
Reviewed by Donald Jackson

OVERLAND DIARIES, like Civil War letters and other such personal papers, make worthy publishing ventures only if they add to our fund of knowledge. Of gold-rush diaries especially, we are approaching the saturation point—but not for the particular gold rush with which this volume is concerned.

The contribution of Mrs. White's book is that it deals with the rush to the Montana gold fields in the 1860s. Perhaps not so colorful as the rush of the Forty-Niners to California or the Colorado discoveries that made "Pikes Peak or bust" a well-known slogan, the Montana gold rush was an important factor in the development of that state and of the whole northern plains region. It has been less fully written about than the others.

Between 1862 and 1867 eight wagon trains set out from Minnesota for the gold fields. Gold seekers poured into Minnesota from most of the midwestern and northeastern states and joined with restless local residents who were headed farther west. Eventually they settled in such places as Helena, Virginia City, and Bannack. The story of these Minnesota-based expeditions is told in letters and diaries of the emigrants and their leaders, annotated by Mrs. White.

While it is true that no Great Basin and no Donner Pass lay across the route of the 1,400 or more adventurers, they battled mud, heat, mosquitoes, financial hardship, and often just plain confusion. The men who led them—James Liberty Fisk, Thomas A. Holmes, and Peter B. Davy—were promoters, organizing and guiding expeditions for a fee. For example, when Davy organized his 1867 trek to Montana, he charged each traveler $125, allowed him fifty pounds of baggage, and assumed that he would help with work in camp and on the road. After the United States Army forbade Davy to lead a group into the Sioux reservation of the Black Hills the following year, he turned his talents to organizing a touring Indian show.

In addition to the letters and diaries, the editor has presented fairly complete rosters of the expedition personnel—compiled from newspapers and from the records themselves—and has provided brief identifications wherever possible.

To edit original documents meaningfully is an exacting job. Mrs. White does it well.

BLACK HILLS GOLD


Reviewed by Earl D. Bragdon

"CUSTER died for your sins" is a common saying on the northern plains. In this new contribu-
tion to Custeriana, Donald Jackson examines the impact of the Custer expedition of 1874 in relation to the American tradition "that when white men want a reservation, it is at once discovered that the Indians have no honest use for it."

The author points out that white men had been interested in the Black Hills for many years prior to either the Harney Treaty of 1868 or the Custer excursion. In 1862, for example, a report to the Dakota Territorial Council stated "that gold abounds in the Black Hills . . . there is no longer any doubt. In consequence of the hostile attitude of the upper Missouri Indians, mining operations cannot be successfully carried on without ample military protection." The 1874 expedition was directed toward fulfilling this need for protection, its official purpose being to explore possible military sites and strategic lines of communication.

Mr. Jackson contends that, although the Custer expedition violated the Harney Treaty, the results of the military exploration did not contribute directly to the 1876 tragedy at Little Big Horn. Rather, they symbolized the battle for the continent which white men had waged with the Indians for three centuries. He suggests that if there is a villain in the story "it is not peevish Sitting Bull or the yellow-haired boy general, but the American people and their never-ending list of places which the Indians 'did not need.'" Therefore, the sins that Custer died for were those accumulated during three hundred years of Indian-white conflict. This new appraisal of the expedition will certainly evoke both agreement and dispute which should add to the Custer legend.

The book presents a detailed account of the routines of life in camp and on the road. Excerpts from the journal of Private Theodore Ewart, in particular, add color and insight concerning the attitudes and opinions of the enlisted men. The lack of a bibliography detracts from the volume's usefulness, but it contains a valuable appendix, a map indicating Custer's itinerary, and several views by the Minnesota photographer William H. Illingworth. On the whole, Mr. Jackson has set forth in readable style a challenging interpretation of the effects of Custer's gold expedition.

