
Reviewed by Elden Johnson

AMONG the more lasting achievements of the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission, brought into being to both sponsor and co-ordinate centennial events in Minnesota during 1958, is its financing of archaeological investigations conducted by the Minnesota Historical Society at Fort Snelling.

The carefully conducted field excavations (of necessity restricted to the area adjacent to the Round Tower) disclosed the foundations of seven original fort structures, a long section of the original limestone wall, and a number of nineteenth-century buttons, shell casings, bottles, and other objects associated with the life of the fort. Funds also were available to allow the historical society to revise the exhibits in the Round Tower Museum, which, together with the evidence of original structures left exposed when the excavations were completed, now gives visitors to the site a picture of the original Fort Snelling.

The attractive and well-illustrated booklet reviewed here presents the results of those investigations as interpreted by John Callender, who ably conducted the field research for the historical society. Mr. Callender gives an interesting account based on documentary source materials of the construction of the fort in the 1820s, and he describes the original structures still standing and in use. His report on the archaeological investigations presents the evidence encountered enlivened by early nineteenth-century accounts of the use of the fort structures.

The object of the excavations was to determine whether or not the fort might be restorable as a historic monument and thus be preserved for future generations. The excavations indicated that this is a definite possibility. In his introduction to the report, Mr. Russell Fridley, director of the society, recounts the historical importance of the fort and tells of past attempts to preserve it. In so doing, he presents an excellent case for the incorporation of the fort into the state park system. Mr. Fridley and the society deserve much credit for taking the initiative in preventing destruction of the site by highway construction and in organizing this worthwhile and capable piece of historic site archaeology. It is to be hoped that this excavation marks the re-entry of the society into the field of historic site archaeology in Minnesota — a field which it pioneered and which cries for work.

FRONTIER DEMOCRACY

The Making of an American Community: A Case Study of Democracy in a Frontier County. By MERLE CURTI, with the assistance of ROBERT DANIEL, SHAW LIVERMORE, JR., JOSEPH VAN HISE, and MARGARET W. CURTI. (Stanford, California, Stanford University Press, 1959. vii, 483 p. Maps. $8.50.)

Reviewed by Walker D. Wyman

FOR MANY YEARS there has been a guerrilla war in the historical profession over the validity of the "Turner thesis," which held that the frontier experience was the most important influence in shaping the national character. In general, the historians have argued whether the alienation of the public domain and frontier living was as democratizing in effect as Turner believed. Studies of state constitutions and land systems, as well as frontiers in other lands, have characterized this research, but none has probed in depth one frontier community for an answer.

The genius of this volume lies in its attempt to thrust a spade down through frontier society to see if Turner’s point about democracy was

MR. JOHNSON, an archaeologist of wide experience, is assistant professor of anthropology in the University of Minnesota.
true there. At the grassroots, in one small county, it searches for an answer to the question: Was there ‘widespread participation in the making of decisions affecting the common life, the development of initiative and self-reliance, and equality of economic and cultural opportunity’? Trempealeau County in northwestern Wisconsin was chosen for this study because it lay below the pinneries, an agricultural frontier after 1850, and had an abundance of records available. The methods used were those of both historian and social scientist. The whole county population was investigated through census, local government, and other records; diaries, reminiscences, and newspapers made possible a study in depth of leaders and certain institutions; and the samples, impressions, and similar data commonly used by the historian sweeten the methodology used. The result is sixteen chapters which explain the method, sketch the early settlement, and give extended coverage of the whole population’s social structure, social creed, ways of making a living and governing themselves, opportunities for leadership, land ownership, and education. Numerous charts and appendixes list the raw material upon which the generalizations here presented are based.

This volume proves the feasibility of using the quantitative method of the social scientist in reaching conclusions about social phenomena. It does not test the whole Turner thesis, but determines only whether democracy thrived on the Trempealeau County frontier. Professor Curti and his assistants believe that the frontier settler there, whether he was old or young, from New England lineage or a direct immigrant from Poland, improved his economic and political lot in the pioneer days. On that frontier the farm laborer became a landowner and participated widely in decision-making at the town and county levels.

It is hard to quarrel with the methodology used in this book, except to say that it makes history read more like the World Almanac than like the works of Turner and Curti, and it threatens to destroy the last social discipline where literary expression and human warmth still have advocates. As a result of its publication, similar studies in the East, South, and West, and comparative studies in depth of the frontier in other lands and times are required. Professor Curti insists that this book shows only that democracy prospered in one American county named Trempealeau.

JEFFERSON IN FRANCE


Reviewed by Jesse H. Shera

THESE TWO VOLUMES bring to a close Jefferson’s sojourn in France. In September, 1789, he departed from Paris for a six-months’ leave, not knowing that the United States Senate had confirmed his appointment as secretary of state, and four weeks later he arrived in Norfolk. The previous year had brought to a successful conclusion the delicate negotiations of the Consular Convention of 1788, the first to be ratified under the new Constitution. Also, 1788 had brought Jefferson’s proposals for funding the foreign debt of the United States, as well as the long series of documents relating to the whale-oil crisis which had been precipitated by British “dumping” and the monopoly granted by France to the Nantucket whalemen to Dunkerque.

