

Cumberland House Journals and Inland Journal, 1775–82. First Series, 1775–79. Edited by E. E. RICH, assisted by A. M. JOHNSON. With an introduction by RICHARD GLOVER. (London, The Hudson's Bay Record Society, 1951. xciii, 382 p.)

Reviewed by Grace Lee Nute

CUMBERLAND HOUSE, where most of these journals were written, was a log-walled building with a leaky plank roof, which stood beside Pine Island Lake in the Saskatchewan Valley. Few would guess the importance of the valuable old documents herein published for the first time. Least of all the men who wrote them could have foreseen what later generations would find so significant in the yellowed foolscap journals bound in vellum. Yet in them lies the explanation of how and when the North West Company originated, how the traders of that company – almost invariably called “pedlars” by the diarists – forced the venerable Hudson's Bay Company to change its century-old customs and to establish interior posts. Heretofore the Indians had been induced to carry their furs to posts on the shores of Hudson Bay.

The key to the economic development of the West was the birch-bark canoe. Until the Hudson's Bay Company came to the realization that the shoal rivers leading inland from the bay could be navigated with relative ease by large canoes, it rejected as unwise any attempt to establish inland posts. The company itself used boats, saw and knew only small Indian canoes, and did not understand the possibilities of birch rind for large transport canoes thirty or forty

feet long. Boats were too bulky to be carried over portages except on rollers, for which a road ten feet wide had to be hewn through the bush. To be sure, about 1800 the company began to use York boats with great effect on inland waters, but by that time roller portages had been built, after years of labor and planning.

A New Englander, John Cole, who had run away from his fur-trader master, opened the company's eyes in 1772. He related to company men on the bay how his employer, Thomas Corry, was intercepting a large part of the furs originally bound for company posts; and explained how Corry was able to prosper by using large birchbark canoes at his post on a water route between the Saskatchewan and York Fort.

So the company began to build and use canoes. In 1774 it established Cumberland House; later it built other posts as the influx of pedlars went on and increased. “Had the establishment of Cumberland House been much deferred,” writes Mr. Glover, “it is unlikely that it could ever have been founded at all or that York Fort, the best base for the fur trade, could have had any share in the Hudson's Bay Company's struggle with the Montrealers. . . . Thus the founding, maintenance and expansion of the Hudson's Bay Company's inland settlements on the Saskatchewan, which began with Hearne's settlement at Cumberland in 1774, stand as an important and perhaps decisive move in the trade war that was not to end till 1821.”

That war with the men of the North West Company begins with unspectacular entries in the journals. The words “North West Company” are never found. Often the casual reader would miss significant entries, save for the editors' notes. “Mr. Pond,” is thus found to be Peter Pond. “Captain Tute” is recognized as James Tute, Jonathan Carver's superior on the trip to the Minnesota country in the middle 1760's. “Mr. Bruce” is none other than William Bruce, well-known trader on the upper Missis-

MISS NUTE is research associate on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society. She is the author of numerous books and articles, many of which relate to western fur trade and exploration.

issippi before the Revolution. The "Grand Carrying Place" is Grand Portage.

The diaries offer much information on the strife that developed among the pedlars, the consequent attacks by Indians, and the resultant union, which eventually became the North West Company. Minutiae of day-by-day living in mid-America will furnish facts aplenty hereafter for understanding the fur traders and their regime throughout the beaver country, whether north or south of the international boundary.

This fourteenth publication of the Hudson's Bay Record Society bears evidence of the same careful editing that readers have come to expect.

FOSSIL HUNT

Journal of an Expedition to the Mauvaises Terres and the Upper Missouri in 1850 (Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology, *Bulletin* 147). By THADDEUS A. CULBERTSON. Edited by JOHN FRANCIS McDERMOTT. (Washington, 1952. viii, 164 p.)

The Early Histories of St. Louis. Edited by JOHN FRANCIS McDERMOTT. (St. Louis, St. Louis Historical Documents Foundation, 1952. xi, 171 p. \$4.00.)

Reviewed by Lucile M. Kane

WHEN ALEXANDER CULBERTSON first wrote to his family in Pennsylvania of the wonders of the West, his brother Thaddeus was ten years old. Some of the wonders Alexander recounted were later documented in a dramatic way for Thaddeus. In 1845, Alexander brought home from the Bad Lands bones and fossils that aroused the interest of the Smithsonian Institution, and John Evans went there in 1849 to carry on an investigation stimulated by Culbertson's discoveries. A year later, Thaddeus, then twenty-seven, was sent to the region under the auspices of the Smithsonian.

