slayton on August 20 in connection with the county fair. The pageant, which consisted of four episodes, was planned and sponsored by civic organizations of Murray County.

A Centennial pageant entitled "Minnesota Marches On" was presented at the Norman County Fair in Ada on June 21 and 25. In eleven episodes, beginning with the Indian and ending with a scene entitled "Minnesota for Peace," the pageant depicted a hundred years of Minnesota history, with special emphasis on early days in Norman County.

A pageant reviewing "100 Years of Progress" was a feature of the Centennial Rice County Fair held at Faribault from August 11 to 14. More than seven hundred and fifty residents of the county participated in the spectacle, which pictured the history of the area in fourteen episodes. County history is exploited, too, in the Centennial edition of the *Faribault Daily News*, published on August 9. Five substantial sections are devoted to such items as a county chronology, historical reviews of the churches and schools that contributed so much to the development and growth of both Northfield and Faribault, a biography of Alexander Faribault, and sketches of the county's villages and townships.

A Centennial pageant picturing the backgrounds of "Minnesota's Mighty Mesabi" was the feature of a four-day festival held at Virginia from July 14 to 17. With a cast of more than two hundred, it depicted in fourteen episodes the founding and development of Virginia and the settlement of the surrounding area. Governor Luther Youngdahl was the guest of honor at a banquet held on July 15 to honor living pioneers of the region. The celebration also included parades, historic displays in shop windows, an air show, and water sports. In connection with the festival, the issue of *Range Facts* published at Virginia on July 14 recalled through pictures and articles some of the pertinent incidents in the history of the Mesabi Range country. The issue contains accounts of Virginia's disastrous fires of 1893 and 1900, of the discovery of Minnesota's three iron ranges, and of the platting of Virginia. A booklet entitled *The Virginia Story*, issued to commemorate the occasion, contains a complete program of the celebration as well as brief articles of interest about the city's past and present.

Mrs. Helen Hujanen is the author of a "History of Tower-Soudan, 'Cradle of the Iron Industry,'" which appears in the Centennial edition of the *Tower News*, issued on August 19. The Minnesota Territorial Centennial was marked at Tower on August 20 and 21 with a celebration commemorating the beginnings of the Minnesota iron mining industry.

The progress of Waseca County since territorial days was the theme of a Centennial pageant, written by R. E. Hodgson, and sponsored by the Waseca County Historical Society. It was presented at the county fair from August 4 to 7.

That "Winona was born and bred through the nourishment of the Mississippi" is emphasized in an editorial appearing in the Centennial edition of the *Winona Republican-Herald*, published on July 12. Thus it was appropriate that Winona should mark the Minnesota anniversary with a "Steamboat Centennial Celebration" from July 14 to 17. The *Republican-Herald* gives a good share of attention to steamboating and the river, as well as to such subjects as lumbering, education, pioneer settlers, and early mansions and other houses. "Century-Old Costumes Found in Winona Attics" are described in one article, and another tells of the claims staked on Wabasha Prairie, the site of the future city. The edition is notable for its excellent illustrations.



## NEWS OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

To a large extent the society's activities during the late summer and early autumn months centered about plans for its Centennial birthday celebration on October 20. The events of that day are described in detail in a special section of this issue. A few additional activities are reported in the present section.

A luncheon in the main ballroom of the St. Paul Hotel will be the feature of the society's one-hundred-and-first annual meeting, which will be held on January 9, 1950. The principal speaker will be Dr. Louis C. Jones, director of the New York State Historical Association at Coopers-town. Drawing upon his organization's experience in establishing and promoting its remarkable Farmers' Museum, as well as in assembling the tools, utensils, and folk collections on view there, he will point out the possibilities for and advantages of a similar project in Minnesota. Preceding the luncheon, at 9:30 A.M., representatives of county historical societies throughout that state will meet for a local history conference.

With the rapid decline of Centennial celebrating after state fair week, the Centennial office in the Historical Building was closed on September 15. At that time the society and its regular staff took over the work of assisting those who had planned celebrations and publications for the remaining months of 1949. To help with these projects, as well as with the preparation of a Centennial report, Dr. James L. Whitehead joined the staff as special Centennial assistant on October 1. These steps were taken in accordance with the legislative act of 1947, which "directed and empowered" the society "to make plans for the proper observance and celebration" of the Centennial and "to execute and carry out such plans."

