REVIEWS OF BOOKS


What a valuable and stirring contribution to history we have here! Reading Miss Nute’s book I found myself not only turning pages eagerly, to come quickly to what was ahead; but turning time backward. Pictures flashed out of memory and added their illumination to Carl W. Bertsch’s satisfying illustrations.

It is springtime, a northern spring colored with red ground willows. At the junction of two clouded and turbulent rivers a fur post stands on the high bank. A fur fleet is swinging down on the treacherous flow of the major stream. The vessels, heaped high with pelts, are bateaux and pirogues—"mon canot" could not carry such a vast load of peltry, and it might have short shrift on this furious current. The crew is a mixed one of Indians,—Cree and Dënè chiefly,—bois brulés, and French-Canadians. Among the “Canucks” are men who believe that their ancestors paddled westward with the first trader-explorers of New France. They are stalwart sons of a long line of bold watermen. The rivers of “Ké-bec,” the perilous waves of the Great Lakes, even Mackenzie—invaded by steamboats—have turned faithless under the influences of time and civilization, and the voyageur seeks his love now on Parsnip and Peace, Skeena, Nechaco, and Fraser. And there are stretches of these rivers, at least, where he does still skim the tide in the light canoe, which is the gift the Indian Magi gave to strangers from Normandy three centuries ago to be the cradle of a new people.

These voyageurs of the northern fur fleet are dressed like their Indian comrades. So it was in the past. No longer in fringed deerskin, both wear dark woolen shirts and woolen pants, which they often slash short, to the knee; their leggings are of cloth, too; but they have gone to the deer, as of old, for their footgear. Twists of wool or cotton, generally red, bind their brows; or red and yellow bandanas drape their heads. A few possess black felt hats, with fair brims and rather high crowns. This style in millinery came in with the gold-seekers from California and Nevada in the sixties.
Because of the tidal impact of the smaller river, this is a bad piece of water, and the landing is risky. The voyageurs come to it singing. The song may be *À la claire fontaine*, or *V'là le bon vent*, — a lumberjack's song originally which has become popular with these northern boatmen, — but, more probably, it is a local song, composed by some voyageur who captured a good paddle-swinging melody from a heretic missionary's hymn book. The air is "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour." One of the stanzas, as nearly as I can recall it, is:

*Que les rapides grondent, Sauveur!*
*Entends-moi qu'apelle.*
*Garde mon brave bateau, Sauveur!*
*Rompe-pas ma cordelle.*

After ardent embraces of families and friends, an unwritten ritual of the river sends the voyageurs to offer respectful greetings to old Antoine, once the most brilliant guide of the fleet, now only a spectator on the bank. As soon as spring clears away the ice, the old man, crippled by rheumatism, hobbles daily on his crutches to the bench outside the store, and sits there all day long looking out on the river, which was his life. At sunset, camp fires are lighted, fiddles appear, there are more songs — the endless verses of *Alouette* and *En roulant ma boule* and probably a rehearsal of *Malbrouck*, with which the voyageurs usually start north again on the towline — and jigs, interminable jiggling!

The fiddlers will learn one new melody, at least, before they leave the fur post. They will go to the trader's house, hat in hand — no prince is more courteous than a voyageur — and ask the trader's wife, who knows many songs and has one of those clear, effortless Celtic voices, to sing over and over for them a coveted tune. "I Have Heard the Mavis Singing" is one which, doubtless, can still be heard in the North, with those changes of rhythm and tempo which adapt foreign melodies to the Gallic-Amerind temperament — and to the river. Always, the river governs.

The repertoire of the voyageur, as he went west and north, must have included many lays, or bits of them, gathered from alien songsters along his routes. The Indians, another dancing, singing folk, have surely contributed. Changing the tempo and rhythm of certain old Canadian melodies — *V'là le bon vent* is one — develops airs...
strongly suggestive of Indian music. Miss Nute remarks on the extreme popularity of *A la claire fontaine*. She says, "Just why this song should have been the universal favorite of voyageurs is hard to say. Certainly the subject matter bore no relation to any phase of their existence, and the rhythm and lilt are not so pronounced and catchy as those of many other *chansons*." But, as I remember the tune, sung more slowly and irregularly than the Quebec habitant sings it, it was an excellent time-keeper for men working with poles on the *passe-avant* of a pirogue. No doubt the earlier canoe men on the Saskatchewan made as good a paddle song of it. There is a tradition that the theme is political, disguised as a love lyric, the unforgettable beloved *maitresse* being *La belle France*. This would help explain the ardor with which the song has been treasured. It is good poetry, for the most part. In lyric purity and simplicity the last few stanzas rank with the lines which *Le Misanthrope* recited, as a model, to the fashionable poet whose rodomontades offended him:

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{Si le roi m'avait donné} \\
&\text{Paris, sa grand' ville,} \\
&\text{Et qu'il me fallût quitter} \\
&\text{L'amour de ma mie:} \\
&\text{Je dirait au roi Henri} \\
&\text{"Reprenez votre Paris;} \\
&\text{J'aime mieux ma mie, au guê,} \\
&\text{J'aime mieux ma mie."}
\end{align*}
\]

And the simple lyric, which is good poetry, wins its way with simple folk. Miss Nute quotes Murray Gibbon, who has done devoted labor in the field of Canadian folk song, to the effect that one voyageur song he acquired in the Northwest has "Blow Ye Winds of Morning" for a refrain. This sounds like "Blow Ye Winds, Heigho!" I was brought up on it. Both the "Canucks" and the Indian boatmen loved its rollicking air. In the camp on the river bank my father sang it lustily, or played it on his flute, to the accompaniment of frenzied fiddles and feet!

Deploring that "no thoroughgoing history" of the fur trade has ever been written, "and so its significance has not been fully revealed," Miss Nute writes: "When such an account shall have been completed, it will become plain that several of the struggles between France and Great Britain were occasioned by a desire to
reap the rich profits of the fur trade of the West." As the bibliographical notes appended to her volume reveal, Miss Nute has confined her researches almost entirely to sources. She lists little secondary material.

This particular contribution to the story of fur was made ten years ago. Had Miss Nute read *Pioneers of the Old Southwest* and *Adventurers of Oregon* in the *Chronicles of America Series* she would have found the significance of the fur trade, as "the chief spoil fought for in the colonial wars," set forth definitely and with detailed evidence. Research among colonial records, and the letters, diaries, and other records of traders in the first half of the eighteenth century, disclosed to the author of these *Chronicles* that, even when Britain and France were at peace, French and English fur-traders, with their Indian forces, engaged in armed conflict in the forest. Indeed, the British colonial trader well merits my nickname for him, "Imperial Scout!" But for this heroic and resourceful character, it may be doubted whether the young English settlements could have endured against the allied machinations of French and Spanish. Not only, figuratively speaking, did that symbol of the trade, Captain Beaver, lead our early wars and provide standard currency, he financed our explorations, flung out our successive frontiers, and largely maintained the pioneers on them — and even their high officials; witness Governor Sevier's salary of two hundred pelts (mink, not beaver, in this case) per annum.

Miss Nute's fascinating volume deals intimately with the voyageur in his better-known activities; and shows him also as soldier, settler, and explorer — in these roles, however, always under leadership, never on his own initiative. The chapters on his songs and his canoe are, possibly, the most delightful. There might well have been included a brief discussion of his language, which cannot be dismissed as merely a *patois*. Illiterate he is, but his archaic speech — with its occasional old nautical term, or phrase — descends from the proud, sea-faring Normans of Champlain's day and earlier. Even the backwoods habitant of Norman descent, who has never been on water, has his odd use of words from the sea. He may be heard calling his child to sit on his knee, with "*embarque, donc!*" When he "doesn't think so," he uses an old verb, *craire*, not *croire*. He says "*J'n' l'crais pas.*"

Possibly the influence of Indian gutturals in the voyageur's *menage*
thickened his tones; or, perhaps, not being a man of culture explains the matter. The voyageur and the redman, with a little English assistance, contributed a new tongue to this continent. This is "Chinook," the language of the northwestern and Pacific coast fur trade. It began in old Oregon; hence its name, from a Columbia River tribe, and hence also the few Hawaiian words in it, which entered when Hawaii was a way station of the sea otter trade of the north Pacific with China.

On page 201 an error creeps in with mention of the Hudson's Bay Company as the "Honourable Company of Adventurers of England, etc." The great company's title does not contain the word "Honourable." The charter was granted to "The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay."

