From Fjord to Freeway: 100 years • Augsburg College. By Carl H. Chrislock. (Minneapolis, Augsburg College, 1969. 262 p. Illustrations. $6.25.)

Reviewed by Merrill E. Jarchow

AUGSBURG COLLEGE, poised on Highway 94 in the heart of a modern metropolis, has strong attachments reaching to Norway's scenic fjords. Although it is very much in the mainstream of American higher education today, the institution's beginnings were most humble and its growth painfully slow.

The seed from which the college gradually emerged was a one-man operation started in 1869 as a training school for ministers, which was largely bereft of synodal support. A score of male students of varying educational backgrounds were housed in the building of a defunct academy in a small, rural community in Wisconsin. How this frail youngster in academia, appearing in an era when stillbirths and high infant mortality thwarted the dreams of numerous educational entrepreneurs, survived where others failed and attained sturdy adulthood constitutes the theme of Carl H. Chrislock's engrossing and admirable study.

Largely through the efforts of a Minneapolis pastor, the school was moved to its present site in 1872. Within two years Sven Øftedal and Georg Sverdrup would arrive from Norway to devote the remainder of their lives to Augsburg, the former as long-time head of the board of trustees and the latter as president of the school. At the time it was hoped that the institution, in addition to preparing men for pastorates, could serve Norwegian-Americans headed toward secular pursuits. For a variety of reasons this desire would not soon be fulfilled.

Meanwhile Augsburg remained a trine entity, composed of preparatory, collegiate, and seminary departments, each essential to the others. Daring, imagination, and flexibility were exhibited in matters of pedagogical practices but rarely where the basic nature of the institution was concerned. For years it was predominantly a divinity school, a Norwegian enclave isolated in large measure from its neighbors of differing ethnic origins. The student newspaper was bilingual until the mid-1920s, and the official name "Augsburg Seminary" was not changed to "Augsburg College and Theological Seminary" until 1942.

For readers in the secular 1970s the most fascinating and enlightening segments of the history may well be those dealing with Augsburg's relationship to the organized church and to its Norwegian cousin in the groves of academe, St. Olaf College in Northfield. It is interesting to speculate on the course of developments had the two colleges become part of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church in 1890, as almost happened.

But gradually forces in society, as well as within the Augsburg family, combined to transform the divinity school into an American college. Coeducation came in the fall of 1921. Thereafter collegiate enrollment mounted and that of the academy declined, causing the abolition of the latter department in 1933. By the early 1940s, President Bernhard M. Christensen could say that Augsburg's colonial period was practically over. In 1954 accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools was achieved. And nine years later...

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Winter 1969
later, with the merger of the American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Free Church, Augsburg became solely and strictly a college. Since then, under the leadership of Dr. Oscar A. Anderson, it has become intimately and increasingly involved in and concerned with the whole spectrum of American life.

In Dr. Chrislock Augsburg found its ideal historian. Thoroughly acquainted with his subject and holding it in great affection, he was, as a professional craftsman, still able to view the college’s story objectively and in proper perspective. His book is a model of its kind, a significant and lasting contribution to Minnesota history and to that of higher education.

STATE HISTORY

The History of Minnesota. By Val Bjornson. (West Palm Beach, Florida, Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1969. 4 volumes. Illustrations. $89.50.)

Reviewed by William F. Thompson

HISTORYANS publishing in state and local history must recognize that they are writing for a particular audience. By and large their readers are not fellow scholars, but rather they are usually ordinary members of a state or local community, sharing a mutual identity as citizens and proud of the past and present achievements of their community. Indeed, it is difficult for historians to work in this field without sharing something of this common identity and pride. But even having recognized this, they must still decide how best to strike the right balance between scholarly and popular history.

