

*Minnesota: A History of the State.* By THEODORE C. BLEGEN. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1963. xiv, 688 p. Illustrations, maps. \$8.50.)

Reviewed by **Herbert S. Schell**

MINNESOTA has been favored in the past with many publications relating the multifaceted course of its progress. It was left, however, for Theodore C. Blegen to place the full story in perspective. This is the way it should have been. No other person has been so well trained and so well prepared for the task as Dr. Blegen. In the course of his long identification with the state historical society and his intimate connection with the University of Minnesota, he acquired a keen insight into the "Minnesota story." Moreover, he had already broken much ground by earlier research and writing. His retirement from the deanship of the graduate school in 1960 enabled him to find both opportunity and time for a one-volume history.

This work represents history in its broadest sense, covering the multifarious aspects of the state's growth. From his extensive canvas the author gives the reader a penetrating view of the causative forces at play in the transition from primitive pioneer conditions to a remarkably high level of political and cultural maturity. He overlooks hardly a phase of Minnesota's development; the sixty-page index attests to his comprehensive coverage.

Beginning with a conventional approach, Dr. Blegen describes the physiographic features and the primitive inhabitants, then presents in concise yet comprehensive fashion the various stages of growth from the pioneering period to the contemporary one. His final chapter, "Social Currents, Politics, and Prob-

lems," includes a detailed review of the historic gubernatorial recount that resulted in the seating of Karl F. Rolvaag.

While the author indulges in a pardonable sense of pride and loyalty toward his native state, he is at the same time relatively free of antiquarianism. He is careful to note the intimate interrelations between a state or region and the nation as a whole. "Neither Minnesota nor any other state . . ." he points out, "has ever been an island of isolation. In no period could the ideas of men be kept from crossing boundaries and seas or the walls of tradition."

Dr. Blegen deftly interweaves the state's social and cultural progress with its economic and political development. Fully a third of the volume is concerned with social and cultural forces. Especially noteworthy are such chapters as "Education Moves Ahead," "Toward Social Maturity," "The Advancing Arts," "The Theater and the Book World," and "Changing Modern Scenes." Ten pages are devoted to the history of the University of Minnesota.

There are three superb chapters covering the state's contributions to the milling, iron mining, and lumbering industries. In agriculture the author cites the nationwide importance of the work done by the German immigrant, Wendelin Grimm, who pioneered in alfalfa experimentation; and in the field of transportation he points to such significant Minnesota "firsts" as the inception of long-distance airmail flight in 1911, and the inauguration of intercity bus transportation in 1914 by what was later to become the Greyhound system.

Both the author and publisher deserve commendation for such a definitive and attractive book. It is an excellent addition to a growing list of comprehensive state histories. There are twenty-one maps and fifty-two halftones. The general reader will no doubt welcome the absence of footnotes. For further reading the author has appended a twenty-four page bibliography of selected references covering all

MR. SCHELL is dean of the graduate school in the University of South Dakota at Vermillion and the author of *A History of South Dakota*, published in 1961.

aspects of Minnesota history. The volume is assuredly a must for all Minnesotans. Readers outside the state will welcome its concise and informative character.

### SITE-SEEING GUIDE

*Minnesota's Major Historic Sites: A Guide.* By JUNE D. HOLMQUIST and JEAN A. BROOKINS. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1963. xii, 182 p. Illustrations, maps. \$3.50.)

Reviewed by Ray H. Mattison

IN MOST states there exists a great need on the part of tourists, "history buffs," school children, and others for a brief but adequate guide to important historic landmarks. Visitors to these places wish to know what the significant sites are and why; their location; whether a particular landmark is open to the public; and finally, what may be seen there.

This volume meets all these needs very well. It is the result of a state-wide survey conducted by the Minnesota Historical Society from 1958 to 1962, in the course of which some two thousand historic sites and buildings were carefully screened. On the basis of established criteria, more than sixty places were classified as "major sites" and included in this book. A few persons might quibble over whether certain areas should be excluded because there are no identification markers or because they are not open to the public. However, this volume is designed primarily for the thousands of visitors to Minnesota's historical areas rather than for professional historians.

To facilitate the location of these sites, the *Guide* divides the state into four major geographical areas. At the beginning of each section is an excellent detailed colored map showing the location of sites in relation to the major highways and cities or towns in the vicinity. Included also is a section devoted to state monuments.

Each site is briefly but adequately discussed in the text, and its importance in relation to the history of the state or nation is summarized. Directions are given on how to

reach it. The text, together with some hundred illustrations (which include both recent photographs and contemporary sketches of places as they appeared at the peak of their historical importance), gives the reader an excellent concept of what he may see when he reaches the site.

The content of the volume is generally well balanced. In selecting sites for the *Guide*, places were chosen which represent practically every major theme in the state's history: aboriginal life, exploration, the fur trade, military and Indian affairs, politics, industry, agriculture, transportation, and religion. Perhaps greater attention should have been given to Minnesota's cultural contributions.

The format of the book is excellent and pleasing, and its many illustrations and maps are of high quality. The Minnesota Historical Society is to be congratulated on this volume.

