

*A Guide to the Military Posts of the United States, 1789–1895.* By FRANCIS PAUL PRUCHA. (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1964. xiii, 178 p. Maps, illustrations. \$7.50.)

Reviewed by Russell W. Fridley

WITH THIS VOLUME Francis Paul Prucha adds to his impressive study of the American military frontier by providing a compact guide to regular army posts — which, he writes, “has long been needed.” Excluded from the study are wartime posts, temporary encampments, batteries, coastal defenses, arsenals, quartermaster depots, and forts of the Seminole Wars. Included are 628 forts that served the nation from 1789 through 1895, the latter date marking “the end of the frontier conditions which called into being most of the installations.”

The author traces the collective and individual careers of the posts — large and small, venerable and short-lived — that made up the defense system of the nation during its first century. He also shows the frontier fort as the keystone of a defense policy that was dictated not by exterior military threats but by the challenge of subduing a vast wilderness and controlling a remote and constantly shifting border. As that border moved westward and the conquest of the continent was finally achieved, the frontier army post became obsolete and ceased to exist.

This study repeatedly demonstrates that while most military posts were established for defensive reasons, they also served as a stimulus for settlement. Around a fort rallied the trader, missionary, and pioneer who were never far behind the soldier. One striking example of this process is the story of Fort Snelling. Within

thirty years the settlement that its presence encouraged had caused the frontier to pass it by. That it remained to become one of the longest-lived of the nation's regular army posts was due to its strategic location, the political influence of Minnesota's pioneers, and the fact that the war department found new functions for it to perform.

Father Prucha's welcome *Guide* is divided into five parts: (1) an interpretive introduction; (2) an alphabetical catalogue of regular army posts; (3) seven sectional maps, with fort locations, that illustrate the unfolding of the nation's frontiers and accompanying defenses; (4) a series of appendixes; and (5) a valuable bibliography on the subject. It is arranged for handy, authoritative reference and is a strikingly handsome volume.

#### THE BUSINESS OF FURS

*The Fist in the Wilderness.* By DAVID LAVENDER. (Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1964. xiv, 490 p. Maps. \$5.95.)

Reviewed by June Drenning Holmquist

THIS is a very good book. Usually the reviewer of a work on the North American fur trade is forced to say, “This is a good book, but. . .” In the case of David Lavender's study, there are no “buts.” It is that rarity in historical literature — an exceedingly well-written volume based on sound research — two qualities which all too frequently do not occur together.

Mr. Lavender's focus is on Ramsay Crooks, the talented field manager of John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company. Although he owes a “profound” debt, which he freely acknowledges, to Kenneth W. Porter's comprehensive two-volume study of Astor published in 1931, Mr. Lavender's own contributions in synthesizing and illuminating his material are considerable. By following Crooks' career, the author sharpens and defines his diffuse and sprawling topic into an eminently readable

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study of the rise of the American Fur Company.

In a concise "Prologue," Mr. Lavender tells us that "Ramsay Crooks participated in—helped guide—the entire transition of the fur trade from an instrument of history to a plain business. His was the true fist in the wilderness." He remarks that a "flanking approach" may "shed new light on our frontier history by telling the story of the American Fur Company not through the familiar Astor-eye view, but through Ramsay Crooks" who "saw what was happening when the others lost their grip."

Crooks emerges as an intelligent and indefatigable businessman. The man's energy was prodigious, his travels almost beyond belief, for, unlike Astor, Crooks roamed the country. Mr. Lavender tells us that little is known of his subject's formative years, that he was born in Scotland in 1787, entered the fur trade in 1805, appeared in St. Louis in 1807 with a boatload of furs collected on the Missouri River, crossed the continent with the Astorians in 1811 at the age of twenty-four, and became Astor's agent in 1813. While the story appropriately ends with the death of Crooks in 1859 at the age of seventy-two, little space is devoted to the years after 1834 when Crooks became president of American Fur. The principal emphasis is upon the first three decades of the nineteenth century when the company under Astor was a force in the wilderness and Crooks was the "fist" that guided it.

He is supported by a cast of colorful characters, many of them familiar to Minnesotans—the red-haired Robert Dickson, Joseph Rolette, Kenneth Mackenzie, Manuel Lisa, the Chouteaus, Robert Stuart—who operate on a stage as wide as the continent. Through the eyes of his principal character, Mr. Lavender sees the fur trade of this period as a business, and a big business at that. His view of the trade, the traders, and the Indians is an unromanticized one. And his style suits his subject—lean, forceful, shining with a jewel-like clarity, full of movement and vivid detail.

Happily, Mr. Lavender has provided the reader with bibliographic notes and specific references, indicating his intelligent use of the American Fur Company papers, and other per-

tinent collections in the Minnesota and Missouri historical societies, and elsewhere. Happily, too, his publisher has seen fit to include an adequate index, which makes the material readily accessible. The book is well printed, and the maps are both handsome and informative. Altogether, the volume is a bargain.

## DECLINING TRADE

*The Fur Trade on the Upper Missouri, 1840–1865.* By JOHN E. SUNDER. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1965. xiv, 295 p. Maps, illustrations. \$5.95.)

