BOOK REVIEWS

We Made It Through the Winter. By Walter O'Meara.
(St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1974. xi, 128 p. Illustrations. $6.00.)

TO ANYONE who grew up when Walter O'Meara did in the early years of the twentieth century — as well as to many younger people — his new book, We Made It Through the Winter, is pure delight. It brings a breeze as fresh as spring after the plethora of books coming out about problems and conflicts, private and personal as well as global. Mr. O'Meara tells the story of one year in the life of a ten-year-old boy (himself) in the mill town of Cloquet, Minnesota, on the St. Louis River when the smell of pine was always in the air and the screaming of the great saws was the lifeblood of the community. The time was right after the turn of the century, when the big pines to the north seemed inexhaustible and the wilderness and open space were taken as a matter of course. It was a great time and place for a small boy to grow up. Life had its hardships and privations, but no one felt deprived.

We are under no illusions about the problems of this period. In a recent book, The Good Old Days: They Were Terrible, Otto L. Bettmann tells the harsher facts about social and economic problems and unrest. But for a boy in a town like Cloquet there were, aside from challenges, freedom and joy in living in a clean, unpolluted environment, a sense of personal responsibility for one's welfare, and close family relationships. Heroes walked the streets, and people enjoyed the deep satisfactions of plain, hard work and felt the pride of living close to the bush and somehow making it through the long, cold winters when the men were in the lumber camps and the women and children had to fend for themselves.

How fortunate we are to have Mr. O'Meara's memories! They include horses rearing on dirt roads when meeting the town's first automobile, the log drives that choked the river with timber in booms, river pigs and birlers, the boom house up the river, and the French cook who always had coffee and doughnuts for hungry youngsters.

There are so many pictures: a family gathered around the big, round table lighted by the soft, warm glow of a kerosene lamp, the Radiant Base Burner with its bright isinglass windows, the huge kitchen range with its reservoirs, and the pot of sourdough. The author also shares with us his recollections of earning twenty cents to buy his mother a Christmas present, of going to early mass on Christmas, the tinkle of sleighbells, and the glow of candles.

Then, too, there was always work for a boy, as for everyone else: the unending chores of sawing, splitting, and piling wood, hauling water from the spring, digging and tending the garden, storing apples and vegetables in the cellar, and making joyous expeditions deep into the bush for blueberries, raspberries, and cranberries. Less joyous, perhaps, were the days at school with the smells of drying footgear, jackets, and mittens, "reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic," and the inevitable fights among young boys.

There was also time for play, and the author tells of "rubber ice" on the mill pond and then the real freeze when skating could begin, Halloween with its pranks, and games of marbles and mibs. Among "tremendous" events were the arrival of a circus or carnival, Fourth of July, May Day, Easter, and the big parade of Memorial Day.

Walter O'Meara has done all of us a great service in writing this book. It is good to recall, in this unbelievably complex age, a simpler time when the American Dream was still alive. Older generations may have their memories, but there is something here for younger ones, too, at a time when so many people seem to be looking for something they have lost — a simpler and more wholesome world of sound ethics, ideals, self-reliance, and faith in the old virtues.

The twenty-five photographs of cook shanties, logging crews, horses hauling enormous loads, the mill pond full of logs, the falls on the St. Louis — old Cloquet in its heyday — help make it all come to life. The book is a treasure.

Reviewed by Sigurd F. Olson, prominent ecologist and naturalist who has written numerous books and articles on the wilderness and its preservation. He himself grew up in small, midwestern towns close to nature.


A SCHOLARLY work by definition will appeal to scholars; but when a scholarly work also appeals to others, it is a jewel. Tracing Minnesota's Old Government Roads is a little jewel. In 52 pages, Grover Singley takes the reader through the routes of the first five military roads constructed in Minnesota Territory by the federal government in the 1850s.

Where did they go and why? These are always challenging questions when one looks at roads and particularly those located more than 100 years ago. With remarkable clarity and detail Singley's account answers these questions. Even more absorbing are the other comments relative to the time of which he writes.