Books can survive as good history without such scholarly apparatus as footnotes, bibliographies, and even indexes, all missing from these volumes. But unless such books are based upon imaginative research, and unless they are sensitive to the complex relationships of men and events, they fail as history — and no amount of community pride can save them. Unhappily nowadays too many of the state and local “case studies” published by academic historians are quantitative and impersonal, a type of history in which strong narrative writing and a concern for the individuality of people has been sacrificed to a fetish for model theory and statistics. At the other extreme, too much popular history is little more than a biography of leading citizens and a chronology of local events. Both types lose several of the unique opportunities available to those who work in this field. State and local communities are usually small enough to allow an intensive analysis of the workings of the community, but large enough to encompass a wide variety of personalities and situations. State and local history — more so than national history — thus provides the opportunity to portray all the richness and diversity of a cohesive society. At the same time and perhaps even more challenging, it provides the opportunity to deal with the common experience of ordinary people. But rarely has this been done.

Val Bjornson’s four volumes — two of history and two of family and personal records — will be read with pride and pleasure by many Minnesotans and will be a source of despair to professional historians. They contain a great deal of information, arranged into neatly compartmentalized chapters organized first by chronology and then by subject, and they are written in an unusually informal manner. Mr. Bjornson acknowledges his reliance on Folwell and Blegen for much of his material on the early period, and for the more recent years he has drawn upon sources developed in his long career in Minnesota as a broadcaster and since 1957 as state treasurer. But scholars will be frustrated by the irrelevance of much of the information, such as a seven-page county-by-county listing within a chapter of Minnesota’s cities and villages and hamlets or a photograph of the new YMCA building at Brainerd. Moreover, there is no evidence that Mr. Bjornson has absorbed the monographic literature dealing with Minnesota history — Timothy L. Smith’s work on immigration and assimilation in Minnesota’s iron mining towns, for instance. And although Mr. Bjornson has written with justifiable pride, his treatment all too often lacks the comprehensive insight into the temporal processes of individuals and societies that is the essence of good history.

Most of the American states lack good histories; Minnesota has better ones than most. Folwell’s and Blegen’s volumes are still the
standard works to be read with profit and pleasure in Minnesota.

**PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST**


Reviewed by Kent Kreuter

The principal justification of books that try to capture in detail great dramatic events as they unfold lies in making us feel a part of those events. In the hills of New Hampshire or on the streets of Los Angeles, we are there in a way that is almost impossible to duplicate after those events are some distance behind us. Such books are usually long on mood and short on analysis; we hear plenty of snow crunching underfoot but very little about the meaning of it all. Fortunately these three London Times correspondents are aware of the problem and though they fail to consider 1968 as the beginning of a Republican majority, which it might well be, they do give a stunning survey of the key encounters and shaping figures in a year that will not soon be forgotten.

This marvelously rich book is not only about the last election but about something far more important. The authors have provided us with a study of how Americans misperceive their role in the world and their duties at home. The essence of the problem is that our country's conception of its power and place in the universe is "so proud, so presumptuous, and so erroneous" that it cannot help threatening disaster. The form this vanity takes is a war the authors think a catastrophe and a barren domestic policy built around a harmful and mistaken emphasis on law and order. In fact their chapter on this last subject is a masterpiece of weaving together vivid descriptions of Robert Kennedy's death with a larger analysis of the problem of violence in America.

With this theme of pride as a framework and a point of view, the authors lead us through the complexities of the campaign. Their heroes are a collection of the known and the semiobscure: Eugene McCarthy for his courage and Allard Lowenstein for almost singlehandedly setting off the political explosions that so marked the year. Their villains range from Ronald Reagan and George Wallace to the governor of Indiana who, between swigs of I. W. Harper, exclaimed to audiences that next to the Bible, the Boy Scout Handbook was the finest book ever written. Mr. Reagan gets special attention not only because he was the major threat to Richard Nixon but also because of the incredible nature of his covert campaign for the nomination. Secret films, aliases, and coded messages were all part of a plan to undermine Mr. Nixon and capture the prize.

