

Some New Books in Review

Steamboats on the Western Rivers: An Economic and Technological History.

By LOUIS C. HUNTER, with the assistance of BEATRICE JONES HUNTER.
(Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1949. xiii, 684 p. Illustrations, maps. \$10.00.)

The author regards the western river steamboat as a "typical mechanical expression of a fluid and expanding frontier society which was ingenious in attaining ends but careless in the choice and use of means." Although dealing primarily with the combination freight and passenger vessel which dominated the rivers of the Mississippi Valley during the middle decades of the nineteenth century, the book encompasses in a sweeping survey all types of river transportation and most interrelated transportation media. The origin, development, and decline of the steamboat; river boat financing, operation, and management; and such subjects as labor problems, *nymphes du fleuve*, and wharfage fees are covered in an interesting composite.

The steamboat is considered primarily as an economic institution, making the book a welcome departure from the nostalgic Mark Twain tradition perpetuated by so many writers. This treatment is probably the author's greatest contribution, although the clear discussion of boatbuilding and hull development and the lucid explanation of the change from the low-pressure to the high-pressure engine are of unusual value. The latter, incidentally, divorces the student of mechanical power from technical treatises and mathematical formulas in a thoroughly satisfactory manner.

As in most thorough studies of an economic nature, there is copious use of statistics, but some of the most important are confined to twenty-two tables in the text and twenty-nine in the appendix. In some cases, these will satisfy the reader; in others, they will merely whet the appetite. The contributions of Shreve and Fulton are re-evaluated, and the latter's prestige does not suffer in the process. The author refutes the charge that it "was the unfair tactics and malign influence of the railroads which brought the steamboat age on the rivers to an end," and emphasizes the trend toward combination and monopoly on the part of the steamboat owners.

Local historians from many areas may well be perturbed because the main emphasis has been placed on the Ohio and lower Mississippi rivers. The author readily admits that the subject was too broad to include a comprehensive study of every river, creek, and branch that supported steamboat traffic. But a competent survey of steamboating has now been published, and it can be used as a steppingstone by those who would like to explore further.

WILLIAM G. RECTOR

Guide to the Burlington Archives in the Newberry Library 1851-1901. Compiled by ELIZABETH COLEMAN JACKSON and CAROLYN CURTIS. (Chicago, The Newberry Library, 1949. xxiii, 374 p.)

Students of railroad history often find company material widely scattered, poorly organized, and in some cases hardly preserved at all. Not so the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy. On all three counts this company ranks high, probably higher than any other railroad in America. The tons of "Q" material in the Newberry Library attest to the company's wise policy of preserving items of historic, social, or economic interest; the compilation of this guide makes the archives readily accessible to all comers once permission is granted to use the material.

Over a million letters are narrowed down to categories so they can be easily identified and plucked out of the files. Moreover, a vast assortment of ledgers, accounts, and operating books are indexed and classified. Besides Burlington documents, there is considerable material on other railroads and individuals not associated with the road.

Apart from personal correspondence of the road's officials, and data on finance, traffic, and equipment, there is a wealth of material on labor problems, land development, pools, and the relationship with other carriers. A detailed index at the end of the volume makes it easy to spot items of varied importance that may be interlarded in a bundle of letters or a mass of legal documents. The pains taken in compiling the work and the clear manner in which items are arranged makes the volume an outstanding guide. Indeed, in the vast field of railroad literature I have never seen anything quite like this book.

FRANK P. DONOVAN, JR.

Americans from Sweden. By ADOLPH B. BENSON and NABOTH HEDIN. (Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1950. 448 p. \$5.00.)

Immigrants from Sweden played an important role in the building of the American nation, especially in states such as Illinois and Minnesota and cities such as Jamestown, New York. In *Americans from Sweden* two Swedish Americans have described the contributions which their countrymen have made to the United States. Mr. Benson was formerly the chairman of the department of Germanic languages at Yale. Mr. Hedin is president of the American-Swedish News Agency.

The four parts of the book deal with historical background, religious life, denominational colleges, and the accomplishments of outstanding Swedish Americans. Careful attention is paid to the first Swedish settlements in Delaware in the seventeenth century, to the opening of the great migration in the 1840's, and to the part played by Swedes in the American Civil War. In their discussion of religious life, the authors deal with the background of the Swedish pietist movement, the migration of congregations to America, and

the growth of Swedish branches of American Protestant faiths. Important contributions by individuals are described—the decisive vote of a colonist of Swedish descent in the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the many Swedish-born leaders in the Civil War, the public officials, scientists, educators, artists, business leaders, and athletes who have helped make America cultured and strong. Emphasis is placed on Minnesota as the state with the highest percentage of Swedish-born persons. Institutions such as Gustavus Adolphus and Bethel colleges are described; prominent Minnesota leaders in politics, business, education, literature, and many other fields are mentioned.

This book is notable for its discussion of many phases of Swedish-American migration. Attention is given to American influence on Sweden and to the characteristics of Swedish immigrants. The importance of economic factors in persuading hundreds of thousands of Swedes to come to America is mentioned, although much of the discussion centers around religious life. The chapters are well written and amazingly free from typographical errors. The record here presented stimulates our respect for the influence of Swedes on American life.

GEORGE B. ENGBERG

Backwoods Utopias: The Sectarian and Owenite Phases of Communitarian Socialism in America: 1663-1829. By ARTHUR EUGENE BESTOR, JR. (Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1950. xi, 288 p. \$3.50.)

