REVIEWS OF BOOKS


These two stout volumes attest the value of a thoroughgoing search for biographical data. Hitherto the sketches of Astor have been compounds of fancy, fact, tradition, and pure fabrication, made in an endeavor to fill in the gaps that half-hearted searches for data have been obliged to leave. Even the sketch of our first multimillionaire in the Dictionary of American Biography, published while Mr. Porter himself was combing Europe and America for data, perpetuates the errors of earlier writers and adds almost nothing new to our knowledge of Astor. Now comes Mr. Porter with so much material that practically every year of Astor's long career is accounted for and placed in the proper light. It is evident, therefore, that heretofore it has not been dearth of materials that has been the stumbling block in the way of an adequate biography of Astor.

To summarize adequately these volumes would lead us into the minutiae of the fur trade, America's foreign commerce, the exploration of the West, the War of 1812, the banks and insurance companies of the country, the physical and economic development of New York City, the building of canals and railroads, and a score of other phases of the life of the United States between Astor's arrival as an unknown German immigrant youth in 1784 and the year of his death, 1848. It is obvious that such a varied and amazingly full career cannot be summarized briefly, but at least we may state Astor's outstanding contributions to American life, as set forth by Mr. Porter. He divides Astor's business career into three main portions: prior to 1800 he was learning the fur trade; from 1800 till slightly after 1825 he was investing the money made in the fur trade in the China trade and turning the resultant profits into land;
finally, he abandoned the fur trade in 1834 and spent the remainder of his life attending to his investments in land, insurance, banks, canals, and railroads. In the process of expanding the fur trade to the point at which he aimed, monopoly, he created the American Fur Company, founded Astoria, explored the West, and helped finance the War of 1812. As a great merchant he built a fleet of vessels that helped place the United States at the head of the commercial world for decades.

Probably Mr. Porter's greatest service has been his revelation, by means of adequate documents, of Astor's ventures in foreign commerce. The importance of this second stage in his conversion of inland America's fauna into dividends from land on Manhattan Island has not heretofore been visible in any clear light. In the author's quest for material he has overlooked some documents that might have added further detail to his picture. The reviewer cannot learn that he found or used the James Hunnewell papers or the John Perkins Cushing manuscripts, though, strangely enough, they were in the custody of the very university for which he was preparing his study. These should have helped him materially in the chapters dealing with the Hawaiian Islands and China trades. Some of the best available data on the financing of the China trade may be obtained from Cushing, who was the Canton representative of the great firm of Perkins and Company in the China trade.

Though the book professes to be a treatment of Astor, the business man, it incidentally affords the only adequate treatment of Astor the individual. Especially helpful are Mr. Porter's evaluations of the almost numberless anecdotes and myths that have clustered around Astor's name for over a century. In fact he has maintained a very admirable balance in his entire presentation of Astor, being neither adulatory nor damning after the manner of earlier biographers of the man. If the reader finds the books somewhat heavy reading, he should not complain, for their primary purpose is not the delectation of the tired business man but the instruction of the serious student of business methods.

Some errors creep in unavoidably in such a pretentious undertaking. Among the illustrative documents found at the close of each volume is one that shows admirably the deep interest that Astor had in the Minnesota country, whence came some of his best profits. Fifty trading posts of the American Fur Company are listed for
the Lake Superior country in 1826, among which one finds such distorted readings of place names as “Anna Quiwinnon” for Ance Keewena; “Capina” for Cassina, now Cass Lake; “Riveur” in several cases for Rivière; Lac La Plauie for Lac la Pluie, now Rainy Lake; and some others. One suspects, too, the reading of “Lac Coutoreille” for Courtoreille, now Ottawa Lake; and of “Lower Mispipippi”! Apparently the typist was unacquainted with the long s in manuscripts of 1826 and even later. Nevertheless, this document like many other portions of the volumes shows how valuable this biography is for students of Minnesota history. John Jacob Astor was the great promoter of the Minnesota country from 1809 until 1834, and his influence on its development is incalculable.

Grace Lee Nute

Peter Pond, Fur Trader and Adventurer. By H. A. Innis.
(Toronto, Irwin and Gordon, Ltd., 1930. xi, 153 p. Map. $3.00.)

The name of Peter Pond is a familiar one to students of the Canadian fur trade in the quarter-century following the British conquest. Hitherto, however, no one has followed the movements of the Yankee trader sufficiently closely to be able to present a continuous narrative of his career. Such a narrative is offered by Professor Innis in the present volume. The chapters describing Pond’s early military and commercial exploits are based upon the journal that the trader wrote in old age, only a portion of which has been preserved. Passages taken from these reminiscences are reproduced at some length, and in this way the flavor lent by phrase and spelling and the detail of exact description are retained. Pond spent the years 1773–75 on the St. Peter’s, or Minnesota River, and he was one of the first traders to take bales of goods to the Sioux living in that region. The story of the experiences of these years, descriptive as it is of many of the customs of the Indians, is of especial interest to Minnesota readers. The later years of Pond’s trading career were spent farther north on the Saskatchewan River and Lake Athabasca. This period is not covered by the journal, and Professor Innis has therefore pieced together his narrative from bits of evidence gleaned from a variety of sources. Lack of material prevents the treatment from being
complete, and the author is forced at various points to fall back upon conjecture, but the outline of Pond’s principal activities is reconstructed very acceptably.

Perhaps the most significant thing about the book is the attempt by the author to evaluate Pond’s services as explorer and trader, and to correct the unfavorable portrayal of his personality that has come down to us from associates unfriendly to him. Pond is deserving of note as an explorer by virtue of the fact that he was the “first to cross the Methye Portage into and to outline the general character of, the Mackenzie River drainage basin” (p. 113). In fact Professor Innis sees “the fulfillment of Pond’s plans” in Alexander Mackenzie’s expedition down the Mackenzie River in 1789 (p. 110). In this connection the author stresses the importance of Pond’s maps of the Northwest, and the information that the trader accumulated from the Indians. No serious effort is made to untangle the complications surrounding the various original maps drafted by Pond and the copies that were later made from them. Nor does the author deal with questions of textual criticism in the case of explanatory material in French accompanying certain of the extant copies of the Pond maps. Professor Innis maintains that the extension of the trading activities of the Northwest Company into the Athabasca department was rendered successful largely through Pond’s efforts. “To him belongs the honour of having solved the problem of conducting trade over such long distances and of organizing the Athabasca department which was crucial to the development of the Northwest Company and to the prosecution of further exploration” (p. 115). The book is a scholarly biographical study by a recognized authority in the field.

CHARLES M. GATES

*The Kensington Rune Stone: A Study in Pre-Columbian American History.* By Hjalmar R. Holand. (Ephraim, Wisconsin, privately printed, 1932. viii, 316 p. Illustrations. $3.00.)

In 1907 the Kensington rune stone came into the possession of Mr. Holand, a scholar of standing and repute who is widely known for his writings on local history. Since then he has made this monument a major subject of study. Recently he has published a volume on the stone into which he has gathered all the arguments that he has advanced from time to time in favor of the authenticity
of the inscription. In many respects it is a very remarkable book. The author is endowed with a lively imagination; he uses the English language with vigor and precision; and he presents his beliefs with a conviction that scarcely ever allows the admission of doubt.

Mr. Holand's first task is to account for the strange fact that a runic monument has been found so deep in the interior of the continent. He begins with a royal commission issued in 1354 to Paul Knutson, a prominent citizen of western Norway, directing him to prepare and to lead an expedition to Greenland, presumably to search for a body of Greenlanders who had evidently abandoned their settlement. He traces a possible route for this expedition from Norway to Greenland, and thence south into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Disappointed there, the ship master turned northward and entered Hudson Bay. The searchers continued their journey up the Nelson and Red rivers to Cormorant Lake, where ten of the men were slaughtered by the Indians. The survivors fled southward about seventy-five miles to what is now Douglas County, Minnesota, where they chiseled the famous rune stone. Later they seem to have joined the Mandan Indians, by whom they were given tribal rights.

Mr. Holand has developed a brilliant hypothesis, one that seems at first sight extremely plausible; it meets every objection and explains all that needs to be explained. Unfortunately it rests on a rather flimsy foundation: only two pertinent documents can be cited in support of it, the royal letter to Paul Knutson and the Kensington runes. We cannot be sure that Paul Knutson actually sailed, and the Kensington record may be a forgery.

But the author is convinced that it is authentic and presents a series of arguments to support his belief, the most cogent being the fact that the stone was found at the roots of a poplar tree, the age of which Mr. Holand fixes at seventy years. Unfortunately the tree was not carefully examined when the stone was unearthed, and while a study of neighboring trees may be helpful, it cannot yield conclusive proof. Mr. Holand devotes a chapter to certain "corroborative finds," three axes, a hatchet, a flint steel, and a spear head, for all of which he claims a Scandinavian origin. The discussion is interesting but not wholly convincing. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries large quantities of European tools and weapons came into the West from English, Dutch, French, and Spanish workshops and were widely distributed partly through direct
trade and partly through intertribal barter. The study of patterns will therefore have to be made on a larger scale than that which Mr. Holand has thus far undertaken. On the Mandan hypothesis the reviewer can have no opinion, but he feels called upon to question whether a fairly numerous tribe could have its complexion so distinctly modified by the adoption of ten, or at most twenty, Norwegians and Swedes.