Reviewed by Everett W. Sterling

MINNESOTANS interested in the operations of the American Fur Company (Pierre Chouteau, Jr., and Company) on the upper Mississippi will be happy to learn that there is now available a study of the affairs of that company on the upper Missouri. The Northwestern Fur Company, incorporated by James B. Hubbell and Alpheus Hawley of Mankato, figures in the story at the very end.

The American Fur Company on the Missouri left no Henry H. Sibley or Joseph R. Brown to make the transition to territorial politics; otherwise the story is a familiar one. The often predominant influence of the American Fur Company in the conduct of Indian affairs is readily apparent. Indian agents for the upper Missouri depended upon the company "for shelter, food, transportation, protection, labourers, interpreters and in fact everything." It was not simply the close identification of the company with the Democratic party which led a Republican appointee in 1863 to describe it as "the most corrupt institution ever tolerated in our country. They have involved the government in their speculations and schemes; they have enslaved the Indians, kept them in ignorance; taken from them year after year their pitiful earnings in robes and furs, without giving them an equivalent; discouraged them in agriculture by telling them that should the white man find that their country would produce they would come in and take their lands from them. They

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break up and destroy every opposition to their trade ventures into their country, and then make up their losses by extorting from the Indians." Although one gathers that Professor Sunder feels this statement by Agent S. N. Latta is largely true, it is not the principal theme of his book. His account is a year-by-year record of the information he has been able to pull together from published and unpublished sources on the activities of fur traders on the upper Missouri.

As straight business history the account would not warrant publication. The fur business during the period described was in decline; it ranks low in significance as compared with other developments in the history of the region's economy. Professor Sunder's account finds its way into print, however, not as part of the growing series of business histories but as one in a long series of books about "The West." If this is not sufficient justification, the reader will be disappointed in what he finds in *The Fur Trade on the Upper Missouri, 1840-1865*.

## NATIVE WATERCRAFT

*The Bark Canoes and Skin Boats of North America.* By EDWIN TAPPAN ADNEY and HOWARD I. CHAPPELLE. (Washington, D.C., The Smithsonian Institution, 1954. xiv, 242 p. Illustrations. \$3.25.)

**Reviewed by Robert C. Wheeler**

FEW PERSONS are expert enough on the subject of bark canoes and skin boats to write a critical review of this unusual and extremely valuable book. As Mr. Chapelle, one of the authors, puts it: no one, including himself, bothered to do research on the topic, knowing that Edwin Adney had tackled it. In fact, through the years few persons who have been in a position to record data and make observations on such boats and canoes did so; instead, they left plenty of information on Indian customs, dress, art, and the like.

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MR. WHEELER, who is associate director of the Minnesota Historical Society, has led in organizing the society's underwater search for fur trade artifacts.

History owes a great debt to Edwin Tappan Adney, an Ohioan who devoted much of his lifetime to the study of native watercraft. In the late 1800s and the early years of the twentieth century he developed a burning interest in the subject, learning to build the birch-bark canoe from the Indians, who were quickly forgetting the art. Adney was an artist, and he recorded faithfully every detail of method and construction. Fortunately, he was also able to interview a number of retired Hudson's Bay Company factors who remembered the great fur trade cargo canoes. These men passed on their knowledge of construction and design, and Adney recorded their memories and located valuable photographs and drawings, a number of which have been reproduced as illustrations in this book.

Although Edwin Adney wrote several illustrated articles on canoes, he failed to publish the results of his lifelong research. After his death in 1950, his voluminous papers and notes, together with a hundred canoe models and countless sketches, found their way into the collections of the Mariners' Museum at Newport News, Virginia. Luckily, its director realized the importance of this rich collection and eventually succeeded in getting Howard I. Chapelle, curator of transportation in the Smithsonian Institution and an expert in ship and boat construction, to take on the Herculean task of pulling together the Adney notes for publication. There were gaps and holes which Mr. Chapelle filled in from his own knowledge of the subject.

There is no question but that the most valuable section of the book is that dealing with the fur trade canoes. Mr. Chapelle himself says this. Here Adney excelled in thoroughness, a fact which makes this volume a must for every serious student of the fur trade, and certainly for every library collection. In spite of the fact that some of the huge fur trade canoes were still in use through the middle of the nineteenth century, not one remains today. The very characteristics of the native bark canoe which contributed to its use by the white man also led to its rapid decay and disappearance. It was light and readily portaged, and yet it was able to carry heavy loads. At the same time it was fragile and easily destroyed. Indian dugouts remain, but not the early canoes.

This work covers bark and skin boats of the

eastern maritime region, central Canada, north-western Canada, and the Arctic. For \$3.25 it is one of the best book buys in years.

### TAXES ANALYZED

*Railroads, Lands, and Politics: The Taxation of the Railroad Land Grants, 1864-1897.* By LESLIE E. DECKER. (Providence, Brown University Press, 1964. 435 p. Maps. \$15.00.)

