

BOOK REVIEWS

The Way to Independence: Memories of a Hidatsa Indian Family, 1840-1920. By Carolyn Gilman and Mary Jane Schneider.

(St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1987. xii, 371 p. Illustrations. Cloth, \$40.00; paper, \$24.95.)

MEMBERS of the Minnesota Historical Society who recall Carolyn Gilman's well-written and handsomely illustrated volume (which provided a permanent record of the temporary exhibition *Where Two Worlds Meet, The Great Lakes Fur Trade*) in 1982 will be happy to know that she "has done it again" for another major exhibition. This time she has had as her collaborator Mary Jane Schneider, associate professor of Indian studies at the University of North Dakota.

This book interprets the history of the small Hidatsa Indian tribe whose members resided in compact, fortified villages of earth-covered lodges overlooking the Missouri River, where they cultivated crops of corn, beans, and squash in the rich soil of the river bottoms from prehistoric times until the mid-1880s. Then they were resettled on individual allotments on the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota, where Indian Service policy makers anticipated that they would become independent farmers. The story is told largely through the memories of three members of a remarkable Hidatsa family—the aged Buffalo Bird Woman, her brother Wolf Chief, and her son Edward Goodbird—as related to a white clergyman, Gilbert L. Wilson, and his artist-brother Frederick between the years 1906 and 1918.

The revolutionary changes that took place in Hidatsa life-ways during the lives of these three Indians are recorded in their own words and in carefully selected photographs of hundreds of objects of types they and their fellow tribesmen used; in drawings by Goodbird showing the construction and uses of traditional objects; in reproductions of paintings by white artists who observed the Hidatsa and their Mandan allies as far back as the early 1830s; and in numerous field photographs taken since the late 1860s.

Buffalo Bird Woman's life changed less dramatically over the years than did those of her brother and son. When the Wilsons knew her during the second decade of the present century she still tended her garden and performed her household chores. But Wolf Chief was transformed from a hunter and warrior to an upland wheat farmer and rancher, who for a time also operated a general store selling white men's mer-

chandise to other Indians. Goodbird attended school and eventually became a Congregational minister.

The book's more-than-500 illustrations clearly demonstrate how the history of a people is written in objects as well as in words. A most telling example appears on pages 14-15, where a large reproduction of Karl Bodmer's classic painting of the interior of a Mandan lodge depicting numerous implements and utensils in use in 1833 faces individual photographs of some of the same kinds of objects obtained from the Hidatsa many years later and preserved in museum collections. They include a horn ladle, a wooden bowl, a paunch bucket, a wooden mortar and pestle for grinding corn, a clay cooking pot, and a woven burden basket. The record reveals that Buffalo Bird Woman taught Frederick Wilson how to make one of those traditional burden baskets in 1912—eight decades after Bodmer's visit to the Mandan.

The book's illustrations also show the progression in means of transportation employed by these Indians over the years from dog travois and buffalo-hide-covered bullboat, to Studebaker wagon, steamboat, and automobile. No less striking are the innovations brought by missionaries—bibles and hymnals, schoolbells, etc.; or the transitions from painted-skin robes to "Indian Star" quilts. The exhibition planners ingeniously ferreted out in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society and several other museums objects of the type the Hidatsa came to know after they settled on their allotments.

Even so, the presentation is strongest and most intriguing in its detailed interpretation of domestic life and farming practices of the Hidatsa during the years they shared the village of Like-a-Fishhook with their Arikara and Mandan Indian allies. This portion of the book offers Goodbird's drawings of how an earth lodge was built as well as Frederick Wilson's ground plan revealing the interior layout of such a home. Models of a bed and various furnishings and replicas of traditional tools and utensils, made from memory by Buffalo Bird Woman and Wolf Chief, enable the reader to appreciate the Indians' ingenuity in fashioning useful things from the materials readily available to them. At the same time, objects of metal and glass excavated from the old village site reveal that even in those days these Indians obtained many useful and ornamental objects from white traders.