Not content with presenting a wealth of fact about the voyageur, Miss Nute goes beyond the accurate appraisal and digest of documents, which sums up too many history books, and which the distinguished historian, Dr. Joseph Schafer, has bluntly called "a common enough accomplishment!" If, as several noted educators have warned us lately, academics are perishing of dry rot, because creative imagination does not now work in them, here is a volume for the college student's need. It is not solely because I was once the benignly regarded "p'tite ma'mselle" on one of the voyageur's last rivers, and therefore have had, probably, closer contact with Miss Nute's subject than she, herself, has had, that her book so delights me. It is because her voyageur lives, is flesh and blood, in the midst of the immense amount of detail with which she has surrounded him. He brings his period, his environment, with him out of the past. He is vital now.

This year, Washington's bicentenary, the nation resorts to its colonial fountain springs. Washington had a sense of the value of the fur trade. At twenty-one, he bore the message of Virginia's governor to the French, bidding them vacate the trading fort they had built where Pittsburgh now stands. The revival — with Americans of all classes and ages — of interest in every phase of this unique nation's beginnings, offers a wider audience for Miss Nute's book immediately than might, ordinarily, have been expected. I hope the publishers will grasp the opportunity to place *The Voyageur* in every college and senior high school, as well as to put it forward for popular reading in this "colonial-minded" year. They have issued her
work in a format that is attractive and artistic as to binding, type, reproduction of pictures and of the interesting map of voyageur routes, and with the other essentials of good publishing.

Constance Lindsay Skinner

_The Great Plains._ By Walter Prescott Webb, associate professor of history, the University of Texas. (Boston, Ginn and Company, 1931. xv, 524 p. Illustrations, maps. $4.00.)

Drawn north and south across nearly every map in this book is a heavy black line, the ninety-eighth meridian of longitude. It might be said that across every page, this line runs, so conscious is the reader made of its significance and importance. East of this parallel is the land of sufficient rainfall, of rivers making their way to the sea through forest and prairie. A land of small farms where the pattern of life is made up of skills and traditions, laws and institutions, evolved out of a background of racial experiences in similar physiographic areas. West of the line is a "new, new land," a land where wood and water are always scarce. Here is a new world of far horizons, where there is little or nothing behind which a man can hide to protect himself from his enemies, from the storm, or from his own loneliness. This is a harsh land, forcing those who venture upon it to evolve new ways of life and to reshape the old. Failure to do this means retreat or extinction. This process of adaptation is the central theme of Dr. Webb's book, _The Great Plains_.

How successfully Dr. Webb has developed this thesis may be suggested by a brief summary. After a presentation of the physical characteristics of the Great Plains, the author turns his attention to its first inhabitants, the Plains Indians. For over two centuries, these wild horsemen of the American steppe successfully withstood white encroachment. More than a match for the woodland pioneer who broke out onto the plain afoot, armed with the weapon of the woodland, the single-shot rifle, the Indian was not conquered until the white man had mounted a horse and developed a weapon which would give him a chance against his enemy. From the south the Spaniard had pushed northward only to pause before the natural and human barrier, the Plains themselves and their wild inhabitants, the Apache and Comanche. It remained for the Anglo-American to make the conquest.
Beginning with the chapter on the American approach to the Plains, the story of this conquest constitutes the remainder of the book. While the "log cabin zone" of American settlement paused at the eastern edge of the Great Plains, the vanguard of the cotton kingdom worked its way into eastern Texas. On the western verge of this advance, the Texas ranger made the first all-important adaptation. Here the Colt "six-shooter" in the hands of the horseman made the white for the first time the superior of the mounted Indian. Behind this Texas frontier, cotton and slavery faced the impenetrable barrier of the ninety-eighth meridian. It was useless "to re-enact the will of God," the "peculiar institution" had met its master.

The next chapter tells the now familiar story of the cattle range. After the Civil War, while "the agricultural frontier . . . stamped about in uneasiness along the borders of the Plains," the Texas cattle-men were moving northward. The range cattle industry was to make the first real conquest and to develop a way of life, "the most natural order, economic and social," ever evolved on the Great Plains.

In the East, however, the Industrial Revolution was forging the weapons that would destroy the cattleman's frontier. Railroads, barbed wire, windmills, and agricultural machinery — all these were to help the farmer in his attack on the Plains. There then follows the story of the long and hopeless search for sufficient water to make anything like a complete agricultural utilization possible. Irrigation, windmills, dry farming, tree planting, prayer, and "rain-making" are discussed. The story is told of the breakdown of the land laws when they were applied in the area west of the fateful line. Since these laws were not changed to meet the new conditions, they were violated, for "a little living and a little lying" might give the settler what he must have, if he were to exist. Laws regarding the use of water must also be changed or violated. So the process of adaptation goes on, a story that has no counterpart in American annals. The insight, the sympathy, and the understanding with which the author tells it stand out on every page.

Following this section of the book, is a chapter on the literature of the Plains in which the author draws the distinction between the literature of the cow country and that of the agricultural frontier which succeeded it. One is romance, adventure, and action in a world of men and guns and horses, where anything may happen; the other is the stark realism of the lonely sod hut, the desert claim,
the blizzard, and the "Main-Travelled Road" with "a dull little town at one end and a home of toil at the other." Out of this high adventure on the one hand and intense suffering on the other, there may come, suggests the author in his closing chapter on the mysteries of the Great Plains, "a mystical and spiritual quality contributing much to a civilization that thus far is notorious for its devotion to material things."

Every student as well as the general reader should be grateful to Dr. Webb for this distinctive book. It will long remain one of the most significant contributions to American history. It will serve also as a point of departure for additional studies of the American West.

Ernest S. Osgood


The training of research workers may once have approximated the fabled Mark Hopkins log-student simplicity. Today the accumulation of materials, the elaboration of critical technique, and the presence of large numbers of ambitious young scholars make any such program unthinkable. Apparently Professor Hockett has become weary through the wasteful, but honest, employment of the Mark Hopkins formula. Hence the publication of this volume.

In planning a guide the problem of determining what to leave out ranks with the problem of what to include. In this case two primary decisions are stated: to deal with essential features only and to concentrate on American history. Within the field thus narrowed down three tasks are defined and illustrated: the gathering of data, the criticism of data, and the presentation of the results of investigation. In discussing these topics the author has skillfully avoided both austere simplicity and bewildering complexity. Even when dealing with the subject of bibliography through nearly forty pages and ranging through an extensive array of miscellaneous material the sense of direction is fairly well maintained. The section on the criticism of data is particularly valuable. Here the most subtle principles of historical evaluation are clarified by concrete illustrations in such
a way as to enrich the student's fund of information as well as to sharpen his critical faculties. The difficulty of presenting analytical material in an attractive style is overcome in the same way.

The author has added an extensive and well-classified bibliography and a necessary index. Local historians may find the references to their specific fields somewhat limited by reason of the fact that the bibliography is illustrative rather than exhaustive. The volume is intended for beginners in research in American history, and within its selected field it will be of great value.

CHARLES J. RITCHEY

Heroes of the Northwest. By E. Dudley Parsons. ([Minneapolis, 1931]. 137 p. Illustrations.)

Writing for school children of the lower grades, Mr. Parsons outlines the lives of fourteen men who played important parts in the history of Minnesota and the Northwest and relates picturesque incidents in their careers.

Henry H. Sibley and John Lind represent the governors of the state; Bishop Henry B. Whipple and Archbishop John Ireland, the clergy; and James J. Hill and Richard Sears, founder of Sears and Roebuck, are the business "heroes." Considerable space is given to Joseph R. Brown and his steam wagon, which is called "the first automobile in Minnesota." Mr. Parsons does not neglect the original inhabitants of the Northwest. In his evident desire to do full justice to them, he gives somewhat idealized accounts of Black Hawk, Little Crow, and Sitting Bull. No living Minnesotans are included in the biographies, but the reader may well wonder at the omission of such prominent historical figures as Alexander Ramsey and Knute Nelson.

In his preface the author says that this book was written in "response to a call from libraries, schoolrooms and parents." He explains that the tales have been tried out in Minneapolis public school classrooms. The usefulness of the book to teachers would be enhanced, however, by some mention of the sources from which he has drawn his material.

ETHEL C. BRILL
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

Since the superintendent's report, published in the present number of the magazine, surveys the activities of the society in 1931, including the last quarter of the year, only a few supplementary items need to be included in the present section.

Drawing upon its own manuscript, museum, and library collections, the society has arranged a special George Washington exhibit in connection with the nation-wide Washington bicentennial celebration. The exhibit includes a collection of original Washington manuscripts relating to his early plans for the improvement of the Potomac; a magnificent chair once owned by Washington; a number of early biographies of Washington; and a display of facsimiles of the Ulster County Gazette for January 4, 1800, with its account of Washington's death. The Library of Congress has the only original copy of the Gazette for the date in question known to be in existence, and a reproduction of this is included with the present display.