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State Capitol, Mounds Park, Fort Snelling, the Pillsbury A Mill, Minnehaha and St. Anthony falls. Yet how much more meaning a name has when the story behind it is known. How many people, for example, who point proudly to Minneapolis' best-known landmark, the Foshay Tower, can tell the fascinating tale of its builder, a man whose downfall was largely responsible for laws controlling public utilities? Or how many St. Paulites know where to find F. Scott Fitzgerald's birthplace or the first Norwegian Lutheran church built in America?

To find fault with the book is difficult. Its format is clean and attractive; a table of contents and an index facilitate its use; a selected bibliography of source materials attests to the authors' research. If, after reading the descriptions, there is a hunger for more detailed information, there should also be an understanding of the authors' difficult job of condensing volumes of material for this type of book.

**COLLEGE HISTORY**

**Carleton: The First Century.** By LEAL A. HEADLEY and MERRILL E. JARCHOW. (Northfield, 1966. 489 p. Illustrations, maps. $5.00.)

Reviewed by Theodore C. Blegen

FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENTS and distinction as a college of liberal arts, Carleton deserved a good history; its centennial year furnished an appropriate time for the appearance of such a volume. The Carleton book is an interesting, informative, and comprehensive account of the institution from a fledgling academy to its present position of strength and tested quality.

Dean Jarchow took over a difficult assignment. Leal A. Headley retired from his Carleton professorship in 1952 and devoted the rest of his life to the history as a labor of love. When he died in 1965 less than a third of the book was written. What Mr. Jarchow did was to complete the work in the phenomenal time of one year. He was aided by Professor Headley's brother, Louis, and by a retired professor of English, Mr. R. L. Henry. Such assistance was important, but one gets the impression that Mr. Jarchow's great familiarity with the college coupled with freedom for a year and a simple organization of the narrative were decisive factors in getting the job done.

The book opens with a chapter on "A New England College in the Middle West," but it quotes Daniel J. Boorstin's statement about the ingredients — "denominational initiative, upstart enterprise, and booster optimism" — in the creation of American western colleges. Most of the colleges and universities of the earlier Middle West were influenced by Yale and Harvard, but they were not precisely New England colleges. They were middle western colleges.

The twenty-three chapters range from backgrounds and beginnings of the early academy to the control of the college by its trustees; its remarkable presidential leadership under Donald J. Cowling and Laurence M. Gould; and its changing faculty, courses and programs, students, library, finances, athletics, and alumni. There are many illustrations, some useful appendices, and a detailed index. The volume is artistically bound and well printed.

As President John Nason suggests in a disarming foreword, the topical approach has values because it permits an author to concentrate on one "dimension" at a time, but he also reminds readers of the old lady who discerned in Dr. Johnson's dictionary a "certain want of connection among the sections." Perhaps if Mr. Jarchow had had not one but several years for writing the book, he might have treated the history of the college as an organic whole. Obviously one dimension did not develop in isolation from the others.

Some five Minnesota communities tried to attract the future Carleton College, but the chosen site was Northfield, its boosters having offered twenty-five acres of land and more than $18,000 in cash. At Northfield, for a century Carleton has played an expanding educational role, to the honor of Minnesota and the country. That role is the central theme of this book, even if there may be a little "want of connection" among its many sections. The authors have made a genuine contribution to history, and their volume deserves a place on the shelf of indispensable Minnesota books.

Mr. Blegen is a research fellow of the Minnesota Historical Society and author of a history of the state.
FLICKERTAIL STATE


Reviewed by Herbert S. Schell

IN THIS absorbing account, the author makes geography the major key to an understanding of North Dakota’s development. From its location on the northern edge of the Great Plains spring five themes which dominate the entire North Dakota story: remoteness, dependence, economic disadvantage, the “Too-Much Mistake,” and the need for adaptation to environment. Within this frame of reference, Professor Robinson tells a fascinating story.

The history of North Dakota is of special interest to Minnesotans because of the intimate economic ties between the two states. The themes of remoteness and dependence are especially applicable here. As Mr. Robinson points out, North Dakota has always been dependent upon the outside world. In fur trading times the upper Missouri Valley was tributary to St. Louis, the Red River Valley to St. Paul. Then, with the advent of the white settlers, the lines of communication were determined by the east-to-west railroad pattern.

