
Reviewed by Russell W. Fridley

THIS PROVOCATIVE volume is written with verve and feeling by an unusually knowledgeable historian whose career has encompassed distinguished services as editor, writer, administrator, and trustee for a number of historical institutions. The study on which the book is based was sponsored by the Massachusetts Historical Society, the American Antiquarian Society, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Virginia Historical Society and was made possible by a grant from the Council on Library Resources, Incorporated, a subsidiary of the Ford Foundation.

Mr. Whitehill visited more than thirty states in the course of his survey. He found historical societies unusually resistant to patterns, norms, and generalizations. "The individuality of hundreds of historical societies," he writes, "is so distinct, and desirable so, that no ready formula is any more likely to be found than a structure that will embrace the humanities and the natural sciences." In an age of conformity and standardization he came across refreshing evidence that all regions of the country have their share of "opposite-minded persons who . . . cherish the characteristics of building and scene that differentiate their county from the next."

Broadly speaking, he concludes that there are two dominant types of historical societies — the independent and the publicly supported. The former first took root in New England, with the establishment of the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1791. Institutions of this type have been privately supported from the beginning. The publicly supported society came later, finding its most fertile soil in the Middle West, where enduring institutions were founded in Wisconsin and Minnesota as early as 1849 — "before there was any considerable body of history to record."

The Minnesota society's unique place in this movement is described as follows: "In the autumn of 1849, less than eight months after the establishment of Minnesota Territory . . . the fifth act of the Territorial Legislature was the incorporation of a Minnesota Historical Society. This cheerful anachronism, comparable to the notion of establishing historical societies in Virginia in 1607 or in Massachusetts in 1620, occurred at a time when the 5,000 white inhabitants of Minnesota were confined to a small wedge between the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers."

Mr. Whitehill believes that the independent society, by shunning wide public contact, has more ably served historical scholarship. Although a number of state societies have grown larger and more affluent than the independent organizations, he seriously questions whether the price paid — namely the popularization of history through tours, markers, and museums — is not too great. He feels that the two types possess basically different objectives: "The independent society is primarily concerned with the advancement of learning; the publicly-supported society not only with its advancement but its wide dissemination."

He recommends no major changes for the independent historical society. Its chief problem, he repeatedly emphasizes, is a desperate need for increased financial support. On the other hand, he saw much that disturbed him in the state-supported institutions. While recognizing that they differ greatly in resources and performance, he is nevertheless concerned about their commercialization, preoccupation with press releases and public relations, ancestor worship, image building, and involvement in tourist promotion.

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Mr. Whitehill's book has aroused sharp criticism in certain quarters, where it is considered an unfair polemic against the publicly supported societies — particularly the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, which he has chosen as the prototype of such institutions. This reviewer finds it difficult to accept his conclusion that historical scholarship and popularization are in necessary opposition — that museum exhibits, markers, and historic sites do not belong under the same roof as publications, books, and manuscripts. Used with care and competence, these newer forms of interpretation are valuable tools of education and can frequently heighten public appreciation and understanding of the past.

The author's arbitrary division of historical societies into two camps is unconvincing and often confusing. Publicly supported societies differ greatly in legal structure, independence, competence, and professional standards. Some bear a closer resemblance to private societies than to the state agency type of organization most common in the South. It is a moot point whether a society is more independent if its source of support is a state appropriation or a generous benefactor. More clarity on this important point is needed in order to portray faithfully the strengths and weaknesses of the various organizations.

While Mr. Whitehill somewhat overdraws the virtues of the privately supported societies, he has produced an illuminating book which deserves the widespread attention it has received. Historical societies throughout the country will do well to heed his call for renewed fidelity to historical fact, for discrimination in collecting, for the encouragement of quality in historical research and writing, and for opposition to the increasing commercialization and distortion of history.

**FOLKLORE AND HISTORY**

**Voices in the Valley: Mythmaking and Folk Belief in the Shaping of the Middle West.**

By Frank R. Kramer. (Madison, The University of Wisconsin Press, 1964. xvii, 300 p. Illustrations. $5.00.)