#### Reviewed by Muriel E. Hidy

FROM the important relationship of railroads and the American public, Leslie Decker has isolated a small segment for detailed study. This monograph for scholars analyzes the taxation of land grants with special reference to Kansas and Nebraska during the last third of the nineteenth century.

The author's research was both wide and intensive, his references to the limitation of material frank, and the presentation of data careful. Tables and a long appendix give much detail. Discussion on the confused land situation covers legislation, judicial decisions, government administration, and railroad policies. Not only does the author include facts and contemporary opinion but he tries to understand the past, notably in the case of the United States land office. In a calm tone he attributes to railroad leaders and agrarian crusaders alike nothing more than efforts to forward the interests of their own groups, although in some instances opinions might differ as to the reasons for the attitudes of contending parties.

No reader of this volume should fail to remember that "conveying of land to railroads was a process, not an event" and that the taxability of property was a complex affair. Land grants were not given; they had to be earned under stipulated conditions which had direct and indirect effects on taxation. Legislation was roughly drawn, changes frequent, and legal questions of title highly intricate. The forfeiture of land grants was always a threat, rights of railroad creditors were significant, the process of selecting acres was difficult, and the patenting of land tediously slow.

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MRS. HIDY is collaborating with her husband, Professor Ralph W. Hidy, upon a history of the Great Northern Railway Company.

This study of the taxes on land grants is a contribution to the dating of economic developments as well as to financial history. Based on data from 137 townships and detailed analysis of six counties, Decker's tentative conclusions reveal differences in the taxation of property in counties of Kansas and Nebraska and the proportionate share of the tax burden carried by land grants.

The book provides an example of meticulous research and is a building block for a more realistic understanding of a chapter in history too often discussed on the basis of hunches rather than of knowledge.

### CLOSE ELECTION

*Recount.* By RONALD F. STINNETT and CHARLES H. BACKSTROM. (Washington, D.C., National Document Publishers, Inc., 1964. ix, 284 p. Tables, illustrations. \$2.95.)

#### Reviewed by Millard L. Gieske

IT IS NOT OFTEN in the field of state politics and history that events of the recent past are quickly and thoroughly chronicled and analytically reported in book form. In this instance, however, authors Ronald F. Stinnett and Charles H. Backstrom have woven together the occurrences and the political operations involved in Minnesota's cliff-hanging 1962 election—the Rolvaag-Andersen deadlock—for all to read and review. Their work is a valuable contribution to the study of Minnesota politics; it should appeal to the historian, the political scientist concerned with process, and the general reader who follows public affairs.

*Recount* was begun in February, 1963, even before the ninety-two vote Democratic-Farmer-Labor victory had been finally determined. Its authors were themselves closely connected with the parties and the principals throughout the campaign. Consequently, they are able to write both from the standpoint of activists intimate with inner party processes and as trained academicians. The result is an appealing, accurate, and useful case study.

The book opens many doors to understanding election politics. It begins with an analysis of the findings of the Minnesota Polls during the incumbency of Elmer L. Andersen, reveal-



ing that never after March, 1961, did Andersen's "approval" rating go above forty-seven per cent. The authors continue to follow the pulse of public attitudes toward both candidates down to the eve of the election, and show that the closeness of the results was predictable throughout the campaign. They then review the many illusory "moments of truth" that occurred during the long election night of November 6-7.

In discussing the recount process itself, the authors bring out the generally overlooked fact that Minnesota political parties—and this would include other states as well—are unprepared and unskilled in state-wide recount procedures. In the hectic days after November 6 it became necessary for both parties to "tool up" for the postelection decision making.

The enormous scope of the task can be seen from the fact that only thirty-seven per cent of the 1,267,502 votes cast were recorded by machine. This meant that nearly 800,000 paper ballots had to be physically examined. After a first screening, some 97,000 ballots were held out for close scrutiny, and when the physical recount was completed, the number of challenged ballots had been pared down to a still unmanageable 22,000. In late January a special three-judge panel began to rule on the disputed ballots.

During the tense and hectic days from November to March, parties and leaders both maintained their equipoise and good sense. Only briefly, when they saw that they could not win, did the Republican supporters and attorneys consider attempting to throw out the recount results. But on March 22, Governor Andersen, doing what to him seemed proper and correct, announced that he would not appeal to the Minnesota Supreme Court the ninety-two vote victory which the three-judge panel had awarded Karl F. Rolvaag. Thus ended the longest election night in Minnesota history.

A central fact of the recount struggle is that during its entire course there was found "no fraud in Minnesota's election and in its system." This should be comforting to citizens in general. Other lessons from the story are that

recounts are long and expensive and that voting machines are becoming ever more a necessity to the democratic process.

The major weakness of this study—other than the somewhat unattractive appearance and format of the book—is a tendency toward excessive detail. Even this may be partially excused, since Minnesota's experience as recorded here may well be called into service as a model for procedure in future recount contests—hopefully those of other states! For readers who wish to follow with more insight and understanding the next Minnesota gubernatorial election, *Recount* will prove useful and rewarding.

### MAN FROM MINNESOTA

*Humphrey: A Candid Biography.* By WINTHROP GRIFFITH. (New York, William Morrow and Company, 1965. xii, 337 p. Illustrations. \$5.95.)