The presentation appears to be weakest in its interpretation of Hidatsa warfare during their residence at Like-a-

Fishhook village, when they were repeatedly attacked by the much more numerous Sioux. Contemporary observers referred to the ferocity of that warfare. Perhaps it could have been portrayed more adequately had the museum borrowed more widely from other institutions for this exhibition. There are excellent drawings of Hidatsa warriors, executed by the Swiss artist Rudolph F. Kurz in 1851 in the Historical Museum in Berne. The Smithsonian Institution has more than 50 objects collected at Like-a-Fishhook by army doctors Charles C. Gray and Washington Matthews before 1871, among them several painted rawhide shields, as well as some autobiographical war record drawings executed in 1881 by Poor Wolf, the second chief of the tribe and leader of war parties.

A concluding section of the volume contains five essays that should be of particular interest to students of Hidatsa history and culture. Raymond Wood reviews the archaeological record of successive Hidatsa villages from prehistoric to historic times. Gerald Baker, a member of the tribe, discusses the persistent interest of the Hidatsa in their traditional religion. Jeffery R. Hanson describes the Hidatsa relationship to their natural environment. Alan R. Woolworth considers Gilbert L. Wilson's important contributions to Hidatsa studies within the framework of Hidatsa research since the tribe was first mentioned in the literature during the 18th century. Finally, Mary Jane Schneider provides a guide to the Wilson collections in three other museums as well as the extensive one at the Minnesota Historical Society, donated by the widows of Gilbert and Frederick after their deaths in 1930 and 1961.

In my opinion *The Way to Independence* will continue to serve as a major source on the history and culture of the Hidatsa Indians long after the temporary exhibition with which it is so intimately associated closes. Its many illustrations and its clear text should make it attractive and useful to young readers as well as to mature students of Indian history and culture.

Reviewed by JOHN C. EWERS, *ethnologist emeritus of the Smithsonian Institution and author of Plains Indian Sculpture: A Traditional Art from America's Heartland (1986).*

***Statehood and Union: A History of the Northwest Ordinance.* By Peter S. Onuf.**

(Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1987. 197 p. \$27.50.)

***The Northwest Ordinance, 1787: A Bicentennial Handbook.* Edited by Robert M. Taylor, Jr.**

(Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1987. 136 p. \$6.50.)

THE 1987 BICENTENNIAL recognition of the writing of the United States Constitution in Philadelphia stimulated a wealth of narrative and interpretive historical scholarship. The Northwest Ordinance, adopted by Congress in 1787, is also celebrating its 200th anniversary. State historical societies, genealogical associations, historians, and political sci-

entists have used the occasion to recognize the significant achievement of this fundamental but often forgotten document. The two books under review contribute substantially to a modern understanding of the historical environment of the first decade following the American Revolution, of the circumstances that motivated members of the Confederation Congress, and of each section of the ordinance.

Peter S. Onuf, professor of history at Southern Methodist University, is a leading scholar of political history in the decades during and immediately following the Revolution. In 1983 he published *The Origins of the Federal Republic*, a study of the relationship between territorial problems, concentrating on boundary disputes and western land claims and the creation of a nation rather than a compact of sovereign states. Now, Onuf examines the Northwest Ordinance as an important political document in establishing a strong foundation for the new United States.

This is neither a detailed legislative history nor an in-depth analysis of policy implementation. Instead, the author focuses on congressional policy makers, their plans for the political and economic development of the frontier, and their simultaneous desire to strengthen and preserve the union. Most members of Congress believed that republican government would succeed, perhaps depend upon, western commercial development and the establishment of law and order west of the Appalachians. These objectives could be realized by attracting industrious settlers who would demand political stability, peace with Indians, and clear title to property. Compact rather than dispersed squatter settlement patterns were initiated through the 1785 Land Ordinance. The resulting land system, it was hoped, would produce revenue, establish a basis for an orderly society, and control a rational expansion. Complementarily, the government ordinance would focus on the rights of frontier communities in relation to the union and to each other. In the minds of the national legislators, the Northwest Ordinance comprised "a unified vision of economic development in an expanding union of states, the culmination of a brief, intensive period of debate and deliberation about the future of the American West."