The paleontologist had no reason to be disappointed over the results of the expedition.

The fossil remains brought back by the younger Culbertson were added to the collection of the Smithsonian, and a portion of the journal kept on the trip was published in 1850 as an appendix to its *Fifth Annual Report*. The historian has as much reason to be pleased with the recorded narrative of the expedition, now published in its entirety for the first time.

Thaddeus Culbertson, in company with his brother, left St. Louis in March on the steamer "Mary Blane." He debarked at St. Joseph to proceed by carriage to Fort Pierre — the point of departure for the Bad Lands. After the travelers reached that area, they scoured the country industriously for fossil remains, and returned to Fort Pierre with a cartload. Boarding the "El Paso," they journeyed up the Missouri to a point above the Milk River, "higher than any steamboat had ever gone previously." They returned to St. Louis in July, and in August the young adventurer was dead of "bilious dysentery."

To the historian, Culbertson is a satisfying journalist. His range of observation is broad and his language explicit. He describes plants, animals, many facets of Indian life, the white inhabitants of the country, modes of travel, the landscape, towns, trading posts, and Indian villages. Not content with his own observations, he gleaned for his journal information from those who knew the country better than he. An example of the results of his inquiries is a "Tabular View of the Sioux Nation on the Upper Missouri," which records systematically the nations, tribes, subtribes, principal bands, and the country ranged by and leading men of each tribe. His language is somber and reflective, relieved only occasionally by flashes of humor and by the contagious excitement of discovery which it communicates.

Mr. McDermott has handled a difficult editorial problem with his usual skill. To issue the complete journal in a form as close as possible to the original, the editor worked from two portions of the original, a revised manuscript copy of one section, and another section published by the Smithsonian. The annotations are full and meticulous.

St. Louis, the jumping-off place for travelers like Culbertson, as well as for fur traders, is the theme of another recent book edited by Mr. McDermott. His *Early Histories of St. Louis* is a collection of the first historical sketches of the town — all now out-of-print or dif-

MISS KANE, who is curator of manuscripts on the staff of the society, edited *Philippe Regis de Trobriand's upper Missouri Valley journal*, published last year under the title *Military Life in Dakota*.

ficult to find. The editor reviews critically the five histories, citing particularly instances of borrowings from the first — Auguste Chouteau's "Narrative of the Settlement of St. Louis." The other four histories included are Louis C. Beck's "Notes on St. Louis," a creole's "Sketch of the History of the First Settlement of St. Louis," Wilson Primm's "History of St. Louis," and J. N. Nicollet's "Sketch of the Early History of St. Louis." The narratives are not exciting as literature, but their importance as sources has been tested by time. Mr. McDermott prefaces the histories with a critical essay, a chronology of the early history of St. Louis, and a selected list of references.

MAN AND BREAD

Flour for Man's Bread: A History of Milling.

By JOHN STORCK and WALTER DORWIN TEAGUE. Illustrated by HAROLD RYDELL. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1952. vi, 382 p. \$7.50.)

