

Some New Books in Review

The Old Northwest: Pioneer Period, 1815-1840. By R. CARLYLE BULEY. (Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Society,¹ 1950. In two volumes, xiii, 632, viii, 686 p. Illustrations, maps. \$12.00.)

In the late summer of 1789, Arthur St. Clair, cantankerous governor of the western country, put to paper his opinion of the region that today is called the Old Northwest. "The western Territory, taking a comprehensive view of it," the governor wrote, "is an interesting and very important Appendage to the united States." St. Clair prophesied that the area's fertility and genial climate would attract so many settlers that the foundations of great national strength would be laid. "The spirit has gone forth and can not now be restrained," he said.

St. Clair, of course, was right, for within a handful of decades the Indian fighter gave way to the hunter and the hunter to the homemaker. In 1803 Ohio came proudly into the Union as the first political manifestation of the spirit that could not be yoked. Mr. Buley begins his historical interpretation of the Old Northwest a few years later—in 1815—when, as St. Clair anticipated, hordes of movers were pushing relentlessly into the hinterlands, and concludes in 1840, with the close of the pioneer period. By then three other states—Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan—had been carved from the Northwest Territory and Wisconsin was readying itself for admittance. The Conestoga wagon was being replaced by the railroad, and the keelboat by the river steamer. Frontier clearings had become prosperous farms. Cities, like Cincinnati, were thriving commercial and manufacturing centers with markets in both the South and the East. Slowly, but surely, the crudities inherent in the frontier pattern were refined by a society determined to make the Northwest a proving ground for democracy and a citadel of security and comfort.

The author traces this evolution from the simple to the complex in two large volumes that are hard packed with details and, in places, filled with minutia. He explores political and economic backgrounds, giving scrupulous attention to political parties and their platforms, and to land, speculation, money and banks, and trade and commerce; he investigates the health of the pioneer, showing the variety of treatments in vogue and the influence of the several schools of medicine; he traces the development of transportation, charting out routes of rivers, canals, and roads, and describing life on them; he writes of editors, printers, and authors, explaining their interest in the West as gleaned from newspapers, broadsides, periodicals, and books; he sketches the growth of botany, geology, and zoology, evaluating the contri-

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butions of pioneer workers in these fields; he shows the utopian experiments in operation, being careful to deal fairly with even the "lunatic fringe"; and he describes or explains the primitive plow, razorback hog, fire fighting, backwoods schools, papermaking, regional painters, soapmaking, distilling, home amusements, play parties, and western sports, speech, character, and manners.

His inventory of life and labor in the Old Northwest is, at times, so comprehensive and so encyclopedic that it may discourage the casual reader who wishes only a "once-over-lightly" survey. But Mr. Buley, after long years of research, did not intend his book for those who wish to take their history on the run. This does not imply that *The Old Northwest* is ponderous or dull or poorly written. It is not in any sense labored. It is well organized and nicely balanced. It is clear, lucid, and, in places, spiced with humor. It is more than all this—it is a meticulous mountain of research and a tribute to sound scholarship. The intelligent layman will enjoy it, the student will find it an invaluable guide, and the scholar will appreciate it as a distinguished contribution to regional historical writing.

These two beautifully printed volumes are made even more attractive by the inclusion of contemporary illustrations. In addition to cartoons and prints, the pen and water-color drawings of Lefevre J. Cranstone are reproduced, as are sketches made by the well-known English traveler, Captain Basil Hall. Edwin Whitefield, who once sketched portions of the North Star country, is represented by a view of Steubenville, Ohio. The Christian Schrader drawings are delightful delineations of Indiana life in the nineteenth century. A bibliographical essay and a carefully worked out index add to the usefulness of the volumes and testify to the interest and support given by the Lilly Endowment, Incorporated, as sponsor and the Indiana Historical Society as publisher.

PHILIP D. JORDAN

Two Captains West: An Historical Tour of the Lewis and Clark Trail.

By ALBERT and JANE SALISBURY. With drawings by CARTER LUCAS. (Seattle, Superior Publishing Company, 1950. xix, 235 p. Illustrations, maps. \$7.50.)

Professed students of the American frontier are not likely to find much of interest in the actual text of *Two Captains West*. The book is merely another rewriting of the immortal journals of Lewis and Clark, neither much better nor much worse than a good many others. It tells the story competently and briefly, with a real feeling for the heroic quality of the men and their accomplishment. But in one respect it is far superior to most writing on the subject. It is based on extensive, firsthand knowledge of the terrain, and it is written with a gusto that is on the whole rather pleasant. It adds, however, nothing at all to our knowledge of the facts and, except as another useful and brief account of the expedition, it serves no special purpose.

One might, therefore, dismiss it as an unnecessary book, were it not for the magnificent photographs with which it is adorned. It is true that for many years there have been in existence two copies of a similar photographic record of the expedition's trail; but these are buried in private collections, are unknown to all but the most resolute historians, and are unavailable to all save a very favored few.

Two Captains West now provides a much better set of photographs, covering much more of the trail and available to anyone. The photographic subjects have been carefully made, well selected, and impeccably reproduced by competent printers. The captions are particularly valuable because of their close relation to the original text of the journals.

The authors have also amused themselves by including a running series of suggestions to tourists along the Lewis and Clark trail, and a lively description of their own adventures. On the whole, this is a valuable book for anyone with a real interest in the American West.

JOHN BAKELESS

A Century of Iron and Men. By HARLAN HATCHER. (Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1950. Illustrations. 295 p. \$3.50.)

In a book dominated by its Ohio author's greater knowledge of the Marquette iron mining region and the activities and personalities of the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company, the Minnesota ranges, the Oliver Iron Mining Company, the Great Northern Iron Ore Properties, and the so-called independent companies get rather perfunctory treatment. Even the western end of Lake Superior's shipping takes a second-rate position. It is the reviewer's guess that the book began as a biography of the Mather family, which has supplied at least two dominating personalities to the mining and manufacturing of iron ore in the United States; and that thereafter the author decided to add a background in which Samuel L. and William G. Mather's lives and company would become more intelligible. Therefore one expects and finds excellent detail wherever the archives of the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company could be drawn upon, but only one full chapter and part of another go to the Vermilion and Mesabi ranges, and the Cuyuna Range gets a solitary reference toward the end of the book! Even in the chapters about the Mesabi Range—for the Vermilion is practically ignored after 1892—it is the Cleveland-Cliffs mines and operations in large part that supply examples of developments and personalities.

