

*Minnesota in the Civil War.* By KENNETH CARLEY. (Minneapolis, Ross and Haines, Inc., 1961. 168 p. Illustrations, maps. \$3.95.)

Reviewed by Bell I. Wiley

DURING the centennial observance now in progress it is appropriate for Minnesotans to be reminded of the role of their state in the great conflict of the 1860s. They are fortunate in having in their midst to tell the story for them a person like Kenneth Carley, whose recent articles in the *Picture Magazine* of the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune* comprise the substance of the little volume here reviewed. Mr. Carley is deeply interested in the Civil War; he is the sort of reporter who insists on going beyond the obvious and easily available sources into letters, diaries, and other unpublished materials; last, but not least, he is able to communicate his findings in a manner that is pleasing to both the layman and the specialist.

As Mr. Carley would be the first to admit, *Minnesota in the Civil War* is not a definitive study. Rather, it is a series of essays portraying the high points of the state's participation in the conflict. It is introductory and episodic, but it is richly informative and absorbingly interesting. It ought to stimulate curiosity, lead to further study, bring out letters and diaries now reposing in attics and basements for preservation in the Minnesota Historical Society, and thus pave the way for eventual preparation of the comprehensive history that the subject deserves.

Minnesota's role in the war, as Mr. Carley points out, was unique in that the state was involved in a twofold fight — against Southern secessionists and against the Sioux Indians. Governor Alexander Ramsey was the first state executive to offer troops to President Lincoln and Josias R. King of St. Paul was said to be the

first man in the nation to volunteer for Union service.

All told, some twenty-five thousand Minnesotans, including teen-age boys such as Charles Goddard, donned the blue and fought to save the imperiled Union. About twenty-five hundred of these — one out of ten — died of disease or from hostile bullets. Minnesota regiments and batteries proved their mettle at Bull Run, Shiloh, Corinth, Murfreesboro, Gettysburg, and other Civil War battles. At Gettysburg the First Minnesota covered itself with glory in a desperate charge during a crisis on the second day; in the course of the fight this splendid unit suffered losses of eighty-two per cent, a casualty rate which stands near the top among Civil War regiments.

The book is abundantly illustrated with photographs and drawings. It also contains a detailed chronology, a roster of leading Minnesota officers, a list of the state's Civil War monuments, and a brief bibliography. It is a worthy addition to the literature of the Civil War and a substantial contribution to the centennial observance.

#### MINNESOTA PEACEMAKER

*Frank B. Kellogg and American Foreign Relations, 1925-1929.* By L. ETHAN ELLIS. New Brunswick, Rutgers University Press, 1961. ix, 303 p. \$7.50.)

Reviewed by Charles G. Cleaver

FOR A brief period in the 1920s, when the Kellogg-Briand Pact had been ratified by most of the nations of the world, and when Frank B. Kellogg was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and then appointed to the World Court, he must have seemed to everybody the most important man Minnesota had ever bred, one of the world's first citizens. His fame faded quickly as the peace failed. Until recently, when the Minnesota Historical Society acquired his papers and when certain State Department archives were opened to scholars, historians did little to re-

MR. WILEY, professor of history in Emory University at Atlanta, is the author of numerous books and a member of the National Civil War Centennial Commission.

vive his name. Definitive studies have been made of the administrations of all the Secretaries of State before Kellogg and some of them since, but until now he has been bypassed. Professor Ellis has filled the gap well. His book is careful, thorough, and thoughtful.

The main body of the book is traditional historical narrative, organized around the major problems of Kellogg's administration, notably Mexico, Nicaragua, China, disarmament conferences, war debt settlements and the peace pact negotiations. More or less adequate treatments of the last are already available and a sound doctoral dissertation has been written about Kellogg's Latin American policies. Mr. Ellis wisely devotes much of his attention to certain complex stories that have never been fully told, particularly the crucial American relations with a factious but resurgent China, and the delicate and unsuccessful attempts during the late 1920s to extend disarmament beyond what was accomplished at the Washington Conference in 1921-22.

Mr. Ellis' historical narrative is framed by a short impressionistic first chapter which sketches the milieu in which Kellogg had to work and an interesting final chapter, an "overview," which analyzes the accomplishments of his administration. One might wish that the author had been more adventurous in this section. Possibly many of the general insights which we need for understanding American foreign policy during the twentieth century have already been offered by such writers as George Kennan and Hans Morgenthau, but Mr. Ellis demonstrates in this volume abilities which suggest that he might have made further contributions to our understanding.