Reviewed by Charles B. Kuhlmann

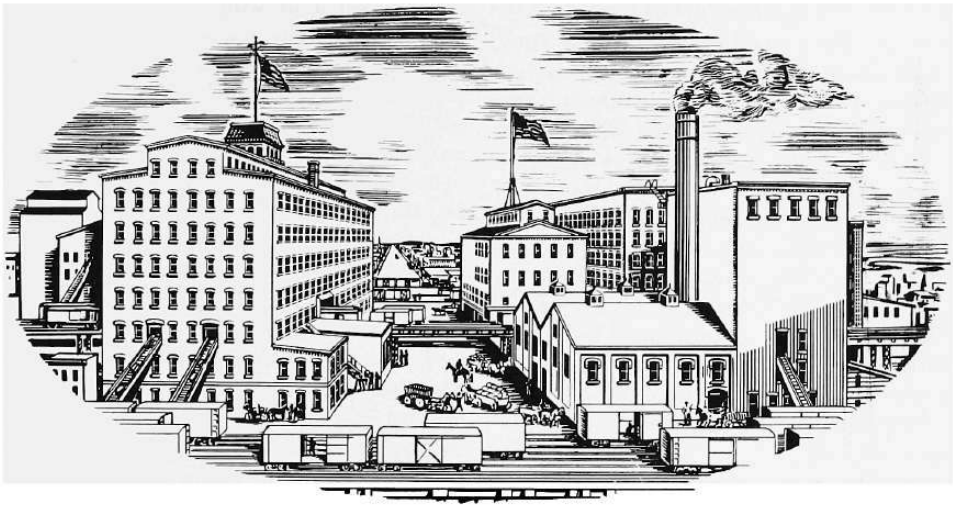
THIS IS THE FIRST general history of flour milling in English since Richard Bennett and John Elton published their four-volume *History of Corn Milling* half a century ago. Congratulations are in order to the authors, the University of Minnesota Press, and General Mills of Minneapolis. In 1945, when that company planned to establish a museum of milling history, it obtained the services of Mr. Teague, noted industrial designer, and Dr. Storck, philosopher, sociologist, and author of the well-known *Man and Civilization*, to draw up plans and do the necessary research. Since the museum plan was dropped after a great deal of work had been done, the results of their labors are embodied in this book.

MR. KUHLMANN recently retired from the faculty of Hamline University, St. Paul, where he had served as professor of economics since 1922. He is now teaching in Bluefield College, Bluefield, Virginia. His book on *The Development of the Flour-milling Industry in the United States, with Special Reference to the Industry in Minnesota*, published in 1929 as one of a series of Hart, Schaffner and Marx Prize Essays, is still the standard work of reference on the subject.

Although the emphasis throughout is on technological development, the book is philosophical in outlook, and economic and business problems are not neglected. It is a "history of the growth and development of flour milling and its relation to man's progress." The writers point out that "In attempting to understand man's tools and machines — the fossils of his actions — we are attempting to understand his very life."

The book begins with prehistoric man, telling how he started as a meat-eater, changed to a grain-gatherer, and eventually learned to domesticate the cereals. The development of wheat is traced from wild grasses to modern bread wheats. Grain cultivation in turn brought farm tools — plows, sickles, hoes, and flails — as well as the earliest implements for grinding grain, chiefly the saddle stone and the mortar and pestle. From the saddle stone of the ancient Egyptians and Babylonians to the hourglass mill of the Romans, the querns of the medieval manor, and the millstones of the last century, the line of development is traced with great care and in great detail. Early in this development, milling became a business enterprise rather than a household task, reaching a scale that required mechanical power. Thus the book traces the origins and technical development of water mills and windmills, also in great detail. The millstones operated by water or wind power were our first machines. Craft production was superseded by machine production, thus starting the movement that was to culminate in the Industrial Revolution.

The last half of the book deals with the growth of milling in America. There is an excellent account of Oliver Evans' inventions, which applied water power to all the operations of the mill — "a model which forecast many of the operations of the mass production methods." Milling became more capitalistic, and the tendency toward large-scale production was accelerated. Minnesota readers will be interested in the chapters describing the westward movement of wheat growing and the resulting development of new milling centers in Rochester, New York, St. Louis, and Minneapolis. The rise of milling in Minnesota is linked with the invention of the middlings purifier, the introduction of roller milling, and the "gradual reduction process." In this period "flour milling completely altered its character. It became a thoroughly mechanized large-



VIEW of the Washburn Mills, Minneapolis, 1885, from "Flour for Man's Bread," p. 241

scale industry, drawing its ever more varied wheats from ever more distant sources." This development centered in Minnesota, with C. C. Washburn, Charles Pillsbury, and other Minnesota millers holding the middle of the stage.

As the mills became larger and more complex, the milling engineer and the business executive superseded the craftsman. The later chapters give more attention to the business side of the story. In them there is an account of the growth of the export trade in flour in the 1880's and 1890's, the efforts of the millers to advertise their products, the development of new wheat areas, and the spread of milling west of the Mississippi. In the 1890's there was a consolidation movement and an abortive effort to form a milling trust.

