

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*Law in History and Other Essays.* By EDWARD P. CHEYNEY.  
(New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1927. vii, 174 p.)

Rarely does a scholar win applause for his professional achievements, though he may frequently receive commendation for work of superior quality. This is probably just as dear to him as the former. Sometimes his lot is to draw criticism that may be useful though not pleasant. The leading essay in the work under review, however, recalls one of those exceptionally rare occasions when the scholar received an ovation. The reviewer was not present when Frederick J. Turner read his famous paper on the significance of the frontier in American history. He was present, however, when this paper on "Law in History" was read before a joint meeting of the American Historical and the American Political Science associations at Columbus. When Professor Cheyney had concluded there was silence for some moments. This was broken, at length, by thundering applause, which went on and on as though it would never cease. Time and again the speaker modestly returned to the platform to bow his acknowledgment, but the applause still continued. The reviewer wondered just how the *impasse* could be ended. Would the speaker have to repeat his address or would the audience finally become exhausted? The latter occurred. No one who was present will ever forget that occasion — or will ever want to forget it.

This memorable address constitutes the first of six essays that are bound together in this attractive little volume. Not every social scientist will agree fully with Professor Cheyney with reference to all the "laws" that he has here set forth, but they constitute a challenge to all thinkers in this field. Doubtless there are those who would like to modify his statement of the "law of impermanence or mutability" to a less fatalistic conception of the fortune of political organizations. Some would rather consider merely a law of change that operates to bring about changes

for no other reason than that people desire to do things differently. Such variance of opinion, however, is only a tribute to the character of the essay.

The other five essays, "What is History?" (1907), "The Tide of History" (1913), "The Agitator in History" (1915), "Historical Tests of Democracy" (1919), and "History among the Sciences" (1926) are all memorable. Written at different times over a period of twenty years, they reflect the author's changing views as he has advanced in his chosen field. Views of earlier years are somewhat modified by further study and thought. The initial essay, delivered in 1923, merely marks the culmination of this brilliant collection.

A wealth of illustration, drawn not alone from incidents and episodes in history, which the author knows so well, but likewise from poetry and literature, with which he is almost equally familiar, adds to the reader's interest. The whole is suffused with the author's gentle humanitarian spirit, which, while it brooks no compromise with the historian's duty to absolute truth, nevertheless reveals that broad sympathy without which history cannot properly be understood. These essays are products of those moments when the master pauses in the strenuous labors of the scholar's workshop and reflects upon ultimate meanings. And it is chiefly through such moments that the thoughtful layman is admitted to the secrets that scholarship accumulates and too often conceals.

AUGUST C. KREY

*The Foreign Policy of James G. Blaine.* By ALICE FELT TYLER.  
(Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1927.  
411 p.)

The place that James G. Blaine should occupy as one of the makers of American diplomatic history has been heretofore more a subject of controversy than of research. Fulsome praise of Blaine, the "harbinger of the new era," has been pitted against unfriendly criticism of Blaine, the novice in international affairs. Mrs. Tyler's task has been to make use of all the available evidence and so far as possible to let the documents speak for them-

selves. The archives of the department of state have been subjected to a more complete overhauling than ever before for the topic under consideration and such other relevant materials as exist, printed or manuscript, not even excepting extensive and unreliable periodical literature, have been carefully examined. Mrs. Tyler is certainly to be congratulated upon the completeness of her research and not less upon the fairness and impartiality of her conclusions. Blaine survives the ordeal better than some of his critics would have thought possible, but not so well as his devoted followers would have hoped. "The truth," writes Mrs. Tyler, "lies neither with his admirers nor with his detractors. He was a Secretary of State with greater vision and greater grasp of the interests and problems of the United States than any who held office between the time of Seward and that of John Hay." This, of course, is a well-guarded statement.

Well written and admirably brought out by the University of Minnesota Press, the book deserves and doubtless will obtain a wide circulation among readers of American history who enjoy biography, diplomacy, or the expert analysis of recent events.

JOHN D. HICKS

*Frémont, the West's Greatest Adventurer: Being a Biography from Certain Hitherto Unpublished Sources of General John C. Frémont Together with His Wife, Jessie Benton Frémont, and Some Account of the Period of Expansion Which Found a Brilliant Leader in the Pathfinder.* By ALLAN NEVINS. In two volumes. (New York and London, Harper and Brothers, 1928. ix, viii, 738 p. Illustrations.)

This is no "debunking" biography, — perhaps the weirdly long and eighteenth-century title was so phrased that it might convey the impression that the author was not emulating Rupert Hughes, — it is a straightforward story of a romantic and significant figure in American history and particularly in the history of the American West. Based upon printed sources, many of them little known, and upon considerable heretofore unused manuscript material, it offers a fresh interpretation of the life and characteristics of the "Pathfinder" and, without being in any sense a

eulogy, corrects some misapprehensions that have apparently tended to become fixed.

Those especially concerned with the history of Minnesota and the Northwest will turn to chapter three of the first volume. Here is an account of Frémont's "First View" of the West in company with J. N. Nicollet, who the author insists is "Jean" and not "Joseph." Nothing new is brought out and no use apparently was made of the Nicollet Papers in the Library of Congress, the Frémont material alone being the basis of the short sketch of this episode.

As the title suggests, Jessie Benton appears in the story very nearly as often as her husband. In fact one could hardly tell the story of one without the other, and certainly the Benton family was so closely intertwined with Frémont's exploits that they are inexplicable apart from it. With both the Frémonts the reader feels a sense of personal acquaintance, for their traits have been drawn with a sympathy and a vividness that make them live.