Leaving aside the technological differences for a moment, the process of building the old roads was remarkably similar to

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that followed today: "no contracts could be negotiated unless or until the money had been appropriated and was available." Again: "This survey immediately blew up a storm of protest in the territory because it was laid out entirely on Indian land west of the Mississippi and did not fit into the program of territorial entrepreneurs." Again: "As a result of the protest all activities on the road ceased." And finally: "As with all other military roads constructed in Minnesota, the final cost of this one was considerably higher than the original estimate."

Such statements are still familiar today to those of us interested in roads in Minnesota. The five roads covered in this engaging account are the Mendota-Wabasha Road, the Point Douglas-St. Louis River Road, the Point Douglas-Port Ripley Road and the Red River addition, the Swan River-Long Prairie Road, and the Mendota-Big Sioux River Road.

For Minnesotans, and particularly history buffs or old road buffs, Mr. Singley has performed a signal service by authoring this account. He has packed an amazing amount of detail in a short treatise, intertwined with a fascinating narrative of the men who laid out the original routes as well as the author's efforts to find and trace those routes today. One feels a tug to search out some of the still-remaining signs of these old roads as described by Mr. Singley. The beautifully drawn maps are easily followed even by laymen and indicate several opportunities for viewing the segments of the original route in near their original condition as could be expected.

Of particular interest is the concluding paragraph: "In 1948, of the 101 miles of military road constructed, about 30 miles had been abandoned, a few miles were included in state highways, and the remainder of the old military road route, much improved, was still in use in county roads."

They planned perhaps better than they knew in those days. Grover Singley tells this story succinctly, interestingly, accurately, and, obviously, with great affection.

Reviewed by Ray Lappegaard, who recently retired as commissioner of the Minnesota Highway Department.


(Syracuse, New York, Syracuse University Press, 1974. x, 238 p. Illustrations. Clothbound $9.95, paperbound $4.95.)

IN HIS introduction to this volume, Lewis L. Gould remarks that "historians have made the first two decades of the twentieth century one of the most scrutinized periods in the national past." The point is well taken. Unhappily, no widely accepted synthesis has emerged, but even so every nook and cranny of the progressive era has been so thoroughly researched and interpreted that one is tempted to invoke the law of diminishing returns when confronted with still another work on progressivism.

Nevertheless, this book is a welcome addition to historical literature. Consisting of eight original essays by as many young but established historians, it provides a broad interpretive survey of the period's cultural and political trends. Stanley P. Caine analyzes the origins of progressivism; R. Laurence Moore interprets the complex and paradoxical intellectual currents of the era; Lewis L. Gould and John J. Broesamle describe progressivism's impact on the national Republican and Democratic parties respectively; James Penick, Jr., presents three conservation themes; Melvin G. Holli assesses urban reform; Wilton B. Fowler traces the course of American diplomacy from Theodore Roosevelt through Woodrow Wilson; and Thomas K. McGraw undertakes a summation of progressivism's historical legacy.

Notwithstanding some variations in emphasis, a broad consensus permeates the eight essays. Essentially Mr. Moore speaks for the group when he writes:

"Later critics of the progressives... have attacked progressive thinkers alternatively for their failure to throw off nineteenth-century morality and for capitulation to the directionless course of twentieth-century scientism. What one sees depends on one's biases. Both elements were present. The progressive outlook tried to encompass beliefs in democracy, environmentalism, technology, efficiency, paternalism, moral goodness, and the force of the human will. While it ended in an impossible mélange of conflicting values, the successors of progressive reformers have had difficulty moving onto new ground. They have not, sad to say, found it easy to locate other views to sustain hopes for a better future."

If anything resembling an enduring "synthesis" interpreting the progressive era is possible—a dim prospect at best—Mr. Moore may have located it. In any case, the book seems to reflect a retreat from the harsh critiques of progressivism produced in recent years by so-called New Left historians. What emerges is an interpretation combining a recognition of progressivism's flaws with an affirmation that the progressive era was one of the very few genuinely creative epochs in American history.


