
Reviewed by Antoine d'Eschambault

THIS IS really the first attempt by a recognized historian to write a complete life of La Vérendrye. Heretofore most of the Vérendryan literature has dealt with some particular aspect of the explorer's discoveries or some detail of his personal life. Mr. Crouse is the first to present a comprehensive biography covering the entire career of the great Canadian explorer and describing fully his character.

Nor was this an easy task. La Vérendrye, either through lack of training or inability to gauge the respective importance of events, speaks very little of his own personal reactions. While his journal and reports consign faithfully the interminable harangues of the Indian braves in the course of his visits to the various tribes, they contain little about the background and the habitat of the natives. The descriptions of the country are meager, the maps inaccurate and at times baffling. Students are often exasperated over the absence of important information, such as the names of the victims who were massacred with Jean Baptiste and Father Aulneau in 1736, and the abundance and luxury of irrelevant details.

Notwithstanding these conditions, Mr. Crouse has produced a well-documented work in which the general contribution of La Vérendrye to history is fully recognized. He shows in the explorer a loyal and devoted son of New France who conscientiously strives to carry out an impossible assignment—that of the discovery of the Western Sea. In the face of adversity, of suspicion and jealousy, the great explorer pursues his course of discovery and conquest, slowly unfolding the unknown map of western America. His merits are never fully recognized; his motives are constantly questioned, and he becomes the victim of an unhappy misunderstanding and a difference of views between the minister in France and the governor in Canada. Yet through his perseverance and courage, as Mr. Crouse testifies, La Vérendrye leaves an enduring monument to himself and his country. To him could be applied the words of Pericles on "brave men"—"Their history is woven into the stuff of other men's lives." La Vérendrye emerges from this book as a great discoverer, a man of unimpeachable character, and a model of integrity. And it is just and equitable that it should be so.

Mr. Crouse has not settled all the problems relative to La Vérendrye and his work of discovery, but he has clearly stated and proved the lofty idealism of his hero. And for this alone he can be highly commended.

A number of errors make the book less scholarly than it could have been. Most of them are probably imputable to Lawrence J. Burpee, whose word Mr. Crouse has accepted too readily. Thus he states that La Vérendrye succeeded Deschaillons as commander at Kaministiquia (p. 10). The engagements of the voyageurs to René, older brother of La Vérendrye, show that René was in charge of Kaministiquia after Deschaillons. Pierre, our hero, then at Nipigon, must have been under his brother at the time. Again, when speaking of the brothers and sisters of La Vérendrye, Mr. Crouse repeats the errors of Burpee. Jacques René and Jean Baptiste were not twins. Jacques was born in June, 1676, and Jean Baptiste in November, 1677. Marie Renée, mother of Christophe de la Jemeraye, was not born in 1690, but in 1682, and she was older, not younger, than Pierre. Another sister, Marguerite, was born in 1680 and died in 1733.

Much could be said relative to the various establishments of La Vérendrye during his sojourn in western Canada. This has been the subject of endless discussion and perhaps only archaeological investigations will settle the prob-

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lem, as was the case with Fort St. Charles. Recent excavations conducted by the National Museum of Canada on the south shore of the Assiniboine, in the neighborhood of Portage la Prairie where Fort la Reine was supposedly located, have yielded nothing to prove that the site was ever occupied by the French. In the case of Fort Dauphin, which the author places at the mouth of the Valley River (p. 173), the bulk of evidence indicates that it was located at the mouth of the Mossey River, the “Rivière à l'eau trouble” of La Vérendrye maps. A minor error is the wrong spelling of Suite’s name, which is written Sulté. In the bibliography, Benoit Brouillette’s La Pénétration du Continent Américain is wrongly attributed to Canon Groulx, who, however, wrote the introduction to that work.

Even with these errors, and others, Mr. Crouse’s La Vérendrye remains a work of great value which will be widely consulted by students. In writing it, the author has rendered an important service to Canadian and American history and he should therefore be warmly thanked and congratulated.

EXPLORING TRADER

Reviewed by Grace Lee Nute

LITTLE was known about the first exploration into a rugged and almost inaccessible part of British Columbia until this carefully edited volume appeared. It reveals Samuel Black, leader of the expedition, as an attractive personality, possessed of leadership in the highest degree, an invincible spirit, a rugged character, an indomitable will, and a marvelous capacity for observing and learning.

Black was one of the North West Company’s most ruthless leaders in the long and bitter struggle with the Hudson’s Bay Company for control of the Athabaska fur trade. It is the more strange, therefore, that George Simpson, after the absorption of the Montreal company by the London corporation in 1821, chose Black and the latter’s close friend and associate, Peter Skene Ogden, for Hudson’s Bay Company exploits of a particularly dangerous and delicate nature. Something of the “Little Emperor’s” ability to judge character is revealed by these astonishing choices. Both Black and Ogden more than fulfilled his faith in them.

Though little practical resulted immediately from Black’s harrowing and perilous journey up the Finlay River to the watershed between the Stikine and the Liard rivers, the scientific world eventually profited. For Black’s hobbies were geology, natural history, and anthropology. His journal, therefore, contains lengthy descriptions of the flora, fauna, rocks, and Indians of the hitherto unknown area around the divide between streams in the Alaska-Yukon territories. In addition, Black possessed not a little literary excellence, and his diary makes good and exciting reading.

The introduction by R. M. Patterson is a masterly and concise account of Black, his significance, his explorations, and his long career in the Oregon fur trade; of his journal in its long history of almost unbelievable survival of fire, neglect, dispersal, and other vicissitudes; and of the struggle between the Hudson’s Bay Company and the North West Company from about 1800 to 1821.

KENNINGTON AND NEWPORT
Explorations in America before Columbus. By Hjalmar R. Holand. (New York, Twayne Publishers, Inc., 1956. 381 p. Illustrations, maps. $6.00.)

Reviewed by Tryggvi J. Oleson

THE “GHOST” of the Kensington stone walks again in Mr. Holand’s new book. It will not, however, change the opinions of many with regard to the authenticity of the Kensington runes or the origin of the Newport Tower. Most of his material is old stuff. Mr. Holand still believes that the Eskimos destroyed the Icelandic

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colonies in Greenland. He still believes that it was feasible for a small party to travel with a big boat from the mouth of the Nelson River to the interior of Minnesota in a couple of months. His faulty knowledge of Icelandic is again revealed, for example in the use of for od leita and vestan (p. 355). “Ave Virgo Maria, save us from evil” is still a good medieval prayer.

It is true that a note of doubt has crept in so far as the Schleswig turkeys are concerned. But in essentials the Knutson expedition and the building of the Newport Tower are treated in the same fashion as in Mr. Holand’s earlier books. Space indeed is devoted to an attempt to refute some of the arguments of recent critics and the author makes the best case he can for his beloved stone and tower. In the opinion of this reviewer, however, the fact remains that he has not been able to overcome the devastating criticism of such experts as Jansson, Moltke, Brønsted, Wahlgren, and Godfrey.

Finally it must be said that no one should presume to write on the Norsemen in America who has not read Jón Dúason’s huge work, Landkønnun og landnám Islandinga i Vesturheimi (“Explorations and Settlements of the Icelanders in the Western Hemisphere”), published at Reykjavik in 1941-47. This remains true whatever merit one may think Dr. Dúason’s thesis and conclusions possess. This work does not appear in Mr. Holand’s bibliography, which is far from exhaustive, nor does he show any signs of acquaintance with it.