After all, the important matter is the inscription. If it can be shown that it belongs linguistically to the fourteenth century, there is little need to argue on the basis of externals. The language presents many difficulties, however, some of which the author appears to have dealt with quite successfully. The reviewer would suggest that the problem be submitted to a committee of competent Norwegian or Swedish philologists. An opinion from such a group might conceivably put an end to the controversy over the stone, which otherwise is likely to continue its irritating course.

Laurence M. Larson


Two important national bodies interested in promoting research in the social sciences and humanities have sponsored the joint committee which, set up in 1929 and headed by Dr. Solon J. Buck, has now made available this valuable Survey. If the committee produced nothing more, its existence and activity would nevertheless be amply justified in the eyes of scholars. There is reason to believe, however, that this volume is merely an introduction to a broad program of useful activity. Coördination, coöperation, classification, calendaring, and surveying, with emphasis upon regional and national planning, seem to be characteristic notes in this program. They are welcome notes indeed to all who are interested in American scientific progress, for they sound a sharp challenge to institutions that have not yet awakened to the place of coöperation and coördination at the present stage of scholarship in the United States.
The present volume, compiled by Mr. Holbrook and printed by the offset process, lists more than four hundred and fifty American institutions that collect materials for research in the social sciences and humanities or in other ways interest themselves in such research. There is first a survey of more than fifty general agencies; thereafter the arrangement is by regions, such as New England and the West North Central area, and by states within regions. Compact summaries are given for each institution. There is an air of vitality about each summary, for, although adequate information is given concerning what an institution has published, collected, or done in the past, the emphasis is placed upon continuing activity, upon projects under way, upon special collections that are being built up, upon plans for the future. Coöperative projects of many kinds are described, bibliographical enterprises are noted, and many new and specialized types of collecting are reported. The Survey is a serviceable guide for scholars and administrators. By its clear presentation of data it should open the way to a better understanding of the current needs of coöperation and coördination. Incidentally, it may be noted that the situation, though bad enough, is improving. It is true that, with hundreds of collecting institutions scattered throughout the country, there are overlapping plans of collecting; expensive and unnecessary duplication is common; neighboring libraries often fail to coördinate their work; regional conference and counsel are not as common as they should be; and finding lists and calendars are scarce. There is much evidence in Mr. Holbrook's Survey, however, that the situation is on the mend. There is a growing awareness that, valuable as individualism and localism have been in insuring the preservation of materials that might have been lost to the world of scholarship, a new day is at hand, a day of planning, a day of common counsel. The Survey has another interest that deserves comment. It affords, for those concerned with evaluating the contemporary culture of the United States, an unusual picture of a group of very important cultural activities. It is therefore a significant document for American social history.

T. C. B.


These two volumes are interesting and valuable compilations of the historical cartography of a pivotal region in North America. To the casual observer it might appear from the titles that they are entirely of a local significance. A close perusal, however, will reveal that they contain information covering a much wider area than the Great Lakes region.

In nine chapters and over a hundred reproductions of English, French, and American maps, Professor Karpinski discusses and illustrates the gradual evolution of the correct delineation of the Great Lakes and Michigan upon the map of North America. For most students, chapters 3, 4, and 5 of the Bibliography will probably be of the greatest interest. Chapter 3 treats in some detail the significant maps of the Great Lakes area from the period of the French explorations to the close of the eighteenth century. Chapter 4 lists, with bibliographical information, the fundamental maps of the region for the same period. And chapter 5 deals with the maps of the United States and the Great Lakes from 1804 to 1825.

Through the inclusion of a large number of whole maps — it has been necessary in many instances to reproduce only the area under study because of expense — the value of the Bibliography and Atlas is enhanced. Although Michigan receives the most detailed treatment, the other territories bordering on the Great Lakes are given considerable attention. Especially is this true of the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Students particularly interested in the historical cartography of these states will find that both the Bibliography and Atlas contain much of pertinent value.

That Professor Karpinski has succeeded in making a real contribution to American history there can be no doubt. Certainly the historical profession is greatly indebted to him and to the Michigan
Historical Commission for the compilation and publication of these two volumes.

JOHN PERRY PRITCHETT


This book, written in commemoration of the centenary of the beginning of Bishop Baraga's missionary labors among the Chippewa Indians, traces briefly the life and labors of Bishop Baraga from his birth on June 29, 1797, at Mala Vas, Dobrinic, Slovenia, to his death on January 19, 1868, at his episcopal residence at Marquette, Michigan.

Frederick Baraga was educated in Austria and was ordained to the priesthood in 1823. In his determination to devote his life to Christianizing the American Indians, he offered his services to Bishop Fenwick of Cincinnati and they were accepted. Father Baraga, the first of the Slovene missionaries to the United States, arrived in Cincinnati early in 1831 and in May was assigned to the Ottawa mission at Arbre Croche, Michigan. There he completed the compilation of the first of several books in the Indian language. He was stationed at La Pointe, Wisconsin, from 1835 to 1843. La Pointe served as a stepping stone to work among the Chippewa at Fond du Lac, Minnesota, where he visited frequently during his residence at La Pointe and after his return to the Michigan mission field in 1843. Grand Portage and Fort William were visited also. In 1853 Father Baraga was consecrated bishop and placed over the newly created vicariate apostolic of upper Michigan and later he was made bishop of Sault Ste. Marie and Marquette.

The hardships encountered by Bishop Baraga in his missionary work in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin are described at some length. Mention is made of the financial aid received from the Leopoldine and Ludwig mission societies. Among the illustrations are views of the exterior and interior of the Indian mission church of St. Joseph at La Pointe, built by Bishop Baraga in 1841 and destroyed by fire in 1891, and a picture of the cross presumably planted by Bishop Baraga on the Cross River in Minnesota.
The author makes no claim to a scholarly treatise of his subject. His purpose "to treat of the life of Bishop Baraga in a briefer and more popular form and to refer only to those more outstanding activities of his which possess a greater degree of interest for the general reader" is attained in this attractive little volume.

Sister Mary Aquinas Norton

The Lindberghs. By Lynn and Dora B. Haines. (New York, The Vanguard Press, 1931. 307 p. Frontispiece. $2.50.)

When the elder Lindbergh was embarking on his stormy political career, a song in a popular musical comedy ran something like this: "Ain't it funny what a difference just a few hours make." The reader whose memory runs back to those jolly Roosevelt days must have a vivid recollection of the hectic weeks of 1918 when Charles A. Lindbergh "ran for governor" of Minnesota on the ticket of the Nonpartisan League. This is the recollection of one of the authors of this book:

That 1918 campaign will be remembered as long as anyone lives who took any part in it, either as an onlooker or a participant. It will go down in the history of the state as one period in which Minnesota forgot the meaning of Democracy and turned loose the Cossack-minded to "ride" down all those who had a different point of view. The things that happened in 1918, as one looks back upon them now, seem like a bad dream, and in no way belong to the life of a sane, law-abiding people (p. 279).

Strangely enough, on the same day that the reviewer read this paragraph, an editorial in a daily that contributed its fair share to the hysteria of 1918, in commenting on the subsidence of the war psychology, lamented the fact that there seemed to be no guarantee that people will not again and again be crazed by propaganda and the frenzy of war. Lindbergh was of the type to whom statues are erected only after the lapse of many years— as witnessed by that erected in memory of William Lloyd Garrison on the same street through which he was dragged with a rope around his neck. It is a safe guess that a few short years ago the authors of this book never dreamed that in their lifetimes a public would be found for a biography portraying the Lindbergh they knew. But the refrain of the musical comedy song brings to mind the "solo flight" of a son who electrified the world five years ago, the publication of books,
pamphlets, and editorials that exploded the "myth of a guilty nation," and the economic depression that was heralded by the stock market crash less than three years ago, all of which conspired to make the name of two Lindberghs—shall we say immortal?

The "lone eagle" appears with his father on the jacket of the book and in the frontispiece as a youth in his early teens; but the authors and publishers have used him merely as "window dressing." He appears in the narrative as a normal, dependable boy of fine mettle, who graduated from high school, attended the University of Wisconsin, drove the car for his father in campaigns, and transported him in their plane during the last pre-primary campaign, which was cut short by death. In this book the elder Lindbergh is the hero. Perhaps he appears too heroic. He certainly had courage—and a courage fully as fine and noble as that of his daring son. In these pages he appears in the rôle of a crusader in behalf of the plain people.