Such efforts at monopoly were bound to fail, say the authors, because of the Sherman Antitrust Act, which "firmly established the competitive system in American business with all the incentives to progress it provides." But the Sherman Act proved no barrier to later combinations in milling, notably the formation of General Mills in 1928. This nation-wide combination created new problems in business management. In solving them, General Mills has made a real contribution to the science of business management which the authors describe in a chapter which would have been better if General Mills had not been given all the credit for recent advances.

To the reviewer it seems that technological changes have been given rather too much space in comparison with economic and business problems. Some rather famous incidents (for example, the bleached flour controversy) are perhaps given too little. But these are minor points. We should call attention to a useful glossary of milling terms and a very detailed and well-organized bibliography. The numerous illustrations, drawings, and charts (which really aid the reader in difficult spots), the beautiful format and binding, and the scholarship and literary skill of the writers make this a notable contribution to American economic history.

VIEWING THE PAST

Historical Prints of American Cities. With comments by LARRY FREEMAN. (Watkins Glen, New York, Century House, 1952. Illustrations. \$3.75.)

Reviewed by Robert Taft

THE COMPILER and author of this small volume expresses the hope that it will stimulate the collecting of local pictorial material, especially in the Middle and Far West, and he stresses the historical importance of such material. For these points of view only commendation can be expressed.

The book itself contains seventy-two repro-

ductions selected to show one or more American cities in each of the forty-eight states. They are supposed to represent "centenary views." The task of selection from this standpoint, the author writes, has been "a little difficult for states that were territories until long after 1850; but it has seemed to us important — at least in this survey volume — to show the breadth rather than the depth of historical print collecting." The actual dates of prints, as given by the author, extend from the 1830's to 1890, a number of eastern cities that were in existence by 1850 being represented by prints dated ten or more years before 1850. Only thirty-four prints, as dated, fall within the years 1845–55.

Examination of the prints in this volume shows that the majority have already been published by I. N. Phelps Stokes and Daniel C. Haskell in their well-known *American Historical Prints*, published by the New York Public Library in 1933. In general, the reproduction of the same print in the earlier volume is considerably better than in the present work. With two exceptions, the reproductions in Mr. Freeman's volume are printed in a pleasing brown-black tone. Two, described as "color inserts," are printed in a single color, and that is a disagreeable purple.

The reviewer has checked the information in a number — by no means all — of Mr. Freeman's notes on the illustrations. He is sorry to report that those checked are of little value, and many contain serious errors. It should be noted that the reviewer is most familiar with western illustration — a field about which Mr. Freeman expresses concern. Apparently he has a wide knowledge of prints, but his knowledge of history and geography, so far as the West is concerned, is meager.

Frequent typographical errors mar the pages, and there are numerous errors of fact. Among the prints for which the historical information is garbled is that of St. Paul in 1852 (p. 64). Mr. Freeman fails to reveal that this print is

based upon a drawing by Max Strobel. The omission of artists' names is a common occurrence in the volume. To the reviewer's mind, it is as heinous a crime as citing a book without giving the author's name. Other instances are found in views of Tucson, Arizona, which is by John R. Bartlett; of Fort Smith, Arkansas, by H. B. Möllhausen; and of Los Angeles, which should be credited to Charles Koppel.

The sources from which prints are drawn often are cited incorrectly; dates of publication are confused with dates of the views shown; and, though they were on entirely different sites, views of Fort Pierre, South Dakota, and of Fort Laramie, Wyoming, are displayed as early pictures of the present cities of Pierre and Laramie.

The print of Los Angeles on page 94 is incorrectly described as the "earliest known printed view in existence," despite the fact that an earlier picture is reproduced in Douglas S. Watson's edition of H. M. T. Powell's *Santa Fe Trail to California* (1931). This error merely emphasizes the fact that Mr. Freeman is almost totally unfamiliar with the serious and extensive literature on Western illustration which is available to any real student.

ART OF THE GUNSMITH

Early American Gunsmiths, 1650–1850. By HENRY J. KAUFFMAN. (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, The Stackpole Company, 1952. xx, 94 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by Elwood R. Maunder

NEXT TO actually acquiring antique firearms, the greatest difficulty encountered by collectors is finding data about the gunsmiths who made them. Mr. Kauffman has performed a unique service to collectors by providing this information. *Early American Gunsmiths* also will attract the interest of genealogists, students of colonial history, and those interested in the evolution of early American trades and industries.