His work is marked by sobriety and balance. He weighs the influence on our policy of Kellogg, the man, against the influence of other personalities, such as Charles Evans Hughes and President Calvin Coolidge; against the effect of institutions like the Senate; and against the more abstract forces of traditional policy and public opinion. He compares the view of Kellogg as "utopian" with the view that he ran foreign affairs with single-minded sympathy for a status quo favorable to big business. It might be argued that Mr. Ellis pays too little attention

to the "utopian" side of Kellogg's mind. For example, he emphasizes Kellogg's "isolationist predispositions" but does not stress a contrary internationalist tendency; Kellogg was not neatly settled in one camp or the other. Like Kennan, Mr. Ellis points out the legalistic turn of mind of the lawyer-secretary surrounded by other lawyers; but he does not emphasize sufficiently the attraction of what Kellogg called a "higher" law, which was contemptuous of courtroom law. There are complexities to Kellogg's mind and to the business of conducting foreign policy in a democracy which are yet to be revealed. This book, however, helps us along the way.

#### PAINTER-HISTORIAN

*Seth Eastman: Pictorial Historian of the Indian.*

By JOHN FRANCIS McDERMOTT. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1961. x, 270 p. Illustrations. \$10.00.)

*A Seth Eastman Sketchbook, 1848-1849.* Introduction by LOIS BUCKHALTER. (Austin, University of Texas Press, 1961. xxvi, 68 p. Illustrations. \$7.50.)

Reviewed by Bertha L. Heilbron

THE NAME of Seth Eastman must appear near the top of any list of artists who have pictured frontier America and its native red men. Thus these books will be welcomed both by those concerned with American art and by historians.

As the first book-length biography of Eastman to appear in print, Mr. McDermott's work is, of course, of prime significance. It tells the story of a professional soldier, trained both in military science and in art at West Point, whose "first duty assignment took him about as far from New England and the Hudson Valley as was then possible" — to Forts Crawford and Snelling on the upper Mississippi. This happy accident contributed much toward making Eastman the "master painter of the Indian" described in Mr. McDermott's opening chapter as the "most effective pictorial historian of the Indian in the nineteenth century."

That seven of Eastman's most productive years were spent at Fort Snelling in the 1830s

---

MR. CLEAVER is a member of the faculty in Grinnell College. The subject of his doctoral thesis was Kellogg's foreign policy decisions.

---

MISS HEILBRON, the former editor of this magazine, who retired in 1960, is an authority on frontier American art.

and 1840s, when it was still possible to observe the Sioux and the Chippewa at close hand, is especially fortunate for Minnesotans. The frontier artist's "long isolation" on the upper Mississippi "gave him unhurried opportunity for close study" of the red men at home and on hunting expeditions, in peace and in war, at work and at play. Like George Catlin, Eastman was "aware that the Indian was fast disappearing," and he "took upon himself the task of preserving the northern tribes visually." He had, however, one great advantage over Catlin, and that was another "profession to live by." Thus "he could paint as he chose," and he elected to picture what he saw with complete honesty, never dramatizing or exaggerating, as did Catlin.

In eleven chapters the author surveys Eastman's career, his service at far-flung frontier posts, and his years in Washington, D.C., while engaged in illustrating Henry R. Schoolcraft's monumental *Indian Tribes of the United States*. Eastman's military record, often unexciting, is here, as is the story of his Fort Snelling romance with Chief Cloud Man's daughter. His marriage in 1835 to Mary Henderson, the writer points out, "was indeed a fortunate and a happy one, for she proved a full partner," and she supplemented her husband's pictorial reporting in her books.

Throughout this biography the author stresses his subject's accomplishment in the field of art, on which, of course, rests his fame. An entire chapter, for example, is devoted to "The Collection at Fort Snelling"; there the author records that "more than sixty oils belonging to the Minnesota period can be named." Other connections with the area mentioned include Eastman's design for the Minnesota Territorial seal, his survey of the Fort Snelling Military Reservation in 1857, and his election to corresponding membership in the Minnesota Historical Society in 1852.

The varied and extensive sources consulted by Mr. McDermott add greatly to the interest and value of his work. Among them are the papers of Sibley, Governor Alexander Ramsey, Lawrence Taliaferro, Charles Lanman, Henry Lewis, Frank B. Mayer, Thomas Sully, and the American Art-Union. Included in the book are a bibliography, a chronology, and a list of Eastman's works, totaling almost seven hundred oils, water colors, drawings, lithographs, and engravings. That some sixty of the choicest water colors are owned by the James Jerome

Hill Reference Library of St. Paul should be a source of satisfaction to Minnesotans. A total of 116 illustrations, eight in full color, enrich Mr. McDermott's book, which is marked throughout by handsome format.

The 1848-49 sketchbook published by the University of Texas Press has greater interest for Minnesotans than might at first glance be surmised. More than half of the sketches reproduced picture scenes along the lower Mississippi, working southward to the gulf from a point some sixty miles below St. Louis. One of the more important sources of information on Eastman's tour of duty in Texas, recorded pictorially in the remaining sketches, consists of letters to Sibley preserved in the latter's papers.