Man's longing and striving for a perfect social order in America—a frontier nation ready for experimentation of all kinds—was expressed in part by the activities of visionary communitarian socialists. For a century and a half these men and women, determined to find a better way of life, planted an astonishing variety of Shaker villages, Owenite communities, and Fourierist phalanxes in the frontier wilderness. Between 1663 and 1860, a hundred and thirty utopian communities were established, most of them located in the Ohio and upper Mississippi valleys and in the Great Lakes region. None was located in what is now Minnesota. Nevertheless, the north country was not unacquainted with the movement, for socialistic activities were commented upon in the public press, and at least one influential socialist traveled through this region. He was Thomas Say, a close friend of Robert Owen and a naturalist of note. Say accompanied the Stephen H. Long expedition in 1823.

Mr. Bestor's competent volume makes a decided contribution not only to its specialized field, but also to the whole fascinating area of American social and intellectual thought. His discussions of the communitarian point of view and the Owenite legacy are models of organization and interpretation. *Backwoods Utopias* thoroughly justifies the long years and the careful research that went into its making.

PHILIP D. JORDAN

Pine Logs and Politics: A Life of Philetus Sawyer, 1816-1900. By RICHARD NELSON CURRENT. (Madison, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1950. 330 p. Illustrations. \$4.00.)

From hard-scrabble farms in Vermont and New York Philetus Sawyer went to Wisconsin and made a fortune in the Wolf River pineries. But it was politics, not lumbering that was to bring him national prominence and even, perhaps, social acceptance. What marks of ability, traits of character, and experience enabled this man to pass through the ranks of politics from mayor of Oshkosh to United States Senator and Republican boss of Wisconsin?

Sawyer was no fiery speaker, showering sparks of oratory like a Roman candle. In fact, he hardly ever made a speech, even in the Senate. This sawdust statesman composed no great state papers. Indeed, he was nearly illiterate, and through necessity employed ghost writers to handle his paper work. He espoused no great cause, had no part in the development of policy, and introduced no legislation of national importance. Yet, he was a political power in the Senate and the nation, and probably got more bills passed during his tenure than any other member of Congress.

The grand old man of Oshkosh was not a political race horse, prancing to the applause of the crowd and running around the track a few times a year. Rather, Sawyer was a wheel horse, working in the harness every day to get favors for his constituents and others. The democratic process seems to need this kind of politician. As Sawyer placidly munched in the public trough, he thought and worked in terms of individuals, not masses. Through the use of favors he built a political organization. This brand of politics was successful as long as the pork barrel could be kept filled. Those with big appetites received side meat, such as land grants, and those with smaller mouths got niblets in the form of pensions. But there was pork for everyone in that golden age, and all that was asked in return was party regularity. There was nothing very glorious in that kind of politics, but who was to say that it was not needed? Eventually, La Follette did, and the old bosses gave way to the new.

The author has skillfully told his tale with restraint and discrimination. There is a place for a biography of the political wheel horse, and this book aids in understanding the function performed by the party regular.

RODNEY C. LOEHR

Northwoods Sketches. By CHASE S. OSBORN and STELLANOVA OSBORN. (Lansing, Historical Society of Michigan, 1949. xiv, 127 p.)

White Pine Days on the Taquamenon. By WILLIAM DAVENPORT HULBERT. (Lansing, Historical Society of Michigan, 1949. xx, 152 p.)

"The stories in *Northwoods Sketches* are not history," observes Lewis Bee-son prefatorially, and one must admit that this observation applies as well to the tales in *White Pine Days*. Strictly speaking, one must confess that they are not literature either. Scarcely a one is a completely unified piece of writing,

polished and pointed and logically bearing toward its climax. But all are of that stuff without which history is not made nor literature wrought. They are the essential, inevitable raw material which must be included in any serious consideration of history and literature. No important writer can long afford to disregard the evocation of the mood, the atmosphere, the "feel," the temper of a place and a time. The chronological significance may be ever so portentous and the dramatic action ever so stirring, but these evocations are the elements by which the best writing lives and survives; without them, writing indeed becomes dust.

The outdoors of pine and crag and stream, tote road, and overgrown trail checkered with light and shadow — this like a cool, clean-smelling lake breeze rides inescapably on the pages of these volumes. Here are the sturdy figures who, colorful in the recent past, are rapidly vanishing into the horizon of forgetfulness: the line runners, the cant-hook men, the landlookers, the men who "go up into the clouds with the crooked steel," the woodsmen with their chunks of "doughgods" and their protective "stags," the axmen, the river drivers "good on the loose" and nimble in taking care of a "dry rear." Here, in writing that is almost as rugged as the lumberman's fare, is "the wild North, the cry of the loon at dusk, the flight of waterfowl, the tragic song of the surging waters"; here is the forgotten thrill of the landlooker at the edge of the concealing cedar swamp, measuring its possibilities and then hearing the far "swish" of pine and knowing that hidden in the tangly depths is a stand of valuable timber. No wonder Lewis Beeson notes that the historian can learn much from material like this. *Northwoods Sketches* has an adequate index; *White Pine Days* twenty-four intriguing photographs.

HERBERT KRAUSE

Pioneer Harvest. By MARION E. CROSS. (Minneapolis, The Farmers and Mechanics Savings Bank, 1949. viii, 188 p. Illustrations.)