### LUMBER EPIC

*Timber and Men: The Weyerhaeuser Story.* By RALPH W. HIDY, FRANK ERNEST HILL, and ALLAN NEVINS. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1963. xiv, 704 p. Illustrations. \$12.00.)

Reviewed by George B. Engberg

THIS VOLUME invites superlatives, for it deals with the most important single story about one of the most significant natural resources of the nation. The account covers more than a century of experience by a succession of family and interfamily firms that evolved into one of the oldest and certainly the largest of the companies in the forest products industry. Written by three distinguished historians who have previously dealt with the fortunes of such giants as the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey and the Ford Motor Company, the book matches its subject in breadth and depth of research and in sheer bulk. (It is about the size and weight of *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*.)

The first third of the account concerns the activities of Frederick Weyerhaeuser and the many men and firms who worked with him in the upper Mississippi Valley during the last half of the nineteenth century. Although the lumbering story begins in Rock Island, Illinois, it soon becomes primarily an account

---

MR. MATTISON is historian for the Midwest region of the National Park Service.

of operations in western Wisconsin and the northeastern third of Minnesota. From the start, Weyerhaeuser drew others into working arrangements with him, thus making allies out of possible competitors, dividing risks, and securing additional capital and managerial skill. Such co-operative action was found mostly in the purchase of timberland and the movement of logs and lumber; manufacturing and marketing, both in the Lake States and later in the Pacific Northwest, were jealously guarded as the prerogatives of individual concerns. The strong position of the Weyerhaeuser interests in the Wisconsin-Minnesota area was accomplished by legitimate purchasing of timber, co-operative use of rivers for transportation, careful attention to efficient milling, the reinvestment of the substantial profits, and a willingness to let competitors live.

As the large-scale timber resources of the Lake States were being exhausted, Weyerhaeuser made some tentative moves toward the Far West and the South and in 1900 led several of his Wisconsin and Minnesota associates in purchasing 900,000 acres of timberland from the Northern Pacific Railroad. Operations in Washington and Oregon brought large gains, but those in Idaho suffered from many local problems for several decades. In contrast to their almost complete acceptance of the managerial decisions made during the Midwestern phase of the industry, the authors point out occasional mistakes in judgment by the officers in charge of Western operations.

The Weyerhaeusers were active in conservation measures, led in the development of sustained yield practices, and co-operated with such moderate leaders in the national government as William B. Greeley. On the labor side, the firm appears to have maintained better relations with woodsmen than with mill hands, with Lake States lumberjacks than with those in the Far West. Part of the success story stems from the way in which the companies drew in descendants of the original founders through the fourth generation.

Because this is business history from the

---

MR. ENGBERG is professor of history in the University of Cincinnati. His article on "Lumber and Labor in the Lake States" won the Minnesota Historical Society's Solon J. Buck Award in 1959.

managerial viewpoint, and because the principal firm has been amazingly successful, little justification can be found for quarreling with the praise dealt out by the authors. Occasionally the reader wishes that more information on such matters as sources of expansion capital had been included in place of some of the abundant detail and many pictures. Maps of the main areas of Weyerhaeuser operation and skeleton genealogies of the Weyerhaeuser and affiliated families would have made parts of the story easier to follow. The I.W.W. was the Industrial and not the International Workers of the World. Within the hundred pages of appendixes, tables such as those on lumber shipments would be easier to use if totals were computed for the ends of lines and the feet of columns. In spite of such minor deficiencies, those interested in the development of the northwestern third of the nation, the forest products industries, and the prosperity of the country have been well served by the determination of the Weyerhaeuser companies to present a comprehensive history of their experience.

#### EXPLORER'S JOURNAL

*First Man West: Alexander Mackenzie's Journal of His Voyage to the Pacific Coast of Canada in 1793.* Edited by WALTER SHEPPE. (Montreal, McGill University Press, 1962. ix, 366 p. Maps. \$7.50.)

Reviewed by June Drenning Holmquist

THE JOURNALS of Alexander Mackenzie, fur trader extraordinary and the first man to cross the North American continent, have been lost. Our knowledge of his epic journey in 1793 rests largely on a book published in 1801 and apparently based on his journals. Mr. Sheppe, who is assistant professor of biology in Bard College, and his publisher have performed a service in making available a new edition of that portion of the 1801 *Voyages* which deals with Mackenzie's 1793 journey. The sections of the older work dealing with an earlier trip and Mackenzie's valuable account of the fur trade are not included in the present volume, which begins with the explorer's departure from "Fort Chepewyan" on October 10, 1792, and ends with his return on August 24, 1793.

That portion of the text of the 1801 edition is reprinted in its entirety, although the editor says that most of the minor corrections appearing in the 1802 printing were retained. To this text Mr. Sheppe has appended bracketed explanations of the route as well as the names of places, people, plants, Indian tribes, etc. Indented, but printed in the body of the book, are also various explanatory editorial comments supplying background information or, on occasion, a letter from Alexander to his cousin Roderick. Notes and comments on the sources (largely printed) consulted by the editor as well as a bibliography appear at the back of the book.