Tutelage to outside economic interests together with problems arising from a Great Plains environment explain, for the greater part, the complexities of the state’s political history. The combination of remoteness and economic disadvantage nurtured its radicalism: “Thus in North Dakota even conservatives often adopted liberal, progressive views, and opponents of reform hesitated to act openly against it.” Mr. Robinson is at his best in conducting the reader through the maze of North Dakota politics from the emergence of the socialist Nonpartisan League in 1915 to its eventual merger with the Democratic party in 1956.

In addition to the emphasis on politics and economic development, the author presents a comprehensive treatment of the social and cultural aspects, devoting four chapters to these topics. He particularly stresses the role played by the European immigrant. In 1910 more than 27 percent of North Dakota’s residents were foreign born; with their children, they comprised 71 percent. These included about 125,000 Norwegians and 117,000 Germans. Half of the latter group were German-Russians, settling mostly in the central section. Their Old World background made the two major ethnic groups particularly receptive to radicalism.

Professor Robinson has made a major contribution to the writing of state history. His book, representing the fruits of research and reflection during his thirty years’ residence in the state, should have wide appeal throughout the nation. It is profusely illustrated and has a comprehensive and annotated bibliography. The University of Nebraska Press deserves commendation for the attractive format.

FRONTIER JOURNALISM


Reviewed by George S. Hage

THE NAMES are different, and the period is forty years longer, but the experience of the pioneer editor in Missouri is not otherwise markedly different from that of his counterpart in Minnesota. William H. Lyon, professor of history at Arizona State College, provides in this book the first carefully detailed examination of that experience. It is a revealing analysis of one chapter in the development of the press as an institution, not limited in application to the Missouri locale.

This is an analytical rather than a narrative history. Professor Lyon presents his data under four major headings: founding, political influences, business and professional affairs, and newspaper content. The organization has the advantage of providing the reader, in logical context, with varied and specific detail on these institutional aspects of the frontier press; it has the disadvantage, inevitably, of occasional overlapping. How, for example, can political influences in the awarding of vital government

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printing contracts be divorced from the economic problem of a newspaper's survival?

Mr. Lyon's judgments are sound. He faults the pioneer editors for overdependence on articles from eastern exchanges at the expense of local news. As a consequence, the early newspaper was a far-from-adequate mirror of frontier society, and much that it reflects must be credited to advertising rather than to editorial content. He is also critical of these editors for excessive partisanship and for an individualism that manifested itself in incessant feuding among themselves rather than in community leadership. But he does not fail to appreciate the odds under which they operated: "The pioneer editor lived and worked in a world that was competitive, physically hard, combative, and uninstitutionalized, a world that provided only subsistence and required hard manual labor—a primitive world." At least one of these men, Nathaniel Patten, suggests a Job-like figure in the face of multiple adversity.

Minnesota's frontier may have had more dramatic characters in the persons of James Madison Goodhue and Jane Grey Swisshelm, but the rank and file, one suspects, were not different from their Missouri counterparts. Certainly their experience and the product of their labor were similar.

**WISCONSIN MANUSCRIPTS**


Reviewed by Janet K. White

IN 1957 the State Historical Society of Wisconsin issued *Supplement Number One* to a guide to manuscripts. The Guide published in 1944 contained about eight hundred entries; the first supplement included descriptions of 790 collections. *Supplement Number Two* records slightly more than eight hundred groups of papers which were added to the society's collections between 1956 and 1965.

This volume describes personal papers, records of organizations, archives of the federal government, and microfilm copies of original manuscripts in other repositories. One of the outstanding additions to Wisconsin's collection is the gift of the papers of Hans V. Kaltenborn in 1955. This gift aroused the society's interest in mass communications in the United States and formed the basis for a collecting program that encompasses records relating to advertising, public relations, radio, television, motion pictures, and theater. Through the Education History Project (1958-60) the Wisconsin society has obtained personal papers of state teachers and educators, as well as collections from organizations concerned with education such as the Wisconsin Division of the American Legion and the United World Federalists.

