Pioneering with Taconite. By E. W. Davis. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1964. xiii, 246 p. Illustrations. $5.00.)

Reviewed by Fred W. Kohlmeyer

THROUGH an accident of history, taconite, one of the oldest and hardest rocks on earth and the first iron ore discovered on the Mesabi Range, is now the robust infant of Minnesota’s iron ore industry. Mr. Davis begins his narrative with the fascinating story, skillfully pieced together from fragmentary sources, of the initial discovery of ore in 1865 near Birch Lake and of the group from Ontonogan, Michigan, who in 1869 sent prospector Peter Mitchell to dig the first test pits and subsequently staked their claims on then worthless taconite land. Their compasses indicated the presence of iron; but the metal, scattered in microscopic particles in the ore, could be recovered commercially only by complicated and expensive processes not yet invented. One may compare the situation to a present-day investment in some of the trillions of tons of oil-bearing shale rock in Wyoming and Utah with the expectation of producing petroleum in competition with liquid petroleum pumped from the ground. On the Mesabi Range, high-grade red hematite waited to be scooped out of great open pits. As long as this fortuitous supply lasted, the taconite could not compete, and early efforts to develop taconite resources brought only financial loss and frustration.

A few farsighted men recognized the future potential of taconite if suitable processes and engineering techniques could be developed for concentrating the ore (increasing the iron content and reducing the percentage of silica and other impurities) and structuring it to meet the exacting requirements of blast furnace operators. Therein lies Mr. Davis’ tale.

In 1913 the future “Mr. Taconite,” then a young instructor in mathematics at the Mines Experiment Station of the University of Minnesota, was assigned to the taconite project. The surveys by state geologists had indicated many billion tons of the lean (thirty per cent iron) ore. Processing methods utilized in working the lean copper deposits of Utah were applied to Minnesota taconite, but a pilot plant in Duluth and a commercial taconite plant at Babbitt in 1919 failed to manufacture a product that could compete with existing high-grade ores. The investors abandoned the effort in 1924.

During the next fifteen years research on taconite processing was continued largely through the efforts of Mr. Davis and the Mines Experiment Station—efforts hampered by a prevailing skepticism and the necessity of justifying their expenditures to the university administration and the state legislators.

Finally, in 1939, four steel companies whose supplies of high-grade ore were dwindling acquired taconite properties, and organized the Reserve Mining Company. A large-scale taconite processing plant was opened in 1955 at Silver Bay on the north shore of Lake Superior. Monthlong tests in big eastern blast furnaces achieved unexpected gains in productivity from the superior “tailor-made” ore.

In the final chapter of his book, Mr. Davis discusses the far-reaching consequences of the work begun by the Mines Experiment Station in revolutionizing the iron ore industry at large. Taconite processing is so utterly different from the old iron mining that the term “mining” is inappropriate to describe it. The ore is, more accurately speaking, manufactured to specifications, and tax and royalty policies have belatedly taken this into account. Since Minnesota has no monopoly on either taconite or its processing methods, the practice of concentrating and pelletizing the leaner ores has spread rapidly to other iron ore regions in the United States and Canada. Indeed, some of the im-
proved techniques now used in Minnesota were developed outside the state.

*Pioneering with Taconite* is sound, objective history, well researched, documented, and illustrated with photographs, maps, charts, and flow sheets. Nothing of any significance has been omitted from it. The author has a deep perception of the economic as well as the technical side of the industry and a facility for characterizing the many individuals who figured in taconite history. He presents his facts lucidly and honestly. His vital personality shines through on every page. The reader is never bored and never "lost." From the inside perspective of one who has either observed firsthand or actually participated in the events, Mr. Davis leads the reader through the maze of what to outside observers have sometimes been obscure and puzzling developments heralded by rumors or terse newspaper announcements. He answers many questions that have needed answering. Moreover, Mr. Davis knows his subject and knows how to get his points across.

**CLARK PAPERS**

*The Field Notes of Captain William Clark: 1803–1805.* Edited by Ernest Staples Osgood. (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1964. xxxv, 335 p. $20.00.)

