



AT LEFT is the engraved silver trowel Ramsey (see arrow below) used in his last public act, the laying of the corner-stone for the present State Capitol. The ceremony, which took place on July 27, 1898, drew a crowd of some 10,000 people.



BOOK REVIEWS

Minnesota Geographic Names: Their Origin and Historic Significance. By Warren Upham.

(St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, Reprint Edition, 1969. xxiv, 788 p. \$10.50.)

THE REAPPEARANCE of Upham's indispensable volume of Minnesota place names is nicely timed for the fiftieth anniversary of its original publication in 1920 as Volume 17 of the *Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society*. Librarians who have had to nurse a battered, patched, and mended copy — or do without a copy — will be pleased with the fresh look and sturdy binding of the new edition as well as its new material, of which there is sufficient to justify replacing even a good copy of the 1920 edition.

And users will continue to be thankful for Upham's text, which is reprinted unchanged. Most of his work consists of a careful backgrounding of the names of the townships,

villages, cities, lakes, and streams of Minnesota's eighty-seven counties as well as of the county names themselves. Each county is given a chapter except for Beltrami and Lake of the Woods, which are combined in one chapter (the latter was still a part of Beltrami when Upham wrote).

James Taylor Dunn, the society's chief librarian, contributes an engaging and valuable introduction. It includes a five-page list of corrections and expansions of the original text, based on Upham's own annotated copy of the 1920 edition and supplemented by the work of later historians. It also contains an interesting account of Minnesota's famous nickname — "Land of Ten Thousand Lakes" — from its use by Henry R. Schoolcraft in 1851 down to its present status as a firmly-entrenched understatement.

The first of two important appendixes to the present edition lists 172 Minnesota communities incorporated since

1920, with county and date of incorporation. Nearly two-thirds of these bear names already noted by Upham in the body of the book. The second supplement lists the 1,167 official decisions on Minnesota place names made by the United States and Minnesota geographic boards from 1890 to July 1, 1969. St. Paul, for example, received an early sanction by the United States board as "ST. PAUL . . . Not: Pig's Eye, St. Paul's Landing, St. Paul's."

It is a matter for mild regret that a present-day "dedicated collector of minutiae" was not found to supplement and update the fifty-year-old chapters on the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth. In St. Paul, for instance, there have been numerous changes in street names, most of them made during the late 1930s in a systematic effort to regularize the pattern of streets. Some sixty to seventy of the names identified by Upham have disappeared — some in the process described above, others under the spreading web of freeway construction.

Many of the commemorative street names were chosen by the original landowners as a tribute to family and friends. Charles, Edmund, Thomas, Hazel, Ruth, and Maria — these can mean little more to us than empty picture frames in a gallery without the patient work of an Upham. As for the monumental street names — those elongated tombstones erected to public men by the city fathers — the earlier ones are covered in this book; but where will librarians and students of the next half-century turn to find Kellogg, Warner, Shepard, Schroeder, and Rosen?

Reviewed by ROBERT E. HOAG, *reference librarian of the St. Paul Public Library.*

***Men on the Moving Frontier.* By Roger G. Kennedy.**
(Palo Alto, American West Publishing Company, 1969.
193 p. Illustrations, maps. \$5.95.)

THE "MOVING FRONTIER" of this study is not to be likened to the traditional shifting frontier of American history. For Mr. Kennedy's purposes, the moving frontier is the transition of the Upper Mississippi drainage area from an unexplored wilderness to a highly "socialized" civilization. With this contrived definition, Mr. Kennedy is able, within his study, to encompass men as diverse in time and activities as Giacomo Constantino Beltrami and F. Scott Fitzgerald. While eschewing any intention of writing history, the author proceeds to write historical sketches of ten men who had great impact on the Upper Mississippi region, men whose lives illustrated what the author chooses to call "a triumph of character over circumstance."

Through the ten sketches Mr. Kennedy intends to show what he regards as two dominant themes — romanticism and realism — that ran through the continuum of the moving frontier. He does this by pairing explorers Beltrami and Stephen H. Long, frontier politicians Henry Hastings Sibley and Alexander Ramsey, architects Harvey Ellis and Daniel H. Burnham, post-frontier politicians Ignatius Donnelly and Frank Billings Kellogg, and, lastly, architect William Gray Purcell and writer F. Scott Fitzgerald.