Despite obvious unfamiliarity with the Minnesota ranges and their history, which accounts for a host of errors and loose statements, the author contributes a fresh point of view in at least one or two instances. Thus on p. 262, after remarking of Mesabi communities that "Few of the miners could read or write, and each little nationality group spoke its own tongue in its own dialect," Mr. Harlan goes on: "It is one of the miracles of American life, and a tribute to the strength of its cultural traditions, that these chaotic and dis-

parate elements could be shaped into admirable and progressive communities in so short a time." And after the conventional, critical account of the communities' tax program and use of tax moneys in building school and community structures, he throws convention to the winds and displays a strength of mind as admirable as it is unexpected: "With such resources at their disposal, the only wonder perhaps is that the people should have used them so largely for the public welfare. They are especially, and rightly, proud of their schools and the school system. It is a good indication that they have taken over the American faith in education and the American concern that the new generation should have better opportunities than were afforded their fathers. The results achieved by these schools certainly have been tremendous."

The short, declaratory sentences of the volume will make it especially useful for high school courses. Even the reader who knows the general outline of Great Lakes history and industry will benefit from the chapters on the Mathers and their company; for, curiously, the great iron mining and steel making companies, whose histories are sagas of the first order, have neglected to put their records in the hands of competent historians, and the result is a dearth of knowledge on the part of laymen.

GRACE LEE NUTE

Mileposts on the Prairie: The Story of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway.

By FRANK P. DONOVAN, JR. (New York, Simmons-Boardman Publishing Corporation, 1950. ix, 310 p. Illustrations. \$4.50.)

This is a first-rate biography of a railway—informative, well-balanced, and, to the everlasting credit of its author, delightfully readable from start to finish. Perhaps its most distinctive characteristic, however, is the fact that it is superbly tailored—in respect to content, approach, and interpretation—to the subject it treats. *Mileposts on the Prairie* fits the Minneapolis and St. Louis to perfection. Like the railroad itself, it is as notable for what it does not attempt to do as for what it does (and does extraordinarily well).

As railways go, the Minneapolis and St. Louis is not a "big" road. For many years, in fact, it was touch and go as to whether it could and would survive at all; and until very recently its ups and downs, its decisions and policies, have scarcely been of national or even regional significance, however important they may have been locally. Consequently the author, with what I consider keen judgment and rare restraint, has not once attempted to exaggerate the *quantitative* aspect of his subject. On the other hand, over its eighty years of tough living, the "Louie" has always contributed substantially to the importance of the Twin Cities and to the steady development of rural Minnesota and Iowa. More recently, to the consternation of "experts" who confidently predicted its dismemberment and extinction, it has literally risen from its deathbed to become a progressive and prosperous carrier specializing in highspeed freight service between Minneapolis on the one hand

and the eastern and southwestern carriers on the other—a feat that has properly captured national attention. Without any question, these accomplishments constitute a significant chapter in railway history well worth the telling. With rare discernment for the *qualitative* implications of his subject and with the sure touch of a bona fide “rail,” Frank Donovan has told a straightforward story that will certainly inspire anyone who has the slightest interest in the M&StL, appeal to all students of the Midwest, and charm the general reader be he eight or eighty.

Some professional historians, no doubt, will bewail the lack of documentation, even though the bibliography is adequate. Others may criticize the lack of any comparative analysis in respect to other roads in the region, and the author's failure to relate the specific developments on the M&StL to the economic and social trends of the times. Still others may wince at his unrestrained enthusiasm for the company, despite the fact that he never glosses over the sorrier parts of the tale. These charges, which cannot be denied, would be fatal if *Mileposts* pretended to be an authoritative, definitive history. But so far as I can discern, the author never intended to turn out that kind of work. He may have felt—and I would agree with him—that the M&StL story as a whole could not justify years of necessary critical research (though certain developments richly deserve detailed study later on), and that the finished weighty product would find a very limited market. Wisely, then, in my opinion, Mr. Donovan elected to write what I should call a biography that people would read. He has produced every bit as good a piece of work as the late Edward Hungerford's best, *Men of Erie*. In his *Mileposts* he has packed enough facts to satisfy all but the specialists, and, more important, he has captured the spirit and “feel” of the human organization at least as well as he could have done in a full-dress monograph. Finally, he has been able to tell his story in a style that professional historians could well emulate if they want people to read the results of their years of labor. The author has cut his cloth to fit his pattern; that in itself (scholars please note!) is no mean achievement.

Mileposts on the Prairie is pleasingly presented. The format is attractive, the type clear, and the illustrations (including, notably, numerous pen-and-ink sketches) are ample and well-chosen. My only complaint—and it applies to almost all books on railways—concerns the lack of sufficient maps. Those in the end covers are placed so that much of the line is annoyingly hidden in the crack, and it is a nuisance and eye strain to have to refer constantly to the small-scale “all-time map.” More line sketches, such as that on p. 201 illustrating the proposed dismemberment, placed at proper spots in the running text, would have been a welcome and precedent-breaking innovation. But this, obviously, is a minor point.

Mileposts on the Prairie is a rattling good book.

RICHARD C. OVERTON

A Pioneer in Northwest America, 1841-1858: The Memoirs of Gustaf Unonius, vol. I. Translated from the Swedish by JONAS OSCAR BACKLUND; edited by NILS WILLIAM OLSSON; with an introduction by GEORGE M. STEPHENSON. (Minneapolis, published for the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society by the University of Minnesota Press, 1950. xii, 419 p. \$6.00.)

