

of these and other letters. (See *ante*, 6:202.) In a later issue some further account of Hall's letters in these archives will be given when the entire group of northwest mission letters is described.

G. L. N.

THE KENSINGTON RUNE STONE: A REPLY  
TO CRITICISM

In the December, 1925, issue of MINNESOTA HISTORY, p. 370-374, Dr. Theodore C. Blegen reviews some alleged errors in an earlier article by me. His comments call for a few words of explanation.

Dr. Blegen is quite right when he condemns the statement cited from my article that "the first white settlers came to Douglas County in 1865." The error is due to a misprint. In 1919, when my article was written, some people believed that even if the Kensington stone was *in situ* at least forty or fifty years before it was found in 1898 (as appears from the official report of the Museum Committee of the Minnesota Historical Society), it might have been left there by some early Norwegian settler. I therefore investigated the time of the coming of the Norwegians to Douglas County and found that the first Norwegian settler came there in 1865. This is what I wrote in my Ms. The stenographer or typesetter through some subconscious association of ideas changed the word *Norwegian* to *white* and the change unfortunately escaped my attention in proof reading.

Dr. Blegen cavils at my statement that the late Senator Knute Nelson was one of the "first settlers" at Alexandria. He took a homestead there in 1870. If our homesteaders are not to be counted among the first settlers, who are? The fact that there were many trappers, speculators, and soldiers of fortune there before him as well as other early homesteaders does not detract from his honor of being one of the bona fide "first settlers." He is so regarded by all the early settlers around there. Moreover, as nothing hinges on the statement,

it is to me somewhat irrelevant to raise such a fine distinction.

Dr. Blegen quotes my statement that "immigration followed the projected survey of the Great Northern Railway which passed through Alexandria in 1878" and concludes from this that I am suffering from the delusion that there was no immigration to that region until 1878. He therefore devotes several pages to show that there were many settlers in western Minnesota in the sixties and early seventies. Perhaps I did not express myself explicitly enough. I did not mean to say that the immigration followed the *railway* but the *projected survey* of the same. This projected survey was discussed among prospective settlers for many years before the railway came and it was this that guided the bulk of the immigrants in making their selection of lands. But this does not preclude the fact that many years before the main stream of immigration rolled in there were many adventurous pioneers who settled there. I have never suppressed this fact. On the contrary, I have called more attention to this earliest settlement than anyone else. There have been published in various periodicals at least fifteen lengthy articles from my pen dealing with the early settlement of Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Clay, and Norman counties in which I have shown that hundreds of Norwegians settled in these counties in the sixties. These many detailed and published studies should be enough to show that I did not mean that immigration did not begin until the railroad reached Alexandria.

H. R. HOLAND

EPHRAIM, WISCONSIN

#### A NOTE ON THE SELECTION OF THE FIRST GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA TERRITORY

Dr. William W. Folwell in his *History of Minnesota*, I: 248, calls attention to the interesting fact that President Zachary Taylor in 1849 first submitted the name of Edward W. McGaughey of Indiana to the United States Senate for the



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