The story itself is generally chronological, as most good biographies should be, carrying the "Pathfinder" through his three governmental expeditions. The third, which took him to California and Oregon in time to play a part in the "liberation," receives extended treatment not only because of the connection between the California situation and the Mexican War, but also on account of the controversy that has been carried on over Frémont's part. The author concludes that he was neither so indispensable as his admiring contemporaries thought nor the meddling blunderer portrayed by Royce and Hittell. "Frémont was not the liberator of California," according to Mr. Nevins. "It would in all probability have fallen safely and surely into American hands had he gone unambitiously north to the Oregon Trail in the spring of 1846. But he did play a gallant, daring, and useful role in expediting the American conquest, making it easy for the Navy to act, preventing the possible occurrence of complications with Great Britain, and enabling California to be almost wholly pacified before the first overland forces under General Kearny arrived."

The clash between Frémont and Kearny was probably inevitable when one takes into consideration the temperaments of the

two men. A greater degree of coolness on either side might easily have smoothed the situation so that Frémont would not have had to go East virtually a prisoner, and the court-martial, which redounded to Frémont's popularity, would never have taken place. The author's conclusion that Frémont was used hardly is well backed by both documents and argument.

After the court-martial Frémont steps out of his rôle as official explorer, and, in spite of the fact that he led two more expeditions into the mountains, in 1848 and 1853, one feels that the work in which he took most interest was done. Frémont developing his Mariposa property, Frémont the presidential candidate in 1856, or Frémont in the Civil War—none of these produces the thrill of Frémont the explorer. The "Hundred Days" in Missouri, with their disastrous effect on Frémont's reputation, are examined in detail, and the author is of the opinion that as commander of the Department of the West he was led into unfortunate acts by his impulsiveness, but that "with all his shortcomings," in three months he "did bring an army into being, did virtually clear Missouri of the enemy, did take practical measures important for the future, and, above all, did place in Kentucky a force and a commander who were destined to win the first real victories of the War." After the war one sees Frémont the millionaire and then Frémont reduced to the point where a household could not be maintained, but through it all a Frémont of large ideas, impulsive and simple.

This is a good piece of work. It has been done with painstaking care, in spite of the fact that a few errors, not all caught in the list of errata, are noted here and there. One cannot quite agree that "the great western wilderness lying beyond the Missouri . . . was for the most part a land of mystery" (p. 76). But the author himself modifies this a little farther on by saying that "despite the growing attention to the West and the steady penetration of its more attractive portions, a really scientific knowledge of the trans-Missouri regions was almost completely lacking." With this one can agree, and one can also agree that Frémont did much to supply that scientific knowledge. But that title! One could put up with its length, if only the superlatives had been omitted. It is a dangerous thing to affirm, out-

side of an advertisement, that any one thing is the "greatest" of its kind. "The West's Greatest Adventurer!" Fortunately the book belies the title, for it has nothing of the flamboyancy suggested by those words.

LESTER B. SHIPPEE

*An Outline of County Government in Minnesota, With Special Reference to Hennepin, Ramsey, and St. Louis Counties* (University of Minnesota, Bureau for Research in Government, *Publications*, no. 7). By WILLIAM ANDERSON, PH. D., director of the bureau for research in government, and BRYCE E. LEHMANN, M. A., formerly research assistant in the bureau. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1927. 174 p.)

This pamphlet is the seventh in a series of publications that the bureau for research in government has brought out dealing with various problems in the field of state, local, and municipal government and administration in Minnesota. Preceding numbers have dealt with city charter making, the state constitution, the Minneapolis city charter, and village government. The primary object of the series is to furnish information in respect to the organization and operation of the political institutions of the state of Minnesota.

The fundamental data upon which this study was based were gathered in a large part by Mr. Lehmann while he was employed as a research assistant by the bureau in 1923 and 1924. This material has been revised and rewritten and a considerable amount of new matter added by Dr. Anderson in preparing it for publication.

Political scientists are agreed that the county is the dark continent of American political institutions. The spotlight of publicity has beaten mercilessly upon our state and city governments, but so far it has had little effect in bringing about needed reforms in the government of our counties. Any program of reform in a county government must be based upon an accurate knowledge of the facts as they exist. Those, therefore, who are interested in the improvement of county political institutions will greet this study with great interest.

While the book has been written more for the information of the citizen than for the critical student, it states concisely and in an informative way the principal problems of county government in Minnesota. From the standpoint of the student of history, the first chapter will be of particular interest. In this the authors have told the story of the creation of the present county areas. It is supplemented by an appendix giving data on the establishment and organization of each of the eighty-seven existing counties, with concise references to laws. Other chapters deal with the nature and general functions of the county, its organization, its financial administration, and its special functions. Separate chapters are devoted to welfare functions; roads, drainage, and other public works; judicial functions; and education and agricultural functions. The study concludes with a chapter suggesting "next steps in county government." Throughout the study special emphasis is laid upon Hennepin, Ramsey, and St. Louis counties.

The authors point out that "the first difficulty with county government in Minnesota seems to be that the people generally are unaware of the importance of these units. . . . The eighty-seven counties raise more money by taxation each year than all the town, village, and small city governments in the state combined. It is only the large budgets of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth which put the cities ahead of the counties in total taxation." Consolidation of counties, the abolition of townships, and the improvement of the financial situation in the northern group of counties are all pointed to as lines of approach for a solution of the county problem. Patient study and wise statesmanlike leadership in the reform of county government will enable Minnesota to take its place among those states which are giving adequate attention to this problem.

HARVEY WALKER

## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

A bequest of twenty-five thousand dollars to the society "for the purchase of books, pamphlets and manuscripts relating to subjects, individuals and events having a bearing upon the history and development of Minnesota" is contained in the will of the late Herschel V. Jones of Minneapolis, who died on May 24. Mr. Jones had been a member of the society's executive council since 1921.

Forty-eight additions to the active membership of the society have been made during the quarter ending June 30, 1928. The names of the new members, grouped by counties, follow:

ANOKA: Mrs. Blanche E. Salter of Anoka.

CROW WING: Mrs. Martha W. Von Hagen of Crosby.

