

THE 1928 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The seventy-ninth annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society, held in St. Paul on January 9, was opened in the auditorium of the Historical Building at 10:00 A.M. with a session devoted to the eighth annual local history conference. Dr. Solon J. Buck, superintendent of the society, presided, and some thirty persons, representing eleven counties, were present.

Dr. Buck reviewed the progress of the county historical society movement and called special attention to the fact that of the eleven local societies in Minnesota, three were organized in 1927. The state society has coöperated in the organization of such societies, but it has not attempted to take the initiative, having preferred to follow the policy of letting the local people make the start.

Dr. Helen Hughes Hielscher, vice president of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, was then introduced and read a brief paper on the late Judge Lorin Cray of Mankato and his bequest of ten thousand dollars to the Blue Earth County society. Mr. W. H. Pay of Mankato, the president of that society, then raised the question of public support of local historical work, calling attention to the need in his own and other counties of adequate places for housing the collections of county societies; and Dr. Hielscher commented on the need of stimulating, especially among local officials, an interest in county history.

A valuable short paper was next read by Mr. John H. Darling of Duluth, a member of the board of governors of the St. Louis County Historical Society, giving a compact account of the effective organization of the work of that society under the leadership of its president, the Honorable William E. Culkin.

The next speaker was Mrs. A. C. Hinckley of Claremont, who told of "A State-wide Survey of Historic Sites and Markers in Minnesota," a project undertaken by the Daughters of the American Revolution in the state. This survey, substantially completed, has resulted in the preparation of a detailed catalogue or inventory of historic sites and monuments in Minnesota, accompanied by a map and a general sketch of Minnesota history, and it is expected that all this will soon be published by the national organization of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Olmsted County Historical Society, organized in 1926, was represented in the conference by Mr. Burt W. Eaton of Rochester, who spoke next, setting forth the need of adequate facilities for preserving and making available local historical records. Illustrative of such records, he said, is a set of bound volumes of a local Rochester newspaper covering a period of fifty years from 1858 in the possession of the city library. Though of great local historical value, this file has not received adequate care and has narrowly escaped destruction in recent years. Eventually, when a new court house is built, space will probably be available in it for the county historical society. Dr. Buck, commenting on the incident reported by Mr. Eaton, declared that the public libraries of the state seem to be neglecting the collection and preservation of local historical materials.

In the absence of a representative from the Otter Tail County Historical Society, Dr. Buck told of the organization and progress of that society, and the conference then took up for discussion the question of public support for county historical work. Attention was called to the fact that under the terms of a law enacted in 1923 St. Louis County is authorized to appropriate \$2,500 annually for the support of its historical society. The possibility of securing general legislative action that would permit appropriations by counties of money for the support of county historical work was then considered, and

after some discussion a motion was made and carried that a committee to take the matter in hand should be selected by the representatives of county historical societies present at the conference. Before closing the session, the chairman called upon Senator Victor Lawson of Willmar, who commended the action just taken and said that if history is worth making it is worth preserving.

The luncheon, held at the Lowry Hotel in St. Paul at 12:30 P.M., was attended by more than a hundred persons. The toastmaster was Mr. Frederick G. Ingersoll, the president of the society, who introduced as the first speaker, Brigadier-general William C. Brown, U. S. A., Retired, of Denver, Colorado. General Brown read an extremely interesting paper entitled "On the Trail of the History of Traverse des Sioux."¹ The general was born at Traverse des Sioux in 1854 and lived there until he left for West Point in 1873. He has had a long and distinguished military career, his experience ranging from Indian campaigns in the West to the World War, but he has never lost his early interest in the story of the trading post on the Minnesota River. In his paper he first told of his childhood impressions of the post, where his father, an emigrant from Pittsburgh in 1854, had a general trading store. He then sketched the history of Traverse des Sioux, speaking especially of the early traders in the Minnesota Valley; the Long expedition of 1823; the explorations of the geologist, G. W. Featherstonhaugh, in 1835; George Catlin's visit in 1836; the surveys of Nicollet and Fremont in 1838; and the arrival at the post in 1845 of Captain E. V. Sumner and his dragoons from Fort Atkinson. General Brown then told of the careful search that he has made for historical materials relating to Traverse des Sioux — a search undertaken in order to aid Mr. Thomas Hughes of Mankato, who is writing a comprehensive history of the post. Among the valuable materials into which the general has delved are the Frank B. Mayer

¹ This paper is published in the *St. Peter Herald* for February 1.

sketches and diary from the period of the treaty of Traverse des Sioux, the originals of which are in the possession of the Newberry Library of Chicago; and the invaluable Nicollet Papers in the manuscript division of the Library of Congress. General Brown continued with an account of some of the historical repositories in Washington, D. C., that he has found valuable for records pertaining to the West. These include the Library of Congress; the historical section of the Army War College; the Smithsonian Institution, where many of the Catlin paintings are to be found; the pension office; and the old records division of the adjutant-general's office. General Brown concluded by paying appropriate tribute to the regular army for its part in exploration, Indian wars, map making, and the general development of the West; and this tribute was made the more impressive because General Brown himself served for twenty-seven years under Captain E. V. Sumner, Jr., in the First United States Cavalry, that dragoon regiment which the elder Captain Sumner led to Minnesota in 1845.