(Northfield, St. Olaf College Press, 1974. xv, 694 p. Illustrations. $10.00.)

"TRADITION" was defined in my college world history course as "a way of doing things." It is traditional when a college or university celebrates its 100th anniversary that a centennial history of the school be written. Joseph M. Shaw, professor of religion at St. Olaf and a 1949 graduate of the college, has written the one for his alma mater.

The first comprehensive history of St. Olaf was written in 1949 at the time of the school's seventy-fifth anniversary. Rather than simply updating William C. Benson's High on Manitou, Mr. Shaw has written a completely new work, at times reinterpretting the history of the college in light of events which have occurred during the last twenty-five years.

The narrative is chronological. There are five major parts, the first dealing with the founding of St. Olaf's School at Northfield in 1874, continuing through its change in status to St. Olaf College in 1889, and its adoption by the United Norwegian Lutheran Church as its church college in the 1890s;
Aspects of Upper Great Lakes Anthropology: Papers in Honor of Lloyd A. Wilford. Edited by Elden Johnson.


This volume is a Festschrift for Lloyd A. Wilford, whose work in Minnesota archaeology from 1928 until his retirement in 1959 has hitherto been largely unexamined. My own knowledge of his situation and Elden Johnson's excellent introduction confirm the idea that Mr. Wilford's work did not have a high priority at the University of Minnesota. His production despite financial and other handicaps is a lasting tribute to him. We can thank Mr. Wilford again for this volume, which has brought into print a number of studies which might otherwise never have appeared. The fourteen papers have as their unifying theme the Indian occupation of the Minnesota area, which has been the major interest of Mr. Wilford.

On an introductory page there is a photograph of Mr. Wilford, Albert E. Jenkins, an unidentified Algonquian, and another unidentified man at a Capsian site in Algeria in 1931. The latter is Ralph E. Brown, who worked in Kentucky during Works Progress Administration days and later was state archaeology supervisor in Kentucky.

The introductory chapter by H. E. Wright, Jr., on "The Environment of Early Man in the Great Lakes Region" is a masterly summary of the best current knowledge by an outstanding student of the subject. Nancy S. Osberg's study of "Origins and Relationships of Woodland Peoples: The Evidence of Cranial Morphology" is a welcome addition to the growing body of data on the prehistoric populations. Her interpretations are that the southern population of the Blackduck complex are ancestral Dakota, that the Manitoba phase is proto-Assiniboin and the divergence between Dakota and Assinibois goes back to the end of the Laurel complex, and that the Arvilles is the product of ancestral Chippewa. These certainly are reasonable conclusions.

The lake district of north-central Wisconsin is a delightful area for summer vacationers, as it may have been for hunter-gatherers. Its sparse populations during the past were a handicap for Robert J. Salzer's study. Occupancy over a long period is indicated, but the definition of clear, short-term, cultural complexes is difficult and subject to revision. As an example, I suspect that his Nokomis phase is early Late Woodland, rather than Early or Middle Woodland as proposed. Christy A. H. Caine's contribution, "The Archaeology of the Snake River Region in Minnesota," also shows evidence of lengthy, though never widespread, occupation. I recognized no ceramic material from the drawings that I would call Middle Woodland. W. C. McKern's estimate of the age of Clam River ware was probably wrong, although the cultural association into Minnesota was certainly sound.

Jack Steinbring again is faced with a large area and little data in his paper, "The Preceramic Archaeology of Northern Minnesota." He presents some interesting data, which were new to me, on early Archaic occupations, among which I do not include Minnesota Man. I have no confidence in a 3657 B.C. date for copper at Modoc for a number of reasons. Few cultural dates go back as far a 3000 B.C. I doubt that there is a Snyder's point from South Paw Lake. Copper had a supernatural connotation for the historic Algonquians of the Lake Superior region, but so did every other aspect of their lives.