### Reviewed by G. Theodore Mitau

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, the first Minnesotan to reach the vice-presidency of the United States, is certainly no stranger to the people of this state. Still, how well do they really know and understand this enormously energetic, imaginative, and restless man—this indefatigable campaigner who led the Democratic-Farmer-Labor party for twenty years, served two terms as mayor of Minneapolis, and represented Minnesota for sixteen years in the United States Senate? Mr. Griffith's biography furnishes much valuable information about the man—his background, motivations, and convictions—about the people and influences which molded him, and about the nature of the forces and events which helped to guide his career toward national power and prominence. The author of this book, a newspaperman and former member of the Senator's staff, not only knew his boss well but appreciated his political talents, his courage, his human qualities, and his potential for greatness. While it is a friendly portrait, it is no eulogy; it seeks not to expose but to balance, not to judge with finality but to appraise. "Hubert Humphrey," writes Griffith, "is most truly a human being, both grand and imperfect. He is certainly not the demagogue or

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devil his enemies denounce, but he does have significant faults and definite limitations. He is not the superman or saint his most ardent admirers describe, but he is a good man."

The Vice-President emerges as a man in motion — always articulate, warmly empathetic, highly intelligent, possessed of a passionate love for politics, work, and people — a man who finds it somewhat difficult to be patient, reflective, and academically profound. "Six major forces beyond his own faith, will, and conviction have clearly and directly influenced Hubert Humphrey's life and political career: his father, his rural community experience, the depression, the pattern of progressive reform running from William Jennings Bryan to Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the people of Minnesota, and the institution of the United States Senate."

Having finally reached a position of great influence and power in the Senate, why then did he wish to become Vice-President, a mere "number two"? Had he not gained much personal satisfaction and national recognition as a highly successful leader in support of such historic measures as the nuclear test ban treaty, the food for peace program, the Peace Corps, and the civil rights act of 1964? Griffith suggests three reasons: a sense of duty, an urge to strengthen "a high and honorable public office which has been neglected and mocked," and, the major reason, "the . . . unrelenting ambition of a national politician to become President of the United States."

Whether, and how well, the exuberant and energetic Mr. Humphrey can adjust to this historically frustrating office and to the powerful and demanding man whom he must please remains to be seen. Would the Vice-President make a good President? Griffith suggests that "Humphrey would be an unusual President, would probably be a good President, and might — if national and international circumstances sufficiently challenged him — be marked by history as a great President."

That Minnesota's adopted son would very much like to be president some day cannot be in doubt.

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## INDIAN ARTIST

FASCINATING and colorful drawings by a Plains Indian are presented in *A Cheyenne Sketchbook* by Cohoe, which includes an informative commentary by E. Adamson Hoebel and Karen Daniels Petersen (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1964. 96 p. \$5.95.). Through the medium of his drawings Cohoe tells portions of the story of seventy-two warriors from tribes of the southern Great Plains who were confined as prisoners of war at Fort Marion, Florida, from 1875 to 1878. Forcibly removed from his native region and a roving, active life, Cohoe sketched both remembered events and scenes from his new surroundings. The three motifs which pervade the selections presented in this volume are hunting, rituals, and the Indian adaptation to life as prisoners in Florida. The twelve scenes shown include: "Pronghorns and Turkeys," "The Elk Hunt," "Buffalo," "Flaying the Buffalo," "The Sun Dance," "Wolf Soldiers," "The Honoring," "The Feast," "The Osage Dancers," "Anastasia Island," "Water Buffalo" [shark], and "War Dance at Fort Marion." A list of other known drawings made by fellow prisoners is supplied in an appendix. Both as a personal document of Cohoe and as an insight into the adaptation of the unfortunate Cheyenne to captivity in a hostile land, this book is a valuable contribution.

Alan R. Woolworth

## PRESIDENTIAL OBSERVER

AN ATTRACTIVE new book, *Lincoln's Secretary Goes West: Two Reports by John G. Nicolay on Frontier Indian Troubles 1862* (La Crosse, Wisconsin, Sumac Press, 1965. 69 p. \$3.00), reprints two articles written by the presidential secretary following his trip to Minnesota to observe and assist in the negotiation of a land-cession treaty with the Pembina and Red Lake bands of Chippewa. Edited by Theodore C. Blegen, the book contains Nicolay's characterization of Chief Hole-in-the-Day and describes the part he played in the council held at Crow Wing in September, 1862; the second essay presents his little-known analysis of the causes of the Sioux Uprising. Mr. Blegen's introduction and annotation provide helpful background. The book is available from the Minnesota Historical Society. M.D.N.

## . . . on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

CHRISTOPHER C. ANDREWS, who spent much of his life in Minnesota, is the subject of an article by Evadene Burris Swanson in the January issue of the *Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly*. Under the title "A New Hampshire Yankee in King Oscar's Court," Mrs. Swanson examines the role Andrews played from 1869 to 1877 as minister to Sweden and Norway during the period of heavy emigration from Scandinavia to the Midwestern states. In addition to his "vigilance in presenting the United States in a favorable way for encouraging settlement," Andrews found time, according to the author, to study the Swedish concepts of conservation, particularly in relation to forest resources. Upon returning to Minnesota he "chose this area as his field of concentration" and is consequently "remembered in American history more for his devotion to American forestry than his interest in the Swedish emigrant."