Reviewed by Dale L. Morgan

EARLY in 1953 Miss Lucile M. Kane, the Minnesota Historical Society's knowledgeable curator of manuscripts, made in a St. Paul attic one of the classic discoveries of recent times: a packet of manuscripts relating to the Lewis and Clark expedition. The sequel—protracted litigation to which the federal government became a party, and eventual acquisition of the manuscripts by the Yale University Library—is a well-known story. Now Miss Kane's find is spread before scholars by Ernest Staples Osgood in a notably handsome book, designed in a folio format to permit photographic reproduction of each of the sixty-seven new documents. Mr. Osgood has prefaced the photographic plates with an edited transcript, extensive notes, and a thoughtful introduction. Publication in this satisfying form was made possible through a subvention by a Yale benefactor, Mr. Frederick W. Beinecke.

It had long been hoped that additional records covering the first leg of the historic exploration of 1804-06 might one day come to light, for several of the rank-and-file members of the expedition kept diaries. Moreover, it seemed strange that no daily record by Meriwether Lewis had been found from the close of his so-called "Ohio River Journal" on December 12, 1803, to the time he left the Mandans in April, 1805. The "Notebook Journals" covering the first stage of the Missouri River voyage were the work of William Clark.

Nevertheless, the documents now published are almost exclusively in Clark's hand, with only a few scattered entries by Lewis. One of the contributions of the enlarged record, in fact, is that we are given cause to doubt that any such memoranda were ever kept by Lewis; at one point, mentioning the loss of some notes, Clark says the omission was remedied by reference to the journals of the sergeants—an indication that no Lewis diary was at his disposal. Since the Missouri as far as the land of the Mandans was well known in 1804, we might conclude that Lewis left the making of earlier records to his executive officer and buckled down to the serious labor of keeping a diary himself only when the expedition pushed into relatively unknown country.

In publishing the Ohio River journal in 1916, Milo M. Quaife observed that apparently no notes were made during the five months' stay at the camp on River Dubois, opposite the mouth of the Missouri. Now we know otherwise, for besides making the last few entries in the Ohio River journal proper, which ended with the arrival at Camp Dubois on December 12, 1803, Clark kept almost daily memoranda to create what Mr. Osgood has justly termed the "Dubois journal," covering the period down to May 14, 1804. This section is necessarily the most original contribution of the present volume, although it is lacking in some things. It has little to say, for example, about Lewis' experiences when visiting St. Louis that winter and spring, even though he there witnessed the formal transfer of upper Louisiana to American sovereignty.

The bulk of the volume is made up of Clark's field notes written during the voyage to the
Mandans, May to October, 1804, with a few scattered entries carrying the story on into the following April. Mr. Osgood concludes—and most scholars will agree with him—that the notes now published were jotted down daily by Clark on handy scraps of paper, to be periodically copied and expanded in the notebook journals. Thus they are the counterpart of the pocket diaries in which Clark recorded the journey west from the Mandans. Although no mention is made in this book of the existence of these other Clark field records in the Missouri Historical Society’s collections, students should keep them in mind.

In his introduction Mr. Osgood argues at length that the field notes as well as the notebook journals were sent off to Jefferson in April, 1805. To this reviewer the record he sets forth makes it clear that the field notes were sent to Jonathan Clark instead; when Lewis wrote Jefferson that Clark did not wish his uncorrected journals exposed to public view, he merely meant that there were errors of fact as well as of spelling and grammar in the notebook journals. Probably no one saw the field notes until they went sent to Nicholas Biddle in 1810, as Mr. Osgood records.

The editorial framework of the volume is generally good, in part because it is solidly based on the recent work by Donald Jackson, Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. It is extraordinary that within a period of three years two lastingly important documentary works have been published on a subject to which scholars have devoted so much attention. The field notes, as would be expected, do not materially alter the accepted history of our national epic of exploration, but there are many fresh details to delight scholars. Those who make Clark’s intimate acquaintance for the first time in this book must respond to the singular charm of his spelling. Not least among Mr. Osgood’s contributions to the volume is his application to Clark of a remark by Havelock Ellis respecting Martin Frobisher: “When . . . he entered on one of his rare and hazardous adventures with the pen, he created spelling absolutely afresh, in the spirit of simple heroism with which he was always ready to sail out into strange seas.”

MISS KANE is curator of manuscripts on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society.

**SURVEY OF SOURCES**

The French & British in the Old Northwest: A Bibliographical Guide to Archive and Manuscript Sources. By HENRY PUTNEY BEERS. (Detroit, Wayne State University Press, 1964. 297 p. $11.50.)