The elder Lindbergh crossed the Atlantic from Sweden to America in 1859, a baby in arms. The crossing lasted almost six weeks longer than that of "Lindy." The pioneer home in Stearns County, the fortunes and misfortunes of his parents, the public school, Coogan's Academy, the law school of the University of Michigan, and the shingle of the young lawyer at Little Falls introduce the Congressman and Nonpartisan League leader. Then follow extracts from speeches, letters, and books illustrative of the career of the man who started his career as a Roosevelt Republican, voted against the Payne-Aldrich tariff, cast his vote to unseat "Uncle Joe" Cannon, praised certain features of the Underwood tariff, demanded rural credits and postal savings banks, inspired by his resolution the Congressional investigation of the "money trust," favored the repeal of the Panama Canal tolls exemption, trusted Wilson's "watchful waiting" Mexican policy, and attacked "big business" and propaganda that sought to discredit those who were trying to protect people from the horrors and aftermath of what they believed to be a futile war. Accounts are included of his resignation from the War Industries Board, to which he had been appointed with the approval of Woodrow Wilson, because his enemies did not desire him to serve his country in that way; of the vilification and mobs of a political campaign during which his meetings were broken up and he was threatened with physical violence; and, finally, of the "vindication" of the prophet.
That in brief is the story of "C. A.,” as told by Lynn and Dora B. Haines.

**GEORGE M. STEPHENSON**

*Red Man or White: A Story of Indian Life in the Northwest.* By R. CLYDE FORD. (Chicago and New York, Lyons and Carnahan, 1931. 264 p. Illustrations. $ .88.)

The fur trade and the events of the War of 1812 in the Minnesota-Wisconsin region offer a splendid field for writers of historical stories, particularly for boys of junior high school age, and the author has taken full advantage of his opportunity in the present instance. He has presented a good and accurate story of frontier life, skillfully weaving into it all the fascination of the northern Minnesota forests and lakes. There is little inherently improbable in the narrative, for the boy hero is not made to perform impossible deeds of valor.

A close student of Indian conditions during the pioneer period might question to some extent the ease with which northern Minnesota Chippewa were able to reach and establish themselves in and about Prairie du Chien, so far within the country of their hereditary enemies, the Sioux and the Winnebago. At the same time, the activities of such British trader-agents as Robert Dickson, in preparation for the War of 1812, had so soothed tribal sensibilities as to make such penetration possible with reasonable precautions.

The story is told autobiographically, and purports, according to the preface, to be the rewriting for youthful readers of a manuscript narrative left by one William Barton when he “died in Minneapolis in 1875 at the age of eighty-one.” The reviewer’s curiosity as to the identity of this supposed son of a trader at Sandy Lake who later became prominent in the lead exporting business at Prairie du Chien led to the discovery that “William Barton” never existed! The reviewer questions the wisdom of making such direct claims in a preface, since they are likely to give many readers a false impression as to the trustworthiness of the account.

The book must be regarded simply as historical fiction, and when looked upon from that point of view, it may be recommended for upper grade school use.

**WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK**
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

The eleventh state historical tour and convention under the auspices of the society will be held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, July 14 to 16, with sessions at Alexandria, Fergus Falls, Moorhead, and Itasca State Park. A luncheon and an afternoon session at Alexandria on the opening day of the tour will be followed by a dinner meeting and an evening session at Fergus Falls. Papers on "The Red River Trail" and on "Homestead Operations in Minnesota in the Sixties" will be presented by William Goetsinger of Elbow Lake and by Verne E. Chatelain of Washington, D. C., at these sessions. At Moorhead, where a morning session and a luncheon meeting will be held on July 15, Mr. William Marin of Minneapolis will speak on "Social Aspects of Pioneering," and Miss Agnes Larson of Rochester will tell of the "Evolution of the Lumber Camp." The climax of the convention will take place at Itasca State Park, where the society will join the Northwestern Minnesota Historical Association in celebrating the centenary of the discovery of the source of the Mississippi by Henry R. Schoolcraft on July 13, 1932. At the park, sessions will be held on Friday and Saturday evenings, with the presentation of papers on the "Discovery of Lake Itasca" by the Honorable Julius Schmahl of St. Paul, on "Schoolcraft's Companions" by Dr. Grace Lee Nute of the society's staff, and on "Frontiers and the American Spirit" by Professor Clyde A. Duniway of Carleton College, Northfield. The history of the lake also will be reviewed in a pageant to be staged on the afternoon of July 16.

With the publication in June of a little volume entitled "With Pen and Pencil on the Frontier: The Diary and Sketches of Frank B. Mayer" the society inaugurates a new series to be known as Narratives and Documents. It "will be employed as a vehicle for the publication of diaries, letters, newspaper items, and other historical materials of distinct Minnesota interest" that have a wider popular appeal than the material to be published in future volumes of the Collections. It is the purpose of the society to bring out volumes in the new series in "attractive and popular, though inexpensive, form." In the present volume, which has been edited by
Bertha L. Heilbron, assistant editor of Minnesota History, the travel diary of a young Baltimorian who visited the Minnesota frontier in 1851 is published. Mayer describes his journey from Baltimore to the upper Mississippi, and he tells of Indian life in Minnesota, particularly at Kaposia and at Traverse des Sioux, where he attended the negotiation of the important land cession treaty of 1851. He was a talented artist as well as a gifted writer, and his record of Minnesota frontier life includes more than six hundred pencil sketches. Forty-seven of these have been selected as illustrations for his published diary. Mayer's original diary and most of his western drawings are in the Ayer Collection of the Newberry Library in Chicago.

Another work that the society expects to bring out before the end of the summer is volume 2 of Minnesota in the War with Germany, by Franklin F. Holbrook and Livia Appel. The first volume, which appeared in 1928, deals with the military side of the story, whereas in the forthcoming volume civilian activities will be described. The book will contain ten chapters dealing, respectively, with the army on the home front, defense measures, the fight for public opinion, the Red Cross, the seven great welfare agencies, food production and conservation, the conservation of fuel, financing the war, the mobilization of industry, and the end of the war. There will be a general index covering both volumes.

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

**Cook:** Mrs. P. E. Alm and Charles E. Benedict of Grand Marais.

**Fillmore:** Mrs. Patrick H. Laivell of Chatfield.

**Hennepin:** Dr. George E. Dunn, William A. Gregory, Theodore L. Hays, T. Peavey Heffelfinger, Charles B. Kuhlmann, Mrs. Nellie T. Parker, Mary A. Tawney, and Mrs. Minnie G. Truman, all of Minneapolis.

**McLeod:** Orlando Simons of Glencoe.

**Olmsted:** Dr. Henry S. Plummer of Rochester.

**Ramsey:** James B. Beals, Bernhard G. Bechhoefer, Dr. Egil Boeckman, Mrs. Egil Boeckman, Mrs. Caroline D. Bullard, Sarah

WASHINGTON: Merrill E. Jarchow and La Forrest C. Parkhurst of Stillwater.

NONRESIDENT: Mrs. Frank L. Boyce of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The public school libraries of Chisholm, Mahtomedi, Nashwauk, Northfield, Park Rapids, and Tracy have become subscribers to the publications of the society.

The society lost nine active members by death during the three months ending March 31: Miss Minnesota Neill of Minneapolis, January 5; Mrs. Thomas McDavitt of St. Paul, January 7; Charles Bechhoefer of St. Paul, January 25; Edward P. Davis of St. Paul, January 26; Charles E. Wales of Minneapolis, February 4; Clarence D. Hayes of St. Paul, February 13; Frank B. Millard of St. Paul, March 1; the Reverend Lars J. Jerdee of Bemidji, March 2; and Luther W. Gilbert of Glencoe, March 25. Kendric C. Babcock of Urbana, Illinois, a corresponding member, died on March 10; and Frederick J. Turner of San Marino, California, an honorary member, on March 14. The deaths of Hazel Burton of Excelsior on July 14, 1931; the Reverend David R. Breed of Pittsburgh, on December 11, 1931; and Frederick W. Lyman of Minneapolis on December 22, 1931, have not previously been noted in the magazine.

During the first three months of the present year 1,265 readers used 8,300 books in the society’s library; 502 readers used 1,008 bound volumes and 6,036 current issues of newspapers; and 170 readers used the society's manuscript collections.