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

**COOK**: A. M. Anderson of Grand Marais.

**COTTONWOOD**: Arthur F. Strunk of Windom.

**HENNEPIN**: Mrs. Grace S. Boswell, Samuel A. Challman, Charles H. Chalmers, Thomas P. Helmey, and Mrs. G. Alfred Zetterholm, all of Minneapolis.


**POLK**: Otto Haack, Jr., of Beltrami.

**RAMSEY**: Wentworth B. Brawley, Dr. Elwyn R. Bray, E. G. R. Siebert, and Peter C. Tonning, all of St. Paul.

**ST. LOUIS**: Jay W. Lyder of Duluth.

**SCOTT**: Julius A. Collar II of Shakopee.

**TRAVERSE**: Joe F. Kaess of Wheaton.

**WASHINGTON**: W. S. Moscrip of Lake Elmo.

**NONRESIDENT**: John A. Bardon of Superior, Wisconsin; Dr. H. B. Humphrey of Cabin John, Maryland; and Samuel H. Thompson of Ames, Iowa.
The society lost two active members by death during the three months ending December 31: the Reverend Ole Lokensgaard of Hanley Falls, December 10, and Paul Watkins of Winona, December 24. The deaths of Mr. Edward P. Peterson of Litchfield on February 21, 1931, Dr. Benjamin M. Randall of Graceville on May 24, 1931, Harry S. Thompson of St. Paul on December 20, 1930, and Franklin L. Riley of Lexington, Virginia, a corresponding member, on November 10, 1929, have not previously been noted in the magazine.

The public libraries of Le Sueur and Willmar and the public school libraries of Adrian, Blackduck, Correll, Morris, Olivia, the Lake County School District of Two Harbors, and Waterville, have become subscribers to the publications of the society. The total number of subscribing schools and libraries is now 196.

The early history of Minnesota was covered in broad outline in a series of nine radio talks, presented on Tuesday evenings from January 5 to March 1 at 8:15 P.M. under the auspices of the society over WLB, the broadcasting station of the University of Minnesota. The subjects of the talks and the speakers follow: "The Minnesota Indian and His History" by Mr. Babcock, "The French Régime in Minnesota" by Mr. Blegen, "The British Occupation of Minnesota" by Miss Nute, "The Story of Old Fort Snelling" by Mr. Babcock, "By Canoe and Trail: Minnesota Exploration after 1819" by Mr. Van Koughnet, "Peopling Minnesota" by Miss Nute, "Transportation in Minnesota Before the Day of the Railroad" by Mr. Larsen, "Minnesota Democracy" by Mr. Van Koughnet, and "Preserving Minnesota's Past" by Mr. Blegen. A second series of talks dealing with the later period of Minnesota's history will be presented over WLB sometime in the spring.

The superintendent gave twelve talks and addresses during the quarter ending December 31. He presented a talk entitled "Glimpsing Minnesota's Past through the Eyes of Contemporaries" before the St. Paul Association of Credit Men at the Minnesota Club on October 13, before the Okiyaka Club of St. Paul on November 16, and before the Nathan Hale chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on November 24; he spoke on "Introducing Minnesota History" at meetings of the Lion's Club of St. Paul on
October 26, the St. Paul Exchange Club on November 2, the Cos­
opolitan Club of St. Paul on December 2, and at the Plymouth
Community Church of St. Paul on November 19; he described some
“Sidelights on Minnesota History” before members of the Ashlar
Club of St. Paul on November 12; and he discussed “Leaders of
People in Dispersion” before the annual meeting of the Swedish
Historical Society of America on December 4. In addition he spoke
before an organization meeting of the Pope County Historical So­
ciety at Glenwood on October 20, participated in a regional con­
ference on historical research in Chicago on November 7 and 8,
and spoke at the Conference of Historical Societies held in St. Paul
on December 30 in connection with the annual meeting of the
American Historical Association. The curator of manuscripts spoke
on the “French Régime in Minnesota” before the annual meeting
of the Minnesota Library Association at Faribault on October 9;
she gave an illustrated lecture on “Minnesota in the Fifties and
Sixties” at the Minneapolis Institute of Art on December 13; and
she presented a paper entitled “Government Policy with Respect
to Missions among the Indians” before a session of the American
Historical Association at Minneapolis on December 30. The curator
of the museum led members of the Brookside Parent-Teachers’ Asso­
ciation of St. Louis Park on an “Illustrated Ramble through Min­
nesota History” on October 13; he discussed the activities of the
Minnesota Historical Society at the University Farm on October
24; and he gave an illustrated talk on “Early Minnesota” before
the Utopian Study Club of Minneapolis on November 2.

ACCESSIONS

Forty-four records of engagements, most of which are for voy­
ageurs bound for La Vérendrye’s posts on the Lake of the Woods
and for Sioux posts on the upper Mississippi during the early decades
of the eighteenth century, have been transcribed for the society from
the originals in the archives department of Montreal. Each of these
documents gives, in addition to the name and place of residence of the
voyageur, the name of the person by whom he was engaged, the dura­
tion of the engagement, the post to which he was going, the route to
be followed, and his wages; and from many of the records information
is to be gleaned on methods of obtaining trade goods, the duties of the
voyageurs, the whereabouts of traders, and other matters connected with the fur trade.

Forts at Mackinac, Sault Ste. Marie, Green Bay, and Cass Lake, Indian, customs, and the hostility of the redmen toward the British in 1763 are among the subjects touched upon in a notebook kept by James D. Doty in 1822, a photostatic copy of which has been made for the society from the original in the possession of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Some of the information recorded was obtained by Doty in conversations with Robert Dickson and William Morrison, well-known fur-traders of the upper Great Lakes region.

A photostatic copy of what appears to be the original Carver deed to the land long claimed by his heirs and others deriving their title from him has been received from Mr. Edward Caldwell of New York, who is endeavoring to determine whether it is in Carver's autograph. Mr. Caldwell secured the document from a New York firm, which bought it in London.

Political and social life in Washington in 1846, Pennsylvania politics of the fifties, conditions on the Minnesota frontier of the fifties, and land speculation in Minnesota are among the topics touched upon in forty-eight items from the correspondence of Alexander Ramsey, his wife, and the latter's brother, J. Ridgway Jenks, recently received from Mr. Stan V. Henkels of Philadelphia. Among the more interesting items in this collection are a letter written by Mrs. Ramsey from Minnesota in 1850 in which she expresses fear lest she be obliged to remain in the new territory, and another written by Governor Ramsey in 1859 in which he refers to his party's wish and plan to make him a presidential candidate in 1860.

A list of the Indians of Red Wing's village who signed a temperance pledge between April, 1849, and September, 1851, has been presented by Miss Margaret Aiton of Minneapolis, who is a daughter of the Reverend John F. Aiton, missionary among these Indians.

An account book kept by A. C. Sevey, a blacksmith at Taylor's Falls from 1851 to 1854, is the gift of Mr. Charles A. Lammers of Stillwater. The recurrence in the volume of such terms as ox shoes, cant dogs, heel corks, pot hook, bunk chain, and lead chain indicates that lumbering was a leading industry at Taylor's Falls in the fifties, and this book shows how large a place the blacksmith of that day held
in such a community. A brief description of Sioux-Chippewa warfare near Taylor's Falls in 1853 is also included in the volume.

A certificate of election of the trustees of the German Society of the Methodist Episcopal church in St. Paul, dated February 4, 1852; a circular issued by T. M. Newson and Company demanding "payment in advance" for the St. Paul Times after May 15, 1858; and a warranty deed of December 22, 1876, made between the Catholic Industrial School of Minnesota and the Reverend B. Baumann of Adams, Mower County, have been presented by Mr. Harris Richardson of St. Paul.

A volume of memoirs of Major General David S. Stanley, a native of Ohio, who was on frontier service from 1852 to 1861 against the Cheyenne and Comanche Indians and who took part in many engagements of the Civil War, is the gift of Mr. Haydn S. Cole of St. Paul.

The diaries kept in Maine in 1855 by Mrs. Lucy Furber, later a resident of Cottage Grove, Minnesota, are the gift of her son, Mr. Pierce P. Furber of Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. He has also presented two books of notes on lectures which he attended at the University of Minnesota in 1874 and 1879, a family scrapbook, and an autograph album.

Some information about the victims and survivors of the Lake Shetek massacre, gathered by Dr. Harper M. Workman of Tracy, has been assembled by him in a sketch entitled "Early History of Lake Shetek Country" and presented by the author.

