A History of the City of Saint Paul to 1875. By J. Fletcher Williams, with an introduction by Lucile M. Kane.

ANYONE who thinks history is dull — and there are, alas, far too many — has never read J. Fletcher Williams’ colorful account of the early decades of St. Paul’s history.

Long out of print and available only as a noncirculating volume in the history sections of public libraries, Williams’ A History of the City of Saint Paul to 1875 and of the County of Ramsey, Minnesota has been reprinted by the Minnesota Historical Society Press as part of its new Borealis Books reprint series. Two additions, however, make a substantial contribution to Williams’ own account. One is an extremely helpful index. (Williams’ index was cursory, to say the least, and his manuscript was organized into chapters relating events year by year, making it difficult to locate information without a date.) The second is a vibrant introduction by Lucile M. Kane that adds an important perspective to Williams’ work, as well as providing the reader with valuable information about Williams himself.

He was, Kane tells us, a postal clerk who became a newspaperman, perhaps simultaneously, and finally the secretary-librarian of the Minnesota Historical Society. He was a native of Ohio who walked off a Mississippi steamboat onto the levee in St. Paul on a cold, rainy day in October, 1855. Kane writes: A gregarious man, he “prowled the city interviewing dozens of informants,” covered the legislature for St. Paul newspapers, and was sent by the Daily Minnesotian to Shakopee in 1858 to report on a battle raging between the Dakota and Ojibway. He said later his report “was copied into hundreds of newspapers over the union.”

He became a respected St. Paulite, a member of the city’s board of education, the Minnesota Historical Society, and the Minnesota Editorial Association. His personal life apparently was happy, or at least predictable for that era. Kane writes: “Abandoning the carefree bachelor existence he had described as ‘spicy chapters’ in his life, he married Catherine Roberts in 1857 and fathered a large family.”

Williams’ St. Paul chronicle was not his only work. He wrote two Minnesota guidebooks, a number of brief community histories as introductions to city directories, and a series of historical sketches, which led to his MHS appointment in 1867. During the next few years he collected material for his St. Paul opus, an account which, lively though it is, presents some problems for the scholar. The distinguished historian, Theodore C. Blegen, saw the book as an “antiquarian chronicle, not a history,” and he was right. “Yet,” Kane points out, “vestiges of wit, irony, antic youth, and relish for recounting dark and bloody deeds gleam in the text published under the somber cloak of A History of the City of Saint Paul.”

Williams actually was practicing an early form of the oral history that is popular today. He had the great advantage of being able to interview or to correspond with some of the leading characters in the events of those early years and to preserve their own recollections of what had happened. Thus, Ira B. Brunson, a federal deputy marshal, described the expulsion of settlers from the Fort Snelling military reservation in 1840, and Henry H. Sibley recalled in a six-page letter the selection of St. Paul as the territorial capital.

Kane aptly describes Williams’ book as “a rare production,” “an intimate history, spinning tales of heroes, villains.” It is all of that. Here is Williams on “What Saint Paul owes to whisky!” for example: “The illicit sale of liquor by some unscrupulous squatters on the (military) Reserve led to the expulsion without its lines of all the settlers, whether guilty of that offense or not, and resulted in forming a settlement at another point, which ultimately grew into the Saint Paul of a later day. Thus the very cornerstone of our civic existence was laid in whisky!” (Williams’ sense of the ridiculous sometimes led him to ignore the facts. Liquor was a problem, without question. But just as compelling was the squatters’ use of scarce timber and forage for cattle needed by the Fort Snelling garrison.)

Here is Williams’ description of the ubiquitous Pierre “Pig’s Eye” Parrant, who, he writes, “had only one eye that was serviceable. He had another, it is true, but such an eye! Blind, marble-hued, crooked, with a sinister white ring glaring around the pupil, giving a kind of piggish expression to his sullen, low features.”

Williams’ vivid word pictures helped re-create pioneer life in all its exigencies. He describes how Jacob W. Bass built a hotel in 1847 “of tamarack logs, heaved square and laid on a small foundation.” The building was on a bank, he writes, and when the street was graded, “the log structure was left almost one story above ground. So a stone basement was built up under the log structure.” With the civic pride that permeates many 19th-century histories, Williams adds that “Mr. Bass kept a smart tavern in it, too, and the old settlers say it helped the town considerable, for no one would want to go to a town that had no good hotel.” (Williams was sometimes less than eloquent in his phrasing.)

Anecdotal, antiquarian, gossipy Williams may be, but he created, nonetheless, a vivid picture of what life was like for the men and women who struggled to organize a frontier settlement into a town. They faced the perils of the frontier: “The first event of the year 1848, which we have to record, was the death of William C. Benfro by freezing.” And catastrophe: “On March 16 [1860] most of the buildings on both sides of Third street, from Robert to Jackson, were destroyed by fire.”

(Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1983. 152 p. Illustrations, maps. Cloth, $29.50; paper, $14.95.)

IT HAS BEEN SAID that the epitome of the geographer's craft is the excellent regional study — a description of a place that evokes its history, its settlement patterns, its spirit, and its raison d'être. This book is such a study. For the native of the Twin Cities, it evokes some notion of "home" and community; for the newcomer, it paints a portrait of Twin Cities residential areas which should deepen one's experience of place.

This book is very much influenced by what may be termed the "Minnesota school of urban geography" — that is, a concern for the combination of the complexity of landscape and the historical context that has led to this evolution. A description of the growth of Minneapolis and St. Paul, the sites of the areas around which business and residential sectors grew, the impacts of changes in transportation technology on residential development, and current efforts to renovate portions of the city form the introduction to the book.

The authors carefully use the term "residential districts" rather than "neighborhoods" to discuss subregional portions of the metropolitan area because of the complexity involved in the neighborhood concept. They divide the legal cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis into eight zones: the "aging inner ring," the "protected genteel zone," the "rebuilt zone," the "turnaround zone," the "settled mid-city zone," the "prewar grid zone," the "prewar amenity zone," and the "suburban-in-city zone." A description of land use, settlement and development history, and current and past population composition is presented for each zone, as well as a discussion of features unique to the area, and a detailed description of particular neighborhoods exemplifying the zone. As a native of the "settled mid-city" and then a graduate of a high school in the "suburban-in-city zone" of Minneapolis, I was fascinated to read the settlement history and evolution of land-use patterns discussed for the zones as whole, and for the individual neighborhoods in which I lived. The detailed settlement history with which the authors account for the evolution of contemporary neighborhoods should provide a greater appreciation and understanding of "home" for past and present residents, as well as providing important empirical materials for teachers of local history and geography.

The book is relentlessly upbeat, even where there are currently serious problems or where there has been an obvious history of discrimination against portions of the population in the district. For example, in the discussion of the Phillips neighborhood in Minneapolis, there is an admission of unemployment, vandalism, and redlining, as well as interethnic tension, but the area is summarized as one offering "many opportunities." Similarly, the Near North area of Minneapolis has been marked by a history of discrimination and intense interethnic conflict, but characterized as "livable and continually improving"; the authors state that "if a genuine back-to-the-city movement ever materializes in Minneapolis, it could well benefit this area." This is obviously not a Chamber of Commerce portrayal — an uncritical and glossy view of the neighborhood — but is an optimistic and sympathetic look at the problems and potentials for healthy change.

The volume contains useful maps identifying the locations of the various residential zones and is lavishly illustrated with photographs of housing and commercial functions for each district. There is also an appendix with data on population and housing characteristics for 1978 and a bibliography of other writings on the residential structure of Twin Cities neighborhoods.

It is a descriptive book — one will search in vain for reflection of some of the major theoretical debates raging in urban geography about the proper way to understand and interpret the city whether from a phenomenological or a structural or a structurational point of view. This is both a weakness and a strength. It is a weakness in that the book will probably not have a major impact on methodology in urban geography. It is a strength in that the book is highly readable and very enjoyable. It is recommended as a model for alerting members of the general public to the insights they can gain from an understanding of their own city's geography.

Reviewed by BISA PAUL, professor of geography and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado. A native of Minneapolis, who taught at Normandale Community College in Bloomington from 1969 to 1972, she is the vice-president of the Association of American Geographers.

The River's in My Blood: Riverboat Pilots Tell Their Stories. By Jane Curry.

(Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1983. 288 p. Cloth, $17.50.)

RELYING mainly on her own interviews with approximately 50 Mississippi and Ohio river pilots and captains, Curry provides fascinating descriptions of river society. The interviews, which were conducted during 1976-1979, were supplemented by two other oral history collections, as well as by unpublished and published memoirs of river pilots dating from the 1850s, novels, and histories. Mark Twain's Life on the Mississippi is her most significant published source, because it is the device
through which she portrays her central theme of the river’s history — continuity and change. Throughout the narrative readers are reminded that each passing generation has brought change to Mississippi River piloting, but yet certain samenesses have persisted. Thus, Curry sees boating as a business “that still rings with echoes of the Mark Twain era.”

Inherently, tape-recorded interviewing is limited to a relatively brief time span. Thus, many of Curry’s “old river men” entered the business during the 1920s. She was particularly interested in interviewing those pilots and captains who had 35 or more years of experience because they were the best able to provide insights into piloting changes.