Governor Theodore Christianson then brought the luncheon program to a close by reading an admirable address on "Backgrounds of Minnesota," which is brought before a larger audience by its publication in full in the present number of the magazine.

Mr. Ingersoll presided at the afternoon session, which convened at 3:00 P.M. in the auditorium of the Historical Building with about fifty persons present. The report of the treasurer, Mr. Everett H. Bailey, was read in his absence by Mr. William W. Cutler; and the superintendent presented his annual report, a survey of the society's activities in 1927, which is printed in this number of the magazine. Mr. William H. Lightner of St. Paul then read the following paper:

EDWARD B. YOUNG: A MEMORIAL

Edward Blake Young, first vice president of the Minnesota Historical Society, died at his home in St. Paul on May 25, 1927, after a brief illness. He had apparently been in good health until

shortly before his death, when he developed heart trouble from which he did not rally.

Mr. Young was born on January 14, 1864, at Newton, Massachusetts. He was the son of Edward James Young, professor of Oriental languages in the divinity school of Harvard University, and of Mary Clapp Blake Young of Worcester, Massachusetts. He entered Harvard University, from which he was graduated in 1885, *magna cum laude*. He was a member of the Hasty Pudding Club.

After his graduation he went to St. Paul in 1885 and studied law in the office of the firm of Young and Lightner, of which his uncle, the late George B. Young, one of the leaders of the Minnesota bar, was the senior member. He was admitted to the bar on October 14, 1887, and on January 1, 1892, became the junior member of the firm of Young and Lightner. Upon the death of his uncle he entered into partnership on December 30, 1906, with William H. Lightner under the firm name of Lightner and Young, and continued the practice of law at St. Paul until his death.

On August 31, 1909, Mr. Young married Violet Lee Dousman, daughter of Hercules L. Dousman, Jr., of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. They had one child, Mary Blake Young, who with her mother, survives him.

Mr. Young was a firm believer in the value of physical exercise, was an enthusiastic member of the Minnesota Boat Club, continued active in bicycling long after his friends had lost interest therein, and until the time of his death enjoyed some form of exercise.

He was a student of history, particularly of genealogy, and was for many years historian and registrar of the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Minnesota.

During the World War, Mr. Young performed guard duty as a special deputy sheriff during a strike on the Twin City street railway, having charge of the East Broadway car depot. He was a member of the Civilian Auxiliary from December, 1917, through the time when it became a part of the Minnesota Home Guard in 1918, and until his battalion was mustered into the Minnesota National Guard. He was very active in the Liberty Loan and Red Cross drives and was an associate member of the legal advisory board for his district during the selective draft.

Probably nothing that Mr. Young did in his life gave him more satisfaction or better exhibited the fine traits of his character than his work in the Harvard Club of Minnesota. He was a member of its council and its vice president at the time of his death. For twelve years he was chairman of the scholarship committee, and through his untiring efforts the club succeeded in establish-

ing a permanent scholarship fund, which made it possible to award scholarships regularly instead of sporadically as at first. During 1927 three scholarships were awarded. The scholarships are open to all Minnesota boys, and all of the many who have been aided during the past twelve years have without exception made fine records while at college and later in whatever line of business or profession they have undertaken.

Mr. Young never sought or accepted public office, but for the protection of his country and the relief of the suffering and needy he was always ready to furnish his services. He was a member of the Minnesota Tyler Tornado Relief Commission, a director of the United Charities of St. Paul, a member of the charities and donations division of the St. Paul Association of Public and Business Affairs, a trustee of the St. Paul Institute, a director of the Ramsey County Bar Association, and a member of the Minnesota and White Bear Yacht clubs. He was a faithful and devoted member of Unity Church of St. Paul, a trustee of the church, and superintendent of the Sunday school.

This brief review of his life's activities gives a good insight into his character. He was untiring in labors for others, whether of his own family and friends or his fellow citizens. He never complained and did not criticize others. It may safely be said that he had no enemies. He was an able lawyer and a sound and safe counselor.

Gifted with unswerving integrity, with a strong feeling of his responsibilities to his country, to his church, to his friends, and above all to his family, and with a most kindly disposition for all his fellow men, he led a model life and has left a lasting record of the life of a good citizen, a good friend, and a good father.

Two papers, both of which will appear in early numbers of the magazine, concluded the afternoon session: one entitled "Some Gaps in the History of the Northwest," by Mr. Joseph R. Starr, instructor in political science in the University of Minnesota; and the other on "Land Claim Associations and Frontier Democracy in Minnesota," by Dr. Charles J. Ritchey of St. Paul, professor of history in Macalester College.

The last session of the seventy-ninth annual meeting convened in the society's auditorium at 8:00 P.M., with Mrs. Charles E. Furness, first vice president of the society, presiding. Mrs. Furness introduced Dr. Clyde A. Duniway, professor of history in Carleton College, who gave the annual address

on the topic "Daniel Webster and the West." Following this able exposition of one aspect of Webster's place in American history, which is published elsewhere in this issue, a motion picture portraying scenes in the region of Lake Itasca was shown.

About ninety persons attended the evening session. At the close of the program they were invited to view a series of special exhibits in the museum, including a number of Webster letters, several constitutions of Minnesota land claim associations, a selection of fur-trade papers, and a number of photographic copies of sketches made by Frank B. Mayer at Traverse des Sioux in 1851.

T. C. B.



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