The principals, of course, are Mr. Nixon and Hubert Humphrey, and both leave the authors deeply dissatisfied. They believe that Mr. Nixon, as a lawyer, knows the arts of advocacy but has never been reflective enough to know what is worth advocating. In addition, they say, he has the personality of a man that, despite his professed intentions, is uniquely fitted to divide the country. Mr. Humphrey is treated every bit as roughly, principally because of the authors' deep belief in the lunacy of the Vietnamese war. While quoting Lyndon Johnson as saying that Mr. Humphrey prepares for a thought-provoking speech by taking a deep breath, the authors do go on to show how truly magnificent a senator Humphrey has been. Such balance of presentation is typical in a book that is very likely to be the most rewarding view of a remarkable time. For those who want to know more about the most important group of public men ever to come from Minnesota, this book is the place to begin.

**SCHOLARS AS SLEUTHS**


Reviewed by Walter N. Trenerry

In bringing together these twenty-five clever essays, Professor Winks has come up with a wide-ranging historiographic travelog better called Through Thick and Thin, or Finding the Fateful Facts. The first steps in history, all the writers agree, are pure detective work. Mr. Winks' historical hawkshaws underline how sneaky historical facts are and how diaphanous or purely fictitious they may turn out to be.

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Winter 1969
Some evidence slides in unannounced and unwanted, like the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1948. Other things appear only after tireless gumshoeing, like the Boswell Papers in the 1920s. Some evidence is not evidence at all, like the fabricated letters from Abraham Lincoln to Ann Rutledge uncovered in the 1930s, the forged Donations of Constantine, or the legendary saving of John Smith by Pocahontas.

Some events are equivocal, partial, or outright mistakes. Was Sumner’s illness after his caning by Brooks in 1867 real or put on? What did Lord Salisbury hold back from Parliament about the 1896 Jameson Raid? A supposed hysterical outburst of Richard II, long accepted, turned out to be the unintended invention of a historian who read the sentences in a Latin paragraph in the wrong order.

Some facts have nothing to do with logic; they stem from Irrational Man, who questions the meaning of meaning itself and what an explanation is. In this newer realm of the mind Mr. Winks’ travelog also excels. Captain Cook, turning fiercely on the Hawaiians just before they killed him, was not the kindly officer who sailed from England but an exhausted man with raw nerves. Martin Luther went from adult crisis to adult crisis in a psychic pattern of father-worship, father-rejection, and father-supplanting. General Clinton’s memoirs showed the public that quarrelsome nature which helped ruin British campaign plans in the American Colonies.

Minnesota’s historians have their part in this search for evidence. Tom Jones advises how to use Roman coins to date and corroborate events of antiquity, and the late Frank Anderson re­plays his thirty-five years of hopeful sleuthing, trying to unveil that very private Public Man who knew so much about the affairs of 1861. In the end all Mr. Winks’ travelers in time have to admit that they never get, and never will get, all the facts they want. They go on to write history anyway, hoping to be plausible with what they have.

This must be another chorus in the requiem for scientific history, deceased bambino of the Age of Reason. The aim of today’s historical writing is no longer to make an objective study of unchangeable fact in a universe ruled by eternal law but to engage in dialectics and persuasion, even though to all appearances the historical rodents seem to keep digging deeper and deeper into their quantitative burrows.

Mr. Winks’ crew would admit all the existentialist content of history: all, including truth, is relative; when all is known, all is not necessarily understood; reason is a small part of the mind’s work; a law of science is no more than the preponderance of probabilities; historians and readers are part of the history they write and read; and, ruefully, a fact is anything someone can be persuaded to believe.

Historical detective-burrowers go on nevertheless, digging for quasi-certainty among pseudo-facts. Historians’ taste leads to the sport, and the game’s always afoot. Mr. Winks and his crew have compiled a rule book for happy digging.

