
Reviewed by Einar Haugen

Theodore C. Blegen, the grand old man of Norwegian-American historical research (though one hesitates to call him “old” in view of the youthful excitement that runs through this book), is also an avid Sherlock Holmes fan. The combination is apparent in this brilliant book, which applies all the ingenuity of the master detective to a problem of Norwegian-American history that has so far defied all detection — the problem of who carved the Kensington stone inscription.

The possibility that the carver might have been a medieval runemaster has long since been excluded. Such has been the conclusion of every qualified student of Scandinavian runology and language history who has concerned himself seriously with the stone: after its discovery in 1898 (Sophus Bugge, Ludvig Wimmer, Otto von Friesen, Oluf Rygh, Adolf Noreen), after its rediscovery by Holand in 1907 (Magnus Olsen, Helge Gjessing, Marius Haegstad, George T. Flom), and again after Holand’s persistent advocacy had made it a national issue (Sven B. F. Jansson, Erik Moltke, K. M. Nielsen, Aslak Liestøl). For anyone who knows the field this roster of impressive names alone would be enough to convince him. This is worth emphasizing, since the advocates of the stone, basing their beliefs on Holand’s assertions and misquotations, have conjured up a host of favorable “experts” not one of whom is known to have contributed to runic scholarship or to have steeped himself deeply enough in the known medieval runic inscriptions to distinguish the true from the false.

Happily, this is also Mr. Blegen’s view. For him (as for us) the problem therefore boils down to finding which of the persons known to have been concerned with the stone in the 1890s could have been its author. The problem is strikingly similar to that of the Fildown man in England, which has been generally recognized as a forgery without anyone’s ever having admitted to being the culprit. Since the Kensington puzzle is a Minnesota one, it is fitting that the leading historian of Minnesota should have set about solving it. Since a 1909 report by a committee of the Minnesota Historical Society obfuscated the problem and did incalculable damage to the public understanding of the inscription, it is doubly fitting that a former superintendent of that society and the society itself should join hands in the publication of this investigation.

The author’s research was stimulated by a feeling that the promise of Erik Wahlgren’s title The Kensington Stone: A Mystery Solved (1958) — imposed on the book by the publisher, incidentally — was not wholly fulfilled. Mr.

Mr. Haugen, Victor S. Thomas Professor of Scandinavian and linguistics at Harvard University, wrote Voyages to Vinland (1941) and The Norwegian Language in America (1953).
Blegen was convinced that further information on the circumstances of the finding — material not found by Holand, Holvik, or Mr. Wahlgren — was available. With his keen nose for historical data, demonstrated in a lifetime of original research in American history, he went to work to ferret out what he could, not setting out "to prove the inscription either genuine or a hoax."

The results are indeed illuminating: in the opinion of this reviewer they provide the elements of a solution which could set the problem to rest once and for all if men were susceptible to rational arguments. It is heartening for one who has followed the debate closely for more than forty years to see that new facts can still be turned up by a scholar who really tries and knows how. Mr. Blegen has uncovered the first printed reference to the stone and the names of a number of Scandinavian-Americans who knew enough about runes to interpret the inscription immediately after its finding. He includes the earliest photographs of the stone that were previously hidden away in a Copenhagen museum. He has come across a Holand article printed in March, 1899, which indicates that Holand knew about the Kensington stone then although he later denied it. A suppressed letter from the great American historian Frederick Jackson Turner in 1910, which might have changed the course of the investigation if it had been known, is one of Mr. Blegen's finds. He has also uncovered and made significant use of a field book kept by Newton H. Winchell, the geologist who did most of the investigation of the stone for the Minnesota Historical Society. He has thrown further light on Holand's sorry negotiations with the society for the sale (at the incredible price of $5,000) of a stone he did not own, as clearly appears from negotiations of the society with Olof Ohman, the finder. Most important of all, he has unearthed new information in Swedish archives (with the help of Fritiof Ander) about the former pastor, Sven Fogelblad, in this reviewer's opinion the only person capable of having planned and executed the Kensington inscription.

That this is so appears from the evidence presented. Far from being a shiftless alcoholic incapable of sustained intellectual work (as alleged by Holand), Fogelblad was defrocked in Sweden because of intellectual dissent from Swedish Lutheranism. He was a reader of books in several languages and a thoughtful student of philosophy who wrote at least five published essays on social and religious topics after his emigration to America about 1870. In Kensington he did not find much response for his interests; but he did find cronies in two intelligent and similarly disaffected farmers, Ohman and his wife's brother-in-law Andrew Anderson. That this trio was responsible for the Kensington inscription was charged as early as 1910 by Professor Rasmus B. Anderson on the basis of information convivially omitted by Andrew Anderson.