Curry’s research was augmented by her own experience as a guide and general assistant on the tour steamboat “Delta Queen” during 1974 and 1976. This work not only gave her some river experience, but presented insights into the character and history of boatmen and provided interviewing leads. Her obvious enchantment with the river suggests that the main title of the book is at least partially autobiographical.

Curry’s text is thematically arranged into six chapters devoted to such topics as technology, work life, social life, and individual biographies of five selected pilots. Throughout the narrative, but particularly in the first chapter which deals with the beginning experiences of pilots, Curry makes generous use of direct quotes, some as long as two pages. In striving to present the character of the boatmen, she determined, as the subtitle states, that they should “tell their own stories.”

Like other oral histories these stories are not history per se, but rather an admixture of reminiscent ramblings laced with some facts, some anecdotes, and some folklore. A number of the comments say more about the personality of the boatman than they say about the history of the river. Nonetheless, Curry provides smooth transitions from quote to quote and in each chapter presents sound generalizations about such things as the background of the boatmen and their ordeals in becoming licensed pilots and captains.

Curry is particularly adept in describing the impact of technological changes in piloting. She observes that Twain in the 1880s deplored the passing of the old days when the federal government installed navigation aids on the Mississippi. In more recent times radio communication has replaced the traditional whistle signals of meeting boats, and sonar caused the abandonment of manual depth measurements. The river itself has been altered. The construction of 26 locks and dams between the Twin Cities and St. Louis transformed the upper river into a series of long pools and obviated the need for the special class of rapids pilots.

Although Curry is not greatly concerned with economic history, she nonetheless includes some significant coverage about the present-day barge trade. In contrasting young pilots of today with the preceding generation, she describes the conversion from small steam packets to massive diesel-powered barges that now move more tonnage annually than did steamers during the “golden age” of steamboating just before the Civil War.

Curry’s book is unique. With heavy reliance on interviews with boatmen, it provides much firsthand information about recent river navigation that cannot be found in any other published history. Therefore, it will undoubtedly contribute to a better understanding of Mississippi River navigation. The author also opens some new vistas. Her concern with and coverage of women pilots will cause increased recognition of this previously neglected aspect of boating. Most readers will enjoy this book. It is well written, fast paced, and anecdotal. Curry makes a good story out of the boatmen’s stories.

Reviewed by William E. Lass, professor of history at Mankato State University and author of Minnesota: A Bicentennial History (1977) and other books. His A History of Steamboating on the Upper Missouri River (1962) has been reprinted by the University of Nebraska Press.

Nearby History: Exploring the Past around You. By David E. Kyvig and Myron A. Marty. (Nashville, American Association for State and Local History, 1982. 300 p. $15.95; members of AASLH, $11.95.)

THE AUTHORS of this book define nearby history as a way of integrating historical interest in community and family with a concern for material culture. They avoided using the term “local” history because they feel that it limits historical inquiry to place; they rejected “family” history because that label confines interest to a relationship. Material culture, although important to historians, restricts one to a consideration of things. Nearby History attempts to combine these three varied — and valid — interests, and while I do not believe that practitioners will take to calling themselves “nearby historians,” the notion of nearby history is a useful one. Historians traditionally have regarded their subject as concerning itself with great events or with important or famous people. In this book the authors describe the “new social history” as concerned with the population at large, with events of a domestic nature, and with institutions as they have changed over time. Kyvig and Marty spell out ways local chroniclers can incorporate these historical questions into their pursuit of their own — or nearby — history.

The first of the book’s 12 chapters is introductory; the second is the core of the volume, its most important and useful. In this chapter entitled “What Can be Done Nearby?” the authors survey possible historical projects and offer 22 pages of questions that suggest ways of approaching — and of defining — reasonable and useful inquiries. If a historian, for example, decides to investigate voluntary associations in a community, there are five broad questions about ways of looking at the subject and of structuring research. The same questions would be useful for a study concerning any single fraternal organization, club, or patriotic group. Simplified and shortened, these questions ask why voluntary associations exist in a community; who have been members; the purpose of each group and whether its function went beyond its stated aims; the relationship of various groups to each other; and the changing nature of each group over the years. These are obvious and simple questions, but they are important ones, nevertheless: work aimed at providing answers for them would be thorough and clearly focused in both the initial research phase and subsequently in final form.

Chapter three offers some advice about the sources upon
which local — or nearby — history is based. Calling those sources “traces,” however, is only confusing. Written documents, artifacts, and information collected in a variety of ways are generally referred to as evidence, source material, or even documentation.

The next seven chapters of **Nearby History** examine specific types of historical evidence and raise useful questions about locating and evaluating material. Readers will find a short discussion of Minnesota’s early newspapers embedded in a section devoted to the uses of old newspapers. The section on oral history is a brief introduction to that popular field of inquiry, but it is no substitute for a close reading of a number of oral histories and perhaps one of the detailed guides to that method of collecting information.