The method of annotation is unorthodox and not entirely satisfactory. It is my impression that the volume "reads" better than it "uses." Perhaps the imaginary reader for whom the work is intended is not the serious scholar of the fur trade, but an interested amateur seeking information on the colorful Mackenzie and his trail-blazing trip.

If so, he will find it. The editor made an effort personally to travel Mackenzie's route, touching "as many places" as he could. The resulting contributions to the geography of Mackenzie's journey are considerable. Mr. Sheppe comments that most of the route "is still as difficult to travel" as it was in the explorer's day, and in fact "much of it is visited less now than it was during the great days of the fur trade." Portions of a diary kept by Mr. Sheppe on his journeys in 1959 appear as an appendix.

The editor has also supplied a knowledgeable "Prologue" offering background on French and British exploration and the fur trade in North America which places Mackenzie's contributions in perspective. An "Epilogue" carries the reader through the remaining years of Mackenzie's life, outlines his struggle with Simon McTavish and the later expansion of the North West Company into the area Mackenzie explored, and assesses the influence of the man and his book on such diverse figures as Lord Selkirk and Thomas Jefferson.

A "Chronology" giving important dates and events in Mackenzie's career, a summary of his route, and an index complete the volume.

MRS. HOLMQUIST is associate editor on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Clear and helpful maps have also been provided, but only a small section of the large map in the 1801 work has been reproduced.

## CHURCH-CENTERED HISTORY

*The Swedish Immigrant Community in Transition: Essays in Honor of Dr. Conrad Bergendoff.* Edited by J. IVERNE DOWIE and ERNEST M. ESPELIE. (Rock Island, Illinois, Augustana Historical Society, 1963. x, 246 p. \$4.95.)

Reviewed by Kenneth O. Bjork

A *Festschrift* ought properly to interpret the life and work of the man it honors, and at the same time it should probe fields related to his major interests. The volume under review succeeds remarkably well in the second respect but offers no critical review of Dr. Bergendoff's farsighted leadership in the Augustana Lutheran church or his presidency of Augustana College and Seminary at Rock Island, Illinois. In partial justification for this shortcoming, it should be stated that the editors, in planning the book, were primarily concerned with Bergendoff's great interest in Swedish and Swedish-American history—especially with those aspects that touch on the church and its educational institutions.

Of special interest to students of social history are Gunnar Westin's "The Background of Swedish Immigration, 1840–1850," an interpretation by a distinguished Swedish church historian; C. Emanuel Carlson's "The Best Americanizers," a revealing treatment of the part played by American public education in shaping the mind of the immigrant even before he left the homeland; Nils Hasselmo's "Language in Exile," which penetrates deeply into the mind and soul of the person who is uprooted; and O. Fritiof Ander's "An Immigrant Community during the Progressive Era," a masterly and many-sided interpretation of Swedish Americans drawing nourishment and inspiration more from New World than from Old World sources. Ernest M. Espelie's "Bibliography of the Published Writings of Dr. Conrad Bergendoff, 1918–1963" tells a great deal about the theologian's interests and abilities.

MR. BJORK is head of the history department in St. Olaf College, Northfield.

Among the fifteen contributions to the volume, Minnesotans will especially welcome an able essay by Doniver A. Lund on "Augustana and Gustavus — Partners or Competitors," a comparative study of the Augustana Lutheran church's leading colleges — one of them, Gustavus Adolphus, a vigorous Minnesota liberal arts college. They will be interested, too, in the chapter on "The Academies of the Augustana Lutheran Church," which includes discussions of Gustavus Adolphus, Hope Academy of Moorhead, Emanuel Academy of Minneapolis, Lund Academy of Melby, Northwestern College of Fergus Falls, Minnesota College of Minneapolis, and North Star College of Warren. Northwestern survived until 1932, and North Star to 1936.

The book is heavily weighted on the side of the church-affiliated Swedish Americans — appropriately so when one considers the contributions of Dr. Bergendoff in shaping the policies of the Augustana church and his leadership in bringing about a recent union of this synod with other church bodies to form the Lutheran church in America.

## CHURCH SCHOOL

*Gustavus Adolphus College: A Centennial History, 1862–1962.* By DONIVER A. LUND. (St. Peter, Gustavus Adolphus Press, 1963. xv, 216 p. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Reviewed by G. Rudolph Bjorgan

THE SCANDINAVIANS who emigrated to the United States during the nineteenth century brought with them certain values that they held dear. Among these were a concern for spiritual welfare and an interest in the training of youth within a proper spiritual milieu. This was the case with the Swedes who settled in various parts of the Midwest and particularly in Minnesota. Doniver Lund's *Centennial History* recounts the efforts of Swedes who belonged to the Minnesota conference of the Augustana Lutheran church to establish a school with a religious emphasis.

In developing the work, Mr. Lund has attempted to avoid making it the usual institu-

tional history based on catalogs and campus newspapers. This he has accomplished by the use of such sources as board, faculty, conference, and synod minutes, as well as private collections. As a result, the volume deals not only with the growth of the college as such, but also with the personalities of those immediately involved in its direction — the presidents, and, a step farther away, pastors, board members, and other interested persons, including "concerned" mothers. All played a significant role in molding the image of the college.