In addition to evaluating the intentions of lawmakers, Onuf also examines the ordinance as a "constitutional" document, concluding that controversies over specific compact articles "effectively demolished" its constitutional aura. Detailing state formation in Ohio and the key boundary dispute between Michigan and Ohio, the author demonstrates that Congress would not be bound by promises in the ordinance. The exclusion of slavery from the Northwest Territory received little comment in 1787. But settlers in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois debated the issue beyond territorial years into statehood. This conflict resulted in further diminishing the constitutional status of the ordinance by emphasizing that



the changing will of sovereign people overrode any predetermined fundamental authority.

This thoroughly researched and smoothly written study is based on a wide range of secondary and such primary sources as congressional and territorial records, correspondence, and newspapers. The volume is an intelligently argued analysis, but several minor problems exist. Maps are essential for the reader's understanding, but the publisher used contemporary reproductions that are not clearly printed. The final chapter reviews northwestern perceptions of the ordinance as a "higher law" in an attempt to identify a sense of regional distinctiveness. Unfortunately it is not as sharply focused as the previous chapters. Despite needing a well-articulated conclusion, the book raises issues and develops ideas that will enhance early national scholarship.

A Bicentennial Handbook seeks to deepen the reading public's understanding of an important American state paper. Editor Robert M. Taylor, Jr., brought together several scholarly articles, a commentary on each section of the ordinance, detailed chronology of events from the Declaration of Independence through Minnesota statehood, selected bibliography, contemporary illustrations, and an excellent series of maps.

Three articles of uneven quality and length view the Northwest Ordinance from the perspective of the frontier, contrast members of Congress with the Constitutional Convention delegates, and describe transformation of a plan into five functioning governments. Andrew Cayton depicts frontier residents—Indians, Anglo-Americans, and French—losing their social and cultural relationships to the values and structure of eastern society. Congressmen viewed all three groups as sharing similar traits, "lazy, barbaric, ignorant, uncivilized, disrespectful of all legal authority, and anarchic." The ordinance would establish a means by which this "unworthy" society could become part of the American republic. In a brief analysis, editor Taylor concludes that members of the last Confederation Congress were comparable to their Philadelphia counterparts in age, occupation, military experience, and extensive public service. In the weakest contribution, Patrick Furlong reviews implementation of the ordinance in a straightforward narrative. He focuses briefly on Ohio before trying to summarize experiences in the remaining northwest states in a cursory fashion.

These volumes enhance our perceptions of the circumstances surrounding passage of the Northwest Ordinance and contribute to an interpretation of the document and its implementation. *Statehood and Union* will attract scholars interested in the political history of the early national period and the Ohio Valley frontier. The *Handbook*, by contrast, will find an audience among the general public and teachers seeking a scholarly narrative as source material for classroom lectures. Together these books broaden an understanding of this fundamental document whose impact went beyond the northwest frontier in the first half of the 19th century.

Reviewed by DAVID A. WALKER, professor of history at the University of Northern Iowa and a co-author of the *Biographical Directory of American Territorial Governors* (1984). He is currently working on a book concerning the Iowa territorial period.

A Generation of Boomers: The Pattern of Railroad Labor Conflict in Nineteenth-Century America.

By Shelton Stromquist.

(Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1987. 352 p. \$29.95.)

RAILROAD LABOR CONFLICT has been a rich stream within the current of midwestern labor history. Huge corporations, on the one hand, and thousands of workers from diverse backgrounds, on the other, have confronted each other from the 1870s to the 1980s. A series of clashes, some of them conflagrations of major proportions, have shaken—and shaped—labor relations on the rails and have had a continuing impact on the pattern and tenor of those relations in a wide variety of industries. Shelton Stromquist's new volume makes accessible to a broad audience the formative experiences of the 1880s and 1890s, a period of intense strife along our rail systems.

A Generation of Boomers traces and analyzes the experiences of railroad workers in the Midwest between the Great Upheaval of 1877 and the Great Northern and Pullman strikes of 1894. Stromquist explores the social patterns behind these disputes: labor shortages or surpluses; class relations in market and railroad towns; geographic and social mobility among workers; tensions between craft unionism and industrial unionism. He offers rich details and perceptive insights, moving from one concrete historical situation to another, and then from these specifics to a depiction of the over-all patterns.