The book’s penultimate chapter looks at problems of research and of writing, or of “leaving a record,” and also offers some note taking strategies. The final chapter purports to survey the historiography of “nearby history” — from William Bradford’s *Of Plymouth Plantation* to the works of historians during the last 20 years. The considerable — and sometimes estimable — output of amateur historians is never considered. Rather than being a history, however, this last chapter is a listing of books sorted into categories. It is helpful, but not particularly insightful; David Russo’s *Families and Communities* (1974), also published by the American Association for State and Local History, does a far better job of discussing the methods and major themes of recent historical literature.

Written in a sprightly manner, **Nearby History** contains excellent illustrations and interesting excerpts from source materials drawn from various archives. Each chapter is followed by a section entitled “For Further Information,” containing a brief bibliography. I am puzzled by the substitution of a general note at each chapter’s end instead of honest-to-goodness footnotes. Since other recent AASLH publications contain footnotes — and very useful ones at that — I can only wonder why they are absent here.

**Nearby History** will not serve to bring academic and amateur historians together, a hope that Kyvig and Marty express, for the professionals will ignore this book. Amateur historians will find it helpful as an introduction to questions of historical technique, evidence, and the presentation of a final product. It will suggest ways of using material that is at hand, and it stresses the importance of structuring or focusing research when involved with projects that examine things that are “nearby.”

Reviewed by Carol Kammen of Ithaca, New York, who writes a weekly column on local and regional history and lectures widely on the practice of local history.

**Norwegian-American Studies.** Volume 29. Edited by Odd S. Lovoll.

(Northfield, Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1983. 402 p. $16.00.)

PROFESSOR Odd Lovoll of St. Olaf College inaugurates his editorship of this distinguished series with a dozen scholarly, yet eminently readable, essays devoted to Norwegian emigration as well as immigration. The *Studies* series was begun in 1926 under the supervision of Theodore C. Blegen, who established the academic quality of the Norwegian-American Historical Association’s publication program. He was ultimately succeeded in 1960 by Kenneth O. Bjork, who served as general editor until recently. These men produced 25 hardbound volumes of articles touching on all aspects of the Norwegian-American past; they established a new standard for ethnic scholarship in this country, one devoid of filiopietistic sentimentality and devoted to truthful portrayals of the group’s historical background based on original source materials. Lovoll has succeeded the retired Bjork, and this latest volume lives up to its forerunners in all respects. The well-chosen essays are of uniform scholarly quality and, when necessary, ably translated.

Lovoll is particularly to be commended for having secured and included seven localized emigration studies from Norway that are unique and contribute richly to the Norwegian emigration materials available in English. Each deals with the special conditions and pressures promoting outmigration in various “delivering” districts of the land, ranging from western coastal regions like Sogn, Sunnfjord, and Helgeland, to landlocked Telemark and Dovre in Gudbrandsdalen.

These seven essays resulted from intensified investigations by younger Norwegian regional historians, who presented them for advanced academic degrees. They rely heavily on local census data, official records, and social and economic factors peculiar to each community in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Although they all testify to the general social and economic “push factors” motivating emigration with which we are familiar, their value lies in showing how these pressures operated quite differently and within varying time frames in each district, demonstrating just how complex and multifaceted such factors can be within any country’s over-all migrating patterns. Aside from necessary statistical analyses, these studies contain a fund of human and personal insights into the hardships and frustrations of the times as well as attempted ways to resolve them, with differing results. Whether one’s ancestors originated in one of these Norwegian regions or not, these “post-hole” studies provide a sophisticated understanding of the myriad of variables, both material and psychological, that came to bear in so personal and often irrevocable a decision as to emigrate to a faraway land across the sea.

Aside from the local studies, this volume also offers five other essays of a more diversified nature. Ingrid Semmingsen, the distinguished professor emerita of immigration history at the University of Oslo, discusses the influence of Haugeans and Rappites on the original Norwegian emigrant group of 1825, while sociologist Odin Anderson tells the story of the lynching of a deranged Norwegian-American farmer by his neighbors in western Wisconsin in the late 19th century. In another article, John Weinstock traces the career of Sondre Norheim, the “father” of the modern sport of skiing, from his Telemark background to his eventual emigration to America.

Late 19th-century impressions of America by the Norwegian poet Sigbjorn Obstfelder, as revealed in his letters written from this country, show poignantly the difficulty a sensitive European had in adjusting to the American environment. A thoughtful and well-supported interpretation by Harold P. Simonson, a Rolvaag specialist, of Ole Rolvaag’s intent in his
characterization of Beret in *Giants in the Earth* rounds out the volume.