The book presents an interesting study of the basically conservative religious leaders among the Swedes and their struggle to adjust to changing times with the advent of such "worldly movements" on campus as social societies, intercollegiate athletics, and social dancing. College presidents often served as buffers between the more conservative members of the Minnesota conference and the liberals within the faculty and student body. One complaining pastor maintained that the campus "liberal" views sounded "better than ungodly" but meant "the same in many cases."

Certainly the small church-related colleges have made a contribution to the realm of higher education, to the churches that support them, and to society generally. The success stories of the Gustavus Adolphus product — its graduates — are ample evidence of this. It is significant that colleges such as Gustavus Adolphus have made a candid effort to lay before the public the factors that have made them unique. This should be an inspiration to other institutions with similar backgrounds to carry out equally frank studies to plead their cause and preserve their heritage.

## GOVERNMENT SOURCES

*Guide to Federal Archives Relating to the Civil War.* By KENNETH W. MUNDEN and HENRY PUTNEY BEERS. (Washington, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, 1962. x, 721 p. \$3.00.)

Reviewed by Rodney C. Loehr

THIS IS the most important publication dealing with the Civil War since the appearance of the official records in the great *War of the*

---

MR. BJORGAN is professor of history in Wartburg College at Waverley, Iowa.



*Rebellion* series. No serious student of the Civil War can afford to be without it, for it surveys the entire range of United States government archives, not only for the war years but also for the period since then, where there is material which deals with the conflict. The records of the presidency, the Congress, the judiciary, government departments, and miscellaneous agencies and groups are covered. Sections labeled "Records in Other Custody" tell where accumulations of private papers are located. Books and periodical articles that may be helpful in connection with particular categories of records are cited.

One notes, for example, that the "Special Civil War Collection" in the adjutant general's records contains brief summaries of battles, written in 1864 and 1872 by Union generals. The Mathew B. Brady collection of approximately six thousand photographic negatives is in the records of the Signal Corps. A great mass of data from territorial commands, armies, and corps which was not published in the official records awaits the researcher in the files of the war department. Administrative and logistical matters in particular usually were not published, and one suspects that logistical factors played a much greater part in the tactics and strategy of the Civil War than is usually recognized. The records dealing with Lincoln's abortive scheme to colonize freedmen during the war can be found in the files of the department of the interior. Among the records of the many commissions set up during the war are those of the "Commission on Rewards for Apprehension of Lincoln Assassins." In the same vein, the files of the metropolitan police of the District of Columbia for April 14, 1865, and the days following, provide information about the assassination of Lincoln.

A brief review cannot give more than a glimpse of the wealth of information in this book. With the publication of its projected companion volume on the archives of the Confederate government, the Civil War student will have invaluable guides to hitherto neglected source materials, and a new era of research may well open.

MR. LOEHR is associate professor of history in the University of Minnesota and a member of the Twin Cities Civil War Roundtable.

## RUNESTONE CHAMPION

HJALMAR R. HOLAND, famed for his long and unyielding championship of the Kensington Runestone, died on August 8 as he was nearing the age of ninety-one. Not long before his death he published his fifth book on the Kensington problem. This work, *A Pre-Columbian Crusade to America* (New York, 1962, 203 p.), reviews once again the story of the stone and its warmly debated inscription; and once more, true to form, Holand does battle with critics, past and present, who have questioned the authenticity of the inscription or pronounced it a hoax.

Many readers of the new volume probably will be interested in the chapter entitled "A Forgotten Explorer," in which the author contends that the Oxford friar, Nicholas of Lynn, was a member of the Kensington party. Lynn, if not wholly forgotten (actually his biography is included in the English national biographical dictionary), is yet a shadowy figure, mainly because a book of his ("The Fortunate Discovery") is one of the lost books of history. Knowledge of its contents is fragmentary, but Holand is convinced that Nicholas was the "priest with an astrolabe," and that he journeyed to Hudson Bay with the Kensingtonians around the year 1360. This is interesting conjecture, though it lacks the finality of proof.

With respect to the runestone, Holand exemplified the Jamesian "will to believe." He began to publish his views on the inscription as early as 1908. Later he wrote *The Kensington Stone* (1932), *Westward from Vinland* (1940), *America, 1355-1364* (1946), and *Explorations in America before Columbus* (1956), in addition to his book of 1962 and hundreds of articles in newspapers and magazines. Holand doubtless will be remembered chiefly for his earnest and combative writing about the runestone, and few who knew him will forget his enthusiasm, interest, and historical zeal. Characteristically, as he neared and entered his nineties, he was working not only on *The Pre-Columbian Crusade to America* but also on a novel which was to be built around the Kensington story.

Holand's historical interests had a range that went far beyond the runestone. He wrote articles and books about his own community in Wisconsin (Door County), about Radisson, various immigrant settlements, Norwegian im-

migration, and other subjects. In 1957 he brought out a lively autobiography, *My First Eighty Years*, in which he said he was looking forward "with keen anticipation" to his second span of eighty years. His sense of anticipation is the more understandable when one learns that at the age of seventy-eight he was granted a Guggenheim Fellowship, an award of a kind usually given to relatively young scholars.