Reviewed by David W. Noble

This is a most important, fascinating, and stimulating book. Professor Kramer, a student of classical civilization, has used his understanding of the role of myth in ancient cultures to illuminate with brilliant insight American society in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In a restrained and quiet manner, he is engaged in a major crusade. He believes that all men at all times see the world through eyes conditioned by a cultural imagination and that this imagination, while it is unique in its detail, shares essential mythical components with those of all other cultures. He maintains that the best way to understand the outlook of a society is not through the words of its leaders but through its major myths. And he finds it of particular interest to examine the myths of the American Midwest "because the interior moved so rapidly from the wilderness frontiers of the nation to the industrial frontiers of the world that we have an unparalleled opportunity to see how the myths of one folk shouldered those of another and were fused and transformed under the impact of historical forces. And it is because it was in the Middle West that industry adapted agrarian and labor myths to its own myth of the American way."

The first section of the book is a series of essays on "Frenchman and Huron." In exploring the folk beliefs of Indians and French explorers, primarily Jesuit missionaries, the author introduces his readers to the operation of myth. Perhaps because modern Americans operate from a myth of rationality in which they deny that they hold myths, Professor Kramer feels that he can lead the reader more gently by the hand to the existence of the phenomenon in nineteenth century America if he makes the point that the central myth of the Midwest — that of a new Eden in the Western Hemisphere — was originated by seventeenth-century Jesuits.

In the major section of the book, "The Great Interior," he then examines the clash among the folklores of Yankee, Pennsylvania-German, and southern Scotch-Irish as they came together in the Midwest. He suggests the manner in which all three bodies of belief came to focus on a vision of the homestead as the center of the new universe. But each group interpreted this nucleus in different terms; it was the Yankee with his faith in rational and
mechanical compounds who successfully argued that one could have the homestead and progress by adding productive elements together in the corporation until the agrarian family unit found new expression in Henry Ford’s homestead at Highland Park which produced cars endlessly and naturally on the assembly line.

Professor Kramer concludes with a section called “History and the Myth,” in which he presents briefly his argument for a study of all cultures through the role of myth. The fact that all his essays are brief and suggestive, rather than lengthy and conclusive, will make it easy for many to disregard his contribution. But it is seminal, and it will serve as the theoretical basis for many longer and more finished studies in the future.

REBELS IN BLUE

The Galvanized Yankees. By D. ALEXANDER BROWN. (Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1963. 243 p. Illustrations. $5.50.)

Reviewed by Kenneth A. Carley

ONE OF THE strangest and least known military units to serve during the Civil War period was the United States Volunteers, better known as “Galvanized Yankees.” The outfit was made up of captured Confederate soldiers who were released from wretched Northern prisons and who put on the blue uniforms of the United States Army—not to meet their former comrades in the South but expressly to fight Plains Indians on the Western frontier.

In all, some six thousand Confederates were recruited in six regiments. Many of them came from the Rock Island and Camp Douglas prisons in Illinois. Their varying fortunes in combating Indians, disease, weather, and monotony between September, 1864, and November, 1866, have been chronicled expertly by D. Alexander Brown, a librarian in the University of Illinois and a veteran campaigner with both Western and Civil War subjects.

The Galvanized Yankees were received with skepticism at first, especially when some deserted. However, their rate of desertion, says Mr. Brown, “was only slightly higher than in state volunteer regiments of the Union.” Actually it was not long before the Confederates were accepted as very helpful in the West. General Alfred Sully, the hard-bitten commander in Dakota Territory (and a former colonel of the First Minnesota Regiment), even went to Chicago in person to enlist a regiment from prisoners held at Camp Douglas.

The record of the six regiments, says the author, “is one in which any American could take pride.” Then he tells the story of each unit—how some regiments restored stage and mail service between the Missouri River and California, while others escorted supply trains along the Oregon and Santa Fe trails, and still others rebuilt telegraph lines and guarded stations. Several were killed by Indians, blizzards, or disease.

Of special interest to readers in the Upper Midwest is the fact that four companies of the First Volunteers garrisoned Forts Ridgely, Ripley, Abercrombie, and Wadsworth in the Minnesota district. In giving a brief background of the state’s Sioux Uprising, Mr. Brown makes one of his few quickly recognizable slips when he says 1,500 were killed in the outbreak (at least twice the actual number). Some of the book’s most exciting pages are devoted to the rugged service other companies of the First Volunteers put in at Fort Rice in Dakota Territory. Neither the Indians nor the weather “co-operated” there as they did for companies serving in Minnesota.