Also included is a comprehensive index to the content of the several hundred articles that have appeared in the *Studies* series since its inception in 1926, for which students of Norwegian-Americana will be grateful. Overall, editor Lovoll has done well in maintaining the exemplary standards set for the series by his predecessors.

Reviewed by KENNETH SVIEMO, professor of history and Scandinavian studies at Moorhead State University, where he has published and lectured in Scandinavian and Scandinavian-American history for over 20 years.

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**Light from the Hearth: Central Minnesota Pioneers and Early Architecture.** By Marilyn Salzl Brinkman and William Towner Morgan.

(St. Cloud, North Star Press, 1982. 138 p., $9.95.)

THIS IS an ambitious study of some of the oldest surviving buildings in central Minnesota (mostly farm buildings of log construction), together with histories of the families who built and inhabited them. It also includes an introductory chapter, "A Brief History of Central Minnesota," devoted to topics such as women, churches, and towns. The three-part structure separates the compelling family histories from the lengthy and somewhat tedious architectural descriptions; yet, there is some overlap among the three parts, and the study lacks both focus and a clear audience. The book is "an attempt to supply the parchment to record the lives of past and living pioneers from their written and oral statements," according to authors Brinkman, a Stearns County native and student in American studies and creative writing, and Morgan, associate professor of American studies at St. Cloud State University.

The volume concerns a seven-county area of central Minnesota. Considerable attention is devoted to Stearns County throughout, although it is unclear whether this is due to that county's abundance of surviving historic buildings or for other reasons. There are, for example, 14 "Central Minnesota Living Pioneer Family Histories," which combine detailed analyses of surviving buildings with each family's written and oral accounts of its history; eight of the histories are for Stearns County families, three for Morrison, two for Sherburne, and one for Benton, Mille Lacs, Todd, and Wright counties are not represented.

One could wish the authors had employed some of the more recent studies of log buildings, such as John I. Rempel's excellent, monumental work, *Building with Wood and Other Aspects of Nineteenth-Century Building in Central Canada* (1980) rather than relying on classifications such as "primitive," "medieval," and "elite" — terms the writers do not always define carefully and that sometimes do not seem directly applicable to the buildings they describe. And students of both local architectural history may wish that the authors had done more research in plat maps, insurance atlases, census data, and the like to find approximate or actual construction dates for more of the buildings in the book, and to substantiate the information in family histories and interviews. More specific information about the locations of the buildings, better documentation, and further explanation of statements such as "The Lind springhouse is the only structure found in a seven-county area that utilizes this [the double notch] Scandinavian notch type" would also strengthen the book. All in all, this work would have benefited from a careful editorial review.

Several generalizations made by the authors are disturbing, particularly in the section on women. "Although central Minnesota, with its terrifying, virginal beauty must have been frightening to the early pioneer women, they wanted to share in the experience of settlement with their men." (What about the many single women who immigrated?) One wonders, too, about the empirical basis for a statement like "Patience, courage, and a fierce determination helped women to triumph over the hardships of early pioneer life; they did not rebel because they liked the idea of the family working together; they took pride in being a real helpmate to their husbands."

Despite its weaknesses, the book presents a fascinating glimpse at vanishing life styles and historic building practices. It will certainly appeal to anyone with an interest in central or rural Minnesota history and architecture. The book does address a need for regional studies which document and interpret both local history and historic buildings — two closely interrelated areas of study which can complement one another quite successfully.

Reviewed by PATRICIA MURPHY, a St. Paul architectural historian, who directed the recently completed historic sites survey of St. Paul and Ramsey County. She has done considerable research and writing on architect Cass Gilbert's Minnesota career.
DEDICATION of the St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch's new offset production plant this spring was the occasion for publication of a history of these newspapers. Entitled History at Your Door and written by Donald J. O'Grady, for many years managing editor of the Pioneer Press, the story, as its foreword promises, is told largely in terms of the men and women who have put out these newspapers over their 154 years. It is a record of people, the positions they held, and the contributions they made to the longest continuing publication in the state's history.

It is also an attractive photo album. Its eight-by-five format lends itself to pictorial display, and designer Donald Ellenberger has made good use of it. "Mug shots," of course, abound. And readers like myself, who have had difficulty sorting out the numerous Ridders, will appreciate a group portrait of eleven males of this prolific publishing family.

For a company-authorized story, History at Your Door is relatively free of boosterism. Indeed, O'Grady could have given more credit than he does to these newspapers' detailed coverage of state government and to executive editor John Finnegans's efforts on behalf of the public's right of access to news about government. Moreover, O'Grady acknowledges shortcomings in its coverage of the Pullman strike, the Pioneer Press's "reputation for accuracy again suffered" because of antilabor bias; an embarrassing reversal of editorial position from support to condemnation of Sacco and Vanzetti is also part of the record.