While the data gathered about Fogelblad clearly point to him as the instigator, Mr. Blegen has chosen to support Mr. Wahlgren's thesis of Ohman as the "principal originator." On this point alone does this reviewer differ from the author's reasoning and suggest that the nature of the Kensington hoax is beyond the conception of a nonacademic person. Ohman's Swedish letter of 1909 is enough to reveal him as a self-taught man without the intellectual ingenuity that alone can account for the inscription. Fogelblad's background was quite different: the atmosphere of Uppsala University, where he had studied for years and taken his degree, was ideal for this kind of thing. The concept of intellectual joking, of playing games with serious things, typified by the spex, or parodic student comedy, was commonplace there. This reviewer suggests that the inscription can only be understood as a parody, intended to cast ridicule on the whole eager search for Viking remains on American soil. That Fogelblad, and he alone among the Scandinavians of Kensington, was capable of this kind of spoof seems abundantly clear. He knew runes well enough to play with them and make up new ones where he needed them, and he would have thought it fun to embody his knowledge of Swedish history in a parodic inscription of the fourteenth century. His fellow students in the lively Göta Nation in Uppsala would have been delighted at the brilliant stroke of placing eight of their countrymen (götar, of whom we now know that he was one) at the head of an expedition of twenty-two Norwegians. They would have roared with laughter at the delicious joke of putting Ohman's name anagrammatically into the inscription (as the words oh "island" and man "man," both impossible forms in the fourteenth century). The whole ridiculous tale with its Hindu divinity (AVM),
its tag from the Lord’s prayer, and its gory Indian massacre five centuries to the year earlier than the real one of Minnesota history (1862) is jolly good fun. It became a serious matter only when Holand came along and saw his chance for fame and fortune in promoting its authenticity.

Why, then, was Fogelblad never unmasked by his probable accomplices? Probably because he died in 1897, the year before the stone was “discovered”; from then on Ohman’s and Anderson’s honor was at stake. Their mouths were sealed on behalf of the dead man who could not defend himself. In fact he had done nothing dishonorable. If justice were to prevail, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce should erect a monument to his memory and change the name of their Runestone Park to Fogelblad Park.

In my opinion Mr. Blegen has here provided us with the elements of what he calls “a Sherlockian solution,” in spite of his own disclaimer. He has reduced the possibilities to one. That his book also does a great deal more need hardly be said. It provides pictures of the principals, some valuable appendices with original documents, and a commendably full bibliography of rune-stone sources compiled by Michael Brook.

OLD FOLKS IN HOMES

More Than a Roof: The Development of Minnesota Poor Farms and Homes for the Aged. By Ethel McClure. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1968. xii, 290 p. Illustrations. $6.00.)


Reviewed by John C. Kidneigh

WE REVIEW the past in order to understand the present and improve the future. Unlike Far Eastern cultures, which value the past and place the welfare of the aged paramount, American society is more concerned with the future and cares more for children than for the aged. But care for the aged has been a matter of concern in Minnesota since before the state’s first “home for the friendless” was established in St. Paul in 1854.

Now, with the publication of Ethel McClure’s ground-breaking study, the development of public and private care for the aged in Minnesota has received the careful, scholarly attention the subject merits. Decade by decade from 1849 to 1965, the fifteen readable chapters of this pioneering work examine the Minnesota story against a solid historical background, tracing the patterns of care for the poor and aged from the English Poor Law of 1601. The author tells the story well; her scholarship is above reproach. The valiant efforts of private citizens, church groups, and fraternal and ethnic organizations in establishing benevolent homes are recorded in detail. The evolution of public care for the needy aged from the first township attempts through the county poor farm system to the expanding roles of the state and federal governments in the twentieth century is carefully delineated.

The appendix of the volume includes a table of county poorhouses in Minnesota; a population table giving a comparison of Minnesota’s over-sixty-five age group with the United States as a whole; and a growth rate table of two age groups from 1870 to 1960 in the state. A significant fact, not usually emphasized as much as it should be, is revealed by the second of these tables which shows that Minnesota had a smaller proportion of persons over sixty-five years of age until the 1920s than did the nation. However, since that year the proportion of the state’s population over sixty-five has reached 11 per cent, placing Minnesota among the top four or five states in the Union with that high a number of elderly citizens. Perhaps this fact accounts for the more enlightened progress made in recent decades.

In conjunction with More Than a Roof, Miss McClure has compiled a worthwhile listing of all the known nonprofit and public homes for the aged in Minnesota from 1854 to July 1, 1968. This directory is organized alphabetically by county and provides pertinent data as to the sponsorship, opening and closing (if any) dates, and name changes which have occurred for each of the over three hundred homes.

Mr. Kidneigh, director of the school of social work at the University of Minnesota, has written widely and is a recognized authority in his field.
More Than a Roof is a rewarding charting of the past. The agenda of future care for the aged in this state has a reliable guide upon which to build.

MANUSCRIPTS ON MICROFILM


Reviewed by Franklin W. Burch

IN PRODUCING this sparkling microfilm edition of the Henry Hastings Sibley Papers, the Minnesota Historical Society has again combined effective use of its own resources with a grant from the National Historical Publications Commission. Sibley was among the most prominent of Minnesotans from 1834, when he arrived at what is now Mendota, until his death in 1891, two days before his eightieth birthday. As fur trader, citizen, politician, governor, general, businessman, and elder statesman, his life fulfilled his early desire “to follow the bent of my own inclinations.”