It is fortunate indeed that the first major publication of the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society is a translation of volume I of Gustaf Unonius' significant two-volume *Minnen från en sjuttonårig vistelse i nordvestra Amerika*, the original Swedish edition of which was published in Uppsala in 1861-62. Unonius, as Professor Stephenson has remarked on several occasions, was not a "typical" Swedish emigrant—an educated person rarely is—but he was a keen observer of the American scene. His *Minnen*, which was based in large part upon his diary and also incorporated some of his newspaper articles, presents a surprisingly objective, and at times poetic, record of his journey to America, contains descriptions of frontier folkways, and reviews the beginnings of nineteenth-century Swedish immigration. Students of history and many a general reader will look forward with understandable interest to the publication, in translation, of the second volume of *Minnen*, for the present book sees the author only started on his dramatic and somewhat tragic career in America.

Unonius, the son of a Swedish lawyer and official, was born in Helsingfors, Finland, and educated at the famous university in Uppsala. Frustrated in his literary efforts and chafing under the routine and slow advancement of a poorly-paid government position in "Old Uppsala," he became increasingly fascinated by American democratic ideals and institutions. In May, 1841, Unonius led a party of five on a journey which was to take him and his bride to Pine Lake, near Milwaukee in Wisconsin Territory, where the small Swedish colony of New Uppsala shortly came into being. This journey, which carried the party by sailing vessel from Gävle to New York, by steamer on the Hudson, by canalboat along the Erie Canal, and again by steamship on the Great Lakes to Milwaukee, offered ample opportunity for observations that brought forth a generous defense of Americans and American life against what the author believed to be the unjust charges of such travelers as the German Carl Ulrik von Hauswolff.

At Pine Lake Unonius knew the trials and hardships of frontier life; these he bore with courage, and happily he recorded in his diary and in his letters the more important pioneer experiences. His first volume of *Memoirs* describes in detail New World methods of farming, tells something of the American system of government, and offers revealing glimpses of social relations in the West. The reader finds in the book interesting accounts of land claiming, the building of a log house, a house-raising, plowing, rail splitting, prairie fires, hunting and fishing, the importance of the corn crop on the frontier, bee hunting, western matrimonial alliances, a crude surgical operation, American hospitality and co-operation, and many other subjects. Uno-

nus admired the native American for the ease and grace with which he worked, the efficiency of his tools, and his informed participation in political life. When he makes comparisons between Americans and Scandinavians as workmen, or between American and Swedish farm implements, he reveals a preference for Americans and things American.

Unonius' place in the history of immigration proved to be more lasting than the settlement of New Uppsala, which today exists only as a colorful memory. Recruits, it is true, went to the Pine Lake colony, many of them of a kind unsuited to the rigors of pioneer life. They constituted a species of landed gentry without wealth or comforts in the forests of Wisconsin, but the main stream of Swedish migration flowed elsewhere. Unonius' letters to newspapers in the homeland, especially to *Aftonbladet* in Stockholm, and later his *Minnen* contributed in a very real sense to the heavy Swedish emigration of the period following the American Civil War; they did so partly because of their careful defense of America, and even more because of their sound advice and judicious weighing of advantage against disadvantage in migrating to the New World.

In the Swedish as in the Norwegian immigration story, church controversy figured prominently, and Unonius was deeply involved in it. If he proved to be both tactless and unyielding in his battle with the Lutheran clergy, he displayed qualities also common among his antagonists. He was ordained as a priest in the Protestant Episcopal church, which maintained a mission at near-by Nashotah. Strongly influenced in his thinking by the Reverend J. Lloyd Breck, Episcopal missionary in Wisconsin and Minnesota, Unonius believed then and continued to the end of his life to believe that in serving the American counterpart of the Church of England he was affiliating with the organization that, apart from language, most nearly resembled the Church of Sweden, both in form and in spirit. He was also reminded by Breck of the precedent established by the Swedes on the Delaware, who had joined forces with the Episcopalians. Unonius' religious work among Swedish and Norwegian immigrants, however, soon brought him into sharp and bitter conflict with the Swedish Lutheran pastors of *läsare*, or pietistic, proclivities.

The translator, the editor, and others who co-operated in producing this book are deserving of the warmest congratulations for their success in achieving a smoothly flowing and carefully edited translation of a work that has been a long time in taking its place on American bookshelves. The University of Minnesota Press has added another attractive volume to an already impressive list of readable scholarly publications. Finally, there is cause for rejoicing in the fact that a new historical society, one seemingly free of nationalistic flapdoodle, has appeared on the scene to broaden our understanding of Swedish-American life and the ever-absorbing story of immigration.

KENNETH BJORK

Americans from Norway. By LEOLA NELSON BERGMANN. (Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1950. 324 p. \$3.50.)

Mrs. Bergmann's book is easily the best published thus far in the *Peoples of America Series* edited by Louis Adamic. This is faint praise indeed, and one hastens to add that with better editorial work and a more adequate printing job the volume would compare favorably with some of the publications of the Norwegian-American Historical Association. The carelessness of the publisher in permitting a book to be issued with uneven and crooked margins can perhaps be corrected in a second printing. The decision to omit all documentation was doubtless in accord with editorial policy for the series, but the result is that the book's usefulness to the historian is thereby lessened. The bibliography, however, indicates conscientious coverage of available materials.

The book is essentially a descriptive and anecdotal survey of the field of Norwegian-American history and life. The first twelve chapters form a unit in which the coming of the Norwegians to America from Viking times to the present is described. Chapter 13 deals with the Norwegian-American centennial celebration of 1925. The author then presents a long series of brief chapters on a variety of aspects of Norwegian life in America, such as religion, education, the press, urban life, maritime service, and outstanding individuals, the latter taking up twelve chapters alone. The book concludes with a three-page summary entitled "After Three Generations."

After paying somewhat sketchy respects to the Vikings and the scattered few who followed before the nineteenth century, the author settles down to a popularized summary of the extensive published material on Norwegian migration to and settlement in America. The summary is adequate and useful, and it is enlivened by numerous accounts of individual experiences. This section has a unity of theme and movement that is less apparent in the later chapters.

The remaining chapters are grouped into four sections: "Prairie Society," "The Cities," "Sailors," and "Outstanding Individuals." In the first of these Mrs. Bergmann seeks to recreate pioneer life and institutions. Her treatment of Norwegian Lutheranism is critical and objective, but that seems less true of her discussion of the two leading colleges of Norwegian-Americans. Her brief discussion of the press demonstrates again the need for an adequate study of this important phase of Norwegian-American history. On the cities of Chicago, Minneapolis, and Brooklyn, there would seem to have been an opportunity to fill in much-needed material, but the treatment is limited. The information on Marcus Thrane is welcome, but the author's statement that Norwegian-American historians have neglected Thrane seems unfair. In the maritime chapters, there is some new material on the river captain Louis Nyhammer, and the account of Andrew Furuseth assembles much useful information on this pioneer of the maritime labor movement.