A letter written by the Reverend Stephen R. Riggs to his daughter, Martha, from Camp Release on September 27, 1862, has been lent to the society by the South Dakota State Department of History for the purpose of making a photostatic copy. The missionary states that he "cried for joy" over the women and children who were released from the Sioux camp.

Seven muster rolls kept by Captain James P. Allen of Battery L, First Minnesota Artillery, during the Civil War have been added to his papers by his son, Mr. Charles W. Allen of St. Paul (see ante, 12:319).

A copy of the "Memoirs of a Grandmother Eighty Three Years Old," written by Mrs. Emma C. White, has been presented by her
son, Mr. Frank T. White of Elk River. The author gives an account of her early life in western Pennsylvania and of her removal to Illinois in 1865 and to a farm at Clear Lake, Sherburne County, Minnesota, in 1872. She also describes events and conditions in "the days when the pioneers enjoyed themselves in a primitive way."

The task of running a household on a prairie farm near Greenleaf in 1873 is described in a letter from Lucy Garland to a cousin in the East, recently received by the society. The writer pictures in some detail the growth of the near-by settlement of Litchfield. She expresses a desire to teach school and asserts that "teachers wages here are low, but any body can teach."

A pay roll of the Pillager and Lake Winnebogoshish bands of Chippewa Indians, dated October 26, 1874, and one of the White Oak Point band, dated October 30, 1874, both of which are signed by James Whitehead, special Indian agent, have been presented by Mrs. Charles H. Burwell of Minnetonka Mills, the wife of the paymaster.

Material relating to the activities between 1911 and 1917 of the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association, the Political Equality Club of St. Paul, the League of Protestant Women of St. Paul, the Minnesota Equal Franchise League, and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Minnesota is included in the papers of Theresa B. Peyton, a teacher at Humboldt High School of St. Paul, which have been presented by her mother, Mrs. William L. Riley of St. Paul. A list of Minnesota Congressmen with their views on woman suffrage and prohibition is an interesting item in the collection.

Some papers and records of the Northwestern and Daniel Shaw lumber companies and nineteen letterpress volumes of the latter company that had previously been lent to the society have been added to the papers of these lumber firms by Mr. William W. Bartlett of Eau Claire, Wisconsin (see ante, 12:319). The papers of the Daniel Shaw company consist of correspondence, contracts for the sale and delivery of lumber, reports of timber cruisers, and financial accounts.

The text of a "Pageant of St. Paul Progress," which was presented on September 3 and 4 at St. Paul in commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the local Young Men's
Christian Association (see ante, 12:458) has been presented by that organization through the courtesy of Mr. Parker Jordan.

Copies of two articles contributed by Mr. Orrin F. Smith of Winona to the Winona Republican-Herald, which appear in the issues of that paper for October 14 and 21, 1931, have been presented by the author. In one, entitled "Looking Backward," conditions in Winona in the early fifties are described; and in the other the story of how "Pioneer Settlers Saved City from Name of Montezuma" is related.

A master's thesis on "The Settlement and Development of Martin County, 1856-1880" by Aletha M. Herwig has been received from the history department of the University of Minnesota. Mr. Malcolm C. Shurtleff of Little Compton, Rhode Island, has presented a copy of a paper entitled "Some Phases of the Fur Trade in and about Traverse des Sioux," which he wrote while a student at the University of Minnesota in 1921.

Photographs of a number of weapons and other objects that were found in Minnesota and a number of affidavits and letters concerning them have been presented by Mr. Hjalmar R. Holand of Ephraim, Wisconsin, who believes that the finds are of Norse origin. Six of the letters are from scholars residing in the Scandinavian countries. The photographs and some of the letters are published in Mr. Holand's book on the Kensington Rune Stone.

A collection of nearly three hundred and fifty articles illustrative of native life in the Philippine Islands has been presented by General Charles McC. Reeve of Minneapolis and installed in special cases furnished by the donor (see ante, p. 74). Many of the objects in this valuable collection were assembled by General Reeve in 1898 and 1899, when he was commanding the Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War, and he has been steadily adding to it since that time. It includes Moro, Igorot, and Negrito weapons; Filipino flags; a carved wooden figurine of a Filipino drummer boy; a Moro chief's saddle and bridle; and numerous objects used by the natives in their agricultural and domestic activities.

A remarkable record of the customs and habits of the Mandan and Hidatsa Indians of North Dakota is preserved in a collection of
more than six hundred articles, fourteen hundred negatives, and forty phonograph records assembled by the late Reverend Gilbert L. Wilson of St. Paul and presented to the society by his widow, with the approbation of his brother, Mr. Fred N. Wilson of Minneapolis, who collaborated in the work of building up the collection. Since the Mandan and Hidatsa lived a settled life in fortified villages and depended to a large extent upon agriculture for their subsistence, many of the objects in the collection are connected with this industry. It includes, for example, digging sticks, wooden and scapular bone hoes, brush and deer antler rakes, carrying baskets, bone knives, and examples of various vegetables and cereals raised by these Indians. There are also a headdress, probably used by the white buffalo society, and several cow hides decorated with designs in quills and paint originally used on buffalo robes. It is interesting to note that Dr. Wilson was employed for several years among the Mandan and Hidatsa as scientist and collector for the American Museum of Natural History. While he was so employed, he built up a duplicate collection of objects and pictures for himself, and it is the latter collection that has come to the society. In 1917 Dr. Wilson published a study of the Agriculture of the Hidatsa Indians, which is reviewed ante, 2:369.

Recent additions to the society's collection of objects illustrative of pioneer life include a small Norwegian immigrant chest dating from 1839, presented by Miss Ruth Woods of Blooming Prairie; a pair of ox shoes, received from Mr. Jonathan O. Eastman of Owatonna; and a cane made by the Reverend Chauncey Hobart when he was ninety-one years of age and a chopping bowl hollowed from an oak knot, presented by the Reverend W. E. Thompson of Freeborn.

A large collection of coins including pieces from the United States, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, and other countries is the gift of Miss Grace E. Polk of Brainerd. Four unsigned notes of the Lyman Dayton Bank of St. Paul have been presented by the Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club of St. Paul through its secretary, Mr. W. K. Miller.

A bamboo water jug used in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, and four steel-tipped arrows secured in China during the Boxer uprising are the gifts of William F. Westphalenger of St. Paul.
Two fragments of old copper kettles of the trade goods type have been presented by Mr. and Mrs. Emil Anderson of Minneapolis, who found them in the Pigeon River at old Fort Charlotte.

A shotgun used in Meeker County about 1872, and a German bayonet and a cavalry sabre found at St. Nazaire, France, during the World War are the gifts of James I. Branley of St. Paul.

Scores of interesting and valuable views of Minneapolis streets and buildings, the Falls of St. Anthony, the Minneapolis flour mills, the great mill explosion of 1878, Lake Minnetonka, Fort Snelling, St. Paul, and towns in southern Minnesota during the seventies and eighties are included in a collection of about fourteen hundred negatives presented by Mrs. George P. Douglas of Minneapolis for the Minnesota Society of Colonial Dames. Mrs. Douglas acquired the negatives from the Sweet Studios of Minneapolis, which went out of business last fall. Many of the views were taken by W. H. Jacoby and all are carefully identified.

A valuable collection of more than eight hundred pictures of steamboats, including photographs of many that plied upon the upper and lower Mississippi and its tributaries, has been received from Mr. E. W. Tallmon of Davenport, Iowa.

An elaborately embroidered lady’s linen suit dating from the nineties is the gift of Mrs. Florence B. McClelland of Faribault, and a white ratine skirt also worn in the nineties has been presented by the Misses Frances and Margaret Densmore of Red Wing.