HENNEPIN: Harold E. Blinn, Edward P. Brown, Verne E. Chatelain, C. Roy Dearing, Henry A. Erikson, Esther Ermisch, George P. Flannery, Dr. Melvin E. Haggerty, John M. Harrison, Frank H. Heck, Edward M. Johnson, Charles J. Larson, Mel R. Nyman, Ernest S. Osgood, Chauncey J. V. Pettibone, Robert L. Pollock, Mrs. Anna B. Smith, Russell A. Stevenson, James A. Vaughan and Charles D. Velie, all of Minneapolis.

HOUSTON: Oliver P. Rosendahl of Spring Grove.

ISANTI: Thomas J. Gable of Grandy.

MILLE LACS: W. S. Moses of Onamia.

OLMSTED: Dr. Louis B. Wilson of Rochester.

PIPESTONE: John W. Pierce, Edward L. Reader, and William E. Pool, all of Pipestone.

RAMSEY: Charles L. Ames, Mabel Anderson, James H. Bell, Sr., Walter C. Coffey, Stanley Gates, Louis W. Hill, Jr., Frederic C. Miller, Samuel A. Newman, Edward S. Stringer, Grant Waldref, and Richard A. Walsh, all of St. Paul.

RICE: William C. Benson of Northfield.

ST. LOUIS: F. Rodney Paine of Duluth.

WASHINGTON: Mrs. Arthur S. Milinowski of Stillwater.

WINONA: Otis M. Botsford of Winona.



NONRESIDENT: Mrs. Ivy L. Lee of New York City; Frank O. Lowden of Oregon, Illinois; William J. Petersen of Dubuque, Iowa; and John D. Stegeman of Bouden, Iowa.

The society lost seven active members by death during the three months ending June 30; Asher Murray of Wadena, April 6; Walter H. Sanborn of St. Paul, May 10; Herschel V. Jones of Minneapolis, May 24; Jared How of Hillsborough, California, June 1; Mrs. George O. Moore of Worthington, June 11; John W. Taylor of Hollywood, California, June 27; and Charles H. Sanborn of Minneapolis, June 30.

Oak Hall of St. Paul and the public schools of Pine City have recently subscribed to the society's current publications.

Mr. Blegen will leave about August 1 for Norway, where he is to spend a year as a fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation studying the backgrounds of Norwegian immigration to the United States. He will read a paper at a session of the sixth meeting of the International Congress of Historical Sciences at Oslo on August 16 on "The 'America Letters': Sources for the History of American Immigration."

Several changes in the society's staff have recently been occasioned by leaves of absence or resignations. Mr. Jacob Hodnefield, head of the accessions department of the library, has been appointed acting librarian for the period of Miss Krausnick's leave of absence, beginning September 1. Miss Krausnick will devote a year to travel and rest. Miss Lois Fawcett, formerly on the library staff of the Mankato State Teachers College, has been appointed to the position of head of the reference department and will take up her duties on September 1. Mr. Bryce E. Lehmann, a recent graduate of the Harvard Law School, will be in charge of the newspaper division of the library during the coming year, taking the place of Mr. Roy W. Swanson, who has been forced to leave on account of ill health. Mr. Lehmann has for some years been associated with the superintendent in the preparation of a comprehensive inventory and finding list of Minnesota newspapers and in this connection has familiarized himself not only

with the society's newspaper collection but also with newspaper files in many other parts of the state. Miss Gladys Heimes resumed her position as stenographer and office assistant on July 1 after an absence of six months.

A wall placard has been printed giving information about the terms of membership in the society. Copies of this card will be supplied upon request to any member who would be interested in placing it in some conspicuous place, for example in an office or a library or in a shop window.

The society's curator of manuscripts, Dr. Nute, left on June 16 for a vacation in the East, intending to do some "manuscript exploring" for the society in Washington, New York, Boston, and Worcester, and possibly Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Montreal.

Mr. Donald E. Van Koughnet, a 1928 graduate of the University of Minnesota, is preparing a revised inventory of the archives of the state for the American Historical Association, which in 1916 published Mr. Herbert A. Kellar's *Preliminary Survey of the More Important Archives of the Territory and State of Minnesota*.

At the meeting of the executive council on April 9, Mr. James D. Armstrong of St. Paul was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Honorable Gideon S. Ives. After the business session the members of the council were conducted on a tour of the various divisions of the society.

Among several special exhibits recently displayed in the society's museum is one of hand bags and purses representing different periods of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Several talks on historical and allied subjects have recently been given by members of the staff to Minnesota audiences. Dr. Buck delivered the commencement address of the high school at Kerkhoven on May 31 on "The Challenge to American Democracy." Dr. Blegen discussed "The Meaning of Minnesota History" before the Pentangle Club of Minneapolis on April 19,

gave an illustrated talk on "Social and Economic Conditions in Minnesota in the Fifties" at the Oak Hall Diamond Jubilee celebration in St. Paul on April 25, and addressed the Steele County Federation of Women's Clubs on June 30 at Medford on "The Organization of Local History." Mr. Babcock spoke at a meeting of the Colonial chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Minneapolis on April 6, taking as his subject "Lawrence Taliaferro and the Fort Snelling Agency." Dr. Nute gave illustrated talks on the Minnesota fur trade before the Parent-Teacher Association of the Johnson High School in St. Paul on April 11 and the Business and Professional Women's Guild of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, also in St. Paul, on May 7.

#### ACCESSIONS

Attention has been called in an earlier number of MINNESOTA HISTORY (see *ante*, p. 67) to the transcripts of letters, reports, and journals of the Swiss missionaries, Samuel Dentan and Daniel Gavin, which Monsieur A. Grandjean of Lausanne, Switzerland, has been making for the society from a file of the rare *Rapports de la société des missions évangélique de Lausanne*. The work of making the transcripts has now been completed and they have been translated from the French into English by Miss Alice Fitch. These records tell how Dentan and Gavin began their work at Trempealeau, Wisconsin, in 1837; how they were joined by one Rossier and another mission was begun at Red Wing's village on the west side of Lake Pepin, where a long Alpine hut was built and a school established; how Rossier fell ill and left; how the Red Wing mission was abandoned for one at St. Peter's and that in turn for one on the St. Croix; and how finally activities at the Red Wing station were resumed. Ill health on the part of Mrs. Gavin caused her and her husband to leave for New York, and shortly thereafter, in 1847, the Dentans took up their abode at Kaposia. In 1848 the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions assumed direction of the work at Red Wing, and at this point the papers of one of the board's missionaries, John F. Aiton, take up the story of the mission (see *ante*, 6: 397).