This unusually handsome volume was issued by the Farmers and Mechanics Savings Bank of Minneapolis in celebration of its seventy-fifth anniversary. It was designed to trace the development of the bank in relation to the history of Minneapolis itself; to show how it influenced, and was in turn influenced by, the community.

Miss Cross writes charmingly of the early history of the Twin Cities, and she lingers lovingly and effectively over the details of their social, cultural, and community life. In addition, she dutifully sets forth the facts about the bank — its founding, its early difficulties, its board members and officers. She outlines the changes in bank policy, reports the growth or fall of deposits, tells of the renting or erection of new buildings, and gives other facts that pertain entirely to the bank. She also reviews the story of Minneapolis building booms, industrial growth, immigration and population growth, prosperity, panic, and other community affairs. Unfortunately, however, she does not show how each

of these things influenced the others, and she makes no attempt to answer some of the questions that are bound to arise in the reader's mind about investment policies, industrial and agricultural changes, types of investors, and like matters. Miss Cross is less concerned with the basic problems of economic and social history than with the more obvious facts of deposits, changing personnel, biographic notes, and the external appearance of Minneapolis. All this is useful, as far as it goes, but in the opinion of the reviewer Miss Cross would have been more successful in writing of the cultural and social, rather than the economic, life of Minneapolis.

The book is beautifully printed on excellent paper, it contains numerous good illustrations, and it is bound in a most effective photographic cover. It will make a good appearance on any library desk, bookshelf, or coffee table.

JAMES L. WHITEHEAD

Galland's Iowa Emigrant, Containing a Map, and General Descriptions of Iowa Territory. With a Historical Introduction by WILLIAM J. PETERSEN. (Iowa City, State Historical Society of Iowa, 1949. 28 p. \$3.00.)

This book is a reprint of an early Iowa emigrant guide, published in 1840, six years before Iowa became a state. It was written by a land speculator, in what even then was a firmly established tradition. "Dr." Isaac Galland, in addition to his land operations, practiced medicine, served as personal secretary to Mormon prophet Joseph Smith, spent time in prison for counterfeiting, established a newspaper, and opened the first school in Iowa. Little of Galland's picturesque background is found within the pages of this book, but the style indicates a personage of unusual flamboyance, even for a frontier enthusiast.

The guide seems to be more shrewdly written than most books designed to attract settlers. Galland readily admits that Iowa is not the paradise that many booklets written by interested people made it out to be. It has no "magnificent Cathedrals," for example. It is, however, Galland continues, a place where a poor man can own his land, get his crops to market, and be assured of rising prices.

Possibly the most remarkable feature of Galland's book is his defense of the Indians and his attack on the injustice of the white man. Galland, in this respect at least, seems not have shared the usual frontier prejudices. He was convinced that humane treatment of the Indians was the only sensible policy. It is not clear what relation the Indian sections of his book have to Galland's purpose in attracting settlers. Perhaps he merely wished to minimize the danger from Indian attack.

The rarity of Galland's booklet makes this excellently designed new edition especially valuable. It is unfortunate, however, that the editor has decided to be quaint when he uses 1840 as the date of publication and gives no indication on the title page that the book is a reprint.

THOMAS GOSSETT

Migration into East Texas, 1835-1860: A Study from the United States Census.

By BARNES F. LATHROP. (Austin, The Texas State Historical Association, 1949. x, 114 p. Maps, charts.)

In many areas of scholarship, manuscript census schedules are receiving new and concentrated attention. The schedules, both federal and state, have been used by historians and sociologists for years, but thus far their potentialities have been suggested rather than exhausted. In presenting the results of his own research, Mr. Lathrop enumerates some of the uses to which census data can be put by the historian. The author expresses the opinion that "no other exercise in historical research can give so abiding an impression of the overwhelming weight of plain people in American society."

Local historians will be grateful to Mr. Lathrop for his comments on the characteristic weaknesses of most local history writing. He commends trail blazers like Joseph Schafer for giving local history general significance. He believes that by using census data "the historian of the small region can . . . find in local development sets of patterns and processes informative to the outlander and illustrative of man's behavior in society." Such local history, devoid of sentimentality and antiquarianism, is useful both to the community and the "outlander."

An important part of this book is an exposition of what the author calls the "child-ladder method." He uses this term to describe the process of compiling data from the birthplaces and ages of the children in any given family or group. The method is not new, but now it has been given a name and the technique itself has been explained.

Migration into East Texas is a significant book, with an application far greater than the title implies. It deserves to be read by local historians everywhere, by students of migration, and by scholars exploring research methods.

LUCILE KANE

Managers in Distress: The St. Louis Stage, 1840-1844. By WILLIAM G. B. CARSON. (St. Louis, St. Louis Historical Documents Foundation, 1949. xv, 329 p. Illustrations. \$6.00.)

This account of the stage in St. Louis from 1840 to 1844 has some of the qualities of a novel. The depression, as it affected the theater, is depicted as a lurking and persistent villain. Managers Sol Smith and Noah Ludlow are the protagonists of the piece; their struggle to keep solvent and operative the theaters which they controlled in St. Louis, Cincinnati, New Orleans, and Mobile provides the action.

Using a flexible chronology which permits meaningful peeks into the future and pertinent glances into the past, Mr. Carson has painstakingly put together the day-by-day and season-by-season activities of these two notable managers on the frontier. The book tells how they acquired theaters, persuaded touring stars to enter certain territories, engaged and trained supporting com-

panies, saw to it that scenery was prepared, that advertising was done, that orchestra members remained sober, and, above all, performed the inartistic but highly important task of selling enough tickets so that the bills could be met.