**CANADIAN IMPRESSIONS**


Reviewed by Harold T. Hagg

FROM a substantial body of travel literature Professor Craig has competently skimmed the cream to give the general reader a vivid picture of the development of the Canadas from rude beginnings to a more mature society. Through the eyes of the visitors we see many aspects of the pre-Confederation Canadian scene. Among the authors are professional soldiers, clergymen, literary personages, fellows of an Oxford or Cambridge college, farmers, and a textile worker. Except for one American and one German, all came from the British Isles. The selections are long enough to be significant—a merit some similar anthologies lack.

In his well-written introduction the editor presents a discerning appraisal and a general overview of the travel accounts from which he has drawn his extracts. A short preface provides a setting for each selection. Explanatory footnotes are used as sparingly as possible. Good printing and binding, a handsome cover, and eight illustrations from contemporary sources combine to make an attractive volume. There is an extensive bibliography and an index.

These well-chosen and carefully edited selections make delightful reading. They contain many shrewd observations and much droll humor. There is some excellent description of French Canada, but most of the material is devoted to Upper Canada. Major themes are the provinces as homes for emigrants and the leveling influence of the frontier environment. The travelers’ reactions ranged from outright disapproval to warm admiration of what they saw, but on the whole the views are friendly.

The book deserves a wide audience. It will appeal especially to Canadian readers, though Americans also will find it of interest, not least for the illuminating comparisons between their country and its northern neighbor. Those fond of “grass roots” history will enjoy the revealing accounts of early farming, the house-raising, the camp meeting, frontier remedies, and other features of pioneer life.

**INDIAN LORE**


Reviewed by Philip D. Jordan

IN 1839 Henry R. Schoolcraft, the explorer who discovered the true source of the Father of Waters, published in New York a significant

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collection of Indian tales and legends under the title of *Algic Researches*. "Algic"—a term Schoolcraft coined—was a collective noun embracing that family of tribes "who, about A.D. 1600, were found spread out, with local exceptions, along the Atlantic, between Pamlico Sound and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, extending northwest to the Mississippi of Hudson's Bay and west to the Mississippi." Long interested in the oral, imaginative lore of the Algic people, Schoolcraft filled notebooks with specimens of their traditionary tales. He found this literature possessed of imagination, religious overtones, and codes of morality and ethics. They mirrored, in short, cardinal cultural principles. "Nothing," declared Schoolcraft, "is too capacious for Indian belief. Almost every declaration is a prophecy, and every tale a creed."

This volume, edited by Mr. Williams, brings together the major legends first printed in *Algic Researches* plus sixteen tales selected from Schoolcraft's other works. They represent "Odjibwa" or Chippewa, Shawnee, Sioux, and Ottawa stories. They tell of the origin of Indian corn, of a lover who lived on the banks of Lake Superior, of the reason for the robin, of the great god Manabozho. Biographical and historical narratives are excluded as are myths and legends which Schoolcraft used only in part or in summary form. Each tale carries Schoolcraft's original notes. Other supplementary material has been supplied when necessary by the editor. Of fascinating interest is an appendix which reprints pertinent comments by the explorer on the theory and importance of Indian folklore. Students of American literature will be interested in a further discussion of the "myth" that Longfellow took his themes for *Hiawatha* from the Finnish *Kalevala*. Indeed, Mr. Williams points out that Longfellow himself frankly acknowledged his debt to Schoolcraft.

Although this anthology of Indian tales is of primary interest to folklorists, anthropologists, and students of Indian culture and history, it also should appeal to many general readers who appreciate a story well told and are fond of the legend as a narrative form. These tales, colorful, dramatic, sensitive, are of worth in themselves as an expression of Indian culture. Mr. Williams has performed a real service with this volume just as he did with his edition of Schoolcraft's *Narrative Journal of an Expedition*. It is unfortunate, indeed, that the Michigan State University Press presented these volumes to the public in about as unattractive a format as possible.

**OREGON FUR TRADE**


Reviewed by John Francis McDermott

FIFTEEN YEARS experience as clerk with the Pacific Fur Company, the North West Company, and the Hudson's Bay Company provided the materials out of which Alexander Ross fashioned his two classics of fur trade and exploration, *Adventures of the First Settlers on the Oregon or Columbia River* (1849) and *The Fur Hunters of the Far West* (1855). The second of these is here made available once more. The story that Ross had to tell of fur hunting from the fall of Astoria to 1825 is both soundly informative and exciting. Its value, of course, lies not in his personal story, but in the vivid narrative of the way of life of fur hunters and traders at their posts and in the woods and of the Indians and animals they encountered. White wolves, Indian encampments, the organization of the North West Company, bear hunting, Indian women, social rank and table manners at a fur post, the Snake Indians' fondness for a diet of crickets, grasshoppers, and ants—there is fascinating variety here. Ross well deserved a new issue.

In preparing this edition, Mr. Spaulding has chosen not to reprint the original publication, which had been "improved" by its publisher, but to use the Ross manuscript, now in the Coe Collection at Yale University. The last chapters, which have nothing to do with the Oregon story, have been omitted, but passages previously expunged have been restored in order "to capture precisely the qualities of immediacy, emotional attitude, and imagery that the 1855

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work eliminated." The account has been allowed to stand in the words of the author "wherever the meaning is not obscure," but spelling and punctuation have been made to conform to usage today.

It is to be regretted that a book so valuable as this should be so sketchily edited. One is puzzled to know what Mr. Spaulding thinks the function of an editor is. He seems to proceed on the assumption that the only readers of this book will be persons thoroughly familiar with the history of the Northwest trade, and that at the least they will have read the author's Adventures on the Oregon and Irving's Astoria, for he leaves references to these books unexplained. He does not mention, and apparently he has not examined, any records of the fur companies involved or accounts written by any other persons concerned in the fur trade of the Northwest during the period covered by Ross. His author would appear to be the original and sole observer.

The eight-page introduction gives something of the background of British-American competition for furs, some data about Ross's book (though no mention of his previous work), and a few facts about the author's life. But Mr. Spaulding does not give the reader any fore-taste of the book itself nor does he attempt to fill out Ross's biography from other sources. Since there is no extended sketch of the fur trader's life, that should have been part of the editor's job.

The notes to the text are few and are limited almost entirely to very brief identification of place names. On occasion the editor is quite wrong, as when in commenting on Ross's confused reference to Washington Irving and the name "Astoria," he says: "Irving probably did supply the name"—an egregious blunder for anyone professing to edit a work on the Oregon fur trade (p. 4). The many persons in the narrative go unidentified. No attempt is made to confirm or amplify incidents reported, but not participated in, by the author. Adequate annotation of the first two chapters alone—fifty-four pages—would call for more than forty additional notes if the facts were to be pinned down properly for the reader.

The only map is that from the 1855 edition, which is not adequate, for it does not locate a number of the posts mentioned in the narrative. The index is full but not analytical. There is no entry for Ross; to locate any fact about him one must search the entire volume.

This handsomely made volume is superbly illustrated by eighteen water colors and drawings by Alfred J. Miller, Henry J. Warre, and Charles Bodmer (some of them published for the first time) from collections in the Yale University and Newberry libraries, and the Walters Art Gallery of Baltimore. These Indian portraits and genre studies, and particularly the landscapes, are excellently executed and charming "reports" on the Northwest: their inclusion notably heightens the effect of Ross's narrative.