The author mentions at least three Minnesotans who were officers connected in various ways with the Galvanized Yankees. Captain A. Smith Lybe, formerly of the Fifth Minnesota, commanded a company of the Third Volunteers and got mixed up in the Battle of Platte Bridge. Lieutenant Colonel Josias King, formerly of the First Minnesota, was commander of Fort Larned, Kansas, when the Second Volunteer Regiment was based there. General John B. Sanborn, who had been colonel of the Fourth Minnesota and led larger units, was for a time commander of the district where the Second United States Volunteers served.

So little has been written on the Galvanized Yankees that Mr. Brown has used original
sources almost exclusively. He thus has written a fresh book on a fresh subject. He has had the good sense to tell his story straightforwardly without undue “pushing.” Annotation, illustrations, maps, and an index enhance the book’s value.

**PIONEER’S STORY**


Reviewed by Rhoda R. Gilman

THESE REMINISCENCES were originally set down for the author’s family, but now, after nearly fifty years, they have been published, with an introduction by his grandson, Augustine V. Gardner. According to Mr. Gardner they were written by Le Duc “on his own Remington typewriter when he was over eighty-five years of age.” Only one of the essays dates from an earlier period. It is an amusing account of the author’s experiences while taking a live buffalo to represent Minnesota at New York’s Crystal Palace Exhibition in 1853. First prepared for presentation before the Minnesota Historical Society in 1898, the tale was eventually published in an early issue of *Minnesota History.* Several other articles published by Le Duc are not included.

Despite the title of the book, only nine of its twenty-one chapters deal with the Civil War. These cover Le Duc’s extensive army experience, from the peninsular campaign of 1862 to Sherman’s capture of Atlanta. As a quartermaster he saw little action, but his vivid anecdotes of mud, mules, and the problems of moving an army will no doubt interest Civil War enthusiasts.

The remainder of the volume documents in a rambling but readable style the life of a man who was in a number of ways typical of the middlewestern frontier. Like many prominent Minnesotans of his time, Le Duc was a jack of all professions: a lawyer of sorts, a bookseller, publisher, author, miller, railroad promoter, soldier, and government official. He was not an immigrant from the Eastern seaboard, but the son of a pioneer family which had moved to central Ohio as soon as the Indians were driven out. He received a good education, and the friends he made while attending Kenyon College accounted for his captaincy in the Quartermaster Corps and his later appointment as commissioner of agriculture under Rutherford B. Hayes.

His arrival in Minnesota coincided roughly with that of Alexander Ramsey, and he preceded such men as James J. Hill, William D. Washburn, John S. Pillsbury, and Ignatius Donnelly. But where others saw opportunity in the raw new land and grasped it firmly, Le Duc’s fingers never quite closed upon success. Several times he enjoyed affluence only to lose it, and he remained essentially a dabbler—in science, literature, and public administration, as well as in business. His recollections reveal a man who was kindly, if somewhat pompous, observant, articulate, and fond of mentioning the public figures he had known and the ideas and events he had foretold. They suggest a haunting awareness of having been present with many advantages at the beginning of the state’s development and yet of having failed to leave a strongly recognizable stamp on its future.

**ENGINEER’S MEMOIRS**

*Quest for Ore.* By RUSSELL H. BENNETT. (Minneapolis, T. S. Denison & Company, Inc., 1963. 410 p. Illustrations. $5.95.)

Reviewed by June Drenning Holmquist

IN THIS readable and far-ranging book, Mr. Bennett, a Minneapolis mining engineer, reviews some of the high lights in his career, which began as a surveyor for the Meriden Iron Company on Minnesota’s Mesabi Range. Four of the volume’s twenty-one chapters deal with the author’s experiences on that range from 1922 to 1928 and with the earlier career of one of its pioneers, his father, Russell M. Bennett. Also included is information on the Bennett family’s estate, “Cedarhurst” on Lake Minnetonka, and on the writer’s grandparents and his great-grandfather, David Thomas, a pioneer ironmaster in Pennsylvania.