O'Grady introduces his newspaper people in chronological order: James Madison Goodhue, the Yankee lawyer who founded the Pioneer in 1849 — the first newspaper in Minnesota territory — in hope of capturing the territorial government's printing contract. Earl Goodrich, who converted the weekly into a daily and betrayed his political patron, Henry Hastings Sibley; Joseph Wheelock, the Canadian who founded the Press, merged it with the Pioneer, and, with business partner Frederick Driscoll, built a dominant circulation in the city and the region; George Thompson, native of England, owner of the Dispatch who combined it with the Pioneer Press in 1899; Charles Blandin, the self-made tycoon who acquired ownership of both papers from Thompson's widow in 1923 but sold it to the Ridders four years later to devote full time to his paper-milling interests; and finally, Bernard H. Riddler, Jr., president of Riddler Publications, who merged the family's holdings with the Knight chain to form Knight-Riddler, the country's largest chain of newspapers in terms of circulation. These are only the leading figures in the account.

Regrettably, few of these persons come alive, and when they do, it is less often through extended quotes of their writings than through the anecdotes of oral history. For example, Hymie Paul, a legendary photographer whose commentary was valued as much as his camera work, was assigned to cover the arrival of the Dionne Quintuplets for Winter Carnival. As they detrained at Union Station, he exclaimed in awe: "My God, there's five of them!"

Such gems, however, are the exception. For the most part, History at Your Door is a straightforward narrative account of a century and a third of St. Paul newspapering, the attendant changes, and the men and women who brought them about. George S. Hage

AN ATTRACTIVE new book called Eastman Johnson's Lake Superior Indians (Afton, Johnston Publishing Inc., 1983, 67 p., $12.95) promises insight into a very special collection of Minnesota art works. Unfortunately, author Patricia Condon Johnston has too little to say on the subject to fulfill the potential of this otherwise well-designed and illustrated volume.

The St. Louis County Historical Society owns three dozen paintings and drawings of Ojibway Indians created by the well-known genre painter Eastman Johnson in 1856 and 1857. Johnston rightly notes that the artist "painted individuals, not types, and their images are strikingly realistic." Yet her text devotes few pages to Johnson's work in northern Minnesota or to the art works that are the book's subject. Instead the reader will find a retelling of Johnson's training and career. The reader may be puzzled to find chatty, irrelevant tales of student life, while searching in vain for an explanation of the Ojibway portraits. Many non-Minnesota paintings are discussed, while Johnson's Indian portraits go unmentioned.

The value of this volume lies in its illustrations of 35 Johnson works from the St. Louis County Historical Society collection, though buyers might have expected at least one color plate for the price. The Eastman Johnson collection is a well-executed record of early Minnesota by a major American artist. It deserves deeper and more detailed treatment.

Thomas O'Sullivan

EDITED by Dr. Bernard C. Peters, Lake Superior Journal (Marquette, Northern Michigan Press, 1983, 91 p., $6.95 plus $1.00 postage and handling) retells businessman Bela Hubbard's account of Michigan geologist Douglass Houghton's 1840 expedition around the lake. The survey covered that region of the lake's south shore from the Keweenaw peninsula to the Apostle Islands. Peters carefully traces through Hubbard's documents, footnoting relevant Ojibway tribe names and places along the route. The 18 maps and 16 sketches of expedition members and places, published here for the first time, make the journal a valuable addition to travel and exploration literature.
AUTHOR Rex Weyler promises that the story in Blood of the Land: The Government and Corporate War Against the American Indian Movement (New York, Everest House Publishers, 1982, 286 p., $15.95) will be about "the most expansive geographic invasion and cultural extermination of all time: the occupation of the Americas by the Europeans." With painstaking detail, Weyler discusses the open massacre of 350 Indian men, women, and children in 1890, the confrontation in 1973 of the American Indian Movement and South Dakota state marshals and the FBI at Wounded Knee, and the Hopi struggle against corporations' ongoing need for coal, oil, and uranium in the southwestern United States. Minnesota AIM leaders Clyde Bellecourt and Russell Means's odysseys from street life to prison to national prominence are aptly probed. Weyler's book, preaching "a spiritual awakening," causes the reader to think about the Native American's struggle in American society. Edwin C. McCarty

MINNESOTA FFA From the Beginning by Waino J. Kortesmaki (Minneapolis, 1983, $19.95, plus $2.00 handling) is a pictorial chronology of the state Association of the Future Farmers of America. Its 320 pages contain 800 photographs documenting the beginnings and development of the FFA and the teaching of vocational agriculture in the state's public schools. The text accompanying the pictures provides detailed accounts of the many public service, safety, conservation, and State Fair programs that the FFA has undertaken in its 53-year history. Numerous appendixes contain historical notes on the formation of local chapters, lists of state officers, of award winners, state and district farming degrees, and judging contests.