The fifteen linear feet of original Sibley papers are copied on thirty-two rolls of microfilm. About half the rolls contain chronologically arranged correspondence and miscellaneous papers (1815-1899). The other half contains four groups of chronologically arranged bound volumes for the fur trade (1823-1854), the Fort Snelling sutler store (1836-1839), copies of letters sent (1849-1859), and miscellaneous material (1836-1930), among which are scrapbooks and useful copies of catalog cards for library and manuscript items relating to Sibley. The papers are most voluminous in documenting Sibley's earlier trading and commercial activities. Of the thirty-two rolls, twenty-three contain items — over half of them business records — from the years before 1858; six rolls contain only items dated 1858 or later; and three contain items dated both before and after 1858. Not included in this microfilm edition are about two linear feet of governors' records in the Minnesota State Archives from Sibley's term as governor (May, 1858—January, 1860).

The twenty-seven-page Guide by Jane Spector Davis provides information about the papers and their origin, a biographical sketch of Sibley, a selected bibliography, a valuable list of about 195 correspondents having five or more of their letters among the papers (a complete list is available from the society), and a list of subject entries. What is called on page 27 a subject index is not an index, either to the papers or to the Guide. It is more appropriately termed on page 2 "a list of subject entries used by the society in cataloging the papers." For each microfilm roll, there is only a brief note of the chronological period covered and the kind of paper or volume. The major portion of the Guide consists of over fourteen pages describing the content of the papers under these general subjects: the fur trade with the Sioux, Fort Snelling and other interests, politics and Indian treaties, lands and railroads, the Sioux Uprising and the Indian wars of 1862-1865, and the years 1866 to 1891. Although the Guide tells a good deal about the papers and is well written, more information directly related to the specific contents of each microfilm roll would perhaps have conveyed to the user a heightened sense of contact with the papers and provided a more precise guide to their use.

Technically, the microfilm is of high quality and legibility. On viewing a selected sample of positive copies, there were no visual difficulties except for illegible portions of a blurred and blotted letter book, which no camera magic could cure. A 12X reduction and a 2B image placement were used throughout, with empty half-frames used as beginning and ending markers for multipartage manuscripts. The targeting is bold and does its job well, except for some secondary, intraroll targets, which might be better if more distinctive.

The availability of this edition should encourage a wider use of the papers, not only for imaginative analyses of the details of pioneer commerce but also for studies of the community of personal interests, ambitions, and objectives required to settle, govern, and advance Minnesota from wilderness to thriving state.

Mr. Burch, formerly on the staff of the National Archives and Records Service, is State Archivist and Records Administrator.
INDIAN ESSAYS


Reviewed by Lewis O. Saum

THIS IS a compilation of articles written by John C. Ewers for various journals over the years from 1944 to 1966. The author has revised some of the individual pieces, provided an over-all introduction, and written prefatorial and transitional remarks for the four major sections—"Warriors, Traders, and Women"; "Diplomats, Artists, and Dandies"; "Conservatism, Change, and Survival"; and "The Persistent Image." At first glance one might suppose the book to be a formless gathering of vignettes and occasional pieces, with little thematic structure to provide comprehensive and articulated quality. Happily, such is not the case. The volume has a manifest sequential and, to a large degree, integrated quality. Its "ethnohistorical" pattern carries us from the heyday of the high plains tribes—that moment when the horse from the southwest and the gun from the northeast came into happy conjunction in their domain—to the present with its unfailing propensity for imagining all Indians in the appearances and the appurtenances of the high plains tribes.

Mr. Ewers' book will arouse interest, even fascination, among a very wide spectrum of readers. The essay dealing with self-torture in the sun dance has implications that may well escape the unsophisticated reader; but its subject matter will carry it. Indeed, in piece after piece this volume gives the reader both fascinating account and provocative insight. Thus the essay on intertribal trade before the advent of the white man provides a valuable corrective to commonplace views. "When the Light Shone in Washington," the story of the visit of some upper Missouri leaders to the national capital, has classical proportions. The Light sees the white man's world, accepts it, tries to convince his people of the need for accommodation, and

is destroyed for his efforts. On the other hand, Broken Arm, having seen the same things, flatters his tribesmen with assurances of their superiority and lives a long and respected life. The essay treating the influence that the white artists, Catlin and Bodmer, had upon painting done by Indians is an extraordinary amalgam of anthropological trenchancy and vital historical reportage. And it, even more than the others, bears out the introductory claim that the numerous and handsome illustrations serve as integral parts of the volume rather than as decorative additions.

HISTORIC SITE SEEING


Reviewed by June Drenning Holmquist

THESE TWO VOLUMES are the fourth and fifth to be issued in this ambitious series of guides describing sites and buildings of national historical interest. Each opens with a lengthy discussion giving general historical background on the topic defined in its title. This is followed by specific information on the individual sites, which are arranged alphabetically by state in five categories, making it necessary for the reader to skip back and forth in order to follow the material geographically.

Mr. Saum, associate professor of history at the University of Washington, is the author of The Fur Trader and the Indian (1965).