Among the archives of the Catholic diocese of St. Cloud is a volume containing records of births, deaths, and marriages as kept by Father Francis Pierz for the missionary parish of Crow Wing in the period from 1852 to 1870. Through the courtesy of Sister Grace McDonald of St. Benedict's College, St. Joseph, the society has been given permission to make photostatic copies of these records, which occupy 120 pages. The places where baptism was administered to Indians and half-breeds by Father Pierz range from Sauk Rapids to Leech Lake and from Sandy Lake to Otter Tail Lake. The records indicate that the village of Crow Wing was the center of his operations, but the names of other places, such as Mille Lacs, Belle Prairie, Little Falls, Fort Ripley, and Little Rock, occur frequently.

About thirty items have been added to the society's collection of Edward D. Neill Papers by his daughter, Miss Minnesota Neill of Minneapolis. They are of a miscellaneous character, relating to various periods of Neill's life. Of special interest is the information that some of them afford on the early history of Macalester College and on Minnesota troops in the Civil War. Some of the correspondents represented are Robert T. Lincoln, Alexander Ramsey, Stephen Miller, Henry H. Sibley, and Thernon Baldwin, for whom the Baldwin School, now Oak Hall, St. Paul, was named.

An account of Paul A. McDermott and his wife, Rose McNamee McDermott, early residents of Traverse des Sioux and its vicinity, has been written and presented to the society by their son, Mr. Thomas J. McDermott of St. Paul.

A brief history of the Duluth, Virginia, and Rainy Lake and the Duluth, Rainy Lake, and Winnipeg railroads written by Mr. Hansen Evesmith of Fargo, North Dakota, who has been intimately connected with the history of these roads, has been presented by the author.

Copies of a set of memorials prepared by the Ramsey County Bar Association in honor of members who died in 1927 have been presented to the society by that association, which intends to make the presentation of such biographical sketches a yearly custom.

A large skin scraper made of Shakopee limestone has been received for the archeological collection of the society's museum from the Reverend M. Savs of Shakopee.

A valuable addition to the society's collection of instruments and other objects illustrating early medical practice has been made through the gifts of a tourniquet, a stethoscope, lancets, rolls of linen bandages, a syringe, and obstetrical instruments dating from the early seventies, received from Dr. J. C. Ferguson of St. Paul.

An ox yoke and ox shoe have been presented by Mr. G. H. Winch of Truman.

To the military collection have been added a cartridge belt, a bayonet, and a filter from the Spanish-American War period, a World War periscope, and various other objects, presented by Dr. Ferguson of St. Paul; a silver buckle from an American Revolutionary War uniform, received from Mr. A. B. Gould of Zumbro Falls; and a bread-ration ticket of the kind used in France during the World War, presented by Miss Frances Rogers of St. Paul.

A hand-made sap yoke used in the sugar woods of Ohio in 1830 is the gift of Mrs. L. B. Scales of St. Cloud.

Numerous gifts that have recently enriched the society's domestic life collection include two large tablespoons, one teaspoon, and a pair of silver sugar tongs dating from 1771, received from Miss Richardine Hand of St. Paul through the courtesy of Mrs. B. S. Oakes of Detroit, Michigan; a tumbler of Stiegel glass, several pieces of hair work, some letter wafers and stamped envelopes of the period from 1849 to 1863, and other gifts from Miss Abby Abbe Fuller of St. Paul; a watch chain, bracelet, and scarf pin of hair, from Mrs. Samuel D. Flag of St. Paul; two crocheted woolen mats dating from 1875, from Mrs. Charles E. Battles of Bemidji; a collapsible skein reel said to have been made in Sweden in 1823, from Mr. Thor Wennerblom of Minneapolis; a hand-made decorated wooden chest, inscribed with the date 1805, from the Honorable E. H. Hobe of St. Paul; and a group of toys dating from 1895, from Mrs. Albert Haines of Minneapolis.

Among recent additions to the society's costume collection are three fans and two pairs of black silk mittens dating from 1870, received from Dr. Ferguson of St. Paul; a black lace fan with carved ivory sticks, made in the late fifties, from Miss J. Van Name of Minneapolis; and a white satin wedding gown of the vintage of 1895, from Mrs. Robert Rosenthal of St. Paul.

A "harness" cask used on a sailing vessel for the storage of salt meats has been received by the society from Lieutenant T. H. Jones of Minneapolis.

Recent gifts that have been added to the society's picture and portrait collection include a framed pastel portrait of Charles Bazille, who donated the land for the first state capitol, a framed oil portrait of Mrs. Charles Bazille, and a framed pastel portrait of John A. Bazille, received from Mrs. John A. Bazille Bennor of St. Paul; framed crayon portraits of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Campbell, settlers at Point Douglas in 1847, from their granddaughter, Mrs. L. A. Hansen of Hastings; and a framed enlarged photograph of Frank Danz, Sr., who is said to have been the leader of the first brass band in Minnesota, received from Mrs. Bertha Danz Sprague of Los Angeles, California.

## NEWS AND COMMENT

A brief account of an important enterprise recently initiated by the University of Minnesota is presented under the title "A Co-operative Study of the Northwestern Central Region of the United States" by F. Stuart Chapin in volume 22 of the *Publications* of the American Sociological Society (Chicago, 1928). Mr. Chapin states that the projected study will extend over two decades; that it is "under the guidance of a committee representing all the social science departments of the University of Minnesota"; and that coöperation is expected from other universities in the region, which consists of "Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, with fringes of western Wisconsin, northern Iowa and Nebraska, and eastern Montana and Wyoming." As a first step a bibliography consisting of 2,700 titles was compiled. The second step will be the preparation of an extensive atlas of the area. One valuable product of the survey is the article entitled "Some Gaps in the History of the Northwest" by Joseph R. Starr, which was published in the June number of MINNESOTA HISTORY.