A native of what is perhaps America's richest gun territory — southeastern Pennsylvania — Mr. Kauffman does not direct his research to-

MR. TAFT, who is professor of chemistry in the University of Kansas, is an authority on American historical photographs and prints. Among his published writings are a volume on Photography and the American Scene, and a series of articles, in the *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, on "The Pictorial Record of the Old West."

MR. MAUNDER is executive representative of the Forest Products History Foundation of the Minnesota Historical Society.

ward bolstering sectional claims; rather he covers the whole range of craftsmanship from New England to the Mississippi and produces what is undoubtedly the most complete and well-documented "who's who" of the trade in existence.

Interesting are the author's tips on how to track down information on gunsmiths, with examples drawn from his own experience. The reader is impressed by the fact that tracing the story of the man behind the gun is frequently more exciting than discovering the firearm.

Genealogists will find the book of particular help for the alphabetical listing of gunsmiths. Full names, addresses, and primary sources of information are listed. Good illustrations of arms and copies of letters, business records, newspaper advertisements, and other sources stud the pages of this book.

MUSIC AND PEOPLE

The American Symphony Orchestra: A Social History of Musical Taste. By JOHN H. MUELLER. (Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 1951. xii, 437 p. Illustrations. \$6.00.)

Opera for the People. By HERBERT GRAF. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1951. 289 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by John K. Sherman

HERE ARE TWO books that represent a refreshing departure from the approach of most volumes that land on the musical shelf. They link music with people instead of music with music. In their separate ways they discuss the art of music in terms of its impress on the listening public: the connection between the two is the point of reference, making the books almost as sociological as musical in character.

Dr. Mueller's scholarly and fact-filled study is a genuine contribution, by reason of its sharp analysis and deduction from what must have been a great mass of unco-ordinated material. Its subtitle explains its mission. The author, a sociology professor at Indiana University (and

it's gratifying to find a sociologist so interested in music!) builds his thesis with the imagination and vigor of one trained to ferret out a trend from a mass of facts. In the process he unrolls a fascinating panorama of American musical history.

Largely his book deals with taste — its growth and shifts — from the time about a century ago when the symphony orchestra began to be an institution of and by itself. What the public liked to hear, what conductors most liked to conduct, what composers rose and fell in public esteem — all figure in Mueller's text and in his enlightening statistics and tables.

One of his tables shows what we concertgoers like to hear nowadays, or at least what our conductors mostly feed us. It deals with the 1945-50 period and draws on the programs of ten American orchestras. As might be expected, Beethoven heads the popularity list (as he has done for decades) with a twelve per cent portion of the total repertoire. He is closely followed by Brahms, with Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Richard Strauss, and Wagner trailing. About forty per cent of American orchestras' programs, Mueller finds, are devoted to these six composers, and about seventy per cent to twenty-three composers, of whom four are living — Stravinsky, Sibelius, Prokofiev, and Shostakovich.

If Dr. Mueller is essentially an analyst, Dr. Graf, author of *Opera for the People*, is an advocate with a message. His theories about the "usability" of opera and its hoped-for spread in America are firmly rooted in long experience and practice, for Graf is stage director of the Metropolitan Opera company.

Far from beating the drum for the organization he works for, Dr. Graf pleads for opera born in communities, and not merely borne to them by the big and prestigious "Met" of New York City. He looks forward to the time when a "network of operatic major leagues and bush leagues" will be operating throughout the country, and he is practical enough to show how this desirable state of affairs might come about.

His book raises some important points in connection with opera production in America, one of which — opera in English — particularly appeals to this reviewer. Dr. Graf simply cannot understand the continuing resistance to opera sung in the tongue its hearers can understand, although he knows full well the

MR. SHERMAN, who is arts editor of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, also contributes to this issue its leading article. He here deals with books that include material on symphonic and operatic activity in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

practical considerations which often make foreign-language opera necessary.

His thesis is that the full meaning of the music, beautiful as the musical sound may be to the ear, cannot be conveyed to the hearer who does not understand the text that motivates the music. English is hard enough to understand when sung, heaven knows, but it takes more than college courses in foreign tongues to equip one to follow the opera story — or the individual aria — when cast in the original language.

Dr. Graf discusses at length the difficulties of opera production in this country, gives an authentic and fascinating view of opera behind-scenes, and voices optimistic conclusions about grass-roots operatic activity. The latter development already is extensive enough to confirm hopes that, not too far in the future, opera will be a staple diet in many communities now starving for it, or not yet aware of their hunger.