More than two dozen collections have been added to the society's group of manuscripts relating to labor. Among them are the personal papers of John R. Commons and Adolph Germer and records of national unions and labor organizations, including the American Federation of Labor, American Labor Education Service, and the Textile Workers Union of America.

Unlike *Supplement Number One*, this guide does not list manuscripts as yet uncatalogued, nor does it present descriptions of all collections accessioned by the society. Among those omitted are single biographies and local history sketches, separate manuscript genealogies, autograph collections, and numerous small groups of papers.

The numbering of the collections is continued from *Supplement Number One*, and the descriptions include title, quantity, inclusive dates, a statement of whether the records are originals or photocopies, and a description of their subject matter. Important additions to collections described in the earlier volumes have been incorporated with cross references to related entries.

Dr. Harper's *Supplement Number Two* is a fine addition to the earlier guide and the first supplement.

Mr. Hage, professor of journalism at the University of Minnesota, is the author of Newspapers on the Minnesota Frontier, 1849-1880, just published by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Miss White is manuscripts cataloguer on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society.
READABLE SYNTHESIS


Reviewed by June Drenning Holmquist

THIS IS the fourth volume in Professor Caruso’s projected series of six dealing with the American frontier. It covers exactly what its title states, focusing on the age of French exploration and settlement in the Mississippi Valley, and it is the first of two volumes Mr. Caruso intends to devote to that important region.

In these pages Minnesotans will meet many familiar characters among the band of French explorers who figured in the opening of the great valley to fur trade and settlement — Jean Nicolet, Radisson and Groseilliers, Jolliet and Marquette, La Salle, Duluth, Hennepin, Le Sueur, and La Vérendrye — whose true stories contain more drama than most fiction. Mr. Caruso makes the most of his cast, placing them against the background of the mighty river and the beauty of its valley. And his large cast of unforgettable characters does not neglect the Indian tribes without whose assistance the feats of the French would not have been possible — Sioux, Chippewa, Sac, Fox, Quapaw, Caddo, and a host of others from the lower river.

Later portions are devoted to “Iberville: Founder of Louisiana” and to the settlement of New Orleans, Ste. Genevieve, and St. Louis. Mr. Caruso’s concluding chapter on “Creole Society,” while interesting, sounds like an afterthought and makes a rather flat ending to an otherwise well-constructed book.

This is distinctly a volume intended for those who enjoy a readable narrative. The author admirably succeeds in his avowed purpose which is “simply to make the American frontier come alive.” This is far from a simple task. Mr. Caruso’s clear, easy narrative style and his keen eye for the well-chosen quotation which moves his story along make it the kind of book one is sorry to be interrupted while reading.

The work is, however, based entirely on published sources and inevitably repeats a number of small errors found in older works. One of these concerns Duluth’s birthplace. Often misplaced by historians, it was St. Germain-Laval, not St. Germain-en-Laye many miles away. Another has to do with the identification of Massacre Island in Lake of the Woods. There are two islands of that name in the lake, and neither can be satisfactorily established as the spot where La Vérendrye’s men were killed.

Professor Caruso is to be commended, in this reviewer’s opinion, for his successful attempt to present an important segment of the history of a region readably and coherently. Few historians in recent years have tackled the Father of Waters, a topic of broad geographical and historical magnitude. The result is a useful synthesis of well-known materials on an important era in the nation’s history. The book has a bibliography, an inadequate index, and numerous helpful maps.

FUR TRADE ARTIFACTS

Indian Culture and European Trade Goods: The Archaeology of the Historic Period in the Western Great Lakes Region. By GEORGE IRVING QUIMBY. (Madison, University of Wisconsin Press, 1966, xiv, 217 p. Illustrations. $5.00.)