Mrs. Holmquist is the managing editor of the Minnesota Historical Society and coauthor of a guide to the state's historic sites.
The categories are: sites and buildings within the National Park system, places of national importance in nonfederal ownership, sites and districts eligible for registry as National Historic Landmarks, and a miscellaneous group of "Other Sites Considered." The text gives the location, historical background, and ownership for each place, and the frequent illustrations and maps add much to the appearance and usefulness of the books. Both are also well indexed.

The first of the volumes covers the period from the Revolutionary War to the election of Andrew Jackson, a time span which saw the founding fathers forging a strong federal union and frontiersmen pushing westward via the Erie Canal and the National Road. As might be expected, the 134 sites associated with these events are largely concentrated in states east of the Mississippi River, with New York, the District of Columbia, and Virginia being the most heavily represented. Only a scattering of sites having to do with founders and frontiersmen are present for the Midwest. They include three in Missouri, two each in Michigan and Oklahoma, and one each in Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

The only Minnesota site is, of course, Fort Snelling, and the brief account unfortunately was out of date when it was published for it makes no mention of the large-scale restoration begun under the direction of the Minnesota Historical Society in 1965 with funds supplied by the state. Of associated interest are Forts Gibson, Leavenworth, Atkinson, and others which were part of the central chain established to extend control over the Mississippi Valley following the War of 1812. The information offered on Mackinac Island in Michigan and Prairie du Chien in Wisconsin is also helpful to Minnesota-oriented historians.

The upper Midwest and the Far West are better represented in the volume devoted to explorers and settlers, which ranges over thirty-nine states and deals with those places of presumed national significance associated with the westward course of empire. (Readers should perhaps be warned that the same site may very well appear in more than one volume of this series. At least eleven sites overlap in the two books under review.)

Four Minnesota spots found their way into the exploration volume — the fur trade post at Grand Portage, now a national monument; the Sioux village of Kathio, now owned by the Minnesota Historical Society; and French forts St. Charles on Northwest Angle and Fort L'Huillier in Blue Earth County. The latter would seem to pose something of a problem. While it is confidently placed "on a large natural mound . . . destroyed by cultivation" along the "right bank of Blue Earth River, near its junction with the Le Sueur River, just southwest of Mankato," the exact location of Le Sueur's fort has, to the best of this reviewer's knowledge, never been pinpointed in spite of repeated searches by archaeologists.

A greater variety in types of sites is understandably present in these pages — missions, pueblos, cabins, trails, forts, Indian villages, and such old French towns as Kaskaskia, Illinois, Vincennes, Indiana, and Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. Michigan is represented by two sites — Fort Michilimackinac and St. Ignace Mission; North Dakota by the Indian villages of Big Hidatsa and Menoken; and South Dakota by one site in Pierre where a lead plate, presumably buried by members of the La Vérendrye party in 1743, was found. Useful, too, is the information presented on the many sites relating to the exploring activities of such well-known men as De Soto, Marquette, Corrado, and others.

WISCONSIN UNIVERSITIES

History of the Wisconsin State Universities. Edited by WALKER D. WYMAN. (River Falls, Wisconsin, River Falls State University Press, 1968. vii, 328 p. Illustrations. Cloth, $6.50; paper, $3.95.)

Reviewed by Merrill E. Jarchow

IN 1961 Williams College Professor Frederick Rudolph, who should know, wrote: "For some time now the general reader and the professional historian have had greater access to the history of almost any skirmish of the Civil War than they have had to the history of education in the United States." If one excludes autobiographies and institutional chronicles — often un-

Mr. Jarchow, on leave from Carleton College, is currently completing a study of private colleges in Minnesota.
critical and filiopietistic, as the critics say — it would seem that professors have written about almost everything except the colleges and universities in which they labor and pontificate. Rare indeed, furthermore, is the institution of higher learning wherein the raw materials needed for a critical examination of its history have been organized and placed in a safe and convenient location under the care of a competent archivist. Now, however, when campus towers suggest sit-ins rather than ivory, when "Old Main" is surrounded by cordons of gendarmes instead of twining ivy, interest in the causes of these manifestations has reached a new high, and the imbalance between the bibliography of the Civil War and that of higher education is being redressed. Still, the volume here under review "is the first history of a state system to be published in the nation."

The book was conceived in 1958 by the editor, Dr. Wyman, whose perspective benefits by his experience as both faculty member and administrator. To him it seemed appropriate and valuable that such a volume appear in 1966, the centennial of Wisconsin's first normal school (now state university) at Platteville. Considering the obstacles he encountered — the death of one author, leaves of absence, changes of positions — it is very much to Dr. Wyman's credit that the target date was missed by only two years.

The study is composed of ten chapters, each by a different writer. In chapter one, "A Breathtaking Development," the editor provides an excellent summary against which the remainder of the book can be read with understanding and a sense of unity. Thereafter, the evolution of the institutions is portrayed in the order of their establishment — Platteville, Whitewater, Oshkosh, River Falls, Stevens Point, Superior, Stout, La Crosse, and Eau Claire, the last named being founded in 1916. Illustrations add to reader interest and the index, though brief, is generally adequate. Individual chapters maintain a high level of quality and uniformity, but there is considerable variation in the thoroughness of annotation. Except for a slip here and there by the proofreader, the volume is a credit to those who produced it. Descriptive rather than analytical, it outlines clearly how small, struggling normal schools evolved into thriving, populous state universities and whither they may be heading. Chancellor G. Theodore Mitau of the Minnesota State College system and his colleagues elsewhere, it may be hoped, will take a cue from Wisconsin and sponsor similar studies.

