

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*The Wheat Market and the Farmer in Minnesota, 1858-1900* (Columbia University, *Studies in History, Economics and Public Law*, vol. 122, no. 2). By HENRIETTA M. LARSON, PH.D. (New York, Columbia University, 1926. 273 p. Map.)

The numerous studies of phases of agrarian discontent since the Civil War that have appeared during the last fifteen years have made it increasingly clear that the causes of that discontent are to be sought primarily in the marketing situation, including transportation. There is need, therefore, of intensive studies of the history of marketing as it affects the farmer, and this book makes a beginning toward meeting this need.

With the instincts of an historian rather than of an economist, Miss Larson attacks her problem chronologically. She marks out five periods from 1858 to 1900, points out the distinctive characteristics and problems of each, and discusses the attempts at solution of those problems. The first period, from 1858 to 1867, was characterized by unsystematic and inefficient marketing in the river towns, which "made for very unstable conditions for both middleman and producer." In the second period, 1867 to 1876, the rapidly extending railroads and buyers in alliance with them gained "a definite measure of control in the local market," and competition between roads led to discriminations in rates. The Granger or anti-monopoly movement, which followed, is interpreted as an unsuccessful attempt of the producer to establish state control of marketing and transportation. The decade from 1876 to 1885 brought a shifting of the wheat area northwestward, the rise of Duluth and Minneapolis as important primary markets, and the development of a new form of monopoly in the line elevator system "which became the dominating agency in the local market." A second uprising of the producers—the Farmers' Alliance—began at the end of this period; and the following decade, 1885 to 1895, was marked by efforts, more or less successful, at state control of marketing and transportation, and by the development of

coöperative elevators. During the last five years of the century "the most significant aspect of the wheat market was the combination and integration of market agencies," and this "stimulated a counter movement on the part of the producers, already effective, which was to become the distinguishing feature of the next period."

The author points out that "the object of the producers and the middlemen, in their contests for power in the market, was to increase or maintain their share of the value of the wheat in the world market. There was no attempt to influence the world price of wheat." She reaches the conclusion that "by 1900 the proportion of the value of wheat going to the middlemen handling Minnesota's wheat had decreased . . . and the proportion received by the farmer had increased." Although "prices fell considerably faster than marketing costs," she believes that "the farmer's position had been improved, in that greater regularity had been secured in the market through the curbing of the middleman's power."

The book is undoubtedly a valuable contribution not only to Minnesota history but also to an understanding of present marketing problems. The author has used a wide variety of source material: manuscript collections and archives, including records of railroad companies; newspaper files; state and federal documents; reports of business organizations; and interviews and correspondence with some fifty people who "had first-hand acquaintance with the subject matter." The material is well organized and interpreted with acumen. At times, however, the author could have profited by a more extensive acquaintance with the general background of Minnesota history. The work has some of the faults that one expects to find in doctors' theses: there is a superabundance of detail and it is not always subordinated to the interpretation; there is considerable repetition (for example we are told three times on pages 97 and 98 that number 2 wheat was worth from five to ten per cent less than number 1); there is carelessness in diction; and there are a number of typographical errors.

The most serious mistake noted is the statement on page 189 that under the railroad act of 1887 the courts were to consider the orders of the commission as *prima facie* evidence of their reasonableness. That would have permitted a judicial review of the question of reasonableness, and it was because the act failed to

provide for such a review that it was declared unconstitutional. The comparison of wheat production by counties without consideration of their differences in size ( p. 119 ) is hardly a scientific way to illustrate the shifting of the wheat area. The Grange was by no means limited to " the new northwestern states," as implied in a note on page 74. The reference, without explanation, to a " People's Party " in 1869 ( p. 106, n. 2 ) is likely to be confusing. The name that appears on page 21 as Curtiss F. Wedge and on page 264 as F. C. Wedge should be F. Curtiss-Wedge.

The work is provided with a good analytical index and a map showing the wheat area, routes of transportation, and markets in Minnesota. The extensive bibliography, though unannotated, will be very useful to students of cognate subjects.

SOLON J. BUCK

*" Yellowstone Kelly " : The Memoirs of Luther S. Kelly. Edited by M. M. QUAIFE. With a foreword by LIEUTENANT-GENERAL NELSON A. MILES, U. S. A. (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1926. xiii, 268 p. Illustrations.)*

" Yellowstone " Kelly, as he was familiarly known on the plains, belongs to the younger generation of those intrepid hunters and Indian fighters whose exploits fill the records of our western history. Equally at home on the prairies, in the Rocky Mountains, or passing up and down the numerous rivers and smaller streams of the West, these men have given to the story of the Great Plains those touches of romance and heroism that have made it an epic of adventure unmatched in the annals of American history.

Kelly began his life of adventure by serving for three years in the United States army and he was present at the establishment of Fort Ransom on the Sheyenne River in 1867. After his term of enlistment had expired he determined to go to the headwaters of the Missouri River, where he might take part in the life of the hunter and trapper. He made his way alone on horseback from Fort Snelling to Fort Garry, or Winnipeg, as it was beginning to be called. Here he fell in with some Montana gold miners who had come across the country to winter where food was more abundant than in their crowded mining camps. From these men Kelly obtained his first glimpse of the adventurous life of the

plains and mountains that was to be his for the greater part of his life. He made his way through the mixed French, Scotch, and English half-breeds who were bound for the buffalo hunting grounds south of the Turtle Mountains. His travels took him to old Fort Berthold and to the new military posts of Fort Buford and Fort Stevenson. His comments on the conditions at these forts and his accounts of the continual warfare being waged upon the friendly Indians by the Dakota tribes add considerably to our information concerning this obscure subject.

At Fort Buford he joined a band of hunters who had planned an expedition to the Yellowstone River Valley. This portion of the work is filled with detailed and careful accounts of the methods used in hunting and trapping in a country known at that time as the prime buffalo hunting grounds of the Northwest. Kelly was a keen observer and not a little of the charm of his writing comes from the interesting accounts of the habits of the buffaloes, the antelopes, the wolves, and other wild animals he hunted or trapped on the Yellowstone.

In May, 1873, he joined a military expedition under General Forsyth that was sent out to explore the Yellowstone as far as the Powder River. The steamboat used was the "Far West" commanded by Captain Grant Marsh. Then followed three years more of hunting and trapping on the upper waters of the Missouri, during which he met most of the noted hunters of this big game country. After the battle of the Little Big Horn General Miles took up the pursuit of the hostile Dakota in the region south of the international boundary line and he hired Kelly as chief scout for the Yellowstone district. In the spring of 1877 he was detailed by General Miles to scout for hostiles in northern Montana and Idaho.

He was later ordered to join the expedition in pursuit of the Nez Percés Indians and was present at the surrender of Chief Joseph. His next detail took him to Yellowstone Park, and this was followed by some skirmishing with the hostile Ute Indians. The last military service he describes took place in Colorado, where he aided in laying out a military road in the Grand River Valley. His adventures in Alaska and his military service in the Philippines will appear in a later work not yet ready for the press.

ORIN G. LIBBY

*Yearbook of the Swedish Historical Society of America*. Volume 11. (St. Paul, 1926. 156 p.)