It is not particularly revealing that frontier areas had good guys and bad guys, but even the specialized students of romanticism and realism will be amazed by Mr. Kennedy's insistence that on the moving frontier the romanticists were consistently good and the realists invariably bad. This unwillingness to show more than one side of an individual is the major fault of Mr. Kennedy's book. For example, he portrays Sibley as a romanticist who pleaded for just treatment of the Indians and generally ignores Sibley's attitudes as an Indian fighter and practical politician. Sibley's actions as the leader of the traders at the treaty of Traverse des Sioux are excused by Mr. Kennedy because, he writes, Sibley was later "ashamed" of his role. Ramsey, however, is cuttingly described as a heartless exploiter, and Mr. Kennedy, ignoring the presence of co-commissioner Luke Lea at the treaty negotiations, castigates the young territorial governor for having "presided over the whole affair."

This glossing over of the shortcomings of the romanticists and the overstressing of the deficiencies of the realists are apparent in other sketches, particularly those of Beltrami/Long and Donnelly/Kellogg.

If one assumes that any reinterpretation of history should research comprehensively and judge objectively, Mr. Kennedy has failed in both respects. Only the very bold would dare to reinterpret Beltrami with scarcely more than the explorer's own writings as evidence, and how many would care to analyze Long's nature, even to a small degree, on the basis of portraits. Some of Mr. Kennedy's judgments are meant as challenges to what he calls the "establishment" historians, such as William Watts Folwell. It is noteworthy that while Mr. Kennedy uses much of Folwell's information when it suits his purposes, he decries the "establishment view" of Beltrami, Ramsey, Donnelly, and others.

Each reader will have to assign a value to the book himself. If he is seeking entertainment, he will find it, for the style is lively and engaging. If, on the other hand, the reader expects a meaningful reinterpretation of the role of some of the key men in Minnesota history, he will be disappointed, because he cannot help rejecting conclusions based on such inadequate research. He will also be offended by Mr. Kennedy's many minor factual errors.

Reviewed by WILLIAM E. LASS, *professor of history at Mankato State College and director of research of the Southern Minnesota Historical Center in Mankato.*

***American Nuncio: Cardinal Aloisius Muench.* By Colman J. Barry.**

(Collegeville, Saint John's University Press, 1969. xii, 379 p. Illustrations. Cloth \$5.95).

FATHER COLMAN BARRY weaves together a wealth of materials in detailing the background for and in telling the life story of Cardinal Aloisius Muench. His ability to blend the backdrop and the man makes this study much more than a biography. The account ranges from Muench's youth in Milwaukee and sojourn as a student in Europe to his many-faceted career as rector of Saint Francis Seminary,

bishop of the agriculturally based and economically depressed diocese of Fargo, North Dakota, papal nuncio in war-ravished and then prosperous Germany, and finally cardinal in the Roman Curia.

The study gradually develops a sympathetic but real portrayal of a very versatile, humane man. Cardinal Muench emerges as a man with a profound sense of pastoral mission, who was deeply interested in scholarship and open to new ideas. As a young priest he was an early challenger of the New Deal critic, Father Charles E. Coughlin, a priest who had a wide following including many German-American Catholics. When moved from his urban German Catholic working-class home area to the plains of North Dakota, the new bishop readily adjusted to his agrarian flock. Bishop Muench's ability to listen, learn, and adapt was again evident during his many productive years as nuncio in Germany (1946 to 1959). Only during his last years as cardinal in the papal curia did Muench seem out of place.

Father Barry's study should be of interest not only to students of American Catholicism. Cogent insights can be garnered into Catholic history, ranging from the all-too-often narrow ghetto mentality, and if not anti-intellectual certainly nonintellectual posture of many American Catholics, to the coming of liturgical change and church renewal. The student of ethnic history will find brief but valuable information, such as "the family was closely knit and their social life centered around their home, Saint Boniface parish and their relatives and friends among the German immigrants in the north side of the city."

Most of the study is appropriately devoted to Bishop Muench's years in Germany. The expected areas of relief and religious concern are covered. But the reader will also find ample discussion of the rise of Hitler, the American occupation, the restoration of self-rule and prosperity, and the war crime trials. The German people found a friend in Bishop Muench in time of great difficulty as well as in prosperity.

One minor oversight needs to be pointed out. On page three it is stated that in 1890 three-fourths of Wisconsin's population was foreign-born. The phrase should be foreign-born parentage, a term which includes immigrants and their American-born children.

Reviewed by JOHN C. MASSMANN, *whose doctoral dissertation was on German immigration to Minnesota from 1850 to 1890. He is professor of history at St. Cloud State College.*

***Prairie Farmer and WLS: The Burrige D. Butler Years.* By James F. Evans.**

(Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1969. 329 p. Illustrations. \$8.50.)