Why biographical sketches could not have been woven into the body of the book is not clear, but again one suspects editorial policy, and the author has

made the best of it. She has selected for inclusion "those . . . who have consciously felt themselves to be guardians of an Old World culture in the New"; "those who came, most of them after the 1880's, well-equipped from the Norwegian institutions and ready to give immediate service to industrial, social and educational life"; and "those, coming from both the older prairie and the newer urban society, who have distinguished themselves in certain fields as Americans, who think of themselves only as Americans, but who, because they happen to have come from Norwegian stock, can be brought into a study of this sort."

There seem to be few errors of fact, but it should be noted that the programs of Scandinavian Studies at Minnesota and Wisconsin universities are separately financed and are not directed by the same person (p. 239). In general, however, Mrs. Bergmann has, within the limits of editorial stipulations governing the *Peoples of America Series*, produced a useful and readable volume.

CARLTON C. QAULEY

Grass of the Earth: Immigrant Life in the Dakota Country. By AAGOT RAAEN. (Northfield, Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1950. xii, 238 p. \$3.00.)

This is the story of the Raaens, an immigrant family in the Dakota country. Written as autobiography, although in the third person, it is a story of dogged courage and determination. One finishes it with the reflection that no obstacle is in reality too formidable to daunt the essential human spirit, once it has been seized with a hunger for that achievement which promises eventual freedom. It is a tale unsparingly told, not of pioneer vicissitudes, but of spiritual and intellectual conflict. Frontier hardships are bluntly depicted, but not with that literary tabasco and curry which seems to titilate contemporary, soft-muscle devotees of the golden past. Hardships, counted as experiences which were as unavoidable as measles, diarrhea, and higher taxes, are given only their just share of time, space, and expenditure of emotion.

The main theme is the struggle between the dreams of things as they might be and the harsh realities of things as they are. Aagot dreams of a college education and of a life somehow less sterile than she seems to find beside the Goose River; Kjersti, longing to better the condition of country neighbors, decides to become a nurse; Tosten sees in the ministry the answer to his longing. But how bring these substantial accomplishments out of wispy dreams, here where Mor, the mother, is often driven near distraction by the language of this new land and the customs of this unfamiliar neighborhood? How perform miracles, here where Far, the father (he who once had spoken proudly to a king), beholds his visions scattered on an unfriendly homestead and finds his dreams so poignant that to escape them he "goes into the Shadows"?

Such is the stuff of great drama, even though here it is a promise rather

than a beginning of such fulfillment. Nevertheless, Dean T. C. Blegen and the Norwegian-American Historical Association are to be congratulated upon the selection and the publication of this volume. In writings like this, perhaps we catch a profounder glimpse of our cultural heritage than in writings considered more polished, more formal, more literary.

HERBERT KRAUSE

The Augustana Lutheran Church in America: Pioneer Period 1846 to 1860.

By OSCAR N. OLSON. (Rock Island, Illinois, Augustana Book Concern, 1950. xvi, 397 p. Illustrations. \$3.50.)

According to the old saying, a woman's work is never done. Nor is a historian's work. If a historian is remarkably capable, energetic, preceptive, and honest he will produce a fine book replete with solid information, interesting sidelights, and full citations of sources. It is read. Then what happens? Time passes, sometimes very little time, and points of view change. New sources come to light. The fine book of yesteryear loses its appeal, gathers dust on the shelf. It is time for a new one to be written which will take into account the added years, the changed perspectives, and the fresh sources.

Dr. Olson's book illustrates these observations. In 1890 Dr. Eric Norelius, the pioneer pastor and zealous collector of primary sources, published in Swedish a monumental history of the Augustana Lutheran church in America. This work was highly esteemed. But when preparations got under way for the observance in 1948 of the centennial of the founding of the first congregation of the Augustana church at New Sweden, Iowa, it was seen that a new history was needed. A popular volume was issued that year and then Dr. Olson, the official director of historical research of the church, was commissioned to write this documented history. It covers the pioneer period up to the organization of the Augustana Synod in 1860. Two more volumes are to follow.

As one would expect in a work of this magnitude, the early chapters are devoted to general discussions of Swedish emigration and its causes, the Church of Sweden, the evangelical movements, America as the land of opportunity, and the Lutheran church in America before 1860. Having thus laid the groundwork, the author traces the founding of numerous Swedish settlements in this country (mostly in the upper Mississippi Valley) and Lutheran churches to serve them. A long chapter covers the early churches in Minnesota in the 1850's. One of the problems in Minnesota and elsewhere was to secure a supply of ordained pastors. In 1849 the first ordained Lutheran pastor from Sweden arrived in the person of the notable Lars Paul Esbjörn; but few followed in his footsteps. The dearth of qualified ministers led naturally to efforts to provide training for pastors here. To this end a Scandinavian professorship was established in 1858 at the Illinois State University in Springfield. The pioneer pastors undertook also, the author relates, to advance religious instruction through parochial schools and publications.

P. O. Bersell correctly states in his foreword that "To write history is at best a difficult task." One of the difficulties is the organization of material, and Dr. Olson's book leaves something to be desired in this respect. After the initial chapters, the narrative is hard to follow, whether from the arrangement of the topics or the plethora of details on individual pastors and their views. Yet Dr. Olson deserves high praise not only for his thorough probing of the sources, but for his objective, scholarly treatment of men and events a century ago. His sober detachment will be put to still greater test as he approaches the present in the volumes to come.

CARL L. LOKKE

Wisconsin My Home. By ERNA OLESON XAN. As told by her mother, THURINE OLESON. (Madison, University of Wisconsin Press, 1950. 224 p. Illustrations. \$3.75.)

This is a treasure of a book!