This book will be of considerable interest to professional historians and historical researchers. Stromquist has done a most impressive job of ferreting out primary sources, gleaned from a wide variety of archives and collections (including, of course, the Minnesota Historical Society's massive Great Northern Railroad Records). He has used manuscript population censuses, government publications, court records, private manuscript collections, employment records, trade union minutes and publications, labor newspapers, local newspapers from a dozen different communities, city directories, and autobiographies.

Stromquist's analytical work will also interest professional historians. He has blended thick description with sophisticated quantitative and statistical work, developed a typology of community class analysis reminiscent of Herbert Gutman's work and a typology of strike analysis not seen since Michelle Perrot's pathbreaking work on French labor conflict in the late 19th century. Point upon point is illustrated with a richly detailed case study. Stromquist also offers a new framework of his own, one that emphasizes regionalism in labor-capital relations and generational differences within working-class experience. As a consequence, *A Generation of Boomers* is bound to influence the work of midwestern labor historians, whether they deal explicitly with railroad workers or not.

This study will be of interest to more than just professional historians, however. Railroad unionists, facing in the late 1980s a series of challenges every bit as profound as those of a century ago, will find a rich legacy here. The theme of solidarity, which comes through loud and clear in these historical experiences, is receiving new emphasis today. And railroad unionists, like their brothers and sisters in other

industries, have evinced a renewed interest in their past, seeking an explanation for their present plight as well as ideas and approaches that bore fruit in other times.

I suspect that anyone with an interest in the evolution of labor-management relations in our region of the country will find this book valuable. While the research and the methodology are highly professional and adhere to the highest academic standards, the actual prose is accessible to a broad audience. One need have little prior knowledge of the subject to make sense of this book. Nor must one be a partisan of labor's cause. One need only be curious—and *A Generation of Boomers* will draw you in.

Reviewed by PETER J. RACHLEFF, *associate professor of history at Macalester College, who is currently writing a book on the Hormel strike of 1985-1986.*

***Crossroads in Time: A History of Carlton County, Minnesota.* By Francis M. Carroll.**

(Cloquet: Carlton County Historical Society, 1987. 343 p. Hard cover, \$23.27; paper, \$14.79.)

THE FORMATIVE YEARS of my youth and adolescence were spent some three miles west of the Carlton County border. While our tax and school district boundaries might have confined us to Aitkin County, we and our neighbors actually had an equal amount of contact with Carlton County. Barnum was where 4-H members from throughout the region participated in Northeast Dairy Day; Carlton, Cromwell, Esko, and Wrenshall were our high school archrivals in the Polar League; Cloquet's paper mill was where many of my friends hoped to work after graduation; and "Dead Man's Curve" on Highway 73 by Kettle River, named for the 75 to 100 people who died at the spot during the great 1918 forest fires, never failed to elicit vivid comments from my grandparents and mother—all of whom had survived the conflagrations. For teenagers, members of the opposite sex often appeared a bit more attractive (and elusive) if they came from the other county, although our Scandinavian Lutheran parents warned us not to become too romantically involved with the Polish Catholics who resided in Split Rock Township—an admonition that many failed to heed!

To others not so intimately acquainted with Carlton County, this area of northeastern Minnesota may remain little more than a hasty blur formed by observations made through the windshield of an automobile speeding along Interstate 35. Tucked under its much larger neighbor of St. Louis County to the north, the county is an area people pass *through* on their way to Duluth, the North Shore, the Iron Ranges, the BWCA, or Canada. This is unfortunate, for Carlton County has many attractions and has played an important role in Minnesota's history. The St. Louis River, which traverses the northeastern corner of the county, was one of the earliest and most important transportation routes in the region—both for American Indians and early white explorers and traders. Later, the military road from St. Paul to Duluth was constructed over Carlton County's southeast-

ern quadrant, and railroads criss-crossed the county. The Minnesota headquarters of the Weyerhaeuser Company's timber and wood-products industry were found in Cloquet; what was once the largest consumers' co-operative in America existed in the same city, and the infamous Columbus Day fires of 1918 wreaked more death and destruction in Carlton County than anywhere else in the state.