During the quarter the superintendent presented talks and addresses on "Introducing Minnesota History" before the Coöperative Club of St. Paul, January 26; on "The Lure of Minnesota History" before the Kiwanis Club of Minneapolis, February 16; on "The Study of Local History" before the Goodhue County Historical Society at Red Wing, February 18; on "Immigration"
before the Men's Club of St. Luke's Church of Minneapolis, March 16; on "Highlights of Minnesota History" before the Midway Club of St. Paul, March 30; and on "Glimpsing Minnesota's Past through the Eyes of Contemporaries" before the Twin City Library Club at St. Paul, March 31. The curator of manuscripts gave talks on "The Voyageur in Minnesota History" before a group of girls at the Wells Memorial settlement house of Minneapolis on January 26, and before the Minnesota branch of American Pen Women, meeting in Minneapolis, on February 20. The curator of the museum spoke on "Highways and History" before the Meeker County Old Settlers Association at Litchfield, January 7; on "The Minnesota Indian and His History" before the women's auxiliary of the Church of the Redeemer in Minneapolis, January 8; and on "Early Minneapolis" before the students of St. Margaret's Academy of Minneapolis, February 17, and before representatives of the community life problems classes of Minneapolis, March 10.

Evidence that Chauncey N. Brainerd's account of his adventures in the "Great West," reprinted from his Diary in the issue of MINNESOTA HISTORY for March, 1931 (ante, 12: 44-64), drew the attention and interest of numerous readers has already been presented in this magazine (ante, 12: 405-409). To the list of interested readers may be added the writer of the "Sun's Rays" column of the New York Sun, who in the issue of that paper for January 26 tells of Judge Julius E. Haycraft's search for the name of the Martin County farmer in whose home Brainerd visited, and of Miss Gracie B. Krum's identification of the writer of the Diary as her grandfather.

The series of weekly radio talks on Minnesota history presented on Tuesday evenings from January 15 to March 1 under the auspices of the society over WLB, the University of Minnesota broadcasting station (see ante, p. 97), was followed by a second series extending over a period of seven weeks from March 15 to April 26. The subjects of the talks and the speakers follow: "The Minnesota Fur Trade" by Miss Nute, "A Pioneer Indian Agent at Fort Snelling" by Mr. Babcock, "Indian Missions in Minnesota" by Miss Nute, "Some Aspects of Minnesota Pioneer Life" by Mr. Blegen, "Pioneer Education in Minnesota" by Miss Fawcett, "Pio-
neer Industry in Minnesota" by Mr. Van Koughnet, and "Winning Statehood for Minnesota" by Mr. Larsen. The sixteen talks in the two series, which cover in brief and popular fashion the history of Minnesota from the earliest time to the beginning of the Civil War, have been given permanent form by their publication, from January 9 to May 28, in the Minnesota Alumni Weekly; and plans are under consideration for their publication in pamphlet or book form. It is possible that the radio talks will be resumed in the fall with a series dealing with Minnesota history from the Civil War to the present.

Accessions

Replies to reports and letters of Minnesota fur-traders and agents of the thirties, in the archives of the bureau of Indian affairs; and a few items relating to exploration and Indian affairs in the period after 1808, in the war department archives, are noted on the calendar cards recently prepared by Dr. Newton D. Mereness, the archival agent at Washington of a group of historical agencies.

Photostatic copies of thirty letters dating from 1833 to 1852 have been obtained from the archives of the Indian office in Washington. These consist of correspondence of the secretary of the interior regarding the treaty of Traverse des Sioux in 1851; letters to Henry R. Schoolcraft as Indian agent at Mackinac from missionaries such as Frederic Ayer, Sherman Hall, and William T. Boutwell on the progress of their work at Yellow Lake and La Pointe; and two letters from Dr. William Bell, a physician fur-trader at Leech Lake in the early thirties and later at Sault Ste. Marie.

Transcripts of letters by Dr. Thomas S. Williamson, telling of his work at the Lac qui Parle mission in 1845 and 1846 and subsequently at Kaposia, have been made recently for the society from the originals in the archives of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Boston. They include frequent references to other missionaries, such as Moses N. Adams, John F. Aiton, and Stephen R. Riggs.

James M. Winslow is the writer of a letter dated June 20, 1859, and bearing as a letterhead a picture of the Winslow House at St. Anthony, which has been received from Mr. Alfred B. Cassell of
Minneapolis. Winslow states that his business is troubling him a great deal, that "money is very scarce and what we have is not very good."

Some brief sketches of incidents in the history of the Lake Superior country have been written and presented by Mr. John A. Bardon of Superior, who was born there "before there was scarcely any development whatever at the Head of the Lakes." They give information on early visitors and residents of Superior, such as Stephen Bonga and Eastman Johnson; the discovery of copper along Lake Superior; the Duluth-Superior harbor; early means of transportation and steamboat disasters on Lake Superior; and various historic sites. Mr. Bardon also has presented several early views of scenes around Superior.

Photostatic copies of more than a hundred sketches of Minnesota scenes and people made during a visit to the territory in 1851 by Frank B. Mayer, a Baltimore artist, have been made for the society from the originals in the Ayer Collection of the Newberry Library of Chicago. Photographs of five of Mayer's drawings in a sketchbook owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Sylvester of Augusta, Georgia, have been added to the photostats. A number of items from the Mayer Papers, in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester, also have been copied by the photostatic process for the society. These relate to a picture of the signing of the treaty of Traverse des Sioux that Mayer hoped to paint for the state of Minnesota, and they include a letter written in 1869 from Mayer to Governor Alexander Ramsey and eleven letters to Mayer from Ramsey, Henry M. Rice, Henry H. Sibley, and J. Fletcher Williams.

Notes on the pioneer experiences of Mrs. Catherine M. Smith, who as the wife of Abner S. Goddard was one of the first settlers of Winona and whose home was the most popular gathering place of the vicinity in frontier days, are the gift of her son, Mr. Orrin F. Smith of Winona.

Among the gifts noted in the March number of the magazine were the diaries kept by Mrs. Lucy Furber in Maine in 1855, and two books of University of Minnesota lecture notes from 1874 and 1879, presented with various other items by Mr. Pierce Furber of Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. Several errors crept into the announce-
ment previously published concerning these gifts. The donor, it
should be noted, is the grandson of Mrs. Lucy Furber; and the lec-
ture notes were taken, not by himself, but by his father, Pierce
Furber, Sr. It will be of interest to many to add that these notes
were taken in classes conducted by Dr. William W. Folwell.

Minutes of annual conventions, photographs of past presidents,
and histories of the posts within the third district of the American
Legion Auxiliary in southeastern Minnesota, covering the period from its
organization in 1921 through 1931, have been presented by Mrs.
John Zrust of Glencoe.

A brief history of the Clio Club of Minneapolis has been received
through the courtesy of Mrs. Charles A. Ruckman, its first president.

Fifty-six items, mainly of the Civil War period, have been added
to the papers of Colonel Luther L. Baxter (see ante, 12: 192, 319)
by his daughter, Miss Bertha Baxter of Minneapolis. A letter writ­
ten in January, 1860, by the colonel's brother, H. G. Baxter, re­
garding the latter's newspaper at Belle Plaine, and one by John H.
Stevens, dated February 3, 1858, commenting on state and national
politics, are included.

Copies of two articles by Professor Andrew Fossum, one on the
language of the Kensington rune stone and the other on the route
followed by the supposed explorers of 1362, have been presented by
Dr. Paul R. Fossum of Northfield, a son of the author.

A copy of a "History of Meeker County's Newspapers," which
was read at a meeting of the Meeker County Old Settlers Associa­
tion on January 7, is the gift of the author, Mr. H. I. Peterson of
Litchfield.

Mrs. George H. Staples of St. Paul has presented a manuscript
genealogy of the Lincoln, Dayton, and Staples families, which she
has revised and completed to the present.

Mr. Hansen Evesmith of Fargo, North Dakota, has presented
a large oil painting of himself by Peter G. Clausen, a noted Danish
artist of the Northwest. Other gifts from Mr. Evesmith include a
certificate issued to him as a delegate to the American Mining Con­
gress in 1906, and a letter written in 1914 by Julius H. Block, then
a candidate for the office of Minnesota state auditor.
Clippings, briefs, and copies of court records relating to a lawsuit conducted to test the constitutionality of the city charter of St. Paul by Judge Gustavus Loevinger as attorney in 1914 have been presented by Mr. Francis M. Smith of St. Paul.

A group of thirty-two papers relating to the political career of James A. Tawney, and consisting mainly of certificates of election to Congress in 1892, 1894, and 1896; newspaper clippings covering the period from 1908 to 1919; and letters of condolence written to his widow on his death in 1919, have been added to the Tawney Papers (see ante, 4:273) by his son, Mr. Everett F. Tawney of Laguna Beach, California.

A large collection of the papers of the late Judge Ell Torrance has been presented by Mrs. Torrance of Minneapolis. These papers contain data on the business and personal career of a Minneapolis lawyer, business man, and officer in the Grand Army of the Republic, especially during the last thirty years of his life. Since this collection was received the heirs of Judge Torrance have presented to the society the magnificent collection of approximately three thousand Civil War books, pamphlets, and documents that the judge devoted so many years of his life to assembling. A fuller account of this splendid gift, which enlarges the research facilities of the society, will appear in a later number of the magazine.

A sketch of the forebears of the Talman and Foote families, by John Talman of Portland, Oregon, formerly newspaper librarian on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, is the gift of the author.