Although covering a period prior to the beginning of the professional theater in Minnesota, the book nevertheless has local implications, for as the theater built firm foundations upward along the Mississippi, settlements on the upper river appeared less and less as outposts to strolling Thespians. Because of its thoroughness and generous inclusion of details, Mr. Carson's work is a valuable companion piece to the distinguished *Annals of the New York Stage* compiled by the late George C. D. Odell.

DONALD WOODS

Democratic Government in Canada. By ROBERT MACGREGOR DAWSON. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1949. 188 p. Illustrations. \$2.75.)

This brief, non-controversial account of Canadian government follows in general the usual pattern of describing the formal features of the various organs and institutions of government. While occasionally the author indulges in some interpretation, the reader does not learn much about the living politics of our northern neighbor. The author's hope that a glimpse may be obtained from the book of the "more colourful human aspects" of government has hardly been fulfilled. A major impression which emerges is that, as in other nations, the executive is increasingly overshadowing every other branch of government. The book is designed to serve the general public. It is written in simple, readable language, and it does not require any mental effort nor provide any particular stimulus.

WERNER LEVI

The Historical Scene

"TO THOSE WHO CRY 'provincialism' at state and local historians, I submit an answer," writes Clifford L. Lord in the *Missouri Historical Review* for January. That the "cure for provincialism is more knowledge of your state and local history" is the opinion expressed by the director of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in an address on "The Significance of State and Local History" published therein. "No man who really knows that history, who really understands the workings of the American experiment within the political borders of his state, can for a moment be provincial in outlook," according to Dr. Lord. He points out that the detailed study of a locality "gets history back to the people," and that "what emerges from the study of the peoples' history is a strong reaffirmation of the importance of the individual, a tenet basic to western civilization and essential to the American ideal."

The "true significance" of any historic restoration, whether it be a house, a fortification, a trading post, or an entire community, is well evaluated by Ronald L. Way in an article on "Old Fort Henry, The Citadel of Upper Canada" appearing in the April number of the *Canadian Geographical Review*. The restored fort at Kingston, Ontario, which has attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors since its official opening in 1938, is important chiefly because "it represents a practical contribution to the teaching of Canadian history and to its general appreciation," writes Mr. Way. He then goes on to show that "When it is possible to associate the story of some past event with the actual location where it occurred, when the story of a battle can be related upon the actual ground where it was fought, the topographical surroundings, surviving trenches, or other remains are all a stimulus to reality. It is better still, when by crossing the antique drawbridge of a fort, the visitor finds himself, to all appearances, among the authentic surroundings of another age. The effort of imagination required to secure a sense of the past is thus within the capacity of every normal person—it is the visual teaching of history." Thus a restoration like that of Fort Henry in Ontario or of Grand Portage in Minnesota "constitutes a very real aid in transmitting to many thousands of persons a true sense of history, which is, in reality, as much a feeling, or state of mind as it is the scientific accumulation of facts."

Many helpful and practical suggestions for *The Teaching of Local History in American Schools* are offered by Lenore E. Rimer of Columbus, Ohio, in a recently published monograph on the subject (Minneapolis, 1949. 66 p.). After defining local history, the writer discusses the reasons for teaching it, surveys its status in schools throughout the nation, and offers "Some Helps" in teaching the subject. "To use local history successfully, teachers need to

know how to present it to their classes, how to organize local historical societies, how to use local history in hobby clubs," writes Miss Rimer. She makes it clear that "interest and enthusiasm for local history must start with the teacher," who should not only make a personal study of state and local history, but should join the local historical society and enlist the interest and help of its members in her classroom activities.

"For nearly three decades after 1890 a physical frontier east of the Rocky Mountains still beckoned, and the mass movement of Americans in search of free land continued." Thus writes Paul F. Sharp in an article entitled "When Our West Moved North," appearing in the January number of the *American Historical Review*. Mr. Sharp's "last frontier was the Canadian West," a vast prairie area that "attracted thousands of restless Americans who were reluctant to abandon their traditional migratory and impermanent agricultural habits." Among them were settlers who had spent some time in Minnesota, including members of religious groups like the Dunkards and Mennonites. The writer calls attention, also, to the importance of the Canadian prairies as "an economic hinterland for St. Paul." He points out that "one of the first railroads into the Canadian West led from St. Paul, and the economic domination of the Northwest by American interests which had dated from the colorful days of the Red River carts was perpetuated until the Canadian Pacific Railway broke the hold."

A History of the American Newspaper Publishers Association by Edwin Emery is among the recent works that bear the imprint of the University of Minnesota Press (1950. \$3.50.). Based upon the archives and publications of the association, the volume surveys the story of advancing business interests of daily newspapers over more than six decades. Its struggle to maintain favorable postal rates, to compete with radio, and to protect freedom of the press are among the topics covered. In the latter connection, a case arising out of the "Minnesota 'gag law' of 1925, permitting the suppression of malicious and scandalous publications" is reported.