Reviewed by Lucile M. Kane

HISTORIANS studying the French and British regimes in the Old Northwest have a complex problem. The documentary sources are scattered in numerous repositories in the United States, Canada, England, France, and Italy, while the copies—proliferating since the nineteenth century—have been equally difficult to locate and define. It was to the task of analyzing the original, copied, and published sources that Henry Putney Beers of the National Archives and Records Service addressed himself; this volume is witness to the remarkable achievement of his purpose.

Mr. Beers has chosen a narrative technique rather than the listings that are so commonly used by compilers of guides. At the beginning of each of the two major sections introducing discussions of the French and British periods, he deftly and succinctly sketches the history of the era under consideration. Units on the sources follow. Among the sources are public records, church records, and personal papers, giving information on government, the fur trade and other economic activities, Indian and military affairs, social and cultural life, religion, exploration, and geography in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. He provides not only a physical description of hundreds of records units, but data on where they are located, how they came to be where they are, the various indexes, guides, and calendars that have been prepared, and documentary publication. He concludes the volume with a sixty-page listing of bibliographical sources and an index, while throughout the work are ample footnotes giving additional information as well as furnishing documentation for his findings.

One of the absorbing facets of the book is the story of the copying projects executed by the Library of Congress, the Public Archives of Canada, the Illinois Historical Survey, St. Louis University, the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, the Minnesota
Historical Society, and other institutions — as well as the stimuli to these projects provided by such men as Clarence M. Burton, Clarence Alvord, Theodore C. Pease, William L. Clements, Reuben Gold Thwaites, and Douglas Brymner. Equally intriguing are the accounts of the migrations of records, as through the centuries they were subjected to the ministrations of various individuals and were exposed to the ravages of war, fire, flood, and personal whim.

In addition to providing an important reference work and, obliquely, a fascinating tale for collectors, Mr. Beers makes suggestions that may serve as guides for institutions concerned with acquiring copies of materials vital to the study of the Old Northwest. His comments may inspire co-operative programs among interested repositories to prevent duplication of activity and widen the scope within which the efforts are made.

**EMBATTLED COLONIZER**


Reviewed by Clarence W. Rife

THE INTEREST of Minnesotans in Lord Selkirk derives from the fact that the first permanent settlers of the present-day state were disheartened members of his Red River colony. But readers of this admirable volume will find the broader aspects of his story even more exciting.

In this first thoroughgoing biography, Thomas Douglas, fifth Earl of Selkirk, emerges as an able, high-minded, public-spirited, philanthropic Scottish nobleman who moved graciously among his peers but had compassion for the lowly. The eviction of impoverished Highlanders from their meager holdings by harsh landlords distressed him. These lonely unfortunates were unsuited for industrial employment and were turning uncertainly to emigration. Selkirk proposed a plan of systematic colonization that would assist the surplus population to go overseas with minimum hardship, locate on selected lands, and dwell under the British flag. Failing to persuade the government (then engaged with Napoleon) to undertake the task, he assumed it himself and in 1803-04 successfully established a colony on Prince Edward Island.

After purchasing an influential interest in the Hudson's Bay Company, Selkirk in 1811 got a charter from it for an immense tract covering parts of the present Manitoba, North Dakota, and Minnesota. There on the banks of the Red River he established an agricultural settlement at the site of what is now Winnipeg.

This action intensified a trade war between the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company. The former operated inland from Hudson Bay; the latter, by river and lake, from Montreal. To the astute and bold Nor' Westers, Selkirk's settlement seemed designed to obstruct overland passage to their fur trading bonanza on the remote Athabasca. Moreover, they feared the expanding colony would scatter the buffalo and cut off their pemmican supply. Scheming and ruthless, they set out to destroy the lonely settlement by subversion, intimidation, and violence. Selkirk turned the tables by bringing an armed force westward from Canada. In the private war which followed, both sides ignored the law. The dispute eventually bogged down in litigation in the Canadian courts, and Selkirk died discouraged in 1820 at the age of forty-nine.

He had, however, built better than he knew. The Hudson's Bay Company absorbed its rival by purchase, and the Red River colony survived to impede American encroachment and become in 1870 the Province of Manitoba — gateway later for countless land-seeking emigrants.

