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From the Bound Volumes of Minnesota History



1916 • 100 Years Ago

An Appeal To the Members. Occasionally members are at a loss to know just how they can be of assistance to the society, and a few suggestions may be in order. No phase of the society's work is more important than the gathering-in of manuscript papers and records, old newspaper files, and fugitive publications, for, once destroyed, such material can seldom be restored. There is hardly a member but knows of or can locate material of this sort and can secure its deposit with the society if he will make the effort. One difficulty seems to be a failure on the part of many to realize that the breath of historical interest to-day gives value to almost every scrap of paper with writing on it and every printed folder or handbill. In case of doubt whether material would or would not be desirable for preservation by the society, it is always best to send it in and let us see if we can't find some point of view from which it might be valuable. —*"Historical Society Notes," No. 5., February 1916*

1941 • 75 Years Ago

Among the more prominent itinerant family singers interpreting the spirit of the times [1841] in music were the renowned Hutchinsons. . . . Nearly all the Hutchinsons' programs began or ended, as did concerts of most other group singers, with a family song which commonly sketched their origin, early life, and principles. . . . Tavern keepers dreaded the sight of handbills announcing concerts by these unbridled prohibitionists. They detested such titles as "Don't Marry a Man if He Drinks," "Father's a Drunkard and Mother is Dead," and "The Temperance Deacon." Local temperance societies, on the other hand, welcomed them and churches opened wide their doors, secure in the knowledge that "King Alcohol" would be dethroned. —*"The Hutchinson Family in the Story of American Music," by Philip D. Jordan, a revised version of a paper presented on January 20, 1941, as the annual address before the 92nd meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society, Vol. 22, No. 2, June 1941*

1966 • 50 Years Ago

So eagerly awaited has *Citadel in the Wilderness* [The Story of Fort Snelling in the Old Northwest Frontier, by Evan Jones] been that this review was written from the galley proofs. . . . The natural interest of the Minnesota Historical Society in this publication was whetted by the fact that the institution is presently supervising the reconstruction of old Fort Snelling, and staff members had hoped that Mr. Jones's research might shed new light upon its physical appearance, construction details, and the daily activities of the garrison. However, the author devotes very little attention to the fort's architectural and internal history, and he fails to mention the plans for the reconstruction. —*Book review by H. Allan Tolbert, historic sites supervisor on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, Vol. 40, No. 3, Fall 1966*

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