"The urbanization of the Mississippi Valley is the most impressive fact of the history of this section in the late nineteenth and the twentieth centuries," writes Bessie Louise Pierce in the spring *Journal* of the Illinois State Historical Society. To that number she contributes a stimulating study of "Changing Urban Patterns in the Mississippi Valley," where the shift from rural to urban domination has taken place within the past century. Miss Pierce notes that "With the influence of core cities, reaching more deeply into the countryside as the years went on, political boundaries were superseded in importance by lines marking the metropolitan region." Among examples the writer calls attention to the Twin Cities, "capital of the great Northwest," which "hold in their sway the Dakotas, Montana, Washington, northern Wisconsin, and to some degree the Northern Peninsula of Michigan."

The story of *The Northern Pacific, First of the Northern Transcontinentals* is outlined by C. E. Denney in a recent booklet published by the Newcomen Society (1949. 24 p.). The writer points out that with the construction of this railroad, of which he now is president, from Duluth to the Pacific, "the vast natural resources of the great States of Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington for the first time became an important part of our national economy." The narrative was presented as an address before a meeting of the Newcomen Society in St. Paul on May 18, 1949. Of interest also to Minnesotans in general and students of railroad history in particular is D'Alton C. Coleman's Newcomen address published under the title *Sir William Van Horne (1843-1915): "America's Greatest Gift to Canada"* (1949. 24 p.). It reviews a career that began in Illinois and attained its first success in Minnesota, with the Southern Minnesota and later with the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul road. How, at the suggestion of James J. Hill, Van Horne went to Winnipeg to build the Canadian Pacific Railroad and then became the Minnesotan's bitterest rival in a dramatic railroad struggle extending over three decades is clearly explained in this useful narrative.

Four Generations on the Line is the title of a booklet published by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company to mark the centennial of its road (Chicago, 1950. 48 p.). By presenting excerpts from imaginary diaries and letters, the narrative gives "highlights along the Milwaukee Road's first hundred years" from 1850 to 1950. Included are a Wisconsin farmer's impressions of the "Birth of a Railroad" from 1850 to 1875, a Minnesota telegraph operator's reports on "An Era of Expansion" from 1875 to 1900, a western merchant's picture of the road's extension "Over the Mountains" from 1900 to 1925, and "Excerpts from the Letters of a Railroad-minded Family" in Chicago and Seattle reflecting events at the "End of a Century."

The spring number of *Inland Seas* includes a little essay on "Horace Greeley on Lake Superior in 1848" by Mentor L. Williams, who draws his material from two letters prepared by the traveling editor for his New York *Weekly Tribune*. Although Greeley went little beyond Sault Ste. Marie, he learned something of the country farther west, as is evidenced by his remark that "the traveler who would be listened to must be able to discourse freely and glibly of the St. Croix, Leech Lake, Lake of the Woods, and the Red River of the North."

In her amiable and folksy book, *Curtain Time* (Boston, 1949. 310 p.), Ruth Harvey tells the story of her father, Con ("Papa") Walker, and records his role in Canadian theatricals from about 1890 to 1925. Heeding the advice of James J. Hill, Walker, who earlier had been a printer at Winona, went to Winnipeg to try his luck at adding the new and booming town to the circuit

he had already established in the American Red River Valley. As he increased his theaters until they spread from Fort William across the great wheatland to Calgary and were known as the "Breadbasket Circuit," Walker guided a steady stream of English and American acting companies, opera troupes, and concert artists into his houses. Whenever his conscience bothered him, following the run of such theatrical shoddy as "Her Unborn Child," Walker would balance the cultural scales by bringing in "something good," such as the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra for its first engagement in Winnipeg. In addition to reminiscences about the theater, Mrs. Harvey presents a genial picture of life in Winnipeg as seen by a family which depended as much on good growing weather and good crops for a livelihood as anyone else in the breadbasket. Numerous anecdotes, often earthy, but always well told, make the book pleasant reading for the informal historian who is not perturbed by the paucity of specific dates and the complete absence of footnotes.

DONALD WOODS

Among the events planned for the National Capital Sesquicentennial commemoration, which opened in Washington on April 15 and will continue throughout the year, are parades, pageants, concerts, exhibits, and festivals. The displays include one of special interest to the entire nation opening at the Corcoran Gallery of Art on July 8. It will consist of paintings, drawings, and prints depicting dramatic and historic scenes in the story of America's development from 1492 to the present, and will provide in effect a pictorial history of North America and the United States. Minnesota will be represented by two significant pictorial items from the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society—John Stevens' mammoth panorama of the Sioux War of 1862 and Frank B. Mayer's oil painting of the treaty of Traverse des Sioux. They were selected for inclusion in this comprehensive exhibit by Miss Eleanor B. Swenson, associate curator of the Corcoran Gallery, who visited St. Paul to survey the society's pictorial holdings in December, 1949.

The March *Bulletin* of the American Swedish Institute of Minneapolis is a "Fredrika Bremer Number," issued in commemoration of the centennial of the Swedish author's visit to Minnesota. Extracts from her letters, selected and woven into an article by Ernestine King, provide examples of Miss Bremer's "astute observations and comments" about American life in the 1850's. The author of a second article, Hanna Rydh, writes of "Fredrika Bremer—Trail Blazer," surveying her literary productions and her long struggle for peace and freedom. "How acute her observations were regarding American life and American psychology" is well illustrated in her *Homes in the New World*, according to this writer.

An address given by John Ilmari Kolehmainen before a Finnish Pioneer Day celebration in St. Paul on August 21, 1949, has been adapted for publica-

tion as an article "In Praise of the Finnish Backwoods Farmer" in *Agricultural History* for January. The characteristics and the folkways of the Finns which made possible their "transformation of the cutover wreckage left by the lumber barons in northern Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota into life-sustaining 40- and 80-acre farms" is the theme of Dr. Kolehmainen's paean.