Many familiar names in the development of the Mesabi are sprinkled throughout these chapters—Edmund J. and John M. Longyear,

MRS. GILMAN is the editor of this magazine.
the Merritt brothers, John S. Pillsbury, the lumbering firm of Wright and Davis, James J. Hill, Price McKinney, and Hugh Roberts, to name a few. By proving the existence of ore on lands owned by the Pillsbury family in the 1890s, the elder Bennett in partnership with J. M. Longyear, became the owner of several valuable tracts on the Mesabi. The author recounts in some detail the fascinating story of how this deal was made. He also includes some of his own memories of conditions on the range in the 1920s and provides a clear explanation of its geology. In this connection he makes the comment that the Mesabi has “the amazing simplicity of the great mining districts of the world. Wherever one finds a district that has a record of production ... in the billions — and these can be counted on the fingers of two hands — one finds this simplicity of geologic structure. This makes for cheap development and cheap extraction.”

Leaving the Mesabi as a young man, Mr. Bennett pursued the “quest for ore” which is the book’s theme in such far places as Cuba, Honduras, Mexico, Canada, Idaho, New Guinea, and Colombia. A perceptive observer with a wide range of interests, his comments are by no means limited to minerals. He describes the birds of Central America, for example, and the flowers found above timber line in British Columbia; he speaks of the perils of snowslides, the dangers and beauties of the jungle, the ancient mines of early Spaniards in Mexico, and other topics.

New to this reader was Mr. Bennett’s story of the development of the vast nickel deposit near Sudbury, Ontario, an enterprise with which he and the E. J. Longyear Company were closely associated in the late 1920s. This account is enriched by a wealth of firsthand detail, as is the author’s description of the attempt of the Electro Manganese Corporation, with which he was also associated, to make available the low-grade manganese ores of the Cuyuna Range. Formed in 1939, the company built a plant at Knoxville, Tennessee, and while the process it perfected did not prove workable for Cuyuna ores, it was successful in producing a very pure manganese from ores of other areas.

Mr. Bennett remarks that “a book written exclusively about the Mesabi has never been published, one dealing predominantly with its history, which would seem to imply a lack of perspective in contemporary historians, because no single material resource has come within hailing distance of being so important in the history of the United States.” The point is well taken. If others associated with the development of this vast range will provide accounts of their experiences matching the caliber of Mr. Bennett’s, the historian may be able to make a stab at writing the complex history of that important area. Without primary records and such firsthand accounts, today’s historian has little to work with.

Dakota Maverick


Reviewed by Carl H. Chrislock

WILLIAM LEMKE’S importance warrants a biography of this scope and competence. For thirty-five years this rugged North Dakotan was at or near the center of the turbulent politics of his state. Comparatively unknown in 1915 when the Nonpartisan League was founded, he rose rapidly within the organization’s power structure to become one of its triumvirs — League founder Arthur C. Townley and Fred B. Wood being the other two. Thus Lemke came to play a role in the management of the Nonpartisan League the significance of which is often underrated. Townley no doubt held the power of final decision, but, as Mr. Blackorby points out, the League founder depended on Lemke for legal and other advice.

In the 1920s the North Dakota Nonpartisan League lost the dominance it had exercised in the 1917-21 period. If this limited Lemke’s opportunities, so did his uncompromising adherence to original League doctrine, which did not suit the temper of the twenties. But in 1932 Lemke won election to Congress as a nominal Republican who supported Franklin D. Roosevelt’s presidential candidacy.
In Washington the North Dakotan vigorously championed a farm program which he believed Roosevelt had promised to support but which differed markedly from the agricultural policies actually developed under the New Deal. The administration did accept one of Lemke’s measures: the bankruptcy act which authorized scaling down the obligations of debt-ridden farmers. But it ignored a proposal commanding support within Farmers’ Union circles — and strongly favored by Lemke — that the government fix prices on basic farm commodities without imposing production controls or marketing quotas. Democratic leaders also exerted heavy and successful pressure to defeat the Frazier-Lemke plan to refinance farm mortgages at three per cent annually, with half of the payment to be interest and the other half to apply on amortization of the loan. Chagrined by this rebuff and offended by the treatment accorded him by New Deal “bureaucrats,” Lemke developed an intense dislike of President Roosevelt. This set the stage for a less-than-creditable episode in the Congressman’s career: his 1936 race for the presidency as the candidate of the so-called Union party.