**CHURCH HISTORY**


Reviewed by Vincent G. Tegeder, O.S.B.

THIS BIOGRAPHY of a pioneer German-American missionary and prelate in the upper Midwest during the second half of the nineteenth century offers a detailed interpretation of an important segment of American church history. Basing her work on extensive primary source materials uncovered in archives of this country and Europe, Sister M. Mileta Ludwig has spared no effort to make her study as definitive as possible. She has described and analyzed carefully the impact of events on both sides of the Atlantic which affected the career of her subject.

As the first bishop of the diocese of La Crosse, and later as the second archbishop of Milwaukee, Michael Heiss had frequent contacts with Catholic leaders in Minnesota. One was in 1877 when he consulted Abbot Alexius Edelbrock and the Benedictine community at Collegeville regarding the expansion of educational opportunities for the youth of his flock. A product of the German university system in his native Bavaria and a seminary professor in Milwaukee, Heiss had developed genuine appreciation for learning. He actually arranged for the coming of the Benedictines to La Crosse by granting them direction of the Cathedral parish of St. Joseph in the chief city of his diocese. The contract had called for the erection of a high school within three years, but unfortunately lack of teaching personnel, as well as missionary and educational demands in Minnesota and the expanding Northwest, made it extremely difficult

Father Tegeder is professor of American history and chairman of the history department at St. John's University in Collegeville.
for Abbot Alexius to fulfill such a commitment. Within a year the Minnesota Benedictines found it necessary to return to Collegeville to take care of immediate needs at the abbey. The effort, however, testifies to the interest of Bishop Heiss in higher education at an early date in his new diocese.

The nationality and language disputes which harassed the Catholic church in the United States during the 1880s frequently involved Heiss. By then the archbishop of Milwaukee, he had differences of opinion with Archbishop John Ireland of St. Paul concerning the tempo of Americanization on the part of German-American ecclesiastical leaders. With the present stress on cultural diversity as an important aspect of American development, these religious and language problems of the late nineteenth century do not appear as critical as they did to contemporaries. Had this emphasis been more prevalent during the lifetime of Archbishop Heiss, many misunderstandings could have been avoided.

MEDICAL MEMOIR

Mayo: The Story of My Family and My Career.
By DR. CHARLES W. MAYO. (Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, 1968. viii, 351 p. Illustrations. $6.95.)

Reviewed by Edward Swanson

DR. CHARLES W. MAYO performed his first of several thousand operations at the age of nine and was not in the least amazed when the patient — a puppy suffering from what he diagnosed as an umbilical hernia — lived. Though he marveled at the fact in later years, the outcome was exactly what was expected by the surgeon who had grown up and "trained" under a father, uncle, and grandfather who were world famous. Fortunately for potential human patients, he did not try his hand at surgery again until he had completed his formal medical training. But even as a boy he did not doubt that he would follow in the footsteps of the founders of the Mayo Clinic.

During his internship "Dr. Chuck," as he was called, became keenly aware of the responsibilities borne by a Mayo. On one occasion when asked his creed, he replied, "To imagine the kind of doctor I'd like if I were sick, and then to be that kind of doctor." A major motivation in attaining this goal was the fact that his brother Joe — to whom the family name was not so awesome and perhaps not so inspiring — was killed during a hunting trip. At that point Dr. Mayo faced for the first time the whole weight of being a Mayo successor. Joe had been the tempering influence in his life, the one whose irreverence had made the life bearable; with his brother's death, he threw himself even harder into his work.

The book is candidly written, whether it be about the author's personal feelings or about the workings of the clinic. One senses that at times Dr. Mayo and the clinic were two opposing forces — that his decisions were the exact opposite of those of the clinic's board of governors. This may have had its basis in his not being named to the powerful finance committee at the time of Dr. William J. Mayo's death, a position he openly coveted. This opposition continued throughout his life, culminating when his son was not named to the clinic after completing his fellowship. As Dr. Mayo put it, maybe they were tired of having nonconformists.

The book is primarily the doctor's views on the practice of medicine, both pragmatic and philosophical. It is the story of a statesman, not only as a delegate from the United States to the United Nations — which is one of the most moving parts of the book — but as a good-will ambassador around the world, both for the government and for humanity. It is the story of an unacclaimed poet. Above all, it is the love story of Dr. Mayo and his wife, Alice, who perfectly complemented each other. And it is also the story of a regret, the deep regret that he did not know his children well, a price often paid by men whose careers command the major part of their lives.

This autobiography will not replace Helen Clapesattle's The Doctors Mayo as the history of the medical family and clinic, nor would it be fair to either book to compare them. The period Miss Clapesattle covers so thoroughly is treated very superficially here, and that is as it should be. The volume is unannotated and has no index. The personal story is the important

Mr. Swanson, head of the society's library technical services, has had a long-standing interest in the history of medicine.
part, and the early years are covered almost entirely within the context of the Mayo family. The average reader may be put off by some of the medical discussions, but these are basic to the story. Dr. Mayo's book is eminently readable on the whole. It should attract a wide following—especially among those who have had any contact with the Mayo Clinic.

**JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES**


Reviewed by Rhoda R. Gilman

THE FLOWERING of New England produced some strange blossoms. One of these—a hardy roadside variety—was Rufus Porter. Artist, inventor, publisher, musician, writer, and sometime philosopher, Porter has been called the living prototype of Mark Twain's Connecticut Yankee. He might be better described as a poor man's Leonardo da Vinci.

Despite a remarkably creative ninety-two-year life span that produced real contributions to science, art, and journalism, Porter has remained obscure. His most lasting single achievement was the founding of the *Scientific American* in 1845, but he sold the periodical within a year. He was the first man to publish plans and build a working model of a power-driven airship, but the fact is little known. He left a broad trail of vigorous and original mural art across New England, but until his work was traced and identified by Jean Lipman in the 1940s, most of it was anonymous or attributed to others.

In 1950 Mrs. Lipman published a monograph on Porter's career as a significant American primitive painter, and in the years since then she has patiently sought out and fitted together the remaining pieces of the puzzle. Now he emerges in this full-length biography as the incredibly versatile and eccentric genius that he was. Rescuing Porter from oblivion was not an easy task, for virtually none of his personal records has survived, and a good many of his publications have suffered a similar fate.

One of the last and most unexpected pieces of the puzzle to turn up was a small but important collection of Porter material in the Minnesota Historical Society. Included are three unique copies of promotional items published by him, one of three extant copies of his 1849 pamphlet on *Aerial Navigation*, and two letters—the only examples of his personal correspondence known to exist.

These things found their way to Minnesota through William Markoe, the state's first aeronaut. Markoe had seen a model of Porter's airship in New York in 1849. Deeply impressed, he became a friend and patron of the inventor, investing liberally in the Aerial Navigation Company organized in 1852 to promote the "Aeroport." Porter failed in his efforts to build a full-scale airship and went on to other schemes, but Markoe, still obsessed with the idea of flight, constructed a balloon of his own and made two successful ascensions from St. Paul. His papers were presented to the historical society in 1966 by a grandson, Mr. James Markoe.

The collection supplied new information on Porter's activities as an inventor and promoter, and though Mrs. Lipman was forced to include this at almost the last possible moment, she has woven it skillfully into the narrative. A number of the Minnesota items are also reproduced as illustrations.

The known facts of Porter's long life can be easily condensed into a three-page chronology (which the author has done in an appendix); his place in nineteenth-century America is the real subject of her work. She finds him in the middle of the exuberant tradition of "progress"—of faith that material well-being for the common man would bring spiritual perfection. Optimism and innovation were the keynotes of his life. He embodied the quickening of the human spirit that accompanied the first unfolding of the industrial revolution.

The volume shows every evidence of careful and exhaustive scholarship. Its later chapters are devoted to an evaluation and description of Porter's murals and the appendices include a checklist of these, as well as a brief genealogy and a selected bibliography. The book has been beautifully produced. More than a hundred black-and-white illustrations are supplemented by twenty-two handsome color plates.
THE FOURTH in a series of regional economic atlases to be published by the Clarendon Press is concerned with the United States and Canada (Oxford, England, 1967. 128 p.). The first half of the book presents urban plans, topographic maps, and maps of physical geography. This is followed by a section on demography showing population and principal ethnic groups. Land use maps give information on agriculture, wood processing, fishing, sources of energy, mining, and various kinds of manufacturing. Five maps present data on land, water, and air transportation, and a gazetteer of both countries is included at the back of the volume.

AVAILABLE from the Library of Congress is Land Ownership Maps: A Checklist of Nineteenth Century United States County Maps, compiled by Richard W. Stephenson (Washington, D.C., 1967. 86 p. $ .70). The paper-bound book lists 1,449 county maps drawn largely from the northeastern and north central states. There are nineteen Minnesota counties and parts of six others represented. The information includes the county name and date of the map, the author, surveyor, and publisher, if known, as well as the scale and size of each one. There is a general index.

A FINDING AID recently published by the National Archives and Records Services as part of Record Group 76 in its series of Preliminary Inventories and compiled by Daniel T. Goggin is Records Relating to International Boundaries (No. 170). The first part of the ninety-eight page booklet concerns the United States-Canadian border; the second section deals with the southern boundary line of the United States. Three earlier inventories describe claims records in this group. They are: Records Relating to Civil War Claims United States and Great Britain (No. 135); Records of United States and Mexican Claims Commissions (No. 136); and Records Relating to United States Claims Against the Central Powers (No. 143).