The Kensington problem persists. It may ultimately be solved, but it seems likely that a solution, if on the affirmative side, will be based upon supporting evidence that is beyond

cavil, such as the finding of the La Vérendrye stone with an authentic runic inscription from the fourteenth century. Thus far all efforts to find that stone have proved unavailing, and extant evidence with respect to its inscription does not prove that it is runic. Meanwhile, the story of the Kensington controversy invites the attention of a historian. The history of the finding and use of evidence for and against the authenticity of the inscription has a spread of sixty-five years and matches in interest and dramatic quality the stone and its inscribed characters. T.C.B.

## . . . on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

THREE recent additions to the ever-fascinating lore of America's greatest river include: *The Amazing Mississippi*, by Willard Price (New York, 1963. 188 p.); *Steamboats on the Mississippi*, by Ralph K. Andrist (American Heritage Publishing Company, New York, 1962. 153 p. \$3.95.); and *The Mississippi River Reader*, edited by Wright Morris (New York, 1962. 382 p.). The first of these is a chatty, readable travel narrative. Mr. Price makes many references to the river's history, including a notably inaccurate account of Minnesota's ghost town of Nininger. His main emphasis, however, is upon the modern river with its industries, cities, improved channel, and huge barge traffic. He gives full treatment to the upper Mississippi, beginning at Lake Itasca and devoting the greater part of seven illustrated chapters to its course within Minnesota. In fact, the reader finds himself nearly two-thirds through the book before he reaches Cairo, Illinois.

A sharp contrast to this treatment is the second book, which was published as an addition to the American Heritage Junior Library. In leafing through its many pages of striking illustrations, the reader gains a distinct impression that the twin headwaters of the Mississippi are in Pennsylvania and Montana. At the beginning of Chapter I stands a picture of Pittsburgh, "the birthplace of the Mississippi steamboat," and of the volume's approximately 125 illustrations only five are identifiable as scenes on the Mississippi above St. Louis. The chapter entitled "Towns on the River" includes views of Omaha and Cincinnati, but none of St. Paul. Mr. Andrist's narrative gives a considerably more balanced impression, but in justice to their young

readers the editors should have entitled the book "Steamboats on the Lower Mississippi and Its Tributaries."

The third book, as its title implies, is a collection of river lore, including excerpts from writers that range from Francis Parkman and Mark Twain to Richard Bissell and John Francis McDermott—all within a tightly-packed paperback format. R.G.

THE STORY of *Wisconsin and the Civil War* is recounted by Frank L. Klement in a booklet which was authorized by the Wisconsin Civil War Centennial Commission (Madison, 1963. 112 p.). Rather than limit his work to a survey of military action and regimental histories, the author has woven the strands of political ferment and economic growth on the local level into the story of the state's part in the national struggle. The home front contributions of Wisconsin's women, farmers, miners, and manufacturers—among others—are noted, and an assessment of the aftermath of war is made within this framework. Mr. Klement feels that "the war, in a measure, tested the young state to see if it really belonged in a union. . . . Wisconsin passed the test successfully."

FIFTEEN first-person accounts of capture by the Indians have been compiled in a readable volume entitled *Scalps and Tomahawks*, edited by Frederick Drimmer (New York, 1961. 378 p.). Although seven of the narratives have been condensed, the editor has done a careful job of retaining the facts, ideas, and opinions presented by the eyewitnesses. Of special value to students of Midwest history are the accounts

by Alexander Henry, John Tanner, Lavina Eastlick, and Fanny Kelly. Chronologically organized, the book covers more than a century in time and ranges geographically from New York to California and from Mexico to Canada.

THE Cranbrook Institute of Science has published *The Sioux, 1798–1922: A Dakota Winter Count* by Alexis Praus as number 44 of its *Bulletins* (1962. 31 p.). By picturing one significant event for each year, the plains Indians used the “winter count” to indicate the passage of time; since winter was the most easily recognizable season, the Sioux chose it to mark each year’s beginning. The author points out that this “record illustrates the first of three steps in the development of writing—the other two being by . . . hieroglyphic picture writing, and by phonetic symbols.” The main body of this booklet describes the Cranbrook collection’s 1798–1922 count, translating the names given to each year by the Indians and reproducing the pictographs which correspond thereto. Mr. Praus also gives useful comparisons of the Cranbrook record with material contained in other known winter counts, such as the High Dog and Swift Dog, the latter owned by the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

THE ROLE of Fort Union in the upper Missouri fur trade is examined by Ray H. Mattison in the January-April, 1962, issue of *North Dakota History*. Mr. Mattison, a historian with the National Park Service, has documented his article liberally, drawing on the accounts of contemporary visitors to Fort Union such as George Catlin, Edwin T. Denig, Nathaniel J. Wyeth, and Father Pierre-Jean De Smet. The fort, which was established in 1830, was recognized by the government “as a focal point in dealing with Indian tribes.” The author indicates that the depletion of the buffalo herds following the western advance of the white man, coupled with the Civil War and the Sioux Uprising, hastened the demise of the old trading post in 1867.