James B. Stoltzman, in his analysis, "Within-Laurel Cultural Variability in Northern Minnesota," has the opportunity to re-evaluate his analysis of data from the McKinstry site, confess his past sins, add radiocarbon dates, and establish that much of the cultural variation that Mr. Wilford recognized within Laurel is a result of age differences. The central Des Moines River Valley in Iowa has essentially been terra incognita, and David M. Gradwohl's paper is a fine addition. Thomas F. Kehoe, in his contribution, presents some interesting concepts of what he calls "The Large Corner-notched Point System of the Northern Plains and Adjacent Woodlands." One can certainly agree with him that the spread of ideas and
technologies at many levels was through human contact, in the absence of the printed word or other media.

It is heart warming to see a discussion of “Culture Contact: Effigy Mound and Oneota,” by William M. Hurley. One of his objectives is to indicate his disbelief in the idea of Oneota developing out of Effigy Mound, an idea for which no evidence has ever been produced since it was proposed in the early 1940s by two archaeologists who knew nothing about either Effigy Mound or Oneota. While I can recognize a gradual change from Middle Woodland complexes into Effigy Mound and other Late Woodland groups around 300 to 500 A.D., I am not convinced by his argument either here or in his “An Analysis of Effigy Mound Complexes in Wisconsin,” published by the Museum of Anthropology in Ann Arbor, that Oneota goes back to the seventh century or in fact any earlier than the eleventh century at the outside.

Guy E. Gibbon has a stimulating paper called “A Model of Mississippian Development and Its Implications for the Red Wing Area.” He proposes that there are strong resemblances between the state-level of cultural development achieved in Mexico and other areas and that formed in the Cahokia area. I think his suggestion suffers from a number of handicaps, principally the lack of understanding and agreement among archaeologists on the definition of a state-level of organization, and the lack of sound data on actual population size, density, and economic activity of the Cahokia centers. For a starter, I would categorically deny that there was a Ramsey State in any reasonable sense of the term.

The discussion of the “Subsistence Pattern Change at the Cambria Site: A Review and Hypothesis,” by Charles R. Watrall, presents evidence on faunal remains, some discussion of lithic artifacts, and suggested sources and comments on probable agricultural activities. He suggests that the Cambrian economy was subject to sufficient changes in the climatic pattern to cause a significant shift from dependence on corn to more reliance on bison. I was impressed by the chapter on “An Interpretation of Midden Formation — The Mill Creek Example,” by David A. Baerreis and Robert A. Alex. It is a carefully reasoned presentation and interpretation of the construction of certain Mill Creek and other comparable sites. Quite a number of years ago I was puzzled by the reported depth of Mill Creek and related sites in the Middle Missouri, and this chapter is a great help. I would also call to the attention of archaeologists the considerable time range of dates for the Brewer and Kimball sites by an excellent laboratory. The length of occupation is probably not, however, nearly as long as might be thought.

I have a natural emotional tie with the fate of La Salle’s boat, the “Griffin” or “Griffon.” It is not clear that La Salle himself ever called it that. Ronald J. Mason, in a carefully argued chapter, presents his case that the place where the boat was loaded with furs was Huron Island, between Door Peninsula and Washington Island. Mildred Mott Wedel has written an ethnographical study on “Le Sueur and the Dakota Sioux,” a form at which she is a past master, as the book’s final paper. Historians reading this volume will probably find these last two contributions the most interesting.

The final section of the book is the list of references cited, compiled by Mr. Johnson and his associates. It is an excellent short list of Minnesota archaeology titles. The Minnesota Historical Society is to be congratulated on sponsoring this valuable addition to its publications, the eleventh in its Minnesota Prehistoric Archaeology Series. It does honor to the society, Mr. Wilford, the editor, and the contributors.

Reviewed by James B. Griffin, director of the Museum of Anthropology at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.


(Helsinki, Svenska Litteratur­sällskapet i Finland, 1972. 566 p. Illustrations. Fmk.-80.)

THE FINLAND-SWEDES, or Swedish-Finns, are a small immigrant group of which little is generally known. They represent the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland, but they were not visible before 1960 in American census reports, where they were regarded either as emigrants from Finland or as people whose mother tongue was Swedish.