Conceived by Father Charles E. Coughlin, who hoped to unite his own followers with those of Dr. Francis E. Townsend (of old-age pension fame), and the late Senator Huey Long, the Union party failed to attract enough support even to give it nuisance value. But there was something ominous about its appearance. Mr. Blackorby recognizes that some Union party supporters — the Townsend followers excepted — “had begun to adopt the symbolism, the ethnic hatreds, and the stage props that resembled the beginnings of a fascist movement.” However, he also insists that Lemke was neither pro-Fascist nor anti-Semitic and cites impressive evidence in support of his contention. This raises a double question: why did Coughlin select Lemke as his presidential candidate, and why did Lemke consent to run? The answer seems to be that Coughlin could not find a better candidate. Radicals with more prestige than the North Dakota Congressman refused to affiliate with the Union party, but Lemke’s anger with President Roosevelt was at such white heat that he welcomed any opportunity to strike at the administration.

Overwhelming defeat in the 1936 presidential race did not end Lemke’s political career. Like Lyndon Johnson in 1960 he had sought re-election to his Congressional post — which he won — while running for national office. But his remaining years in public life were less fruitful than those preceding 1936. Predictably, he embraced the isolationist side of the foreign policy controversy which developed in the late thirties; curiously, after the outbreak of World War II he attacked price control as a menace to free enterprise, apparently forgetting that the Nonpartisan League had advocated similar control during World War I. Two factors may have contributed to this reversal: Lemke’s intense dislike of Roosevelt, and the impatience of farm constituents, no longer suffering the frustrations of economic depression, with price control.

This book makes a valuable contribution to both history and biography. It sheds considerable light on the tangled politics of North Dakota from 1915 to 1950 — no small achievement. It also paints a believable portrait of William Lemke. Mr. Blackorby respects and admires his subject, but he is too good a scholar to permit this to overcome recognition of Lemke’s weaknesses and mistakes. The author makes it clear that Lemke’s desirable attributes combined with less lovely qualities to create a complex personality.

MINNESOTA DIPLOMAT

THE American Secretaries of State and Their Diplomacy series has been resumed after more than thirty years with the publication of Volume 11, Frank B. Kellogg, Henry L. Stimson, by Robert H. Ferrell (New York, 1963. 360 p.). The first section of the book (135 pages) is devoted to a study of Kellogg’s stewardship during the presidency of Calvin Coolidge, from 1925 until 1929, when Herbert Hoover appointed Stimson to the cabinet post. Pointing out that few secretaries of state “had had a more remarkable rise from obscurity,” Mr. Ferrell says that Kellogg “left behind him a not inconsiderable accomplishment.” His successful “Retreat from Imperialism in Latin America,” his far-sighted dealings with China, and, of course, the Kellogg-Briand Pact are cited in support of this conclusion. The two-in-one volume devotes little space to biographical details; Kellogg’s life and political career in Minnesota receive only passing mention.
THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY of a Norwegian immigrant who came to America in 1906 at the age of twenty-one is told by Paul Knaplund in Moorings Old and New: Entries in an Immigrant's Log (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1963. 276 p.). About half the story concerns his background in the north in Norway, the other half is the American saga— one of humble beginnings, a struggle for the best possible education, and ultimately a distinguished career as a scholar, writer, and professor of history in the University of Wisconsin. Of special interest to Minnesota readers are chapters 10 and 11, in which Dr. Knaplund tells about a Mower County farmer, Hans Christ, for whom he worked nearly a year and a half in 1906-07. Christ was an extraordinary man with high gifts yet without much success, "lonely and cantankerous," but even so, he had "courage, integrity, and steadfastness." From Christ's farm, Knaplund went to Red Wing Seminary, where he studied from 1907 to 1913, and he gives a sympathetic picture of the life he knew in that now defunct institution of learning. Thereafter, by dint of his own unceasing effort, Knaplund went on to the University of Wisconsin, where in 1919 he won a doctor's degree and began a brilliant and productive professional career, with specialization in British history.

ESTHER ELISABETH LARSON has made a compilation of the writings of Swedish commentators on America, 1638-1685 (New York, 1963. 139 p.). The book, which "is not a bibliography" but rather a listing of source materials, is arranged alphabetically by authors, their names being followed by a chronological grouping of their work. The contents of the items listed are briefly described, and, in the case of travelers, the places visited are cited. Among the names familiar to Minnesotans are those of Fredrika Bremer, Colonel Hans Mattson, Anders P. Oman, Reverend Andrew Jackson, and Trued G. Pearson.