THE CAREER of a Russian emigrant to the United States who became a leading figure in the exchange of agricultural information between the two countries is described in the July, 1964, issue of *Agricultural History* under the title "Joseph A. Rosen and Early Russian Studies of American Agriculture." Dana G. Dalrymple, the author of the article, tells how Rosen spent the years 1908-14 in Minneapolis as head of "a bureau to study American farming methods with a view to their introduction in Russia." The work was sponsored by a provincial government in Rosen's native Ukraine and, Mr. Dalrymple points out, foreshadowed later interest by Soviet agricultural experts in the farming methods of the upper Midwest. The article lists ten reports written by Rosen during his stay in Minnesota, all but two of which are now thought to be unavailable outside the Lenin Library in Moscow. Despite their rarity, Mr. Dalrymple maintains that the reports represent "craftsmanship of a very high order" and were influential in several aspects of Russian agriculture. He goes on to summarize Rosen's later career with the Jewish Joint Distribution Service and adds a postscript which demonstrates that the cultural exchange initiated by Rosen worked both ways: A pound of "pedigreed Russian rye" presented by the Ukrainian emigrant to the Michigan Agricultural College in 1909 proved so successful in America that it "soon became the standard rye for the Corn Belt."

SOCIAL CRITICISM in a period of transition is the subject of a book by Frederic Cople Jaher entitled *Doubters and Dissenters: Cataclysmic Thought in America, 1885-1918* (New York, 1964. 275 p.). According to Mr. Jaher, Minnesota's Ignatius Donnelly is one of the six prototypes whose "thinking offers a vital vantage point" from which to study the era. The others are Homer Lea, Mary Elizabeth Lease, Brooks and Henry Adams, and Jack London. In his chapters on Donnelly and Mrs. Lease, Mr. Jaher steps squarely into the middle of the current debate over the nature of Populism. A brief but perceptive biographical sketch of Donnelly is followed by a searching examination of the Minnesotan's alleged anti-Semitism as reflected in the novel, *Caesar's Column*, written in 1890. He concludes that Donnelly's attitude is "full of Jew-baiting on the one hand, but, on the other, it reflects dissatisfaction with the easy epithets of anti-Semitism" and sees the Jews as "victims of a pernicious system." Regarding the Populist movement as a whole, Mr. Jaher finds that "hatred of Jews was neither a Populist obsession nor part of its basic ideology."

"LONG BEFORE Charleston batteries fired upon Fort Sumter . . . many Midwestern conservatives had learned to hate abolition and abolitionists," says Frank L. Klement in an article examining "Midwestern Opposition to Lincoln's Emancipation Policy" for the *Journal of Negro History* (July, 1964). Pointing out that antiabolition sentiment was linked with anti-New England feeling, Mr. Klement describes the appeal this opposition had for Irish, German, and southern emigrant groups who "cursed the abolitionists and voted the straight Democratic ticket." The article is based in large part on research in newspaper editorials of the time. Regional journals cited include a number from Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois, while Minnesota is represented by editorial opinions from Chatfield, Faribault, St. Cloud, and Hastings.

EARL SPANGLER, whose book on *The Negro in Minnesota* was reviewed in this magazine for June, 1962, has compiled a *Bibliography of Negro History* (Minneapolis, 1963. 101 p.). The book is divided into two sections: Part A is a general bibliography selected to provide "the researcher and scholar with an adequate list . . . to give him a start into general Negro history." It contains

sixty-two entries. Part B includes items pertaining to the Negro in Minnesota, such as pamphlets, articles, public documents, Negro newspapers, clipping collections, and unpublished materials. A title and a subject index are included.

WILLIAM J. STEWART, whose article on the sale of the Sioux reserve appeared in the Fall, 1964, issue of this magazine, is the author of "Speculation and Nebraska's Public Domain 1863-1872," published in *Nebraska History* for September, 1964. Pointing out that speculative activity in the Cornhusker State reached a peak as late as 1870, the article indicates that land monopolization resulted in "economic stultification" and that the "debilitating problem of landlordism . . . was intimately linked to the speculative entryman."

TWO RECENT articles consider some aspects of Indian reservations on the northern plains. The March, 1964, issue of *Nebraska History* contains Roy W. Meyer's examination of the aftermath of the 1862 Sioux Uprising in "The Establishment of the Santee Reservation, 1866-1869." In this solidly documented article Mr. Meyer describes the transfer of the exiled Minnesota Sioux from Crow Creek in South Dakota to land at the mouth of the Niobrara River in Nebraska. He then follows in detail the events of the three years which saw the establishment of the reservation on a permanent basis and brought it to "the threshold of its later importance as a center of civilization among the Sioux." A more inclusive view of "The Indian Reservation System on the North Central Plains" is considered by Everett W. Sterling in the April, 1964, issue of *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*. While admitting the iniquities and abuses of the system, Mr. Sterling points out that "Ideally, reservations were to be a transitional stage." They offered a "third alternative" to "miraculously sudden acculturation or a bloody, last-ditch struggle." Many of his examples of how the reservations actually served this function are drawn from the experiences of the Minnesota Sioux, and the names of Gabriel Renville, Chaska, Joseph R. Brown, Clark Thompson, and other Minnesotans figure prominently in the account.