Among the subjects in the most recent *List of Doctoral Dissertations in History Now in Progress at the Chief American Universities* issued by the Carnegie Institution of Washington are "The Catholic Missions among the Indians of the United States, 1790-1875," by Sister M. Celeste Leger (Catholic University); "Stage-coach Travel and the Staging Business in American History," by O. W. Holmes (Columbia); "Frontier Defense, 1815-1830," by E. B. Wesley (Washington University); "The Attitude of Western Republicans toward the Tariff, to 1890," by W. E. Nydegger (Ohio); "The Influence of the West upon the Reconstruction of the Republican Party, 1865-1870," by L. K. Bowersox (Ohio); "Life and Times of Alexander Ramsey," by W. J. Ryland (Yale); "History of the Non-Partisan League," by Bertha M. Kuhn (Minnesota); "The Early History of Mis-

Mississippi River Steamboating," by W. J. Petersen (Iowa); "Life on Mississippi Steamboats," by Leland Baldwin (Michigan); "Government Explorations, Other than Railroad Explorations, in the Trans-Mississippi West, 1848-1860," by A. B. Bender (Washington University); "The Character and Influences of Immigration into Minnesota, 1837-1857," by Sister Eucharista Galvin (Chicago); "The Religious History of the Swedes in Minnesota," by J. O. Anders (Minnesota); "Third-party Movements and Their Economic Background in Minnesota since 1858," by E. A. Moore (Chicago); "The Missouri Synod in Its Relation to Other Lutheran Groups in the United States," by Carl Mauelshagen (Minnesota); and "The Social and Economic Development of the Territory of Dakota," by H. E. Briggs (Iowa).

Action was not taken by the House of Representatives in the session that closed March 4 on the bill authorizing the appropriation of \$125,000 for the publication of papers in the United States federal offices relating to the territories from which the states of the Union have been created (see *ante*, p. 184). It is expected that the bill, which already has been approved by the Senate, will be passed by the House next December.

The American Numismatic Society has issued a finely printed and fully illustrated volume entitled *Indian Peace Medals Issued in the United States*, by Bauman L. Belden (New York, 1927). The study is naturally of much interest for Minnesota because of Indian-white relations involving the use of peace medals in this region.

In a pamphlet entitled *Two Indian Battles* (1928. 18 p.), Mr. Robert K. Boyd has attempted the vindication of two men whose military careers have been subjects of dispute for many years. Of the Custer fight he has no personal knowledge and so his greatest contribution to the story of Major Marcus A. Reno is his knowledge of Indian warfare and his comprehension of the psychology of Reno's nervous collapse at the outset of the retreat. Of the controversy that has raged since 1862 over the command at the battle of Birch Coulee, however, he is able to speak with some authority, for he took part in the struggle and is the author of a



pamphlet describing it (see *ante*, 7:354). His conviction is clear that Captain Hiram P. Grant and not Joseph R. Brown was in charge of the troops whose camp was attacked by the Sioux on September 2, 1862; and his implication is strong that the primary responsibility for the disaster belongs to Colonel Henry H. Sibley, who sent out the expedition.

Considerable light on the early history of the Northwest Company, the great Canadian fur-trading company, is afforded in a document dated at Grand Portage on July 24, 1790, which is published in the *Canadian Historical Review* for December, 1927, with an illuminating introduction by Dr. H. A. Innis. This document consists of a series of articles of agreement for the carrying on of the Northwest fur trade by the partners of the company.

An extended discussion of "Travel Literature as Source Material for American Catholic History" by Joseph P. Ryan is appearing in installments in the *Illinois Catholic Historical Review*. In the April number "Travel Literature from 1815 to 1842" is discussed, and among those whose accounts are noted are Giacomo C. Beltrami and Captain Frederick Marryat, both of whom visited the Minnesota region. The author erroneously refers to Beltrami as a French traveler, whereas in fact he was Italian; and he calls Fort Snelling "Fort St. Peter."

An important account of western interest in overland transportation to the Pacific coast in the fifties is given in an article entitled "Surmounting the Sierras," by Chester L. White, in the *Quarterly* of the California Historical Society for March. Occasionally Minnesota connections are touched upon. For example there is a reference to the appropriation by Congress in 1856 of fifty thousand dollars "for the construction of a wagon road from Fort Ridgely in Minnesota, to South Pass."

A detailed and graphic account of "The Progress of Farm Relief" by John D. Black appears in the *American Economic Review* for June. Among several interesting charts that accompany the article is one showing the course of agricultural prosperity since 1911 and the dates of the chief farm relief measures after 1920.

Evidence of the continued interest in the history of emigration and immigration is afforded by the publication of a scholarly volume entitled *British Emigration to British North America, 1783-1837*, by Helen I. Cowan (Toronto, 1928. 275 p.).

An interesting account of "Pehr Dahlberg and the First Swedish Settlement in Iowa," by Robert N. Dahlberg and Charles L. Dahlberg, appears in the *Annals of Iowa* for July.

The presidential address given by Dr. Joseph Schafer at the Des Moines meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association in April on "Carl Schurz, Immigrant Statesman" is published in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for June. In the same number appears an interesting installment of "Pioneer and Political Reminiscences," by Nils P. Haugen, one section of which tells of Knute Nelson, a colleague of Mr. Haugen's in the House of Representatives in the late eighties.

An attempt is being made by the Daughters of the American Revolution in Wisconsin to restore old Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien.

"Winter Logging in the North Woods" of Wisconsin and Minnesota in the years when the lumber industry was in its prime is described by C. L. Tolles in an article in the *Lumber Worker* for February.