The author shows that the Eleventh was well disciplined, resourceful, and reasonably successful in helping keep the railroad open against hit-and-run tactics of raiders. Durham writes of the Eleventh's departure for St. Paul in June, 1865: "Other Union troops would replace these, but none would ever be held in higher esteem by local citizens."

Durham also praises the administrative abilities of the regiment's Colonel James B. Gilfillan as the Union commander at Gallatin. The author uses many original sources, among them the papers of John P. Shumway, Edward Z. Needham, and Jonas Holland Howe in the Minnesota Historical Society. THE LAST of the state's Civil War volunteer infantry regiments, the Eleventh Minnesota, rarely gets mentioned in military histories because it did not go South until September, 1864, and then served only behind the scenes in middle Tennessee. It did a good job, however, of its main task of guarding the Louisville & Nashville Railroad against guerrillas and also of garrisoning the city of Gallatin. This comes out in Walter T. Durham's fine book, Rebellion Revisited: A History of Sumner County, Tennessee, From 1861 to 1870 (Gallatin, Sumner County Museum Association, 1982, 362 p., $14.95), the third volume in a series.

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Durham also praises the administrative abilities of the regiment's Colonel James B. Gilfillan as the Union commander at Gallatin. The author uses many original sources, among them the papers of John P. Shumway, Edward Z. Needham, and Jonas Holland Howe in the Minnesota Historical Society.

GREAT LAKES Maritime History: Bibliography and Sources of Information (Dearborn, Mich., Scanning Publications, 1982, 104 p., $9.95 plus $1.25 shipping) by Charles E. Feltnor and Jeri Baron Feltnor is a must for anyone interested in the five major American lakes. Reference works, books and articles on Great Lakes history and shipwrecks, personal recollections, photographic collections, and a list of museums and archives that deal with Great Lakes maritime history can be found in this volume.

THE OLD Country School. The Story of Rural Education in the Middle West by Wayne E. Fuller (University of Chicago Press, 302 p., $22.50) is a telling social history of the determination of midwestern farmers to educate their children. And Fuller, whose work won the 1982 Theodore Saloutos Memorial Book Award, points out that that determination led to a regional literacy that surpassed the rest of the nation by 1900. The author draws on many primary sources — county school superintendents' reports, correspondence among school officials, diaries, county newspapers, and minutes of innumerable meetings — to create this readable, informative, and scholarly chronicle. The book traces the rise and demise of the one-room schools that are today "quant reminders of an educational system that once promoted democracy, strengthened community life, unabashedly taught the three Rs, and made the Middle Border the most literate part of the nation."

THE Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ has just published Church Records in Minnesota: A Guide to Parish Records of Congregational, Evangelical, Reformed, and United Church of Christ Churches, 1851-1981 (Minneapolis, 1983, 33 p.), Compiled by Anne A. Hage, the guide describes the historical records of more than 200 Minnesota churches, both past and present: it should be of particular interest to genealogists and church and local historians. It is the culmination of three years of work and summarizes the findings of a comprehensive state-wide survey of records of United Church of Christ churches. The guide is available for $3.00 from the Minnesota Conference, UCC, Room 323, 122 West Franklin, Minneapolis, Minn. 55404. Richard Cameron

"THE BLINDING assumption that the women's movement served merely as a waystation for activists moving on to real class-conscious struggles has been wholly abandoned and implicitly disproved," says Mari Jo Buhle, author of Women and American Socialism, 1870-1920 (Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1981, 327 p., $25.95). Showing the connections among the Socialist, anarchist, and Communist movements, Buhle states that as women became more politically aware, their idealism grew. As a result, they joined different radical parties — especially the Socialists. Among the author's examples are the Finnish immigrants who arrived in Minnesota in the 1890s and joined the Socialist party to obtain more rights. The Finnish-American Socialist women established newspapers and worked for equal, autonomous power on the political and social fronts. Buhle's book offers a concise and informative view of women and American political history. A CALL for papers has been issued for the 16th annual Dakota History Conference, to be held at Madison, South Dakota, on the campus of Dakota
State College, April 13 and 14, 1984. Papers should relate to some aspect of South Dakota, Dakota Territory, or the history of the Upper Great Plains region. The Karl Mundt Distinguished Historical Writing awards will be presented for the three best papers by professionals and the three best by amateurs. In addition, an award for the best papers in military and institutional history will also be given. The deadline for submitting papers is January 31, 1984.