FROM the Brooklyn Museum comes the *Art of the Eastern Plains Indians* (1964. 67 p.), a booklet compiled by Norman Feder, which describes the Nathan Sturges Jarvis Collection held by that museum. According to Mr. Feder, Jarvis, a New York doctor who became a surgeon in the United States Army, spent the

years from 1833 to 1836 at Fort Snelling, where he had ample opportunity to observe the Indians whom he treated. He "probably obtained the larger portion of his collection as gifts from the Indians, or as payment for medical services from both Indians and white traders." In addition to notes on the collection and a catalogue of its seventy-nine articles, the pamphlet contains a brief biographical sketch of Jarvis and a section on the Sioux. Illustrations include ten paintings by Peter Rindisbacher and two by George Catlin as well as numerous photographs of items from the collection.

A VIVID PICTURE of *The West of William H. Ashley* is presented in a volume edited by Dale L. Morgan and luxuriously produced by the Old West Publishing Company (Denver, Colorado, 1964. 341 p.). Divided into two sections called "The Bloody Missouri" and "Beyond the Continental Divide," the book is a collection of excerpts from diaries, newspaper reports, account books, and official records which shed light not only on Ashley and his mountain men but on the struggle for supremacy in the fur trade of the Missouri, the Rockies, and the Columbia from 1822 to 1838. The work is fully annotated and is illustrated with maps of the period, facsimiles of letters, thirteen line drawings by George Catlin, and two water colors by Charles Bodmer.

JOHN C. LUTTIG'S *Journal of a Fur-Trading Expedition on the Upper Missouri, 1812-1813*, edited by Stella M. Drumm and first published by the Missouri Historical Society in 1920, has been reprinted (New York, 1964. 213 p.). A preface, some corrections, and a supplementary appendix, all provided by Abraham P. Nasatir, give further data about the author as well as primary materials relating to the Missouri Fur Company. A copy of "Prince Maximilian's Map of Travels in the Interior of North America, 1832-1834," published in London in 1843, is inserted at the back of the book.

TWO RECENT publications point up the contributions of Minnesotans to the early settlement of Montana. "The Diary of Wilson Barber Harlan," edited by his grandson Gilbert Drake Harlan, appears in three installments in the *Journal of the West* (April, July, October, 1964) and describes the experiences of the young Minnesota Civil War veteran who traveled by wagon train to the Montana gold fields in 1866. Of particular interest to readers of Minnesota's history is the first section, which



presents Harlan's day-by-day diary, recording his trip across the northern plains as a member of the fourth emigrant expedition led by James L. Fisk (incorrectly identified as Robert Fisk) from Minnesota to the Rocky Mountains. The latter two sections tell of the diarist's adventures as a prospector and farmer in Montana. The Home Building and Loan Association of Helena has published an early-day photographic history of that city in connection with Montana's centennial year. *Historic Helena* (1964. n.p.) includes mention of more than a dozen Helena pioneers who crossed the plains from Minnesota with the northern overland expeditions. Most prominent among them is Nathaniel P. Langford, who, following a distinguished career in the West, returned to Minnesota and served as president of the historical society for several years after the turn of the century. A.H.

DEVOTEES of western historical literature will no doubt enjoy the debunking of supposedly authentic history by Ramon F. Adams in *Burs under the Saddle: A Second Look at Books and Histories of the West* (Norman, Oklahoma, 1964. 610 p.). The author limits himself to a consideration of books about outlaws and gunmen. Among these the Younger and James brothers and the legends that have accumulated around the Northfield bank robbery of 1876 will have special interest for Minnesotans. Over four hundred works concerning western bad men are examined in alphabetical order by author. The reader seeking accounts of some particular scoundrel may locate him by consulting the index of names and places.

WALKER D. WYMAN discusses five areas of folk belief in the December, 1964, issue of *Nebraska History* under the title "Water-Witching, Body-Finding, and Grassroots Lore on the Midwest Frontier." The sprightly article is adapted from an address given by Mr. Wyman at the annual meeting of the Nebraska State Historical Society in September, 1964. Especially interesting to Minnesotans is the story of "Fisherman John" — John Jeremy, the body-finder of Stillwater who, says Mr. Wyman, claimed to have learned from the Sioux how to find the bodies of drowned persons. Jeremy's secret was passed on for three generations, and the author submits "that it stands as the most authentic piece of lore in the Midwest." Other subjects considered are the "evil eye," *stragés* (witches), water-witching, and nationality foods. Most of Mr. Wyman's examples are drawn from northwestern Wisconsin and the St. Croix Valley.