During the period encompassed by these two volumes there was no diminution of Jefferson’s interest in science, and volume 14 is particularly important for his observations on paleontology. Especially noteworthy is the earliest drawing, hitherto unpublished, of the first fossil skeleton to be mounted. The creature depicted is a Megatherium, sent to Jefferson from Madrid in 1789. But of greater concern to the historian is the portrait of Thomas Paine by John Trumbull which had been lost for more than a century and has been only recently identified.

Volume 15 is notable for Jefferson’s accounts

MR. WYMAN, who is widely known for his writings on the history of the West, is professor of history in the Wisconsin State College at River Falls.

DEAN SHERA is head of the school of library science in Western Reserve University at Cleveland.

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of the opening phases of the French Revolution, particularly those momentous events of the summer of 1789, just prior to Jefferson's return to the United States. Of special significance in the development of Jefferson's political and social philosophy is his letter to Madison of September 6, 1789, in which he sets forth for the first time his belief that "the earth belongs in usufruct to the living," and that the dead have no rights or powers over it. The concept seems to have been prompted by Jefferson's French physician, Dr. Richard Gem, and the fact that Jefferson adopted it makes it, as the editors of this volume say, "the one great addition to Jefferson's thought that emerged from his years of residence at the center of European intellectual ferment."

This volume closes with a collection of supplementary materials from the years 1772 to 1789 which were assembled too late to be published in proper chronological sequence. The addition of this material outside its proper place makes all the more regrettable the earlier decision to abandon, with volume 13, the chronological table of contents. This material is now quite thoroughly concealed, but there could be some compensation in the thought that its discovery may serve as a test of the resourcefulness of future generations of graduate students. One cannot but regret, however, that so handsome a monument to historical editing should be so blemished, and it is difficult to suppress the impression that the editors are getting a little tired of their job. This is certainly no time for fatigue; the road stretches into the future like Banquo's progeny.

The publishers have also issued a paper-bound index to volumes 7 through 12 to supplement the earlier index in which were analyzed the first six volumes of the series.

**CARRIAGES TO MOTORCARS**


Reviewed by Frank P. Donovan, Jr.

**THIS BOOK** presents a picture-pageant of American wheeled transport in its early development. Divided into five categories, it covers carriages and stagecoaches, steam railroads, bicycle and other "cycles," and the highway motor vehicle.

In the volume's large quarto pages, some eleven hundred prints, engravings, and photographs, culled from an amazing variety of sources, are reproduced. But the variegated collection belies the labor entailed in carrying the reader apace with the time and the period. This is, in short, a fast-moving panorama of what is essentially a slow-going era.

From *Harper's Weekly, Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, The Scientific American, Currier and Ives prints, rare books, old trade journals, yellowing catalogues, sketches by Joseph Pennell, and paintings of Frederic Remington, the spirit of the day is graphically brought to life. The author has been singularly careful in selecting illustrations with well-chosen social settings. The Concord coach and Conestoga wagon are interesting as works of craftsmanship, but are doubly so when shown in action and in characteristic settings. Occasionally line drawings of vehicles are included to keep the technical purist happy, but they are balanced by contemporary scenes to woo the average reader.

Generally speaking, the balance of the book is good, with each of the respective modes of transportation given their due. The section on the bicycle is the most comprehensive. The evolution of the "bike" from its beginnings abroad to its nation-wide popularity in America during the 1890s is told with skill and enthusiasm. The part on carriages, wagons, and stagecoaches likewise gives an animated over-all picture. Coming to the railroad, contemporary photos and drawings in colorful settings heighten the era far better than could pictures of the development of motive power per se.

The section on street railroads (which also includes elevated and subway lines) is strong on horse and cable cars, but weak on electric traction. As the book goes roughly up to 1910, a picture or two might have been added on pioneer interurban lines. Also, the elevated railway is illustrated in detail, but only New York's experimental subway of 1870 is featured. The same criticism might be leveled at the last sixty-five pages, which are devoted to the motorcar and truck. While some of the illustrations

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**MR. DONOVAN, whose home is in Minneapolis, is specially interested in transportation history.**
go up to 1930, nowhere is there a likeness of the early motorbus.

It would be unfair, however, to dwell at length on petty omissions or minimize the value of the entire work. The book is by all odds a significant contribution to the story of wheeled vehicles in the nation. The captions are ample and they are supplemented by appropriate and accurate running comment. Sharp-eyed Minnesotans will spot a picture of a pioneer Van Depoele trolley in Minneapolis on p. 195 and note a St. Paul road-building scene of the 1890s on p. 61. Historians will be grateful for the long list of picture credits appearing at the end of the volume.

GRANDFATHER'S MOVIES

The Lost Panoramas of the Mississippi. By John Francis McDermott. (Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, 1958. xvii, 211 p. Illustrations. $7.50.)