Going beyond the works of Chester B. Martin and John Perry Pritchett, Mr. Gray's distinctive contribution is a vivid portrayal of Selkirk the man — reserved, humane, persevering, liberal for his day, capable in organization, but often obstinate and inclined to underestimate the capacity of the Nor' Westers for mischief. His wife Jean emerges as a charming, perceptive, capable, and loyal helpmate in promoting the grand design. This scholarly book, although detailed, makes excellent reading. The author, president of the Champlain Society, is probably right in placing Selkirk "among the great experimenters in colonization; alongside Raleigh and Hakluyt and Gibbon Wakefield."

Mr. Rife is professor emeritus of history in Hamline University.

Reviewed by Richard Bissell

PUBLISHERS insist on putting cute titles on books—titles which they feel have sales appeal. Ernest Kirschten's history of St. Louis won the artistic title award for the year 1960 with *Catfish and Crystal*. Now comes *Voices on the River* by the prolific Mr. Havighurst, which we find in the nearly invisible subtitle to be *The Story of the Mississippi Waterways*. However, since this large, well-printed, handsomely bound (and handsomely priced) volume is aimed at the popular rather than the scholarly trade, we will let the Macmillan Company off this time with a slap on the wrist and no rice pudding for dessert.

We are still waiting for someone to write "The Story of the Mississippi Waterways" in about six volumes, which is the minimum yardage needed for the subject. As a good serviceable substitute we will have to accept for the moment this quick trip along the already well-marked course; and if Mr. Havighurst is not exactly the life of the party with his literary style, he is a lightning pilot at flanking his big sternwheeler of a book around a hundred short bends of fact, sparring over many a shoal of figures, and feeling his way with the skill of a Bill Heckman, a Walter Blair, or a Stephen B. Hanks along the tangled, mixed-up channel of history on the western rivers. The pages are as jammed with river lore as the steamer "Hallette" loaded with cotton eight bales high. In 283 pages of text he can't be expected to have covered it all, but he has got a big tow in front of him.

A little bit of everything is here, from the melting of the Illinoian glacier to a towboat pushing a navy barge carrying a space rocket. There is the early history and the middle history and the dreadful age of the diesel engine. There are the nineteenth-century travelers: Dickens, "a strangely uncurious traveler, heedless of the past and bored by the present," and the "more genial" Sir Charles Lyell. On hearing his first steamboat whistle Lyell wrote: "In place of the usual bell, signals are made by a wild and harsh scream, produced by the escape of steam... a fearful sound in the night, and which, it is to be hoped, some machinist who has an ear for music will find means to modulate." He was a good boy, but he just didn't understand real music.

The pictures (there are seventeen) are much above average as to clarity of presentation. Sorry to say, the lower Mississippi and Ohio hog the show here, while the Missouri and upper Mississippi come home with just two apiece. Actually, the familiar view of the towboat "J. W. Van Sant II" with log raft is the only one to cause heavy breathing north of Keokuk; the other upper Mississippi item is an old print of the river at St. Louis in 1836.

In 1860 more than a thousand steamboats arrived at St. Paul. And no water skiers. Those were the days.

REFERENCE REVISED

We Who Built America: The Saga of the Immigrant. By CARL WITTKOE. (Cleveland, The Press of Western Reserve University, 1964. xviii, 550 p. Paper, $4.50; cloth, $6.95.)

Reviewed by Carlton C. Qualey

CARL WITTKOE, professor emeritus of history in Western Reserve University, is the dean of historians of immigration in America. Since 1939 his *We Who Built America* has been the standard reference work on the story of immigration to the United States. The present volume is the first general revision of the 1939 edition and seeks to utilize published material that has appeared since then. The updating adds greatly to the value of the book and will insure continued use of the survey.

A comparison of the old edition with the new reveals less extensive textual changes than might have been expected. Some new material has been added in a few chapters, and some sections have been rewritten. The major change, however, is in the bibliographical notes at the end of each chapter. These virtually constitute a working bibliography in the field of immigra-

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MR. BISSELL, the author of *Pajama Game*, holds a pilot's license on the upper Mississippi. He has written *A Stretch on the River* (1950) and *The Monongahela* (1952), which was published as one of the Rivers of America series.
tion, and they add much to the usefulness of the revised version.