All of the above, and much more, have been clearly spelled out by Francis M. Carroll in his aptly titled history of the county, *Crossroads in Time*. Readers will be pleased that the book has been written by an individual who is both a professional historian (Carroll is professor of history at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg) and a former resident of Cloquet. Unlike most published county and local histories, which often focus upon an area without considering its greater context or setting, Carroll has made certain that Carlton County is understood within a broad sweep of geography and history. Likewise, Carroll has used the sources and tools of academic history, unlike many other county history projects which, at best, employ sketchy documentation and rely heavily upon secondary rather than primary sources of evidence.

The author has adopted a format that is basically chronological in organization. After a brief introduction to Carlton County, the next three chapters feature the period before the 1860s: the early influence of French, British, and American interests; the American Indians of the St. Louis River Valley; and initial settlement efforts. Following this are two detailed chapters on railroad building and the early development of the logging and wood-products industries. Chapter 7, a surprisingly short unit, is devoted to early agriculture and the thousands of immigrants—primarily the Finns and Scandinavians—who settled the cutover lands of the county in the late 1800s and early 1900s. An overview of community and institutional developments offers instructive insights to Carlton County's smaller settlements that today range from the virtually abandoned townsite of Automba to Moose Lake with its 1,400 residents. A full chapter is devoted to Cloquet.

About one-third of the book features the great fires of October, 1918, and the difficulties survivors faced in the subsequent two decades. Since Carroll is an expert on this period, the most vivid descriptions—including first-person accounts—are found in these two chapters. Though words can never capture fully the horror and hardship that the fire victims encountered, Carroll's narrative once again brings the event and period to life. The book then concludes with a chapter on the 1940 to 1980 interim in Carlton County. Also included are 7 maps and almost 80 photographs, many of which have not been published previously.

Given everything that is so positive about *Crossroads in Time*, one still wishes that Professor Carroll would have probed certain sources more thoroughly. The section on early agriculture might have been expanded by consulting homestead records that provide data on farm size, land clearing activities, the number and type of buildings, and the amount of time spent off the farm. One also gets very little insight to the toil, loneliness, and joy that early settlers experienced and then described in letters, diaries, newspaper reports, and oral histories. The following tree-top description made by an 1890 pioneer in the Kettle River area is just one good example of

the many accounts that diligent probing can reveal: "[There was] wilderness all around, heavy green timber on all sides, no marked trails anywhere and the nearest road eight miles distant. The baying of the wolf, the growling of a bear, the shrill whistle of a deer and the scolding of a squirrel were the only sounds one could hear."

These comments aside, *Crossroads in Time* is an excellent piece of work. Francis Carroll, along with the Carlton County Historical Society and its founder, Henry E. Walter, who already in 1949 had the vision for such a book, are to be commended for their efforts. The volume sets a standard by which future county histories will be judged.

Reviewed by ARNOLD R. ALANEN, a cultural geographer who is chairman and professor of landscape architecture at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and co-author of *Main Street Ready-Made: The New Deal Community of Greendale, Wisconsin* (1987), published by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

The Women's West. Edited and with Introductions by Susan Armitage and Elizabeth Jameson.
(Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987. 323 p. Cloth, \$24.95; paper, \$12.95.)

THE WOMEN'S WEST is a collection of 21 articles that were originally presented as papers at a conference of the same name in 1983. It is far more than simply a proceedings volume, however. The papers have been reworked for publication and include extensive footnotes. The editors have grouped the articles into four sections and have provided very useful introductions—a general one, one to each section, and one to each article. Though brief, these introductions serve to link the individual contributions and to raise questions that allow the reader to place a particular piece of research into a much broader context. Historical photographs enhance each article.

The most impressive characteristic of this volume is the wide range of topics included. The authors are united in their conviction that the traditional questions which have guided the study of western history are inappropriate to understanding women in the West and that the women's story must include all classes and racial or ethnic groups. In any brief review of such a book, it is impossible to mention in substance all of the selections. To single out some inevitably ignores others that are equally worthy or interesting. A list of the titles, which are quite descriptive of their contents, will clearly show the diversity of topics. Editor Susan Armitage begins by delineating the current challenges to traditional interpretations of western history that are presented by an examination of women in that setting.