SCATTERED REFERENCES to such Minnesota archaeological sites as Browns Valley, Blackduck Lake, and Laurel occur in several of the papers included in *Prehistoric Man in the New World*, edited by Jesse D. Jennings and Edward Norbeck (Chicago, 1964. 633 p.). The volume, which is the result of a symposium held at Rice University in 1962, contains a general overview of recent studies and discoveries in the field of New World archaeology. Of most interest to Minnesota readers are essays on "The Great Plains" by Waldo R. Wedel and "The Northeast Woodlands Area" by James B. Griffin. In the latter, Mr. Griffin cites the "remarkable similarity" between pottery of the Laurel complex uncovered on the Rainy River and that found at Point Peninsula in northern New York State. He concludes that "this east-west cultural continuum represents another example of the effect of the Great Lakes on the transmission of cultural practices."

"A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLING" of archaeological findings has been compiled by Eugene T. Petersen in a booklet entitled *Gentlemen on the Frontier: A Pictorial Record of the Culture of Michilimackinac* (Mackinac Island, Michigan, 1964. 66 p.). The brief text is enhanced by pertinent quotations that apply directly to Fort Michilimackinac. Photographs taken by the author of artifacts that have been excavated since 1959 by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission are interspersed with eighteenth-century engravings and woodcuts relating to the original use of the items. The result is an intriguing glimpse of daily life at the fort as mutely yet vividly revealed by the fragmentary and corroded objects the earth has yielded up.

THE GREAT LAKES Commission has published the *Proceedings of the Institute on the St. Lawrence Seaway* (Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1964. 44 p.) containing nine papers which were presented at its meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio, in March, 1964. Facts and figures concerning the first five years of seaway operation are reviewed. Changes in the iron ore and steel industries — such as taconite production increases and foreign competition — are discussed; the rise in volume of grain transportation with its effect on domestic freight rates is examined; the lack of impetus to Great Lakes shipbuilding, on the one hand, and the growth of lake port activity in direct overseas trade, on the other, are considered; and figures showing the use of the seaway for government cargo during the period are presented.

THE STORY of "The Duluth, South Shore, and Atlantic Railway Company" is told by Aurele A. Durocher in Number 111 of the *Bulletins* published by the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society (October, 1964). Written primarily for railroad buffs, the article traces the history of early lines on Michigan's Upper Peninsula which preceded the organization of the Duluth, South Shore, and Atlantic in 1886. It then tells how the latter road prospered for nearly three-quarters of a century by transporting iron ore but failed to fulfill its founders' dreams of a "great south shore road" which would become "a main artery between East and West by diverting substantial traffic away from roads running from Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Chicago." Numerous photographs accompany the text, and information on each locomotive run by the company and its predecessors is given.

THE FLOW of books about F. Scott Fitzgerald continues unabated. K. G. W. Cross has written *F. Scott Fitzgerald* (New York, 1964. 120 p.), which gives a brief account of the author's life, surveys his work in some detail, and contains a bibliography and an appraisal of the criticism published to date. The book is the twenty-fifth in the *Evergreen Pilot Books* series. Less general is *F. Scott Fitzgerald: His Art and His Technique*, by James E. Miller, Jr. (New York, 1964. 173 p.). This work is an expansion of Mr. Miller's earlier one, *The Fictional Technique of Scott Fitzgerald* (1957), which concentrated on the jazz-age author's first three novels. The new chapters in the present work consider the last books of the Minnesotan which "tell us something of the art that, years before, had gone into *The Great Gatsby*, and they tell us a good deal about the mastery of his craft that Fitzgerald had finally achieved—in spite of the years of waste, after all the years of labor."

THE HISTORY of an idea and its implementation is the subject of Tyrone Guthrie's book, *A New Theatre* (New York, 1964. 188 p.). This lively narrative traces the growth of the Twin City repertory theater from a "planning breakfast" in New York in 1959 through its opening season in 1963 and serves also as a vehicle for a good many of the author's personal convictions. One chapter is devoted to the selection of the Twin Cities over six other interested communities as the setting for the project. A number of photographs and two architect's drawings of the theater building accompany the text.

## THE MINNESOTA SCENE

A NEW textbook for the sixth grade, entitled *Our Minnesota*, has been published (Syracuse, New York, and Chicago, Illinois, 1964. 378 p.). The authors are Percie V. Hillbrand, formerly the elementary supervisor of the Minnesota department of education, and James W. Clark, a past director of the Minnesota department of business development as well as the author and coauthor of several textbooks about the state. The subtitle describes the book as a "geography and history of Minnesota against a background of national and international events." More than other recent school texts on the subject, this one presents material about the Old World roots of present-day life. The authors describe the beginnings of civilization in ancient Greece and Rome, tracing their development through the Middle Ages to the Europe of modern times, which was the home of so many of Minnesota's pioneer citizens. This sequence forms the background for a discussion of the geology and natural resources of the region and for the exploration, settlement, and growth of the thirty-second state as a member of the Union. The book is well illustrated, with a liberal use of color, and includes a number of useful charts and tables giving facts about Minnesota. Miss Hillbrand has written a teacher's manual to accompany the volume.