From the Minnesota Historical Society's vast collection of letters and manuscripts, Miss Lucile Kane has drawn "A Letter Written by Horace Goodhue, Jr.," in August, 1884, and edited it for publication in the January number of *North Dakota History*. A member of the Carleton College faculty, Goodhue left St. Paul by rail for a "Harvest Excursion to Mandan," and upon returning to Northfield two weeks later he recorded his impressions in this letter to his family. Especially revealing are his comments on the bonanza farms of the Red River Valley, particularly of operations on the Dalrymple, Cheney, and Grandin farms. Goodhue noted too the facilities offered by such railroad towns as Brainerd, Moorhead, and Fargo; he remarked that the "passenger trains take the side track" for stock trains carrying beef cattle eastward; and he recorded that the Marquis de Mores was planning to ship meat in refrigerator cars.

In *Auntie Kate: Her Journey through Ninety Years* (1949. 252 p.), Katharine Garford Thomas tells the story of her greataunt, who spent much of her long life, from 1838 to 1932, in Ohio. She had most of the ordinary and a few of the extraordinary experiences that could come to an American woman in that period, and she was, of course, a remarkable woman. The author has used a complex method in presenting her material, telling of her interviews with Auntie Kate, giving material gathered in those interviews, and adding quotations from family letters and diaries. Although these sources do not fit together smoothly, the book as a whole is chatty, informal, affectionate, and informative. It is a publication of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society. L.M.K.

The State Historical Society of Iowa has reprinted as a pamphlet (28 p.) William J. Petersen's sketch of his state originally published in the *Morrell Magazine* for December, 1946. Appearing under the title *Looking Backward on Hawkeyeland*, it provides a useful survey of Iowa's past, as well as a cross-section of its present. Among the profuse illustrations are color prints of the state bird, the state flower, and the state flag. The importance of the Mississippi in the development both of Iowa and Minnesota is suggested by the inclusion of a picture of a group of steamboats at the St. Paul levee in 1858. The booklet should be particularly useful for school and classroom use.

TELLING THE MINNESOTA STORY

THE "WILDERNESS TREASURE" of which Florence Page Jaques writes appealingly in the March *Beaver* "is our canoe country, a wild land which stretches for more than a hundred miles along the border between Minnesota and Ontario." What this wilderness area, with its "great network of thousands of lakes set in a superbly rocky country that is forested with pine, spruce and hardwoods," can offer for the vacationist in search of "long days of utter freedom" is described by Mrs. Jaques and pictured in four accompanying drawings by Francis Lee Jaques. The importance of "Guarding the Treasure" is stressed by John C. W. Irwin in the same number of the *Beaver*. "Unless much is done to check it, man's destructive assault on the North American continent will soon make it impossible to find within reach of a goodly number of ordinary people a considerable area where natural conditions of forest and stream continue as they were in the early days," writes Mr. Irwin. He believes that "it is robbing succeeding generations of much of their heritage to leave no place untouched by permanent habitation, gasoline stations, hot-dog stands and dance halls—no place where people can live again in imagination the romantic stories of Indian, *coureur-de-bois*, voyageur and trapper, with the feeling that here is the actual country, actually as it was, when these figures of the past roamed and worked and fought."

The story of Minnesota's "Late Frontier" presented in the winter issue of *American Heritage* by Grace Lee Nute is continued in the spring number by Sigurd Olsen. Dealing with the subject from the standpoint of conservation, he reviews the long struggle to preserve in its natural state the Quetico-Superior country on both sides of the international boundary. The most recent victory of the conservationists in the preservation of this land of the voyageurs, Mr. Olsen notes, was marked in December, 1949, when President Truman signed an executive order creating an "Air Space Reservation over the Roadless Areas of the Superior National Forest." A historical and pictorial map of this wilderness area of Minnesota and Canada appears in full color with Mr. Olsen's article.

A permanent pictorial record of the Minnesota Historical Society's antique show of 1949-50 appears in the April number of *Antiques*, where an article entitled "Antiques in Minnesota" calls to the attention of a national audience this feature of the society's centennial celebration. Furniture, silver, porcelain, and other objects included in this spectacular display are pictured in more than a dozen photographs made by William D. Bowell of the society's picture department. The accompanying descriptive text is by Charles W. Walton, curator of the society's museum.

The February issue of the *Journal Lancet* is an eightieth anniversary number, featuring reviews of medical progress in Minnesota, North and South

Dakota, Wisconsin, and Manitoba. The emphasis, however, is on the North Star State, which has seen the publication of this medical journal and its predecessors through eight decades. In addition to a general "Outline of Minnesota's Medical History" by Dr. Edward L. Tuohy, the issue contains a "History of the Medical School of the University of Minnesota" by Dr. E. T. Bell, reviews of "Eighty Years of Progress" in pediatrics and surgery by Dr. Irvine McQuarrie and Dr. Owen H. Wangensteen, respectively, a sketch of "M. C. Woodworth, Pioneer Eye Specialist" of St. Paul by Dr. Frank E. Burch, and historical accounts of certain diseases in the period from 1870 to 1950. With each article appears a facsimile reprint of an item on a similar subject in an early issue of the *Northwestern Medical and Surgical Journal*, the St. Paul periodical which has been continued as the *Journal Lancet*. Appropriate quotations from the same pioneer magazine are scattered through the issue.