The articles that follow give the results of specific investigations: "The Way We Weren't: Images of Women and Men in Cowboy Art"; "Illusion and Illumination: Visual Images of American Indian Women in the West"; "The Role of Native Women in the Creation of Fur Trade Society in Western Canada, 1670-1830"; "Beyond Princess and Squaw: Army Officers' Perceptions of Indian Women"; "Sharing Bed and Board: Cohabitation and Cultural Difference in Central Arizona Mining Towns, 1863-1873"; "Laura, Ma, Mary, Carrie, and Grace: Western Women as Portrayed by Laura Ingalls Wilder"; "Violence Against Woman: Power Dynamics in Literature of the Western Family"; "Lena Olmstead and Oscar Phillips: Love and Marriage"; "Women as Workers, Women as Civilizers: True Womanhood in the American West"; "Homesteading in Northeastern Colorado, 1873-1920: Sex Roles and Women's Experiences"; "Beyond Baby Doe: Child Rearing on the Mining Frontier"; "The Private Lives of Public Women: Prostitution in Butte, Montana, 1878-1917"; "Essential Servants: Immigrant Domestic on the Canadian Prairies, 1885-1930"; "Waitresses in the Trans-Mississippi West: 'Pretty Waiter Girls,' Harvey Girls, and Union Maids"; "Distinctions in Western Women's Experiences: Ethnicity, Class, and Social Change"; "The 'Girls' from Syracuse: Sex Role Negotiations of Kansas Women in Politics, 1887-1890"; "Networking on the Frontier: The Colorado Woman's Suffrage Movement, 1876-1893"; "The Myth of the Urban Village: Women, Work, and Family Among Italian-Americans in Twentieth Century California."

The final selection is the concluding speech of the conference, which was given by poet and American Indian activist Suzan Shown Harjo. She offers "A Challenge for the Future," to include all women in the story of our past and to encourage and support women of all cultures in the research and writing of that story.

These articles effectively demonstrate how old sources can be used in new ways to examine the lives of women of many classes, different cultures, and varying educational backgrounds. Works of art, census records, newspapers, reminiscences, journals, private correspondence, semiautobiographical and biographical works of fiction, court records—all are seen to reveal a wealth of information about the experiences of many women who have previously been overlooked or ignored. This volume offers a summary of the state of current research on the history of women in the West and a glimpse of a major trend in the future study of western history in general. It should not be ignored by anyone interested in this subject.

Reviewed by ANNE P. DIFFENDAL, former manuscripts curator at the Nebraska State Historical Society, who has recently been named director of the National Museum of Roller Skating, also in Lincoln. She looks forward to broadening her interest in women's history to include the experiences of women in competitive and recreational skating.

NEWS & NOTES

TWO NEW BOREALIS books from the MHS Press are novels by Richard Bissell, an acclaimed author and proud holder of a pilot's license on the Ohio, Missouri, and Mississippi rivers. The first is *A Stretch on the River*, first published in 1950, which is a largely autobiographical account of a young man's initiation to life as a deckhand on a diesel towboat plying the Mississippi between St. Louis and St. Paul. The 252-page book includes an affectionate and perceptive Afterword by Martha Bray that also appears in *High Water*. This novel, published originally in 1954, tells the story of towboat mate Duke Snyder, beset by an angry captain, unhappy crew members, and a memorable flood that offers high drama. Both of the Bissell books are available for \$8.95, plus \$1.50 handling fee and 6% tax for Minnesotans from MHS.

MARK DIEDRICH'S book *Famous Chiefs of the Eastern Sioux* (Minneapolis, Coyote Books, 1987, 81 p., \$10.95) provides a historic biography of five leaders of the eastern Sioux, or Dakota, tribes. This detailed chronological account is recounted in five chapters with apropos subtitles: Wabasha, Dakota Hero; Red Wing, Dakota Partisan; Waneta, Dakota Dictator; Inkpaduta, Dakota Outlaw; and Little Crow, Dakota Speaker. A map by Diedrich shows the land of the eastern Sioux prior to 1851. Although Diedrich's book is mainly historical biography, in the Preface he says that "some attempt has been made to illuminate the momentous and crucial decisions and actions of these leaders based upon their cultural viewpoint (fully admitting the difficulties of this due to the fragmentary record of eastern Sioux culture)." This is a welcome addition to the literature on the leaders of the Sioux.