THAT HISTORY — especially the teaching of it — hath charms is attested to by John D. Hicks, whose autobiography, My Life with History, has been published by the University of Nebraska Press (Lincoln, 1968. 366 p. Illustrations. $5.95). In an informal, straightforward fashion, the author traces his seventy-eight years, beginning with what he calls his “WASPish” background and his boyhood in Missouri, describing his years of teaching (chiefly at Wisconsin, Nebraska, and California), and concluding with a “Summing Up.” Mr. Hicks devotes the sixth chapter to the years he spent — at the start of his career — teaching at Hamline University in St. Paul. The author says that it was somewhat to his disappointment that “my first job was in a small denominational college, where I had to teach many subjects outside my speciality. But this was one of the best things that could have happened to me.” In modified form, this chapter appeared in Minnesota History (Summer, 1965) as “My Six Years at Hamline.” Now professor emeritus at the University of California, Mr. Hicks is perhaps best known as the author of The Populist Revolt (1931), Republican Ascendancy, 1921-1933 (1960), and coauthor with Theodore Saloutos of Agricultural Discontent in the Middle West, 1900-1939 (1951). The book is primarily an academic autobiography, and the warmth and humor of this eminently able teacher and historian are reflected throughout its pages.

JOHN R. L. Anderson's Vinland Voyage (New York, Funk & Wagnalls, 1967. 278 p.) is an Englishman's narrative of adventure spiced with historical insight — the story of a voyage in a 44-foot cutter, the “Griffin,” by a half dozen hardy men in 1966 from England by way of the Faroes, Iceland, and Greenland, to North America, more specifically to Martha's Vineyard. Mr. Anderson, the leader, derived his impulse and purpose from the revolutionary Yale Vinland map. The story is breath-taking in dramatic interest, and its acute historical understanding adds much to its lasting interest as a part of the lengthening shelf of books about the Norsemen (viewed in this instance by an experienced sailor). George D. Painter of Yale map fame contributes an introduction. The choice of Martha's Vineyard is Mr. Anderson's interpretation.

MIDWESTERN RESPONSE to The Ku Klux Klan in the City 1915-1930 is the subject of a chapter in a recent book by Kenneth T. Jackson (New York, 1967. 326 p.) which is one of the Urban Life in America Series published by the Oxford University Press. The volume examines the “unnecessarily obscured urban aspect” of the Klan and tests the hypothesis that its re-
cruiter were as "active and successful in establishing Klans in large cities as in 'towns' of fewer than 75,000 persons." The nativistic organization was weak in the Dakotas, the author points out, but it had active chapters in Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa in the years from 1922 to 1925. Milwaukee was the location of Wisconsin's most active group. In Minnesota "the Invisible Empire never made much headway."

During the 1923 mayoralty race in Minneapolis (which Mr. Jackson refers to as the state's capital), the incumbent, George E. Leech, won a libel judgment against five Klansmen — one of whom had filed for Leech's office. "The resulting publicity damaged severely the secret order's hopes for success in the Twin Cities." The book is annotated, has an index, and includes a bibliographical note on sources.

ROSS & HAINES, INC. has reprinted Stephen Return Riggs's A Dakota-English Dictionary (Minneapolis, 1968. x, 665 p. $17.50), first published in 1852 by the Smithsonian Institution. The reprint is of the second, enlarged edition of 1890, edited by James Owen Dorsey and carrying the imprint of the United States Geographical and Geological Survey of the Rocky Mountain Region, Department of the Interior. Containing some 16,000 words, the dictionary was the work not only of Riggs but also of such fellow missionaries as Samuel W. Pond, Gideon H. Pond, and Thomas S. Williamson.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

THE FAMILIAR STORY of exploration, settlement, pioneers, and economic growth is recorded by Patrick J. Casey in The First 100 Years: A History of Meeker County (1968. 223 p.). Established by the Organic Act of 1856, the county was embargoled early in the Indian uprising of 1862 when the Howard Baker homestead in Acton Township was attacked. Nine of the book's fifty brief chapters are devoted to the Sioux outbreak. Mr. Casey has relied on county records, an early county history (1876), and particularly on newspaper accounts for his information. There are twenty-one photographs, a roster of various county officers over the hundred years studied, and a list of the townships and the date each was organized.

THREE DIFFERENT art collections featuring output of early painters of the American West have been shown in various Minnesota cities in recent months. The Joslyn Art Museum of Omaha, Nebraska, prepared the shows for the Northern Natural Gas Company of Omaha, which owns the paintings and sponsored the exhibitions along with Minnesota Natural Gas Company and local historical societies. Rochester saw the first road showing of "Artists of the Western Plains," a collection of eighty-seven paintings by Frederic Remington, George Catlin, Charles M. Russell, and others. A loan exhibit of Alfred J. Miller works was shown at New Ulm, Hamline University, and the Minnesota Historical Society. An older show made up mainly of paintings that Swiss artist Karl Bodmer produced during Prince Maximilian of Wied's expedition to the upper Missouri River in 1833-34 was held last fall in Willmar and Brainerd. In previous years it was seen in several other Minnesota cities.

A SPECIAL ISSUE of the Conservation Volunteer for May--June, 1967, is devoted to the state parks of Minnesota. In a brief article on "Prehistory in Our State Parks," Elden Johnson points out that durable physical remains of over 10,000 years of the life of the prehistoric American Indian have been found throughout the state. He focuses attention on three archaeological examples within Mille Lacs Kathio State Park: Petaga Point, at the lower end of Lake Ogechie, where evidence of wild rice harvesting and an earlier copper culture exists; the Leland R. Cooper Site that "probably represents one of the large permanent villages of the Mdewakanton tribe"; and the Kathio School Site, located at the outlet of Lake Mille Lacs, that shows traces of several occupations.