A CENTURY of Lutheran religious life in America is reflected in Augustana Heritage, by G. Everett Arden (Rock Island, Illinois, 1963. 424 p.). Pointing out the strong relationship between "the process of immigration and the history of the Augustana Church," the author notes the concentration of Swedes in the upper Mississippi Valley "which therefore marks the section of the United States where the major events in the history of Augustana have occurred." Figuring prominently in church growth was the Minnesota conference; for example, Professor Arden states that the establishment of Gustavus Adolphus College "gave rise to what has been called the 'college mania' of the following decades." The book traces the development of Augustana from its European roots through intermittent strife to an ecumenical spirit which culminated in 1962 with the establishment of the Lutheran Church in America. Illustrations and an index are included in the volume.

TWO FRENCH explorers of the Great Lakes area receive attention in the February, 1963, issue of the Canadian Geographical Journal. In "Etienne Brule and the Great Lakes," Clifford P. Wilson gives an account of the man who "in the space of thirteen years" discovered "three of the great inland seas in the heart of aboriginal America," and marshals the circumstantial evidence which has led historians to this conclusion. "La Verendrye—Pathfinder of the West" is dealt with in an article by Lawrence J. Burpee, reprinted from the April, 1923, issue of the magazine. Both pieces are fully illustrated with pictures, early charts, and contemporary maps.

THE RISE and decline of "The Fur Trade in Wisconsin" is examined by Evan A. Hart in three issues of Wisconsin Tales and Trails (Autumn and Winter, 1962; Spring, 1963). Beginning with the period of French domination in the early seventeenth century, Mr. Hart traces the history of the trade from the days of les coureurs de bois, through the years of British pre-eminence, to its final era under American entrepreneurs. Calling attention to the changes that were wrought in the life of the Indians under both the French and the British, the author quotes Colonel Josiah Snelling on the evils resulting from liquor traffic with the red men. He goes on to point out that "Wisconsin Indians had lost their self-sufficiency... had become dependent upon the white man's weapons;" in addition to this, "American policy (settlement and exploitation of the land) doomed the fur trade in Wisconsin." Mr. Hart, who is historic sites supervisor on the staff of
the Minnesota Historical Society, is also responsible for the many skillful drawings which enhance the article.

THE PERSONAL JOTTINGS of Youngs L. Morgan have been published under the title "The Diary of an Early Fur Trader," edited by Clarissa Headline and Milton N. Gallup. They appear in five successive issues of Inland Seas (Winter, 1962, through Winter, 1963). Morgan, whose license to trade with the Indians for the American Fur Company was signed by Henry R. Schoolcraft, tells of how he headed west from Sault Ste. Marie in July, 1822, and reached Grand Portage four weeks later. During the nearly ten months which he spent in northern Minnesota — at Pigeon River, Sandy Lake, Rainy Lake, Fond du Lac, and especially Vermilion Lake — the trader encountered many privations. By the end of July, 1823, however, Morgan reported that he and his companions were able to unload nearly two thousand skins upon their return to the Sault.

HARLAN HATCHER and Erich A. Walter pay a handsome tribute to "the world's largest inland-water transportation system" in A Pictorial History of the Great Lakes (New York, 1963. 344 p.). Illustrated with photographs, maps, engravings, documents, and contemporary prints, the volume takes the reader from west to east, from Duluth to the mouth of the St. Lawrence. The geology and early history of the lakes is reviewed in readable, nontechnical language, although there are inaccuracies in some details. Famous ships and shipping disasters are discussed, along with the dangers of "wind, fire, ice, and collision." The book contains special sections which deal separately with the cities of the Great Lakes, their locks, canals, lighthouses, bridges, and the men behind these human contributions to the "incomparable . . . heartland" of America. The authors have included a chronology and a bibliography.

CLAIMING THAT no man "can . . . have seen the United States until he has driven through the valley of the upper Mississippi," Douglas Waitley has drawn a Portrait of the Midwest (New York, 1963. 288 p.). While not purporting to be a history of the region, the book scans eight states — Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin — "from the Ice Age to the Industrial Era," with emphasis on authors and poets as well as fur traders and pioneers. The volume concludes with a "Vagabond Section" in which Mr. Waitley has compiled a guide to places of historical interest. Among the twenty-four Minnesota selections are Itasca State Park, Fort Snelling, Pipestone National Monument, Birch Coulee State Memorial Park, and Mendota.