A HANDSOME paperback, Pioneer Photographer: Wisconsin's H. H. Bennett, by Sara Rath, was published by the Tamarack Press in Madison, Wisconsin (1979, $14.95). The first part of the 192-page volume is an illustrated biography of Bennett, who pictured the Wisconsin Dells and nearby places from 1865 to 1907, the second part consists of nicely printed Bennett photographs, with captions. The index to the volume appears in the middle and refers to both the text and the photographs.

Minnesota entries are numerous. Bennett took the train to photograph St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Lake Pepin for the railroad. He was a friend of photographers T. W. Ingersoll and the Zimmerman brothers in St. Paul and corresponded with them. One letter was addressed to a photographer "in another state" who employed his son Ashley: "Friend Ingersoll," wrote Bennett, "I cannot think Ashley will give you my method of printing or that your sense of honor will allow you to expect or try to learn it from him, and I certainly cannot give my consent to his giving it to you or anyone."

The one major catalog of his stereo views, Wanderings among the Wonders and Beauties of Western Scenery, was published in 1885 and included 38 views of Minnesota, a series titled "Among the Bluff Scenery of the Upper Mississippi." He also photographed Minnehaha Falls, the Dales of the St. Louis River, and the 1896 Winter Carnival Ice Palace in St. Paul. The Bennett Studio in Wisconsin Dells is still in operation by Bennett's descendants, the photographs and correspondence are located there.

"IF I had friends to talk with, I would not write so much," explained Albert Lea to the editor of the Freeborn County Standard newspaper in early 1890. Professor, Confederate soldier, lobbyist, and philosopher, the Tennessee-born Minnesotan's story is effectively told in A Hero Nonetheless: Albert Miller Lea, 1808–1891 (Lake Mills, Iowa, Graphic Publishing Co., Inc., 1983, 135 p., $14.95). Author Robert M. Merriman's short biography demonstrates the vision, intellect, and action of this man, who has a Minnesota city and lake named after him. Based on information from letters, interviews of family and friends, and diaries, the book includes five appendices on such topics as "Lea's Version of the Black Hawk War," "Other Notable Leas," and his biography of Jefferson Davis. Merriman, however, points out that Lea's ineptitude and bad luck on financial matters have not tainted his heroic stance.

ONE of the oldest yacht clubs west of the Atlantic Ocean is the subject of Virginia Brainard Kunz's Minnetonka Yacht Club: Centennial 1882–1982 (Minneapolis?), Minnetonka Yacht Club Sailing School, 1982, 192 p., $15.95). In her account of the evolution of sailing on Lake Minnetonka, the author draws heavily on photographs and firsthand reports to portray the individuals and families who contributed to the club's founding and subsequent growth. Kunz also describes technological innovations in boat design and traces the shift in emphasis from the early social aspect of club membership to the present-day stress on competitive racing. The book is laced with over 225 historic photographs and illustrations, many from the private collections of club members.

AUTHOR Malcolm Rosholt does a thorough job with his subject in Lumbermen on the Chippewa (Rosholt, Wis., Rosholt House, 1982, 303 p., $24.95). The book is a happy blend of the technical and the social, covering as it does topics that range from the river, the camp, the woods, and the lumber drive to dams, sawmill operations, end bark marks, trade tokens, competition among lumber companies, fatal accidents, and the ethnic diversity of men in the lumber industry. The many informative photographs, as well as maps, sketches, and reproductions of paintings and pages from ledgers and diaries, make this large-format volume enjoyable reading. The book is indexed, and its list of photo credits, incidentally, provides a good source list for enthusiasts looking for a place to begin their own research. The author, in addition to consulting the printed and photographic sources, interviewed and collected pictures from people who had been involved in the business. His result is a good example for local historians anywhere.

STRIKING artwork by Vera Louise Drysdale accompanies her edited version of Black Elk's famous account of the seven rites of the Oglala Sioux, The Gift of the Sacred Pipe (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1982, 106 p., $29.95). The text is somewhat condensed in this lush, large-format edition, but it still follows the original narrative recorded by Joseph Epes Brown in 1947. In these days of tight book-production budgets, it is refreshing to see an elegant text matched by elegance in design.

THE FATHER of Waters: A Mississippi River Chronicle by Norah Deakin Davis (San Francisco, Sierra Club Books, 1982, 180 p., $27.50) presents an environmentalist's eye view of the history of life on and along the mighty river. It is the story of a trip by canoe, outboard, paddleboat, freighter, and barge, from Itasca to New Orleans planned by a resources economist and historian and taken in part or in full by 15 people, many of them college students. The chronicle blends accounts of the discovery with the subsequent use of the river by industries, vacationers, city sewage plants, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the like. The lush photographs by Joseph Holmes belie the sobering report on water quality, siltation, and other present-day results of centuries of heavy usage.

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