Anders Myrhman is himself a member of this community. He spent some of his first American years in Minnesota and was for many years professor of sociology at Bates College, Lewiston, Maine. He has written a very full account of his people, in Swedish, in Finlandssvenskar i Amerika. He calculates that about 73,000 Finland-Swedes came to North America from 1871 to 1929 and that in 1930 there were about 34,000 of the first generation in the United States. Three-quarters of them came from the rural province of Ostrobothnia, and they represented about one-fifth of the total immigration from Finland.

Mr. Myrhman describes the geographical and occupational distribution of the Finland-Swedes in America, outlines the development of the specifically Finland-Swedish temperance and sick benefit societies and religious organizations, and discusses the problems of Americanization and the second generation.

About three-fifths of the book consists of histories of the local communities of Finland-Swedes. One section is devoted to Minnesota, which attracted them in significant numbers. They began to flow into the state and especially into the northern part, in the 1880s, drawn first by work opportunities in the lumber camps and sawmills, and then by the demand for miners in the open pits of the Iron Range. Before long, however, many began to move out of these occupations into the building trades, especially into carpentry. Significant numbers became farmers and some even became fishermen. The second generation has moved into many sectors of society, including the professions.

Duluth, which had about 2,000 Finland-Swedes of the first and second generations in 1928, naturally has pride of place in Mr. Myrhman’s book. An English version of this account, in somewhat shorter form, can be found in the January, 1963, Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly. Other centers in St. Louis County which the author describes include Chisholm, Eveleth (which at one time had 300 to 400 Finland-Swedes), Hibbing, the farming community of East Little Fork, and Larmsont (which received its name from Larsmo in Finland). There are also sections on the Twin Cities, Hobkins (where they were attracted first by the raspberry horticulture and

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(New York, Oxford University Press, 1974. viii, 487 p. Illustrations. $15.95.)

"TO THE NEW COUNTRY" rather than "to the frontier" or "to the West" was the most common phrase employed by the pioneers in describing their destinations as they moved West, and Richard A. Bartlett has vividly portrayed what the frontier experience was like for the millions of people who undertook this adventure. To Mr. Bartlett, the story of the process of migration and settlement has too long been told as a myriad of disunited and broken incidents instead of "as a great sweep westward, unbroken, inevitable, of epic proportions." This wider view which the author uses is both refreshing and successful.

Beginning with the remarkable speed with which the vast country stretching from the Appalachians to the Pacific was occupied — 114 years — Mr. Bartlett exposes several myths about this sweep across the continent. Succinctly, he points out that the land beyond the Appalachians was not a mysterious or unknown area to the settlers, that in fact, their geographical knowledge of America's interior was more widespread than previously believed; that the continent was not a trackless wilderness but, in reality, contained many paths, trails, and water routes; and that the Indians were not an invincible de-

terrent to frontier expansion. Concerning the latter, most settlers in the new country never had direct contact with Indians.

Space limits this reviewer from delving into the various topics which the author so adroitly discusses. The building of log cabins, the different modes of land and water transportation, and the despoliation and spoliation of natural resources by overzealous and enterprising concerns are some of the subjects detailed. Valuable information on the individuals who settled the new country and worked in the mines and on the railroads is presented. Moreover, a chapter on the urban frontier — a neglected subject until recently — is most enlightening. New light is shed on life in cities, towns, and mining camps. Mr. Bartlett ascribes to the current thesis that life in urban areas of the West was not as wild and violent as it has been depicted.

More than just a mere narrative or chronology of the frontier experience, the book intermingles penetrating ideas, interpretations, and, at times, the author's personal bias. The book contains excellent illustrations, helpful maps, a very good bibliographical essay, and a minimal (perhaps too minimal) amount of footnotes. Written for both the historian and the general reader, The New Country is a valuable addition to western Americana. Mr. Bartlett is to be lauded for his neatly woven pattern of the settlers' migration to and settlement of the West.

Reviewed by Raymond Wilson, doctoral candidate in history at the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque. He has written articles and book reviews on western and Indian history for several historical journals.