During his years on the upper Mississippi, Eastman pictured the countryside as faithfully as he did its natives. As examples of "precisely drawn" landscapes, Mr. McDermott points to Eastman's "water color of Fort Snelling seen from the east and his oil of Mendota viewed from Fort Snelling," adding that "If anyone thinks Eastman gave way to romantic impulses in developing some of those rugged views, let him visit the Fort Snelling neighborhood today." In presenting this excellent biography of an American artist, Mr. McDermott seems in some respects to have followed his subject's example. The facts are here, unblemished by romance, and they are fully documented. Unless an Irving Stone chooses to write a historical novel about this frontier artist and his talented wife, the story of Seth and Mary Eastman will not soon need to be retold.

#### NORWEGIAN SCHOOL

*Luther College 1861-1961.* By DAVID T. NELSON. (Decorah, Luther College Press, 1961. 429 p. Illustration. \$6.00.)

**Reviewed by Kenneth O. Bjork**

THE SERIOUS scholar who attempts to write a history of his college faces a host of problems, not least among them a natural demand on the part of alumni, staff, and close friends of the institution for a detailed record of devel-

---

MR. BJORK is head of the history department in St. Olaf College, Northfield, and managing editor of the *Norwegian-American Historical Association*.

opments that are of considerable local interest but of little value to the general reader. Even more serious is the difficulty of viewing with a measure of objectivity events that took place in controversy and about which the author, frequently because of participation in them, has strong convictions. Despite these and other problems, Professor Nelson, a careful student who has been associated with his Alma Mater for half a century, has written a history of Luther College, in northeastern Iowa, that will take an honored position among a score of similar studies that have appeared in recent years.

Persons interested in Minnesota history will appreciate the competent manner in which the author relates his story to Norwegian migration into the Upper Midwest and to the development of Lutheran church life among the Norwegian Americans, before and after the founding of the college in 1861. He explains why church leaders considered it essential for their work, why the institution they created and shaped more closely resembled in its early years a North-European Latin school than a typical American college, and why they provided for preparatory as well as higher education. He pictures campus life with humor and detachment, and he describes the college's struggle to survive in the 1930s as well as in pioneer days. Finally, he skillfully interprets the trends at Luther toward a liberalized curriculum, a sound financial condition, higher academic standards, and coeducation.

Professor Nelson has wisely placed detailed listings of student enrollment, faculty members, trustees, and administrative officials, as well as statements of objectives and regulations, in an extensive appendix. The book is fully documented.

### SWEDISH SETTLERS

*The Last Letter Home.* By VILHELM MOBERG. (New York, Simon and Schuster, 1961. 388 p. \$4.95.)

Reviewed by John T. Flanagan

WITH THE publication in English of *The Last Letter Home*, American readers can complete the trilogy on settlement in the St. Croix Valley which the Swedish novelist Vilhelm Moberg began with *The Emigrants* (1951) and *Unto*

*a Good Land* (1954). The three novels trace the departure from Smaland of a small colony of peasants, their strenuous life before establishing themselves in the triangle outlined by Stillwater, Taylors Falls, and Chisago Lake, and their ultimate success as farmers. With the death of Karl Oskar Nilsson (his name was finally Anglicized to Carl O. Nelson) in 1890, forty years after he had reached the shores of America, the saga of the emigrants is terminated. A letter to relatives dated at Center City on December 20, 1890, summarizes Nilsson's character and achievements and reports that his survivors include six children and numerous grandchildren. His wife had preceded him in death.

This volume is an authentic but unexciting chronicle. As in the earlier novels, Moberg carefully supports his story with details of pioneer life. Karl Nilsson is spared none of the labor of hewing a homestead out of the woods and undergoes his share of hardship and deprivation. Actually most of the events center around his farm. His younger brother Robert wanders off toward California but slinks back sick and frustrated. The panic of 1857 is accompanied by a grasshopper plague. Karl volunteers for military service at the outset of the Civil War but is rejected because of an old leg injury. The hysteria of the Sioux Uprising penetrates Chisago County but the Nilsson farm sees no violence. The most dramatic events in the Nilsson chronicle have to do with crops and childbirth.

Moberg's trilogy is an interesting and accurate account of settlement in Chisago County. The characters seem a trifle wooden at times, largely because they are presented externally, and certainly Karl Nilsson is no Per Hansa. But the reader puts down the final volume with added respect for the sturdy Swedish pioneers who faced uncomplainingly the rigors of a harsh climate and a strange environment. If Minnesota never became quite the paradise for Scandinavians which Fredrika Bremer envisaged, it rewards them in the long run. The modern state owes much to the countrymen of Karl Oskar Nilsson, a simple and resolute farmer.

---

MR. FLANAGAN is professor of American literature in the University of Illinois at Urbana and has for many years been a summer resident of Chisago County.



## NOSTRUMS AND NOTIONS

*The Toadstool Millionaires: A Social History of Patent Medicines in America before Federal Regulation.* By JAMES HARVEY YOUNG. (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1961. xii, 282 p. Illustrations. \$6.00.)