Reviewed by John C. Ewers

SEVEN YEARS ago George Quimby, then curator of archaeology and ethnology at the Chicago Museum of Natural History, clearly described and pictured the succession of Indian cultures in the western Great Lakes region from 11000 B.C. to 1800 A.D. in a fascinating book, Indian Life in the Upper Great Lakes. In this new book the same author, with the same laudable clarity, re-examines in much greater detail the last two centuries of that long period—those centuries during which the Indian tribes of the region became increasingly involved in the historic fur trade.

To students of the trade, this book is particu-
larly valuable in revealing the nature and extent of the archaeologists' very considerable contributions to a fuller and more accurate understanding of the trade's effects upon Indian cultures. Although it is true that the seventeenth and eighteenth century French and British traders listed the guns, knives, kettles, glass beads, pipes, metal ornaments, and other objects they gave the Indians in exchange for furs, their documents have conveyed to historians no precise ideas of the appearance of those articles and no true conception of the range in types of those items that were traded to Indians at the same or different times within the historic period.

In words and in pictures of actual artifacts recovered from historic Indian sites Mr. Quimby shows how the introduction of white men's trade goods altered the material culture of the tribes — slowly at first, but with increasing rapidity as the Indians came to look upon the white men's goods as necessities — until little was left of the Indians' traditional weapons, tools, or utensils. By the early years of the nineteenth century the distinctive tribal cultures had to a very large extent lost their identities.

Through a careful analysis of artifacts from dated historic sites and comparisons of the groups of artifacts from sites of different dates, the author has been able to distinguish three subperiods within the historic period — an early one, lasting from 1610 to 1670, a middle one, from 1670 to 1760, and a late one, ending in 1820. Although some artifact types changed but little throughout the historic period, others can be attributed to one or another of these three subperiods. Certain types of glass trade beads seem to be reliable indicators of the early or middle years, while metal ornaments (many of which bear maker's marks or dates) provide even more sensitive clues to dating sites of the later years.

The author acknowledges that there is need for much more study of early and middle period sites and that such studies may alter his conclusions based upon less than ideal samples. He also warns that his findings for the western Great Lakes region should not be applied to other areas where the fur trade was initiated earlier or later and was conducted under somewhat different conditions. Nevertheless, students of the fur trade in other areas certainly can profit from Mr. Quimby's methods in bringing new meaning to the study of fur trade materials. The thirty-three carefully selected and clearly reproduced illustrations accompanying the text provide primary evidence of importance. One can only regret that a larger number of artifact types could not have been pictured, and that no map was provided to show the locations of the key sites from which these historic specimens were excavated.

HISTORY IN THE DEPTHS

Archeology Under Water. By GEORGE F. BASS.
(New York and Washington, Frederick A. Praeger, 1966. 224 p. Illustrations, maps. $7.50.)

Reviewed by Robert C. Wheeler

THE TITLE George Bass has selected indicates that he approaches his subject primarily as the application of the established principles of archeology to a new environment. Repeatedly he makes the point that underwater archeologists can accomplish essentially the same objectives as those working on land, using, of course, different methods and techniques.

The need for such a book as this has been apparent, for underwater archeology is still in a pioneering stage and relatively little has been written about the many salt and fresh water projects in progress throughout the world. Mr. Bass, a classical archeologist with the University of Pennsylvania, has probably had more experience in this new discipline than anyone else and is well qualified to write about it. His volume deals with almost every known underwater exploration, from Donald Jewell's inundated prehistoric mounds in California to Mr. Bass's own Bronze Age and Roman shipwreck excavations off the Turkish coast. He also examines the historical background — beginning with the chance finds of Greek sponge divers; the use of primitive diving bells; and the discovery of ancient village sites in Swiss lakes.

Mr. Wheeler, who is associate director of the Minnesota Historical Society, is well known for his work in organizing a joint Canadian-American underwater search for fur trade artifacts along the canoe routes of the voyageurs.

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Minnesota readers will note that the author covers the Quetico-Superior underwater research program being undertaken by the Minnesota Historical Society. The society, incidentally, owes Mr. Bass a debt: he was the first to accept its invitation to speak at the original conference on underwater archaeology held in 1963 at St. Paul. Such conferences are now well established; the third one was held this spring in Miami, Florida.