The Divided Heart: Scandinavian Immigrant Experience through Literary Sources. By Dorothy Burton Skardal.  
(Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1974. 394 p. $20.00.)

THE AUTHOR of this volume, at great pains to anticipate all possible criticisms, devotes much space, especially in the first two chapters and the last, to explanations of her procedures and disarming concessions of incompleteness. This doctoral dissertation approach interrupts but does not detract from a laborious attempt to portray Scandinavian immigrant experience from imaginative literature produced by immigrants or those close to their experience. As indicated by her bibliography, she has exercised wide discretion in her selection of "literary" material, ranging from the heights of the Ola E. Rolvaag novels to the literary supplements of newspapers and the contributors to Christmas annuals. While she has footnoted each quotation used, the authors of much of her material remain rather obscure, and one is asked to accept Mrs. Skardal's judgment as to the value of a particular author's observations. Again one is asked to accept Mrs. Skardal's opinions on a great variety of aspects of immigrant life on the basis of her bibliography but without direct documentation.

As to the historical facts of the immigrants' experiences, Mrs. Skardal has listed a few standard authorities of varied usefulness, but she does not seem to have made use of the
large amount of new material produced in recent years in each of the Scandinavian countries as well as in the United States. Nevertheless, this reviewer could identify subjectively with much that is reported in this volume, even though he would have been more comfortable with more factual material.

The author describes the familiar situation of underprivileged people in the homelands, the experiences of the journey to the New World, the frequently unpleasant reception in American ports, and the varied experiences of immigrants on arrival in the American Midwest. She then explores the loosening of the bonds to homeland ways, the acceptance of the idols of success, the development of immigrant-American institutions with much imitation of American models, the gradual changes in values in the family and in social relationships, the increased participation in American affairs, the survival of certain foods and customs, the gradual loss of the original language and with it the decline of the Scandinavian-American press, and the resulting mix of ethnic survivals and increasing Americanization.

There is little specific geographical identification as to location in the United States, and it is therefore difficult to determine the setting of many of the quotations or assertions. There are mentions of state or territorial units but seldom of specific communities. There was great variety of writer reaction to locality, and although the author makes this point she does not document it adequately. The book is therefore of limited usefulness for Minnesota history.

Reviewed by CARLTON C. QUALEY, professor emeritus of history at Carleton College and research fellow in charge of the Minnesota Ethnic History Project at the Minnesota Historical Society.

news & notes

AS OF January, 1975, major books and pamphlets published by the society will appear under a new imprint — the Minnesota Historical Society Press. A distinctive logo for the press, designed by Alan Ominsky, will be used to distinguish these titles. The change was made to recognize the growing stature of the institution’s book publishing program and clearly to differentiate its major works from the many reports and other departmental publications that have appeared with confusing frequency in recent years.

The first book to bear the new imprint is Gopher Reader II, an anthology of articles from the Gopher Historian magazine for young people which was discontinued in 1972. The Reader, compiled by Hermine Poatgieter, former editor of the Gopher Historian, and James Taylor Dunn, retired chief librarian, was published in April, 1975.

The society is the oldest book publisher in the state, having issued its first volume in 1850 when Minnesota was still a territory. Its output increased dramatically in the last decade under the direction of Mrs. June D. Holmquist, assistant director for research and publications. Currently the institution has in print over seventy-five major titles.

A NEW AID for scholars and students using collections in the seven-location network of Minnesota Regional Research Centers, established by the Minnesota Historical Society and co-operating colleges, has been published by the society.

Compiled by James E. Fogerty, regional centers director, the Preliminary Guide to the Holdings of the Minnesota Regional Research Centers (20 p., $1.00) lists holdings, as of September 30, 1974, at the repositories located on the campuses of Bemidji, Mankato, Moorhead, St. Cloud, Southwest, and Winona state colleges and the University of Minnesota at Morris. Updated guides will be issued from time to time as the centers continue to collect and process additional materials.