CENTRAL MINNESOTA is the area documented in volume 6 (1987) of Wiley Pope's series, *Tracing Your Ancestors in Minnesota: A Guide to the Sources* (St. Paul, Minnesota Family Trees, 718 Sims St., 55106, 180 p., \$12.50, plus Minnesota sales tax, \$1.00 postage for mailing). Counties

covered are Aitkin, Benton, Chisago, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, Wadena, and Wright; sources noted include libraries, historical societies, government agencies, churches, newspapers, local histories, atlases, cemeteries, and family records. Earlier published volumes are volume 1, general introduction to genealogical research, Minnesota statewide and county records; volume 2, South Central Minnesota; volume 3, Southwest Minnesota; volume 4, West Central Minnesota; volume 5, Southwest Minnesota; volume 8, Southeast Minnesota. Still in progress are volume 7, North Central Minnesota; volume 9, Northeast Minnesota; volume 10, Twin Cities and metropolitan counties; and volume 11, counties no longer in existence. Genealogists and local historians, beginners and experienced researchers, will find this a valuable tool while working on their projects.

Patricia C. Harpole

STUDENTS of exploration and the fur trade will be interested to note that the MHS library has received a copy of a catalog entitled *Gli Oggetti Indiani Raccolti Da G. Constantino Beltrami*, compiled by Leonardo Vigorelli and published by the Museo Civico di Scienze Naturali "Enrico Caffi" of Bergamo, Italy, in 1987. This town museum houses the Indian artifacts that Beltrami collected in 1823 along the upper Mississippi River. Volume I of the catalog (107 p.) contains color plates of the artifacts and detailed description of each piece, its provenience, its current condition, the circumstances under which it was collected, by whom, and when. Volume II (140 p.), entitled *Rivista del Museo Civico di Scienze Naturali "Enrico Caffi"*, includes a short essay on Beltrami as well as an article that "deals with the principles of development and the conclusions of the research in order to catalogue the material in an appropriate way. . . addressed to specialists of the field hoping they will contribute to further developments in the analysis of this important collection."

MARCUS THRANE (1817-90) is remembered in Norway as one of the founding fathers of that country's labor movement. Some specialists in America know that he lived in the United States (principally in Chicago and Eau Claire, Wisconsin) from 1864 until his death, but this American period has always been very shadowy. Terje I. Leiren illuminates it in *Marcus Thrane: a Norwegian Radical in America* (Northfield, Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1987, 167 p., \$12). Thrane's political, theatrical, and freethought interests and activities are carefully documented. The part played by the Muus divorce uproar, which revived Thrane's interest in writing the satirical *Den gamle Wisconsin-Bibelen* (The Wisconsin Bible) and spurred him to the composition of the operetta *Holden, eller Smør Dig med Taalmodighed* (Holden, or Anoint Yourself with Patience), with music apparently by Sir Arthur Sullivan, is of special Minnesota interest (might Holden be worth reviving?). But it is not the only Minnesota connection—indeed Thrane can be regarded as an ancestor of the Upper Midwest insurgent tradition.

Michael Brook

"A SMALL, TRANQUIL community in Dakota County" is the subject of the late Robert Orr Baker's last historical research. His book, *The Village: The Past and Present of Sunfish Lake* (1987, 77 p., \$10), records the origins, organization, and growth of a community which by 1938 "was completely in the hands of transplanted urbanites with a vital interest in the maintenance of the lake and the surrounding property." Baker points out that although the settlement dates back to 1855, the village was not incorporated until 1958. The booklet is enhanced by a quantity of vintage photographs and clear maps, as well as an appendix of past and present residents, several of whose recollections and research are incorporated into the text. Copies of the work are available at the Dakota County State Bank, 750 South Plaza, Mendota Heights 55118.



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