THOSE WHOSE MEMORIES go back to the radio years will recall the popular barn dance program on station WLS, Chicago. Few will connect it with the farm magazine *Prairie Farmer*. Yet the same man, Burrige D. Butler, was responsible for the popularity of both magazine and radio station.

Butler started out as a newspaperman in 1886, at the

age of seventeen. After work on newspapers in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he moved to Chicago where he learned journalism from E. W. Scripps. Following a stint in Omaha, Nebraska, Butler moved to St. Paul and worked on the old *Daily News*. In 1903 he transferred to Minneapolis and started the *Minneapolis Daily News*, which we ancient ones will recall reading in the 1920s.

After some experience with farm papers Butler acquired the ailing *Prairie Farmer* in 1908. He immediately made the magazine a defender of the farmers' interests by cleansing it of the gyp advertisements of those who preyed on rural people, by carrying on endless crusades on behalf of the farmers' ills, and by proffering advice for the improvement of agriculture and rural folk. This policy may have been of benefit to the rural community; certainly it popularized the *Prairie Farmer* and made money for the owner.

Impulsive, arrogant, ruthless, and at times a bully, Butler could be generous and kindly in a paternalistic way. He comes alive in these pages, a tribute to the author's use of interviews and writing skill. Not a great man, Butler represents the transition period between a rural America and the urban world of today. Perhaps the transition was symbolized by his early ownership of a farm magazine and his later ownership of a radio station. Both sought a rural audience, one by eye and the other by ear.

Reviewed by RODNEY C. LOEHR, *professor of history at the University of Minnesota.*

***John A. Johnson: An Uncommon American.* By Agnes M. Larson.**

(Northfield, Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1969. viii, 312 p. Illustrations. \$6.50.)

THE "UNCOMMON AMERICAN" of this biography is not the famous Minnesota governor but a Norwegian immigrant who rose from obscurity to become a successful Madison, Wisconsin, industrialist. Since Johnson, whose life span extended from 1832 to 1901, was also a practicing Norwegian-American, the book gives scope to two of Agnes M. Larson's main interests: economic-business history (twenty years ago the University of Minnesota Press published her *History of the White Pine Industry in Minnesota*) and Scandinavian-American. Both concerns are competently handled. Devotees of business history as well as ethnic studies undoubtedly will regard the work as a valuable contribution to their fields.

Unfortunately Miss Larson did not live to see the book published. Afflicted with a painful illness, she substantially completed the manuscript shortly before her death in January, 1967, an impressive achievement given the state of her health. Preparation of the work for publication was supervised by Kenneth O. Bjork, the Norwegian-American Historical Association's editor and Miss Larson's long-time colleague at St. Olaf College. Research grants and other assistance from the Gisholt Company's John A. Johnson Foundation of Madison, Wisconsin, facilitated the project.

In terms of the "rags to riches" model, the career of

Johnson is a realization of the American dream. When the Skibsnæs family, consisting of John's parents, three brothers, and an infant sister, emigrated from Telemark, Norway, to the United States in 1844, its assets consisted solely of a dogged determination to succeed, familial solidarity, a set of values based on the work ethic, and the basic skills required for survival in a frontier society. Financing the journey from Scandinavia to Wisconsin entirely depleted a slender family treasury.

From this base Johnson, whose initial advantages did not include college training, made his way in the New World. Successively he taught elementary school, farmed, engaged in Republican politics, zealously backed the Union cause during the Civil War (in a civilian capacity), sold farm machinery throughout the Upper Midwest, and participated in the organization and management of several business enterprises. At first full-time involvement in politics seemed a likely prospect, but Johnson ultimately chose business as his major preoccupation, devoting most of his energy during the last two decades of his life to the Fuller Johnson Company, a farm implement manufacturing corpo-

ration, and the Gisholt Company, a machine tool enterprise. Miss Larson skillfully chronicles the early history of both firms.

On the delicate issue of immigrant adjustment to American society, Johnson was a pronounced assimilationist rather than a separatist. Although he worked for the establishment of Scandinavian studies at the University of Wisconsin, supported the Norwegian-language press, and articulated the concept that Norse culture had something to contribute to the American melting pot, he nevertheless insisted that his fellow immigrants should "Americanize" as rapidly as possible, a stance reinforced by his own example, and one that did not endear him to all sectors of the Norwegian-American community. In commenting on the latter response, Miss Larson remarks: "He was wiser than they," adding, "Time was on his side as the history of Scandinavians in the United States was to show in the half century after his death."