Reading it is like going through an old photograph album with a born storyteller at your side to bring each faded, old-fashioned picture to life. It is even better than that, for these are not random memories. They are sorted out and beautifully woven together by Erna Oleson Xan, to whom they were told by Thurine, her mother.

Thurine was born in 1866 on a Wisconsin farm in a colony of Norwegian immigrants with whom the reader becomes thoroughly acquainted. Her story opens with a nostalgic picture of the homeland that figured so constantly in conversations in her parents' home over home-brewed beer or cups of coffee "rich golden tan with lumps of cream."

The bracing pioneer life of her youth is described—its toils, its joys, its bountiful hospitality, the neglected school, the Lutheran church which was the center of their lives until blasted by a titanic quarrel. The book is a veritable encyclopedia of pioneer Norwegian customs, but the human drama is always given first place.

I was particularly charmed by the marriage of merry, dance-loving Thurine to her sober, handsome John. There were problems to be solved, but people worked at marriages in those days. They both had love, and she had patience, and John "always helped her with her heavy work." Each one of their eight children was welcomed and adored.

Blessings on Mrs. Xan for retaining all the homely anecdotes, the pungent characterizations, and, above all, the lively style of her mother. "Oh," says Thurine, speaking of her school days, "some of those blue-belly Yankees were mean to us!" But Yankees will enjoy this vigorous narrative, (and Mary Lou Warrick's delightful sketches, too), almost as much as Norwegian-Americans will. No Norwegian-American should miss it, however. He should read it without fail, if only for the cheeses.

MAUD HART LOVELACE

Sculpture in Wood. By JOHN ROOD. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1950. 179 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

"To bring the special flavor of the midwest into sculpture" is one of the goals toward which Mr. Rood, a Minnesota artist and a member of the art faculty in the University of Minnesota, is striving, according to this newly published book. He expresses a desire "to say something in my work about people whom I have known: about their beliefs, their customs, their actions, their mythology." Since many of these people, like Mr. Rood, are Midwesterners, his work in large measure reflects the "special kind of strength and character" that for this artist spell not only America, but his own section of America.

Mr. Rood is not concerned only with contemporary figures; his interest reaches out to a mythology that "provides an unusually rich cultural background for our artists." It is the mythology of "an earthy people," a people "anything but docile and stereotyped . . . full of salt and gusto," ready to "dare the impossible," and possessed of the "energy and the know-how of the kitchen, the laboratory, the farm, the factory." Fully aware that he is "exalting the place and time in which he lives," Mr. Rood has made a career of exploiting the rich background of Minnesota and the Midwest in wood—in his opinion the "material peculiarly suited to its portrayal."

More than a hundred and thirty magnificently reproduced plates in the present volume whet the reader's appetite for a glimpse of the originals, especially of figures like Johnny Appleseed and Paul Bunyan. Such an opportunity soon will be provided by the Minnesota Historical Society, which has under way plans for a display of Mr. Rood's folk sculpture, to open on April 29.

Minnesotans have good reason to be proud of this book. It was written by one of the state's most talented sons and it deals with his art. It was printed, produced, and published in the state, and it was designed by Jane McCarthy of the university press. Its recent selection by the American Institute of Graphic Arts as one of the Fifty Books of the Year confirms the impression that it ranks with the best work of this talented designer.

BERTHA L. HEILBRON

Minnetonka Story: A Series of Stories Covering Lake Minnetonka's Years from Canoe to Cruiser. By BLANCHE NICHOLS WILSON. (Minneapolis, 1950. 158 p. Illustrations. \$3.00.)

Mrs. Wilson was beguiled into an interest in local history in a very natural way. While workmen were repairing her house at Deephaven, she heard them tell stories of "way back when." She asked them to save their stories until noon when her children could hear them. The workmen agreed, and "at lunch time Minnetonka's early history passed before in grand parade." The product of these sessions, and of additional interviewing, is *Minnetonka*

Story, a book that bears the marks of the author's method. The stories are engrossing, translated lovingly into prose that has a casual charm.

When Mrs. Wilson attempts to broaden her scope to integrate these stories into the intricate development of the state, however, she enters more dangerous waters than those of Minnetonka. She has Hennepin discovering the Falls of St. Anthony in 1683, the year that his *Description de la Louisiane* was published, after his return to France. She relates that Hennepin was seized by the Sioux at the Falls of St. Anthony, instead of at a place farther down river still not decided on by authorities on his travels. Oversimplification results in such assumptions as these: that when Franklin Steele harnessed waterpower for his mills, St. Anthony was born; that Minneapolis was John H. Stevens' "little village"; and that the treaty of Traverse des Sioux grew out of a casual conversation between Sibley and Ramsey. An intensive reading of the many secondary sources available would have saved *Minnetonka Story* from these and other faults that need not have marred it.

LUCILE M. KANE

The Kensington rune stone inscription and the writings of Hjalmar R. Holand provide in large part the theme about which Elizabeth Coatsworth has written an entertaining "Saga of Fourteenth Century America" entitled *Door to the North* (Philadelphia, John C. Winston Company, 1950. 246 p. \$2.50.). Her novel pictures the westward migration of Scandinavians from Greenland into central North America, following Mr. Holand's "suggestion that some of the Scandinavians may have joined with the Mandans, an Indian tribe which many of the first explorers found to be brown-haired, with gray or blue eyes, and famed for their gentleness and courtesy, living in houses very like the round form of the simpler Scandinavian houses." Mrs. Coatsworth provides her narrative with an "Afterword" in which she tells briefly of the finding of the Minnesota rune stone, expounds Mr. Holand's theory, and reviews her sources of information.

The society's curator of manuscripts, Lucile M. Kane, has translated from the original French and edited a work that will appear late in March under the title *Military Life in Dakota: The Journal of General Régis de Trobriand* (432 p.). Reproductions of original drawings by the journalist illustrate the volume, which is being published by University of Oklahoma Press for the Alvord Memorial Commission of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association.

History Here and There

THE MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

TO DISTRIBUTE THE BENEFITS of the society's vital program among people in all parts of Minnesota is the objective of the state-wide membership campaign to be launched on April 15. It will be conducted by a special committee under the energetic leadership of Mr. Leonard G. Carpenter of Minneapolis and Mrs. F. K. Weyerhaeuser of St. Paul as co-chairmen. Serving with them are leaders in civic and community affairs not only from the Twin Cities, but from Bemidji, Duluth, Rochester, and Winona.