A CRITICAL EXAMINATION of "The North-west and the Race Issue, 1861-1862" is made by Jacque Voegeli in the Mississippi Valley Historical Review for September, 1963. Attacking the legend that the North was the "practicing champion of racial equality," the author defines his area of discussion as seven states "popularly called the Northwest" a century ago: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. Citing discriminatory legislation pertaining to military service, education, jury duty, and poor relief, Mr. Voegeli presents the political problems posed for the Democrats and Republicans in the off-year election of 1862 as well as the intellectual dichotomy for those opposed to "slavery per se" against the pragmatic conviction that "slaves would not benefit from freedom." Pointing out that the Northwest provides considerable evidence that equality for the Negro was not a primary aim of the Civil War, the author concludes that "moral principle had not abated the Northwest's determination to preserve white supremacy."

A COLLECTION of Tales of the Frontier: From Lewis and Clark to the Last Roundup, selected and retold by Everett Dick, has been published by the University of Nebraska Press (Lincoln, 1963. 390 p. Maps. $6.00.). Many of the selections have been either condensed or reprinted from previously published sources, although in other cases Mr. Dick has himself retold the story, basing it upon his own research. The emphasis is upon readability and vivid portrayal of the people and the times. No annotation is included, but a list at the end of the volume identifies the sources from which each account is drawn. The book is divided into five sections, beginning with "Opening Up the Way West," and closing with "The Last Frontiers." The three intervening divisions are roughly regional, representing the Middle Border, the overland trails, and the trans-Missouri frontier. Three tales have Minnesota backgrounds: "The Race of Death," dealing with an occurrence at Fort Snelling in 1828; "Rollingstone," an account of townsite promotion in the 1850s drawn from Charles E. Russell's A-Rafting on the Mississipi' (1928); and "The Iron Horse to the Rescue," a tale of the Hinckley fire of 1894 told originally by Stewart H. Holbrook in Holy Old Mackinaw.
A CENTURY of Gettysburg: The Long Encampment (New York, 1963. 244 p.) is described by Jack McLaughlin. The emphasis of the book is not only on the battle, but on Gettysburg as a shrine, although a detailed account of the military action is given. Mr. McLaughlin makes only brief mention of the part played by the First Minnesota Regiment. The aftermath of the battle, the dedication of the cemetery, and the subsequent reunions of veterans at the historic site are reported. The book also includes a brief list of references, a few explanatory footnotes, an index, and about two hundred photographs, some never before published. Maps of the Gettysburg campaign and of the battle itself enliven the end sheets.

The pamphlet was first published in 1932 and was out of print for many years. Two chapters have been added to the original text — one dealing with the fire of 1866 and one with the Indian mounds in the Hudson vicinity. It has also been augmented by an index and a brief biographical sketch of the author.

POPULISM and nativism in Kansas are examined by Walter T. K. Nugent in The Tolerant Populists (Chicago, 1963. 256 p.). The author has undertaken this investigation "in order to discover how seriously these accusations — nativism, anti-Semitism, protofascism, and others — ought to be taken." He concludes that in Kansas, at least, the charges cannot be supported, "they [the Populists] were friendlier and more receptive to foreign persons and foreign institutions than the average of their contemporary political opponents." Much of Mr. Nugent's research was done in newspapers and pamphlets of the time; Minnesotans will recognize Ignatius Donnelly's novel, Caesar's Column, among the many references cited.

THE "RECORDS of the National Grange in Its Washington Office" are discussed by Helen T. Finneran in the January issue of the American Archivist. The history of the organization is recounted briefly with considerable emphasis given to the efforts of Minnesota's Oliver H. Kelley, who conceived and later implemented the Grange movement. As early as 1869 Kelley was a prime mover for a national headquarters office, which did not become a reality until 1919. The author indicates that the records held in Washington fall chiefly into two categories: "fragmentary records . . . created before and brought together after the establishment of the central office and . . . records mainly created after the establishment . . . and maintained for administrative purposes."