*One for a Man, Two for a Horse: A Pictorial History, Grave and Comic, of Patent Medicines.* By GERALD CARSON. (Garden City, Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1961. 128 p. Illustrations. \$6.50.)

*Over the Counter and on the Shelf.* By LAURENCE A. JOHNSON. (Rutland, Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1961. xii, 140 p. Illustrations. \$5.95.)

**Reviewed by James Taylor Dunn**

IN SPITE of the efforts of the American Medical Association and the Pure Food and Drug Administration, fake healers and medical frauds still bilk the American public of hundreds of millions of dollars annually. For background material on the fascinating field of quacks and quackery, Mr. Young's book should be required reading. Not only is it the work of a scholar who writes well, but it also presents in chronological sequence the fascinating and almost unbelievable story of America's credulity when faced with the blandishments of supersalesmen for sure-fire cure-alls. "Indeed," says Mr. Young, who is chairman of the department of history in Emory University, Atlanta, "more money is being made today in medical quackery than in any other criminal activity." This book, thoroughly documented and well indexed, will continue for many years to be the standard and most sought after work on the subject.

Gerald Carson's colorful volume is an almost perfect complement to Mr. Young's book. Here one finds the flamboyant pictorial history of secret remedies, packaged pills, and potions, as shown in their labels and advertisements. A lively, not-too-serious commentary enhances the illustrations. One item of Midwest interest mentioned by Mr. Carson should, however, be corrected. The successful medicine-show girl, Violet McNeal, who as "Princess Lotus Blossom" or "Madame V. Pasteur" traveled this

area hawking vitality pills, was unfortunately not a "Minnesota farm girl." According to her autobiography, published in 1947, she was a native of Iowa.

Mr. Carson is also the author of a book on *The Old Country Store*, published several years ago and reviewed in *Minnesota History* for Autumn, 1954. Laurence Johnson's recent work on the same subject, *Over the Counter and on the Shelf*, is an attractively printed and illustrated volume, but it in no way replaces the usefulness and value of the older book. Midwestern readers in particular will wish that Mr. Johnson had not limited his researches on country storekeeping in America to New England and the Eastern states.

## BLOODY BIBLIOGRAPHY

*The Annals of Murder, A Bibliography of Books and Pamphlets on American Murders from Colonial Times to 1900.* By THOMAS M. MCDADE. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1961. xxxix, 360 p. Illustrations. \$15.00.)

**Reviewed by Walter N. Trenerry**

THIS EXCELLENT bibliography, compiled with love and enlivened with wit, summarizes the known examples of a great American literature: the popular murder account — generally a pamphlet — often hawked under the very gallows upon which the murderer awaited his hanging.

While a bibliography can be a cheerless prison of titles shackled by and for specialists, this one definitely is not. Besides guiding the collector and helping the librarian, it leads the ordinary reader interested in America's classic murders, to a vast literature in which, at a comfortable distance, he may revel in someone else's gore. Mr. McDade, who has obviously enjoyed his journeyings along unhallowed byways, has given a pithy summary of each murder before going on to describe the writings about it. In his introduction he has outlined the principal legal procedures involved, and the volume is adorned throughout by reproductions of some of the more lurid title pages of the pamphlets listed.

---

MR. DUNN is chief librarian on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society.

---

MR. TRENNERY, a St. Paul attorney, has in progress a book on memorable Minnesota murders.

There is little doubt that the work is definitive as well as delightful. Of Minnesota crimes before 1900, only the murder of Kitty Ging at Lake Calhoun on December 3, 1894, seems to have entered this literature and therefore this bibliography. Even here, however, Mr. McDade is able to refer the Minnesota reader to three accounts not generally known or available in the state, although this is Minnesota's most famous crime.

Questions of quality and moral desirability aside, this literature undoubtedly had a mighty influence throughout the nation's history, and Mr. McDade's bibliography helps relate such literary memorabilia to their surroundings in space and time, thereby enriching a historical picture which would otherwise be incomplete.

### INDIAN PICTURE HISTORY

*The American Heritage Book of Indians.* Edited by ALVIN M. JOSEPHY, JR., Narrated by WILLIAM BRANDON. (New York, American Heritage Publishing Company, 1961. 424 p. Maps, illustrations. \$15.00.)

Reviewed by Alan R. Woolworth

THE PUBLISHER'S dust jacket blurb makes the claim that this is the first book for the general reader which follows the thread of history, century by century, for all Indians, as they affected each other and the white man — and as the white man, in turn, affected them. Further, the blurb claims that no previous volume has ever brought together so colorful and comprehensive a collection of pictures on Indians, or reproduced them with such fidelity. These claims are indeed ambitious — perhaps almost impossible to fulfill in one volume.

Yet, a most impressive effort has been made to tell the story of the American Indian from prehistoric times to the present. The writer's fine prose conveys imaginative, sensitive, and sophisticated interpretations of complex factors relating to the Indian. It is accompanied by an almost overwhelming series of superb illustrations, many of which are here reproduced for the first time. The text is also supplemented by excellent maps.