“AMBASSADOR Extraordinary to the Sioux Indians,” the life and works of a Jesuit missionary and peacemaker are recounted in a booklet entitled *Father De Smet in Dakota* by Louis Pfaller, O.S.B. (Richardton, North Dakota, 1962. 79 p.). As the title indicates, the author is concerned primarily with the activities of this Belgian priest from 1839, when “unarmed and trusting . . . [he] set foot on Dakota soil” to 1870, the date of his last voyage down the Missouri. Mention is made of the Sioux Uprising, and the names of Sibley and Rollette,

among others, will be familiar to Minnesota readers. Father De Smet’s role as a peace commissioner for the federal government in 1864 with the warring Sioux nations and his part in the great Sioux council of 1868 are dealt with in some detail. Although somewhat sketchily indexed, the booklet is liberally illustrated; many of the reproductions are by contemporaries of De Smet, such as George Catlin, Carl Bodmer, and Philippe Régis de Trobriand.

SCHOLARS of the regional scene may wish to note the publication of *Beacon Across the Prairie: North Dakota’s Land-Grant College* by William C. Hunter (Fargo, North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, 1961. 309 p. Illustrations. \$5.50), written to commemorate the seventy-year history of North Dakota Agricultural College, now the North Dakota State University of Agriculture and Applied Science. Particular emphasis is given by Mr. Hunter to the educational philosophy behind the land-grant act of 1862 which protested the dominance of the classics and urged the development of education “for practical activities of life” and “preparation for the ‘professions of life.’” Organized chronologically, the book does more than give a factual account of the North Dakota school’s history; the economic and political struggles of the state are closely interwoven with those of the college. Prominent in the story are names easily recognizable to Minnesotans: President Lotus D. Coffman and Deans William E. Peik and Clyde M. Bailey of the University of Minnesota, and President Harvey Wright of Macalester College in St. Paul.

FIVE more North Dakota counties, Benson, Cavalier, Pembina, Ramsey, and Walsh, have been added to the series of pamphlets, *Origins of North Dakota Place Names* by Mary Ann Barnes Williams (Washburn, North Dakota, 1961. 56 p.). In her preface, the compiler explains that “the chief aim of this study has been to find the origin of the name of places white men have established—not geographical names nor Indian villages.” The influence of Minnesota pioneers is obvious in this five-county study, as is the great importance of the railroad companies.

CHRISTMAS incidents and customs of early Minnesota and the Dakotas receive attention in John E. Baur’s collection of holiday lore entitled *Christmas on the American Frontier: 1800–1900* (Caldwell, Idaho, 1961. 320 p.). Of special interest to Minnesotans will be the chapter dealing, in part, with Yuletide traditions which date back to 1827 at Fort Snelling.



Much of the material in this section is drawn from Bertha L. Heilbron's article, "Christmas and New Year's on the Frontier," which appeared in *Minnesota History* for December, 1935. Other items relating to this region are the accounts of William Clark's Christmas with the Mandans, Paul Kane's Fort Edmonton Christmas, and Philippe Régis de Trobriand's dismal Yule at Fort Stevenson, Dakota Territory, in the 1860s.

THE FINAL volume of Carl I. Wheat's five-volume series on *Mapping the Transmississippi West* has appeared in two parts (San Francisco, 1963. 487 p.). Although as originally projected, the work was to cover the years 1540-1861, the present volume is devoted to the period of the 1860s and 1870s — "From the Civil War to the Geological Survey." Among the maps discussed are those published by Captain James L. Fisk in 1863 and 1864, showing immigrant routes across the northern plains from Minnesota to the gold fields of western Montana and Idaho. The second of these is reproduced. Also described is the 1864 map published by D. D. Merrill of St. Paul, showing the "Minnesota Route, the shortest and best to the Idaho Gold Mines." Mr. Wheat's chapter on the 1870s includes a reproduction of a geological map of the Black Hills drawn by Minnesota geologist Newton H. Winchell in 1874.

THE July, 1962, number of *Wi-Iyohi*, the monthly bulletin of the South Dakota Historical Society, contains an article by Nancy L. Woolworth concerning the expedition of William R. Marshall against the hostile Santee Sioux in 1862. Quoting liberally from both the previously published observations of Marshall and the diary of Sergeant James T. Ramer of the Seventh Minnesota Regiment, Mrs. Woolworth, who is the wife of the Minnesota Historical Society's museum curator, recounts the saga of "this swift and well organized action" in clearing away bands of hostile Sioux. She points out that not only was the threat of further raids against the Minnesota frontier virtually eliminated but that "Marshall's activities gave the Minnesota troops some much needed experiences . . . which proved useful on General Sibley's 1863 expedition."