THE TECHNIQUES used by educators to overcome the apathy evinced by farmers toward formal training are described in "Early Agricultural Education in Minnesota: The Institute Phase," by Roy V. Scott, in Agricultural History for January, 1963. Although the University of Minnesota had appointed a professor of agriculture as early as 1869, the article points out that no definite progress was made toward holding institutes on farm problems until 1886. Under the leadership of Oren C. Gregg, demonstrations, livestock judging, and cooking schools were used to attract farmers and persuade them that "book farming" had merit. Mr. Scott will be remembered by readers of Minnesota History for his article, "Pioneering in Agricultural Education: Oren C.

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Gregg and Farmers’ Institutes,” which appeared in the March, 1960, issue.

HISTORY, biography, and musical anthology are combined with careful documentation by Hans Nathan in Dan Emmett and the Rise of Early Negro Minstrelsy (University of Oklahoma Press, 1962. 496 p.). Of interest to readers of Minnesota History is the contradiction of the claim that Emmett wrote his famous “Dixie” while visiting in St. Paul. Mr. Nathan’s assertion that “there is no evidence whatsoever for the persistent rumor of the song’s origin in Minnesota” is supported by Emmett’s statement that he composed the song in New York City “one rainy Sunday in Elm Street, between Broome and Spring Streets, No. 197, Room No. 1.”

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

MNEMONIC SYMBOLS, or memory aids, on birchbark scrolls produced by the Chippewa to perpetuate the history of the Mide religion are examined by Fred K. Blessing in the July, 1963, issue of the Minnesota Archaeologist. These scrolls recorded the legends and traditions of the medicine lodge, embodying the religious beliefs of the tribe, and the author says that “at least in the southwestern arc of the territory occupied by the Ojibwa the birchbark scroll had transcended the level of the memory aid and had become a means of communication.” Mr. Blessing’s article is accompanied by seven folding illustrations reproduced from tracings supplied by the Minnesota Historical Society.

A HALF-CENTURY resume of Minnesota’s University Hospitals Social Service Department: 1913—1963 has been published in mimeographed form (1963. 18 p.). The pamphlet recounts the steady progress made in the application of modern and professional casework techniques to social-medical problems. Pointing out that the expanding role and increasing responsibilities of the social service staff have contributed to the community as well as to the individual patient, it credits the department with the initial organization of the Minnesota Society for the Prevention of Blindness and the Minnesota Epilepsy League. The information is presented in three chronological sections which correspond roughly to the tenures of the department’s directors.

A COLORFUL guidebook to the Minnesota Capitol has been revised and reissued by the state department of administration (1963. 40 p.). Profusely illustrated with photographs, the booklet covers, in addition to the Capitol itself, the Historical Building, the State Office Building, the State Highway Building, and the Centennial Office Building. A brief review of the government of the state, some “facts about Minnesota,” a list of its governors, and the state emblems are included.

ON JULY 1 the Forest History Society will affiliate with Yale University and will move its office and library from St. Paul to New Haven, Connecticut. The organization, which was first formed in 1946 as a special unit of the Minnesota Historical Society, became an independent corporation in 1955. It is concerned with the history of forestry and forest-based industries in North America and has emphasized the preservation of primary source material, including personal papers, business records, and tape-recorded oral interviews. Its publications include several historical monographs and the quarterly journal, Forest History. According to Frank H. Kaufert, president of the society, “Yale University, with its long tradition of leadership in forestry and conservation education and historical scholarship, provides the Society with a most fitting academic home in which to continue its work.” Two members of the organization’s professional staff have been appointed to positions at Yale. Elwood R. Maunder, executive director of the society, has been named curator of forest history in Sterling Memorial Library and the school of forestry, and Joseph A. Miller has been named research associate in forest history.

FOR THE FIRST time in its ten-year history, the Minnesota Historical Society’s annual Solon J. Buck Award was this year given to two people. The committee appointed by the society’s president to select the best article published in Minnesota History during 1963 declared a tie between Ethel McClure, for her article, “An Unlamented Era: County Poor Farms in Minnesota,” and Roger G. Kennedy for his essay on “Houses of the St. Croix Valley.” Both appeared in the December issue. The award normally carries with it a prize of a hundred dollars; this year’s winners received seventy-five dollars each. Serving on the committee were Professor Rodney C. Loehr of the University of Minnesota, Professor David M. Fletcher of Hamline University, and Rhoda R. Gilman, editor of the magazine. Mrs. Gilman presented the award at the society’s annual meeting on May 6.