Minnesota occupies more than a prominent place in this annual publication of the Swedish Historical Society—it very nearly crowds out everything else; most of the contributors are Minnesotans and much of the subject matter deals with Minnesota. The *Yearbook*, however, does not suffer from this “restraint of trade among the several states”; it gains, since there are few places in this country where so many persons are working intelligently and critically with the history of the Swedes in America.

The first contribution to this publication is a testimonial to growing international comity, for Theodore C. Blegen discusses “Minnesota’s Campaign for Immigrants.” Beginning with the efforts to attract settlers during territorial days, Mr. Blegen brings out the high lights of Minnesota’s activities in competition with her neighbors down to the eighties. The paper naturally and inevitably lays emphasis on work in Scandinavian lands and among Scandinavian and German immigrants already in America. The article is followed by a selection of illustrative documents “drawn, with one exception, from the official state archives in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society,” and being for the most part examples of reports by officials having directly to do with the encouragement of immigration to the state.

Following Mr. Blegen’s article is “An America Letter of 1849” with introduction, translation, and explanatory notes prepared by George M. Stephenson, one of the editors of the *Yearbook*. The letter was written from Jefferson County, Iowa, October 9, 1849, by Steffan Steffanson who, with his wife and eight children, left Sweden in May, 1849, and settled in the New Sweden community near what is now Lockbridge, Iowa. The letter tells of the journey from Gothenburg to Iowa, the people encountered, the efforts to find reliable persons with whom to do business, and the selection of land to buy. Sickness and death went along with the family, yet despite the loss of a daughter on the trip across Illinois and attacks of malaria, Steffanson evidently looked forward to a future not devoid of hope. “I haven’t much money left,” he wrote, “and after I shall have purchased livestock and necessary implements, my funds will be exhausted.

I can only hope that if I and my family live and enjoy good health, it will not be difficult to get along in material affairs. And so far as spiritual matters are concerned, conditions here are much better than in Sweden, there being no religious laws to interfere with freedom of conscience."

Roy W. Swanson writes interestingly of "Some Swedish Emigrant Guide Books of the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century," most of which circulated widely for a time but which, like so much important historical material, have become very scarce. Five works of travelers and gazeteer-makers, from Johan Bolin's Swedish handbook for "immigrants of the lower classes" published in 1853, to A. G. Carlson's *En emigrants resa* of 1894, are listed. Each is described in detail enough to acquaint the reader with the nature and scope of the book.

Adolf Olson's "Educational Work Among the Swedish Baptists of America" begins with the pioneers of the fifties. The greater part of the study, however, has to do with John Alexis Edgren and his efforts to establish a theological seminary to train Swedes for the Baptist ministry. Mr. Olson traces the wanderings of the peripatetic seminary over the upper Mississippi Valley to its final, or at least present, abiding place in St. Paul.

A. A. Stomberg, one of the editors of the *Yearbook*, contributes a series of notes on "Swedish Americans and the Year 1926" wherein he describes particularly the Ericsson memorial exercises at Washington and Philadelphia.

LESTER BURRELL SHIPPEE

*The Earliest Fur Traders on the Upper Red River and Red Lake, Minn. (1783-1810)* (The Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba, *Transactions*, new series, no. 1). By CHARLES NAPIER BELL, LL.D., F.R.G.S., president of the Society. (Winnipeg, Saults and Pollard Limited, 1926. 16 p. Map.)

After a long silence the Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba has announced its rebirth and its continued interest in the history of the Red River Valley by commencing a new series of transactions. It is to be hoped that the series will prove a lengthy one, if ensuing numbers shall equal in significance this first publication.

The main portion of the pamphlet consists of the texts of two agreements made between Jean Baptiste Cadotte and the Northwest Company in the years 1795 and 1796 respectively. Cadotte, as Dr. Bell points out, was a trader of outstanding importance in the development of trade routes and methods in the region about Lake Superior and northwest to Lake Winnipeg. Besides affording information on Cadotte's whereabouts in a hitherto obscure period of his career, these trade agreements give interesting facts about prices and kinds of furs secured in the country between Lake Superior and Red Lake; and about boundaries of special trading areas in that region. In transcribing the agreement written in English Dr. Bell has made the mistake of copying Ouinipique (Winnipeg) with an initial *A*; and in article 4 he has read "States prices" for "Stated prices" and "others" for "otters." With these few errors excepted, the document is carefully reproduced. The translation of the French is also faithful, though the use of the pound sterling sign, £, may be questionable as a translation for *livres*.

To the documents Dr. Bell has added two notes, in one of which he refers to "a large number of signed and witnessed agreements between voyageurs or other employees and both the Northwest Company and . . . the N. Y. Co., these documents being dated between 1787 and 1820." As information concerning these two companies is very scarce, it is to be hoped that Dr. Bell will publish the entire series. If there are too many to appear in the transactions of the Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba, they would be very appropriate for publication in a number of historical quarterlies in the United States. At all events, they should be made accessible to the many students of the fur-trade régime in Canada and the United States.

As Dr. Bell shows a desire to learn more of the Cadotte family, it may interest him to know that the name Jean Baptiste Cadotte appears as early as 1772 in the licenses preserved in the Canadian Archives and continues to appear until 1785. Even earlier the name Cadot, presumably the father of the Jean Baptiste of these agreements, appears with that of Alexander Henry on a document now in the Senate Files in Washington that purports to convey land on the south shore of Lake Superior to Robert Rogers in

the year 1760. Probably the date is 1765 or a little later. Further data on the younger Cadotte may be found in the minutes of the Northwest Company in the Bibliothèque Saint-Sulpice in Montreal, where, sad to relate, his expulsion from the company on account of "his Scandalous Conduct" is recorded in the minutes of the proprietors' meeting at Kaministiquia on July 19, 1803. Incidentally, David Thompson was then admitted to the company to fill Cadotte's place.

G. L. N.

*The Rise and Fall of Jesse James.* By ROBERTUS LOVE. (New York and London, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1926. ix, 446 p. Frontispiece.)

*The Northfield Bank Raid.* (Northfield, 1926. 22 p. Illustrations.)

"In the interest of justice to the departed and to the cause of history," the story of the notorious Missouri bandits has been retold by Robertus Love. In the preface the writer assures his readers that he has examined a "vast accumulation of unreliable material along with much that is reliable," and that by "employing common sense . . . he has rejected the rubbish and accepted the real." His method, however, is that of the newspaper reporter; he invariably emphasizes the most spectacular events in the thrilling careers of the border villains; and his language is that of a modernized dime novel. For example, he informs the reader, "Should you seek seriously for the germ of the genesis of all-round outlawry in Missouri, invented and carried on by men born on the border in the Roaring Forties and reared there in the Rip-roaring Fifties, ignore not the seven shuddery years preceding Sumter," and he tells of names "which we may hang as crimson rosettes upon the tablets of authentic history." Of special interest to Minnesotans are the five chapters in which Mr. Love covers the story of the Northfield robbery of 1876—the "Youngers' Gettysburg and Waterloo," which resulted in their imprisonment at Stillwater. For this portion of the narrative the sole source seems to have been George Huntington's *Robber and Hero* (Northfield, 1895), an account which Mr. Love considers "thoroughly reliable."