Reviewed by Bertha L. Heilbron

The Social History of Midwest America is substantially enriched by the appearance of this work, which presents an attractive and readable record of five panorama painters of the 1840s. The “moving newsreels or travelogues” they produced have long interested Professor McDermott, who published earlier accounts of three of these men and the great rolls of canvas on which they recorded their visual impressions of the Mississippi Valley. Now he has not only expanded his previous contributions, but has added material on others who pictured the Father of Waters in the mid-nineteenth century. Of the seven chapters in his book, five are devoted to the experiences as travelers, painters, and entertainers of John Banvard, John Rowson Smith, Sam Stockwell, Henry Lewis, and Leon Pomarède.

While the Mississippi is the main theme of Mr. McDermott's book, the artist-producers who publicized the gigantic stream by means of pictures of appropriate dimensions are its central characters. As a background for their stories, he provides a chapter on “Newsreel—Old Style,” in which he sketches the history of panorama painting from 1787 to 1830. Some of the pictures produced during this era were, according to Mr. McDermott, “extraordinary,” but, he writes, “they were mere trifles compared to the supernewsreels made in the West.

In the history of the theater there are no productions so nearly incredible as the panoramas of the Mississippi.”

The “lengthy, laborious, and expensive trips” made by his five painters while sketching river scenery, and the weeks and months spent in transferring sketches onto thousands of feet of canvas are vividly described by Mr. McDermott. He also surveys the area depicted, which in four out of five cases included the whole course of the great river from the Gulf of Mexico to the Falls of St. Anthony, and he reports on the many localities both in America and abroad where these gigantic ancestors of the motion picture were displayed. His accounts vary greatly in length, reflecting the availability of material on his subjects. More than sixty pages, for example, are devoted to Lewis, while only thirteen are given to Stockwell. Since the activities of all five painters centered in St. Louis, the author leans heavily on that city's newspapers for his material. In addition he has used manuscript letters, diaries, and sketchbooks; the detailed descriptive guides published for the panoramas; a few New York, Boston, and New Orleans newspapers; and scores of books and articles, contemporary and modern. An impressive array of sources, familiar and obscure, fills eight pages at the close of the book. Both this list and the credit lines on numerous illustrations indicate that Mr. McDermott has made wide use of the Minnesota Historical Society's resources, which are rich in material relating to panoramas.

In a brief “Epilogue,” the author deals with the “Fate of the Pictures.” As indicated in his book title, all were “lost” — a matter of regret not only for historians, but for anyone concerned with American life and art. What it would mean to witness a mile-by-mile representation of the Mississippi, its cities and villages, its farms and plantations, its scenery, its settlers, and its traffic as they looked a century and more ago can only be guessed. If one of the five panoramas described in this book had survived, it could have done much to clarify the modern concept of the Mississippi Valley at mid-century.

As it is, a few paintings by Banvard, Lewis, and Pomarède, a handful of engravings from printed
sources, and the colored lithographs in Lewis' book on the Mississippi give only a hint of the vivid pictorial record that was lost with these primitive movies. From available sources, however, the author feels that "we can reconstruct the pictures and assert confidently that they were effective facsimiles of life on the Mississippi a century ago."

In the first of two appendixes, Mr. McDermott discusses "The Length of the Panoramas," and he concludes that for at least three of them the "claims are simply in the tradition of tall tales." Nevertheless, he believes that they were "quite long enough to be considered prodigious." The second appendix, which deals with "Three Other 'Mississippi' Panoramas," might well quote the name of the stream, for here the author mentions not only the Hudson and the Dickeson-Egan pictures, but "John Stevens' Panorama of the Sioux War." He justifies inclusion of the latter on the ground that this Minnesota picture is "one of the very few extant moving panoramas," noting that versions are preserved both by the Minnesota Historical Society and the Gilcrease Museum at Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mr. McDermott's study is by all odds the most complete and satisfying review of panoramas thus far published, and it is not likely to be surpassed for many a year. The University of Chicago Press has produced the book in handsome format, with more than sixty appropriate illustrations.

**FRONTIER WAR**

*The Great Sioux Uprising,* By C. M. OEHLER. (New York, Oxford University Press, 1959. xvi, 272 p. Illustrations, maps. $5.00.)

Reviewed by Willoughby M. Babcock

NINETY-SEVEN years ago the young state of Minnesota, its potential fighting man power already sharply cut by the demands for troops on Southern battlefields, was suddenly faced with a major Indian war along its western frontier of settlement.

On August 17, 1862, the murder by four reckless young Sioux braves of several white settlers near Acton in Meeker County touched off an explosion which had been generating for some twenty-five years. The warlike Sioux, crowded ever westward by the advance of white settlement, finally attempted with gun and tomahawk to check the irresistible tide which was depriving them of their homes and livelihood. The ensuing two years of murders, ambushes, battles, and large-scale military operations cost some five hundred settlers' lives and huge financial losses in houses, livestock, and crops, and it virtually depopulated most of the area of southwestern Minnesota.