MICIGAN EDUCATION

Education in the Wilderness. By FLOYD R. DAIN. (Lansing, Michigan Historical Commission, 1968. xviii, 345 p. Illustrations. $6.00.)
The Michigan Search for Educational Standards. By CHARLES R. STARRING and JAMES O. KNAUSS. (Lansing, Michigan Historical Commission, 1968. xii, 225 p. Illustrations. $6.00.)
Schools for an Urban Society. By DONALD W. DISBROW. (Lansing, Michigan Historical Commission, 1968. xiv, 337 p. Illustrations. $6.00.)

Reviewed by Walker D. Wyman

THERE IS an old adage that the good that men do lives after them, and certainly this is true in the case of John M. Munson, the late president of Eastern Michigan State University, who left a bequest of over $100,000 for the writing and publication of the history of Michigan and its educational system. It was important, he said, “that the citizens of Michigan have adequate and correct knowledge of the history and functions of the state of Michigan and its institutions and that this should be taught to the young people in its schools and colleges.” This is the largest private bequest ever made for the purpose of spreading knowledge about a state and its schools. From it has emerged two volumes on the history of Michigan, and four on

Mr. Trenerry, a former president of the society, is the author of Murder in Minnesota (1962).
the history of education (including Willis F. Dunbar’s *The Michigan Record in Higher Education*, published in 1963). Each of the three volumes under consideration has been written by a competent historian who knows good writing, good history, and the nuances of Michigan education at all levels. Michigan, its historical commission which administered the bequest, and Dr. Munson, looking back from the Elysian Fields, should be happy with the results. This venture may well inspire other states and other historians to turn to the rich field of education for research and publication, thus shifting the emphasis from so much that is peripheral to that which is central in American civilization. After all, the history of education tells more about the shaping of the American character than does the history of a company-strength Indian engagement or the sterile account of many political events.

This series sets the stage with Floyd Dain’s *Education in the Wilderness*, which covers the formative years from the Indian days down through the birth of the public school system by 1850. This is the era when one editor said “Michigan is forming its character.” The title of the second volume, *The Michigan Search for Educational Standards*, does not do literary justice to its contents, a discussion of the forces that jelled the educational system from 1850 to the third Michigan constitution in 1909 — the struggle for certification, adequate financing, and adjustment of the curricula from the classical to the modern. *Schools for an Urban Society* rounds out the story from 1909 to the present, the period when the forces of war, depression, industrialization, federal money, foundations, and other influences shaped the developing school system.

These volumes present the history of education within the context of the state and national historical scene, possibly more than is needed in volume one, and never delineate it in a separate compartment, whether it be the normal school movement or the drive for vocational education. Michigan’s history shows the uniqueness of states as laboratories, where individuals such as the first superintendent of Hamtramck schools (who started night classes in Polish) can tilt the system in new directions. Although the major thrust of these volumes is public education at all levels from kindergarten to university, they indicate the value of integrating the history of private and public education into one fabric. Illustrations of early schools and leaders strengthen the historical account.

The following things, although not sharply presented, emerge from the studies: the great influence of New Englanders and New York emigrants upon the founding and shaping of the Michigan system; the role played by a small number of strong-willed men in fighting the battle for free, public education and for making the schools servants of a social order; the ever-present problems of supporting and improving the mass system of education for all and adjusting the curricula and school organization to the realities of urbanization and industrialization; and the happy solution after many battles of the relationship between private and public education. It is surprising to learn that physical education took hold so early in Michigan and vocational education and rural consolidation so late. Likewise, it is surprising to learn of the considerable influence of the Kellogg, Couzens, and Ford foundations over the development of elementary and high school public education. These volumes stand as the most complete, well written, and balanced history of education within a state that has appeared. They deserve the attention of those studying in microcosm the development of American civilization.

**ST. CROIX GENEALOGY**

The *Brothers*. By John E. Hawkinson. (3911 Southern Avenue, Washington, D.C., privately published, 1969. xiv, 325 p. Illustrations. $15.00.)

Reviewed by James Taylor Dunn

ONLY OCCASIONALLY do genealogies make pleasant reading. Generally they are ponderous, statistical compendiums of charts, dates, and names to the umpteenth generation and are useful as reference works mostly for other genealogists.