Reviewed by CARL C. CHRISLOCK, professor of history at Augsburg College in Minneapolis and a frequent contributor to this magazine.

news & notes

THE EARL OF SOUTHESK'S *Saskatchewan and the Rocky Mountains*, first published fifteen years after he journeyed for sport and health through Hudson's Bay Company territory to the Rockies and back in 1859-60, is available in a new edition (Rutland, Vermont, Charles E. Tuttle, 1969. xxviii, 448 p. \$5.00). The young Scottish nobleman traveled from Montreal to Fort Garry by way of St. Paul in the company of Sir George Simpson, the fur firm's long-time governor-in-chief who was using "this rather recently developed Minnesota route" for the first time.

Southesk found the Fuller House in St. Paul "an immense but not uncomfortable hotel of the regular American type" and Minnehaha Falls "pretty, but no more; it would have little interest were it not associated with Hiawatha's story." At Fort Garry Southesk saw the "Ans Northup," first steamboat to navigate the Red River from Minnesota. During his return trip across Minnesota, the earl stayed at an inn in Crow Wing, where he saw the "once great chief of the Ojibways, 'Hole-in-the-Day,' reeling about in a state of contemptible drunkenness." L. G. Thomas, professor of history at the

University of Alberta, Edmonton, has written an able introduction for the new edition.

IN THE TWENTY-SIXTH volume of its lengthening series, the Hudson's Bay Record Society ventures for the first time along the northern and southern branches of the Saskatchewan River at the end of the eighteenth century. Ably edited and "introduced" by Alice M. Johnson, retired archivist of the Hudson's Bay Company, *Saskatchewan Journals and Correspondence: Edmonton House 1795-1800, Chesterfield House 1800-1802* (London, 1967. cii, 368 p.) deals with the company's difficult efforts to expand farther inland in the face of increased competition from the North West Company and other traders. In spite of their growing rivalry, the traders apparently co-operated with each other to combat Indian threats.

Of the five Edmonton journals reproduced and carefully annotated in this volume, the cantankerous William Tomison kept three, George Sutherland one, and James Bird the last. Peter Fidler kept the two Chesterfield journals published. Fairly frequent references to the Great Carrying Place

(Grand Portage) form the main Minnesota connection in this volume.

THE COLLECTION of papers presented at the 1967 Conference on the French in the Mississippi Valley held at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville has been published in book form by the University of Illinois (Urbana, 1969. xiii, 304 p. \$10.95). The illustrated volume, *French Men and French Ways in the Mississippi Valley*, brings together the work of thirteen authors who probe the political, military, architectural, scientific, and cultural aspects of that subject. Martha C. Bray, a contributor to *Minnesota History*, reports on the career of Joseph N. Nicollet, the scientific explorer of the Missouri and Upper Mississippi rivers in the 1830s. Mrs. Bray describes Nicollet's exacting methods in mapping the hydrographical basin of the Upper Mississippi and credits him with being the first scientific geographer of any large region in the United States. He was also, she writes, the last true explorer of rivers. Other studies in the book deal with such far-ranging subjects as the discovery of the entrance to the Mississippi River; a previously unpublished memoir of Spanish Louisi-

ana in the late eighteenth century; the life of Auguste Chouteau, co-founder and first citizen of St. Louis; and a project for the restoration and preservation of eighteenth-century buildings in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. The papers are annotated, and there is an index.

A COLOR photograph of Washington County's handsome, old courthouse — taken by Minneapolis lawyer Charles W. Arnason — graces the January, 1970, cover of the *American Bar Association Journal*. A brief inside story sketches the history of the St. Croix Valley and especially the city of Stillwater, "birthplace" of Minnesota and "cradle" of the territory's lumber industry. Stillwater's first sawmill was built in 1844. A decade later the town had become the foremost lumbering center in the territory. The first courthouse in what would become the state of Minnesota was erected in Stillwater in 1847. In 1867 work began on the current two-story structure of native sandstone faced with red brick. Completed and occupied in 1869-70, the building is today the oldest Minnesota courthouse still in use.

FIRST PUBLISHED in 1957, *The Dan Patch Story* by the late Fred A. Sasse has been reprinted by the Piper Company under the title of *The Story of the Great Dan Patch* (Blue Earth, Minnesota, 1969. 172 p. \$5.95). The biography of the celebrated harness horse tells of his birth in Indiana in 1896 and of his purchase in 1902 for \$60,000 by Marion W. Savage, wealthy Minneapolis stock food manufacturer who astutely used him in many advertising promotions. The book recounts several of Dan's top races, including his famous world-record 1:55 pace at the 1906 Minnesota State Fair. Dan and Savage died only thirty-two hours apart in July, 1916. Like the first edition, this one has a number of illustrations by the author but lacks both bibliography and index.