EXCERPTS FROM some sixty-four letters, most of them written by a corporal in the Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, have been privately printed under the title *Letters of Bernt Olmanson, A Union Soldier in the Civil War, 1861-1865* (n.p., n.d.). They have been compiled and translated from Norwegian by his son, Albert Olmanson of St. Peter, who has also supplied a brief sketch of his father's life. Written to a business partner near St. Peter, the letters reflect Olmanson's experiences with the Second Minnesota from the time he left Fort Snelling in October, 1861, to July 5, 1865.

THE CONTINUING story of Staples, which was first told in commemoration of the golden anniversary of the Todd County community in 1939, has been revised and expanded by Ruth G. Ewing in a booklet entitled *Staples, Minnesota: 75th Anniversary Celebration* (1964. 56 p.). Sponsored by the local civic and commerce association, the publication adds the last twenty-five years of history, drawing largely on newspaper accounts, but also making use of verbal reports from townspeople. Local efforts during World War II, postwar readjustments, and Korean War activities are re-

counted, while the last decade is considered in terms of the town's decline as a railroad center and the emergence of light industry together with a vigorous program of manpower training centered around the Staples Area Vocational School.

"BROOK PARK before there was a Brook Park" is described by Dr. C. C. Kelsey in two reminiscent articles which appear in the *Hinckley News* for October 1 and 8, 1964. This first-hand account of the author's trip as a boy in 1893 by horse-drawn wagon from New Brighton takes the reader through Wyoming, North Branch, Pine City, and finally to Brook Park—a "name on the Great Northern Railroad map." The articles depict in some detail a now-vanished lumber camp and a dam "in as perfect condition as if it had been left only the day before," situated on Pokegama Creek in Pine County southwest of Hinckley.

#### NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

FOR HIS biographical study of "Aaron Goodrich: Stormy Petrel of the Territorial Bench," published in the Winter, 1964, issue of *Minnesota History*, Robert C. Voight, professor of history in Wisconsin State University at La Crosse received the society's Solon J. Buck Award for 1964. The award, which carries with it a prize of a hundred dollars, is given each year to the author of the best article appearing in the society's quarterly. The winner for 1964 was selected by a committee consisting of J. Huntley Dupre, dean emeritus of Macalester College, William E. Lass, associate professor of history in Mankato State College, and Rhoda R. Gilman, editor of the quarterly. Dean Dupre presented the award at the society's annual meeting in Minneapolis on May 6.

THE SOCIETY has assisted the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Resources Commission in the preparation of three extensive studies of Minnesota's historic and archaeological sites. The results were published recently by the commission under the titles *An Historic Sites Program for Minnesota* (Report No. 2—94 p., xxiii), *An Archaeology Program for Minnesota* (Report No. 5—31 p., x), and *Fort Snelling* (Report No. 15—111 p., xxv). The first of these contains an inventory of 79 historic sites considered to be of national or state-wide significance as well as lists of 23 existing state monuments and 109 state markers. The study outlines the responsibilities of local, state, and federal agencies in the field of historic sites, gives the texts of pertinent laws, discusses

methods of financing, and recommends a program of marking, reconstruction, restoration, publication, and development of specified sites to be carried out over a ten-year period with a suggested budget totaling \$1,894,454. Similar information and a program for the state's archaeological sites may be found in the second report, which lists known prehistoric sites in the state and outlines a ten-year program of excavation and development with a recommended budget of \$29,000 per year. The third report contains useful historical information on old Fort Snelling with special emphasis on its buildings, a list of the historic sites within the proposed park area, an outline of the importance of the post, and recommendations for the area's development and the restoration of the fort as a historical park. J.D.H.

A PICTURE CAPTION on page 200 of this magazine's Spring issue mistakenly referred to Henry Lewis as a "German artist." The error was not a new one, for it seems that even during his lifetime Lewis was plagued by confusion over his nationality. In a letter written in 1902 he sought to correct a similar misstatement which had appeared in an Iowa newspaper. "I am not a German but an American citizen," he wrote indignantly. "My Father was an Englishman and emigrated to the States in 1829 when I was some 10 years of Age. He at once took the necessary papers and became a citizen of the U. States. I being at the time under age shar'd the benefit [sic] also and became a Citizen . . . and have always been known as an American Artist. As to my English having a decided German accent that is some thing quite startling." Lewis enclosed a copy of this protest in a letter to Warren Upham, secretary of the Minnesota Historical Society, and it found its way into the society's archives. The persistent misunderstandings concerning his nationality are not surprising, for about the year 1853 Lewis settled in Düsseldorf, where he spent the remainder of his long life. Moreover, the work for which he is chiefly remembered, *Das illustrierte Mississippithal* (1854-58), has survived in complete form only in a German edition, although Lewis wrote the manuscript in English and planned also to have it printed in that language before the inopportune failure of his publisher. An English edition of the book, translated by A. Hermina Poatgieter with annotations and an introduction supplied by Bertha L. Heilbron, is currently being prepared under grants from the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia and the Modern Medicine Foundation of Minneapolis. It will be published by the Minnesota Historical Society.



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