A flag bearing the arms of the city of Genoa, Italy, which was presented to the state of Minnesota by that municipality on the occasion of the dedication of the Columbus statue at St. Paul on October 12, has been received from Governor Olson.
NEWS AND COMMENT

The program of the forty-sixth annual meeting of the American Historical Association, held in Minneapolis from December 28 to 30, was planned so as to reflect the astonishing diversity and range of present-day American historical interest and scholarship. Reaching a climax in the subtly penetrating and richly woven presidential address of Professor Carl Becker on "Everyman His Own Historian," the program gave large space to historical interpretation, to social and cultural factors in history, and to realms of research that have only recently been explored. There is room here merely to mention a few of the sessions and papers that were of special interest to students of western American history and to historical society workers. The relation of immigration to expansion, sectionalism, democracy, and puritanism was the theme of a thoughtful paper presented by Marcus L. Hansen at a session devoted to the subject of American immigration. Another session of novel interest was given over to the history of American mission activity. Its program included a broad survey of "Governmental Policy with Respect to Missions among the Indians" by Grace L. Nute and an account of "Seminary Projects for the Missions among Catholic Germans in the United States, 1835-1855" by Peter L. Johnson. Agricultural history was given due attention in a joint session with the Agricultural History Society, the papers including one by Harold E. Briggs on "Early Bonanza Farming in the Red River Valley." The West loomed large in a joint session with the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, with papers on the Quebec Act by Louise P. Kellogg, "The Red River Valley and the War of 1812" by John P. Pritchett, "Minnesota, the Federal Land Policy, and the Republican Party" by Verne E. Chatelain, and "The Influence of the Foreign-born in the Election of 1860" by Donnal V. Smith. Canadian history was considered in a special session, with the discussion centered upon "The United States and the British Policy in Canadian Confederation" under the leadership of Professor Chester Martin. Dr. Solon J. Buck led a conference under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies on the question of categories of materials for
historical research. The Conference of Historical Societies, pre­sided over by Guy Stanton Ford, took under consideration the topic of systematic publication of source materials, with papers by Theo­dore C. Blegen and Samuel F. Bemis and a discussion in which Dr. Buck, Joseph Schafer, and others participated. Among other general themes that were included in the fare of the meeting as a whole were American foreign relations, Hispanic American history, the Far East, Slavonic history, medieval culture, the Renaissance, the history of science, nineteenth-century liberalism, and the teaching of history. Scholars from all parts of the country were present at this memorable meeting, gaining pleasure and inspiration not only from the formal sessions but also from the lobby discussions and informal gatherings. Elsewhere in the present number of the magazine (ante, p. 64) is some mention of the part that members of the Minnesota Historical Society were privileged to play in promoting the success of the meeting.

The influence of the West in bringing about the passage of the preemption act of 1841 is emphasized by Roy M. Robbins in an article entitled “Preemption — A Frontier Triumph,” published in the Mississippi Valley Historical Review for December. The writer points out that “The policy inaugurated in 1841 lasted as long as the frontier itself — the repeal of the law in 1891 being symbolic of the disappearance of the frontier.” An interesting survey of “Early Western Magazines for Ladies” published before the Civil War is contributed to the same number of the Review by Bertha-Monica Stearns.

The portion of Alexander Mackenzie’s journal that deals with the explorer’s Voyage to the Pacific Ocean in 1793 has been re­printed, under the editorship of Milo M. Quaife, as the 1931 volume of the Lakeside Classics, the Christmas series issued by R. R. Donnel­ley and Sons of Chicago (384 p.). In an “Historical Introduction” the editor reminds the reader that on the American continent “no gigantic rivers or lofty mountain ranges remain to be discovered; the face of the continent has been mapped. High on the roll of im­mortals who performed the tremendous enterprise stands the name of Alexander Mackenzie.”

The announcement recently made by the Library of Congress that it will make an effort to collect specimens of early western
printing is the subject of an editorial in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for October 7. The writer calls attention to the fact that "one of the most significant types of early publishing on the frontier is the newspaper, correctly named the diary of western settlement."

A "collection of specimens of the lost Indian art of birch-biting" has been presented to the National Museum by Miss Frances Dennismore of Red Wing, according to an announcement in the *United States Daily* of Washington. The specimens were obtained among the Chippewa of northern Minnesota and the adjacent sections of Canada. They consist of pieces of birch bark which have been bitten into symmetrical designs by Indian women.

"The Tragedy of the Sioux" living on the Rosebud Reservation is the subject of an article by Chief Standing Bear in the *American Mercury* for November.

Of more than ordinary interest and value is a list of American trading and military posts, compiled by Edgar M. Ledyard, which appears in installments in the *Utah Historical Quarterly* from April, 1928, to July, 1930. The arrangement is alphabetical and the name of each post is accompanied by a brief descriptive note, giving location, dates, and in some cases an historical outline. Many Minnesota posts are included. Mr. Ledyard "has visited and inspected with a discerning interest the sites, ruins and present structures of more than five hundred old forts; and he has diligently searched military, and other public and private records, and historical society, library and other files and records far and wide," with the result that he has assembled the names of more than two thousand posts in North America. Unfortunately the publication of the list was discontinued with the entry for Fort Laramie; it is to be hoped that it will be resumed and completed in the near future. Its value would be greatly enhanced by the inclusion of a map.

At the annual meeting of the Swedish-American Historical Society, held at Minneapolis on December 4, Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, presented an address on "Leaders of People in Dispersion," and Dr. G. Arvid Hagstrom, president of the Bethel Theological Seminary of St. Paul, discussed problems connected with "Conserving the Treasures of the Past."
In a letter to the Minnesota Historical Society dated January 4, 1932, the Reverend Carl J. Silfversten of Duluth calls attention to the fact that his volume *Finlandssvenskarna i Amerika* deals with the Finland Swedes in America, not with the Swedish Finns (see *ante*, 12:436). Mr. Silfversten points out the following interesting distinction between these racial groups:

Swedish Finns are the 27,000 Finns living in Sweden. These Finns fled from Finland in 1714 and later years, when Russia made an attack on Finland, and have settled in the northernmost part of Sweden, where they have their own cultural and other needs taken care of in the Finnish language.

The Finland Swedes are the Swedes of whom some came to Finland as early as some 2,500 years before Christ. Others came later and their settlement in Finland numbers about 350,000. It is these Swedes who have come from Finland I have tried to picture in my book.

Polish settlements in the United States are listed, located, and briefly described by Franciszek Bolek in the *Polski Przeglad Kartograficzny* ("Polish Cartographical Review") of Lwów, Poland, for October, 1930. Among the Minnesota communities included are Biwabik, Florian, Gnesen, Gatzke, Poland, Puposky, Wanda, Warsaw, Wilno, and Hanska.

The beginnings of state banks in Minnesota are briefly touched upon by Leonard C. Heldermain in his book on *National and State Banks: A Study of Their Origins* (Boston, 1931. 178 p.). He records that prior to 1858 in Minnesota "private banks operated, the American Fur Company at St. Paul provided such services as deposit and exchange, and paper money circulated from banks without the State. The prevailing mood, however, was anti-bank."

*On the Fur Trail* is the title of a narrative for youthful readers, by D. Lange, dealing with the hunting and trapping of fur-bearing animals and with life in the woods of the North Shore of Lake Superior (New York, 1931. 258 p.).

No one has yet made a thoroughgoing historical study of Minnesota's county boundaries, notwithstanding the need for such a work and the richness of its possibilities. An interesting illustration of the value of this type of investigation may be found in Owen C. Coy's *California County Boundaries*, published at Berkeley in 1923 but
only recently distributed by the California Historical Survey Commission. Starting with the original division of the state into counties, Mr. Coy traces the subsequent changes that have been made and accompanies his text with a map for each county.

A discussion of "The Mysterious Oregon," contributed by T. C. Elliott to the *Washington Historical Quarterly* for October, is based on the writer's earlier articles, published in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, which deal with the name "Oregon" as used by Jonathan Carver and Robert Rogers (see ante, 4:281). Mr. Elliott concludes that "the word ouragon," as it appears in Rogers' documents, "is undeniably French."

A review of "Pioneer Printing of Kansas" is contributed by Douglas C. McMurtrie to the first issue—that for November, 1931—of a new historical magazine, the *Kansas Historical Quarterly*. It is interesting to note that the first press was taken to Kansas in 1834 and operated by Jotham Meeker, a missionary to the Indians who "combined printing with preaching."

Suggestions regarding the possible activities of a "Local Historical Society" are presented by Harlow Lindley in *Museum Echoes*, a monthly publication of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, for December. Some of Mr. Lindley's ideas about local societies follow:

Every county should have at least one active historical society. It should enlist in its work teachers, students, ministers, doctors, lawyers, business men, intelligent farmers and mechanics, and the interested women of the community.

In every community there is much valuable material that by prompt action may be collected and preserved, which in a few years will be lost beyond recovery. It may be in the form of old letters and other manuscripts, of historic pictures, of files of papers, and the reminiscences of reliable old persons. Reports of public officers and of various societies should be filed, and a scrap-book should be used for keeping obituaries of deceased citizens of importance.

All these materials should be properly classified and kept by a responsible curator, in fireproof quarters.

The society should hold meetings at regular intervals, at which original papers should be presented by competent persons on topics of local historic interest, and copies of these papers should be carefully filed.

Programs should be made out by careful committees for the year in advance.
Incidents in the past of a Michigan community are recorded in a little volume by Sue I. Silliman entitled *St. Joseph in Homespun* (Three Rivers, Michigan, 1931. 213 p.). Among the subjects touched upon in the volume are the Indians of the St. Joseph district, their customs, treaties that they made with the whites, trails, and trading activities; early settlements in what is now St. Joseph County, especially the city of Three Rivers; and some glimpses of the section in the thirties and forties of the past century. Of special interest in connection with the early settlements of the county are lists of the individuals who lived in various townships in 1850 extracted from the census of that year.