Of special interest to professional and amateur underwater archaeologists will be those sections of the book describing techniques used throughout the world, ranging from simple salvage to highly sophisticated deep water excavation. Unlike some professionals, Mr. Bass gives the amateur archaeologist the great credit due him in developing this new field and bringing its immense possibilities to the attention of the professionals. Those possibilities, he feels, have only begun to be developed. With the help of science and technology, which are constantly refining both equipment and methodology, the archaeologist will carry his quest ever deeper into the sea with much less risk. Even now it is possible to scan the sea bottom with closed circuit television cameras from the safety and comfort of the surface. Some have been critical of George Bass for his emphasis on careful mapping and recording of wreck sites, saying, in effect, that his results have failed to justify the great amount of time spent on the sea bottom and the risk to divers. This reviewer is not among the critics.

Underwater exploration is yielding information never before available to the historian. It includes data on early ship construction, on daily life during given periods of civilization, and on ancient and historic trade routes. With the considerable interest throughout the world in scuba diving as well as in archaeology, this excellent book should be available in every school and public library.

TALIAFERRO ON FILM

THE PAPERS of Lawrence Taliaferro, owned by the Minnesota Historical Society, have been made available on microfilm under a pilot grant from the National Historical Publications Commission. This pioneering microfilm edition involves much more than the simple photographing of a group of papers. Its editor, Helen McCann White, has arranged the collection in an orderly fashion and has provided an introduction to the materials on each of the four rolls of film. In addition, she has prepared a Guide to a Microfilm Edition of the Lawrence Taliaferro Papers (1966) in the form of a twelve-page pamphlet designed to accompany each set of films. The Guide includes a biographical sketch of Taliaferro, a description of the papers, a selected bibliography, a breakdown of the contents on each roll, and an index. The entire set, including the Guide, is priced at $40.00; individual rolls may be purchased at $12.50; the Guide alone is $1.00.

Taliaferro, who was United States Indian agent at St. Peters (adjacent to Fort Snelling) from 1820 to 1839, was the most important civil official in the region that became Minnesota. He was responsible for the pacification of warring Indian tribes and for the enforcement of laws governing their relations with members of the white community. In 1820, when Taliaferro received his appointment from President James Monroe, the contest with Great Britain for control of the upper Midwest had barely ended. No longer did British subjects have a right to navigate the Mississippi; no longer did Canadians have the privilege of trading with the natives in American territory; the boundary was fixed at the forty-ninth parallel between the Lake of the Woods and the crest of the Rocky Mountains. To the agent was left the job of bringing the Indians in this vast region under federal control and transferring their loyalties from Great Britain to the United States. Toward this end, one of Taliaferro's first tasks was to gather up British gorgets, medals, and flags, replacing them with equivalent American symbols; he was still ordering medals and flags from Washington in 1838.

Space does not permit a full survey of the subjects dealt with in these papers. There is, for example, much material on affairs at Prairie du Chien, particularly in the letters of Joseph N. Street between 1828 and 1832. Another important topic is Taliaferro's effort to introduce agriculture among the Sioux, and his resulting relations with the board of missions of the Presbyterian church. Throughout the agent's term of service, however, the two main representatives of white civilization in Minnesota were the military and the American Fur Company.

Without the garrison at Fort Snelling—i-
capable though it was of humbling the tribes—
Taliaferro's authority over Indian affairs could
hardly have been effective. The presence of the
soldiers had great psychological impact on the
Indians and for this reason the agent tried to
prevent red men from entering the fort, lest they
lose respect for the small force in the wilder-
ness outpost. A good relationship with the com-
mandant was critical to the work of the agent,
and it appears fortunate that Colonel Josiah
Snelling relieved Colonel Henry Leavenworth
shortly after Taliaferro went to Minnesota.