Changes in the "Building Sky Line" of Minneapolis between 1910 and 1930 are graphically depicted on twelve plats recently presented by the compiler, Mr. Albert Graber of Minneapolis, a consulting engineer.

Approximately sixty volumes and sixty small filing boxes of archives, consisting chiefly of election returns for the period from 1900 to 1912 and bills and other legislative records for the years from 1856 to 1910, have been received from the office of the secretary of state.
Photostats of eight volumes of the *Missouri Gazette*, covering the period from July 26, 1808, to September 12, 1816, have been received from the Missouri Historical Society. They comprise as complete a file as could be collected from various sources, chiefly in the possession of the Missouri Historical Society, of a rare newspaper that is a valuable source record for mid-western America in the period covered.

Among fourteen rare pamphlets, recently acquired, dealing with the Bohemian element in America is one by Stanislav Klima entitled, in translation, *Czechs and Slovaks Beyond the Borders* (Prague, 1925) which includes some material on Bohemian settlements in Minnesota. According to this writer seven Minnesota communities bear Czech names—Bechyn, Beroun, Litomysl, New Prague, Nova Trebon, Veseli, and Tabor.

Thirty prints made from negatives formerly owned by the Sweet Studios of Minneapolis and recently acquired by the society (see ante, p. 104) have been presented by the *Minneapolis Journal* through the courtesy of Mr. Jefferson Jones. Other recent additions to the picture collection include a view of St. Paul in 1857 from the St. Paul Association of Commerce; two photographs of the flood at East Grand Forks in 1897 from Mr. Frank Mayer of Minneapolis; and a lithograph of St. Paul in 1853 and a photograph of the city in the sixties from Mrs. Frank T. Heffelfinger of Wayzata. Nineteen portraits have been added to the “Men of Minnesota Collection” by Lee Brothers of Minneapolis; portraits of fourteen former directors and officers of the Second National Bank of St. Paul have been presented by the First National Bank of St. Paul; a photograph of Lambert Hays in the uniform of the first assistant chief of the Minneapolis Volunteer Fire Department in 1876 is the gift of his son, Mr. Theodore L. Hays of Minneapolis; and a photograph of James E. Froiseth, an early St. Paul mail-carrier, has been received from his son, Mr. Scott Froiseth of St. Paul.

Additions to the domestic life collection include a black lace shawl of 1869, a black lace and net jacket of 1890, several pieces of jewelry, and other articles, from Miss Helen G. Cotton of St. Paul; a pair of lady’s high laced black kid shoes, from Mrs. Nellie
G. Wright of Excelsior; a wooden washboard brought from Germany about 1830, and a small iron kettle with a close fitting cover said to be more than a hundred years old, from Mrs. Bessye Mates of St. Paul; a pair of hand-forged shears, from Mr. George J. Miller of Mankato; and a four-socket tin candle mold and a silver belt buckle and name plate of the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company of St. Paul, from Mr. John Moosbrugger of St. Paul.

The uniform worn by Adelbert C. Aldrich in the Philippines as a sergeant in the Twenty-eighth United States Infantry; and the coat, overcoat, overseas caps, hat cords, paymaster's saddle bags, bayonets, trench knife, and other articles used by him during his services as a major in the 366th United States Infantry during the World War are the gifts of his widow, Mrs. Aldrich of St. Paul. Mr. Charles Stuhr of St. Paul has presented a dress uniform coat that he wore as a member of the Sixth Cavalry in the Boxer campaign.

One of the attractive bronze medals struck last year for the Cook County Historical Society in commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the landing of La Vérendrye at Grand Portage in 1731 has been presented by Mr. Newton J. Bray of Hovland.
NEWS AND COMMENT

"Undying interest lies in local history and one wonders why newspapers that have a flare for stuff of intimate concern to their home readers do not regularly feature it," writes Marlen Pew in the Editor and Publisher for January 16. This seems to be a sound enough view, but the writer is too generous in his thought for posterity when he goes on to suggest that editors could "assign a member of the staff to write a comprehensive local history which might be re-run for each succeeding generation." In all probability, each succeeding generation will want to write anew the history of its community, state, and nation, taking advantage of new points of view, of an altered perspective, and of new source materials that fill out the story or change its outlines. History is not a thing that can be done once for all. A noted American historian complained recently that, notwithstanding the fact that there is a never-ending stream of textbooks issuing from the presses of the country, American history textbooks fail to keep up with the progress of research. A whole volume was recently published under the title Why Is History Re-written? The author, the late Lucy Salmon, concludes that history will always have to be rewritten. Why? "Because each new day, to the votary of history, brings a new adventure, a new voyage of discovery, a new invention, a new creation, — a lens of greater magnifying power that will enable him to understand the complex organism of 'the infinitely small,' or to penetrate still further into the as yet impenetrable darkness of the most remote past."

Among the subjects in the 1931 List of Doctoral Dissertations in History Now in Progress at the Chief American Universities, issued by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, are the following: "Northern Editorial Opinions on the Compromise of 1850" by E. Leffler (Michigan); "The Democratic Party in the North, 1856-1860" by C. E. Feuchter (Western Reserve); "Indian Land Cessions North of the Ohio and East of the Mississippi" by Katharine E. Crane (Chicago); "Mississippi River Trade, 1785-1820" by L. Baldwin (Michigan); "The Post-Populist Northwest" by B. H. Wilcox (Wisconsin); "Ulrik Vilhelm Koren as a Pioneer Minis-
ter on the Middle West Frontier" by H. M. Tolo (Illinois); "Detroit in the British Administration of the West" by D. V. Morford (Michigan); "History of the Lumber Industry in Minnesota" by Agnes Larson (Radcliffe); "The Norwegians in Iowa" by H. F. Swansen (Iowa); "The History of Fort Kearney" by L. E. Mantor (Iowa); "Settlement in Canada West, 1840-1867" by S. D. Clark (Toronto); "The Riel Rebellions" by J. A. Jonasson (Stanford); and "The Hudson's Bay Company from the Coalition of 1821 to the Transfer to Canada, 1870" by D. J. Pierce (Toronto).

In July, 1931, the Bulletin des recherches historiques of the bureau of archives of the province of Quebec carried an article that has made a lively appeal to several historical agencies in the United States. This "Mémoire sur les forts de la Nouvelle France" has appeared in part in the following quarterlies: the winter number of the Michigan History Magazine for 1932; the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society for October, 1931; and the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography for January, 1932. Since it describes practically all the French posts sometime just after the year 1758, and gives thus a bird's-eye view of much of interior North America at the close of the French régime, its appeal is understandable. Apparently it has escaped the attention of the editors of the three periodicals listed above that this memoir has striking similarities to another Mémoire on the posts published by Pierre Margry in 1867 in his Relations et mémoires inédits pour servir à l'histoire de la France dans les pays d'outre-mer tirés des archives du minisître de la marine et des colonies. The author of this article was Louis Antoine de Bougainville. Though the one document is preserved in France and the other in Ottawa, they are so much alike that they must either go back to a common source or be the same document in different forms. One seems to be of slightly later date than the other. The Ottawa document refers to the year 1758 in the past tense, whereas the verb of the Paris manuscript, when mentioning the same year, is in the future tense. Portions of Bougainville's memoir relating to the regions about Lake Superior, Green Bay, Rainy Lake, the Lake of the Woods, Lake Winnipeg, and to the territories traversed by La Vérendrye and his sons in journeys into the Missouri country from 1738 to 1742 appeared in
A possible explanation of the two forms of this document may be found in a letter written by Bougainville on June 30, 1757, to Mme. Héraul de Séchelles. A portion of it as given by Margry may be translated thus:

I have informed myself, since I came to this colony, of its condition concerning commerce and its government. I am sending you some ideas on these topics. . . . If you think proper, you may turn over this mémoire to the minister. Otherwise, suppress it.

Perhaps the author kept a copy of the document sent to Mme. Héraul de Séchelles. When writing to her he used the future tense for the year 1758; later, his own copy may have been revised and, since the year 1758 was already past, it was referred to by means of the past tense.

In the September issue of the Bulletin appears another document on the forts of New France. The article is entitled, "Estat des soldats détachés dans les postes outaouais vers 1723 et 1725," which may be translated as "Condition of the Soldiers Stationed in the Ottawa Posts about the Period 1723–1725." The posts listed were at Detroit, among the Miami, on St. Joseph River, at Michilimackinac, at Green Bay, at Kaministiquia, and at Chequamegon. The last two, near modern Fort William and Madeline Island, respectively, are of special interest to Minnesotans. At the former, La Jeunessse, whose real name was Girar Alere, was corporal of Deschaillons' company; at Chequamegon, four companies, those of Blainville, Vivier, St.-Ours, and Rigaud, were stationed, totaling seventy-five men. In one company Claude Marin, later to figure prominently in the Lake Pepin country, was lance corporal. A Récollet, Father Levasseur, is mentioned, but the document states specifically that there was no missionary. The document is preserved among the archives of the province of Quebec.