SCIENCE AND POLITICS

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, volumes 11 and 12, January 1 to August 6, 1787, and August 7, 1787, to March 31, 1788. Edited by JULIAN P. BOYD. (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1955. xxxiii, 701 p.; xxxviii, 701 p. Illustrations. $10.00 each.)

Reviewed by Jesse H. Shera

THESE TWO volumes of the Jefferson Papers, which cover only fifteen months of their author's sojourn in France, present an interesting contrast. The first, though it includes the period when the Assembly of Notables was meeting in France and the Federal Convention was drafting the new Constitution in the United States, is largely devoted to personal rather than political or official matters. It is the second volume which records in detail Jefferson's observations to Adams, Madison, Washington, and others on the provisions of the new governmental structure.

Perhaps the most important single document in volume 11 consists of notes on a tour of southern France and northern Italy, from March 3 to June 11, 1787, the longest tour that Jefferson made. This account is of particular interest because it is a narrative of a purely personal tour. Jefferson traveled as a private citizen, with no official responsibilities. His main objective was to study at firsthand the economic, social, and agricultural conditions of the region, and his mode of travel, alone and relieved of affairs of state, made possible the fullest realization of his

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purpose. It was during this excursion that Jefferson made himself the greatest American authority on French wine, dispatched to America samples of Italian rice, and urged American cultivation of the olive tree. He was intrigued, too, by every mechanical device which came to his attention, and both the report and his letters reveal his admiration for the scenery of southern France and the remains of Roman architecture. The last was of particular interest to him because of his eagerness to improve architecture in America.

Throughout this volume, as in its predecessors, the reader is made acutely aware of the enormous breadth of his interests. The letters to his daughters, Martha and Mary, display the deep affection of the parent. In his correspondence with Charles Burney and Francis Hopkinson he discourses at length on the harpsichord. He maintained a wide circle of friends among the young men of his period, including John Trumbull, the painter, and William S. Smith, the son-in-law of John Adams. An inexhaustible interest in science dominates his correspondence with Benjamin Vaughan, and from General John Sullivan he secured the skeleton of a moose with which he hoped to convince the celebrated French naturalist, Georges Buffon, that animal life in America was not degenerate.

While volume 11 is of primary interest to the general reader, volume 12 contains a rich store for the student of American political and constitutional history. In its pages are set forth Jefferson's correspondence with the leaders of the new nation, and from these the reader derives his first real understanding of the Jeffersonian political philosophy. Here, too, one gains some insight into the rich store of political writings that is to be expected from subsequent volumes. At this time Jefferson and John Adams were carrying on important negotiations with the Dutch bankers with a view to increasing the financial stability of the American government, and the results of their efforts are reported to John Jay at the very close of the book.

Though there is, perhaps, less in this collection to attract the general reader, the materials here reproduced are not without their lighter aspects. Jefferson's correspondence with a wide circle of women friends continues to grow and includes such figures as Abigail Adams, Martha Epps, and Angelica Church, sister-in-law of Alexander Hamilton. He maintains his intimate correspondence with many younger men, advising them concerning their education and travels and aiding them in countless small ways. Here, too, is reprinted the famous letter from Jefferson to the editor of the Journal de Paris, written in indignation over French misinterpretation of events surrounding the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. But now, thanks to the editors of the present work, it is definitely established that this communication was never dispatched.

In a long series of reviews such as these one can scarcely continue to repeat the obvious fact that as the collection of documents grows one's admiration for the richness of Jefferson's mind and character correspondingly increases, but the emotion is no less real for being unexpressed.

MINNESOTA MONASTERY
Worship and Work: Saint John's Abbey and University, 1856-1956. By Colman J. Barry, O.S.B. (Collegeville, Minnesota, Saint John's Abbey, 1956. 447 p. Illustrations. $5.00.)

Reviewed by August C. Krey

RELATIVELY few persons are aware that St. John's Abbey at Collegeville is the largest Benedictine monastery in the world. Fewer still are aware of the important part it has played in building Minnesota. That story is now made available to all in this beautifully printed book.

The banner title, Worship and Work, epitomizes the Rule of St. Benedict which governs the life of the abbey. The rule requires both religious practice and labor of all its members. No task is too humble, whether it be clearing the forest, tilling the soil, or helping in the construction of buildings. Nor is any member too exalted to share in this labor, as witness Abbot Alexius helping to shingle the roof of his five-story building or Abbot Peter sawing and splitting as much as nineteen cords of cordwood for fuel in a single year. Such an institution was peculiarly adapted for survival on a frontier where it served as a missionary of both religion and civilization. St. John's Abbey has repeated on Minnesota soil what the Benedictine monasteries of Canterbury and Wearmouth, Fulda and

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Metten had done earlier on the European frontier.

This book is no meager chronicle, such as we have for those earlier monasteries. The author is himself a member of the community, but one who has been thoroughly trained in the methods of modern historical scholarship. He has presented an intimate account, in full detail, of both the internal and external activities of the abbey, and he has not hesitated to include the troubles and failures along with the achievements. We possess no such full account of any of the famous old monasteries which engaged in exactly the same activities. The student of medieval history will therefore welcome this book for the light it throws on subjects missing from accounts of the early Benedictine abbeys.

An unusual feature of this volume is the completeness of the story in picture as well as pen. Nearly two-hundred illustrations trace the history from a picture of the founder and the ruins of the first building to the election of Abbot Baldwin and the architect's drawing of the projected new chapel. Pen and picture supplement one another at every step, each giving added vividness to the other.

The author and the community as well as the printers are to be congratulated for producing such an interesting and informing book.

**VISUALIZING THE PAST**

*The Look of the Old West*, By **FOSTER-HARRIS**.
With illustrations by **EVELYN CURRO**. (New York, The Viking Press, 1955. 316 p. $7.50.)

Reviewed by John Francis McDermott

**FOSTER-HARRIS** is right. Military campaigns, the exploration of the West, the development of cattle ranching or transportation, and homesteading are matters we know quite a lot about. We know what happened, where, when, and how it happened. But can we see it? "There are worlds and worlds of vital statistics about the West," says the author, "but just try and visualize a vital statistic. How does it hold its pants up? Does it pack a gun, smoke, chew, wear its hair long, smell sort of peculiar?...

When something is really alive in your mind, when you can see it, hear it, and even smell it, these are the tall trifles that perfect the picture."

Here are the details briefly mentioned in most books—the "unimportant" details we take for granted until we need them and then must search long and painfully for them. Have you seen a hay burner stove? A Texas gate? Do you know the difference between an "Arkansas toothpick" and a Green River knife? How is a chuck wagon set up? In what way does the prairie schooner differ from the Conestoga wagon? Would you recognize a buckboard if you saw one?

**FOSTER-HARRIS** and his able illustrator **Evelyn Curro** show us these things in *The Look of the Old West*. With them we can follow the construction of the enormous wheels of the Mexican oxcart, that all-purpose freighter of the Southwest plains. The planter's hat, popular after the Civil War, and the Stetson, fast growing in favor, are differentiated. The body of a Conestoga wagon was painted Prussian blue, the running gear bright red. Chaps might be—depending where one was—*arnitas*, woolies, shotguns, batwings, Cheyenne leg, or Texas leg in style. Mexican fiesta and Mexican stock saddles, Texas and California saddles, cavalry and artillery saddles are all here. Revolvers by the dozen are pictured and described. You can find here the difference between a mounted officer's bit and a soldier's, between a major's dress epaulets and a second lieutenant's, between the belts and buckles of mounted troops and those of foot soldiers, between officers' uniforms and those of chaplains. When you have finished this book, you do know what the "old West" looked like.