Although the guide lists a wide range of materials, emphasis is on the papers of state legislators and the records of local businesses. The guide is divided into two principal sections listing manuscripts and oral history interviews. The latter section is subdivided into four general groups on the Farm Holiday Association, Minnesota state legislators and politics, the Red River Valley of the North in the Great Depression of the 1930s, and reminiscences. Also included is a simple place index.

A CONFERENCE on the history of women, sponsored by the Women Historians of the Midwest (WHOM), will be held at the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, on Friday evening, October 24, and all day Saturday, October 25.

Carol Gold, professor of history at the University of Minnesota, is program chairperson. Subjects in many areas of women’s history will be presented in the various sessions. For further information and arrangements for papers to be given, contact Ms. Gold, Department of History, 614 Social Science Tower, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 55455.

A RESEARCHER and writer on American Indians, Karen Daniels Petersen, has been awarded a Minnesota Historical Society Public Affairs Center Research Fellowship. Mrs. Petersen, of West St. Paul, will use the $2,400 stipend to do research on 'Asa W.' and Jared W. Daniels, two early Minnesota physicians and brothers who were deeply involved in Indian-white relations in the Midwest and Far West. Mrs. Petersen is the author of a film script and several articles and books, including Plains Indian Art From Fort Marion, published in 1971.

Her interest in the Daniels brothers is both personal and professional. She is Asa’s granddaughter and the niece of Jared, whose personal papers she inherited years ago. Throughout her career, she says, she has often been reminded “of my duty to the Danielses,” who began their frontier careers as government physicians to the Dakota Indians in Minnesota. Her grandfather Asa was twenty-four and had recently acquired a medical diploma when he arrived in Minnesota Territory in 1855. He was appointed surgeon to the Lower Sioux Agency at Fort Ridgley near New Ulm. Jared Daniels arrived in 1855 and was the first physician at the Upper Sioux Agency near Granite Falls.

The Minnesota Historical Society established the Public Affairs Center in 1967 to call attention to the influence of
Minnesotans and midwestern organizations on the course of politics and government in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Its work is currently aided by financial support from the Northwest Area Foundation (see note below).

NORTHWEST AREA Foundation is the new name of the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation of St. Paul. In the announcement of the change it was pointed out that the foundation “has consistently endeavored to meet needs in the region from which a large portion of its funds was derived.” Since the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Hill the foundation “has gone beyond the usual scope of a typical family foundation.” Therefore, the directors and trustees decided “it more suitable that the Foundation should henceforth bear the name of the region which it primarily serves.”

A SYNTHESIS of 220 years of fur trade history in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and neighboring areas has been accomplished skillfully by Rhoda R. Gilman in an article, “The Fur Trade in the Upper Mississippi Valley, 1630–1850,” published in the Autumn, 1974, issue of Wisconsin Magazine of History. Calling upon a wide range of sources old and new, including works based on the latest archaeological findings, Mrs. Gilman has pulled together a host of related subjects for her study. Among them are the varying roles in the fur trade of such Indians as the Ottawa at Chequamegon Bay of Lake Superior, the Chippewa in northern Minnesota and elsewhere, the Winnebago, and the Sioux. One theme the author develops is the importance of Prairie du Chien, site of a large Fox village, as a great rendezvous point and as a fur trade center over a span of many years.

Mrs. Gilman also covers the changes in the trade brought over the years by wars and by shifts from French to British to American control (after the War of 1812). “What the Americans had won,” the author writes, “was the privilege of presiding over the closing years and final destruction of the Indian fur trade in this region. The seeds of that destruction were in the American hunger for land and the engulfing wave of white settlement.” Only in the last part of the article does Mrs. Gilman cover some of the same ground she dealt with earlier in her “Last Days of the Upper Mississippi Fur Trade,” published in Minnesota History in Winter, 1970. The author, a former editor of this magazine, is on leave from the MHS educational services division to continue work on a biography of Henry H. Sibley.