Colonel George A. Skinner's essay on the "Influence of Epidemic Diseases on Military Operations in the History of the Western Hemisphere," which was awarded the Henry S. Wellcome gold medal in 1931 (see ante, 12: 436), appears in the issue of the Military Surgeon for December and has also been published as a separate (16 p.).
A list of the books borrowed by President Lincoln from the Library of Congress in the period from 1861 to 1865 is published by Emanuel Hertz in his *Abraham Lincoln, A New Portrait*, 1:369-371 (New York, 1931) and it is interesting to Minnesotans to note that on July 23, 1862, the war president drew out Edward D. Neill's *History of Minnesota*. This was less than a month before the Sioux Outbreak. Lincoln returned the book on December 24.

A section of "Legends of Minnesota" appears in a little volume of *Indian Legends* told for youthful readers by Johanna R. M. Lybeck (1925. 355 p.). Such familiar tales as the stories of Maiden Rock and of the Falls of St. Anthony are included.

A thesis on the "Policy of the United States Government towards the Sisseton Sioux Indians, 1871-1931" was prepared at the University of Colorado by Frances A. Forsee in 1931, according to a list of *Abstracts of Theses for Higher Degrees, 1931*, issued by the university as volume 19, number 1 of its *Studies*.

"The fact that the location of the wheat producing areas is closely related to the location of mills can be seen upon examination of the history of the industry," writes Louis A. Fisher in an article on "Shifts in the Location of the Flour Milling Industry" published in the *Minnesota Business Review* for December. The writer briefly traces the history of this industry from 1790, when the milling centers were on the Atlantic coast, to 1930, when the leadership which had long been enjoyed by the Middle West was transferred to Buffalo. The factors that contributed to the rise and fall of Minneapolis as the milling center of the United States are described in some detail. Mr. Fisher points out that "the milling industry is subject to two contradictory forces — the source of raw materials attracting the mills westward, and the eastern markets for the finished product exerting a force in the opposite direction."

*The Introduction of Farm Machinery in Its Relation to the Productivity of Labor in the Agriculture of the United States during the Nineteenth Century* is the title of a study by Leo Rogin recently published as volume 9 of the University of California *Publications in Economics* (Berkeley, 1931). Mr. Rogin deals with his subject under two headings — "The Plow and Other Tillage Implements"
and "Wheat Production." Many interesting illustrations depict graphically the evolution of agricultural implements.

Conditions that led to the development of "Early Bonanza Farming in the Red River Valley of the North" and the methods of running huge farms are described by Harold E. Briggs in *Agricultural History* for January. The writer points out that "conditions were ideal in the Red River Valley in 1876 for the development of wheat as a single crop, and a distinct shift from diversified or mixed farming to large-scale wheat production took place." Concentration on a single crop was carried to such an extent that "tons of cheese, butter, and butter substitutes were sold to the large wheat farmer," and "during the busy seasons many had their vegetables shipped by express from St. Paul." Considerable attention is given to the activities of Oliver Dalrymple, who at one time managed "farms aggregating 55,000 acres."

Congressman Charles A. Towne and Governor John Lind are among the Minnesotans who figure in a study of the "Silver Republicans in the Election of 1896" by Elmer Ellis, which appears in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for March.


A number of "Norwegian Immigrant Letters," written from Wisconsin between 1857 and 1862 by Anders and Ole Jensen Storstroen, are published in a translation by Paul B. Bjerkeng in the March issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. One letter, written in 1862, includes the following comment on the causes of the Civil War: "It is said that the reason this war started was that when they last had a presidential election, the Southern states chose a Democrat and the Northern states a Republican. The Northern states had a majority of the votes, and their Republican became president. The Southerners became so embittered they elected their own president, and started a war to chastise the Northerners; for the Northern states are free, and the Southern states are slave states. We are not well-informed enough to judge which of these are right. We and most of the Norwegians around here voted for the Southern Democrat for president, however."
An item of special interest to Minnesotans is a letter written on January 22, 1850, by "Claus L. Clausen: Pioneer Pastor and Settlement Promoter" to Governor Alexander Ramsey of Minnesota Territory, which appears as one of a series of "Illustrative Documents" translated and edited by Carlton C. Qualey for volume 6 of *Norwegian-American Studies and Records* (1931. 191 p.). Clausen relates that "Minnesota has often during the last year been noticed in the papers in such a way, as to make me believe, that some parts of that country . . . would be most preferable for my hardy and enterprising countrymen, both as to climate, soil, and the principal natural advantages." He goes on to say, however, that "before advising my country-people to go there, I still wish to have more information about it myself, and from sources that I could rely on," and he asks the governor to furnish the "desired information." In the introduction to the documents Mr. Qualey points out that Ramsey's reply "must have been encouraging," for in the summer of 1850 Clausen made a trip into the Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix valleys. Among the other articles in this volume of *Studies and Records* are an account of "Norwegians in the Selkirk Settlement, 1815-1870" by Paul Knaplund, a study of the "Campaign of the Illinois Central Railroad for Norwegian and Swedish Immigrants" by Paul W. Gates, and a description of the "Norwegian-American Historical Museum" at Decorah, Iowa, by Knut Gjerset. It also includes a bibliography, compiled by Jacob Hodnefield, of recent publications having to do with Norwegian-American matters.

Copies of fifty-one "America letters," most of which were written between 1838 and 1844 by Norwegian immigrants living in Chicago and southern Wisconsin, are included in a manuscript volume recently presented to St. Olaf College, Northfield, by the Reverend Svein Tverberg. The letters were collected and copied by Lars N. Nesheim, a farmer living near Bergen, Norway. The volume is described by Serena Loftness in the *Minneapolis Journal* for March 20; and the letters are being published in *Skandinaven*, a Scandinavian newspaper of Chicago.

Sketches of many prominent Minnesotans are included in a biographical dictionary devoted to *American Educators of Norwegian Origin* by John A. Hofstead (Minneapolis, 1931. 316 p.).
Pioneer churches in a number of Minnesota communities are described in a volume entitled *Seventy-five Years of Danish Baptist Missionary Work in America* (1931. 304 p.). The church at Clark's Grove, the first of the Danish Baptist denomination in Minnesota, receives special attention.

James Shields, Stephen W. Kearney, and James J. Hill are among the names of Minnesota interest that receive brief mention in a little volume entitled *Ireland in America* by Edward F. Roberts (New York, 1931. 218 p.).

*A Union List of Manuscripts in Libraries in the Pacific Northwest*, compiled by Charles W. Smith, has been issued by the Pacific Northwest Library Association (Seattle, 1931). The manuscripts listed are in libraries in British Columbia, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Though the volume exhibits editorial defects and is probably not as comprehensive as it should have been, it deserves a hearty welcome, for it is a step in the direction of regional inventories of manuscript materials, a kind of aid to research that is sadly needed in the United States.

The services rendered by the *Archives Division of the Illinois State Library*, the "nature of the materials available and the limitations on their use," are explained by William J. Stratton, secretary of state, in a recently issued pamphlet (32 p.). It is illustrated with reproductions of documents of special value, and with pictures showing in what condition records were received by the library and how they are preserved.

A detailed "History of the Virginia Historical Society," which celebrated its centennial at the "place of its birth — the Old Hall of the House of Delegates in the Capitol at Richmond" on December 29, 1931, appears in the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* for October.

Trails, waterways and portages, mounds and earthworks, villages and camp sites, burying grounds, and mining operations are among the subjects on which information is to be found in an *Archeological Atlas of Michigan* by Wilbert B. Hinsdale, issued by the University of Michigan as number 4 of the *Michigan Handbook Series* (Ann Arbor, 1931. 38 p., 20 maps). The object of the volume is "to
present such archeological features of Michigan as can be delineated cartographically” with enough descriptive text to “make clear the information presented upon the maps.”

Sixty stories covering “most of the major events of the first two hundred years in the history of Iowa” are included in a volume of True Tales of Iowa prepared for children by Edith Rule and William J. Petersen (Mason City, 1932. 364 p.). Many of the tales, such as those of the “Captive Frenchmen” — Hennepin and his companions, “Two Connecticut Yankees” — Carver and Pond, and “Battling the Mississippi” — Zebulon M. Pike, are of as much interest to residents of Minnesota as to those of Iowa.

A Work Book in Iowa History recently issued by John E. Briggs for use in the intermediate grades (Des Moines, 1931), includes sections on exploration, the Indians, settlement, pioneer life, admission to statehood, transportation, farming, industry, and politics. Each topic is divided into problems, with suggestions on “what to read” and “what to know.”

Mr. W. L. Wallace is the author of a Story of Iowa prepared for use in the schools of the state (Mason City, Iowa, 1931. 82 p.). It includes sections on exploration, Indian life, settlement, the admission to statehood, and development following the Civil War.