Few of the more than eighty titles in the bibliography are primary works, but many of them are thorough and excellent studies of their special subjects. There are no footnotes. The book is well indexed. The many ink drawings are as important as the text in giving us the "look of the old West."

**COLLECTING MANUSCRIPTS**

*The American Collector*. Edited by **DONALD R. MCNEIL**. (Madison, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1955. 61 p. $2.00.)

Reviewed by Lucile M. Kane

IN 1954 the State Historical Society of Wisconsin observed by a year-long celebration the centennial of Lyman C. Draper's appointment as its first superintendent. On Founders Day, one
of the highlights of the year, were delivered the four papers here published: "Draper's Predecessors and Contemporaries" by Lyman H. Butterfield, "The Modern Collector" by Roy P. Basler, "The Wisconsin Experiments" by Donald R. McNeil, and "The Draper Manuscripts" by Alice E. Smith.

Mr. Butterfield's essay, the most extensive in the volume, places Draper's work in historical perspective. Recounting stories of collecting by individuals and historical institutions from the eve of the American Revolution to 1844, when Draper made his first extended trip through the old Southwest, Mr. Butterfield gives fascinating instances of the preservation of early manuscripts. The accomplishment of the collectors, Mr. Butterfield writes, "may be suggested by the immense advance made by American history in the nineteenth century."

In "The Modern Collector," Mr. Basler assesses the situation of both private and institutional collectors. He observes that collecting today has become a big business, with an expert middleman conveying materials from seller to buyer. The private collector, who necessarily builds his collection from the offerings of dealers, "must have an inordinately greater wealth than his predecessors were required to have." The institutional collectors, too, have problems. Mr. Basler believes that while many historical societies and libraries are doing a good job in preserving nineteenth-century records, little or nothing is being done about those of the twentieth century. His conclusion should shatter any complacency a collector might have about accomplishments in solving the problem of twentieth-century records: "In spite of hazards of fire and decay, records had a better life expectancy a century ago simply because life was more commodious."

"The Wisconsin Experiments" is a good statement of work that is being done to improve the life expectancy of records. Mr. McNeil reviews the Wisconsin system of locating manuscripts, appraising them, selecting those which should be preserved, and providing for their storage. Miss Smith, in "The Draper Manuscripts," expertly deals with some of the dramatic steps in the building of the Draper Collection, the use already made of the manuscripts, the unwritten studies still in the papers, and the relationship between the Draper manuscripts and the Turner thesis.

CHICAGO CENTENNIAL


Reviewed by Russell W. Fridley

This documentary history of the Chicago Historical Society bears an appropriate title. Mr. Angle has written a "chronicle" of the first hundred years of the institution he directs that is as refreshing as it is "unconventional."

The Chicago Historical Society is one of the nation's great privately supported historical institutions. This intimate account of its first century illuminates its growth, hardships, and achievements. It also sketches many of the personalities who built it into an effective organization. Its early leaders envisioned it as a bearer of culture to a rapidly growing business center. In an address before the society in 1868, Isaac N. Arnold said: "Let us make this hall the receptacle of all the treasures of the past; let us gather here all that there is in the way of man's past history, which may serve to aid, guide, and to enlighten in the difficulties of the future." Such hopes of the founders were eventually realized. Chicago became a world center of museums and the Chicago Historical Society became a treasure house of American history.

The documents that make up the book depict not only the development of an institution, but also the growth of the city it serves. Records from the society furnish intimate glimpses of the rapidly growing city on Lake Michigan. For example, William Corkran provides a colorful description of life in Chicago in 1868, when he arrived to take up his duties as the society's librarian. Moving letters by Corkran and Samuel Stone vividly describe the horrors of the great Chicago fire in 1871. This catastrophe leveled the society's building and consumed its collections, including the original Emancipation Proclamation.

Disaster and achievement, serious problems and amusing incidents have been the lot of this venerable institution. The author brings all of

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them into sharp focus. While setbacks figure prominently in the story, the general pattern is one of growth. At various times loyal and outstanding leaders came forward to advance the cause of the society. Its physical plant gradually enlarged as it occupied four different buildings during the course of a century. Paralleling this expansion was the broadening of its overall concept and program.

The arrangement of the book is interesting. Excerpts from minutes, committee reports, speeches, letters, and newspaper articles have been skillfully woven together. Brief explanatory statements by Mr. Angle knit the documents together into an absorbing narrative. His talents as an anthologist and a historian are apparent throughout. To rich documents that tell the story of a great institution, he adds wit, perspective, and an appreciation of its first hundred years.

**CANADIAN NORTHWEST**

_The Struggle for Responsible Government in the North-West Territories, 1870-97._ By Lewis Herbert Thomas. (University of Toronto Press, 1956. viii, 276 p. $5.00.)

Reviewed by W. L. Morton

THIS IS a study of the first stages of the constitutional evolution of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. It complements C. C. Lingard's kindred study of **Territorial Government in Canada**, which is in the main concerned with the period from 1897 to 1905. Students of Canadian constitutional history will read the new work, of course. Students of American constitutional, and still more of American territorial, history might well find it of interest to compare this Canadian chapter with the American experience of colonial government. And students of the history of the Canadian West will discover that Mr. Thomas, despite the constitutional character of his work, has written a readable and often quietly entertaining account of early Western politics and life.

The Canadian mode of territorial government was greatly influenced by American example, but differed from it in one important and typical aspect. It was conceived of as a transitional stage of government between the incipient community of a just-occupied wilderness and a society sufficiently developed to become self-governing. But the Canadian scheme did not provide, as the Northwest Ordinance did, certain objective tests of progress from one stage of territorial government to another and to local self-government. The progression was to be decided pragmatically, as events and occasions might suggest. This has been the British way, as the history of British India from 1909 to 1948 indicates.

It has always meant, however, that there has been a "struggle" between the exponents of an increase in local control and the defenders of central direction. In the Canadian territories, as in British colonies, the key to local control has been "responsible government," that is, the control of the executive officers of government by local representatives. In western Canada this struggle was sharpened by the presence of the métis, and it resulted in the two "rebellions" of 1869 and 1885. It was sharpened also by party divisions and, above all, one suspects, by considerations of the control of patronage.

All these things Mr. Thomas makes abundantly clear in a book which is scholarly throughout and flawlessly produced by the University of Toronto Press.

**PLAINS REGION**

_The Great Plains in Transition._ By Carl Frederick Kraenzel. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1955. xiv, 428 p. Illustrations, maps. $5.00.)

Reviewed by Helen M. White

HERE IS a full, detailed, and provocative study, by a professor of sociology in Montana State College, of the Great Plains as a distinctive region of the United States. The author points out that this is a region about the size of the original thirteen colonies, including more than five hundred and eighty-six thousand square miles, or one-fifth of the land area of the United States. It extends sixteen-hundred miles from Canada to Mexico and, at its widest point,

MRS. WHITE is engaged in preparing a documentary study of the overland expeditions which crossed the northern plains in the 1860s.