The decision not to include the British immigration of the nineteenth century and after is regrettable. This was the principal omission in the 1939 edition and was then justified because there had been few important monographs on the subject. Since then several significant studies have appeared, and they would seem to have justified a chapter in the new edition. Another weakness is the index, which for a book of this extensive coverage is too brief and limited.

Upper Midwest readers will find extensive material dealing with their region in the many chapters on the various ethnic groups, such as the Germans, Irish, Scandinavians, and others. The bibliographical notes indicate careful utilization of the publications of ethnic, state, and local historical organizations. Despite the reservations noted earlier this remains the most useful single volume on the history of American immigration, and the revised edition should find its way to every library, institutional and private, that is concerned with American history.

SLAVIC IMMIGRANTS


Reviewed by Thomas F. Deahl

THIS IS a sociological study of the transition through which the Minneapolis Russian community entered the mainstream of American life in the years between 1880 and 1960. Mr. Simirenko describes the pressures which force a homogeneity of attitude and behavior on first-generation immigrants and the counterforces from the dominant community which bring about a progressive differentiation of individual values and life styles.

He demonstrates the process of acculturation by comparing certain characteristics of three groups: the first-generation immigrants, whom he calls “pilgrims,” and the children of the pilgrims among whom he distinguishes two groups differing in their ethnic allegiance. Those he terms “colonists” are potentially able to sever connections with their community but are not willing to give up the advantages of the familiar milieu; the “frontiersmen,” on the other hand, have elected to exchange their ethnic values for those of the larger American community and accomplish this by leaving the settlement.

While the study contains little history in the conventional sense, it does present a lot of quantitative statistical data which throws light on some areas that historians rarely investigate. The three groups are compared on such variables as their ecological distribution, mobility aspirations, rate of home ownership, charge accounts, frequency of medical checkups, educational background, occupation of fathers, preferences in music, use of alcoholic beverages, vacation activities, and family participation in cultural events. These scales are translated into differences of class, status, and power position, from which is inferred the relative acculturation of the groups.

The community here described is Russian in name only. Mr. Simirenko points out that linguistically and ethnically these people have nothing in common with a true Russian background. Most of the 105 families interviewed traced their old-world origins to three villages of the Austro-Hungarian empire in an area that is now part of Czechoslovakia. The settlement in northeast Minneapolis became distinguishable as an ethnic community in the 1880s and acquired Russian identity in 1891 when the members of its small Uniat (Eastern rite) parish chose to sever their ties with Roman Catholicism and affiliate with the Russian Orthodox diocese of Alaska and North America.

Over the years St. Mary’s Russian Orthodox Church served as a unifying institution, giving strength to the first-generation immigrants and helping them bridge the gap between the old world and the new. Thus the historical description of the community which the author provides in part 2 of his book turns out to be little more than a chronological account of the ups and downs of St. Mary’s parish and its associated brotherhoods, societies, mutual benefit organizations, and clubs. For this section church records and publications are his main source of information.

MR. DEAHL is curator of public communications on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society.
Perhaps it is unfair to judge this book on its historical merit, since it purports to be a sociological study; however, so little has been published concerning eastern-European immigrants to Minnesota that the work will inevitably hold interest for historians. They will find it a gathering of statistics and assorted facts which set forth the bare bones of the story. The meat is lacking.

CAMPAIGN OF 1896


Reviewed by Carl H. Chrislock

THIS is an excellent interpretative essay on the presidential campaign of 1896. One of its central contentions is particularly interesting: in 1896 “politics and parties functioned in such a way as to thwart a revolutionary thrust.” The contest between William McKinley and William Jennings Bryan was, to be sure, bitter and intense. But the conflict within the American community engendered by agrarian discontent and labor unrest ran much deeper. Bryan and McKinley managed to moderate this conflict sufficiently to spare the nation possible bloodshed and a drastic break in the continuity of its development.

Both leaders, writes Mr. Glad, were conservative, “each in his own way.” McKinley identified with the “myth of the self-made man” which was personified by the business leaders who were presiding over the rapid industrialization of America. Bryan adhered to an older myth: that of “rural virtue” and “yeoman simplicity.” The relevance of these myths to the main issue of 1896 is clear: because “sound money” seemed a precondition for continued prosperity and economic growth, the self-made men for whom McKinley spoke demanded the gold standard; Bryan’s yeomen, on the other hand, pressed by debts and low farm prices, wanted the inflation promised by free silver.