Captain Fred A. Bill continues his account of "Steamboating on the Red River" in the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly* for April (see *ante*, p. 190), giving in considerable detail his own recollections, which go back to his engagement as a clerk on the "Dakota" in 1872. The article closes with a list of steamboats on the Red River from the "Anson Northup," built in 1859, to the "Grand Forks," built in 1895. Of the latter Captain Bill says, "This was the last steam boat built on Red River in the United States for commercial purposes." The same number of the *Quarterly* contains a suggestive study of "The Army Fort of the Frontier (1860-1870)," by Raymond L. Welty. A document of much interest is the diary of L. K. Raymond, published under

the title "Trip Over the Plains of Dakota in 1865," which tells of a march from Fort Snelling to Devil's Lake and back.

Several articles on the history of the University of North Dakota, including one on the period from 1885 to 1887 by Vernon P. Squires, appear in the January number of the *Quarterly Journal* of that university.

An article on "Detroit and George Rogers Clark" by Milo M. Quaife in the *Proceedings* of the Ninth Annual Indiana History Conference, published as an extra number of the *Indiana History Bulletin* (April, 1928), is a valuable contribution to the history of the Northwest during the Revolution. In "The Conquest of the Old Northwest" by Ross F. Lockridge, in the same publication, exception is taken to some of Dr. Quaife's statements.

The Marquette County (Michigan) Historical Society has published a *Catalog* of its books, pamphlets, manuscripts, maps, newspapers, and periodicals, which are preserved in the Public Library of Marquette (Ishpeming, 1928. 45 p.). The list of manuscripts alone covers nearly seven pages. This local society, which has been collecting materials for ten years, has set an excellent example for other local historical societies to follow. Such finding lists of historical materials are of course valuable aids to research.

#### GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

A biographical novel dealing with the life of James J. Hill has been brought out by Mr. Oscar M. Sullivan of St. Paul under the title of *The Empire-Builder* (New York, 1928. 372 p.). In addition to published accounts of Hill's career, Mr. Sullivan has used the files of numerous Minnesota newspapers in drawing together his materials.

Considerable interest in Minnesota history has been aroused by a loan exhibit of rare books, pictures, and maps relating to early Minnesota that has been on display at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts since early in May. Numerous items were loaned by the Minnesota Historical Society, including its supposed portrait of Father Hennepin. A sketch entitled "Longfellow and Minnehaha

Falls," published in the institute's *Bulletin* for May 26, calls attention to certain books and prints in the exhibit that might have influenced the poet in writing his "Hiawatha." A Currier and Ives print of Minnehaha Falls, published about 1874, is reproduced in the *Bulletin* for May 5.

"The Origin of the Minnesota National Forest" is explained by Professor H. H. Chapman in the *Gopher Peavey* for 1928, an annual publication of the Forestry Club of the University of Minnesota. The volume, which contains many articles on forestry, is dedicated to Dr. William W. Folwell, who on January 13, 1881, introduced the following resolution at a meeting of the board of regents of the university: "That the Professor of Agriculture be requested to prepare a detailed plan whereby the advantages of a separate and special school of forestry be offered in the agricultural college of the university."

A study of "A State Income Tax and the Minnesota Constitution" by Henry Rottschaefer, in the *Minnesota Law Review* for June, though primarily a discussion of a present-day problem, contains numerous references to Minnesota cases that give it a distinct historical value.

#### LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

A description of western Minnesota by an unnamed staff correspondent of the *American Traveller's Journal* is reprinted from the August, 1881, number of that magazine in the *Ortonville Independent* for February 9, March 15, and April 19. The first installment tells of the journey, made probably in 1881, from Minneapolis to Brown's Valley; the second describes a steamboat trip on Big Stone Lake and presents comments on the sod houses that dotted the prairie west of the lake; and the third gives a vivid picture of pioneer Ortonville.

Governor Christianson was the speaker at a celebration at Sleepy Eye on April 23 commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the village on March 19, 1878.

A "History of Parke Township," Clay County, by S. O. Most, read on June 20 at a meeting of the Clay County Old Settlers'

Association at Viking Park, is published in the *Barnesville Record-Review* for June 21.

A brief account of "The City of Brainerd," by D. H. Fullerton, in *Minnesota Municipalities* for June, deals mainly with the history of that city.

Three unusually interesting and successful meetings have been held recently by the Goodhue County Historical Society. At the first, in Red Wing on March 5, Mr. C. A. Rasmussen read a paper on "Pioneer Days in Vasa and Prairie Island" and a style review showing the development of women's dress in the past century was presented. The second program, given at Red Wing on April 8, included a review of "Early Show Days" — concerts, theatrical performances, and circuses in Red Wing — by Mr. C. L. Kellogg, and an exhibit of old quilts and hand-woven coverlets. On July 7 a third meeting was held at the Featherstone Town Hall, near Red Wing. Objects illustrative of pioneer life belonging to farmers in the vicinity were exhibited and a history of Featherstone Township prepared by Mr. Rasmussen was read.

A sketch entitled "What's in a Name?" appears in the *Montgomery Messenger* of April 13 as one of a series of local history articles. It is based on a comparison of the "latest personal property tax lists with names mentioned in pioneer records," and it shows that "descendants of numerous well-known families of pioneer days still are residents of villages and farming districts of this section."

An interview with William H. H. Sumner of Dawson in which he pictures Minneota as he saw the infant settlement in 1871, when he passed through in a covered wagon, is published in the *Minneota Mascot* for May 18.

"In order that we might know a little about our immediate surroundings, institutions and traditions, the members of the American History Class of the Argyle high school under the direction of their instructor, Miss Myrtle Nelson, did some research work in the history of our village and wrote accounts of some of the early days of Argyle" according to the writer of the introduction to a series of articles thus prepared and published in the

*Marshall County Banner* of Argyle from April 19 to May 17. In the preparation of their papers the students were given access to the files of the *Banner* in the local newspaper office and they interviewed a number of old settlers. The subjects and authors of the papers follow: "The Early History of Argyle," by Curtis Paulson and Clarence Kurz, April 19; "Early Transportation," by Walter Swanson and Alfred Paulson, April 26; "Early Pioneers," — a directory with brief biographical sketches,— by Gladys Steffen and Lucy Gajeski, May 3; "Community Organizations," by Howard Chandler, May 10; and "Local School and Church History," by Grace Poolman and Ima Back, May 17.