MR. MORTON is a member of the history faculty in the University of Manitoba at Winnipeg.
seven hundred and fifty miles from the ninety-eighth meridian to the foothills of the Rockies. Within the region are five and a half million people—an average density of nine and four-tenths people per square mile—or three and seven-tenths per cent of the total 1950 population of the United States.

The region is semiarid, averaging twenty inches or less of precipitation annually. It is characterized by extreme temperature variations, high evaporation, and a continental climate which is unpredictable, variable, and affected by air masses from the north, west, and south.

Although the Great Plains possess a distinct geographical unity, the author states that they form a region torn apart. It embraces portions of ten different states and a great number of federal agency subdivisions; it is divided by east-west railroad lines with inadequate north-south connections and discriminatory freight rates. Its inhabitants consist of a variety of racial, social, and economic minority groups who work at cross purposes more often than they co-operate. The area is, in fact, a colonial dependency of the East and Midwest, a region of limited resources which sells cheap and buys dear, with a way of life imported from the humid East and unsuited to a semiarid environment.

The author describes many aspects of plains life—the climate, physiographic features, land ownership, population, irrigation, dry farming, multiple use of resources, tax and governmental structures, co-operatives, and community organizations. He emphasizes the necessity for adapting and developing techniques and institutions suited to the peculiar needs of the plains, and insists that its people should learn from native plants and animals that mobility, flexibility, and reserves are necessary to the creation of a self-supporting, nonsubsidized way of life. He believes that the whole nation will profit from the process of “lifting the Plains from their lowly position as a ‘colony’ to the respectable status of a region.” Since fifteen per cent of the world’s land area has characteristics similar to those of the Great Plains, other nations will profit also.

Students of Minnesota history may feel that Mr. Kraenzel’s historical background is too sketchy, particularly for the northern plains. They may wonder, for example, how deeply the railroads, newspapers, banks, stockyards, flour mills, mail-order houses, and political and agrarian movements with which Minnesota and the plains were intimately associated were influenced by the Great Plains environment. Nevertheless, any future investigators in this field will gratefully use *The Great Plains in Transition* for its valuable information and provocative ideas.

**4-H CLUB LEADER**

*My Sixty Years with Rural Youth.* By T. A. Erickson, with the assistance of Anna North Coit. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1956. xiii, 162 p. Illustrations. $2.75.)

Reviewed by Agnes Harrigan Mueller

IN TWELVE fact-packed but lively chapters flavored by anecdotes, “Dad” Erickson, with the able assistance of Anna North Coit, tells the inspiring story of his work with youth as a teacher, county superintendent of schools, and club leader. This highly readable book is skillfully organized. It has two generous inserts of illustrations showing high points in 4-H Club activities as well as glimpses of “Dad” Erickson’s personal life.

From his Swedish immigrant parents, T. A. Erickson received a legacy of religious faith and honor, a sense of responsibility, a love of the land, the ability to surmount drudgery and see beyond it, and a strong belief in enjoyment. During his long and productive life, he has worked to share this legacy with the people of Minnesota and the nation. Finding better ways to work with parents, young people, and community leaders has been the key to “Dad” Erickson’s success. In 1904 while superintendent of schools in Douglas County, he spent twenty dollars of his own funds to buy seed for a corn-growing contest. This was the first of his many ingenious devices for turning drudgery into fun with crop-growing contests, cattle exhibits, homemaking shows, and national congresses.

By livery team and sled over early settlers’ trails, by special extension trains filled with agricultural exhibits, by bus and car, “Dad” Erickson traveled about the state selling the

MRS. MUeller is the author of a history of the Future Farmers of America in Minnesota, published in 1955.
merits of boys' and girls' club work. During the thirty years he served as 4-H Club leader in Minnesota, about half a million young people became members in the state, and they grew up to be better farmers, homemakers, and citizens as a result. After Mr. Erickson reached retirement age as a member of the University of Minnesota extension division staff, he was employed until 1954 by General Mills. There he was given a free hand to publish booklets to aid club work and to travel widely, meeting 4-H Club workers and leaders.

In his high school graduation oration in 1891, Mr. Erickson said: "Let us all grasp our many golden opportunities and use our talent that we may not at the closing moment of our life look back with regret, but that we may enter an eternity having employed our life to the best of our ability." Now in his eighty-fourth year, "Dad" Erickson has given us this delightful book demonstrating that he fully grasped every opportunity to achieve his goal—a better life for farm boys and girls.

HAYES AND MINNESOTA

IN HIS recently published work on Rutherford B. Hayes and His America, Harry Barnard provides a thorough biography of the nineteenth president of the United States (Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1954. 606 p. $6.00.). Exhaustive research went into the preparation of this highly readable book, which carries Hayes through the many phases of his long and interesting career as a Civil War soldier, a member of the Reconstruction Congress, three-time governor of Ohio, and president after winning what Mr. Barnard describes as "the wierdest election on record." Minnesotans will be interested to learn from this biography that Hayes owned land in their state near Duluth. It was purchased for him by William K. Rogers in 1856, when Jay Cooke was promoting the Northern Pacific Railroad. Rogers, who was Hayes' Ohio law partner, went to Minnesota Territory for his health and "to get a fortune out of speculating in the cheap land there." R.W.F.

A COURSE in "Historic Housekeeping" held at Cooperstown, New York, from September 18 to 24, 1935, under the joint auspices of the New York State Historical Association and the National Trust for Historic Preservation has achieved permanence in two recent publications. The first takes the form of three articles in the April number of New York History, all based on papers included in the course. There, Kenneth Chorley points out "What's Wrong with Historic Preservation" and defines four basic principles that should be used as "working criteria" by any one concerned with such activity; Florence M. Montgomery describes "The Training of Guides for Historic House Interpretation"; and Frederick D. Nichols discusses the "Techniques and Problems of Historic Restoration" from the architect's viewpoint. The second is a "selection of material on certain basic aspects of historic preservation" published in Antiques for July. Leading off with "A Look at Historic Preservation" is Louis C. Jones, who explains why significant historic structures should be kept intact by writing: "Progress goes from some place to some place, and if we would know where we are and where we are going, we must also keep a few points on the chart to indicate where we have been. Out of this knowledge should come a valuable kind of personal security such as a child is given in a loving home." Mr. Jones also stresses the need for preserving more buildings "that speak directly to those of us whose families had cal­ louses, as well as to those who had carriages." Among others who contribute to this issue of Antiques are Nina Fletcher Little, who provides "An Approach to Furnishing" a historic house, and Edward P. Alexander of Colonial Williamsburg, who deals with the problems of "Interpretation."

TO THE May number of the Pacific Historical Review, John D. Hicks contributes a stimulating examination of "What's Right with the History Profession." Although scholars are inclined to be self-critical, the writer says that on the positive side members of the profession "are imbued with a deep sense of mission," that they are eager "to promote . . . a fuller and better understanding of the past," for they realize that "upon the wide dissemination of historical knowledge so much of consequence depends."
He feels that the profession is to be commended, too, for its “recognition of the importance of the recent past,” for its willingness to “take a deep look into the history of other nations and other times,” for its “increasing awareness of the full scope of history,” for its observance of “high standards of craftsmanship” and literary excellence, and for its freedom from “the disgusting jargons that deface many other fields.”