The first chapter, "Peoples of The Dawn," deals with the men who came from Asia to America, perhaps twenty thousand or more years ago, and with the rise of the Olmec and

Maya. Two succeeding chapters narrate events in the brilliant culture of the Maya and the growth of the complex Andean cultures of western South America. Other chapters cover the predecessors of the Pueblo in the Southwest; the shadowy folk of the Mississippi and Ohio valleys who built so many mounds; the inhabitants of the Atlantic Coast; the league of the Iroquois; Andrew Jackson and the wars with the Creek and Seminole; the tragic "trail of tears" for the civilized tribes of the South; the Plains tribes; the aristocrats and slaves of the Northwest Coast; the mission Indians of California; the warriors of the Northern Plains; the wily Apache; and the modern Indian in his pathetic reservation existence.

Much emphasis is given to the interaction between European civilization and the native Indian cultures. The conflict between Indian and European concepts of land ownership is explored, and the economic orientation of the white man is contrasted with the Indian's less materialistic ways. The impact of the Indian on settlers and his contributions to their culture as it developed in the new land are discussed at some length, and the establishment of the Plains Indian as a symbolic figure in the eyes of Europeans is well brought out.

Though footnotes are not used, it is obvious that research teams worked long and hard on the book. Naturally, a few disputed points are accepted as fact, and a few minor errors and omissions occur. One could quibble, for instance, with the statement that Sioux Indians murdered some seven hundred Minnesota settlers in 1862 and killed one hundred soldiers, when widely accepted estimates are somewhat lower. Students of the American Indian may also object to the casual way in which religious symbolism and art motifs from Mexican and southeastern United States tribes are inferred to have diffused to other groups through thousands of years and thousands of miles and yet retained their identity. It is regrettable, too, that a few pages were not reserved for a topically organized list of "suggested readings" available in most public libraries.

On the whole, however, this is a well-written, valuable, and handsome volume. It will occupy a prominent spot in this reviewer's library.

---

MR. WOOLWORTH is curator of the Minnesota Historical Society museum and a specialist on the Indians of the Plains.

## . . . on the *HISTORICAL HORIZON*

DIVIDED INTO fourteen chronologically arranged chapters is Robert R. Hubach's *Early Midwestern Travel Narratives: An Annotated Bibliography, 1634-1850*, which has been published by the Wayne State University Press of Detroit (1961. 149 p. Paper, \$6.00.). From the day of the earliest French narrators, like Radisson, Father Hennepin, La Salle, and La Vérendrye, the compiler carries the record to the mid-nineteenth century, when travelers' reports of the upper Mississippi Valley were multiplying rapidly. Numerous items of special Minnesota interest — printed and manuscript — are listed, including some from the manuscript collections as well as the publications of the Minnesota Historical Society. Here, for example, are described the unpublished journals kept by Stephen H. Long in 1823, though James E. Colhoun's diary of the same expedition is not mentioned. Realizing that his work might well be incomplete, Mr. Hubach notes in his preface that "there are undoubtedly omissions because the titles of many printed works do not reveal their narrative characteristics or Midwestern setting." Thus he admits that for much of his information he was dependent upon secondary sources. This may account for certain errors of fact, like labeling Henry Lewis a "German-born artist." Students of Midwest social history will find much of value in this bibliography, but they should avoid perpetuating its errors by checking the factual information presented. B.L.H.

ARMCHAIR strategists seeking light reading will enjoy *Great Western Indian Fights*, a new volume by various members of the Potomac Corral of The Westerners, "an organization of men with a common and consuming interest in the Old West" (New York, 1960. 336 p.). The work is not annotated, and a chapter-by-chapter bibliography indicates that it was based almost entirely upon secondary sources. Thus the serious student of Indian warfare will find no new information in its pages. It does, however, offer a readable and pleasantly written survey of twenty-four battles between Indians and whites in roughly the western half of the United States between 1832 and 1891. Among them is "The Battle of Wood Lake," the decisive encounter of the Sioux Uprising of 1862. In the seven pages devoted to this skirmish, Noel M. Loomis gives what is really a survey of the entire uprising rather than a detailed account of the battle. Other chapters offer sim-

ilar brief treatments of "The Tragedy of Wounded Knee" by George Metcalf, the battles at Hayfield, Rosebud, and Little Big Horn in South Dakota, at Canyon de Chelly, Arizona, and at other widely scattered spots. A perceptive general introduction on "The Indian Wars of the West" by John C. Ewers provides needed background. J.D.H.