Another recent publication dealing with the Northfield raid is a pamphlet containing a series of articles reprinted from the *Northfield News* of August 27, and September 3, 10, and 17, 1926, the longest of which is entitled "The Northfield Saga." The articles were published originally to call attention to the fiftieth anniversary of the "repulse of the James-Younger gang."

B. L. H.

## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

Minnesota historical backgrounds reaching across the Atlantic to old-world institutions will be exploited at the sixth state historical convention under the auspices of the society, which is to be held at St. Cloud and Willmar on June 16 and 17. The program of the first day has the following main features: an automobile trip from the Twin Cities to St. Cloud, with a brief stop at Anoka; a luncheon in St. Cloud arranged by the St. Cloud Reading Room Society; a local history conference, with Dr. Buck as the principal speaker; an afternoon automobile trip to some of the institutions and other places of special interest in the vicinity of St. Cloud; a special "historic exhibit" on display in St. Cloud store windows; and an evening session in the auditorium of the St. Cloud State Teachers College. At this session Dr. August C. Krey, professor of history in the University of Minnesota, will read a paper bearing the very interesting title, "Monte Cassino, Metten, and Minnesota." There will also be an address on the historical backgrounds of the St. Cloud community, and a motion picture dealing with the present and past of Stearns County will be exhibited. The society's "historic tour" will be continued on the morning of June 17 from St. Cloud. The first stop will be at Paynesville, where a delegation from New London and Willmar will meet the tourists and guide them first to Sibley State Park and then to New London and the shores of the beautiful Green Lake. Apart from the interest in the historical backgrounds of the region, the surpassing natural beauty of this Minnesota lake country will doubtless be a lure to many to join this year's tour. A complimentary noon luncheon, given by the Willmar Commercial Club, will be served the guests at the Green Lake Country Club at Spicer. Following this the tourists will motor to Willmar, where a joint meeting will be held in the afternoon with the Kandiyohi County Old Settlers' Association. The central feature of the afternoon program will be the dedication of a large new pioneer log cabin erected by the association as a meeting place and memorial on the county fair grounds. In the

evening a banquet will be served at Willmar and this will be followed by a program of historical addresses and papers, one of which will be given by Senator Victor Lawson on "The Historical Backgrounds of Willmar and Kandiyohi County."

The state appropriation for the regular activities of the society has been set at \$47,400 for each year of the next biennium — an increase of four hundred dollars. The fund available for expenses and equipment was left at twenty thousand dollars, the same as the amount voted in 1925; the increase is in the maintenance fund and makes possible a few slight salary adjustments. The allowance for the work of the war records division is eight thousand dollars for each year of the biennium — an increase of two thousand dollars over the appropriation of 1925. The additional amount is intended to make possible the publication of the history of Minnesota in the World War, which will be brought out in two volumes, one each fiscal year. In the budget submitted by the society to the state department of administration and finance a request was made for an increase sufficient to pay the salary of a new library assistant to be designated head of the reference department. With the mounting demands by the public upon the library staff and the steadily increasing use of the society's books, such an assistant is sorely needed in the interests of efficient service. This increase was not allowed, however, and the society faces the task of serving the constantly growing library demands of the public with an insufficient staff.

A series of four free illustrated public lectures on Minnesota history was given by members of the staff in the auditorium of the Historical Building during the spring. The attendance at the lectures averaged nearly a hundred persons and the interest shown will probably lead to the giving of a second series next year. The first lecture, given on March 16 by Mr. Babcock, was entitled "By Canoe and Trail with the Explorers"; the second, on April 13 by Miss Nute, dealt with "A Hundred Years of Traders and Missionaries"; the third, on April 27 by Mr. Blegen, was on "Minnesota Pioneer Life"; and the last, on Statehood Day, May 11, by Mr. Buck, had as its theme "How Minnesota Became a State."

"The Minnesota Indians" was the subject of a radio talk given by Mr. Babcock from station WCCO on March 28. He spoke on the same subject before the Prospect Park Study Club of Minneapolis on January 4, and on January 17 he presented an "Illustrated Ramble through Minnesota History" before the women's club at White Bear Lake. On February 21 he participated in the program of a Rice County Historical Society meeting at Faribault, with an address entitled "A Pictorial History of the Sioux Land," and he gave a talk on "Early Days in Our Community" at the John Marshall High School of Minneapolis on March 17. Miss Nute read a paper on "Minnesota Pioneer Women" before the Keewaydin chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Minneapolis on January 8; she spoke to the Northrop School of Minneapolis on February 18 on George Washington; and in March she gave a lecture on the use of manuscripts to a class of history students from Hamline University and a lecture on "Minnesota before the Territorial Period" to a class at the University of Minnesota.

Eighteen additions to the active membership of the society were made during the quarter ending March 31, 1927. The names of the new members, grouped by counties, follow:

BLUE EARTH: Michael D. Fritz, Mankato.

HENNEPIN: Harold G. Cant, Caroline M. Crosby, Dr. Frank T. Gerecke, Mrs. Luth Jaeger, Rollo C. Keithahn, Mrs. Edward J. Kimball, Edna H. Nelson, and Roy Sharratt, all of Minneapolis.

RAMSEY: Erna M. Grussendorf, Anna V. Olson, Dr. Fred C. Schludt, Luella T. Swenson, Dr. Dale D. Turnacliff, and Dr. Harvey B. Washburn, all of St. Paul.

RICE: Kate I. Cole of Faribault, and John C. Hillyer of Northfield.

WINONA: Mabel L. Sheardown of Winona.

The society lost eight active members by death during the three months ending March 31: Oscar A. Naplin of Thief River Falls, January 15; George H. Warren of Minneapolis, January 23; Samuel B. Harding of Minneapolis, January 29; John J. Kelly of Minneapolis, February 11; Charles S. Benson of St. Cloud, February 25; Lorin Cray of Mankato, March 3; Jacob Stone of Minnea-

polis, March 15; and Winslow M. Brackett of Farmington, March 16. Dr. Harry Pratt Judson of Chicago, an honorary member, died on March 4. The death of a corresponding member, Herman Haupt, Jr., of East Setauket, Long Island, on July 23, 1925, has not previously been reported in the magazine.

The public library of Marble and the library of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis became subscribers to the publications of the society during the quarter ending March 31; and the Winona Association of Commerce became an annual institutional member.

At the February conference of the Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution a special resolution was passed thanking the Minnesota Historical Society for its coöperation and aid in "historical and research work."

Two members of the staff, the superintendent and the curator of the museum, attended the meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association at New Orleans, March 31 to April 2, and Mr. Babcock also was present at a meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, of the Midwest Museums Conference, of which he is vice president. At a recent conference of museum directors in the Twin Cities it was agreed to invite the Midwest Museums Conference to meet at the Minnesota Historical Building in St. Paul next November. A formal acceptance of this invitation will probably be received in the near future.