PIONEER OF CULTURE

The Unending Journey. By ELIZABETH WALLACE. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1952. 286 p. \$3.50.)

Reviewed by David W. Noble

ANY HISTORIAN of thought and culture, when writing of a given period, must find validity for his generalizations in the bedrock of various individuals' expressions of the thought and culture of that period. When the attempt is made to chart with definitiveness the swift and complex currents of the modern American mind, the historian can turn to few single documents more important than this deep-reaching book by Elizabeth Wallace. Autobiography, but more than autobiography; reminiscence, but more than reminiscence; personal philosophy, but more than that it is a contribution that throws light on some of the more important intellectual aspects of our modern civilization. Miss Wallace herself states that "We draw our conclusions largely from personal experiences." Vicariously, we too may generalize about the America revealed through her experiences.

On one plane, we may follow the interesting personal development of a young girl, who was born in the middle of the last century and continued her active and fruitful career

through the first half of the present one. Her development is highlighted by unique opportunities of perspective springing from extended years spent abroad and a rich knowledge of the various parts of America. Although she has been a resident of Minneapolis for many years since her retirement from the University of Chicago, Miss Wallace spent the first eight years of her life in Bogota, Colombia, passed the rest of her childhood in Pennsylvania, and then spent many of her mature years in France. Since retiring from active teaching, she has crisscrossed the United States many times on lecture tours, in addition to traveling to all parts of the world.

This personal history opens for us a second and more important plane as we live with Miss Wallace through the years that saw the end of the frontier and the building of a cohesive national culture approaching Europe in its complexity and richness. We gain an insight into the changing status of women in our society during this period. We appreciate the vital role they played in this transformation. We appreciate especially the growth of the great system of higher education that was so important in this cultural evolution, and the participation of women in its growth. The story is illuminated by the record of Miss Wallace's experiences at the small female seminary where she was first initiated into higher education, of her days at Wellesley, and of her contribution over many years to the growth of the University of Chicago, where she taught from the rude days of its founding to its ascent to greatness.

But the third and most important plane of this book is its reflection of the maturing of the American mind. Miss Wallace has seen the passing of the physical frontier; she has participated in bringing order from chaos on the educational frontier; she has felt deeply the continuity of American culture with its heritage in western Europe; and she develops with great integrity her philosophy that all men find unity in the same "unending journey." That journey, she believes, involves the need to draw strength from the richness of the past only to use it to face the new frontiers that always appear.

MR. NOBLE, a former instructor of history in the University of Wisconsin, recently joined the history faculty of the University of Minnesota.

SETTLERS' HAVEN

Climb a Lofty Ladder: A Story of Swedish Settlement in Minnesota. By WALTER and MARION HAVIGHURST. Illustrations by JILL ELGIN. (Philadelphia, The John Winston Company, 1952. xi, 242 p. \$2.75.)

Reviewed by Hermina Poatgieter

USING as a focal point the experiences of the immigrant boy Hans Bremer, the authors give a picture of Swedish settlement in Minnesota in the 1890's. Here is a simple but engaging chronicle of the struggle for survival and success in the new land where a man could own the acres he tilled.

As a lad of thirteen, Hans Bremer arrived in Minnesota with his father. Invited and inspired by the descriptions of America given by Hans Mattson, the well-known immigrant agent, Claus Bremer set out with his son. Their plans followed a familiar pattern: after establishing themselves in America, they were to send for the rest of the family. But two successive years of wheat failure, caused by hail and grasshoppers, discouraged the older man.

He decided to return to the old home. Hans, then fifteen, stayed. Overcoming a dismaying but plausible series of obstacles, the lad was eventually able to help his father return and bring the rest of the family to the rich wheatlands of the Minnesota Valley.

Although written in a simple style intended for adolescent readers, the book will hold the attention of adults who are interested in stories of America's development from a primitive wilderness. The characters and incidents are fictitious — except for Hans Mattson and his part — but the historical background is authentic.

This book is one of the *Land of the Free* series, each of which describes the contribution to America of some nationality group. It is the second in the series by Marion and Walter Havighurst. The other, *Song of the Pines: A Story of Norwegian Lumbering in Wisconsin*, would be of equal interest to those who enjoy historical fiction about the Midwest.