"The Election Tactics of the Nonpartisan League" from 1916 to 1924 in Minnesota and other western states are described and analyzed by Samuel P. Huntington in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for March. What the writer designates as "sorehead tactics" were used in Minnesota in 1918 and 1920, when after entering the primaries of a major party and losing, the League "nominated and ran an independent or third-party ticket in the fall election." In 1922, writes Mr. Huntington, "the League and labor organizations in Minnesota decided not to attempt again to capture the Republican party but to make use of the Farmer-Labor party machinery which they had been forced to set up in their sorehead campaigns of the two previous elections." As a result "the League scored its first, and one of its few, third-party victories," electing Henrik Shipstead to the United States Senate, as well as two Congressmen.

Based in large measure upon genealogical sources in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society is Aimee Huston Eck's recent study of *William Huston of Voluntown, Connecticut (ca 1720-1777), and Some of His Descendants* (Minneapolis, 1950. 114 p.). The volume, which has been issued in mimeographed form, traces the lines of descent of six of the nine children of this Connecticut Yankee. Since many of his descendants are living in Minnesota, the book has special interest for students of local history in this state, as well as for genealogists. The work suggests, too, an interesting study in settlement, for members of the Huston family, in succeeding generations, made their way into Vermont and central New York, and then pushed westward to Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, the Dakotas, and, eventually, the Pacific coast. Thus the migration of the Hustons is an excellent example of the *Yankee Exodus* described by Stewart H. Holbrook in his stimulating new book. Studies like Mrs. Eck's provide the raw material

for works like Mr. Holbrook's. Especially apt is her sketch, published as an appendix to the formal genealogy, of the life and times of her grandfather, Charles Enos Huston, for this pioneer, born in New York in 1841, moved to Dakota Territory in the 1880's and founded a village which bears his name, and ended his days in the state of Washington in 1917.

Paralleling the story of Minneapolis is *The Story of Fred Beal Snyder as Told by Himself*, printed privately in commemoration of his ninety-first birthday (1950. 74 p.). This handsome illustrated volume provides an appropriate record of a career that began in the very first house erected on the site of what was to become Minneapolis. For it was to the frame house erected by John H. Stevens that Simon Peter Snyder took his bride in 1856, and there three years later their son Fred was born. The story of the Stevens House, which was moved to Minnehaha Park in 1896 and remains there as a reminder of Minneapolis' infancy, is retold in charming fashion by Mr. Snyder. His family history, his fishing and other sporting adventures, his legal career, and his public career are recalled in other sections of his book. Of special interest and value is the record of Mr. Snyder's long period of service, beginning in 1912, first as a member and then as chairman of the University of Minnesota board of regents.

The career of a Minnesota trail blazer and explorer is told for youthful readers by Hubert Evans in *North to the Unknown: The Achievements & Adventures of David Thompson* (New York, Dodd, Mead & Company, 1949). How Thompson went into the north country as a fur trader, how he explored the vast reaches west of Lake Superior, and how he earned a reputation as the "greatest land geographer" of all time are recounted in this book. Grand Portage figures prominently in the narrative, as do other Minnesota posts to the west in the Red River country.

The dramatic story of George Bonga, "Black Pioneer of the Northwest," is the subject of an article by June Drenning Holmquist appearing in the *Negro Digest* for March. For information on this unique Minnesota fur trader, of Chippewa-Negro descent, the writer, who is editorial assistant on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, draws upon reminiscences, diaries, letters, and other contemporary sources in the society's collections. She tells of feats of courage and strength credited to Bonga, and recalls the hospitality for which the trader and his Chippewa wife were famed while living at Otter Tail and Leech lakes.

The activities of Hans Mattson as Minnesota's commissioner of immigration are given some attention by Maurice G. Baxter in an article on "Encouragement of Immigration to the Middle West during the Era of the Civil

War," published in the *Indiana Magazine of History* for March. Included also is a short account of the successful Minnesota campaign of the 1860's to advertise the state's advantages in northern Europe and to attract immigrants from Germany and the Scandinavian countries.

A biography that contains much of interest for Minnesotans, as well as for residents of Iowa and Wisconsin, is *The Founder of St. Ansgar: The Life Story of Claus Laurits Clausen* by H. Fred Swansen (Blair, Nebraska, 1949). Clausen was the pastor at Muskego, Wisconsin, in 1844, when the pioneer Norwegian Lutheran church was erected there. This interesting log structure, with its smoothly finished walnut pulpit, galleries, and pillars, was later removed to the campus of the Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, and there it still stands. Included in the present volume is a record of Clausen's pastoral activities among the Norwegian settlers of southeastern Minnesota, particularly in the neighborhood of Albert Lea.

The links "between building the Northern Pacific railroad, creating Brainerd, creating the first five Congregational churches in the northern half of Minnesota, and building the first church in Brainerd, — which was Episcopalian" are given emphasis by Carl Zapffe in his recent history of the *First Congregational Church of Brainerd* (1949. 110 p.). Against a background of community history, Mr. Zapffe sketches the story of this church, which had its beginning in 1872. Chapters on "Setting the Stage," "A City Is Born," and "Planning Churches" give perspective to the narrative, which so far as possible is based upon church minutes and other contemporary records. The writer shows, too, how the discovery of iron ore in the Brainerd area gave "new life to a place where timber business was shrinking" and changed not only the economic picture, but the religious and social life of the people. The work as a whole is both more useful and more interesting than the average church history.