The desirability of building up a collection of motion-picture films of historical interest has long been recognized and attempts have been made to secure the coöperation of the regular producers. No satisfactory plan by which commercial films may be acquired has been worked out as yet by the society, but the possibilities will be further explored. In the meantime the society has acquired a small motion-picture camera and the curator of the museum will endeavor to make a few films of historic scenes and current events. A projector has also been purchased.

The war records division has nearly completed the first volume of its two-volume history of Minnesota in the World War and has the second well under way.

Mr. Blegen has been appointed to a part-time position in the history department of the University of Minnesota and has resigned from his position as professor of history at Hamline University. The new arrangement will go into effect at the opening of the next school year.

That the service being rendered by the society to newspapers and through them to the public by the monthly *Minnesota Historical News* is appreciated is indicated by the responses to an announcement that the "Minnesota Trail Blazers" series was nearing an end and an inquiry as to whether another series was desired. Typical of the letters received is one from the editor of the *Wadena Pioneer Journal*, who wrote: "We feel as though our readers enjoyed the articles even as much as we did ourselves. By all means, give us another series."

#### ACCESSIONS

A manuscript map by John Dutton, dated 1814, in the archives of the Province of Ontario at Toronto, is of special interest for Minnesota history because it shows the trading posts of the Northwest Company in the general region of Minnesota and lower Manitoba. The provincial archivist, Dr. Alexander Fraser, has had the portion of this map of most interest to Minnesotans photostated and has presented the copy to the society. Trading posts are shown at Red Lake Falls, Cass Lake, Leech Lake, and at various other places. The map is also of value for its indication of the canoe routes that were common in the early part of the nineteenth century in the Minnesota region.

A calendar or inventory of the manuscript maps relating to the Northwest is being compiled under the auspices of the Conference of Historical Agencies in the Upper Mississippi Valley and the society is receiving the parts of it that are of Minnesota or general interest. The installments that have come in bring to light much valuable material for Minnesota history. An undated map is described as "Early sketch of the country between the Saint Croix and Mississippi rivers and the Grand Forks of the Red River of the North. B. F. Baker." Benjamin F. Baker was a prominent fur-trader in the region about Fort Snelling who died in 1839.

Thus this map must antedate that year. Another map is called "Sketches of a military reconnoissance from Fort Atkinson, Iowa, to the headwaters of the Saint Peters River." One may conjecture that this map, though it is unsigned, resulted from the expedition of dragoons made in 1845 under the leadership of Captain Edwin V. Sumner from Fort Atkinson to Traverse des Sioux, Lac qui Parle, Big Stone Lake, and points farther to the northwest. One of the most interesting descriptions reads, "Early map of the country in the vicinity of Fort Snelling, drawn by an Indian." Possibly the earliest extant map of Fort Snelling is the one entitled, "Ground plan of a fortification of the Mississippi and Saint Peters rivers." The date is 1820. It is expected that copies of many of these maps will be secured by the society in the course of time.

Three groups of missionary papers have been received during the quarter ending March 31: the regular installments of transcripts of letters in the archives of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions; typed copies of letters in French from Catholic missionaries at Pembina and in its vicinity, the originals of which are in the archives of the diocese of Quebec; and the Catholic parish registers for St. Paul from 1841 to 1857, which have been borrowed from the cathedral residence in order that photostatic copies may be made. The Catholic missionary letters have the distinction, so far as can be ascertained at present, of being the first records after the French régime of missionary activities on Minnesota soil or near by. Thus far the letters of Father Dumoulin, who was at Pembina from 1818 to 1823, and of Father Belcourt, who was in the same locality from 1830 to 1848, have been typed. The St. Paul parish registers, especially for the earlier years, are unique volumes, giving names of settlers, half-breeds, and Indians, vital statistics, social data, and many other kinds of information. Three volumes have been borrowed by the society thus far and probably one more will ultimately be copied.

"Earliest Political Activity and Organization in the Upper Mississippi Country" and "The Struggle for Monopoly of the Fur Trade" are the titles of University of Minnesota masters'

theses, copies of which have been received by the society from the respective authors, Mrs. Florence A. Hartwig and Miss Anne Ratterman. Both papers are based largely on unpublished manuscript sources and contain much information of special Minnesota interest. Miss Ratterman's study deals with the fur trade, and particularly the American Fur Company, in the period after the withdrawal of John Jacob Astor.

An important recent accession is a group of twenty-five photographs of original sketches made by Frank B. Mayer at Traverse des Sioux in 1851, the originals of which are in the Ayer Collection of the Newberry Library in Chicago. These photographic copies were secured through the courtesy of Colonel W. C. Brown of Washington. From the Newberry Library the society has also obtained a photostatic copy of the diary kept by Mayer on his journey in 1851 from Baltimore to St. Louis, then up the Mississippi to St. Paul, and on to Traverse des Sioux, with very full records of his experiences and observations at the latter place. The sketches and the diary, taken together, comprise an unusually interesting record, for Mayer was a keen observer and possessed the power of vivid description not only in the lines of his sketches and paintings but also in words, and the two aptitudes supplement each other admirably.

From the estate of the late Dr. G. A. Newman of Stillwater has been received a large collection of museum objects including five specimens of Indian stone implements and pipes, mostly from Kandiyohi, Becker, and Goodhue counties, Chippewa beadwork from Mille Lacs, and household articles brought from Massachusetts and from Norway to Minnesota in the sixties.

A woven basket made in 1900 by Indians of the Aleutian Islands has been received from Mrs. Nellie B. Wright of Excelsior.

Recent additions to the society's costume collection include a black velvet coat of 1896, several beautiful gowns of 1896 and 1906, and a carpet bag of the seventies, presented by Mr. Frederick B. Wells of Minneapolis; a small fur shoulder cape of 1870 and a muslin chemise of 1868, from Mrs. A. Edward Cook of Minneapolis; a small black shoulder cape of about 1775, from



Miss Louise M. Clifford of St. Paul; and a pair of black silk mitts and some collars, presented by Mrs. Nellie B. Wright of Excelsior.

The military collection has recently been increased by gifts of a Civil War sheath knife, from the Boyd Transfer and Storage Company of Minneapolis; two flags, American and French, that flew over a base hospital in France during the World War, from Mr. W. H. Owen of Minneapolis; and a number of Civil War objects, from Mr. William Milligen of Faribault.

The numismatic collection has been enriched by ten pieces of Continental currency ranging in denomination from forty to sixty dollars, presented by Mrs. Edmund J. Phelps of Minneapolis; and a number of pieces, including a Confederate fifty-dollar note and a Columbian half-dollar, received from Miss Alena Eayres of Minneapolis.

A small apothecary's scale with weights and two pioneer medicine cases have been presented by Dr. William E. Leonard of Minneapolis; and a brass stomach pump and a hypodermic outfit are gifts of Dr. James C. Ferguson of St. Paul.

Among recent gifts illustrative of pioneer life may be mentioned a small handmade iron pitchfork found on the site of the Winnebago Indian agency, received from Mr. O. B. DeLaurier of Long Prairie; two old whiskey flasks carried by a Black Hills stage driver, from Mrs. G. E. Tuttle of Minneapolis; an ox yoke for single driving and a small handmade toy horse, from Mr. P. O. Fryklund of Roseau; and a pair of dipping sticks used in making candles, from Mrs. S. R. Hatfield of Faribault.