In announcing the campaign, the society's president, Mr. Harry T. Kendall, expressed his conviction that in these critical times "there is no better guide for the future than a knowledge of the past." He believes that Minnesotans living in every section and every county of the state will safeguard their own interests by joining the society, reading its publications, using its unique resources, and participating in its activities.

"THE MOST DIFFICULT PART of history to obtain is the record of how plain men and women lived, and how they were affected by the economic, social, and cultural changes of their times; the most fascinating part of history is this same record." Thus writes Allan Nevins in an essay entitled "History This Side the Horizon," which appears in the October number of the *Vermont Quarterly*. That the "stuff of history is not something altogether remote in time and distant in place" is Mr. Nevins' theme. "History lies all about us if we have eyes to see it," he writes. "It lies about us not merely in times of war and crisis, but in everyday humdrum times." To illustrate his point, he explains an "Oral History Project" planned by Columbia University in an "effort to expose and quarry some of the veins of historical material that branch all about us." By this means, the university "has undertaken to interview in systematic fashion, according to a well-studied pattern, scores upon scores of men and women whose lives seem of significance to the community. They are asked, before it is too late, to pour out their reminiscences into the faithful ear of a wire recorder."

A firsthand picture of a historian at work is provided in a slender volume of *Letters from Lloyd Lewis, Showing Steps in the Research for his Biogra-*

phy of U.S. Grant (Boston, 1950. 83 p.). Most of the letters were written to Lewis' editor at Little, Brown and Company, under whose imprint the present book appears. The publishers believe that the letters will serve as "an inspiration to scholarship," since they provide "an absorbing revelation of the methods of the true scholar at work . . . re-creating one of the great periods in the history of American democracy." At close range, the reader sees Lewis busily delving into collections of letters in the Newberry Library, the Library of Congress, and other depositories, retracing Grant's footsteps, or combing newspaper files for reports of his subject. "Those newspapers of 1880," wrote Lewis on one occasion, "were very rewarding." He described himself with "bound volumes, all over my lap and study," and declared that "from them comes a picture, missing, so far as I know, from the biographies." The letters date from the spring of 1945 to a few days before Lewis' death four years later.

A useful "Check-list of Current State Historical Society Magazines" has been compiled by James Taylor Dunn, librarian of the New York State Historical Association, for publication in the October number of *New York History*. In addition to the title, the list includes for each publication the name and address of the publishing institution, the name of the editor, the year when the publication was first issued, and the subscription price. Mr. Dunn finds that only six of the forty-eight states "are not represented by currently published quarterly magazines of local history." Included in his list also are the junior magazines issued during the school year in Minnesota, New York, Texas, and Wisconsin.

In his study of *Diplomacy and Indian Gifts* (Stanford, California, 1950), Wilbur R. Jacobs confines himself to the period from 1748 to 1763; thus he is not greatly concerned with the Minnesota country and its native tribes. Nevertheless, his book will be useful to any student of Indian relations in this area, for the writer makes it clear that the "civilizing influence" of presents received by the red men from the whites "reached ahead of the fur trade far into the wilderness to the Mississippi Valley." Mr. Jacobs stresses the importance of "such eighteenth-century items as fabrics, hardware, munitions, food, toys, jewelry, clothing, wampum, and liquors . . . in the complex diplomatic history of Indian politics along the old Northwest frontier." Among the chapters of general interest are those on the types and the cost of presents used by the British and the French in their dealings with the Indians, and on the giving and receiving of presents as "An Old Indian Custom."

A valuable descriptive booklet has been issued by the music division of the Library of Congress to accompany an album or a long-playing record of thirty *Songs of the Chippewa* (1950. 19 p.). They were recorded from 1907 to 1910 on reservations in Minnesota and Wisconsin by Frances Densmore, who provides the interesting descriptive text in the present booklet. The songs

now made available to students of Indian history, folklore, and music were selected by Miss Densmore from a total of 340 recorded when she made her original study of Chippewa music. Included are "songs of their dreams, dances and games, songs of the warpath and camp, love songs and the songs with which they treated the sick, as well as songs of their religious organization," the Grand Medicine Society. In an informing introduction, Miss Densmore tells how she obtained her records, and describes the accompanying instruments used by the singers.

The December issue of the *Beaver* includes Grace Lee Nute's description of a journey "Westward with Sir George" Simpson from Mackinac via Lake Superior, Fort William, and the border waters to Fort Garry in 1847. The narrative is based upon the diary of Frederick Ulrich Graham, a young Englishman who accompanied Simpson as far as Red River. From that point, Graham pushed on across the plains on horseback to the upper Saskatchewan and Fort Edmonton, hunting as he went. His diary provides a colorful record of buffalo and large game hunts on the western Canadian plains of the mid-century.

In an article on the "Early Showboat and Circus in the Upper Valley" of the Mississippi, appearing in *Mid-America* for October, Joseph S. Schick calls to the attention of historians two subjects that have been largely overlooked by students of the theater in the upper Midwest. The writer is particularly concerned with the showboat, an institution that was "thoroughly American" in its origins. Since the rivers "offered the easiest and quickest transportation for the troupes and their baggage," Mr. Schick points out, "the show boat was a very natural development." He records that "During pioneer days it brought the delights of the theater to every city and hamlet of consequence along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers," extending northward to the newly settled Minnesota country in the 1850's. The "Banjo," a showboat "which had an audience chamber for 800 people, traveled as far north as St. Paul" in 1856 and 1858, according to Mr. Schick, and it also gave a production at Stillwater in the latter year.

"To give *resumés* of the lives and careers of Joseph and Alexis Bailly, and to trace as many as possible of their descendants" is Edward C. Bailly's purpose in publishing an article the first installment of which appears in the July-September issue of a Canadian journal, *Le bulletin des recherches historiques*. Under the title "Genealogy of the Bailly de Messein Family in the United States" the writer presents the record of a family that was to contribute toward the development of several states of the Middle West. "Joseph Bailly played a prominent part in the early settlement and history of the States of Michigan and Indiana," writes Mr. Bailly, and "his oldest son, Alexis, was one of the pioneer white settlers and fur traders in the territory west of the Mississippi River, which became the State of Minnesota and

played there an even more important part in public affairs and in the development of that region." The opening section of the narrative is devoted almost entirely to Joseph Bailly; the story of his son in Minnesota will be covered in a later installment.