ALTHOUGH of primary value to students of Canadian history, *The Rivers of Canada* by Hugh McLennan (New York, 1962. 170 p.) should interest lovers of river lore. The first two chapters of the book deal with the geo-

logic, geographic, and economic importance of the Canadian river systems; considerable attention is paid to the voyageurs, the fur trade, and the essential part the rivers played as the main arteries of transportation. The rest of this well-written volume considers seven rivers: the Mackenzie, the St. Lawrence, the Ottawa, the Red, the Saskatchewan, the Fraser, and the St. John. In his essay on the Red River Mr. McLennan traces very little of the history of the valley, although brief mention is made of the Vérendrye family and of the Selkirk Settlement. On the whole, the book is a series of portraits in which the author weaves together some history of each river with his own observations and impressions.

"THE DECLINE of the Great Lakes Package-Freight Carriers" is the subject of an article by Daniel O. Fletcher in the Winter, 1962, issue of *Business History Review*. Primarily an economic analysis of the decline of a once flourishing means of transportation, this study is necessarily "made against the background of federal regulation." Minnesotans may be particularly interested in the discussion of the "Duluth Cases," as a result of which Duluth received parity for a time with Chicago in lake-rail rates. In tracing the demise of the industry, Mr. Fletcher notes several inherent disadvantages in the carrier system, but adds that "unfortunately, the remediable disabilities of water transportation on the Great Lakes were permitted to remain." Pointing out that the end was hastened by the provisions of the merchant marine act of 1936, the author states that "this was only a matter of timing; the industry was surely marked for extinction long before the needs of war caused its ultimate end."

"TOO MUCH stress can hardly be placed on the social cause of emigration from Sweden," according to O. Fritiof Ander, writing in the *Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly* for October, 1962. Mr. Ander's article, "Reflections on the Causes of Emigration from Sweden," seeks to explain "the fact that Sweden lost one-fourth of its population from 1840 to 1924." Among the well-known influences he lists are the prevalence of class distinctions, the popularization of America through widely published travel accounts and "America letters," the promotion of emigration by railroads and steamship lines, the desire to avoid military service, and various forms of economic pressure.

THREE RECENT additions to the critical works on Minnesota's most famous author de-

serve mention. Sheldon N. Grebstein's *Sinclair Lewis* (New York, 1962. 116 p.) is concerned primarily with critical evaluation rather than biographical information. The expected references to Minnesota occur as the author discusses Lewis' earlier work, but it is interesting to note Mr. Grebstein's awareness of "Lewis's re-identification with his native state and his residence in it" near the end of the author's life. Mr. Grebstein will be recalled by readers of *Minnesota History* for his article on "Sinclair Lewis' Minnesota Boyhood" in the Autumn, 1954, issue of this magazine. Mark Schorer's collection of critical essays, *Sinclair Lewis* (New York, 1962. 165 p.), assembles a notable gathering of both English and American writers. Most rewarding, perhaps, to persons interested in Lewis' Minnesota heritage is the final essay by Geoffrey Moore, "Sinclair Lewis: A Lost Romantic." Mr. Schorer himself is the author of a brief critical essay on *Sinclair Lewis* published by the University of Minnesota Press as number 27 in its series of *Pamphlets on American Writers* (Minneapolis, 1963. 47 p.).

AN ADDRESS by John D. Hicks given before the fifteenth annual Pacific Northwest History Conference is published in the Summer, 1962, issue of *Idaho Yesterdays*. Examining "Reform Cycles in Recent American History," the author of *The Populist Revolt* (1931) challenges the "self-styled 'new conservatives,' and some recent revisionists" who seek to find in Populism "the seeds of modern American fascism." In a personal and reminiscent manner he reviews his own attitudes over the years and concludes that he would today "have less to say about the frontier and the end of free lands, but substantially more about the difficulty American farmers experienced in competing with the products of overseas areas" and "would give more attention to the backgrounds" of "such Populist leaders as Ignatius Donnelly" whose intemperate and occasionally anti-Semitic statements have led contemporary historians to "impute to the movement a degree of violence and intolerance that simply was not there." He would still maintain that the Populist protest arose from real economic grievances and not only from the collapse of "the agrarian myth" before an advancing industrialism. Mr. Hicks's article on "The Persistence of Populism," first published in *Minnesota History* for March, 1931, has been reprinted as one of thirteen essays which reflect the current debate over the origins, attitudes, and nature of reform movements in the first half of the twentieth century. They

are collected under the title *The Progressive Era: Liberal Renaissance or Liberal Failure?* (1963. 122 p.) edited by Arthur Mann. The booklet includes a selection of key statements by such authors as Vernon L. Parrington, John Chamberlain, Oscar Handlin, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., and Richard Hofstadter. It is published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston as one in the paperback series of *American Problem Studies*.

THE THEORY that Midwestern isolationism is the result of pro-German feeling — an opinion current during the World War I era — is the target of an article by Robert P. Wilkins in the September, 1963, issue of *Nebraska History*. In "The Non-Ethnic Roots of North Dakota Isolationism," Mr. Wilkins marshalls evidence to show that isolationist sentiment remained powerful in that state long after the period when Germany was "the national enemy," and that it was a major factor as recently as the 1956 election. A special rural psychology, a mistrust of Eastern business interests, and strong antiwar sentiments are some of the attitudes which Mr. Wilkins suggests as very real parts of the North Dakota outlook.