But Glad believes the campaign of 1896 to have been more than a confrontation between rural and industrial America or a battle of monetary standards. He suggests that Bryan cannot be dismissed simply as a dogmatic agrarian who wanted to restore America’s lost rural innocence. Rather he wanted to assure farmers a more equitable share in the fruits of industrialism. He also sympathized with the urban laborer, even though he experienced difficulty in establishing rapport with organized labor. The author rejects the image of Bryan as an obsessive one-cause (free silver) crusader who viewed the world in fixed static terms. The Democratic leader believed certain truths to be eternal, but he asserted in the “Cross of Gold” speech that “changing conditions make new issues” and “the principles upon which Democracy rests . . . must be applied to new conditions as they arise.” This idea, Glad affirms, guided Bryan’s political career.

McKinley, too, was more complex than many popular interpretations of the man suggest. As Mr. Glad puts it, “benevolent simplicity and . . . banality are only a part of the truth about McKinley.” Although he was not reflective, and theoretical analysis was not one of his strengths, he did have “areas of special competence.” Most important for his role in 1896, “he understood the practical side of American politics as well as anyone has ever understood it.” Among other things, this equipped him to utilize the sound money cause for uniting the American people rather than dividing them.

READABLE TALES

ISAAC I. STEVENS, Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Sacagawea, and David Thompson are among the seventeen persons described in Helen Addison Howard’s Northwest Trail Blazers (Caxton Press, Caldwell, Idaho, 1965. $6.00). Mrs. Howard writes well, with a fine sense of color and drama, and the text — carefully annotated with citations from familiar published materials, government documents, unpublished diaries, and interviews with oldtimers — conveys some of the excitement of the search for historical truth among varied and sometimes conflicting sources. Through its pages Governor Stevens, a human dynamo garbed in buckskin and mounted on a spirited gray horse, rides again on his mission to survey a railroad from Minnesota to the Pacific. Thompson — pious, courteous, and snub-nosed, with a ruddy complexion and dark hair which hung over his forehead in bangs — takes the trail from Grand Portage into the Northwest on his way to be-
coming one of the greatest of land geographers. Sordid as well as proud incidents are handled honestly. Worth noting especially are: the moving story of how a man who was to become president of the United States falsified a contract between the government and the Flathead Indians; a detailed account of the twelve-year political feud between the industrial trail blazers William A. Clark and Marcus Daly — a feud between two men in which all who lived in the Northwest were the losers. As an example of lively writing based on the competent and imaginative use of sources, the book is a valuable addition to reading lists for young as well as more mature students of American history.

Helen M. White

AID TO GENEALOGISTS

A NEW Guide to Genealogical Records in the National Archives, compiled by Meredith B. Colket, Jr., and Frank E. Bridgers (Washington, 1964. 145 p.), is divided into eight sections: population and mortality census schedules, passenger arrival lists, United States military records, United States naval and marine records, records of veterans' benefits (including bounty land warrant applications), records concerning the Confederate States of America, land entry records for the public land states, and "other records," which include those concerning Indians, and — rather confusingly — naturalization records, which are also discussed along with passenger arrival lists. In many instances the Guide gives locations for related material housed in depositories other than the National Archives. Another useful feature is the citing of published references to the resources under discussion. There is no index, but the compilers have provided a four-page table of contents. The Guide should be of great value to genealogists and others.

Michael Brook

... on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

INTERNATIONAL interest in the Viking voyages, particularly those to the North American continent, has perhaps never been more acute than during the last decade. The excavations of Mr. Helge Ingstad and his wife at L'Anse au Meadow in Newfoundland in the past four years — especially in 1963 and 1964 — have afforded proof of the long-held view that the Icelandic sagas were based upon fact — that Norsemen, sailing west and south from Greenland in Leif Ericson's time (around the year 1000) found the New World. House sites, evidence of smelted iron, a smithy, the marks of a great hall — all these were revealed at the site discovered by the Ingstads after years of search. Recently Mrs. Ingstad excavated at the site a soapstone spindle whorl of unquestioned Norse origin, and earlier tests by the use of carbon 14 of charcoal from fire hearths proved a dating from the Viking period. The story of the site and the finds is told by Mr. Ingstad, in detail, with many illustrations in the November, 1964, issue of the National Geographic Magazine. Readers who heard the author speak in St. Paul on May 17 under the auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society will find their interest heightened by the inclusion of a report of the spindle whorl, discovered during the last stages of the excavation.