THE IDEA that Minnesota is still part of the "region of Midwest isolationism" is challenged by Dorothy Dodge in a paper on *Internationalism-Isolationism in Minnesota: A Study of the Roll Call Votes of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation: 1940-1960*, issued recently in mimeographed form by the Minnesota World Affairs Center (Minneapolis, 1961. 47 p.). Miss Dodge examines the votes of Minnesota Congressmen and Senators on thirty-eight issues dealing with foreign affairs since 1940, dividing the issues into four categories: participation in the United Nations and other international organizations; reciprocal trade; military and economic aid; and mutual defense programs. She then compares by means of tables each legislator's percentage of agreement with the majority of Congress and with the majority of his party in Congress for each category of votes. The percentages are broken down into two periods, 1940-48 and 1949-60, and a comparison yields the conclusion that since 1940 — when the Republican party controlled both Minnesota Senate seats and eight out of nine Congressional seats — "a significant shift in voting patterns has occurred." R.G.

THE NATION'S most recent third-party experiment — its background, leaders, organization, and impact on history — is examined in a study entitled *Henry A. Wallace: Quixotic Crusade 1948*, by Karl M. Schmidt (Syracuse, 1960. 362 p.). According to the author, Minnesota's Farmer-Labor Party figured prominently in Wallace's dream of becoming president, but the right wing of the Minnesota party under Hubert H. Humphrey outmaneuvered Elmer Benson and his pro-Wallace group. An appendix contains a list by state of 1948 requirements for qualifying electoral candidates, five tables listing contributions and expenditures, a list of the percentages of states' votes received by Wallace in 1948, and another table comparing the percentage of votes received by several minor parties. The volume is illustrated and contains an index.

USERS of the Society's genealogical collection will be interested in *American Origins*, by Leslie G. Pine (Garden City, 1960. 357 p.). This is a handbook listing genealogical sources in Europe, with particular emphasis on records in Great Britain. For other countries, especially those in eastern Europe, the coverage is less complete, but the book will provide a useful starting point for those who wish to trace their European ancestry. E.J.

ANYONE who has tried to locate information or trace citations in documents of the federal government knows how frustrating such a search can be, largely because of inadequate indexing. The new revised edition of *Government Publications and Their Use*, by Laurence F. Schmeckebier and Roy B. Eastin (Washington, 1961. 476 p.), is a guide explaining the organization, uses, and limitations of available indexes, catalogues, and bibliographies. It supplements earlier guides by calling attention to recent developments in government publication, including microfacsimiles. E.J.

OFFERED as a guide to the writing of research papers is a booklet of source material on *The Fur Trade in the West: 1815-1846*, edited by Edwin R. Bingham (Boston, 1960. 116 p.). Contained within its pages are selections from letters, journals, or books by and about some of the more prominent fur traders of the period, including Alexander Ross, William McGillivray, Peter Skene Ogden, John Work, Sir George Simpson, and others. The volume also offers undergraduates and beginning writers instructions on topic selection, outlining, note taking, and footnote form.

THE LITTLE VESSEL that opened the "cracker line" from Bridgeport to Chattanooga, Tennessee, during the Civil War gets special attention from Ralph Knight in "The Miraculous Steamboat," an article appearing in the *Saturday Evening Post* for June 24. The author has drawn generously on William G. Le Duc's account in volume 3 of *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War* (1884-88) to retell the story of Le Duc's successful effort to relieve forty thousand surrounded and starving Union soldiers. The troops supplied by the cracker line, which was opened on October 30, 1863, later "smashed Bragg to smithereens" at Missionary Ridge.

REMINISCENCES of a childhood spent in the iron range country of upper Michigan and northeastern Minnesota are included in a pri-

vately printed booklet by Dorothy Olcott El-smith, entitled *From Log House to Glass House* (Newton, Massachusetts, 1961. 85 p.). According to this autobiographical account, Mrs. Elsmith's father, William J. Olcott, served as an official for various mining companies in the Lake Superior region during the 1890s and early 1900s. The family moved several times, and the author centers her story about life in the different houses they occupied, two of which were in Duluth.

## THE MINNESOTA SCENE

THE STORY of an Olmsted County community is told by Belva Du Mez Bernard in the *Research History of Pleasant Grove Township* (Rochester, n.d. 497 p.). Beginning with the geographical features and earliest routes of travel through the vicinity, Mrs. Bernard goes on to list settlers, first property owners, and the growth of various community businesses and institutions. Biographical sketches and anecdotes are scattered throughout, and the book contains a wealth of information, though it is presented with little organization or logical sequence. There is no general index, though a list of biographies is included, and Mrs. Bernard does not identify the sources of her information. The volume is illustrated with many interesting photographs, sketches, and maps.

R.G.

THE HISTORY of a Danish-American community at Tyler in Lincoln County is presented by Enok Mortensen in *Seventy-Five Years at Danebod* (Tyler, 1961. 103 p.). The author relates how the colony, established in 1885 by the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, grew and prospered, centering around the congregation and the folk school, which was built in 1888 to help make "every Dane an enlightened and useful citizen." The interrelationship and occasional conflict of religious and secular influences is traced, along with the gradual transition from immigrant colony to American community. In a closing "Postscript" Mr. Mortensen lists the sources of his material in some detail. They include church and school records, as well as local newspapers and interviews.