Mr. Oehler has told the story of the Minnesota Sioux Outbreak vividly and well, but the jacket of the book, with its lurid red and black illustration, gives the reader a key to his viewpoint. The picture, incidentally, is reproduced from a panel in one of the panoramas owned by the Minnesota Historical Society. The author fairly revels in blood and rapine. He has used virtually all the reminiscent accounts of survivors, most of them published long after the Sioux War, as well as histories of the massacre produced when popular hysteria and fear were at their peak.

Mr. Oehler's criticism of General Henry H. Sibley's position as commander of the troops hastily dispatched to quell the outbreak is, in this reviewer's opinion, unjustified. Apparently the author has failed to analyze and does not comprehend the difficulties under which Sibley was forced to operate. Most of his men, whether members of the Minnesota volunteer regiments that were being mustered in at Fort Snelling for Civil War service or of local irregular companies organized in response to Governor Ramsey's emergency proclamation, were utterly raw, poorly armed, ignorant of military discipline, and totally unfit to stand up against the quick surprise attacks and ambushes of Sioux warriors.

Mr. Oehler does not seem to realize that for cavalry, vital in dealing with fast-moving Indians, Sibley had only local companies of mounted volunteers, whose numbers varied from day to day with the locality. Only the battle training of the experienced soldiers in the Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry prevented the battle of Wood Lake from being another disaster, like that suffered at Birch Coulee. With forces like Sibley's, the most experienced military commander would have had to move slowly while training his men, and while Sibley knew Indians, he had no military experience. The

MR. BABCOCK is curator of newspapers on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society.
wonder is that he accomplished so much, while at the same time preventing a wholesale slaughter of nearly three hundred white captives held by the hostiles.

As a vividly written and fairly accurate account of the Sioux Outbreak, Mr. Oehler's book can be recommended for the general reader interested in Minnesota history.

RIVER'S SOURCE

The Itasca Story. By John Dobie. (Minneapolis, Ross and Haines, Inc., 1959. ix, 202 p. Illustrations. $4.00.)

Reviewed by Elizabeth Bachmann

THIS BOOK provides an answer for all the hundreds of people who have loved Itasca Park and wished that they could learn more about it. Mr. Dobie has spent many years gathering material about the park in the course of his work there as a research biologist for the division of game and fish of the Minnesota department of conservation. Absorbed with the lore and beauty of the region and steeped in its history, he was the logical person to collect and correlate material about the park. This book is the satisfying result.

Mr. Dobie has assembled many hitherto scattered bits of information concerning Itasca Park. Old residents provided interesting data regarding people and places. Each of the various divisions of the conservation department — forestry, parks, game and fish — had valuable statistics in its files and records. The Minnesota Historical Society provided a wealth of material. All were segments which, when fitted together, made The Itasca Story as told by Mr. Dobie.

“Lake Itasca was a gem lost in the wilderness until Henry R. Schoolcraft discovered it in 1832,” according to Mr. Dobie. He notes that earlier explorers failed to find the true source of the Mississippi because they looked for it north of Lake Bemidji, and he reports on the work of the first scientific observer to visit the Itasca area, Joseph N. Nicollet.

The author then goes on to tell of early settlers, some of whom, like Theodore Wegmann, Martin Heinzelman, Ernest Sauers, and John Stillwell, were known to people still living. In surveying the early history of the region, Mr. Dobie gives due credit to Jacob V. Brower and others who labored for its preservation as a state park that all the people could enjoy.

The scope of Mr. Dobie's study is reflected in his chapter titles, which include “Building the Park,” “The Forestry Board Takes Over,” “Itasca Timber,” “Wildlife of the Park,” “The Forest School and Biological Station,” and “Wilderness Problems.” “Park Finances,” “Park Names,” and “Plants and Animals” are described in an appendix. Early maps of the Itasca area and pictures of the country and people who figured in its history illustrate the book.

WISCONSIN FORESTS


Reviewed by Clodaugh Neiderheiser

IN THIS small, paper-bound volume, succinctly written and well-documented, Professor Carstensen traces the trial and error process through which Wisconsin hammered out a land policy for its northern counties — agriculture only on lands suitable for agriculture, and reforestation and recreational uses for nonfarm lands. He describes the attempts first at timber conservation through a “State Park Reservation,” set aside in 1879 but sold as timberlands some twenty years later, and then at reforestation through establishment of a department of forestry under Edwin M. Griffith in 1903. It is noteworthy that the 1897 legislature, which authorized sale of the “park lands” and other state-owned timberlands, also set up a commission to formulate a plan to “protect and utilize” the forest resources of the state which resulted in establishment of the Wisconsin forestry department.

After Griffith’s forestry program met with initial, brief success, however, opposition began to arise from the agricultural interests which

MISS BACHMANN is connected with the division of forestry in the Minnesota department of conservation.

MISS NEIDERHEISER is research associate on the staff of the Forest History Foundation in St. Paul.

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insisted that northern Wisconsin stump lands could be developed into productive farms and should not be set aside in nontaxpaying state forests. With the aid of anti-LaFollette conservatives, and a ruling against the forestry amendment by the state Supreme Court, they were able to force Griffith's resignation in 1915. Eventually, in the 1920s, faced by the rising costs of supplying roads and schools to families on isolated, tax-delinquent farms, and led by Oneida County, northern Wisconsin adopted zoning restrictions and paved the way for gradual reforestation of the cutover regions.