The story of the expedition that Lars Gunderson led "From Minneapolis to the Klondike in 1898," which is told by Carl L. Lokke in the December, 1948, issue of this magazine, is continued by the same writer in volume 16 of the *Norwegian-American Studies and Records* (Northfield, 1950). In the present article, Dr. Lokke describes Gunderson's travels in search of gold "From the Klondike to the Kougarok" beyond Nome, after the members of his original Monitor Gold Mining and Trading Company had dispersed.

That the "reliance of frontier development on eastern capital" is strikingly illustrated by the lumber industry is brought out by Arthur R. Reynolds, in the December *Bulletin* of the Business Historical Society, to which he contributes an article on "Sources of Credit for a Frontier Lumber Company: The Daniel Shaw Lumber Company as a Type Study." The writer's examination of the Shaw company's credit arrangements made it clear that the firm's leaders "depended heavily upon their eastern friends for the loans necessary to weather the financial difficulties of the 1870's and early 1880's." But they turned for help also to banks in their own community, as well as to those in the neighboring metropolitan centers of St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Milwaukee. Mr. Reynolds made his present study as a member of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society's Forest Products History Foundation.

TELLING THE MINNESOTA STORY

A record of "Steamboats on the Red" that followed the pioneering "Anson Northup" of 1859 and the "International" of 1862 is provided by Molly McFadden in the September number of the *Beaver*. The role in Red River traffic of such American transportation leaders as Norman W. Kittson and James J. Hill, the organization of the Merchants International Steamboat Line by citizens of Manitoba and Minnesota who were attempting to reduce freight rates, moonlight excursions on the Red River, distinguished travelers who found their way to Winnipeg via Minnesota and the international waterway, disasters on the winding stream, and the operations of such boats as the "Selkirk," the "Keewatin," and the "Swallow" are among the subjects discussed. "Not until 1909 did the last steamer run from Minnesota to Winnipeg," writes Miss McFadden, "thus bringing to a close fifty years of steamboat traffic between the two countries." The issue includes also W. L. Morton's penetrating "appreciation of Marcel Giraud's magnificent study of the western half-breeds," which appears under the title "The Canadian Metis." Evidence that these Red River people of mixed blood also figure in the story of Minnesota is to be found not only in Professor Morton's review,

but in one of the illustrations that accompany it—a picture of the seven Jerome brothers, typical metis “photographed in Kittson County, Minnesota, in 1910.”

“Mando’s First Forty Years” of papermaking at International Falls and Fort Frances are commemorated in the September–October issue of the *Mandonian*, which is largely devoted to articles about the development of an important industry which Minnesota shares with Canada. The concern had its beginning, according to a survey of its first two decades, on June 6, 1910, when the “first paper machine at International Falls turned out 17.9 tons of standard newsprint.” An industry closely related to that of paper manufacturing is the subject of an article on “The Golden Age of the Lumberjack”; the “availability of power” at International Falls and its influence in selecting a mill site are discussed under the heading “Power Was a Necessity”; the “Growth of Papermaking Facilities” is surveyed; the use of “screenings that accumulated in the manufacture of paper” to make Insulite and develop a new industry is described; and the various subsidiaries that produce power, transportation, telephone poles, and newspapers not only for the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company, but for the border area are noted. Some excellent “Photo Highlights of Mando’s Formative Years” and a useful chronology are other features of the issue.

To a growing list of articles on the artists who pictured the American West of the pioneer period, John Francis McDermott has added an informing review of the career of “Charles Deas: Painter of the Frontier.” Its appearance in the autumn issue of the *Art Quarterly* will interest Minnesotans, for it includes an account of the artist’s sojourn at Fort Snelling in 1841. While there, according to Mr. McDermott, Deas painted the Falls of St. Anthony and the fort itself, as well as portraits of some of the native Indians. His charming view of Fort Snelling, which, incidentally, was displayed by the Minnesota Historical Society in 1949, is among the pictures reproduced with the present article.

Looking toward the observance in 1951 of the centennial of the first Minnesota convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Paul is a little volume by Sister Clara Graham entitled *Works to the King: Reminiscences of Mother Seraphine Ireland* (St. Paul, 1950. 103 p.). Although it is published as a “contribution to the record of achievement” by the sisters during a “century of activity in Minnesota and adjoining states,” the work is in effect a biography of the distinguished sister of Archbishop Ireland. From the arrival in the frontier village of St. Paul in 1852 of Richard Ireland and his family to Mother Seraphine’s death in 1930, the writer traces the story of this energetic woman’s leadership in a religious community. As a record of the growth of Catholic education in the Northwest alone the book is significant, for it contains accounts of the founding of the College of St. Catherine and of scores of schools and academies in Minnesota and North Dakota.

The preservation of the site of Fort St. Charles, the Lake of the Woods post of the French explorer, La Vérendrye, is the golden anniversary project planned by the Minnesota Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus. The organization expects to "mark the site with a permanent monument and to lay out the original lines of the Fort." A leaflet in which the story of the post is retold and the marking project is announced has been distributed among the seventeen hundred members of the Minnesota group.

The career of a native of Prussia who "lived under three flags" and participated in the "frontier life of three countries" is the subject of a little volume entitled *Leaves from the Life of a Pioneer: Being the Autobiography of Sometime Senator Emil Julius Meilicke* (Vancouver, B.C., 1948). After the writer's parents left Prussia in 1866, they settled in Minnesota, making their home first in Winona County. Thence members of the family pushed their way westward across the state, making long stops in Blue Earth, Jackson, and Cottonwood counties. Mr. Meilicke tells of his growing interest in the farmers' welfare—an interest that drew him into the local Grange at Good Thunder, developed into active political leadership in the Farmers' Alliance, and sent him as a Populist to the Minnesota legislature, first as a representative, and then as a senator, in the 1890's. His push westward was the result of the successful practice "of selling out his improved property at a profit, and moving on to where land was cheap and could be developed and sold once more at a profit." It eventually led him to move on to a still newer and more remote frontier in Saskatchewan, which is the locale for the latter portion of his narrative.