A recent addition to Mr. Douglas C. McMurtrie's valuable publications on local printing history is a volume entitled *Early Printing in Michigan, with a Bibliography of the Issues of the Michigan Press, 1796–1850* (Chicago, 1931. 351 p.). Of special interest are the chapters on Father Gabriel Richard, pioneer Detroit educator and "owner and patron of the earliest literary press in Michigan." Mr. McMurtrie presents evidence to show, however, that the earliest Michigan printing was not, as has been generally believed, done on Father Richard's press in 1809, but was the work of John McCall. The volume includes a scholarly bibliography of 395 books and pamphlets published in fourteen Michigan communities before 1851, and a "Newspaper Record," in which early Michigan newspapers are listed under the names of the settlements where they were published.

An important historic marker recently erected near Ashland, Wisconsin, bears the following inscription: "The First House Built by White Men in the State of Wisconsin was Erected Near this Spot by Radisson and Groseilliers in the Fall of 1658. Marker Erected by the Chequamegon Bay Old Settlers' Club, October 15, 1931." The site for the marker was selected after a careful investigation of historical and geographical factors by a committee, one member of which, Mr. Guy M. Burnham, drew up an elaborate report that has been published in pamphlet form under the title: *The First House Built by White Men in Wisconsin, in the Fall of 1658, by Radisson and Groseilliers, at the Head of Chequamegon Bay* (59 p.).

A charming picture of social life and conditions in *An English Colony in Iowa* around Decorah in the late sixties and the seventies
of the past century is presented in a recently published volume by H. Harcourt Horn, a member of the colony (Boston, 1931. 91 p.). The writer relates that when he arrived at Decorah in 1868 he found "quite an English colony there, some living in the town, others on farms scattered over the country roundabout." He presents interesting characterizations of some members of the colony, and he devotes a chapter to the amusements of these people and another to their customs.

"Two Early Issues of the Council Bluffs Press," which "are no doubt the earliest known products of the press at Council Bluffs other than the newspaper," are described by Douglas C. McMurtrie in the October number of the Annals of Iowa. The first of these imprints is the sixteen-page Constitution of the State of Deseret, drawn up by the pioneer Mormons of Utah in 1849. Mr. McMurtrie believes that the document was printed at Council Bluffs, then known as Kanesville, because Orson Hyde, the local newspaper publisher, was a Mormon. The second imprint is a folio broadside dated May 7, 1850, and containing the resolutions of the Beloit Company, a group of emigrants from southern Wisconsin.

Notes on the history of Early Davenport, prepared by Harry Downer, the head resident of Friendly House, as the basis for a series of talks that he gave for children, have been issued in the form of a multigraphed pamphlet (10 p.). Among the subjects dealt with are the Indians, the founding of Davenport by Antoine Le Claire, the Black Hawk war, the building of Fort Armstrong, and early schools, churches, hotels, and transportation methods.

"The Promotion of Agriculture by the Illinois Central Railroad, 1855-1870" is the subject of an article by Paul Wallace Gates in Agricultural History for April, 1931. "The credit for initiating this type of activity on the part of the railroads has generally gone to James J. Hill," writes Mr. Gates. He undertakes "to show that practically all of the kinds of work done by Hill was undertaken by the Illinois Central . . . a full generation before Hill began his great work," that in the "Empire Builder's" "work to aid the farmers of the northwest, he was not initiating a unique policy but was enlarging upon the plans and ideas" of William H. Osborn and other officials of the Illinois Central.
A study of the activities of the "Northwestern Express and Transportation Company," which "dominated the stagecoach and transportation business in Minnesota and Dakota" during the latter half of the nineteenth century, is contributed to the October North Dakota Historical Quarterly by Arthur J. Larsen, head of the newspaper department in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society. Mr. Larsen describes the company's early lines running from St. Paul to points in Wisconsin and Iowa, and shows how, as the frontier advanced westward, the firm's interests shifted to the Red River Valley and the Dakotas until the stages were completely displaced by the railroads. The magnitude of the stage company's business, as depicted by Mr. Larsen, is somewhat surprising. For example, he reveals that in 1859 the company "had over 1,000 miles of exceptionally strong stage lines," and that in 1863 "three stages were run daily from St. Paul to La Crosse." These "sometimes consisted of three or even four coaches and carried as many as forty passengers on one load."

All who are interested in northwestern exploration and travel will find of value an Historical Wall Map of North Dakota recently prepared and published by William M. Wemett of Valley City. The routes followed by numerous explorers, by military expeditions, by groups of settlers, and by surveying parties are traced. In addition, trails, railroads, and railroad surveys are indicated; and forts, camps, and Indian village sites are shown. Many of the routes traced led westward from Minnesota. Mr. Wemett is the author of a Geography of North Dakota (Fargo, 1929), which includes chapters on the fur trade and exploration, Indian wars and settlement, and the building of railroads.

A section on "The Fur Trade and Wild Life" is included in a "Bibliography of Publications on Canadian Economics" covering the decade from 1920 to 1930, in volume 3 of the Contributions to Canadian Economics issued by the University of Toronto (1931. 132 p.). Mrs. Jackson's article on "The Beginning of British Trade at Michilimackinac," which appeared ante, 231-270, is described as "a very important article on the beginnings of the fur trade in the interior from 1760 to 1775."

James Wickes Taylor, Alexander Ramsey, and Oscar Malmros
are among the Minnesotans who figure prominently in an important article by Ruth Ellen Sanborn dealing with the relations between "The United States and the British Northwest, 1865–1870," which is published in the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly* for October. The agitation for the annexation of the British possessions between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains is the theme of the narrative; and the writer emphasizes the interest in this movement that developed in Minnesota. She describes the efforts of Senator Ramsey in Washington to bring about annexation, and she tells in great detail of Taylor's activities in the West as special agent of the state department in the early months of 1870. Taylor's confidential reports are analyzed and extensively quoted. Miss Sanborn has used many important unpublished sources, but she seems not to have consulted the Taylor Papers and the newspaper materials relating to the subject of Canadian annexation in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.

The border region between Minnesota and Canada is described as "Canoe Country" by Francis L. Jaques in an article published in *Natural History* for November–December. The writer sketches briefly the historical backgrounds of some of the canoe routes through the boundary waters. Some unusually interesting drawings by the author illustrate the article, which has also been published as a separate (6 p.).

Attention is called to the fact that twenty-four local historical societies are affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society in a sketch of the history and activities of the latter organization by its secretary, Mr. J. McE. Murray, published in the November issue of the *Ontario Library Review*.

**GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS**

"The recent establishment of County Historical Societies in many of our Minnesota Counties is a portentous thing. This good work should go on," writes Lawrence C. Hodgson in an editorial in the *Southern Minnesotan* for January. He points out that the "basis of history is in individual experience," and that the "note-book of the pioneer, the diary of the adventurer, the reminiscence of the thoughtful" — the types of material that can be gathered and preserved by the local history organization — "eventually become the
foundations of historical study.” Among the other items published in this issue of the *Southern Minnesotan* are an account of Colonel William Colvill’s exploits at Gettysburg; some Civil War letters of the Pendergast brothers of Hutchinson; an outline of the history of New Prague, a Czech community that has recently celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary; and a narrative of a gold-seeking expedition to Pike’s Peak in 1859 as related by Lewis Conley, who later settled at Cannon Falls.

Early days on the North Shore of Lake Superior are recalled in a letter, published in the *Cook County News-Herald* of Grand Marais for October 15, from Mr. John A. Bardon of Superior, whose father, Richard Bardon, served as government teacher and farmer for the Grand Portage Chippewa in the middle sixties. Mr. Bardon relates tales of many of the pioneers of the region, and he tells particularly of the career of Peter Gagnon of Grand Portage.

The varied career of Ignatius Donnelly as town-site promoter, third-party leader, journalist, author, orator, and politician is outlined in an editorial in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for November 8, which calls attention to the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of the “Sage of Nininger.” The anniversary also is the occasion for the publication of a brief biographical sketch of Donnelly in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for November 1.

A chapter entitled “Minnesota, the Marvelous” is included in a volume entitled *Four Score and More: Bits of Biography and Humorous History* by George P. Bent (Los Angeles, 1929. 281 p.). Mr. Robert O. Foster of Minneapolis contributes to the volume some “Reminiscences of fifty-one years in the music business in Minneapolis.”