VARIOUS aspects of the federal government’s Indian policies over the years are examined in the Spring number of Ethnohistory. Of special interest to Minnesotans is W. Sheridan Warwick’s analysis of “Indian Policy in the Upper Old Northwest Following the War of 1812.” In other provocative papers Russell L. Caldwell poses the question, “Is There an American Indian Policy?” and William T. Hagan discusses “Private Property, the Indian’s Door to Civilization.”

THE WESTWARD “advance of the gun frontier” is traced by John C. Ewers of the Smithsonian Institution in an informing article on “The North West Trade Gun” published in the spring issue of the Alberta Historical Review. Drawing upon the records of explorers, traders, and travelers, the writer cites examples of the use of firearms in Indian warfare and in the fur trade. For instance, he notes that when Zebulon M. Pike was at Leech Lake in 1806, he “observed that ‘N.W. Guns’ were traded to Indians at the North West Company’s fort” there. Mr. Ewers also tells the story of the manufacture of these guns both in England and America. Reproduced with the article are pictures of North West guns now in museum collections, a pencil drawing of such guns made by Carl Wimer in 1858, and a painting by Carl Bodmer depicting their use in an Indian battle.

A DISCUSSION of the causes and results of the métis uprisings of 1869 and 1885 may be found in F. Mason Wade’s bulky study of The French Canadians, 1760-1915 (New York, 1955. 1136 p.). In support of his avowed purpose to “explain why the French Canadians live, think, act, and react differently from English-speaking North Americans,” the author devotes a chapter to the stormy career of the métis leader, Louis Riel, sketching the background of the uprisings in the Red River country of Minnesota and Manitoba and touching on the role of James Wickes Taylor in the Minnesota annexation movement of the 1850s and 1860s. Of interest, too, is the book’s first chapter on “The Heritage of New France,” in which Mr. Wade reviews the exploits of Cartier, Champlain, and other significant French Canadians.

JOSEPH Frazier Wall is the author of a brilliant study of “Marse” Henry Watterson: Reconstructed Rebel, which has been published by the Oxford University Press (New York, 1956. xvi, 362 p.). It provides a biography of the last of the “personal” journalists—the man who served as editor of the Louisville Courier-Jour-
nal for half a century. The author skillfully pictures Watterson's immersion in and influence on American politics and journalism. As evidence of his subject's active interest in national politics, Mr. Wall notes his personal acquaintance with every president except one from John Quincy Adams to Franklin D. Roosevelt, and describes his role in eleven presidential campaigns. Minnesotans will be specially interested in an account of Watterson's support of Governor John A. Johnson for the presidential nomination in 1908. R.W.F.

WRITING under the title “Research in Railroad Archives,” Donald W. Meinig gives pertinent advice about and valuable information on the records of the Northern Pacific and Union Pacific systems in the January number of the Pacific Northwest Quarterly. Of special interest to students of Minnesota history is the author’s description of the vast body of material in the possession of the Northern Pacific Railroad in St. Paul. In addition to outlining the types of records available there, Mr. Meinig gives specific directions for gaining access to them, describes available research tools, and indicates the location of various kinds of material.

SOME ANNIVERSARIES

SO MANY communities have marked centennial and other anniversaries during the past summer that it is quite impossible to give them adequate coverage in the limited space available in this magazine. Substantial centennial volumes in hard covers issued for the Minneapolis and Zumbrota centennials will be reviewed in a future issue. Illustrated pamphlets and newspapers, some of which represent valuable contributions to the recorded histories of their localities, have appeared in a number of other Minnesota and Wisconsin communities. With brief comment, they are listed below:

Blue Earth. The Blue Earth Post of June 28 commemorates the community’s centennial. A large number of its 118 pages are devoted to local school, business, and church histories, and to sketches and reminiscences of pioneers.

Bayfield, Wisconsin. A centennial section of 88 pages compiled by Eleanor Knight, who wrote most of the articles, forms a supplement to the Bayfield County Press of June 28. Articles on the Apostle Islands, on Henry M. Rice, and on Admiral Henry W. Bayfield are of special Minnesota interest.

Duluth. A centennial edition of the Duluth News-Tribune, dated June 29, comprises 160 pages. Articles about the city’s development as a railroad, mining, lumbering, and shipping center are featured, and its role as an important frontier lake port is stressed.

Janesville, Wisconsin. A permanent record of this community’s centennial observance, which was marked from June 24 to 26, is a History of Janesville, 1856-1956 (72 p.).

New Prague. The New Prague Times for June 28, consisting of 36 pages, contains information about a Minnesota Czech settlement that has retained many old-world characteristics during the course of a century.

Plainview. In connection with the community’s “Centennial Days,” celebrated from June 20 to July 1, a pamphlet entitled Plainview: Plateau of Plenty (96 p.) was published. Significant features are lists of pioneer settlers drawn from the manuscript population schedules of 1860, and entries from the diary of Irvin W. Rollins, a pioneer who migrated from Vermont in 1855.

Proctor. A special edition of the Proctor Journal, published on June 28, commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the paper and reviews its history. The issue, consisting of 78 pages, is noteworthy for articles about and pictures relating to the Duluth, Missabe, and Iron Range Railroad, on which the town is located.

St. Cloud. The city’s celebration of “Century Week,” from June 24 to 30, was marked by a centennial edition of the St. Cloud Daily Times, issued on June 30 and consisting of 116 pages. For the same occasion, Gertrude Gove and an editorial committee of the Stearns County Historical Society compiled and edited a valuable Centennial Souvenir Album, portraying in words and pictures “a century of living in St. Cloud” (72 p.). Both publications contain material on the city’s granite industry.

Somerset, Wisconsin. This St. Croix Valley community, which marked its anniversary from June 22 to 24, issued a Triple Centennial Jubilee Souvenir Book for the occasion. The author and editor, Father John T. Rivard, presents histories of the village, of the township, and of St. Anne’s Church.

TO COMMEMORATE the passing of a century since James J. Hill arrived in St. Paul on July 21, 1856, the Great Northern Railway, which he founded, arranged a “reminiscent ex-
hibit” in the First National Bank of St. Paul. Largely by means of pictures, it reviewed the career of the Empire Builder. Its opening was a feature of a Railroad Day celebration staged in St. Paul on July 20 to mark the centennial. Representatives of eleven railroads attended ceremonies in the St. Paul Union Depot and a luncheon at which the speaker was William T. Faricy of Washington, president of the American Association of Railroads. Among articles published to commemorate the Hill centennial was one by Lou Gollop in the St. Paul Pioneer Press for July 15, another in the Minneapolis Tribune of the same date, and six sketches depicting features of “The Modern Great Northern—20th Century Empire Builder” in Modern Railroads for May.

BEYOND STATE BOUNDARIES

THE “SPORTING Expedition” into the Rocky Mountains country organized by Sir William Drummond Stewart in 1843 is designated the “First ‘Dude Ranch’ Trip to the Untamed West” in the February number of American Heritage. The author, Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., illustrates his account of this frontier hunting party with reproductions, some of which are in full color, of paintings made by Alfred J. Miller on a similar trip with Stewart in 1837. In the same issue appear color reproductions in five sections of the “Famous Cyclorama of the Great Battle of Atlanta”—a huge circular painting originally executed in Milwaukee and now preserved in Atlanta. A descriptive text is provided by Bruce Catton, and an explanation of “How the Cyclorama was Painted” is given by Wilbur G. Kurtz. To the August number of American Heritage, Stewart Holbrook contributes a dramatic account of the “tragedy of the Peshtigo forest fire in Wisconsin, during which some twelve hundred people lost their lives on the evening of October 8, 1871.” The author notes that “by an incomparable irony of fate, this happened also to be the night when” the Chicago fire began—an event that “took its place among our classic disasters” while the far more extensive and deadly Peshtigo fire remained unpublicized.