The duties of the Indian agent inevitably
brought him into conflict with the representa-
tives of the American Fur Company. The com-
pany's policy of employing Canadian boatmen
and interpreters clashed with Taliaferro's ef-
forts to extend American influence over the
tribes; the traders' custom of dispensing a re-
ward in the form of whisky when the Indians
paid their debts violated the Indian intercourse
laws and created bloody disturbances. On the
company's part, the presence of independent
traders (including illegal whisky sellers) and
encroachment on the Indian trade by the post
suter at Fort Snelling were sources of great
annoyance; the factor demanded that the agent
enforce the company's exclusive trading rights
in the area covered by its license.

Although Taliaferro admonished the Indians
to treat the traders well, he found himself almost
constantly embroiled with the latter—notably
with Alexis Bailly, the American Fur Com-
pany's factor at St. Peters. In 1830 and again in
1833 he advised the closing of Bailly's trading
post and in 1834 he refused to renew Bailly's
license on the grounds that the trader had smug-
gled whisky and shown disrespect to the agent
in the presence of the Indians. The resulting
lawsuit dragged on for years.

In 1835 Taliaferro informed Bailly's succes-
sor, Henry H. Sibley, that in view of continued
attacks by the Sioux upon the Chippewa, it
would become his "painful duty to suspend a
further trade with the disaffected tribes" until
they showed respect for their treaties and for
the government by surrendering those guilty of
the outrages. This, together with the agent's re-
\flag a year later to recognize the old credits of
the traders as a legitimate basis for treaty claims,
explains why Sibley regarded Taliaferro as an
enemy of the American Fur Company and
wished for his resignation long before it came.

Researchers concerned with preterritorial
Minnesota should welcome the opportunity to
make use of this important collection. Their
task has been made easier by an excellent job
of editing.

Henry E. Fritz
St. Olaf College

... on the HISTORICAL HORIZON

A CENTENNIAL conference on the history
of the Canadian West will be held May 17-20
in Banff, Alberta. Sponsored jointly by the His-
torical Society of Alberta, the Social Studies
Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association,
and the University of Alberta, the meeting will
seek to "review the political, social and eco-
nomic development of the Canadian West" and
"to establish a wider knowledge of the
\inctly Canadian problems and Canadian
solutions" reached in the hundred years since
confederation. Among the speakers familiar to
readers of Minnesota History will be Robert C.
Wheeler, associate director of the Minnesota
Historical Society, who will talk on the joint
Canadian-American underwater research proj-
ext initiated by the society in 1961; W. L.
Morton, whose essay on "The North West Com-
pany: Pedlars Extraordinary" appeared in the
Winter, 1966, issue of this magazine; and Hart-
well Bowsfield, provincial archivist of Manitoba
and author of a forthcoming volume on James
Wickes Taylor, Minnesota's nineteenth-century
advocate of Canadian annexation.

DAVID E. FOLSOM, a St. Paul schoolteacher
of the early 1860s, and Nathaniel P. Langford,
both members of the Fisk expedition of 1862,
are prominent figures in a volume edited by
Aubrey L. Haines under the title The Valley
of the Upper Yellowstone: An Exploration of
the Headwaters of the Yellowstone River in the
Year 1869 (Norman, Oklahoma, 1965. 79 p.).
Mr. Haines has assembled the various accounts
of the first significant exploration of the area which later became Yellowstone Park, making for the first time a detailed and connected recital of the adventures of Folsom and two companions in 1869. Notes by Langford, who edited Folsom's story for publication in 1894 and who was the first superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, are also utilized by the editor. The book contains handsome reproductions of early maps as well as photographs of the early explorers and brief biographical sketches of Folsom and his companions.

Helen M. White

MENDEL PETERSON'S History Under the Sea: A Handbook for Underwater Exploration (Washington, 1965. 108 p. 56 plates) will undoubtedly be one of the most valuable reference books available to the underwater archaeologist and explorer for a long time to come. Much of what the handy paperback includes—locations of underwater sites, search techniques, preservation of materials recovered from water, and the identification of shipwreck sites—have been subjects of superb papers by Mr. Peterson, who is chairman of the department of armed forces history in the Museum of History and Technology, Smithsonian Institution, and one of the most competent historians in the business. Perhaps the two most valuable sections deal with the preservation and identification of objects recovered from underwater sites—knotty problems indeed for those who come across historical materials on the bottom of rivers, lakes, and seas.