Dr. Carstensen's fine presentation is enhanced by the delightful line drawings of Byron C. Jorns.

. . . on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

IN DISCUSSING the question “It's History, But Is It Literature?” in the New York Times Book Review for April 26, George F. Kennan considers some of the problems that must be faced by the historian. After defining the “limits beyond which the historian has no right to go,” the author notes that “The true mark of his trade is the fact that he accepts a set of rules far more rigorous and confining than those which govern the novelist or the poet. He cannot create the pieces of his puzzle; he must attempt to put it together from those that he finds lying around.” Although Mr. Kennan points out that “The writing of history may lack the glamour and excitement of fiction,” he concludes that “What is done in this quiet and disciplined realm can have, when it is done with honesty and insight and devotion, a dignity second to that of no other branch of writing.”

“THE RECORD of a nation's beginnings, accomplishments, and experience from 1770 onward” is crammed into the huge structure which houses the National Archives, according to Evan Hill, who describes the institution in the Saturday Review for February 21. “The great building is far from being a dead storage loft,” he writes. “This is the strongbox of a nation, a well-organized, constantly used depository of a democracy's most exciting and valuable history.” There the archivist and a staff of 250 guard more than 775,000 cubic feet of priceless heritage—a mass of documents that would fill more than 100,000 four-drawer file cabinets and would extend for 150 miles.

DRAWING largely upon “the words and artistry of the men who first saw the land and did the deeds,” the story of “How the West Was Won” is surveyed in seven successive weekly issues of Life from April 6 to May 18. The first installment, entitled “Opening a Land of Destiny,” deals with explorers like Lewis and Clark, Zebulon M. Pike, and Stephen H. Long. Accounts of their exploits are illustrated with the work of early artists who “became both trail blazers and recorders of the new land,” including George Catlin, Samuel Seymour, Charles Bodmer, and Alfred J. Miller. Of special Minnesota interest is the installment published on May 4, which presents a brief account of the “First Bloody Uprising of the Sioux” in Minnesota in 1862. With it are reproduced in full color seven panels from John Stevens’ panorama of the uprising, which is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society, as well as a photograph of Stevens in his studio at Rochester.

USEFUL to historians and genealogists alike are the Special Publications issued by the National Genealogical Society as reprints from its quarterly. Number 17, for example, presents an essay on Genealogy, Handmaid of History, by Lester J. Cappon (9 p.); and Number 14, which deals with General Aids to Genealogical Research (50 p.), includes articles on “Genealogy and American Scholarship” by Wayne C. Grover, on “How the National Archives Can Aid Genealogists” by Thomas M. Owen, Jr., and on “The Territorial Papers as a Source for the Genealogist” by Clarence E. Carter. Number 16, Special Aids to Genealogical Research in Northeastern and Central States (70 p.), includes specific suggestions for research in the Midwest states of Iowa and Wisconsin. A symposium by various experts on Genealogical Research in German-Speaking Lands (23 p.) appears as Number 19 of the series; and suggestions for tracing the ancestry of Americans of Jewish Descent (10 p.) are offered by Malcolm H. Stern in Number 20.

THE TRANSLATED letters of Norwegian immigrants which were edited by Theodore C. Blegen and published in Land of Their Choice (1953) are now available in the original lan-
guage. They appear in a volume of *Amerikabrev* recently issued in Norway (Oslo, 1958. 408 p.), once more under Dean Blegen's editorship. An introduction has been provided by Ingrid Semningsen, who has made a special study of immigration from Norway. The final chapter is devoted largely to letters written by Norwegians who settled in Minnesota.

AN ARTICLE about the “Activities of a Swedish Emigrant Agent” by Olof Thörn appears in two installments in the January and April issues of the *Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly*. The narrative is based on papers found on a farm in Sweden once owned by August Larsson, who with his brothers ran an agency at Göteborg in the 1870s and 1880s. Judging from the examples cited by Mr. Thörn, the collection includes numerous letters from land agents in Minnesota, chiefly at St. Paul and Minneapolis, as well as promotional items issued by Midwest railroads. A letter quoted in the second installment relates to some negotiations of 1887 with August Swanson of Cloquet, who was seeking assistance for about fifty prospective emigrants still in Sweden. According to an introductory note, the Larsson manuscripts, which are preserved in the Provincial Archives of Göteborg, are the “only known papers of a Swedish emigrant agency.”

A USEFUL survey of “A Half-Century of Midwestern Fiction,” contributed by John T. Flanagan to the Winter issue of *Critique*, deals with the period from 1900 to 1950. Prominent among the writers he discusses are three Minnesotans—Sinclair Lewis, O. E. Rölvaag, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Another item of special Minnesota interest in the issue is “West of the Mississippi: An Interview with Frederick Manfred,” recorded at his home near Minneapolis in July, 1938.