## NEWS AND COMMENT

"The Papers of the American Fur Company: A Brief Estimate of Their Significance" is the title of an important article by Dr. Grace Lee Nute in the *American Historical Review* for April. These papers, now in the possession of the New York Historical Society, cover the period from 1835 to 1845, and since they consist of "the correspondence and books of the largest American business firm of the period" they are of great value for the study of American history in that decade. Dr. Nute's analysis of the papers proves her contention that for "practically every phase of American life during the decade these papers hold items of interest: commerce, banking, domestic markets, politics, domestic manufactures, transportation, religious conditions, education, settlement of the West, land speculation, Indian policy, travel and travellers, the panic of 1837, foreign relations, and very many others." She goes so far as to say that "one could hardly get from any single group of papers a more accurate cross-section of American life for the decade 1835-1845 than these papers afford." Under Dr. Nute's supervision a calendar of the collection has been prepared through the coöperation of nine historical agencies, including the Minnesota Historical Society. This calendar, with its comprehensive index, fills 1,942 typed pages. A copy of the calendar is owned by each of the nine coöperating institutions. This implies a very considerable physical aid to research, for a "student can now consult a typed abstract of every document in the collection and determine for himself without an expensive trip to New York whether the collection contains aught for his purpose." Students of American history will be grateful to Dr. Nute both for the positive contribution that she makes by her analysis of the operations of the American Fur Company and for pointing the way to the rich research possibilities of the papers.

Another important article in the *American Historical Review* for April is an analysis of "The History of American Immigration as a Field for Research," by Marcus L. Hansen. Dr. Hansen does three things very effectively in this article: he shows the wide-

reaching ramifications of American immigration, both in the field of European backgrounds and in American social, economic, and political life; he makes it clear that the subject of American immigration is, if not precisely a virgin field for research, one the possibilities of which have as yet been only slightly exploited; and he directs attention to certain hitherto little used sources of information on immigration, particularly the emigrant papers published in Germany, Switzerland, England, and other European countries. The appearance of Dr. Hansen's article is one of numerous recent evidences that the scientific study of the history of American immigration is rapidly gaining ground. There are fashions in research, and many causes are apparently operating to bring American immigration, a much neglected subject, into prominence as a field for special study.

"Making the Museum Serve the State" is the title of an article by Willoughby M. Babcock, published in the November number of the *Quarterly Journal* of the University of North Dakota. "The primary function of a modern museum," writes Mr. Babcock, "is to educate, not to act as a warehouse for the storage of any and all kinds of junk in the last stages of decrepitude." He calls attention to the value of museum publicity, the possibilities in the use of a museum by school classes, the usefulness of picture collections, and discusses various questions of policy in connection with the acceptance of donations and with loans. The value of special exhibits and of coöperation with business concerns is especially stressed. "The museum," writes Mr. Babcock in conclusion, "has created for itself a definite place in the educational and commercial life of today, and has justified its right to exist through its manifold services to the public."

A suggestive article entitled "Some of the Uses of a Historical Museum," by Charles E. Brown, in the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly* for January, describes the work of the State Historical Museum of Wisconsin, of which Mr. Brown is the curator. Among the documents printed in the same magazine is a letter written from Savannah, Georgia, on December 24, 1864, by Sylvanus W. Stone to his wife at Melrose, Minnesota, telling in detail about camp life. "The soldiers," he writes, "are exceeding glad

of the re-election of Pres. Lincoln, and are in great hopes that the war will be over before spring. For further particulars about the campaign see the St. Paul Press, which now and then contains a letter from E. C., a man whom I know in Co. H."

*The American Indians and their Music* is the title of an important work by Frances Densmore (New York, 1926. 143 p.). Miss Densmore, who has previously published studies of Chippewa, Teton Sioux, Northern Ute, and Mandan and Hidatsa music, now makes a general survey, the scope of which is somewhat broader than her title suggests. In addition to chapters on many phases of Indian music, the book contains chapters on tribes and social organization, home life, languages, arts and crafts, ceremonies, dances, games, mounds and mound builders, early contact of the Indian and the white man, and famous Indians. Thus an adequate background is furnished for the more technical discussion of Indian songs and instruments.

Indian chiefs of the Minnesota Valley and a number of other prominent Indians and half-breeds of the region are the subjects of biographical sketches by Thomas Hughes which have been appearing serially in the *Mankato Daily Free Press*. Among the chiefs whose lives are described are Mazomani and Mahkato, January 5; Sleepy Eyes, February 2; Sintomniduta, February 12; Winneshiek, March 15; and Good Thunder, March 23. Other sketches deal with "Cloudman and His Descendants," January 14 and 19; "Rev. Artemus Ehnamani, an Early Sioux Convert," January 27; "The Renville Family, Early State Pioneers," February 16; "Some Prominent Chiefs of Winnebago Tribe," February 25; and "Early Indian Figures in Southern Minnesota," March 3. Most of the articles are accompanied by portraits or other appropriate illustrations.

A prediction that tourist traffic on the upper Mississippi will be revived in the near future is made by Captain John F. Killeen of Dubuque, Iowa, who for nearly half a century was connected with the Diamond Jo Line, in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for March 27. Some of his river experiences also are recalled in connection with the article.

One chapter in a volume entitled *Uncommon Americans* by Don C. Seitz (Indianapolis, 1925) tells the story of Martin Scott, the famous hunter and marksman who was stationed at Fort Snelling as an officer from 1820 to 1827 and became commandant in 1837. Captain Marryat met Scott when he visited Fort Snelling in 1838 and wrote an interesting account of him in his diary. This material Mr. Seitz has used to good advantage.

"Fifty Thousand Years in the Red River Valley," is the title of an historical narrative published in installments in the *Erskine Echo* and concluded on February 25. The account deals with the ice age, the early years of the fur trade, the Selkirk settlement, exploring expeditions into the Red River Valley, the development of navigation on the Red River, the Sioux Outbreak, the Sibley expedition, and wheat raising in the valley. In addition to this series, the *Echo* has published a wealth of other historical material relating to the Dakotas and the Red River Valley. Early exploring and trading activities of such men as La Vérendrye, Henry, Long, and Woods are described in the issue for March 4, which also has an article telling of the history of Dakota Territory and a description of the "laying of the cornerstone of the state capitol building in Bismarck on September 5, 1885"; Pembina in the seventies, as recalled by F. A. Wardwell, and Frog Point are the subjects of two articles published on March 11; the story of "Isabella Murray, Prairie Bride" of Charles Cavalier, appeared on March 18; and "The Iron Trail," a survey of the history of railroad transportation in the Red River Valley, was printed on February 11.