That is why it is a delight to be able to review here (where seldom if ever books of this type are even noted) a genealogy that is a
definite contribution to the history of Minnesota and the story of Swedish migration into the St. Croix River Valley.

John E. Hawkinson's handsome volume *The Brothers* is a model of its kind. Unfortunately, however, its usefulness is limited by an edition of only 200 copies. It richly deserves far wider circulation than it will get.

With facile pen, high school art teacher Hawkinson chronicles in pictures as well as words the story of his great-grandparents, their move from Sweden to Minnesota, and the lives of their ten children, all boys, who farmed the good land of the St. Croix Valley.

Maine author Elizabeth Coatsworth once wrote that "A man's life or a woman's after a hundred years is usually summed up by little more than an old daguerreotype, a few letters stiffly written, breaking along the folds, or the mute witness of the objects they perhaps cherished." Mr. Hawkinson has used these "mute witnesses" with telling and appealing results as illustrations for the book which he designed. Here is the actual story that Swedish author Vilhelm Moberg told in fictional form in his popular trilogy *The Emigrants.* Mr. Hawkinson has presented the same story no less effectively. The author has indeed, in his own words, provided us with "a stereoscopic view of Swedish life in a rural Minnesota community."

The *Brothers,* with only a minute revision of text and the omission of the family charts and most of the pictures of later generations, would find a welcome market among libraries and schools throughout the Midwest. There is nothing else that tells the story quite so well.

**OLD COPPER SITE**

The *Archaeology of Petaga Point: The Pre-ceramic Component.* By PETER BLEED. (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1969. 72 p. Illustrations, maps. $2.00.)

Reviewed by Walter A. Kenyon

THE Petaga Point site in central Minnesota was occupied intermittently for some 4,000 years, ending in the Late Woodland period. While Mr. Bleed's report is concerned primarily with the earliest occupation, the Archaic/Old Copper period, his summary report on both the Middle and Late Woodland cultures is excellent. Particularly helpful for the out-of-state reader are the thumbnail sketches of the ceramic series from the Mille Lacs area. Their presence saves the student who is not too familiar with the details of Minnesota prehistory from having to search through a number of different reports, some of which may not be readily available.

The site itself, a thin, widely dispersed mantle of cultural material, had been seriously disturbed prior to Mr. Bleed's excavation. Much of this disturbance can be attributed to the agricultural activities of homesteaders in the 1920s and 1930s. In spite of the disturbance caused by plows and other implements, Mr. Bleed was able to isolate and define a preceramic component through a combination of stratigraphic and typological analysis.

Within the preceramic or Archaic complex, the presence of a variety of Old Copper tools is emphasized. These include socketed spear points, a large socketed chisel, awls and punches, conical points, a possible ulu knife, and a number of unmodified or slightly modified copper nuggets. The significance of the copper specimens lies not only in the fact that this is the first time that such materials have been scientifically excavated and reported in Minnesota. Of equal significance, perhaps, is the fact that the raw material itself could be of local derivation and that all or some of the tools could have been manufactured at the site. The presence of so many copper nuggets at Petaga Point strongly suggests that the finished tools were not trade items but the product of a local industry. Mr. Bleed does not state this specifically, but it is an inference that is strongly supported by his data. He concludes, from his study of the total Archaic assemblage, that the Old Copper specimens are probably a peculiar tool tradition that was shared by a number of otherwise diverse cultures in the Great Lakes area during the Late Archaic period.