Citing Mr. Ingstad's work, members of the Minnesota Congressional delegation last summer sponsored in both the House and Senate resolutions calling for official recognition of America's Viking discoverer. These resolutions were passed in August, and on September 3 President Johnson proclaimed October 9 of each year Leif Ericson Day. To commemorate the first such observance, the government of Norway presented as a gift to the American people a nine-hundred-year-old Viking battle ax from the collections of the National Historical Museum in Oslo. Although the ax will be permanently retained by the Smithsonian Institution, it was loaned to the State of Minnesota during the fall of 1964 and has been displayed in the governor's reception room in the State Capitol.

Meanwhile no year passes that does not witness new books and articles added to the vast bibliography of the Viking voyages. Johannes Bronstad's The Vikings came out in 1960; Holger Arbman's book, with the same title, in 1961; and P. H. Sawyer's The Age of the Vikings in 1962. Two recent books are The Norse Atlantic Saga by Gwyn Jones (1964), and Early American History: Norsemen before Columbus, by J. Kr. Tornoe (1964). One is by a professor in the University College of Wales and has been...
Mr. Jones is cognizant of the work of Mr. Ingstad; he finds no evidence to support the view that the Vikings reached New England or places farther south, though he suggests that a single pertinent archaeological discovery in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or even Virginia might support theories which he does not at present accept. Much of Mr. Jones’s book is devoted to translations of the saga sources he has used. Mr. Tomoe believes that the Norsemen did go as far south as Massachusetts, New York, and even Chesapeake Bay. He has devoted more than thirty years to Viking studies and has explored the American coast seeking to identify islands, bays, and other features described in the sagas. Mr. Tomoe promises a second volume that will deal with the period from Leif Ericson (his spelling is “Leiv Eiriksson”) to Columbus. Mr. Jones does not allude to the much-discussed Kensington problem; Mr. Tomoe includes some of Hjalmar R. Holand’s books in his bibliography but does not touch on the Kensington stone.

THE SECOND conference on underwater archaeology will be held in Toronto, Ontario, on April 15, 16, and 17, 1965. The Royal Ontario Museum will be host, and the Council of Underwater Archaeology will cosponsor the meeting, which was planned as a result of the successful first conference held in St. Paul in April, 1963, under the auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society. It is hoped to include reports on such new developments as the rubidium magnetometer and stereophotography. There will be site reports on fresh investigations in both the classical countries and the Western Hemisphere and discussions of research into allied fields which affect the underwater archaeologist, such as marine biology (coral dating and teredo activity), geology (site inundation), and advances in the dating of glass. Speakers from Europe, Canada, Mexico, and the United States have been invited to attend and to give reports from their areas.

A NEW EDITION of David Thompson’s Narrative, 1784-1812, has been issued by the Champlain Society (Toronto, 1962. ciii, xvi, 410 p.). Edited by Richard Glover, the revised volume includes “The Saskatchewan,” a chapter based on manuscripts which came to light after the 1916 version was prepared by J. B. Tyrrell; the editor’s introduction also draws upon research done since that date. The more cumbersome maps of the earlier volume have been replaced by a single fold-out reproduction of the original Thompson map now in the Royal Ontario Archives.

A VANISHING ART is described in detail by Karen Daniels Petersen in an essay on “Chippewa Mat-Weaving Techniques,” published by the Bureau of American Ethnology in number 186 of its Bulletins (Washington, D.C, 1968). The article, available in pamphlet form from the United States Government Printing Office, fills a need for published material on the subject. Mrs. Petersen divides the mats into three major and several minor types, determined by the material used, the shape of the finished mat, and the weaving technique employed. She describes the gathering and preparation of materials and the uses and characteristics of the mats, as well as the ways in which they are fashioned. The areas of Minnesota in which the various types predominate are listed, along with references to them by earlier authors and phonetic approximations of their Indian names. The article is illustrated with numerous diagrams, and a section of thirty-two photographic plates concludes the essay. According to Mrs. Petersen, her study is based upon field trips to Chippewa communities in northern Minnesota during the summers of 1957, 1961, and 1962. She reports that “in the foreseeable future such observation will no longer be possible,” for “The more difficult arts are dying with the older generation.”