TEN ARTICLES by Frank P. Donovan of Minneapolis comprise a special issue on "The Burlington in Iowa" for *The Palimpsest* of September, 1969. Mr. Donovan details the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy's history in Iowa from its beginnings in the 1850s to the situation in the 1960s. In addition to routes and trains, the author concentrates on

such "Q" leaders as Charles Elliott Perkins, during whose presidency the line grew by some 5,000 miles to a total of 7,992 miles, including trackage to the Twin Cities; James J. Hill, who gained control of the Burlington around the turn of the century and added greatly to its growth; and Ralph Budd, who became president of the Burlington and also the Great Northern.

WARREN G. HARDING usually ranks at or near the bottom of presidential ratings, but Robert K. Murray raises him a few notches to at least the level "of a Franklin Pierce, an Andrew Johnson, a Benjamin Harrison, or even a Calvin Coolidge" in his scholarly, revisionist study, *The Harding Era: Warren G. Harding and His Administration* (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1969. ix, 626 p. Illustrations. \$13.50). After a careful study of the Harding Papers and other sources, Professor Murray shows that the president, with all his faults, was more of an architect than usually admitted of the progress made from the turmoil of the late Wilson years to the business prosperity of the Coolidge era. The author concludes that, "in establishing the political philosophy and program for an entire decade," Harding's 882 days in office "were more significant than all but a few similar short periods in the nation's experience."

WORD HAS REACHED the society of the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Hawthorn Buck, 76, on January 21, 1970, in Washington, D.C. She was the widow of Solon J. Buck who served as superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society from 1914 to 1931, founded this magazine, and later became archivist of the United States. A writer, editor, and archivist in her own right, Mrs. Buck began working for the National Archives in 1948 (the year her husband left that agency to head the manuscripts division of the Library of Congress). Mrs. Buck was an editor and then an archivist for the National Archives until her retirement in 1964. She wrote several books on her own as well as in collaboration with her husband.

THE FOLSOM HOUSE at Taylors Falls, one of the oldest in the St. Croix River Valley and also of considerable architectural interest, will be open to the public for the first time from 1 P.M.

to 4 P.M. on May 3. It will be open during the same hours on Sundays only thereafter until the season closes on November 1. Now under the jurisdiction of the society's historic sites division, it was the home of William H. C. Folsom, who operated the first general store in Taylors Falls, served as a state senator for several sessions, and wrote *Fifty Years in the Northwest*.

Other historic sites that will open the weekend of May 1 include: Historic Fort Snelling, the Oliver H. Kelley Farmstead near Elk River, Fort Ridgely, the Petroglyphs of Cottonwood County, and the Mille Lacs Indian Museum (Kathio) near Vineland. There are other historic sites that either are open the year around or will open later than May 1.

MICHAEL BROOK, head of the reference division of the society's library, has published two research aids. "Radical Literature in Swedish America: A Narrative Survey," appeared in the July, 1969, issue of *Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly*. In this annotated article Mr. Brook discusses the books, pamphlets, newspapers, and periodicals published in the Swedish language by individuals and organizations connected with the Swedish-American and Swedish-Canadian radical movements of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The author hopes to publish a more detailed bibliographical study on this subject in the future.

For the Fall, 1969, issue of *Labor History*, Mr. Brook compiled an "Annual Bibliography of Periodical Articles on American Labor History: 1968." The usefulness of this listing has been increased by the author's subdivisions, such as specific industries, labor movements, and national labor policy. He has also included addenda to the earlier bibliographies of 1965-67.

AN ERROR in Nels M. Hokanson's reminiscence, "I Remember St. Paul's Swede Hollow," which appeared in the Winter, 1969, issue of *Minnesota History* has been corrected by John T. Flanagan of Urbana, Illinois. Mr. Flanagan, a frequent contributor to the magazine and a grandson of Theodore Hamm, wrote that William Hamm, Sr., who built the mansion pictured on page 367 of the article, was Hamm's son and not his father as stated on page 366 and in footnote 6.

Since 1849, when it was chartered by the first territorial legislature, the Minnesota Historical Society has been preserving a record of the state's history. Its outstanding library and its vast collection of manuscripts, newspapers, pictures, and museum objects reflect this activity. The society also interprets Minnesota's past, telling the story of the state and region through publications, museum displays, tours, institutes, and restoration of historic sites. The work of the society is supported in part by the state and in part by private contributions, grants, and membership dues. It is a chartered public institution governed by an executive council of interested citizens and belonging to all who support it through membership and participation in its programs. You are cordially invited to use its resources and to join in its efforts to make Minnesota a community with a sense of strength from the past and purpose for the future.

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