The *Archaeology of Petaga Point* is a clear, lucid report on a carefully conducted and important excavation.
THE JOURNAL of David Bates Douglass, topographer on the Lewis Cass expedition to Lake Superior and the upper Mississippi region in 1820, has been published for the first time, under the editorship of Sydney W. Jackman and the late John F. Freeman, with the assistance of James L. Carter and Donald S. Rickard (Marquette, Northern Michigan University Press, 1969. xxii, 128 p. $4.25). Cass’ party, which had been commissioned by Secretary of War John C. Calhoun, left Detroit in May, 1820, and returned to that city 123 days later, having traveled some 4,000 miles in what are now the states of Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois. In the introduction to American Voyageur: The Journal of David Bates Douglass, Mr. Jackman credits the expedition with earning the friendship of various Indian tribes, collecting numerous specimens of the region’s mineral and soil resources, compiling topographical reports, and amassing material for further study of Indian anthropology and ethnology.

Douglass, according to the chief editor, kept a precise record of the group’s activities and also brought back six notebooks with sketches and notes from which he planned to publish a map of the explored territories. Unfortunately a misunderstanding over the publication of a joint narrative with Henry R. Schoolcraft, a fellow member of the expedition, seems to have stopped Douglass from producing anything. Thus his journal appears for the first time nearly 150 years later as “the raw material of something that might have been.” The editors have incorporated numerous illustrations and maps, a bibliography, and an index.

WISCONSIN’S pineries in the late nineteenth century are the setting for the reminiscences of Louie Blanchard, as retold by Walker D. Wyman in The Lumberjack Frontier: The Life of a Logger in the Early Days on the Chippenway (Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1969. xi, 88 p. $3.95). Mr. Wyman has preserved the colorful flavor of the old lumberjack’s recollections, blending personal experience and tall tale. There are several photographs of loggers and camp life.

The logging frontier produced a unique vocabulary, a large portion of which appears in Lumberjack Lingo, by L. G. Sorden (Spring Green, Wis., Wisconsin House, Inc., 1969. 149 p. Illustrations. $3.95). Mr. Sorden began collecting the words and phrases of the North Woods in the 1930s and published Logger’s Words of Yesterday with Isabel J. Ebert in 1956. His new book includes twice as many words and is alphabetically arranged for easy reference. There is a short bibliography. Copies are available through the order department of the Minnesota Historical Society.

“AMERICANS are a sentimental people, full of nostalgia for lost causes and vanishing frontiers. Few, however, have ever become nostalgic about the vanished hopes of the Socialist party of America,” observe Kent and Gretchen Kreuter in An American Dissenter: The Life of Algie Martin Simons 1870–1950 (Lexington, University of Kentucky Press, 1969. 236 p. $7.50). The authors set for themselves the task of chronicling the life of Algie Simons, Wisconsin-born teacher, journalist, historian, and a leader of the Socialist crusade in America. They present Simons’ gradual disillusionment with socialism as a viable political alternative against the background of the movements and personalities of the early twentieth century. Simons, who moved from the far left of the ideological spectrum to the far right, emerges as a man dedicated to the pursuit of social justice and the “good life.” A bibliographical essay and an index are included.

THE MINNESOTA SCENE

THE LIVELY reminiscences of Henry L. Griffith, who spent more than fifty years in the wholesale food business, have been published under the title of Minneapolis, The New Sawdust Town (Minneapolis, Bolger Publications, 1968. 76 p. $2.50). Written in collaboration with the late John K. Sherman of the Minneapolis Star, the charming, somewhat rambling book offers many glimpses of youthful Minneapolis through the eyes of a boy in rather comfortable circumstances who grew up on the near north side in the 1880s and 1890s before moving to 2220 Hennepin Avenue in 1898. In addition to noting boardwalks, horse-drawn streetcars, comic opera performances at the old “Met,” lumberjack restaurants, and the like, Mr. Griffith in the last half of the book often deals interestingly with Minneapolis’ banking community and food business. From 1905 on he headed the Kildall Company, for years a leading wholesaler of imported foods, especially of Genuine Old Style Lundefisk.