NEW SPECULATIONS on the fate of La Salle’s “Griffon” have arisen as a result of the finding of the timbers of a small vessel on Russell Island near Tobermory, Ontario. C. H. J. Snider reviews the circumstances surrounding the loss of the ship and describes the present find in Ontario History for the winter of 1956. In the Winter, 1955, and Spring, 1956, issues of Inland Seas Rowley Murphy gives a complete description of the Tobermory wreck and compares it with other seventeenth-century French ships. In the second part of his article, Mr. Rowley summarizes his reasons for believing that the Tobermory wreck is the lost “Griffon” and he points out that its measurements agree with the firsthand description of the vessel given by Father Hennepin. Also in Inland Seas for the spring of 1956 is a note from Frank A. Myers describing the efforts of the Manitoulin Historical Society to prove that another wreck, found on Manitoulin Island, is that of the “Griffon.”

THE ROLE OF John A. Macdonald, The Old Chieftain in the crisis created by the Riel rebellion is illuminated by Donald Creighton in the second volume of his biography of Canada’s first prime minister, which deals with Macdonald’s career from 1867 to his death in 1891 (New York, 1956, 630 p.). The author also sheds light on Macdonald’s intervention in the plans of James J. Hill and Donald Smith to establish a railway connection between Winnipeg and St. Paul in 1875.

THE STORY of the Silver Islet mine on the North Shore of Lake Superior, which produced silver worth over 83,500,000 during its short period of operation, is told by Beryl H. Scott in the March issue of the Canadian Geographic Journal. Bonanza silver deposits were found on the tiny island, twenty-five miles east of Port Arthur, in 1868, and the mine was worked by the Ontario Mineral Lands Company, of which Alexander Sibley, brother of Henry Hastings Sibley, was president. Pictures accompanying the article show the mine as it looked at the peak of its productiveness in the 1870s and as it looks today.

A LETTER written by Douglass Houghton in 1831, describing his “Trip to Sault Ste. Marie” to join Henry R. Schoolcraft’s expedition into the Minnesota country, has been edited with an introduction and notes by Philip P. Mason for publication in the December number of Michigan History. The document provides an “interesting account of travel” by steamboat and schooner and in a bark canoe “manned by nine singing voyageurs.” In the same issue appear summaries of papers read at Michigan State University on March 26, 1955, to mark the centennial of the publication of Longfellow’s Song of Hiawatha. Included are items on “Indian Legends” by Stith Thompson, on “Indian Mythology since ‘Hiawatha’” by Richard September 1956
M. Dorson, and on "Prehistory and Folklore" by Emerson K. Greenman.

AN EXCELLENT Teachers' Guide to Michigan History, compiled by John Clementz and Mary F. Noecker, has been issued by the Michigan Historical Commission (Lansing, 1956. 42 p.). Designed for use with F. Clever Bald's history of Michigan in Four Centuries, reviewed in the Spring, 1955, number of this magazine, the Guide contains selected bibliographies, lists audio-visual aids, and gives practical teaching suggestions that will be of interest to elementary and secondary history instructors everywhere.

A MINNESOTAN who has long been interested in local history, Mr. Leo Capser of St. Paul, deserves much of the credit for establishing the Madeline Island Historical Museum at La Pointe, where he has a summer home. According to the Bayfield County Press of June 28, it is "made up of several buildings each with an exceedingly interesting individual history," all skillfully combined and surrounded by a stockade. Included are part of the local American Fur Company trading post, the town jail, a log barn, and a "sailor's home." The museum is incorporated and is officially associated with the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

THE WINTER number of the Wisconsin Magazine of History is a "Rededication Issue" devoted largely to the past accomplishments and future plans of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It includes also a record of the ceremonies at Madison on October 8, 1955, when the society rededicated the building which has housed its collections since 1900. After sharing its quarters with the university library for more than half a century, the society now occupies the entire building, remodeled during the past two years to meet its present needs.

STUDENTS of business history will be interested in Theodore F. Marburg's volume entitled Small Business in Brass Fabricating, recently published by the New York University Press (116 p. $5.00). The author, who is professor of economics in Hamline University, presents a history of the Smith and Griggs Manufacturing Company of Waterbury, Connecticut. The business historian may well look upon this newly issued work as a type study.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

THE HUDSON'S BAY Company's use of "The Minnesota Route" between Fort Garry and St. Paul is the subject of an interesting article by Alvin C. Gluek, Jr., in the spring issue of the Beaver. He shows how, in the 1850s, St. Paul displaced York Factory as the result of a "startling transportation revolution . . . below the 49th parallel" resulting from "an easy interlocking of three means of transportation: railroads, steamboats, and the humble Red River carts." Names like J. C. Burbank and Anson Northup take on a new significance when viewed in the light of this "revolution." Another aspect of the subject is revealed in a series of letters written by Sir George Simpson to Governor Alexander Ramsey in 1858. They have been edited for publication, from originals owned by the Minnesota Historical Society, by Grace Lee Nute. The letters indicate that when the Minnesota route was opened, officers of the Hudson's Bay Company "decided it would be advantageous to establish a bank at St. Paul," but what happened to the project is not known.

A SKETCH of Henry Hastings Sibley and a list of his children appear in the summer issue of the Research Magazine of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research. These items about a prominent Minnesota pioneer are included in a study, by Beulah Puffer Kreage, dealing with the "Ancestors and Descendants of Solomon Sibley of Detroit, Michigan," who was Henry's father. In this detailed genealogical compilation, installments of which have been appearing in the Research Magazine since the fall of 1955, Mrs. Kreage shows that Minnesota's first state governor represented the seventh generation of the Sibley family in America.

A BIOGRAPHICAL sketch of Clarence Luther Herrick, Pioneer Naturalist, Teacher, and Psychobiologist, by his brother, Charles Judson Herrick, has been published by the American Philosophical Society as volume 45, part 1 of its Transactions (Philadelphia, 1955. 85 p.). Both brothers were born in Minneapolis, where their father settled in 1858, and both received their early training in the frontier community. Included in the narrative is an interesting record of family life there, and of Clarence Herrick's experiences as a student in the pioneer University of Minnesota and as N. H. Winchell's assistant on the Minnesota Geological and Natural History Survey. In a chapter entitled "The Making of a Naturalist," the writer includes a record of the Young Naturalists' Society, organized in 1875 by seven boys attending the Minneapolis High School. In addition to Herrick, its membership included Thomas S. Rob-
THE CAREER of Austin Dowling as second archbishop of St. Paul after 1919 is reviewed by Marvin R. O'Connell in a master's thesis which has been issued in mimeographed form under the title *The Dowling Decade in Saint Paul* (1935, 131 p.). The work reveals the archbishop as an efficient administrator, a popular orator, and an educator, and indicates that his efforts were largely directed toward encouraging the assimilation of Catholic immigrant groups into American life.