Mrs. Esther Abbetmeyer Selke contributes an interesting account of “Herculean Laborers for the Extension of Lutheranism in Minnesota,” missionaries of the Missouri synod who worked in the region between 1857 and 1879, to the *Quarterly* of the Concordia Historical Institute for October. She relates that one of the missionaries, the Reverend H. P. Christopher Boettcher, had charge of no less than twenty-seven mission stations in Lyon, Redwood, Renville, Yellow Medicine, Lincoln, and Pipestone counties and in Dakota Territory in the late seventies. He managed to cover his large field
“once in six weeks with horse and spindle, with no roads or fences to bother about.”

That “Historical considerations are . . . important in replanning an old city” that increased rapidly in size in the years following its founding, as did St. Paul, is pointed out by George H. Herrold, managing director and engineer of the St. Paul city planning board, in an article on “The Necessity for Coordinated Planning” published in Civil Engineering for December. In discussing the work of the planning board, which was created in 1918, Mr. Herrold shows how many of St. Paul’s present problems are due to the fact that the city’s business section grew up “around the levee, which was the principal point of interest,” and was connected with scattered residential sections by narrow, crooked, and poorly graded streets. Other articles of special Minnesota interest in this issue of Civil Engineering include a review of “Railroading in the Northwest” by W. L. Darling; accounts of “Open-pit Iron Mining on the Mesabi Range” by Russell H. Bennett and E. W. Davis; and discussions of “Highway Practice in Minnesota” by O. L. Kipp and C. M. Babcock.

The Civil War diary of the late Samuel R. Miller of Olivia, who read poetry, the Spectator, and other classics during the intervals between periods of active service, is quoted extensively in an article entitled “A Soldier’s Diary of Civil War Days” by Elmer W. Peterson, in the Minneapolis Tribune for December 13. Miller served with Ohio and Indiana regiments; after the war he studied law at the University of Michigan; and in the early seventies he settled in Minnesota.

The career of a Pioneer of the North Woods Section of Minnesota: William H. Andrews is the subject of a little book by his wife, Lydia Bryant Andrews, which pictures life in several sections of Minnesota between 1857 and 1925 (Hackensack, Minnesota, 1931. 85 p.). Among the Minnesota communities that Andrews helped to develop as a farmer or a merchant are Richfield, Monticello, Rockford, Brainerd, and Emily Township in Crow Wing County. In the latter township he established a summer resort in 1907 around which has grown the village of Outing, and the chapters dealing with Andrews’ life at this place are perhaps the most interesting in the book.
A Supplement to the Lavocat Family in America by Matilda V. Baillif (1931. 11 p.), issued to accompany a genealogical work described ante, 11:110, includes a translation of a letter written from St. Paul in 1865 by Anne Jacquin Lavocat Martin to her brother, Ferdinand Jacquin, in France.

Some biographical information about Mr. John Talman, newspaper librarian of the Minnesota Historical Society from 1908 to 1926, is included in a sketch published on the occasion of his eightieth birthday in the Fairport [New York] Herald-Mail for December 3.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

The history of a log cabin recently presented to the Blue Earth County Old Settlers' Association by Mr. and Mrs. John Strobel and placed in Sibley Park at Mankato is reviewed in the Mankato Free Press for December 17. According to this account, the cabin was built by George Ott in the late fifties, when he settled on a homestead near Mankato.

An unsuccessful attempt made by E. P. Evans in 1869 to secure the removal of the county seat of Blue Earth County from Mankato to Garden City is recalled by Mr. W. H. Pay in an interview reported in the Mankato Free Press for November 7.

An interesting chapter in the social history of Minnesota's German pioneers is provided by an article reviewing the story of the New Ulm Turnverein, which is published in the Brown County Journal for November 6. Accounts of the society's early meetings, of the building of its first hall, of theatrical performances staged by its members, of its singing section, its fire department, its gymnastic classes, and its activities as host to members of the North American Gymnastic Union in 1876 are included. The society, which was organized in 1856, celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary on November 11.

About half of a History of Big Bend Township, Chippewa County, Minnesota, from the Time of Its First Settlement in 1866 to the Close of the Year 1928, by J. K. Johnson, is devoted to sketches of early settlers, most of whom are of Norwegian extraction (Milan, 1929. 66 p.). It includes also a history of the local Lutheran church and a sketch of a pastor, the Reverend O. E. Solseth, who
served the community for more than three decades; accounts of the township’s first public school and its first post office; some vital statistics for the years from 1874 to 1882; a description of an early Fourth of July celebration; and brief sketches of the founding of Big Bend City and of two local industries, the roller mill and the cooperative creamery. Mr. Johnson’s narrative originally was published in the *Milan Standard*, from which it has been reprinted in pamphlet form.

A “History of the Watson Lutheran Congregation Pioneer Ladies Aid Society,” by Mrs. George Kalmo, appears in the *Watson Voice* for November 26. The writer traces the history of the organization and describes its membership and work from 1876 to the present.

The following list of officers of the Dodge County Historical Society has been received from its president: Mr. G. H. Slocum, president; Mr. Ternis Slingerland, vice president; Miss Elise Alder, secretary; Miss Amanda Curtis, treasurer; and Miss Maud Gerretson, Mr. J. H. Parker, and Mr. J. P. Nottage, members of the executive committee. All the officers live at Mantorville, except the members of the executive committee, who reside at Kasson.

A recently published township record is the *History of Millerville, Douglas County, Minnesota, 1866 to 1930*, by Karl M. Klein (Millerville, 1930. 110 p.). It deals with a German-Catholic community founded in 1866 by John A. Miller. A general account of the early years of the settlement, which includes information about the founding of its church by Fathers Francis Pierz and Ignaz Thomazin, is followed by a chronological record of settlers who arrived each year and of important events from 1866 to 1931.

About three thousand people attended the “open house” arranged by the First State Bank of Chatfield on October 8 to celebrate its seventy-fifth anniversary. A large collection of objects illustrative of pioneer life in the community and of manuscripts was arranged in the bank in connection with the celebration. Some of the more interesting exhibits are described and the history of the bank, which was founded in 1856 by J. C. Easton, is outlined in the *Chatfield News* for October 8.

The First Methodist Church of Chatfield celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary on November 29. The celebration included a series
of talks by Mr. Frank Tuper, Mr. John Chermak, and others on the history of the church.

Plans for occupying quarters in the new Goodhue County Courthouse were made at the annual meeting of the Goodhue County Historical Society, held at Red Wing on November 10. The following officers were elected: C. A. Rasmussen, president; Dr. M. W. Smith, first vice president; Charles P. Hall, second vice president; Mrs. J. E. Enz, treasurer; and Miss Rosalie Youngdahl, secretary.

In connection with the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Congregational Church of Cannon Falls on October 4, a sketch of its history was read by Mr. G. T. Valentine. Pictures of pioneer members of the congregation and early views of Cannon Falls were displayed in the church parlor.

How the lakes of Itasca County received their names is explained by L. A. Rossman in an attractive little booklet entitled Naming Itasca's Lakes (Grand Rapids, 1931. 10 p.). The writer devotes several pages to the origin of the name of the county, outlining briefly the several theories presented by Mr. Gale and Mr. Hart in the September issue of MINNESOTA HISTORY. "You may have a Latin, a Chippewa or a synthetic name, whichever your fancy may take," he explains, but he expresses his own preference when he asserts that "We would rather that the name Itasca came from Indian lore of the Chippewa country than from the Latin dictionary."

Some business ventures on the frontier of northwestern Minnesota during the last third of the nineteenth century are described by Mr. Peter J. Gorden of Minneapolis in a reminiscent letter published in the Morris Tribune for November 27. Accounts of his business activities at Pelican Rapids and at Little Fork in Koochiching County are preceded by descriptions of the writer's boyhood in Norway, of his immigration in 1871, and of pioneer life at Morris.

The proposal that a Lyon County historical society be organized is set forth in articles and editorials published in the Minnesota Mascot for November 6, 13, and 20. The project receives encouragement from the St. Paul Dispatch in an editorial, published in its issue for November 7, which reads in part: "A recent announcement of the Minnesota Historical Society that within the last six months three more counties have formed local historical societies and that there
are now twenty-four such county organizations in the State has apparently had the effect of arousing the interest of other communities not possessing this valuable cultural unit. The Minneota Mascot proposes formation of a Lyon County historical society. . . . It would be gratifying to the entire State to see another county history unit in the Minnesota Valley."