*Village Communities*, by Edmund de S. Brunner (New York, 1927), one of a series of American village studies being published by the Institution of Social and Religious Research, is of Minnesota interest because a Minnesota village is included among a half dozen or more type studies of individual villages representing different sections and kinds of communities in America. The Minnesota village is dealt with under the heading "Lincoln—a Dairying Center." The description of its history and present-day characteristics, however, makes it clear that the village in question is Litchfield. Other volumes in the series deal with *American Villagers* and *American Agricultural Villages*.

Nearly two thousand people attended a meeting of the Otter Tail County Historical Society at Clitherall on July 1, when a tablet bearing the following inscription was unveiled and dedicated: "Site of the first permanent settlement in Otter Tail county, Minnesota. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ came here from Iowa May 5, 1865. This tablet placed by the Otter Tail County Historical society, July 1, 1928." Among the speakers on the program were Professor A. C. Krey of the University of Minnesota, who called attention to various kinds of sources of history, illustrating their character and interest by citing specific examples; Mr. Lester Whiting of Clitherall, who told of the journey of Iowans into western Minnesota that resulted in the first permanent settlement of the county; Mr. Anthon Thompson, who made the speech of dedication; and Mr. Emery Fletcher, who accepted the marker on behalf of the village of Clitherall. The

setting up of this marker and the very successful meeting held in connection with it testify to the vitality of the Otter Tail County society.

The seventieth anniversary of Seabury Divinity School of Faribault was celebrated in connection with the graduation exercises on May 22. A tablet "marking the site of the first Seabury mission, built in 1858" was unveiled by the Charter Oak chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Faribault. A brief history of the school appears in the *Minneapolis Journal* for April 15.

Two program meetings were held by the St. Louis County Historical Society in June—the first at Chisholm on June 22 and the second at the Jackson Club Building, near Duluth, under the auspices of the Jackson Farmers' Club on June 27. Among the papers presented at Chisholm—all by local speakers—were an account of the "Discovery of Ore and the Development of the Mining Industry" by Willard Bayliss, "Reminiscences of Pioneer Days at Chisholm" by Mrs. G. L. Train, an outline of the "Development of Education at Chisholm" by J. P. Vaughan, and a description of the "Great Fire at Chisholm and the Rebuilding" by the Honorable J. H. McNiven. At the second meeting interest in agriculture predominated; the program included an address on the "Development of Agriculture at the Head of the Lakes" by John G. Williams of Duluth and a "History of the Jackson Farmers' Club" by Fred Ward.

The issue of the *Sauk Centre Herald* for June 7 is an elaborately illustrated "Sixtieth Anniversary Edition" presenting an excellent picture of the history of the community and its institutions and industries. Its most pretentious article is a detailed "History of Sauk Centre" from the first settlement in 1856 by a little group of seven people who comprised the "Sauk Centre Townsite Co." Attention is called to the fact that "the first meeting of settlers held for any purpose was July 16, 1857, at which time the Sauk Valley Claim Association was formed." The Sauk Center press receives its share of attention; among the articles on this subject are sketches of "Sauk Centre Editors I Have

Known" by Alvah Eastman, and a "Review of Experiences as Herald Editor" by A. M. Welles. The story of the Sauk Center schools is outlined by W. B. Morgan; an account of the Bryant Library, opened in 1869, is presented by Miss Helen B. Baker; and several articles are devoted to sketches of local churches. The "Advancement of Minnesota's Home School for Girls" is the title of an outline of the history of Sauk Center's most important institution; and the activities of the Stearns County Child Welfare Board are reviewed by Mrs. Emma Moynihan. The reminiscent articles in the issue include two relating to the activities in the stockade built at Sauk Center in 1862 for protection against the Indians, by Major John R. Howard and Mr. George W. Thacker; and a sketch appropriately entitled "Both Sides of Main Street," by Dr. J. A. DuBois, who has lived in the community for nearly fifty years. The importance of the town as a dairying center is recognized in an article entitled "The Sweet Cream Town," and there are also sketches of "Local Agricultural Institutions." The most interesting of the illustrations are a reproduction of a lithograph of Sauk Center made in 1868 from a drawing by W. J. Whitefield and a sketch of the Sauk Center stockade of 1862.

A first step toward the organization of a Steele County Historical Society was taken at the sixth annual meeting of the Steele County Federation of Women's Clubs held at Medford on June 30. After an address by Dr. Theodore C. Blegen of the Minnesota Historical Society, in which the possibilities of county historical work were sketched, a county-wide committee was appointed to launch a county historical society. Its chairman is Dr. Milo B. Price of Owatonna, and the other members are Mr. Hugh H. Soper, Mrs. F. W. Adams, and Mrs. C. I. Buxton, of Owatonna; Mr. Edward Buskovik of Clinton Falls; Mr. S. A. Rask of Blooming Prairie; Miss Cynthia Adams of Medford; and Mrs. E. A. Seidel of Ellendale. An interesting illustration of the possibilities of collecting museum articles in a given community was given in a talk by Mrs. William Masche of Clinton Falls describing an "antique show" recently undertaken by the people of that village.



An excellent "History of the Kerkhoven Public High School," by Stanley H. Anonsen, the superintendent, is published in the 1927 issue of its annual, the *Kerkhoven*.

The organization forty-two years ago of the Woman's Reading Club of Stillwater by Mrs. William M. McCluer, who has served ever since as its president, is described by Florence Lehmann in the *Minneapolis Journal* for May 7.