A BRIEF STUDY by Professor John R. Borchert of *A Quarter-Century of Change in the Finland Community of Northeastern Minnesota* has been published by the Social Sciences Research Trust Fund at the University of Minnesota, Duluth (1960. 16 p.). The author recalls that the tiny settlement near the North Shore



was the subject of a geographical case study in 1934, when it was described as a community of "isolation, poverty . . . and land gradually being abandoned to the forest and the tax collector." Re-examining the area in 1956, Mr. Borchert found that twenty-two years had produced a transformation, and that there were "great discrepancies" between the recommendations made in 1934 and the actual course of the community's life. He attributes these to a number of developments, among which are changes in iron ore processing, changes in agricultural technology and marketing procedures, and the construction of a radar surveillance station in the vicinity.

AN UNDATED map of St. Cloud that was brought to class by a history student in St. Cloud's Technical High School has resulted in a booklet edited by Gertrude B. Gove and entitled *Tech High Students Move Back into the 1890-1911 Era* (19 p.). This school history project describes the research that was done to determine the date of the map and includes student-written articles on various aspects of the town's history. Miss Gove is also the author of a series of articles on "St. Cloud and the War Between the States," which appeared in the *St. Cloud Daily Times* from January 24 to February 11, 1961.

ONE HUNDRED years of Minnesota state fairs receive special attention from Hal Quarfoth writing in the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune* for August 27, 1961. Mr. Quarfoth states that the first fair, held in October, 1855, featured such outstanding agricultural displays as an eighteen-pound radish and "a stalk of corn seventeen feet high." The author discusses the changes that have occurred—the gaudy, sometimes bawdy "Pike," which gradually became the Midway, with its pitchmen and breath-taking rides—and mentions some of the perennial favorites: races, spectacular high diving, auto stunts, competitions in poultry and livestock, and women's handiwork. Several illustrations and posters advertising previous fairs accompany the article.

A PRIVATELY published booklet by O. G. Landsverk, entitled *The Kensington Runestone: A Reappraisal of the Circumstances Under Which It Was Discovered* (Glendale, California, 1961. 77 p. \$2.00.), concentrates on "the critical area of the dispute which concerns the circumstances under which the stone was found." Mr. Landsverk's discussion is centered on the answers to a series of questions

prepared by him and sent to Arthur Ohman of Kensington, Minnesota. The questionnaire and Mr. Ohman's statements are reproduced in full, and the author presents related arguments, taking sharp issue with the views expressed by Erik Wahlgren in his book, *The Kensington Stone: A Mystery Solved* (1958).

THE Civil War exploits of "Hard-fighting Hard-drinking Colonel William Markham" are outlined by Ron Freeberg in the *Rochester Post Bulletin* of October 26. According to the author, Markham was "one of the first men to volunteer for service from Olmsted County," and served with the Second and later with the Ninth Minnesota regiments. In 1862 he was dismissed from the service, touching off "a wrath of protest" that prompted Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton to intervene. Markham, says the author, was reinstated and served until the end of the war, returning to Rochester in 1865.

LETTERS written by Billings P. Sibley, a Mankato drummer boy, during his service with the Second Minnesota Regiment in the Civil War, have been edited by Lowell Schreyer and published in the *Mankato Free Press* in April and May. The series was prepared with the co-operation of Professor G. S. Petterson, curator of the Blue Earth County Historical Society museum, where the letters are on file.

ON AUGUST 9 the Redwood County Historical Society placed a marker on the site of the farm once occupied by the family of Laura Ingalls Wilder. The prairie homestead made famous by Mrs. Wilder in her children's tale of pioneer life, *On the Banks of Plum Creek*, was located in North Hero Township. The nine-hundred-pound stone marker is described and pictured in the *Walnut Grove Tribune* of August 17, which states that it is "on the east side of the road a little more than a mile and a half north of the village water tower" of Walnut Grove.