"To Pembina by Red River Cart" over the Red River trails, a journey that connected two of the earliest settlements in the frontier Northwest, is the subject of an article by Frank B. Harper in the *Minneapolis Journal* for February 20. The author tells of the growth of the settlements — Fort Douglas, Fort Garry, St. Boniface, Pembina — on the lower Red River, of the trails over which an extensive commerce passed to St. Peter's and later St. Paul, and of some of the expeditions which used these trails while exploring the region. Among the latter most attention is given to the Stevens Pacific railroad expedition of 1853 and the

Hind Canadian and Red River exploring expedition of 1857. Views of Fort Douglas and Fort Garry appear with the article.

The following note published in the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly* for January will interest Minnesota readers. "According to a recent item in the *Richland County Farmer* the last Red River Cart in Richland county, fashioned more than fifty years ago by wheelrights at the foot of Sibley street in St. Paul, and for several years past stationed in the state park at Abercrombie, has been housed against the weather. While the cart is still intact, it has been exposed to a great deal of weathering, and plans are now on foot to preserve it by treating the wood with preparations to prevent further decay."

A record of pioneering experiences in the Black Hills during the gold rush of 1876, kept by Herbert H. Hewes of Chicago, is quoted in part in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for February 27. "Pa built most of our new house today and is very tired. Moved in this evening," reported Hewes on May 29, and on June 12 he wrote: "Yesterday the first newspaper was published in the Black Hills — 20 cents apiece." The diary was located by Mr. E. L. Peet of Minneapolis, some of whose recollections of the gold rush also appear in the *Tribune*.

The text of "Lincoln's 1859 Address at Milwaukee," — a discourse on agriculture delivered at the Wisconsin State Fair — is published in full in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for March. In the same number is an account by Dr. Louise P. Kellogg of the rich collection of Lucius Fairchild manuscripts in the possession of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Fairchild was a distinguished soldier in the Civil War and was governor of Wisconsin from 1866 to 1872. Dr. Kellogg refers to a sister of Fairchild, who married Eliab B. Dean, Jr., and who lived in the fifties at Superior, Wisconsin. "Descriptions of this frontier region of Wisconsin, as well as of the mining towns of Marquette and Ontonagon, fill the correspondence from 1853 to 1857," writes Dr. Kellogg. "During the winter of 1856 Mrs. Dean took an overland journey from Superior to St. Paul, sleeping in the open on the snow, with the thermometer many degrees below zero. A journal of this journey has been preserved, and

many years later her brother wrote from England that he had met a man who spoke, without knowing of their relationship, of a wonderful woman who traveled to St. Paul from Lake Superior in the dead of winter." In the same number a series of articles on "Historic Spots in Wisconsin," by W. A. Titus, is continued. Minnesota readers will be particularly interested in the one entitled "Stockholm, a Locality Rich in Legend and History," in which is told the story of Perrot and Fort St. Antoine. The number also contains a very suggestive article on "Church Records in Migration Studies" by Joseph Schafer.

A map of "Old Indian Trails in and Near Eau Claire," Wisconsin, and a descriptive article by William W. Bartlett, published in the *Daily Telegram* of Eau Claire for February 5, are based upon old township plats of the Chippewa Valley region.

An article on "The Boundaries of Iowa" by Erik McKinley Eriksson in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* for April is a useful study that will be of special interest to Minnesotans because of its discussion of the northern boundary of Iowa. Other articles in the same number are on "Ralph Waldo Emerson in Iowa" by Hubert H. Hoeltje, and "The Influence of Natural Environment in North-Central Iowa" by William J. Berry.

*The Pioneers, a Pageant of Early Iowa*, by Bruce E. Mahan, has been issued by the State Historical Society of Iowa (1927. 14 p.). The pageant was compiled "for use as a high school assembly program during Iowa History Week, April 18-23, 1927." The scene is a log cabin home of Iowa in the forties or fifties and there are two parts, one dealing with the trials of the pioneers and the other with pioneer fun.

The January *Palimpsest* contains a series of sketches by different authors on the Iowa pioneers. Following a general estimate are sketches on the following topics: "By Boat and Covered Wagon," "Claim and Cabin," "Earning a Living," "Around the Fireplace," "On the Highway," "Religion and Morality," "The Means of Education," "Frontier Fun," "The News," "Pioneer Politics," and "Rough Justice." If, perchance, the zealous authors have to a certain extent idealized the Iowa pioneers, the

sketches are vividly written and are packed with information of distinct value to all who are interested in middle western pioneering.

A vivid account of "The Pioneer Religious Revival" by Cal. Ogburn is printed in the *Annals of Iowa* for January.

*Michigan under British Rule, Law and Law Courts, 1760-1796* by William R. Riddell (Lansing, Michigan Historical Commission, 1926. 493 p.) consists in the main of the extant records of various courts of Quebec and Upper Canada that exercised jurisdiction on the American side of the boundary from 1788 to 1796. These are preceded, however, by a discussion of courts in the region from 1760 to 1788 and are followed by extensive notes. Minnesota East was a part of the districts over which these courts had jurisdiction, but no case of specific Minnesota interest has been observed in the records.

The Illinois State Historical Library has recently brought out the first volume of *The Diary of Orville Hickman Browning*, edited by Theodore C. Pease and James C. Randall (Springfield, 1925. 700 p.). The part of the diary printed in this volume covers the period from 1850 to 1864. Special interest attaches to the Civil War entries made at Washington by Browning, who was then a United States senator from Illinois and closely associated with Lincoln.

#### GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

The state legislature, in chapter 102 of the *Laws* passed at the session of 1927, made the adjutant general of Minnesota responsible for compiling and preserving by counties "a permanent registry of the graves of all persons who shall have served in the military or naval forces of the United States and whose remains may rest in Minnesota."

By chapter 353 of the *Laws* of 1927 the Governor was authorized to appoint a commission to solicit funds not exceeding fifty thousand dollars for a suitable statue of Alexander Ramsey to be erected on the Capitol grounds.



Another law passed by the 1927 legislature (chapter 275) authorizes county auditors, with the approval of county boards, to destroy claims and vouchers, tax receipts, miscellaneous papers, and other documents over twenty years old that have accumulated in their offices. A proviso is added, however, that instead of "personally destroying any miscellaneous papers and correspondence, or any other documents, instruments, or papers which may be of historical value," the county auditors shall forward them to the Minnesota Historical Society, which may preserve them or destroy them, according to its judgment of their value. The law provides that all ballots and election returns, except the abstracts of the county canvassing boards, may be destroyed six years after the date of the election.

Among the measures before the 1927 legislature that failed to become laws were the following: a bill for the state to acquire eighty acres of land at Birch Coulee, the site of the famous Indian battle in 1862, and thus to broaden the relatively small piece of ground owned in that vicinity by the state at present into an imposing park to be named "Birch Coulee Battle Field State Memorial Park"; a bill to establish a "Sam Brown Memorial Park" at Brown's Valley, with the purchase of three acres of land and the cabin occupied for nearly sixty years by Brown; a bill for the erection of a monument in Milford Township, Brown County, "in memory of fifty-two persons killed in said township in the Indian outbreak of 1862"; and a bill for the erection of a monument at Moose Lake in Carlton County to commemorate citizens who lost their lives in the forest fires of October, 1918.