Various Indian tribes, a number of immigrant groups, and early traders and settlers are represented in a volume of Wisconsin Lore for Boys and Girls by Susan B. Davis (1931. 283 p.). The illustrations are of special historical interest.

Prairie du Chien during the War of 1812 is the scene of a recently published novel by William S. Hoffman entitled The Untamed Wilderness (Chicago, 1931).

Some recollections of Henry W. Smith, a German immigrant who settled in Illinois in 1857, served in the Civil War, and took a homestead near Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 1872 are presented in a little pamphlet entitled Reminiscences of a Dakota Pioneer (Sioux Falls, 1929).

“The Founding of the Icelandic Settlement in Pembina County,” North Dakota, is described by one of the first settlers, the Reverend
Pall Thorlakson, in an article dictated on February 11, 1882, and published in a translation by Richard Beck in the North Dakota Historical Quarterly for January. Mr. Beck also has written an introduction, telling something of Thorlakson’s life, and a series of notes for the document. A study of “Archbishop Taché and the Beginnings of Manitoba,” especially during the Riel rebellion of 1869, is contributed to the same number of the Quarterly by Donatien Frémont.

That Lamarque and not La Vérendrye established “Historic Fort Rouge” is the contention of Dr. Charles N. Bell, who contributes an interesting discussion of the history of this early fort on the site of Winnipeg to the Winnipeg Free Press for January 2. The history of another post in the same general vicinity — Fort Gibraltar — is the subject of an article by the same writer in the Free Press for February 27.

Toward the end of the year 1864 “British policy was reversed and the whole groundwork was laid for the Canadian federation,” asserts Chester Martin in a study of “British Policy in Canadian Confederation,” published in the Canadian Historical Review for March. The writer points out “that relations with the United States loom larger and larger with every chapter of research into these eventful months” of 1864, and that “one is justified ... in regarding the American Civil War as one of the profoundest influences in Canadian history.” In the same issue of the Review is a note by W. S. Wallace on the “Literature Relating to the Selkirk Controversy” with a “Check-List” of contemporary publications dealing with the “struggle between Lord Selkirk and the North West Company over the Red River settlement.”

“When Traders Ruled the North” is the title of an article by Stella M. Champney in the Winnipeg Free Press for March 19, which presents some of Mrs. C. E. Kirkup’s recollections of Fort William as a trading post. Mrs. Kirkup is a daughter of Thomas Richards, who was located at Fort William for a number of years before 1881.

Many items of Minnesota interest are included in a bibliography of books and articles on the Canadian North West in the Toronto
General Minnesota Items

Biographies of three important figures in the earliest exploration of Minnesota and the Northwest are included in volume 8 of the *Dictionary of American Biography* (New York, 1932), edited by Dumas Malone for the American Council of Learned Societies. A sketch of Groscilliers, the companion of Radisson, is the work of Irving B. Richman; sketches of Michel Guignas, the Jesuit missionary to the Sioux who helped to establish a French fort on Lake Pepin in 1727, and of Father Louis Hennepin, the Recollect friar who discovered the Falls of St. Anthony in 1680, are contributed by Louise P. Kellogg. Another biography of primary interest to the student of Minnesota history is that of Sherman Hall, pioneer Protestant missionary to the Chippewa, by Grace L. Nute. Among the sketches in this volume of individuals whose careers were in some way connected with Minnesota are those of Lynn Haines, journalist and author, by William G. Elliott; Charles Hallock, naturalist, who founded the town of Hallock in 1880, by Willard G. Bleyer; Bishop Leonidas L. Hamline, who endowed Hamline University, by Harris E. Starr; James A. Harris, head of the botany department of the University of Minnesota from 1924 to 1930, by Ross A. Gortner; and George D. Herron, Socialist leader, who first attracted attention in 1891, when he was a Congregational pastor at Lake City, by Clara M. Smertenko.

Two of the six pages on Minnesota in a volume entitled *Stories of the States* by Nellie V. Sanchez (New York, 1931. 380 p.) are devoted to an account of "Pike's Visit to Minnesota." The author tells of the explorer's northward journey in the dead of winter to the post of the Northwest Company — she erroneously calls it the Northwestern Company — at Sandy Lake. It is generally understood among historians that Pike, after his Minnesota explorations, returned to St. Louis, his starting point, but the author of the book under discussion takes the liberty of leaving him at Sandy Lake, "enjoying the wild rice bought of the Indians at a dollar and a half a bushel, and preparing toboggans, fashioned after the manner of the country, to make his way on to Colorado and the peak which
now bears his name." In a brief bibliographical item the author takes a curious liberty with the name of Dr. Solon J. Buck when she writes "Publications of Minnesota Historical Society, Milton J. Buck."

A course in Minnesota history will be taught by Mr. Dudley E. Brainard at the St. Cloud State Teachers College in 1932-33.

"The erection of a territorial government was always a bait for printers," writes Douglas C. McMurtrie in a survey of "Pioneer Printing in Minnesota," published in the February issue of the National Printer Journalist. In this way he accounts for the arrival in St. Paul in April, 1849, of James M. Goodhue, who issued the first Minnesota newspaper, "pioneer in character as well as name." Mr. McMurtrie describes a number of publications of other types issued in 1849. Among these is what he describes as the "earliest piece of official or commercial printing executed in the Territory"—a "proclamation of Governor Ramsey providing for the election of a delegate to the United States Congress and of members of the Territorial Council and House of Representatives," which was printed as "an extra at the Register office on July 10." The pioneer printers whose work is mentioned include Alonzo Barnard, a missionary at Cass Lake; Sam Whiting of Winona; and Jane Grey Swiss-helm of St. Cloud. With the article are reproduced the first page of the first issue of the Pioneer and the title pages of three early pamphlets. The article is reprinted in Levang's Weekly of Lanesboro for February 25.

"Changes in the Content of Minnesota Newspapers" from 1860 to 1929 are discussed by Irene Barnes in the Publications of the American Sociological Society for May, 1931. The author measured and classified the contents of thirty Minnesota weeklies for the decennial years from 1860 to 1920 and for 1929, and she presents in this article the results of her study. The newspapers used are in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society.

A valuable compilation of Laws and Regulations Governing the University of Minnesota, assembled by a committee consisting of Dean W. R. Vance and Professor James Paige of the university faculty and Mr. Fred B. Snyder of the board of regents, has been published by the university (1931. xii, 501 p.). Herein may be
found "all federal and state laws, and all other regulations, from whatever source derived, now in force and applicable to the University." A chapter is devoted to "The Establishment of the University" and of its various colleges and departments.

Traffic and conditions on the upper Mississippi between 1858 and 1861 are described in a series of articles, based upon items in a scrapbook kept by Mrs. Catherine M. Smith of Winona, and published in the Burlington [Iowa] Post from January 2 to March 19. The material for these articles was furnished to the Post by Captain Orrin F. Smith of Winona.

In the early sixties "Red Wing received as much as 28,000 bushels of wheat in one day from the farmers' wagons," and was considered "the largest primary wheat market in the United States" writes P. P. Quist in an article explaining "How Grain is Handled at the Terminal Markets in Minnesota," which appears in the National Grain Journal for December. The author gives considerable attention to Minnesota legislation relating to the weighing and grading of grain.

Some of the valentines in the collection of the Minnesota Historical Society are described by Serena Loftness in an article in the Minneapolis Journal for February 14 telling how St. Valentine's Day has been observed through the centuries. The writer compares the valentines of pioneer days with those of the present, and she points out that the celebration of the day was mentioned in Minnesota newspapers of the fifties.

Under the heading "When the Tom-Toms Beat at the Old Round Tower," Helene Krogstad outlines briefly the early history of Fort Snelling in Minneapolis, the quarterly magazine issued by the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association, for February.

"Pioneer Days of Nuttings in Minnesota" is the title of a chapter in a Genealogy of Descendants of John Nutting of South Amherst, Mass., compiled by Walter M. Nutting (Faribault, Minnesota, 1929. 340 p.). The writer tells of the emigration from Nuttingville, Massachusetts, in the early fifties of four Nutting brothers, Freeman, Levi, Truman, and Porter; he describes the frontier Min-
Minnesota communities in which they settled; and he quotes extensively from letters and other sources in which these pioneers recorded their impressions of their new homes. Of special interest are the accounts of Truman Nutting's activities in Faribault, where in 1855 he opened the city's first hotel. A picture of the register of the Nutting Hotel illustrates this portion of the narrative. Another item of more than ordinary value is an account by Mrs. Julia K. S. Hibbard of Hartford, Connecticut, of the experiences in Minnesota from 1856 to 1868 of her mother, Mrs. Juliana Nutting Kendall. The writer tells of a westward journey by steamboat and stage from Connecticut to Steele County, Minnesota, and of life in a frontier log cabin. A chapter is devoted to the "Nutting Family Concert Troupes," which provided entertainment in many a Minnesota community between 1865 and 1880.