Robert C. Wheeler

MINNESOTANS interested in the state's prehistory as well as in historic sites archaeology will welcome the revised and updated format adopted during the past two years by the Minnesota Archaeologist. Published four times a year, the magazine comes with membership in the Minnesota Archaeological Society at $3 annually. Among recent articles of particular historical interest is a picture essay on the Jeffers petroglyphs, appearing in volume 28 (1966), number 2. This group of Indian rock carvings in Cottonwood County, described in the article as "the most important site of this kind in the Upper Midwest," was acquired last year by the Minnesota Historical Society. Number 4 of the same volume is devoted to a state-wide survey of the sites of fur trade posts known to have existed in Minnesota. It is based on a report compiled in 1966 by Timothy Fiske, an archaeologist on the staff of the historical society, under the historic sites archaeological program of the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Resources Commission. Mr. Fiske, who is now curator of anthropology with St. Paul Science Museum, found written references to some 185 fur posts within the boundaries of the present state, and he investigated many of their probable sites during a two-month field survey. His article includes a number of maps and photographs. A forthcoming issue of the Minnesota Archaeologist will feature a preliminary report by Alan R. Woolworth on excavations conducted at Grand Portage. Mr. Woolworth, who is curator of the Minnesota Historical Society's museum, first presented this paper at the society's North American fur trade conference in November, 1965.

LEOTA M. KELLETT, director of the Brown County Historical Society, is the author of an attractive booklet concerning Early Brown County (New Ulm, 1966. 19 p.). The first eight pages of the study examine the "Background to Settlement" and dwell on the importance to the county of "The German Land Ass'n. of Minnesota"—originally a group of emigrants in Chicago who banded together to found a German colony "somewhere in the middle west" and selected the site of present New Ulm in 1854, a year before Brown County was established. Mrs. Kellett points out that "every event in Brown County centered here" and that "not until about 1870 could the county story move away from the territory surrounding New Ulm." The rest of the text describes early government and boundary changes up to 1865 when the county became "at last . . . a definite, permanent area."

FROM KANDIYOHI County comes an informative booklet to serve as A Guide to Historical Sites in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota (Willmar, n.d. 19 p.). Published by that county's historical society, the pamphlet describes forty sites, which are located on a map, with a brief background sketch and directions for reaching each one. Nearly half of the sites are associated with the Sioux Uprising of 1862; others are early townsites, churches, a section of the Red River trail, and what "is believed to have been the first 'bonanza farm' in Minnesota."

THE AITKIN COUNTY Park Commission has published a pictorial and cartographic booklet, The Mighty Mississippi (Aitkin, n.d., 47 p.), which is a "recreational boat guide" through that county. Twenty-one charts show camping areas and locations of boat access. There are also brief accounts of twelve river boats which operated between Grand Rapids and Aitkin in the years from 1871 to 1921.
THE ANTHOLOGY which the Minnesota Historical Society produced in 1965 to commemorate *Minnesota History*'s fifty years of uninterrupted publication has received a good deal of favorable attention. The most noteworthy recognition came at the annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History in October, 1966, when the Award of Merit pictured above was announced.

The citation reads: "For the publication of *Selections from Minnesota History*, dramatizing the scholarly value of the Society's magazine on its fiftieth anniversary and making available a unique source book of the history of Minnesota."

This award was established by the association in 1944 to focus attention on significant contributions to local history. Another criterion, according to the awards committee, is that "No nomination should be made except in the case of unusually meritorious work. The mere fulfillment of routine functions . . . is not justification for an award."

The twenty-six articles included in the anthology are representative of the more than five hundred that have appeared in *Minnesota History* over the last half century.