Breaking the sod, building a house, and other details connected with establishing a farm on a prairie homestead in Lyon County are described by Mr. C. O. Anderson of Willcox, Arizona, in a reminiscent article published in three installments in the issues of the Minneota Mascot for October 23 and 30 and November 6. The writer's family traveled by covered wagon in 1875 from Wisconsin to its new home in Lyon County, Minnesota, where Mr. Anderson remained until 1881. His recollections of life in the region include vivid accounts of prairie fires, the grasshopper plague, and the boom years that followed 1877.

Some reminiscences of a pioneer editor, Mr. R. D. V. Carr, who in 1903 established the Middle River Pioneer, now known as the Middle River Record, appear in the issue of the latter paper for October 30 to call attention to the passing of twenty-five years since it was founded. Mr. Carr relates that after the Great Northern Railroad announced that it would build a line between Thief River Falls and Warroad he began the publication of a paper at a point known as Breese post office. In 1904, after the railroad was constructed and the town of Middle River located, he removed his publication office to that place and erected one of the first buildings in the new community.

A detailed history of St. Michael's Catholic Church of Buckman, which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on October 29, appears in the Pierz Journal for October 29.

Pioneer experiences in Nicollet County are recalled by Mr. J. H. Doty of St. Peter in an interview published with his portrait in the St. Peter Herald for December 25. It includes accounts of the emigration of the Doty family from New York state in 1857, of pioneer farming in Nicollet County, and of Mr. Doty's career as a railway agent, a grain dealer, a promoter of coöperative creameries, and a lumberman.
Plans for a local historical museum, to be sponsored by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Rochester, were formulated at a meeting of the club on December 15. A committee, of which Miss Isabelle Farr is chairman, was appointed to take charge of the project.

Reminiscent talks on pioneer life and conditions were presented by Mr. John B. Hompe of Deer Creek, Mr. W. L. Wilson of Maine Township, and Mrs. O. M. Carr of Pelican Rapids before the annual meeting of the Otter Tail County Historical Society at Fergus Falls on October 24. Officers elected for the coming year include Judge Anton Thompson of Fergus Falls, president; M. J. Daly, Jr., of Perham, vice president; Frank E. Saunders of Parker's Prairie, second vice president; E. T. Barnard, secretary; and Elmer E. Adams, treasurer.

A step toward the organization of a Pope County historical society was taken on October 20, when Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, superintendent of the state historical society, spoke before a meeting at Glenwood on the value and possibilities of local historical organization. A committee of seven, elected at this meeting to make plans for a permanent organization, met on November 17, drew up a constitution, and planned to call an organization meeting early in 1932.

That there are ten villages and cities in the United States bearing the name of Northfield is revealed in an article in the Northfield News for November 6 which presents the results of an investigation into the origins of the name. In the case of the Minnesota city, the writer declares that "the name of the founder, John W. North, at least suggested the first syllable of the name of the future city and that the decision of the early settlers, many of whom were New Englanders, was easily reached because the name brought back memories of the far-off Northfields of Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont and Connecticut." Much information about other communities of the same name is presented. Among them is Northfield, Texas, which, it is interesting to note, was founded in 1890 by Jonathan Cook, who "came from Northfield, Minnesota."

The seventy-fifth anniversaries of two Northfield churches — the First Congregational Church and the First Baptist Church — were marked by a joint celebration held on October 24 and 25. An
exhibit of documents, pictures, and objects connected with the histories of the churches was a feature of the celebration. At the anniversary dinner, held on the evening of October 24, addresses were presented on "The Old Brown Church" by Mrs. A. H. Pearson, "Our Church in the Eighties" by Miss Isabella Watson, "Our Church in the Nineties" by Dr. H. C. Wilson, "Reminiscences from a Long Pastorate" by Dr. Edwin B. Dean, "The Coming of the Baptists" by Dr. J. P. Bird, "Reminiscences from a Pastor's Wife" by Mrs. E. B. Dean, and the "Significance of the Anniversary" by Dr. Donald J. Cowling, president of Carleton College. An interesting booklet, which contains historical sketches of the two congregations and pictures of their buildings and pastors, was published in connection with the celebration (32 p.). Another seventy-fifth anniversary celebration, held by the Northfield Methodist Church on December 10, was marked by the presentation of a pageant depicting the history of the church.

A paper on "The Founding of the Catholic Churches in Faribault" in 1853 was presented by Mrs. James E. O'Neill before a meeting of the Rice County Historical Society at Faribault on October 26. The following officers were elected for the coming year: Professor C. A. Duniway of Northfield, president; H. L. Buck of Faribault, vice president; Frank M. Kaisersatt of Faribault, secretary; and Albert Leach of Faribault, treasurer.

The program of the annual meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society, which was held at Duluth on December 3, included addresses and papers on "A St. Louis County Pioneer and a Developer of the Missabe Range" by John H. Hearding, on "Early Fur-trading Companies in St. Louis County" by William E. Culkin, on "The Oregon Trail in 1853" by Claudia M. Allen, and on the "Finland Swedes in Northeastern Minnesota" by the Reverend Carl J. Silfversten.

The suggestion that a permanent collection of objects illustrative of pioneer life in Scott County be placed on display in Belle Plaine is made by Win V. Working in the Belle Plaine Herald for October 22. "With local history being studied in our schools and with most persons, young and old, more or less interested in pioneer history, relics should have a strong appeal here," writes Mr. Working. "They are of little use hidden away in attics or stored away in
vaults; they must be brought out into the light where they may be examined and studied. They should be in groups so that their collective appeal may be made sufficiently strong.”

More than eight thousand people attended a “Golden Jubilee” celebration held at Winthrop on October 8. Among the speakers who recalled incidents connected with the city’s past were Mr. P. P. Quist, Judge Henry Moll, and Congressman August H. Andresen. Displays of pioneer objects arranged in local store windows attracted much attention and interest. In connection with the celebration, the Winthrop News published with its issue of October 8 an “Anniversary Supplement” of thirty-six pages, which contains much valuable material about the history of Winthrop and Sibley County. A review of the city’s past reveals that the town site was platted by Erick Olson in 1881, when the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad was extended through land that he had been farming since 1869. Brief sketches of the Sibley County cities and villages of Henderson, Green Isle, Arlington, Gaylord, Gibbon, and New Auburn, and of the townships of Transit, Cornish, Alfsborg, and Bismark are included in the booklet. Transportation is dealt with in articles dealing with pioneer roads and with the building of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad; several Winthrop industries — the coöperative creamery, the canning plant, and the telephone company — are the subjects of articles; the story of the News, which was founded in 1887, is outlined; and the history of the Winthrop schools is reviewed by P. M. Paquette. An interesting feature of the booklet is the inclusion of several local history sketches prepared by high school students.

The historical value of business papers and records is well illustrated in two articles published in the Plainview News for October 9 and 16. The first describes the papers of the C. C. Comwell and Son Hardware Company, recently discovered in the basement of its store, and gives examples of the purchases made by pioneers of the seventies. A day book kept in the sixties by F. J. Cornwell, a dry goods merchant, and now owned by Mrs. E. A. Carpenter, is the subject of the second article.

The passing of half a century since the Farmers’ National Bank of Waseca was established was commemorated on November 14.
A special section of the *Waseca Journal* for November 11 is devoted to the banking history of the community.

The eightieth anniversary of the First Congregational Church of Minneapolis, which was founded at St. Anthony in 1851, was celebrated by members of the congregation with appropriate ceremonies on November 15 and 16. The history of the church is briefly reviewed in the *Minneapolis Journal* for November 8.

The history of the Minneapolis Athenæum is reviewed in the *Seventieth Annual Report* of the institution, submitted in 1929 by Katharine Patten, its librarian (22 p.). The origin and growth of the Athenæum library, which has been combined with the Minneapolis Public Library, is stressed.

The days when there were “Steam Trains on Nicollet Avenue” in Minneapolis are recalled by Arthur W. Warnock in an article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for October 4. The writer describes the building of the “Motor Line” which began operations in 1879 between First Avenue South and Lake Calhoun and which eventually was extended to Excelsior on Lake Minnetonka. Among the interesting illustrations that appear with the article are a picture of the “first motor train” to run in Minneapolis and a facsimile of the motor line’s time table for 1885.

The influence of geography upon the origin and growth of Minneapolis is emphasized by Arthur W. Warnock in an article entitled “A City in Swaddling Clothes” in the *Minneapolis Journal* for November 29. The writer outlines the early history of the city, explains the origin of some of its geographic names, and describes briefly the development of civic improvements and railroad connections with the outside world.

A detailed *History of the Assumption Parish, St. Paul, Minn.* (113 p.) was published in connection with the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the church on October 18. It opens with an account of the “Founding of the Parish,” the pioneer German Catholic congregation of St. Paul, which occupied its first church building in 1856. Sketches of its pastors and a history of the parish school are included in the volume.