MISS POATGIETER is editor of the Gopher Historian, the Minnesota Historical Society's magazine for juniors.

Reading HINTS for Minnesotans

PRESERVATION PROJECTS

THE QUARTERLY of the National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings, *Historic Preservation*, published in Washington, serves to inform readers about the work of the council on a national scale. It tells not only about buildings and places that have been restored and preserved, but about "Legislative Progress" in the field, proposed restorations, and structures that are "in danger" of destruction. The council is responsible also for an illustrated "Preservation Portfolio" appearing in the July number of *Antiques*. Minnesotans will find of interest some comments on preservation projects in progress at Galena, Illinois — a community that was closely allied with their state during the frontier era.

SOUNDS OF OUR TIMES

"THERE ARE THOSE," writes Don L. Hunter in *Western Folklore* for July, "who recognize in sound recording the means whereby the reminiscence, the diary, the letter, and the document of the future will be joined by another primary source just as valid, and in some respects more accurate than the traditional sources." He has reference to "Sound Recording of History," as illustrated by an experimental program now in operation at the University of Oregon. There are being collected not only "remnants of a past era" in the form of interviews, but "sound documentation of the contemporary scene" that is expected to "be of value fifty or one hundred years hence." Thus, recordings have been made of a "typical

Grange meeting, a sampling of church services, P.T.A. meetings, city council meetings."

A HISTORY OF THE BUFFALO

IN HIS BULKY VOLUME on *The North American Buffalo: A Critical Study of the Species in Its Wild State* (Toronto, 1951. 957 p.), Frank Gilbert Roe has produced what is doubtless the most extensive and most complete compilation of material on the subject now available. One reviewer has described the book as "almost a critical anthology of everything recorded about" the buffalo in its wild state. There is every indication that the author has combed the narratives, letters, and other records of traders, explorers, and travelers for mentions of the buffalo, for he quotes them voluminously. Some indication of his thoroughness is to be found in the six chapters, occupying almost two hundred pages, on "The Numbers of Buffalo." One of these sections deals with "The Red River Hunt." Mr. Roe has produced a book that will long remain the standard work of reference on a fascinating and important subject.

MINNESOTA'S 10,000 LAKES

A MONOGRAPH on *The Lakes of Minnesota: Their Origin and Classification* by James H. Zumberge has been published by the Minnesota Geological Survey as number 35 of its *Bulletins* (University of Minnesota Press, 1952. 99 p. \$1.00). Chapters of this profusely illustrated study are devoted to "The Glacial History of Minnesota," a classification of its lakes, their "modification," and their distribution in the state's area. The value to the state of its lakes, Mr. Zumberge notes in his introduction, is difficult to measure, since its resorts and recreation areas "depend largely on lakes for survival."

FORT SNELLING SLAVE

HOW Fort Snelling figured in the long and involved story of *Dred Scott's Case* is brought out by Vincent C. Hopkins in his recently published book on the subject (1951. 204 p.). In 1836, Dr. John Emerson took with him to the upper Mississippi post, where he was commissioned to serve as an army physician, the slave Dred Scott. There Scott married Harriet,

a slave owned by Major Lawrence Taliaferro, and there he remained until the spring of 1838. It was on the basis of this residence in free territory that Scott later claimed his right to freedom. The details of the long litigation that followed are fully traced in the present work.

MONASTIC PIONEERS

THE ABBEY of St. John's as it appeared in November, 1856, when it was located at St. Cloud, is described in detail in a contemporary letter published in the January issue of *The Scriptorium*, a mimeographed periodical issued by the Abbey. Written shortly after his arrival from Europe by Abbot Boniface Wimmer to the archbishop of Munich, its text was discovered in the archives of the Ludwig-Missionsverein in Munich. From this copy, in the original German, the translation here published was made. It gives a fresh and informing picture of the monastery and of the life and work of the monks. The abbot relates, for example, that the islands in the near-by Mississippi "teem with wild ducks." "We have been eating ducks every day since I arrived," he continues. "Otherwise we wouldn't have anything except potatoes, bread, and black coffee." The August number of the same publication presents for the first time in English seven letters of Father Francis Pierz written from central Minnesota in the 1850's. Both the publication of these letters and of an article by Sister Grace McDonald on the pioneer priest — the latter in the summer issue of the *St. Benedict's Quarterly* — serve to mark the centennial of his arrival in Minnesota.