WILLARD PRICE is the author of an article on “The Upper Mississippi” from Lake Itasca to Cairo, Illinois, published in the *National Geographic Magazine* for November. In the first five hundred miles of its travels, writes Mr. Price, “Old Man River grows up.” He describes the stream and its route, and presents historical and current information about traffic, trade, and towns along its course. Among Minnesota communities mentioned are Little Falls, the Twin Cities, and Winona. Of the forty-four photographs which illustrate the narrative, more than half depict Minnesota scenes.

SHIPPING DISASTERS on the Great Lakes from 1880 to 1850 are described in *The Salvager*, a recent work by Mary Frances Doner (Minneapolis, 1958. 312 p.). It recounts the life of Captain Tom Reid and describes his long career as a salvager of wrecked vessels on the Great Lakes. Much of the narrative is based on the records of the company of which Captain Reid was the head. Among the Lake Superior disasters described is the wreck of the “Mataafa” at the entrance of Duluth Harbor in the autumn of 1906.

IN *The Poor Hater* (Chicago, 1958. 387 p.), William Ready has written a novel of Irish immigration in the first half of the nineteenth century. One of the interesting projects of its hero, Park Leary, is to settle Irish immigrants in Minnesota and Canada. He travels to St. Paul and to Neepawanna (Winnipeg) at the time of general unrest among the métis, only to be killed before his plans materialize. Historical names are generally disguised in the novel; however, there seems to be no reason for consistently misspelling Pembina.

JOHN T. FLANAGAN

HENRY M. RICE, Governor Alexander Ramsey, Daniel A. Robertson, and other Minnesotans figure in an article on “John C. Breckinridge, Superior City Land Speculator,” which Philip R. Cloutier contributes to the January *Register* of the Kentucky Historical Society. According to this account, Breckinridge began to invest in Wisconsin lands in 1854, when he was a Kentucky Congressman. His interest in Superior continued while he served as vice-president of the United States and long after the panic of 1857 crushed the hopes of many speculators. The author has culled much of the information about land transfers and values presented in his narrative from the deed books of Douglas County, Wisconsin.

BEFORE the spring meeting of the Upper Midwest History Conference, which was held at the College of Saint Teresa in Winona on April 11, Professor Robert P. Wilkins of the department of history in the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks read a paper on the “Nonpartisan League and Upper Midwest Isolationism.” The discussion which followed was led by Professor Carl M. Chrislock of Augsburg College, Minneapolis.

THE North Dakota election of 1900 is analyzed by D. Jerome Tweton in an article on “The Midwestern Immigrant and Politics: A Case Study,” which appears in *Mid-America* for April. The author describes the roles of Norwegians, Germans, and Canadians in the election, and explains how Minnesota Senator Knute Nelson foiled a plan devised by North Dakota Republi-
Mr. Tweton concludes that in general "politicians thought the ethnic group to be politically important," and that there was a "pattern to the foreign-born vote that followed ethnic lines." He also suggests that "ethnic group identity" influenced immigrant votes.

The "Development of the Grange in Iowa, 1868-1930" is discussed by Myrtle Beinhauer in the Annals of Iowa for April. The author touches upon the work of Oliver H. Kelley in establishing Iowa Granges and gives reasons why in 1872 "over one-half the Granges in the entire United States" were in that state.

The construction of a Montreal canoe, "the fastest and most luxurious mode of travel known to the 'big bourgeos' of the fur trade," is described by D. A. Gillies in the March, 1958, issue of the Canadian Geographical Journal. Under the title "Canot du Maitre or Montreal Canoe," the author tells how he supervised the building of such a craft in 1957 for permanent exhibition in the National Museum of Canada at Ottawa. A series of photographs illustrates major steps in producing the replica of the voyageurs' "express vehicle" without using metal or modern tools.

**THE MINNESOTA SCENE**

The results of fifty years of "study of the evidence for and against the inscription" on the Kensington rune stone are presented by Hjalmar R. Holand, the foremost exponent of its authenticity, in a book entitled A Holy Mission to Minnesota 600 Years Ago (Alexandria, 1959). The "mission," the author relates, was undertaken "by Sir Paul Knutson and his men, at the command of their king." These Norsemen, Mr. Holand asserts, "sailed from Norway to America" and "pushed inland to the center of the continent," where "their trail ends with an inscription chiseled on a rock." In eleven unpagated sections, the writer reviews the stories of Norse exploration and of the discovery of the Kensington stone, discusses "Evidence on the Authenticity of the Inscription," describes physical and written items that he believes substantiate the writing on the stone, and outlines "Arguments Against the Inscription." He also devotes a section to Olaf Ohman, the Swedish settler on whose central Minnesota farm the stone was found.

Professor Erik Wahlgren of the University of California at Los Angeles, the chief spokesman against authenticity, reviews his arguments in an article on "The Case of the Kensington Rune Stone" in American Heritage for April. "On no possible score," concludes Mr. Wahlgren, "can the Minnesota rune stone be accepted as ancient. And if it is not ancient, it is modern and thus a hoax, along with the Cardiff Giant and the Piltdown skull." He considers the stone as the "tangible record of a delightful hoax," which "deserves to be kept on exhibit at Alexandria as a permanent memorial of Scandinavian pioneers in the state of Minnesota." He adds, however, that "the date is a little early—536 years early." Mr. Wahlgren has presented his conclusions in greater detail in his book on The Kensington Stone: A Mystery Solved, which was reviewed in the issue of this magazine for December, 1958.