The encouragement of the study of local history has taken a most interesting form in Wilkin County, where the county "fair association offers over one hundred dollars in prizes each year for historical articles pertaining to Wilkin county and its people." The articles are treated as exhibits at the fair and they become the property of the association. In connection with the 1928 fair "premiums" were offered for the following items: the "best historical account of a township"; the "best historical account of any city, town or village"; the "best story of pioneer life in Wilkin County"; a "collection of letters, newspapers, extracts, pamphlets, and books dealing with the history of Wilkin County"; a collection of "Indian relics"; and a collection of "war relics." When it was learned through Mr. Frank E. Balmer—who was responsible some years ago for the compilation of a bibliography of Minnesota county histories—that the history of Wilkin County had never been written, the *Gazette-Telegram* of Breckenridge began the publication of some of the articles "exhibited" at the county fair in the past. Among the sketches that have appeared are "A Wilkin County Romance" at Fort Abercrombie, by Miss Margaret Jones of Breckenridge, May 2; recollections of some of the blizzards of pioneer days, by Mrs. A. C. Heys of Glyndon, May 9; the history of Sunnyside Township, by Mrs. R. O. Harrison of Doran, May 16; and the history of Breckenridge, also by Miss Jones, May 23.

Letters from pioneers who spent their childhood years in Winona and interviews with some of them were used as sources for two articles on the early schools of Winona by Paul Thompson, historian of the Winona County Old Settlers' Association, published in the *Winona Republican-Herald* for May 12 and 19.

The first deals with the earliest private and public grade schools of the city between 1852 and 1862, when all school records were destroyed by fire. It tells of the nursery school conducted in the summer of 1852 by Angeline Gere, "a miss of 14 years" who "collected less than a dozen small children in the boarding house shanty of Mrs. Abner S. Goddard"; of a number of other short-lived private schools; and of the first public school in the county, opened at Minnesota City in October, 1853, with twenty-seven pupils under the care of Hester Houck. The second article is concerned "primarily with the State Normal school, now the Winona State Teachers College, the first institution of its kind west of the Mississippi river." Both articles are illustrated with portraits of pioneer teachers and pupils, and a picture of the first normal school building appears with the second.

Indians and university professors, French *voyageurs* and missionaries, pioneers, and immigrants mingled in the varied pageantry of "The Builders," presented at the Municipal Auditorium of Minneapolis on June 26, 27, and 28 to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the city. The pageant reviewed the history of the city from the days of the Indian through the World War, and the background for most of the episodes was the Falls of St. Anthony. An elaborate program issued for this "Diamond Jubilee Pageant" is especially noteworthy for its illustrations, which include portraits of Henry T. Welles and Dorilus Morrison, the first mayors of St. Anthony and Minneapolis; a picture of the cabin on Lake Calhoun occupied by the Pond brothers, "the first habitation of a white man in what is now Minneapolis"; an old print of the building used by the University of Minnesota in the seventies; and a photograph of the first bridge across the Mississippi at Minneapolis.

"Highlights and Skyline of Minneapolis for Seventy-five Years" is the title of an article by Lucile Collins in the *Gopher-M* for June in which some interesting aspects of Minneapolis social history are discussed.

An old record book entitled "Chattel Mortgage Records, Town of Minneapolis, May, 1860 to April, 1867," recently unearthed in

the office of the city clerk of Minneapolis, is described in a brief article in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for May 27.

*Twenty-five Years of Fighting Tuberculosis in Minneapolis and Hennepin County* is the title of a contribution to local medical history issued by the Hennepin County Tuberculosis Association (Minneapolis, 1928. 71 p.). It includes a "Chronological Record" of the work of the association since 1903 and a number of brief sketches of its activities.

A three-day celebration from April 19 to 21 marked the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of Trinity Lutheran Church of Minneapolis. Among the talks presented was a sketch of the history of the church by Professor Andreas Helland of Augsburg Seminary.

The building of a new home by Temple Israel, the oldest Jewish congregation in Minneapolis, organized in 1879, is the occasion for the publication of a brief history of the temple in the *Minneapolis Journal* for May 31. Special services, including a review of the history of the congregation by Amos Deinard, marked the closing of the old temple on June 1.

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church of Minneapolis was celebrated on June 10 and 11.

The story of what was once one of the most pretentious homes in Minneapolis, that built in the late sixties by Joel B. Bassett, is outlined in the *Minneapolis Journal* for June 3, which announces that the house, now in the business section and occupied by a school, is soon to be torn down.

The origin and growth of a number of St. Paul schools are outlined in a series of articles beginning in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of April 15 with an account of the St. Paul Academy Country Day School. This is described as an outgrowth of the Barnard Private School, founded in 1888; it became the St. Paul Academy in 1900 and the country day school in 1916. Oak Hall, "the oldest exclusive girls' school in St. Paul," is the subject of the second article, published on April 22. The account calls attention to the seventy-fifth anniversary of the school, which was

founded in 1853 as the Baldwin School with the Reverend E. D. Neill as principal. An elaborate celebration extending from April 22 through April 28 marked this jubilee. On Founder's Day, April 25, "articles and relics illustrative of life and work in early Minnesota" were displayed in the school's gymnasium and an illustrated lecture on "Social and Economic Conditions in Minnesota in the Fifties" was presented by Dr. Theodore C. Blegen of the Minnesota Historical Society. Another outgrowth of Neill's educational activities, Macalester College, is the subject of the article for April 29. This began in 1855 with the "incorporation of the College of St. Paul" and after many ups and downs it finally opened on its present site in 1885. The histories of two Catholic schools, Cretin High School and St. Thomas College, are sketched in the articles published on May 6 and 13. The first was founded by Bishop Joseph Cretin in the capital of the new Minnesota Territory in 1851, and the college was opened by Archbishop Ireland in 1885.

The retirement of Mr. Arthur B. Driscoll as president of the Young Men's Christian Association of St. Paul after thirty-one years in that position is the occasion for the publication of an article by Julian Sargent on the history of the association and of Mr. Driscoll's services in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for June 10. The author reveals that "the 'Y' has been here for 72 years but until its reorganization in 1897, when Mr. Driscoll was elected its president . . . it aspired to little more than maintenance in rented quarters of reading rooms, a social meeting place for young men and the accumulation of a library."



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