BAPTISTS FROM SWEDEN

THE STORY of a group of Swedish Baptists who settled at Houston in 1853 is included in a chapter on "Beginnings in Three States" appearing in Adolf Olson's newly published volume, *A Centenary History as Related to the Baptist General Conference of America* (Chicago, 1952. 635 p.). Two lengthy chapters are devoted to "Churches in Minnesota," and a third deals with pioneer Swedish Baptist preachers in the state. There is material also on the founding in 1905 and later history of Bethel College and Seminary of St. Paul, the Swedish Baptist school with which the author of the present work is associated.

MAP-MAKING TRADERS

BASED UPON a notebook kept by Peter Fidler of the Hudson's Bay Company from 1794 to 1822 is an article by W. S. Wallace published in the June *Beaver* under the title "Notes of an 18th Century Northerner." Both Fidler and David Thompson became assistants to the company's surveyor in 1790, according to Mr. Wallace, who records that Fidler "was appointed 'surveyor' and map-maker to the Honourable Company when David Thompson went over to the Nor'Westers in 1796." In that capacity Fidler surveyed the Red River settlement, and, writes Mr. Wallace, there are those who "question whether his contribution to the map of western Canada was not as great as that of David Thompson." Certainly, Fidler's surveying activities must have taken him into the area that was to become Minnesota. His varied interests and wide-ranging activities are reported in the little notebook preserved by the Provincial Library of Manitoba.

ANNEXATION FEVER

ST. PAUL is described as "at times a hotbed of annexation sentiment" in Paul F. Sharp's article on "The Northern Great Plains: A Study of Canadian-American Regionalism," which appears in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for June. The Minnesota capital, the writer points out, was in a "strategic position" to view "the Canadian-American Northwest as a vast hinterland to be developed." As a result, the city became "the center of an active interest in the Canadian prairies." Personifying and promoting that interest was the energetic St. Paulite who long served as American consul in Winnipeg — James Wickes Taylor. He "fore-saw with prophetic insight the potential greatness of the economic empire that lay sleeping across the boundary," writes Mr. Sharp, and he was convinced "that American enterprise was destined to exploit the region and that St. Paul would become the center of that development." Stressed especially in the present narrative are Taylor's schemes for railroads that would "link the Minnesota capital and the Great Lakes to the Saskatchewan country." Although his dream was never fully realized, it is nevertheless true that "for nearly fifty years St. Paul was the gateway to the

region, handling its commerce, providing much of its capital, and planning its future."

ST. PAUL CHARITY

THE Amherst H. Wilder Charity of St. Paul is the subject of a mimeographed *Resume* (24 p.) of its history, from 1906 to 1952, issued on the occasion of the opening of the Wilder Health Center. Based on a fortune acquired in Northwest transportation and trading activities, the charity was endowed by Wilder, his wife, and his daughter. The varied benefits derived from this fund by the people of St. Paul over a period of forty-six years are outlined in the present booklet.

CITY NICKNAMES

NICKNAMES of American Cities, Towns and Villages, Past & Present are listed by Gerard L. Alexander in a booklet published recently by the Special Libraries Association (New York, 1951). Varying titles applied to more than thirty Minnesota communities are included in the pamphlet.

JACK FRAZER

THE CAXTON CLUB of Chicago has announced that it still has on hand some copies of its handsome edition of *Iron Face: The Adventures of Jack Frazer*, which appeared in 1950 with an introduction and notes by Dean Theodore C. Blegen and Sarah A. Davidson. Since the narrative was written by Henry H. Sibley and the hero was a frontier Minnesota scout and hunter, it has a special interest for Minnesotans. A circular describing the book, which is priced at \$7.50, may be obtained by writing to Mr. Harry J. Owens, Caxton Club, 350 East Twenty-second Street, Chicago.

VOLUME 32 INDEX

THE INDEX for the four issues of *Minnesota History* published in 1951 (volume 32) is now ready for distribution. Any member of the society or subscriber to its publications may have a copy for the asking as long as the supply lasts. A few volumes, containing four issues and the index for the year 1951, have been bound, and these are available at \$3.75 each. If you want one, place your order early, since the supply is sharply limited.



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