"Minnesota History: A Study Outline" is the title of a seventy-page syllabus by Theodore C. Blegen which has recently been mimeographed by Hamline University. The subject is divided into twenty-five broad topics, for each of which an outline, questions and suggestions, and references are given. Copies of the syllabus may be secured at fifty cents each from Hamline University, St. Paul.

Plans are being made at Red Wing for the celebration next fall of the two-hundredth anniversary of the building of Fort Beau-

harnois on the shores of Lake Pepin by La Perrière and a group of Frenchmen, who arrived there on September 17, 1727.

The General James Knapp chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, of Hopkins, has voted funds to place a marker on the site of the Northwest Company fur-trading post at Sandy Lake. The interest of the members of the chapter was aroused as a result of the publication in the December number of this magazine (7:311-325) of Mr. Hart's article telling of the discovery of the site of the post.

How the "First Territorial Legislature Met in Log Hotel," the Central House of St. Paul, on September 3, 1849, is described in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for January 30. A picture of the old hotel and portraits of some of Minnesota's pioneer law-makers appear with the article.

*St. Olaf College through Fifty Years, 1874-1924*, by C. A. Mellby (Northfield, n. d. 93 p.), is a carefully prepared study and includes a survey of the cultural backgrounds and the ideals of the founders.

*Who's Who in Music and Dramatic Art in the Twin Cities*, compiled by Arthur E. Wascher and Thomas C. Ingham (Minneapolis, 1925. 220 p.), is an exceedingly useful compilation of condensed biographical and historical data. Though most of the volume is devoted to biographical sketches, there are also accounts of musical organizations in the Twin Cities and a brief sketch of public school music in Minneapolis.

In the last number of this magazine (p. 109) attention was called to the publication of a biographical and bibliographical work entitled *Physicians of the Mayo Clinic and Mayo Foundation*. This has now been issued in a second edition (Philadelphia, 1927. 578 p.), with the number of biographical sketches increased from 444 to 635, and the data brought down to January 1, 1926. The work has been supplemented by a volume bearing the title *Sketch of the History of the Mayo Clinic and the Mayo Foundation* (Philadelphia and London, 1926. 185 p.). Two introductory chapters deal with Dr. and Mrs. William Worrell Mayo and the youth and education of the Mayo brothers — Dr. William J. Mayo

and Dr. Charles H. Mayo. A series of fourteen chapters follows tracing the remarkable expansion of the clinic and describing the wide scope of its present-day activities. This book is an important contribution to American medical history.

Under the incongruous title "Away Back in 1860 Daring Voyageur Visioned Great Future for St. Paul," extracts from a visitor's account of Minnesota, published in the *Ladies' Repository* of October, 1861, appear in the *St. Paul Daily News* of March 13.

The Sibley House Association of the Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution is planning two bronze tablets to be erected near the Mendota end of the new Mendota Bridge. One is to call attention to the Sibley House and the other to the beginnings of white settlement in the vicinity of the bridge.

"Steamboat Days Come Back for Minnesota River, Where First Freight Sailed in 1701," is the title of an article by Florence Lehmann in the *Minneapolis Journal* for February 9. Beginning with Le Sueur's boat load of supposed copper ore destined for France, the author traces the history of transportation on the Minnesota through the years when steamboats carried the produce of the valley to market. A recent project for raising the level of the river about a foot and thus making it again useful for transportation has revived interest in the stream's past.

In order to present the "life story of a most unusual man who is recalled with something akin to awe by an elder generation but who is only known slightly to present day readers," the *Minneapolis Tribune* has published in its Sunday issues for March 6, 13, and 20 a biography of Ignatius Donnelly by Martin W. Odland. In general each installment deals with a distinct phase of Donnelly's career. His early life in Philadelphia, his education, his removal to Minnesota, and the founding of Nininger are described in the first article. It was Donnelly's ambition "to establish a country estate on the order of Washington's 'Mount Vernon' and Jefferson's 'Monticello,'" according to Mr. Odland. The second installment covers the greater part of Donnelly's political career — his early success, the defeat for Congress in 1868, which "marked the end of his career as a successful politician," and his later third party affiliations. In the third article Mr. Odland describes

the "series of books which began to make their appearance after repeated defeats and disappointments had caused Donnelly to turn with disgust from politics to the field of letters," and it is upon these literary works, the author claims, that the "true fame of Ignatius Donnelly rests." As a whole these articles, which are based to a considerable extent upon contemporary newspapers, form a useful and compact sketch of the colorful career of the "Sage of Nininger." The author has not drawn upon the vast collection of Donnelly Papers in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.

How Mrs. Margaret Baldwin, a mixed-blood Chippewa, helped to save Fort Abercrombie during the siege of 1862 is related in a series of articles on her life in the *Moorhead Daily News* for March 28, 29, and 30. According to an introductory note by the editor, the account was first "printed in a Twin City paper 25 years ago."

A sketch and two portraits of Mrs. Louisa Bluestone of St. Paul, a granddaughter of the Sioux chief, Red Wing, appear in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for February 6.

#### LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

That the founding of Bemidji resulted from a "diamond rush" is claimed in a story printed in the *Minnesota Daily*, a University of Minnesota publication, for February 10. According to this account a homesteader picked up glistening stones along the lake shore which he believed to be diamonds. A number of his friends bought up options on land in the vicinity, and when the stones were found to be quartz they changed their plans and organized a town site company.

Some recollections of Mr. J. R. Henderson of Seattle, who is said to have been the "first white child born in Mankato," are published in the *Mankato Daily Free Press* for January 7.

An account of "Early Settlers of Waconia" appears in the *Waconia Patriot* for January 6 as one of a series of local history sketches. Later accounts deal with Hancock Township and with the villages of Benton, Young America, and Norwood.

Some notes on the history of Mendota, the town that "sleeps in hills as progress rushes by doors," are published with pictures of several of its historic buildings in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for March 6.

The story of Lewiston, a little town in Sciota Township, Dakota County, which flourished while "it was the midway point for the Burbank stage line plying between Hastings and Faribault" only to pass out of existence with this means of transportation, is related by Senator C. S. Amsden, one of the early residents, in the *Northfield News* for January 28.

A brief sketch of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Lanesboro, Minnesota, with numerous illustrations comprises the bulk of the *Golden Jubilee Book* of that church published in 1924 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of its founding (Lanesboro. 24 p.).

Richfield, originally a farming community near Minneapolis, which is about to be absorbed by the larger city, is the subject of an historical sketch by Edward R. Sammis in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for February 20.

Some reminiscences of the blizzard of 1873, by Michael Holden, the only one to survive of a party of five settlers who were caught in the storm while hauling wheat from Beaver Falls to Willmar, are published in the *Montgomery Messenger* for January 21.

A frontier school opened at Marshall more than fifty years ago by Mrs. A. C. Tucker in her home in order that her own and the neighborhood children might receive an education is described by Mrs. Henry Matthews in the *News-Messenger* of Marshall for December 10, 1926. A history of Vallery Township, Lyon County, with some account of the earliest settlers, by Viola Reimestad, appears in the same paper for January 21.