Among the "Army Chaplains at Frontier Posts, 1830-1860" discussed by Richard D. Gamble in the December Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church is the Reverend Ezekiel K. Gear of Fort Snelling. His appointment under a Congressional act of 1838 is noted, with quotations from a letter giving some of his reasons for accepting the post. Mr. Gamble relates that in lieu of a chapel, at Fort Snelling in 1839 a "small room in one of the barracks was used for religious purposes," and that at Fort Ripley in the 1850s a "simple room decently fixed up" served as a chapel.

The Reverend John G. Riheldaffer was "the first Minnesotan to cope with juvenile delinquency," according to Gareth Hiebert, who contributes a feature article on the "State Education Pioneer" to the St. Paul Pioneer Press for February 22. Stressed by the writer is Riheldaffer's work as superintendent of the state's first reform school, a co-educational institution opened in 1868 in buildings still occupied by Concordia College of St. Paul. The reform methods used by the pioneer educator, including a routine of classroom combined with physical labor in the school's fields, shops, and factories, "would be considered boldly progressive even in 1959," writes Mr. Hiebert.

The career of a Minnesota inventor is outlined in an autobiographical Condensed Life History recorded and published by Edwin G. Staude (1959, 85 p.). The writer reports that during the period from 1895 to 1958 he "invented and patented paper package making machinery including adjustable high speed folding paper carton making machines which have a capacity of 100,000 cartons per hour." A list of his patents, many of which were manufactured in St. Paul and Minneapolis, is included.
LETTERS and diaries of “German Witnesses of the Sioux Campaigns” of 1862–64 which were quoted in contemporary Minnesota newspapers are used by Hermann R. Rothfuss as the basis for an article in North Dakota History for October. All were written by soldiers who engaged in the war against the Sioux as members of the Sibley and Sully expeditions. Of special interest are extracts from a diary kept in June and July, 1863, by Lieutenant Christian Exel of the Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry while he was engaged in a march westward from Camp Release.

THE organization of “The Volksfest Association of Minnesota” is reported in the American-German Review for April-May by Hildegard Binder Johnson, who explains that the recently incorporated association “grew out of the German-American Centennial Committee of Minnesota.” The author describes some of the activities of the organization, which plans to preserve the traditions, customs, and heritage of German-speaking people in Minnesota.

THE CAREER of a former Minnesota governor, Jacob A. O. Preus, is the subject of an article by Willmar Thorkelson in the Minneapolis Star for August 27. The author describes Mr. Preus’s political activities, focusing primarily upon his achievements as governor from 1920 to 1926, and includes information about his other interests, especially in relation to the Lutheran Brotherhood Society. The article was published on the occasion of Mr. Preus’s seventy-fifth birthday.

FOR USE in ninth grade social studies classes, a booklet dealing with Minneapolis: Its People, History, Resources, and Government has been published by the Minneapolis Public Schools (1959, 137 p.). It presents in brief outline material on “Economic, Geography and Human Resources,” “Cultural, Recreational, Health and Welfare Activities,” “Education,” and “Government.” According to the foreword, the narrative brings together pertinent historical, geographic, economic, governmental, and sociological knowledge about Minneapolis” compiled by Floyd Pearson. Some extremely short and not always accurate items about the city’s history are included in the opening chapter.

AN “Antiques Kitchen” assembled for the 1958 Minnesota State Fair has been set up at the Hennepin County Historical Society in Minneapolis, according to Agnes Harrigan Mueller, who describes the exhibit in the Antiques Journal for March. The kitchen was planned by Mrs. Lucile Dahl of Minneapolis.

A DAY-BY-DAY record of events in the history of Martin County from the 1850s to 1958 has been compiled by Walter Carlson and presented in a mimeographed booklet entitled This Day in Martin County (1958, 67 p.). It was issued and “made available for newspapers and radio” by the Martin County Historical Society in collaboration with a local centennial committee and veterans’ organization. Included is information on Indian battles, prominent local residents, the organization of townships, villages, and school districts, and the like.

THE OFFICE of Dr. William J. Mayo at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester has become “one of the main tourist attractions” at the medical center, according to an article in the St. Paul Pioneer Press for April 26. With the “help of photos taken of the room shortly before it was dismantled” about 1940, the office was restored by the clinic’s historical committee in 1954.