The society's librarian, Mr. Russell Barnes, resigned on October 1 to accept a position as librarian of the James Jerome Hill Reference Library of St. Paul. Mr. Dan King, formerly of the reference department of the New York Public Library, was chosen to head the society's library staff. He took up his new duties on November 1.

The picture department authorized by the 1949 legislature is being organized with Mr. William D. Bowell as curator. The new department, which administers the society's vast collections of photographs, oil paintings, water colors, prints, engravings and other cuts, and negatives, has been installed on the first floor of the Historical Building.

Fifty-three water colors by Jo Lutz Rollins, depicting historic Minnesota buildings and other landmarks, were displayed in the society's picture gallery from September 7 to November 1. To open the exhibit, Mrs. Rollins gave an informal talk on her experiences while painting these charming Minnesota scenes. About a hundred and twenty-five people were on hand for the opening of this attractive show, and throughout the weeks that followed it drew to the society's museum many interested visitors. Mrs. Rollins' pictures have equal interest for the artist and the historian, for they record Minnesota's fast disappearing historic heritage as reflected in houses, churches, store buildings, and other material remains.

Three handsome permanent cases have been installed in the main corridor of the museum through the generosity of the Minnesota chapter of the Colonial Dames of America. They were formally presented at a tea held in the museum on September 28. Featured for the occasion was a display, arranged in the new cases, of heirlooms belonging to members of the chapter. The program included a showing of the society's panorama of the Sioux War by John Stevens.

A quilted and embroidered wedding gown made by Jane Grey Swiss-helm for her daughter in the early 1880's was the feature of a display of wedding gowns arranged in the north gallery of the museum during the summer. Another special exhibit, illustrative of the history of the Grand Army of the Republic, opened in the museum on August 1.

The society was well represented at the Minnesota State Fair of 1949. In addition to a Centennial display, there were three exhibits arranged by the society—one depicting women's fashions through a hundred years, in the Women's Building; another featuring the *Gopher Historian*, in the Education Building; and a third surveying the society's publication program, in the State Departments' Building.

### WHO'S WHO IN THIS ISSUE

Since this issue of the Minnesota History commemorates the Centennial of the Minnesota Historical Society, it is appropriate that the leading space in the number should be devoted to a review of the society's history written by its present director, Dr. Harold Dean Cater, in collaboration with Mary W. Berthel of its editorial staff. Dr. Cater arrived from Washington, D.C., where he was in the historical division of the

War Department special staff, to direct the society's activities in August, 1948. He is the author of *Henry Adams and His Friends*. Mrs. Berthel, whose book on James M. Goodhue, *Horns of Thunder*, was issued by the society as one of its *Centennial Publications*, has known personally and worked with Dr. Buck and his five successors.

Dr. Laurence M. Gould, famed geologist and explorer, has been president of Carleton College, Northfield, since 1945. He was second in command of the Byrd antarctic expedition of 1928-30, and he taught geology at the University of Michigan and at Carleton College.

Don Stubbs, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, is a freelance radio writer. He has written many of the recent educational programs broadcast over the University of Minnesota radio station, KUOM. June Drenning Holmquist attended the University of Pennsylvania and was graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1949. In July she joined the staff of the society as editorial assistant.

Contributing book reviews to the present issue are writers and scholars from many sections of the nation. They include Dr. A. Fritiof Ander of the department of history in Augustana College at Rock Island, Illinois; Professor W. S. Campbell of the English faculty in the University of Oklahoma at Norman, who as "Stanley Vestal" is widely known for his books on the American Indians, particularly of the Southwest; Dr. John T. Flanagan, professor of English in the University of Illinois at Urbana; Professor Edwin H. Ford of the University of Minnesota school of journalism; Dr. Wilbur H. Glover, field director on the staff of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; Professor James Gray, a literary critic of note who recently joined the English faculty of the University of Minnesota and who is at present engaged in writing a history of that institution; Professor Frank H. Heck of the department of history in Centre College, Danville, Kentucky; Dr. Philip D. Jordan, professor of history in the University of Minnesota; Miss Lucile Kane, curator of manuscripts on the society's staff; Professor George McCune of the general college in the University of Minnesota; Dr. Grace Lee Nute, research associate for the society; Mr. William G. Rector of the staff of the society's Forest Products History Foundation; and Miss Sadie M. Rosenau, a teacher of social studies in Harding High School, St. Paul.



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