The Bygland settlement "was the first to be established by Norwegian immigrants in Polk County," according to Alfred Solstad, author of a history of *Bygland through Seventy-five years, 1874-1949* (68 p.). Although much of the narrative deals with the Bygland Lutheran Church, which marked its seventy-fifth anniversary on November 20, the writer surveys the story of the founding of this Red River Valley settlement in an introductory section. There he tells of the arrival in 1872 from Bygland parish in Norway, of two families who took up land in this unsettled area and named the township when it was organized a few years later.

WHO'S WHO IN THIS ISSUE

Dr. HAROLD T. HAGG, author of the leading article in the present number of *Minnesota History*, is chairman of the division of social studies in the State Teachers College at Bemidji. Living close to the scene of the active and inspiring career of Frank E. Higgins, "The Lumberjacks' Sky Pilot," Dr. Hagg has learned at firsthand from old-time lumbermen and other pioneers many colorful stories about this Presbyterian missionary of the north woods. The writer is familiar to readers of this magazine, for he has contributed to earlier issues articles on the history of Bemidji and on "The Beltrami County Logging Frontier."

Dr. MERRILL E. JARCHOW, dean of men at Carleton College, Northfield, is the author of *The Earth Brought Forth: A History of Minnesota Agriculture to 1885* (1949) and of a half dozen articles on phases of the state's agricultural history published in this magazine in recent years. In his present article he contributes a stimulating chapter to Minnesota's social and religious history by surveying the story of the Methodist camp meetings at Red Rock from their beginning in 1869 to the early 1880's.

One of the important exploring expeditions that added to the knowledge of Minnesota geography in the early decades of the nineteenth century is the subject of a brief article by the editor of this magazine, BERTHA L. HEILBRON. Her sketch of "Lewis Cass, Exploring Governor" calls attention to the passing of a hundred and thirty years since Michigan's chief executive led his men across northern Minnesota to the lake which bears his name. To mark similar anniversaries, other articles commemorating events and personalities of the past century will appear in these pages from time to time.

The work of a Minnesota pioneer who was also an artist is given recognition by NORMAN A. GESKE, curator of the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. Mr. Geske is at present on leave of absence for a year of study abroad, principally in France, England, and Italy. Mr. LESTER N. RECKTENWALD, a former Minnesotan now living in New York, is a counseling psychologist and professional writer.

Sources for Minnesota and Northwest history to be found in the James F. Bell Collection are described and evaluated by Professor DONALD F. WARNER in the final article in this issue. The author is a member of the history faculty in Macalester College, St. Paul.

Among the eleven writers represented by book reviews in the present issue are six who as faculty members are connected with four departments of the University of Minnesota. From the history department come Professor PHILIP D. JORDAN, widely known authority on folklore, Dr. RODNEY C. LOEHR, and Mr. WILLIAM G. RECTOR. As director and research associate, respectively, the two latter also are members of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society's Forest Products History Foundation. The department of political science is represented by Dr. WERNER LEVI; American studies, by Mr. THOMAS GOS-

SETT; and the rhetoric department, by Mr. DONALD WOODS. Contributors from two other schools are Professor GEORGE B. ENGBERG of the history department in the University of Cincinnati, and Mr. HERBERT KRAUSE, well-known novelist, who is a member of the English faculty in Augustana College at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Included among the reviewers also are Mr. FRANK P. DONOVAN, JR., of Minneapolis, author of a forthcoming history of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway; and two members of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society—Miss LUCILE KANE and Dr. JAMES L. WHITEHEAD.

WHAT THE REVIEWERS SAY

MERRILL E. JARCHOW'S history of Minnesota agriculture, *The Earth Brought Forth*, has now been reviewed in magazines and newspapers from coast to coast. From publications issued outside Minnesota the following reviewers' comments on this centennial publication of the Minnesota Historical Society have been selected.

"This aptly titled book . . . is an outstanding contribution to our knowledge of the evolution of agriculture in Minnesota. . . . Imagination, intelligence, artistic taste, and industry have been applied in the production of this well-written, attractive volume. . . . The reviewer is pleased that *The Earth Brought Forth* has been written and published. It is a welcome addition to the literature of agricultural history."—HERBERT KELLAR, in the *American Historical Review*, April, 1950.

"This book provides a history of agriculture in Minnesota from 1840 to the approximate time of the passing of wheat growing as the staple industry. The specialist will welcome it as a much needed contribution to the regional history of North American agriculture; the general reader will find it straightforward and interesting; and the farmer—well, perhaps he will think that here at last is a writer who seems as if he would know when to shut off a milking machine and how to put a collar on a horse."—ROBERT LESLIE JONES, in the *Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*, April, 1950.

"This is a factual, highly readable account of what pre-Cleveland farming in Minnesota was like, how much it cost, how much it made, the equipment it used, and the folks who used it. There are chapters on the farmer's home and his social life, including the saloon. Even city people can enjoy this sound, well-documented, and graphic little study."—*Saturday Review of Literature*, December 31, 1949.

"The complex development of agricultural history is a difficult story to portray. The narrative of physical growth may be described, but the determining forces and factors are elusive and often appear as misfits in the historian's pictures. The author has essayed the dual task with highly commendable results. . . . The work is designed for a popular audience, and it is also an instructive as well as an interesting book."—J. L. SELLERS, in the *Pacific Historical Review*, May, 1950.



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