The Minnesota Historical Society is among the agencies whose activities are reviewed and evaluated in a recent pamphlet on the *Saint Paul Community Arts Survey* (1950. 29 p.). The investigation was conducted by a special committee, with Mrs. Irving Clark as chairman. Among those serving with her were representatives of nine St. Paul agencies and schools. Among the suggestions made is that of using the Minnesota Historical Society's junior publication, the *Gopher Historian*, for the distribution of "interesting articles on the background of the various arts in Minnesota."

A list of articles and documents on "North Star Folklore" appearing in the first thirty volumes of *Minnesota History* (1915-1949) has been compiled by Bertha L. Heilbron and published in *Western Folklore* for October. It includes seventy-five items relating to such diverse subjects as Indians legends, lumberjack tales and camp life, nationality groups, and folk music.

The January issue of the *Bench and Bar of Minnesota* is a golden anniversary number, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the reorganization, on January 9, 1901, of the Minnesota State Bar Association. The group formed in 1883 by a handful of pioneer lawyers and judges was thus transformed into a vital and active organization. The story of the pioneer association is reviewed for the present publication by Ben W. Palmer; and Fred

W. Fisher tells of "The Legal Profession in Minnesota," beginning his narrative with Henry H. Sibley's appointment as a justice of the peace in 1836.

"A Decade of Conservation Reading" found in the issues of the *Conservation Volunteer* from 1940 to 1950 is summarized by Alfred L. Nelson in its tenth anniversary issue, published in November-December. Editors, contributors, and distribution, as well as subject matter, receive attention in this resume. In the same issue appears an appreciation, by Cliff Sakry, of George W. Friedrich of the St. Cloud State Teachers College, who is described as the "Dean of Conservation Educators" in Minnesota.

A wealth of information about the Red River trail that passed through Stearns County is presented in a souvenir booklet issued in November, 1950, when a monument was dedicated to mark the course of the trail at Waite's Crossing on the Sauk River (19 p.). Erected under the sponsorship of the Stearns County Historical Society, the monument is the gift of the North Star Granite Corporation. The course of the trail in Stearns County, the cart trains and their drivers, roads leading to and from the crossing, fords and bridges at the site—all are described in the present booklet. Attention is given also to traffic over the trail and to the Burbank brothers, who built up the stage and shipping business between St. Cloud and the Red River country.

"The Uelands"—Judge Andreas Ueland of Minneapolis and his seven children—are the subject of an article by Brenda Ueland in the winter issue of the *American Scandinavian Review*. There is background material, too, on Norway and on Ole Gabriel Ueland, the father of Andreas. In writing of her Norwegian grandfather, the author recalls his "great influence on the legislation of Norway in a liberal direction" during thirty-seven years of service as a member of the Storting.

WHO'S WHO IN THIS ISSUE

LONG KNOWN to Minnesota readers is JAMES GRAY, author of the address on "The University and the Historical Society" which appears as the leading article in this issue. A distinguished career as a columnist and dramatic and literary critic for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and the *Chicago Daily News* preceded his appointment in 1948 as professor of English in the University of Minnesota. Mr. Gray is the author of several novels, as well as of works that exploit local history, like *The Illinois* (1940) and *Pine, Stream and Prairie: Wisconsin and Minnesota in Profile* (1945). His centennial history of the University of Minnesota is scheduled for spring publication.

DR. JOHN FRANCIS McDERMOTT draws upon a forthcoming study of John Caspar Wild and his work as an artist for the present account of the circumstances under which the painter's view of Fort Snelling, newly acquired by the Minnesota Historical Society, had its origin. The author is a member of the

English faculty of Washington University and of the board of trustees of the Missouri Historical Society, both of St. Louis. Dr. McDermott has published articles about a number of other artists who pictured the frontier; he edited a series of Fort Snelling letters for the December, 1950, issue of this magazine; and he is the author of several books of Midwest interest.

DR. FRANK KLEMENT is assistant professor of history in Marquette University, Milwaukee. His interest in Civil War history has resulted in the present review of "The Abolition Movement in Minnesota," as well as in articles published in *West Virginia History*, the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, and other journals. To the *Abraham Lincoln Quarterly* for December, 1950, he contributed an account of "Jane Grey Swisshelm and Lincoln."

The Reverend VINCENT TEGEDER is a member of the Benedictine order and of the faculty of St. John's University at Collegeville, where he is chairman of the division of the social sciences and assistant professor of history. He has contributed articles and book reviews to the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* and the *Catholic Historical Review*. While directing a series of radio broadcasts on "St. John's in the Territorial Period" during the Centennial year, he became interested in the history of his own locality. He is an active member of the Stearns County Historical Society.

To open the book review section, DR. PHILIP D. JORDAN evaluates a monumental work on *The Old Northwest*. The reviewer, who is professor of history in the University of Minnesota, is familiar to readers of this magazine as the author of many contributions, particularly on Minnesota folklore. Among his books are *The National Road* and a forthcoming study of public health in Minnesota. Others who contribute book reviews to the current issue are JOHN BAKELESS of Seymour, Connecticut, author of a definitive study of the explorers Lewis and Clark and of other historical works, including a newly published book entitled *The Eyes of Discovery*; PROFESSOR RICHARD C. OVERTON of the school of commerce in Northwestern University at Evanston, a well-known authority on railroad history; DR. KENNETH BJORK, professor of history and chairman of the social science division in St. Olaf College, Northfield; PROFESSOR CARLTON C. QUALEY of the history faculty in Carleton College, Northfield; HERBERT KRAUSE, novelist and professor of English in Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; DR. CARL L. LOKKE, chief of the foreign affairs section in the National Archives, Washington, D.C.; MAUD HART LOVELACE of Garden City, New York, widely read novelist and writer of children's books; and three members of the society's staff—DR. GRACE LEE NUTE, research associate, LUCILE M. KANE, curator of manuscripts, and BERTHA L. HEILBRON, editor of this magazine.



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