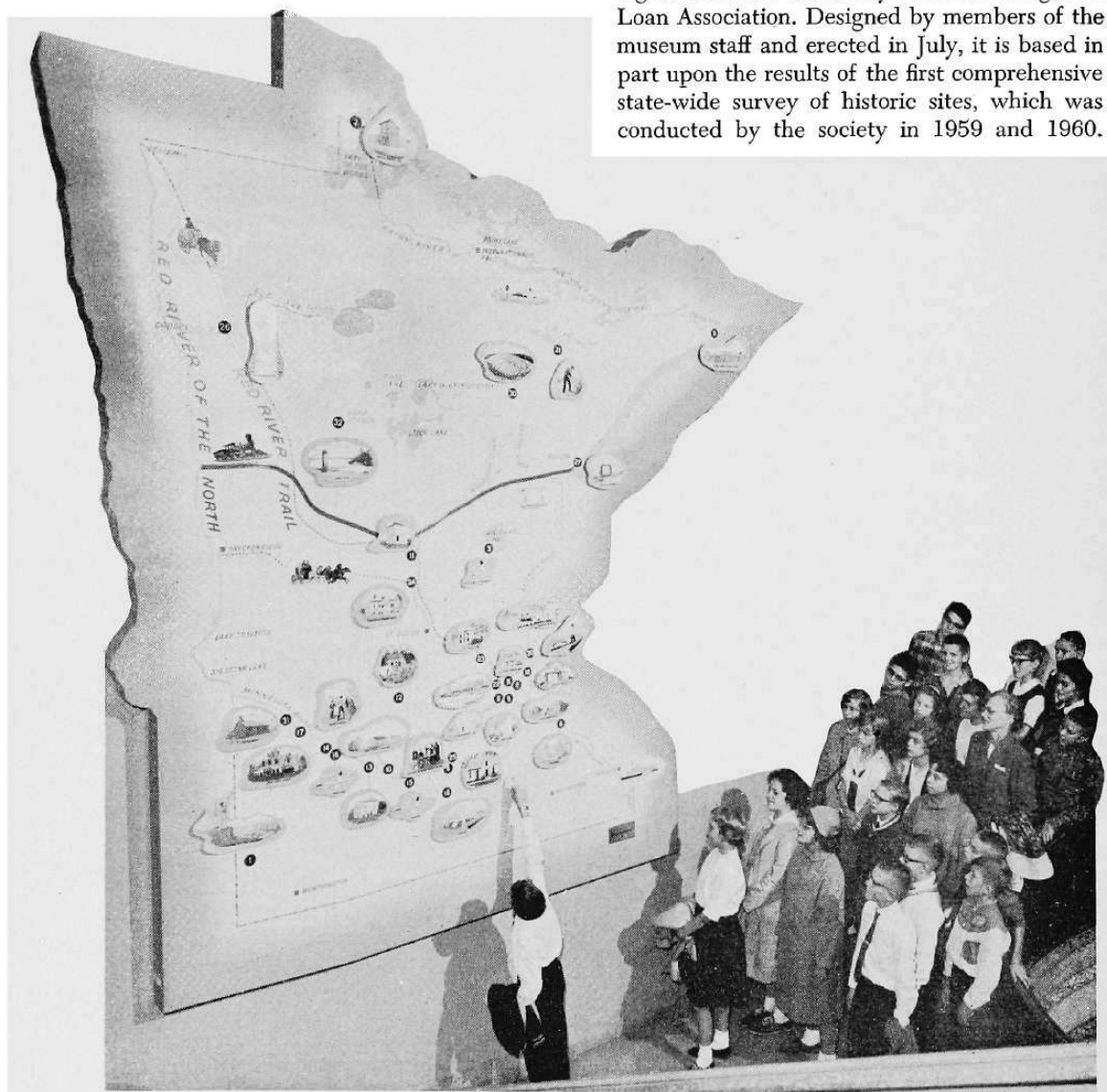
THE NEW COVER design with which *Minnesota History* enters its thirty-eighth volume and its forty-seventh year of publication is the work of Mr. Edmund M. Kopietz of Minneapolis. It was made possible by a grant from the McKnight Foundation of St. Paul, which has also made available a fund of five hundred dollars to be used in the commissioning of art work for the magazine over the next two years. The drawings by Celine C. Charpentier on pages 12 and 13 represent the first use of this fund.

# *The Society's New* HISTORIC SITES MAP

A MAJOR ADDITION to the society's museum is a thirteen-foot-high illuminated map of Minnesota, on which thirty-two of the state's major historic sites are pictured and located. They include: Pipestone and Grand Portage national monuments; Fort St. Charles; Kathio; Indian Mounds Park and the first state capitol in St. Paul; the Traverse des Sioux and Old Crossing treaty sites; Frontenac; Mendota; Mankato; New

Ulm; Stillwater; Marine-on-St. Croix; Forts Snelling, Ridgely, and Ripley; Lac qui Parle; the Sioux War sites of Acton, Wood Lake, Camp Release, and the Upper and Lower Sioux agencies; Lake Itasca; the Falls of St. Anthony; the Duluth ship canal; the Soudan and the Hull-Rust-Mahoning mines; and the homes of Alexander Ramsey, Oliver H. Kelley, Charles A. Lindbergh, Sr., and Dr. William W. Mayo.

This permanent exhibit was made possible by a grant from the Twin City Federal Savings and Loan Association. Designed by members of the museum staff and erected in July, it is based in part upon the results of the first comprehensive state-wide survey of historic sites, which was conducted by the society in 1959 and 1960.





Copyright of **Minnesota History** is the property of the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, or email articles, however, for individual use.

To request permission for educational or commercial use, [contact us](#).