THE SIOUX ATTACK on an advance settlement at Lake Shetek in southwestern Minnesota on August 20, 1862, and the fate of two women and six children who were captured there by White Lodge’s band and taken to Dakota Territory are the focal points of an article by James S. Gray in the Winter, 1975, issue of Montana The Magazine of Western History. How the women — Julia Wright and Laura Duley — and the children were eventually rescued on the Missouri River, thanks in large measure to fur trader Charles E. Galpin and his Sioux wife Matilda, forms the burden of the last part of the article. Illustrations include scenes from the John Stevens panorama owned by the Minnesota Historical Society. The society also furnished several sources for the article.

A NEW BOOK called German-American Settlements in the United States (Fargo, North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, 1974, xiii, 307 p. $9.50) contains little direct information on Minnesota’s Russian-Germans except to note their locations in McLeod, Sibley, and Cottonwood counties. However, the volume, written by Richard Sallet and translated by La Vern J. Rippl and Armand Bauer, does furnish a large amount of background information about the emigration of the Evangelical, Catholic, and Mennonite Russian-Germans from various parts of old Russia, especially the Volga and Black Sea areas.

Mr. Sallet describes the dispersion of these people over the plains states and the bordering areas of Canada and especially emphasizes the movements into the Dakotas, with which he is evidently best acquainted. The book provides information on the preservation of cultural traits and includes numerous reproductions of photographs of persons and farms, distribution maps by states, two appendixes, and an index. Reorganization and rewriting would have improved readability, but even in its present form the book contains a wealth of information about a relatively little known element of the American population.

Carlton C. Qualey
CHATFIELD, located in the Root River Valley, was first settled in 1853 and for a time was one of “the most flourishing towns in southern Minnesota.” In 1856 Augustus Haven and his family moved from Galena, Illinois, to the new settlement where Haven bought property, began a store, and built a house. Now a grandson, George A. Haven, has written a history of the town entitled Chatfield, Minnesota Territory: Its Settlers, Their Environment, and Their Successors. The author says the book was inspired by the fact that he and his father, George H. Haven, between them have lived in the town in all but the first three years since it was founded. Mr. Haven put together much of his history from accounts and stories told by older members of the community. Most important of these was his father who “in a sense is a coauthor,” he writes in his dedication.

Mr. Haven writes about the early years, and the settlers, their homes, businesses, professions, schools, churches, clubs, entertainment, and other aspects of the town’s life. Some interesting illustrations help tell the history. The 147-page book is not indexed. It is available for $7.00 from the author at Chatfield, Minnesota 55923. The price includes postage and handling.

AN ARTICLE that first appeared in the Spring, 1972, issue of Minnesota History — C. Allyn Russell’s “William Bell Riley: Architect of Fundamentalism” — has been reprinted in the January-March, 1973, issue of Foundations: A Baptist Journal of History and Theology, published quarterly by the American Baptist Historical Society. The reprint includes the footnotes but not the illustrations that accompanied the original publication. A study of the influential and frequently turbulent career of the longtime local and national fundamentalist leader and pastor of the First Baptist Church of Minneapolis, the Riley article won the Solon J. Buck Award for the best article to appear in Minnesota History in 1972.

INDEX AVAILABLE
THE INDEX for volume 43 of Minnesota History, covering the eight issues published in 1972 and 1973, is now ready. Subscribers do not automatically receive the index; it must be ordered.

The price for this and earlier indexes is $3.00. (Add 50 cents for postage and handling if ordering by mail. Minnesotans should also add a 4% per cent sales tax.) Indexes can be purchased for the following volumes of Minnesota History: 8, 16, 17, 23, 24, 26, 28-31, 34-43.

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Since 1849, when it was chartered by the first territorial legislature, the Minnesota Historical Society has been preserving a record of the state's history. Its outstanding library and its vast collection of manuscripts, newspapers, pictures, and museum objects reflect this activity. The society also interprets Minnesota's past, telling the story of the state and region through publications, museum displays, tours, institutes, and restoration of historic sites. The work of the society is supported in part by the state and in part by private contributions, grants, and membership dues. It is a chartered public institution governed by an executive council of interested citizens and belonging to all who support it through membership and participation in its programs. You are cordially invited to use its resources and to join in its efforts to make Minnesota a community with a sense of strength from the past and purpose for the future.

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