

In the large collection of Ramsey Papers in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society are copies of a number of letters written by Ramsey during student days. Evidence therein contained indicates that Ramsey was not a member of the church in question. On September 28, 1834, he wrote: "I have been several times in the German Reformed Church, and it is indeed a noble pile, the beauty of its exterior front and cloud-capped spire being alone exceeded by the taste and beauty displayed in its interior decoration." A letter of October 12, 1834, contains the following statement: "I attend church twice a day, which we are required to do once in the college chapel, and once mostly at the German Reformed church. Most of the students being Presbyterians attend that church."

B. L. H.

THE BOUNDARY AT THE LAKE OF THE WOODS

In the northern end of Minnesota, near the ninety-fifth meridian, is a little projection which looks as though it was a bite in the corner of Ontario. It is just east of the eastern boundary of Manitoba, and includes part of the Lake of the Woods. Can you tell me why this was originally included in the state of Minnesota when the map would indicate the normal dividing line would be a continuation of the southern boundary of the western Canadian provinces?

S. B. WILKES, Buffalo, New York

Ignorance of the geography of the region now included in northern Minnesota and, especially, of the location of the upper Mississippi River resulted in the curious extension of Minnesota's northern boundary at the Lake of the Woods. According to the treaty of Paris in 1783, the northern boundary of the United States in this region was to be a line drawn due west from the most northwest point of the Lake of the Woods to the Mississippi River. When it was found that the sources of this river were south of the Lake of the Woods, it was proposed that the boundary be the shortest line between the above northwest point and the Mississippi River. Later it was

learned that such a line would fall south of the forty-ninth parallel, the northern boundary of Louisiana as ceded by France in 1803.

An attempt to settle the matter was made in 1818, when the following article was included in a convention between the United States and Great Britain: "It is agreed that a line drawn from the most northwestern point of the Lake of the Woods, along the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude, or, if the said point shall not be in the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude, then that a line drawn due north or south as the case may be, until the said line shall intersect the said parallel of north latitude, and from the point of such intersection due west along and with such parallel, shall be the line of demarkation between the territories of the United States and His Britannic Majesty . . . from the Lake of the Woods to the Stony Mountains."

It having been finally determined that the forty-ninth parallel is south of the northwest angle of the Lake of the Woods, the question was again taken up in the Webster-Ashburton treaty of 1842, which provides for a boundary running due south from this angle to the forty-ninth parallel. Further controversy concerning the exact locations of points and parallels ensued and it was not until 1876 that the protocol establishing the present boundary was signed.

Excellent outlines of the history of the northern boundary of Minnesota at the Lake of the Woods appear in the *Final Report of the International Joint Commission on the Lake of the Woods Reference*, 133-140 (Washington, 1917), and in Elliott Coues, ed., *New Light on the Early History of the Greater Northwest: The Manuscript Journals of Alexander Henry and of David Thompson*, 1: 22-26, n. 28 (New York, 1897).

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