The best of the book’s many illustrations pertain to the Griffith family — a lovely 1909 portrait of Mr. Griffith’s wife, Edna, for instance, as
The American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis and the personality of its founder are the subjects of an illustrated article, "A Dream Fulfilled," by Carolyn E. Johnson in the September, 1969, issue of the American-Scandinavian Review. Miss Johnson writes that Swan J. Turnblad, the Swedish-born owner of Stenska Amerikanska Posten in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, built the elaborate threestory mansion at 2600 Park Avenue from 1905 to 1910 and furnished it with European art treasures. The social acceptance he had hoped to win with his "castle" eluded him, according to the author, and he vacated the house after six months. In 1929 Turnblad entrusted his home, his newspaper business, and the Posten building to a foundation established to "preserve and generate Swedish culture in America." The new organization, which came to be known as the American Swedish Institute, was housed in the Turnblad residence.

Miss Johnson describes the activities of the institute today, including classes in Swedish, a library, a film rental service, a gift shop, and a museum. Visitors may tour the old mansion Tuesday through Sunday.

JOHN L. ZAPLOTNIK has written a biography of Monseigneur Joseph Buh, pioneer missionary to Minnesota, for the 1970 edition of Ave Maria. In the article, entitled "Monsinjor Franc Jozef Buh, misijonar v Minnesota," Mr. Zaplotnik details the work of Slovenian Catholic missionaries, including Father Francis Pierz, among the Indians of central Minnesota and the Slovenian immigrants of the Iron Range. He also touches upon the development of the Catholic Church in northeastern Minnesota. The publication has not been translated.

**NEWS OF THE SOCIETY**

INCREASED interest in family history led to the formation of the Minnesota Genealogical Society last spring. The group, which now boasts over 140 members, is dedicated to promoting genealogy as a hobby, profession, and educational pursuit. At the first annual dinner meeting of the society on December 10, 1969, in St. Paul, Patricia C. Harpole, assistant reference librarian at the Minnesota Historical Society, was introduced as the president for 1970. Virginia Brainard Kunz, executive secretary of the Ramsey County Historical Society, addressed the meeting. The organization holds quarterly meetings in March, June, September, and December and also publishes a newsletter four times a year. Interested parties can contact the Minnesota Genealogical Society at P.O. Box 1120, St. Paul 55105.

Mrs. Harpole will conduct genealogy classes in the Minnesota Historical Society library on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., beginning January 27, 1970. The courses, sponsored by the St. Paul Adult Education Program, will consist of two consecutive sessions of five weeks each. The cost is $6.00, and registrations are to be addressed to Mrs. Harpole.

THE LATE Theodore C. Blegen's The Kensington Rune Stone: New Light on an Old Riddle, published by the Minnesota Historical Society, won a 1969 award of merit from the American Association for State and Local History, whose annual meeting was held in St. Paul in August. An award of merit also went to the Pope County Historical Society, Glenwood, Minnesota, "for its well-assembled interpretative exhibits, outstanding Helbing Indian collection, and extensive biographical files." An AASLH certificate of commendation was awarded WCCO Radio, Minneapolis, for producing "Heritage-Northwest: The Travels of Jonathan Carver," a program narrated which detailed the exploration of Minnesota and Wisconsin in words drawn from Carver's own journals.

ROY W. MEYER'S "The Canadian Sioux: Refugees from Minnesota," published in the Spring, 1968, issue of Minnesota History, was selected the best article on Western history appearing in 1968 by the awards committee of the Western History Association. The editor of Minnesota History accepted a $200 check and a plaque for Mr. Meyer and a plaque for the magazine at the annual meeting of the association in Omaha, Nebraska, in October. Mr. Meyer, professor of English at Mankato State College, was on leave throughout 1969 to lecture at the Flinders University of South Australia.

The association inaugurated an awards program this year "as an encouragement to scholars and writers who contribute articles on Western America to the many excellent magazines and journals that provide little or no recompense." The committee that chose Mr. Meyer's article from twenty-two submitted by various magazines consisted of Vernon Carstensen, professor of history at the University of Washington, Seattle; Joseph Snell of the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka; and Don Russell of Elmhurst, Illinois.