THREE more booklets in the *Voices From America's Past* series have been issued by the Webster Publishing Company. Edited in each instance by Richard B. Morris and James Woodress, these compilations cover the period from 1832 to 1939 as seen through the eyes of contemporary historians, artists, and writers. *The Westward Movement: 1832-1889* (St. Louis, 1961. 58 p.) includes an account by Francis Parkman of the Sioux, as well as a description of early homesteading by O. E. Rølvaag. *The Shaping of Modern America: 1865-1914* (St. Louis, 1962. 58 p.) deals with the complexities of rapid industrial growth, scientific advances, and the influences of immigration and urbanization. The Republican "dynasty" and the New Deal are the main themes in the third of this series, *Boom And Bust: The Twenties And Thirties, 1920-1939* (St. Louis, 1962. 58 p.). Although all of the material in these three booklets has been published elsewhere in complete form, the editors have compiled the excerpts into easily read and attractive pamphlets.

THE American Association for State and Local History has published the 1963 edition of its *Directory: Historical Societies and Agencies in the United States and Canada* (Madison, Wisconsin. 124 p. \$2.00.). Statistics in the booklet reveal the striking growth of interest

in local history throughout the two countries. Over two thousand local historical societies are listed, an increase of more than two hundred in the past two years. The directory contains addresses, membership figures, founding dates, number of staff members, publications, and gives library and museum hours of publicly and privately supported historical societies, historical associations and commissions, and departments of archives and history.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY of *American Genealogical Periodicals* compiled by Lester J. Cappon has been published by the New York Public Library (1962. 29 p.). Mr. Cappon has included 160 entries which contain title, volume and issue numbers, place and dates of publication, names of editor and publisher, and the title of any successor periodical. Not included is information on the location of files. The compiler has intentionally omitted works issued by patriotic societies and those devoted solely to particular family trees. A useful chronological finding list follows the alphabetical one.

A *Public Lands Bibliography*, issued by the Bureau of Land Management, United States Department of the Interior (Washington, 1962. 106 p.) commemorates the sesquicentennial of the establishment of the public land office. The 1,288 items listed include articles, monographs, theses, laws and regulations — "most of the known writings on public land activities, programs, and legislation previous to 1954." Although the entries are not accompanied by critical comment, the compilers have included location symbols in addition to the usual bibliographic data.

L.M.K.

## THE MINNESOTA SCENE

THE BELTRAMI County Historical Society has published a carefully prepared booklet, compiled by Dr. Charles W. Vandersluis, entitled *A Brief History of Beltrami County* (1963. 40 p.). A short summary of the geologic and geographic setting, as well as an account of the area's early settlement, is given. Its present communities, many of which did not develop until after the turn of the century, are pictured against a background of lumbering, agriculture, and railroad building. The pamphlet also provides an index, a brief statistical appendix, and an interesting collection of old photographs of the region and its people.

BERTHA L. HEILBRON, the former editor of this magazine, is the author of an article on the Minnesota real estate ventures of Edwin

Whitefield, which appears in the June issue of *American Heritage*. Under the title "Phantom Cities in a Promised Land," Miss Heilbron describes briefly the artist's efforts at town-site promotion in what is now McLeod and Kandiyohi counties during the land boom of the late 1850s. Illustrating the article are color reproductions of Whitefield paintings which depict the sites of the various paper cities. Photographs by Eugene D. Becker, who is curator of the Minnesota Historical Society's picture collection, show the same spots as they appear today.

A WELCOME aid to high school teachers of social studies is *Minnesota: A Teaching Guide* (Minneapolis, 1962. 146 p.) by Russell L. Hamm and Gene K. Hanson. Beginning with a concise account of the state's prehistoric beginnings, the authors have presented in clear and readable terms units dealing with its exploration and settlement; transportation; communications; agriculture and industries; education; culture; social welfare; politics; and government. The *Guide* offers suggestions for expanded study, vocabulary aids, and activity programs. A list of further readings, as well as available films, filmstrips, and phonograph records, is included at the end of each unit.

A SURVEY of *Minnesota's Historic Sites* has been issued in multilithed form as *Report No. 1* of the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Resources Commission (1963. 76 p.). Its purpose is "to define the nature of historic sites, pin-point the responsibility of the various state and federal agencies, review the history, inventory the present status and present specific questions and problems which must be considered in establishing, maintaining and financing a Historic Sites Program." The study was undertaken in co-operation with the Minnesota Historical Society, the Minnesota highway department, and the division of state parks under a provision of the omnibus natural resources and recreation act of 1963. It presents for the first time a comprehensive tabular listing of the state's 23 monuments and 109 historical highway markers, accompanied by maps locating them. Other maps and lists deal with 59 major historic sites in the state, 7 important geological sites, 11 major archaeological sites, and 6 existing historical museums. The report concludes with an inventory of "future priorities," recommending 75 sites, which "if properly developed in the years to come, by state, federal, local and private agencies can be the heart of a new, state-wide Minnesota Historic Sites Program."



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](#).