SELECTIONS from the sketches by Gareth D. Hiebert published in the St. Paul Dispatch under the pseudonym “Oliver Towne” have been assembled in a little book entitled Saint Paul Is My Beat (1958, 154 p.). Although the author states that these stories deal with the “lives and fortunes, buildings and streets of St. Paul as it looked to me in the beginning of the second half of the 20th century,” many of his narratives delve into the city’s past. A section on “Streets, Sights and Sounds,” for example, includes accounts of St. Anthony Avenue as the “End of the Red River Trail,” of the “Old Fort Snelling Road” that is now West Seventh Street, of Summit Avenue and its reminders of once-famous names, and of Jackson and Robert streets and the pioneers for whom they are named. Among the “Neighborhoods and Neighbors” described are Highwood, Grey Cloud Island, Lily Dale, Swede Hollow, Irvine Park, the Sibley House, the old Market Hall, and the Jefferson School. An end-paper map of St. Paul helps to orient the reader of this “whimsical behind-the-scene story of a city.”

THE Ramsey County Historical Society’s new agricultural museum located at the Gibbs homestead near St. Paul is described by Hal Quarfoth in the Minneapolis Star for April 2. Housed in a carriage shed of 1860–70 design, the museum displays early farm equipment, including such items as a thresher made in 1860, a breaking plow, a potato hiller, a fanning mill, and a buggy dating from 1900.
A MOVEMENT to make the Mattocks School of St. Paul a historic site is described by Don Del Fiacco in the St. Paul Pioneer Press for April 26. The author indicates that the St. Paul board of education currently is dealing with the problem of "how adequately to preserve the school," which dates from 1870.

A PICTURE of a "ladder system used in the early days by miners entering and leaving the steep Genoa open pit iron mine at Gilbert" appears with a brief historical sketch of this Mesabi Range community in Skillings' Mining Review for April 11. Included is information about the mine, which was opened in 1896, and facts about the village, which was platted in 1907.

"TO GIVE the traveler a quick glimpse or an introduction to the Scandinavian pioneer movement in Washington and Chisago counties," Theodore A. Norelius has prepared and published an illustrated booklet on Pioneer Traces in and Near Chisago Lakes Area (Lindstrom. 18 p.). He undertakes only "to paint a broad, general picture of the northward movement as it began along that river of pioneers, the St. Croix," in the mid-nineteenth century.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

THE FIRST of five tours arranged by the society for the summer of 1959 was held on May 17, with a total of 170 tourists participating. This unusually large group visited historic sites on the upper Mississippi, including Vasa, Welch, Red Wing, Frontenac, and Prairie Island. Lunch was served at the State Training School for Boys in Red Wing, where the tourists also saw the museum of the Goodhue County Historical Society. On Prairie Island they visited the Indian community, as well as the site of the fort built there by Le Sueur in 1865. Other tours planned for the current season will go to Prairie du Chien, Galena, and Dubuque on June 13 and 14; to the Red River Valley on July 18 and 19; to Winnipeg on August 15 and 16; and will cover the Twin Cities area on September 13. Since it has been impossible to charter an airplane for the Winnipeg trip, as originally planned, the tour will be made by rail.

FOR HIS ARTICLE on "Sidney M. Owen: An Editor in Politics," published in the December, 1958, issue of this magazine, Carl H. Chrislock received the society's Solon J. Buck Award for 1958. This is the second time that Professor Chrislock has received the award, which carries with it a prize of fifty dollars and is given each year to the author of the best article appearing in the society's quarterly. The winner for 1958 was selected by a committee consisting of Dean Merrill E. Jarchow of Carleton College, Chairman, Professor Winton Solberg of Macalester College, and the editor of the quarterly. Dean Jarchow presented the award at the society's annual meeting on April 21.

THE SOCIETY'S MUSEUM on the third floor of the Historical Building has been completely redecorated, and many of the exhibits have been rearranged. Among the newly installed displays is a Sioux War panorama of eleven panels painted at New Ulm by Anton Gag, Alexander Schwendinger, and Christian Heller, and first shown there early in 1893. This huge pictorial record of events in the Minnesota Indian uprising of 1862 was discovered and purchased at Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1955 by Mr. James Taylor Dunn, who later joined the society's staff as librarian and generously added the panorama to its collections in 1957. The pictures, which total a hundred and fifty feet in length, are the subject of a feature article by Don O'Grady in the St. Paul Pioneer Press for April 5.

PORTRAITS and brief sketches of the society's president, Mr. Leonard Lampert, Jr., of Minneapolis, and a half dozen of his predecessors appear in the Picture Magazine of the Minneapolis Tribune for April 19. The accompanying text points out that the society's thirty-three leaders during a hundred and ten years have included "governors, senators, generals, explorers, merchants, lawyers, clergymen, university presidents, and even a steamboat captain."

CENTENNIAL activities conducted by the society during 1958 are reviewed briefly in the Final Report of the Minnesota Statehood Centennial Commission, published in April (92 p.). Included are accounts of publications issued by the society in 1958, statistics on the use of its collections, reports on the Fort Snelling archaeological project and other historic sites developed during the year, and a note on the historic tours conducted during the summer months.

AS THIS ISSUE goes to press, several matters of importance to the society are still pending before the special session of the legislature. In addition to the appropriation for the next two years, these include bills for the establishment of a state park at old Crow Wing, near Brainerd, and for the creation of a state Civil War centennial commission. The legislature's action on these matters will be reported in a future issue.