A pioneer summer school near Granada in Martin County is described by Mrs. L. M. Neitzell, who taught there during June, July, and August of 1871, in the *Fairmont Daily Sentinel* for February 8.

A paper read before the Modern Woodmen at Litchfield on January 13 by Mr. Frank McConville, entitled "Meeker County as I Knew It When a Boy," is published in the *Litchfield Independent* of January 19. Mr. McConville describes his family's northward journey from Illinois in 1867, and the conditions under which his father's pioneer Minnesota home was established.

The most important articles in an illustrated "Fiftieth Anniversary Section," published with the *Princeton Union* of December 30, 1926, are an outline of the history of the village, an account of the progress of the newspaper, and a biographical sketch of Robert C. Dunn, the publisher of the *Union* from 1876 until his death in 1918.

Under the title "23 Years a Reporter," Mr. J. Ted Beatty contributes a series of articles to the *Rochester Post Bulletin*, beginning January 19, in which he describes his experiences as a Rochester newspaper man.

A series of sketches of life in Scott County, many of which relate to pioneer conditions, by Win V. Working, has been appearing in the weekly issues of the *Belle Plaine Herald*. Many of the narratives are based on interviews with old settlers or on manuscript sources found in the community. The subjects of some of the sketches follow: the trials of pioneer doctors during the severe northern winters, January 6; a study of changes in the population elements of the Keystone colony in Blakely Township from Yankee to German and Irish, February 3; a history of the Frederick's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Blakely Township, February 17; the story of a pioneer Scott County "school ma'am," Miss Esther Bliss, March 17; and floods on the Minnesota River, March 24. The article for March 31 suggests that "Belle Plaine celebrate its diamond jubilee next year," and relates some of the town's early history.

The story of a Minnesota Swedish settlement is told in *The Vista Community* by Herman A. Peterson (Otisco, Minnesota, 1927. 54 p.). The settlement, which is in Waseca County, dates from the fifties. Much interesting information is included about early social and economic conditions in the settlement and about

the immigration from Sweden. The latter part of the pamphlet is a genealogical section dealing with the settlers of the community and their descendants. An interesting illustration is that of a log house built in the settlement in 1866, where it is said an important Swedish church conference was held in that year.

"Annals of the Town" is the heading of a column in the *Stillwater Daily Gazette* devoted to comments on early days. A number of the sketches have to do with lumbering and steam-boating on the St. Croix; others deal with dramatic attractions and theaters of the past, March 7; horse races of pioneer days, March 12; and an early St. Patrick's Day celebration, March 17.

A plea for the preservation of the landmarks of the 1850 Swedish settlement at Scandia in Washington County, by the Reverend J. A. Krantz, is published in the *Minnesota Stats Tidning* for January 19.

A group of interesting documents relating to early days in old St. Anthony are published serially in the Sunday issues of the *Minneapolis Journal* from February 20 to April 10 under the title "The Diary of the First White Child Born in Minneapolis," by Harriet Razada Godfrey. Held together by the connecting links of this pioneer woman's reminiscences are letters of her father, Ard Godfrey, dating from 1839; extracts from the diary of her mother; and her own diary, covering the years from 1863 to 1871. Here are recorded the intimate details of domestic life in a pioneer household — word pictures of "an age when hardships were many and the majority of the modern comforts were unknown." Something of the difficulty of the struggle for existence on the frontier also is revealed. The installments for March 6 and 13 include a number of letters written by Ard Godfrey from the West in 1862 and 1863, after he had joined the Fisk expedition in an effort to retrieve the family fortunes. Some of these tell about conditions in the Idaho mining country. In 1865 Miss Godfrey began to teach school, and the entry in her diary for August 2 of that year throws light on both cultural and economic conditions in pioneer Minnesota: "I am at home once more. School has been closed two weeks. The treasurer failed to raise the money for six months' school, so I came home, having earned \$52 in two months,

saving \$32." With each installment of the "Diary" are excellent views of early St. Anthony—the first suspension bridge across the Mississippi, the Falls of St. Anthony at various stages in their development, the business district in pioneer days, and other scenes that were familiar to Miss Godfrey in her childhood and early womanhood.

"I do hope and trust you will go against the bill to incorporate the town of Minneapolis. . . . I do not think there are 10 that would be in favor of it," writes Colonel John H. Stevens, the builder of the first house west of the river in what is now Minneapolis, in an undated letter written about seventy years ago to Thomas W. Pearce and Arba Cleveland. The letter is published with some brief comments about Stevens and early Minneapolis in the *Minneapolis Journal* for February 7.

"Old Time Minneapolis Gardens" is the subject of an interesting contribution in the Minneapolis Public Library's *Community Bookshelf* for April. The article is based upon a series published in the *Minnesota Republican* of St. Anthony in 1855 under the title "Minnesota as It Is." It appears that many of the gardening experiments were undertaken in order to furnish a reply to the question frequently asked of early Minnesotans, "What can you raise away up there in Siberia?"

A tablet in memory of Robert Koehler, who was director of the Minneapolis School of Art from 1893 to 1914, has been unveiled in the school. Koehler's work in building up the school and in promoting the cause of art in Minneapolis is described in the *Minneapolis Journal* for January 2.

In five mural paintings, recently completed and placed in the lobby of the Northwestern National Life Insurance Company Building of Minneapolis, Mr. Harry W. Rubins has pictured the historical development of the city at the Falls of St. Anthony. The first panel shows the coming of Father Hennepin and the last represents modern industrial and cultural life, and "through them all the Mississippi flows as the highway that first brought civilization to the northwest and then provided the power which made a metropolitan area possible," according to a description of the paintings, by C. L. Franks, in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for



March 20. Reproductions of two of the panels accompany this article.

The story of a very active and influential liberal discussion club of Minneapolis is told in a pamphlet entitled *The Saturday Lunch Club of Minneapolis: a Brief History*, by William E. Leonard (Minneapolis, 1927. 16 p.).

The story of the development of the Sidney Pratt School of Minneapolis and of the Prospect Park district in which it is located is reviewed in the *Minneapolis Journal* for January 7. The recent opening of a new portion of the school, which was established in 1898, was marked by a home-coming celebration on the part of the alumni.

A sketch of the history of St. John's Lutheran Church of Minneapolis, published in the *Minneapolis Journal* for February 17, is based in part on the recollections of its first pastor, Dr. G. H. Trabert. The church, which was established in 1883, is said to have been the "first English Lutheran church to be formed in the United States west of Chicago."

The "projected development of Third Street should unite all citizens in the erection of a suitable memorial in honor of Rev. Lucian Galtier," writes Guy W. Atherton in *The Open Road*, the official publication of the Automobile Club of St. Paul, for March. The author gives the exact location of the log chapel of St. Paul, built by Father Galtier, and suggests this as the suitable site for a memorial.

Plans are being made by the St. Paul city planning board to acquire the old Ramsey home, built in 1872 by the first territorial governor, according to an announcement in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for March 13. A picture of the house, which is still in practically its original state, appears with the article.

During the week of February 20 the Central Presbyterian Church of St. Paul celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary with special services. Good outlines of its history appear in the *St. Paul Daily News* for February 20, and the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for February 21.



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