The same issue of this magazine carries an article by Samuel H. Morgan entitled "Our Citizens and State Parks." It explains the roles of three distinguished Minnesotans in developing park facilities. They are Jacob V. Brower, father of Itasca State Park; John A. Latsch, Winona philanthropist; and Clarence R. Magney, jurist and North Shore conservationist.

THE LATEST in the long series of Minnesota Geological Survey publications is entitled Progressive Contact Metamorphism of the Biueabik Iron-formation, Mesabi Range, Minnesota, by Bevan M. French (Bulletin 45, University of Minnesota Press, 1968. 103 p. $4.50). The highly technical report, which is accompanied by thirty-eight figures and maps and ten tables, is of interest because of the growth of the taconite industry in recent years. It examines the changes in mineralogy and texture from 'unaltered' taconite in the Main Mesabi district to highly metamorphosed taconite in the Eastern Mesabi district," distinguishing "two fundamental kinds" of taconite — cherty and slaty. The author concludes that "metamorphism of
the Biwabik Iron-formation by the Duluth Gabbro Complex was largely isochemo-
and was characterized by a progressive loss of water and CO₂ from the iron-formation.” The publication also offers a useful summary of the general geology of the Mesabi Range.

AN ATTRACTIVE addition to community history is The White Bear Lake Story by Nancy L. Woolworth, published under the auspices of the White Bear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce (1968. 116 p. $2.00). Drawing on newspaper accounts, manuscript material, official records, and personal interviews, the author tells the story of the “oldest resort town in Minnesota” from prehistoric times to the present. The first third of the well-illustrated work examines the suburban area up to 1868 when the railroad came to the settlement. The growth of religious organizations, social and cultural institutions, education, and commerce comprises the next section. The final pages of Mrs. Woolworth’s study take the resort community through the days of the horseless carriage, the 1920s and 1930s, to its receipt of an All America City Award for 1964. The author intends the book to be “a popular history” and has not, therefore, provided annotation or an index. Accompanying the more than sixty illustrations are six maps of the area from 1843 to the present.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

ON DECEMBER 23, 1968, the Northern Pacific Railway Company presented its records to the Minnesota Historical Society and provided a grant for their care. The first installment — three thousand feet selected from a total of over eighty thousand feet of company records — arrived at the Historical Building on March 3, 1969. The gift, the largest single collection of papers ever to come to the society, is significant for both its quantity and quality. The broad scope of the activities documented by the papers covers over a hundred years of the company’s corporate life and includes correspondence files, financial and land records, information on the publication of the Northwest Magazine, and accounts of immigration promotion and settlement of Europeans. The company’s relations with western plains Indians, its role in backing tourism in the West — especially in Yellowstone Park — and its close contact through freight and passenger service with the hundreds of small towns through which it passed are revealed by these papers.

In the early 1930s Solon J. Buck, then the superintendent of the society, approached officials of the railroad and urged them to consider presenting their records to the society for permanent preservation. In 1967 negotiations were entered into in earnest, culminating in the recent transfer. According to Helen M. White, associate curator of manuscripts, preliminary inventories of the records will be completed by the fall of 1970. Oral history taped interviews with railroad personnel will be made and incorporated into the collection; newly devised data processing techniques are being used to prepare the inventories, and the records will soon be available to qualified scholars under terms of the contract.

ON MARCH 7 representatives of the society and Mankato State College met in Mankato to formulate an agreement for the establishment of the Southern Minnesota Historical Center. Through the center, Mankato State becomes a repository for manuscripts and other materials relating to the region, while the society continues to seek in the area collections of state-wide and national significance. Plans for co-ordinated catalogs and reference service were also discussed at the conference.

Director of research for the center is William E. Lass, professor of history at the college. Mrs. Lass has been appointed curator, beginning with the fall quarter, according to Jack O’Bar, head librarian at the college, who, with Mr. and Mrs. Lass, represented Mankato at the meeting. Representing the society were Russell W. Fridley, director; Lucile M. Kane, curator of manuscripts; and James Taylor Dunn, head librarian.

The center established in Mankato is the second to be organized in the state. On November 27, 1967, St. Cloud State College and the society created the Central Minnesota Historical Center. Directed by John C. Massmann, professor of history, the center — a branch of the society — is now collecting manuscripts, cataloging them, and exchanging with the society data on holdings. Thomas Mulligan, a graduate student at St. Cloud, is in charge of processing the collections under Mr. Massmann’s direction.

THE SOCIETY regrets that, due to incomplete annotation, some material drawn from Philip D. Jordan’s The Nature and Practice of Local History (1958) and His The World of the Historian (1963) and incorporated in Russell W. Fridley’s “Local History and World Upheaval,” published in the Winter, 1968, issue of Minnesota History, was not credited to Mr. Jordan.

DR. HIRAM DRACHE of Concordia College, Moorhead, is interested in obtaining photographs, preferably taken before 1910, of hog or cattle butchering on farms in the Midwest.