The colorful career of "James Shields: Soldier and Statesman," who served as a United States senator from Minnesota immediately after its admission to statehood, is the subject of an article by Richard J. Purcell in Studies of Dublin, Ireland, for March. Of special interest is the account of Shields' efforts to attract Irish immigrants to Minnesota.

_A Candle in the Mist: A Story for Girls_, by Florence Crannell Means, is an entertaining tale of frontier life and adventure in Minnesota and Wisconsin (1931. 253 p.). Many of the incidents described are drawn from the diary of Jane M. Grout, the writer's grandmother, a copy of which is in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Much material on the exploration of the Mesabi and Cuyuna ranges in northeastern Minnesota is included in a biographical sketch of Mr. George H. Crosby of Duluth, which appears in the _Duluth News-Tribune_ for January 10.

_Yorktown: A Day by Day Newspaper Account of Minnesota's Participation in the Sesquicentennial of the Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown_ is the title of a pamphlet by R. W. Hitchcock describing the activities of the members of the delegation that represented Minnesota at the Yorktown celebration in October, 1931 (39 p.).
LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

Plans to erect a marker at a point on the old Red River trail in Anoka are being made by the Captain John Holmes chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, according to an announcement in the Anoka Herald for January 12.

The activities of the first county commissioners of Anoka County are described by Irving A. Caswell in an article published in the Anoka Union for February 17. Their first official act, according to the writer, was that of selecting a site for a courthouse.

A bill of sale dated August 29, 1877, by which George W. Neff purchased from Guy K. Cleveland for three thousand dollars the "good will and subscription list" of the Mankato Union and the equipment of the newspaper office, was found recently among some of Neff's papers by his son, Mr. Paul Neff, according to an article in the Mankato Free Press for March 16. Many of the papers relate to the early history of the Union, which was a forerunner of the Free Press.

The museum of the Crow Wing County Historical Society was opened to the public on February 18. A recent addition to its collections is a group of World War items, received from Mr. E. A. Houle of Brainerd.

A brief history of the Scandinavian Relief Society of Moorhead, which was organized with a hundred members on September 8, 1880, appears in the Moorhead Daily News for January 15. The primary purpose of the society was to aid newly arrived Swedish immigrants to obtain work and to buy suitable farming land.

Two millstones from a mill erected near Hastings in 1862 are to be mounted in the entrance of the biochemistry building of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota, according to announcements in the Minneapolis Journal for January 24 and in the St. Paul Daily News for February 14. The stones were presented to the university by Mrs. Minnie E. Lee of Spring Lake, whose father, L. E. McCarriel, operated the mill from 1867 until his death in 1908. Thereafter it was run for a number of years by Mrs. Lee.
The short-lived *Wasioja Gazette*, the pretentious Minnesota Seminary, and a "bank that never was used as such" are among the subjects touched upon by Merle Potter in an article, published in the magazine section of the *Minneapolis Journal* for January 10, about the "Crumbled Air Castles" at Wasioja, a Dodge County settlement that flourished in the late fifties. Much of the article is devoted to an account of the rise and decline of the seminary, an excellent picture of which appears as an illustration.

An account of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Masonic lodge at Mantorville, which was celebrated on January 6, is published in the *Mantorville Express* for January 14. The lodge was established on July 4, 1856, with thirteen members.

The history of a pioneer Catholic community that had its beginnings at Chatfield in the fifties is reviewed by Nona E. Laivell in a booklet entitled *History of Saint Mary's Catholic Parish with Notes on the Passion Play of Oberammergau* (25 p.). Among those who helped to establish the parish, according to this account, were Father Ravoux and Bishop Cretin, and the first church was dedicated by Bishop Grace in 1871.

"The Court House Removal Issue," a political battle of 1867 that revolved around the proposed removal from Wabasha to Lake City of the county seat of Wabasha County, is described in the *Lake City Graphic-Republican* for March 10 in one of a series of sketches of "Dramatic Moments in the History of Lake City." The writer notes that both communities "were guilty of stuffing the ballot boxes" and that when the votes were counted "it was found that there were several times more votes than there were citizens." As a result it was necessary for the Minnesota supreme court to decide the issue, and it declared that Wabasha should remain the seat of government for the county. Among other sketches in the series are an account of the "Slaying of Marshal Brad Rodgers" and a description of the "Cloudburst and Train Wreck" of 1915, which appear in the issues of the *Graphic-Republican* for January 14 and March 17.

Among the articles on the history of McLeod County, by Win V. Working, recently published in the *Glencoe Enterprise*, are: an account of local politics in the fifties, February 4; a history of the Glencoe schools, February 11; the story of the naming of Rogue's
Island in Preston Lake, March 3; a sketch of Stevens Seminary of Glencoe and of its superintendent, E. V. W. Brokaw, March 10; and a brief history of the Glencoe churches, March 31.

A history of the Sherburn creamery, by John Manzey, appears in the Sherburn Advance-Standard for February 4. The author was one of the first officers of the creamery, which was founded in 1893. He relates that for several years after its establishment the creamery separated milk for the farmers, until hand separators became a common piece of farm equipment.

The Meeker County Old Settlers Association changed its name to the Meeker County Historical Society at a meeting held at Litchfield on January 7. A complete reorganization accompanied this change. Membership is now open to all interested; and plans have been made to collect and preserve materials relating to the history of the county and to erect appropriate markers on historic sites.

A brief history of the Farmers' Co-operative Creamery at Hinckley from its establishment in 1917 to the present is published in the Hinckley News for January 14.

At a meeting of the St. Louis County Historical Society, held at Duluth on January 29, a paper on "Jessie D. Bright, a Forgotten Leader in the Old Northwest" was read by Philip G. Auchampaugh, "The Early History of the Arrowhead Country" was outlined by George G. Barnum, "Recollections of Days Gone By" were presented by Mrs. J. R. McGiffert, and the study of "Local History" was discussed by William E. Culkin.

In an article entitled "Sedmdesát pet let ceské osady v Minnesota" ("Seventy-five Years of a Czech Settlement in Minnesota"), published in Hospodar (Omaha) for February 5, Charles E. Srsen outlines the history of the Czech community at Owatonna. The writer points out that the beginnings of the community date from 1856, when members of the Simek family settled in the vicinity.

That a school with eighty pupils and four teachers existed in 1849 at Long Prairie, where a Winnebago agency was located, is revealed in a letter written on December 28, 1849, by one of its teachers, Maria Houghton, to a brother in Boston, which is published in the Long Prairie Leader for February 11. The school is described as
consisting of a "boys room, girls room and sewing room." "I have from fifteen to twenty five under my care usually," wrote Miss Houghton. "We have a Sabbath school on Sabbath mornings about the same attendance as our week days. The scholars are taught in the English language and many speak it very well." The original letter is owned by Mr. Ernest R. Reiff of St. Paul.

The names of the thirty-five voters who were registered in the "precinct of Wabashaw in the county of Wabashaw" on October 14, 1851, are listed in an article describing the official record book of an election held on that date in the Wabasha County Herald-Standard for January 28. It is interesting to note that most of the names given are French. The record book is in the possession of Mr. C. C. Hirschy of Wabasha.

After the publication in the Plainview News of two articles about old business records found in Plainview (see ante, p. 122), the editor asked students in local English classes to write stories about the pioneer history of the village. The essays prepared in response to this request are published in the News from October 23 to January 8 under the heading "Incidents of Plainview History." Among them are accounts of pioneer settlement around Plainview in the fifties, of the first automobiles owned in the village, of the advent of the railroad in 1878, of local newspaper history, and of the growth of the village schools.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the Wabasha chapter of the Masonic Order was celebrated on January 7. A brief history of the local lodge is published in the Wabasha County Herald-Standard for January 14.

A brief history of the St. Anthony Turnverein, which celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary on February 7, appears in the Minneapolis Tribune for January 24.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of Mount Zion Hebrew Congregation of St. Paul was celebrated with appropriate services on February 26, 27, and 28. The history of the congregation, which was "incorporated under the laws of the Territory of Minnesota" on February 26, 1857, is briefly outlined in a program issued in connection with the anniversary.
Sections on St. Paul's history and geography, natural resources, manufacturers, transportation facilities, power and utilities, labor conditions, markets, finance, government, and living conditions are included in a *Comprehensive Industrial Survey of Saint Paul and the Great Northwest*, recently published by the industrial department of the St. Paul Association of Commerce (125 p.). It is to be hoped that other subjects are handled with greater accuracy than is the city's history, for in the brief section devoted to this topic are the erroneous statements that Lieutenant Pike founded Fort Snelling in 1820, that the first steamboat to reach Fort Snelling was called "The Virginian," and that Henry H. Sibley established the American Fur Company at St. Paul in 1834.