THE JUNE number of the *Scriptorium*, a publication of St. John's Abbey at Collegeville, is devoted to biographical sketches of the 241 “monks who at one time were members of St. John's Abbey and died as members of the Order of St. Benedict.” In an introduction, Father Titus Thole, who prepared the compilation, notes that the monks’ names are arranged “according to the dates of their profession,” but full alphabetical indexes make it possible to locate individual sketches with ease.

THE ROLE of Arthur and Marian Le Sueur in the early history of the Nonpartisan League and the Farmer-Labor party is recalled by their daughter, Meridel Le Sueur, in a little book to which she gives the appropriate title *Crusaders* (New York, 1955, 94 p.). Published shortly after her mother's death in 1954, the narrative provides some biographical information about two leaders of Minnesota's more recent third-party movements. The text, however, more literary than factual, and it is sometimes difficult to pin down the sequence of events described.

SOME TESTS made at the Mayo Clinic in 1942 by Charles A. Lindbergh are the subject of a feature article by Victor Cohn in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for July 1. The author bases his account in part on the famous aviator's foreword to a newly published *Handbook of Respiratory Physiology*, issued by the Air Force, and on his notes and those of the clinic. The *Handbook* was edited by the late Dr. Walter M. Boothby, an authority on aviation medicine, under whose direction General Lindbergh made the tests in a chamber simulating high altitude conditions. In September, 1942, when he “began a series of 10 mock parachute jumps,” little was known about “high-altitude's greatest danger—lack of oxygen.” Because he “believed pilots could train themselves to detect its advance signs,” General Lindbergh volunteered to make the tests.

IN THE April issue of the *Minnesota Archaeologist*, Irving H. Hart recounts his adventures as “An Amateur Archaeologist in Northern Minnesota” largely in the 1920s. How he located the site of the North West Company post on Sandy Lake, traced the route of the old Savanna Portage, and excavated sites long since occupied by Indians and white traders are explained by the author, who in 1926, 1927, and 1928 published accounts of these rewarding activities in *Minnesota History*. A valuable feature of the present publication is a map of the Big Sandy Lake area in which the sites are located.

THE ENTERTAINING collection of *101 Best Stories of Minnesota*, written by Merle Potter and first published in 1931, has been reprinted by Schmitt Publications (Minneapolis, 1956, 305 p., $3.95). With a new foreword, this readable potpourri of anecdotes, sidelights on eminent men, and interesting events in Minnesota history is once more available. Included, for example, are accounts of how Joe Rolette saved the capital for St. Paul, of the milling explosion of 1878, of Joseph R. Brown's invention of a steam wagon, and of the Northfield robbery.

MINNESOTA'S "Wild Rice Harvest" is the subject of an illustrated article by Dan Brogan in the June number of *Frontiers*, the monthly magazine of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. The author contrasts past and present harvesting methods, explains state regulations governing the harvest, touches on its importance to the Chippewa economy, and gives information on marketing practices.

EARLY stagecoach travel on the military road from St. Paul to Duluth is described by Frederic Brandes in a series of articles appearing in issues of the *Askov American* from July 5 to 26. Mr. Brandes tells of the building of the road, the inns along its route, the hardships of travel, the stagecoaches and their drivers, and the final passing of stagecoach travel with the coming of the railroad.

A BUILDING in Fairmont formerly used as a parish school has been presented to the Martin County Historical Society for use as a museum. The donors are Dr. R. C. Hunt and Dr. William Hunt and members of their families. A recent publication of the Martin County society is a
booklet entitled Minutes of a Century (78 p.) which includes historical sketches of Manyaska, Jay, Lake Belt, Lake Fremont, and Sherburn townships.

TO MARK the site of the Forest City stockade, built by local settlers for defense against the Sioux during the uprising of 1862, the Meeker County Historical Society has erected an elaborate monument. A brief history of the stockade, prepared by P. J. Casey, is included in the printed program issued in connection with the dedication ceremony on June 16.

THE FIFTY-SEVENTH anniversary of the Clyde Iron Works of Duluth is the occasion for the publication of an article on its history in the Duluth News-Tribune for March 11. The author, Jim Myhers, notes that its products have been used in constructing some of the largest buildings in the United States as well as in seventy-three foreign countries.

TO HELP it “assemble a collection of contemporary photographs of St. Louis County which will serve as documentary history,” the St. Louis County Historical Society is sponsoring a photographic contest. Eight cash prizes, totaling two hundred dollars, will be awarded to those whose pictures are selected by a special jury. The contest will be followed by an exhibition to be held in the society’s museum from November 4 to 30.

A TYPICAL rural school of the 1870s has been removed to the fairgrounds at Waseca, where it will be preserved under the auspices of the Waseca County Historical Society. The original benches, desks, blackboards, and the like have been kept in the early structure.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

THE FOURTH annual Teachers’ Institute in Minnesota History, which will have for its theme “Explorers and Voyageurs,” will be held in the Historical Building under the society’s auspices on October 11. Dean Theodore C. Blegen of the graduate school in the University of Minnesota will speak, taking as his subject “On the Trail of the Explorers,” and Dean Melva Lind of Gustavus Adolphus College will sing a group of voyageur songs.

FROM THE estate of the late Mrs. L. N. Scott of St. Paul, the society has received an extensive and valuable theatrical collection, covering roughly the period from the 1880s to 1939. It reflects the long careers as theatrical managers in St. Paul and Minneapolis of Mrs. Scott and her husband, Louis N. Scott, who became identified with the amusement business shortly after arriving in St. Paul in 1875. Included are twenty-eight scrapbooks for the years from 1892 to 1937, sixty-two bound volumes of programs covering the period from 1883 to 1937, and unique files of two Minnesota periodicals—The Twin City Amusement Bulletin for 1891-92, and The Critic: A Journal of Amusement for 1897-98. With the gift also were received thirty volumes of manuscript records of the Scotts’ theaters, including minutes, articles of incorporation, ledgers, journals, accounts, and similar items for the years from 1889 to 1939.

A HUNDRED items from the papers of William A. Van Slyke, St. Paul businessman and civic leader, have been presented by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Charles A. Van Slyke of St. Paul. Among the manuscripts, which date from 1880 to 1904, are items relating to the St. Paul winter carnivals of 1886 and 1888, to Van Slyke’s Civil War service, and to the celebration that marked the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1883. Printed items received with the collection include a rare Illustrated Catalogue and Price List of Palmer’s Fire Works (1886).

THE ONLY KNOWN file of the first eleven volumes of the Mississippi Valley Lumberman and Manufacturer has been placed on permanent loan with the society by the magazine’s publication office in Minneapolis. It extends from the first issue, dated August 17, 1876, through the year 1886.

AMONG recent articles by staff members to appear in print are accounts of “The Papers of Jonathan Carver” by Mr. Fridley and of “The Writings of Father Hennepin” by Mr. Cutler, in the Proceedings of the Minnesota Academy of Science for 1955. Both appear under the general heading “An Evaluation of Documents Useful to the Ethnohistorian.” Mr. Fridley also is the author of the introduction to a new edition of J. G. Kohl’s Kitchi-Gami: Wanderings Round Lake Superior, recently issued under the imprint of Ross and Haines, Inc. (Minneapolis, 1956). A condensed version of Mrs. Holmquist’s article on the Republican national convention of 1892, which appeared in the June issue of this magazine, is presented in the Minneapolis Star for August 7, and a pictorial version of the same narrative appears in the Picture Magazine of the Minneapolis Tribune for July 22.