AN ESSAY on The Red River Valley of North Dakota by Gordon L. Bell (Bismarck, 1963. 31 p.) emphasizes the rich natural history of that area. The author attempts to associate geographical characteristics with human requirements, describing the valley’s thriving agricultural economy “as related to the wealth provided by the native soil” and dealing particularly with such earth features as the deltas, beaches, glacial deposits, and sediments of the vast Lake Agassiz plain. Six large color maps accompanying the book illustrate these features in detail, but cover only the North Dakota side of the valley. They include Cass, Grand Forks, Pembina, Richland, Traill, and Walsh counties and the eastern portions of Cavalier, Ransom, Sargent, and Steele counties. About twenty references for additional reading are listed at the end of the book.

THE ROLE of “strong-willed Yankees” in “The Founding of the Fourth State Normal School at River Falls,” Wisconsin, is explored by John Lankford in the Wisconsin Magazine of History for Autumn, 1963. According to the author, the creation of the institution was due largely to the efforts of New Englanders in the St. Croix Valley who had “a reverence for education and a belief that by securing such
a school the general economic level of the community and the county would be improved.” The development of the school is traced from its beginnings as the River Falls Academy in 1856 to its dedication as a normal school in 1875.

IN THE past two years several books have come from the pens of Minnesota representatives in the United States Senate. Eugene J. McCarthy is the author of a textbook supplement on civics, government, and current history entitled The Crescent Dictionary of American Politics (New York, 1962. 182 p.). He points out that “some of the definitions reflect the classical or traditional meaning of the terms... others are contemporary and contain... the meaning given them by men in government and politics today.” Also by Senator McCarthy is A Liberal Answer to the Conservative Challenge (New York, 1964, 128 p.), issued in paperback. In this volume he examines the principles held in common by the country’s major political parties and describes the alternative interpretations given them. Vice President-elect Hubert H. Humphrey has written a statement of his credo entitled The Cause Is Mankind: A Liberal Program for Modern America (New York, 1964. 172 p.), in which he discusses such wide-ranging topics as human rights and needs, foreign affairs, national security, and the relationship of people to government. More than a general treatise, the book contains many specific proposals, such as that for a “Congressional Institute... a group of scholars who would serve the Congress as a pool of knowledge and thought.” Another solid volume, this one edited by Mr. Humphrey, is Integration vs Segregation (New York, 1964. 314 p.), a compilation of articles and documents dealing with the problem of desegregation in the nation’s schools. The selections, says Mr. Humphrey, “are intended to provide insight into the legal, political, sociological, and psychological factors involved in the desegregation process, and to suggest some of the geographical variations as well.”

LAST YEAR’S new income tax law, which took effect on February 26, 1964, made important changes in the tax deductions allowed for gifts to publicly supported educational institutions like the Minnesota Historical Society. It is now possible to deduct in any year gifts totaling thirty per cent of adjusted gross income, whereas formerly all deductible gifts over twenty per cent had to go to schools, hospitals, or churches. Under the old law a generous individual who gave a large share of his adjusted gross income in any one year could not deduct more than thirty per cent and received no credit for it in later years. The new law allows him to carry any excess over into his next five tax years. These changes mean that the society’s friends no longer need compute a careful yearly percentage ratio among gifts to the society and gifts to charitable or cultural organizations more favored by the tax law. Nor will donors be placed at a tax disadvantage by giving more than thirty per cent of their adjusted gross income in any one year.

WITH THIS issue Minnesota History completes fifty years of uninterrupted publication. To commemorate the magazine’s golden anniversary in 1965, the Minnesota Historical Society will publish an anthology of outstanding articles which have appeared in the quarterly over the past half century. The more than twenty-five selections will reflect the broad variety of subject matter that has always characterized Minnesota History and will range in time from the Indian legends surrounding the Pipestone Quarry to the struggle for control of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor party in 1948. Authors represented will include Solon J. Buck, Theodore C. Blegen, Grace Lee Nute, Louise Phelps Kellogg, Philip D. Jordan, Helen Clapesattle, John N. Hicks, Henry Steele Commager, and many others. The exact publication date of the volume will be announced later.